

IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVING • IRVIN • ERWIN • ERVIN

The Holly Leaf Chronicle

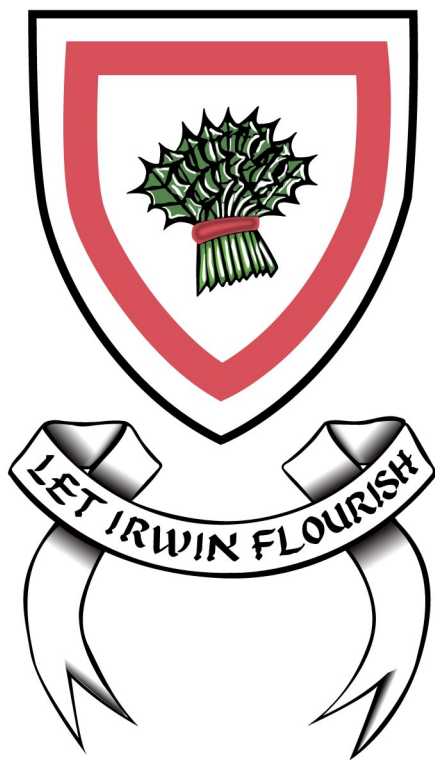
OF THE

Clan Irwin Association

A Non-Profit Corporation

RALPH R. IRWIN, FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Vol. XXXX • 4th Quarter 2023 • Number 4



WWW.CLANIRWIN.ORG



IRVING OF BONSHAW

HAUD ULLIS LABENTIA VENTIS

Yielding Under No Winds



IRVINE OF DRUM

SUB SOLE SUB UMBRA VIRENS

Flourishing in Sun and Shade

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The deadline for the next HLC (Q1 2024) will be Mar. 1st, 2024

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please send it to hlc@clanirwin.org

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN - MT, WY, UT, NV, CO

Rocky Mountain Commissioner– OPEN

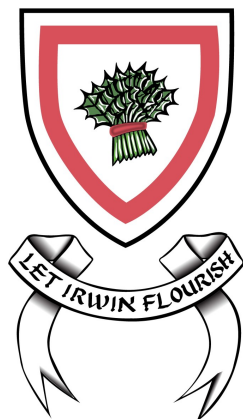
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Things are chugging right along on my end of things. I've been working with Mary on getting things ironed out and making improvements to things where we are able. We had a wonderful time in Stone Mountain this year. I'll leave the extensive details on the games for the regional report so be sure to check out that article.

Mary has been very helpful and understanding of my issues I've come across as Editor. She is doing a lot to work with me and my time schedule and I know she is doing the same for all other positions involved in The Association. She is a wonderful person, a good friend and an incredible Chairman. I am grateful to be working with her and thankful she takes such good care of The Clan and it's members.

We are looking forward to another great year of games here in Florida. Many improvements have been made to our tent and we continue to make improvements every game we convene. I'd like the same thing to be happening with the HLC. If you have any suggestions or would like to send in an article please email me at hlc@clanirwin.org.

On a personal note, preparations are on for Christmas. I've had a lot of work to get done around my house which has been made quite difficult with the time change. It's been dark when I leave for work in the morning and dark when I get home in the evening. Let's just say, my flashlight budget has been forcibly increased and mowing in the dark is a normal occurrence.

A week after going to Stone Mountain, GA for the highland games, I took a week long motorcycle trip out to North Carolina and Tennessee with my dad and uncle. We had a blast! There are some incredible roads up there for riding and the weather was heavenly (at least for a Florida boy). We saw highs of 68 and lows of 21. Below is a picture of me on The Tail of the Dragon in Deals Gap, TN.



- Jacob
Briggs

A WORD FROM

THE CHAIR

Happy New Year! As I write this message, it is a few days before we celebrate Thanksgiving in the U.S.; however, by the time you are reading this, it will be a new year. Traditionally, a new year brings New Year's Resolutions to either change something we have been doing or to begin something that we wish to accomplish. Researchers have found that only 9% of Americans that make resolutions complete them. In fact, 23% quit after only one week, and 43% quit by the end of January. (From Ohio State University, February 2, 2023.)

Paraphrasing another portion of the article, there are 4 main actions to help you succeed:

- 1) If you set a goal or resolution for tradition's sake, your motivation will be lacking compared to a **goal set because of a need**.
- 2) **Expect obstacles** and plan to avoid barriers.
- 3) Set **challenging goals** that can be **measured in small chunks** that keep you inspired.
- 4) Set up a way to **be accountable**, you will be twice as likely to complete your goal.

Let me share with you a few goals I have for this coming year.

- 1) Complete the indexing of all past issues of the Holly Leaf Chronicle. Our task force coordinator had set a goal of 20 years (out of 46) to be completed by the end of 2023. We might just reach that goal with 6 weeks to go.
- 2) Promote more prominently the sale of our merchandise and have new items available. As this issue goes to press, we have two new items on order, with a third under consideration. And we have ordered a different tartan...Irvine Weathered...that will be available soon. 2024 should be the year we display merchandise on our website.
- 3) Speaking of the website, the goal is to have a new platform in place and fully operational within the first six months of the year. Adding or changing items on our "wish list" might take a little longer, but the first step is making the change.
- 4) Engage more conveners in selling merchandise. We have to find a way to make Square more easily available to all conveners and show conveners how to use their smart phones to take payment at Games.
- 5) Complete the long overdue Policies and Procedures Manual as stated in our Bylaws. Countless hours have been devoted to this project and there have been many obstacles. This is the year for it to be completed.
- 6) Expand the number of Regional Commissioners (we have 7 with 6 regions lacking a regional commissioner), State Commissioners (we only have 8), and Conveners (we only have 5, plus the commissioners and officers that convene.)
- 7) Develop a better solution for Philanthropy / Giving / Donating through Clan Irwin Association.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention at this time, we have had a change in officers, and you will find a short article in this edition. As I prepare this article, I am searching for someone to fill the vacancy that currently exists. Watch for an announcement soon.

We have had an amazing year! Watch for all the annual reports in the next edition of The Holly Leaf Chronicle. And don't forget, **PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED AT SOME LEVEL WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION. WE NEED YOU!!!**

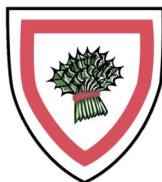


EMAIL ADDRESSES & ANCESTRY

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Would you like to have your information appear here?
Please contact John F. Ervin at membership@clanirwin.org

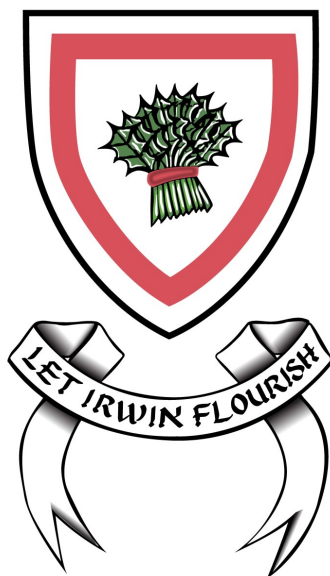
You Belong Here!

CIA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 13th, 2024

11:00 AM EST

All active members are welcome and encouraged to join.



As required by the bylaws of Clan Irwin Association, we will have an Annual General Meeting, AGM, open to all members of the Association. You are hereby invited to join this virtual meeting. Technology has made it possible for everyone to join, no matter where they live, or in what time zone they are located. Please consider your local time based on the time stated. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

In recent years, we have used Zoom Meetings as our hosting platform and we will do so again. Invitations will be sent via email approximately one week before the meeting. It will include an internet link as well as the meeting ID and pass code. Should you be unable to join via internet, you may phone in and telephone numbers will be included in the invitation. Please be prepared to use your computer camera so that we may actually see each other, almost like meeting in person. Tips for using Zoom will be included with the invitation. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

CLAN IRWIN ASSOCIATION'S

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, & WORKING GROUPS

(These will change as a task force or working group completes their assignment. A task force could become a committee.)

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John F. Ervin
Mary Erwin

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Leslie Smeathers
Ray Irwin

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Mary Erwin, Chairman

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REGIONAL REPORTS

MID-ATLANTIC REGION - DE, PA, MD, WV, WASHINGTON D.C.

10th Annual Covenanter Scottish Festival & Highland Games - Quarryville - Sep 9, 2023

The games are held on the grounds of the Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Church & Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church in Quarryville, PA, on the 2nd Saturday in September. This is the site of the oldest Covenanter Church in North America, founded in 1753.

The weather did cooperate in that there was no torrential rain. Instead, it was very un-Scottish like, HOT and HUMID. This weather made the heavy games a sweaty affair. The games were under the direction of Kirstie and Jason Corder. Kirstie's dad, Brent Abbott (also a member) was on the field, mic in hand, giving a description of what was taking place and the qualifications for the particular game. The Irving caber made another appearance and some of the athletes tried to turn it. However, the caber won every time!

The ever-popular sheep herding exhibition ran into a snag when the ducks, who were supposed to participate, hid under trucks and the dog followed. It really was very hot, especially for the animals.

The games were run by Kirstie (member) and Jason Corder. They passed the baton on to someone new. Kirstie wants to spend more time participating as a "thrower". Kirstie's dad, Brent Abbott (member), was doing the MC work for the games. He did a great job explaining the different events and how they are divided into age and gender categories. Brent walked in the Veterans Memorial Parade with Sherrie and me.

The Irvine caber was present again. One of the athletes did try to turn it, but the caber refused. Maybe next year!!

- Barbara Edelman



REGIONAL REPORTS (CONT.)

MID-ATLANTIC REGION - DE, PA, MD, WV, WASHINGTON D.C.

64th Ligonier Highland Games - Laurel Highlands, PA - Sep 16, 2023

The weather turned beautiful on Friday (and promised to stay that way until Sunday) for the drive out to the Laurel Highlands, PA. We took our time, arriving at the grounds about 4 PM. We got the tents organized, unloaded the car and were out of there by 5 PM. Saturday, it was still darkish when we arrived about 7, and cool. So fine!!



the convening. He was looking fine in his new PV Bonshaw kilt. I had asked John P Irvin to come see us if he was available. At the time, he did not promise, but was able to come. So glad to see him!! The visitors in the Clan area were not as numerous as in past years. Some of the children did have Passports, which usually drives adults around to the Clans. Not all the kids had them and didn't seemed to know where to get them. Things picked up in the afternoon when three generations of Irwins arrived from Ohio. Paul, his son, Brian and his grandson, Jordan Irwin. All these men are firemen. Jordan is also a piper and wearing the weathered Irvine tartan. Jordan was very Interested in the new music book, saying he might even have a tune to contribute to the next volume. I just happened to have a copy for him!

It was a fun afternoon. Delighted to see everyone.

- Barbara Edelman



REGIONAL REPORTS (CONT.)

SOUTHEAST REGION - FL, GA, AL

Stone Mountain Highland Games - Nov 18-19, 2023

I am at a loss for words to describe the time we had at the Stone Mountain Highland games this year. I am so incredibly thankful for everyone who came together to make this game as incredible as it was this year. Thank you to the Stone Mountain Highland games staff for putting on another great games. Thank you to Clan Irwin Association for allowing and supporting me at these games. Thank you to all of the CIA leadership that came out to support us at these games. Thank you to all of my friends and family that also came out to support us.



The trip began with a 460 mile road trip all the way from central Florida up to Stone Mountain, GA. We got into town on Thursday afternoon. This gave us enough time to get settled in and relax after the 10 hour drive. On Friday, we got to the game field in the morning to begin setting up for the weekend ahead.



The first day of the games was incredible! We had a huge crowd in the tent. We had 15 people travel with us from central Florida. Three of them were Grants, three were McLeods, and two were Ramsays. We also had a lot of Clan Irwin Association's leadership join us for the event. Mary Erwin, our Chairman. Craig Kleinert Jr., our First Vice Chairman. Teresa Tucker, our Second Vice Chairman. Barbara Edelman,

REGIONAL REPORTS *(CONT.)*



our Clan Steward. Sherrie Irwin, our Hon. Councilor to the Chief. Leslie Smeathers, our Corresponding Secretary. And Myron Proctor, our Mississippi Convener.

For the second year in a row, Clan Irwin won the Capture the Unicorn event. This is an event that Clan Montgomery put together that is based off of the border reaving clans of past to encourage more friendly (and competitive) interaction

between the clans. Stone Mountain Highland Games is going to be making this an official part of the games and has asked me to sit on the committee for this event. As reigning champions of the event, they asked for our input on rule structure and how to implement the event. There was also talk of switching from little stuffed unicorns to little stuffed coos.

On Sunday, we saw an equally large crowd at the games. In the morning, Mary, Teresa, and Myron accepted the Kirkin of the Tartans. Around mid-day came the parade of tartans and award ceremony. Unfortunately, we did not win honor clan despite hearing from many that we were the obvious winner. Seems as though things are a little more political that we had hoped. Some healthy discussions were had with the SMHG staff and it seems as though some reform may be in the future.

Nevertheless we will continue to make improvements to our setup and expand our knowledge on Irwin history. We plan on coming out full swing next year and hope to have even more friends and family join us for the games.

- Jacob Briggs



REGIONAL REPORTS (CONT.)



REGIONAL REPORTS (CONT.)

SOUTHWEST REGION - TX, NM, OK, LA, MS

Highlands & Islands Games and Celtic Music Festival - Gulfport, MS - Nov 11—12, 2023



Once again, we had the privilege of representing Clan Irwin Association (CIA) at the Highlands and Islands Games in Gulfport, MS. The night before the festival, Mother Nature decided to welcome us with the first rain Mississippi has had in over three months. The rain subsided, but it was chilly for a few days. However, the cold, damp weather did not deter the crowd. Up from last year's festival, attendance was estimated at over 5,000 for the weekend.

It was a fun weekend of tradition, heritage, and history. There were 14 clans in attendance, with Clan Anderson being the honored clan. The day started slow, but by the end of the weekend we had eight Irwin's come by our tent. CIA members Janice and Alan Wise drove from Baton Rouge to join us. With the addition of a "Scotland" slide show, several people showed interest in our 2025 Scotland tour.



As usual, the entertainment and events were outstanding. The festival's highlight was the jousting, with the crowd cheering on their favorite knight. In addition to the live jousting, there was axe throwing, Highland cows, sheep herding, dancers, pipe and drum bands, and storytelling and artisans.

The Sunday fete included a Kirkin' of the Tartan, with each clan being asked to raise their family's symbol for blessing. With the festival falling on Veteran's Day weekend, the Hub City Highlanders Pipe Band honored each military branch by performing the Armed Forces Medley. The celebration ended with all veterans being asked to come forward to receive a commemorative lapel pin.

Representing Clan Irwin Association were: Myron Proctor, MS Convener; Mary Erwin, Chairman; Teresa Tucker, 2nd Vice Chairman; and CIA member John Patterson, his wife, Kym, and their daughter Kaydee. John and his family's help was invaluable, and John's knowledge of the Irving family history was impressive.

The date for next year's festival is November 9-10, 2024. We will keep you updated if there are any changes to this date.



- Teresa Tucker

INSTAGRAM IS ALIVE & WELL WITH CIA



You have spoken and the leadership has listened! It was presented to members of the Executive Committee that we needed an “active” Instagram account. In fact, one of our members said, “Facebook is for old people. Instagram is for younger people.” Whether or not you agree, we do want to be responsive to all ages of our membership.

Teresa Tucker, our new 1st Vice Chairman, accepted the challenge of the Instagram and Facebook merger for our members. After much research, it was determined that due to ownership issues of each account, we were unable to attach our Instagram to our Facebook pages; however, we do have a new Instagram account: [clanirwin_association](#).

If you have content that you would like shared on our Instagram account, please either text or email the image and content to Teresa. Keep in mind if your message is time dependent or based on a scheduled event (i.e., festival information or other events), please get it to her in a timely manner. Her email: teresa.tucker@clanirwin.org. Her cell phone: 662-292-4702. If you post regularly on Facebook and would like to have your photos on Instagram, please make sure you are “friends” with Teresa and let her know she has your permission to copy any of your postings. We do not wish to post anything without proper permission.

We may have many members who fall into the description of “Seniors,” but we are also an organization with many younger members. It takes all of us to have a vibrant, successful Association.

Let Irwin Flourish!!!

2023 IRWIN FAMILY REUNION

FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE | CHESTER CO., PA

Every year the Irwin family gets together on the third Saturday in August. The reunion is held at the Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church in their lovely, air-conditioned space. This year we celebrated the 146th consecutive anniversary!! The crowd was not as large as in past years, but it was really great to see those who came. Only a few photos were taken, and the perfunctory “group” photo was totally forgotten.

As you can see from the photo, Pat Lesky brought her historical/ genealogical displays and Sherrie Irwin brought some CIA posters and other items.

This reunion is open to all Irwins etc. In the past we have had visitors from as far away as California. We share any information that has been collected. Just mark your calendar. Check out our Facebook page for more photos <https://www.facebook.com/groups/856619811081690>. See you next year.

- Barbara Edelman



KIRKIN OF THE TARTANS

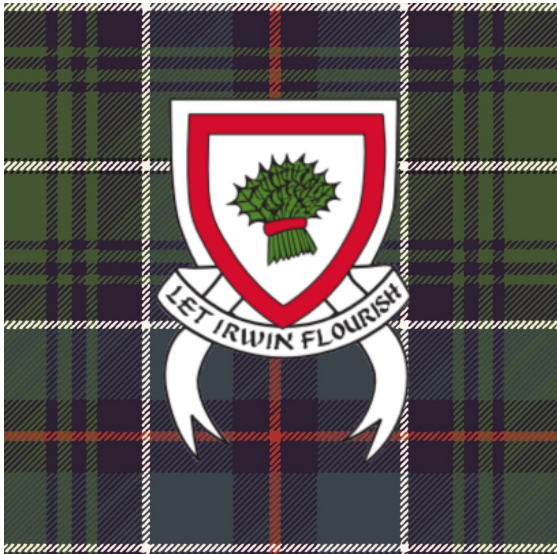


On November 30, 2023; Clan Irwin treasurer Ken Erwin, his wife Guacyara, and his friend, Mike Kelly, attended the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle Evening Prayer and Kirkin' Of The Tartans.

The Ceremony was held at the Church of Saint Andrew and Saint Margaret of Scotland located at 402 E. Monroe Avenue, Alexandria, VA; and is an annual event dating back to the founding of the church.

The ceremonies featured both parochial and civil meanings dating back to 18th century Alexandria, VA; and consisted of 23 separate hymns and prayers related to the history of St. Andrew and Scotland, including "Scotland The Brave." Approximately 100 people were in attendance, many dressed in traditional Scottish tartan. There was also a wonderful Scottish piper who played several songs. The ceremonies were followed by a wonderful reception featuring traditional Scottish foods, drinks, and desserts. The clan plans to increase its attendance at this event in the future. More information can be found at www.standrewandstmargaret.org.

- Ken Erwin



GOOD NEWS FOR CONVENERS

At the recent meeting of the Clan Irwin Association Clan Council, comprised of officers and regional commissioners, a motion was passed that affects our conveners. We appreciate all that our conveners do at Games throughout North America, and have taken this step as one way to show our appreciation.

Retroactive to January 1, 2023, for any convener who convenes at least two (2) games a year, we will advance the expiration of your membership by one year. As an example, if you have convened two times this year and your next dues renewal is July 1, 2024, it will be advanced to July 1, 2025. You will need to keep track and notify the Membership Secretary who controls the advancing of expiration dates when it comes to billing the dues. He will make a note in the database each time he advances the expiration date. In case you need to add a contact in your list of contacts, the Membership Secretary is John Ervin, membership@clanirwin.org.

Some of our officers as well as regional and state commissioners convene. I would like to point out all other conveners are shown in each edition of the Holly Leaf Chronicle. Please show your appreciation to them when it is convenient for you to do so.

We are always looking for new conveners, so this would be a good time for you to step forward and help your Association, and benefit yourself. There are openings in many areas. Please contact your state or regional commissioner, or any of the officers.

Mary Erwin, Chairman

HENRY FROST ERWIN STORY

Henry Frost Erwin, our father, was born September 6, 1895, in Slagle, Missouri, in the days of horses and buggies. He lived to see astronauts landing on the moon! He was the first born of seven children to William Alston Erwin and Mary Frost. William Alston Erwin was born June 19, 1859, and he had written a history of his Erwin family which passed down to me around 25 years ago. William stated that his father was George Council Erwin, born 1829 east of Zanesville, Ohio. George was from a large family, and four of his siblings were William, David, Martha, and Lydia. William said he did not know who George's father was. Our cousin, Brenda, took that information and found out that George Council Erwin's father was Edward Erwine, born c. 1803.

Henry was born at a very bad time. Missouri was a border state during the American Civil War and there was still much hatred between the North and South leaning families. Henry's family soon moved to the Rocks, Hills, Ticks, Chiggers, and Snakes land of Baxter County in North Central Arkansas and later back to Missouri. He told about driving a horse-drawn wagon from Springfield, MO to Baxter County, Arkansas - a distance of about 130 miles on today's roads. It took several days to make the journey. He built campfires and slept on the ground. Baxter County was occupied by hard working families with little Cash Assets. It was mostly a Barter system where extra eggs were traded for apples or wheat flour, etc. Most land had not been paid for. It was given through Land Grants to men or descendants of men who had fought in one of our many wars. How much land was Granted was based on a soldier's rank, duration of time in service and battles fought. Usually 60 to 640 acres.

Henry worked hard on the family farm, walking behind a single blade plow pulled by a mis-matched team of horses, and he worked the garden, too. He did find a Cash Paying job that basically had no end during his time. He and a friend operated a cross-cut saw and dropped trees. They removed all limbs and cut the trunk into lengths for a wood fence. They split the logs into two pieces and cut those into two more pieces, maybe split them again based on how large the tree was. The split logs were laid in a zigzag shape on the ground around the property. More split logs were laid on top of them until the required height was reached. The job never ended because the bottom logs were consumed by termites, carpenter ants and other insects, and more logs had to be added at the top. Henry's second employer saw what a hard worker he was and paid him 50% more salary. His first job paid one cent per hour, one dime for a 10 hour day. When he had worked 10 hours a day for 10 days, he would have a dollar, which was enough to buy an acre of land. His second employer paid him 1 1/2 cents per hour, a great improvement.

As World War I started, Henry and others realized that their male friends were disappearing. After some time, the missing men sent letters telling how they were approached by a large truck, asked questions about name, home address, etc. and then were told they had to get into the truck as they were now in the Army. They were trained and sent to the horrible trench war in Europe. Henry did not want to go to the trenches so he found out where a Navy

HENRY FROST ERWIN STORY *(CONT)*

recruitment center was located in Little Rock, Arkansas. He walked the approximate 135 miles during the nights to keep from meeting up with the large truck. He worked small jobs along the way for food and a place to sleep.

Henry spent the rest of WWI as a gunner's mate on Battle Ships. His crew of six men would load four ninety pound bags of powder into the cannon. Then an 18 inch diameter shell was inserted. I have no memory of how the powder was ignited. At the war's end, Henry was transported to St. Louis, Missouri. There the Navy told him he was released and could go home. Henry asked if they would give him transportation, money or other means to make the 250 mile trip home. They told him no help; he could stay in the Navy or leave. So, he started out walking and hitching rides and working for food and bedding along the way. Now, it was no problem with the large trucks so he could travel during day light. (Small towns in Missouri and Arkansas usually have a WWI memorial with the names of men killed during the war because there were so many killed.)

He didn't talk much about his wartime experience. One highlight he mentioned was a visit by his ship to Havana, Cuba. During WWII, at age 46, he had to register for "Old Man's Draft." (It was not intended that these men be drafted into military service, but to determine if their labor skills could be used in the war effort.)

Henry's oldest son, Gene, served two years in the Army in WWII; his next son, Glenn, served 26 years in the Army in many places; his next son, Ivan, served 2 years in the Army as an M.P. in Germany; and his baby, Ronald, spent 6 years in the Air Force during Viet Nam.

Henry told us he and other families in his area had no real problem with the Great Depression as nothing much changed for them. They had little money at the start, and no jobs to lose, so nothing was taken from them. They did get a great gift as the government started getting money out to the people through WPA projects, etc at the end. The government came through the area and bought anything the families wanted to sell. They paid a very good price for crops, hay, animals, tools, etc. Every family now had "CASH." The government bulldozed a large hole and buried everything that had been purchased and then left. Then the sellers dug up their stuff and took it back home along with the cash!

Henry worked one day on the construction of a dam on the Norfork Dam in Northern Arkansas around 1940. He said that one day was enough for him because when the crew finished work that day, the crew loaded into the back of a truck. Henry was the last man to get on the truck. The man ahead of him took the last seat on one side and Henry had the last seat on the other side. On the journey back to their housing, the truck overturned. Henry's hard hat was split in two. The man on the other side of the truck was killed. But for chance, Henry would have been in that seat.

HENRY FROST ERWIN STORY *(CONT)*

In 1948, Henry and family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he and the family obtained jobs and led a normal city life.

I (Ron) joined Ancestry DNA with a family tree going back to Edward Erwine. Matches to me started coming in from other descendants of Edward Erwine. My tree expanded. I went to Zanesville, Ohio and found a very good Genealogy Library with information on his marriages. The County Court House had many land purchases and sales records. On one sales record, Edward and three of his sons sold a property and all four spelled their name differently when signing. Another document showed Edward was purchasing land and when Edward paid for the land, he would receive title to the land. Each time Edward's surname was spelled differently. The Court House had Edward's Probate from his death which listed his wife and children. Edward had 13 children with his first wife and 5 with his second wife.

I Googled Census Records and found a list of Edward's children and one showed Edward was born in Pennsylvania and one showed he was born in Virginia. We learned that part of southwest Pennsylvania was once part of Virginia. We went to Pennsylvania 3 times looking for records. We went to the DAR headquarters in Washington, DC twice.

We went to the Sons of the American Revolution (comparable to DAR) headquarters in Louisville, KY several times. There, we found the records of hundreds of those who fought, with various spellings of Irwin. Once I found an ancestor with whom I could match, I used him to join SAR.

Later, I did the DNA test at 23andMe. They have matched me to 1,501 relatives who have also done their DNA test with them. They have told me I am descended from "Niall of the Nine Hostages." Niall is believed to be a King in Ireland around 400 A.D. It is estimated that there are 2-3,000,000 living descendants of Niall at this time.

My brother, Ivan A. Erwin, found and joined Clan Irwin Association. Then, he did the FTDNA test when 67 markers was the highest level test available. He joined the Clan Irwin Surname yDNA Study, administered by James M. Irvine. I joined Clan Irwin Association and the yDNA Study when it had advanced to 111 markers. I upgraded to the Big Y-500 test and then to the Big Y-700 test when they became available. This study shows that I am descended from y-DNA Haplogroup R-BY3699, which is the same as the Lairds of Bonshaw. So the Lairds of Bonshaw Tower are my grandfathers, uncles, or cousins.

The number of markers in the y-DNA Study keeps growing and today is 1,360,068. That is the number of Variants my DNA is broken into, and compared to others when they have also done the Big Y-700 test. Today, 107 men have done the Big Y test and are related to me. Twenty-five (25) men match me at over 1 million parts. My very closest match is 1,314,791 and it's not my brother!

HENRY FROST ERWIN STORY *(CONT)*

I suggest to any man looking for ancestors to join FTDNA and purchase the 67 marker test. Then, request to join the Clan Irwin Surname yDNA Study to learn which branch of the "Clan" you are descended from. Buy James M. Irvine's book, *The Irwin Surname, its Origins, Diaspora and Early Branches*, from Amazon for about \$20. This tells about the clan in general and has information on the various branches. I enjoy reading all of it.

In one book, I found where the Irwins et al, were a tribe in what is now Greece, around 133 B.C. When the Romans moved that way, we went to Egypt; when the Romans moved south, we went to western Spain. The Romans came that way, too, so we moved to Ireland. Around 373A.D., we fought the Romans and most of our adult men were killed.

Written By Ronald Lynn Erwin, the baby child born 1944, and Ivan Alson Erwin, next to youngest child born 1940, and now the oldest living. Contact us if you have any questions, Ron — 318-791-6343 or email, ronerwin.10@gmail.com, and Ivan — 720-660-1200 or email ierwin@hotmail.com.

CIA INVESTMENT REPORT

AN UPDATE OF THE CLAN'S INVESTMENT IN BRK.B | DEC 2023

"The stock market is a device for transferring money from the impatient to the patient."

- Warren Buffett

"Time is the friend of the wonderful business, the enemy of the mediocre."

- Warren Buffett – Letter to Shareholders 1989

"The world is full of foolish gamblers, and they will not do as well as the patient investor."

- Charlie Munger

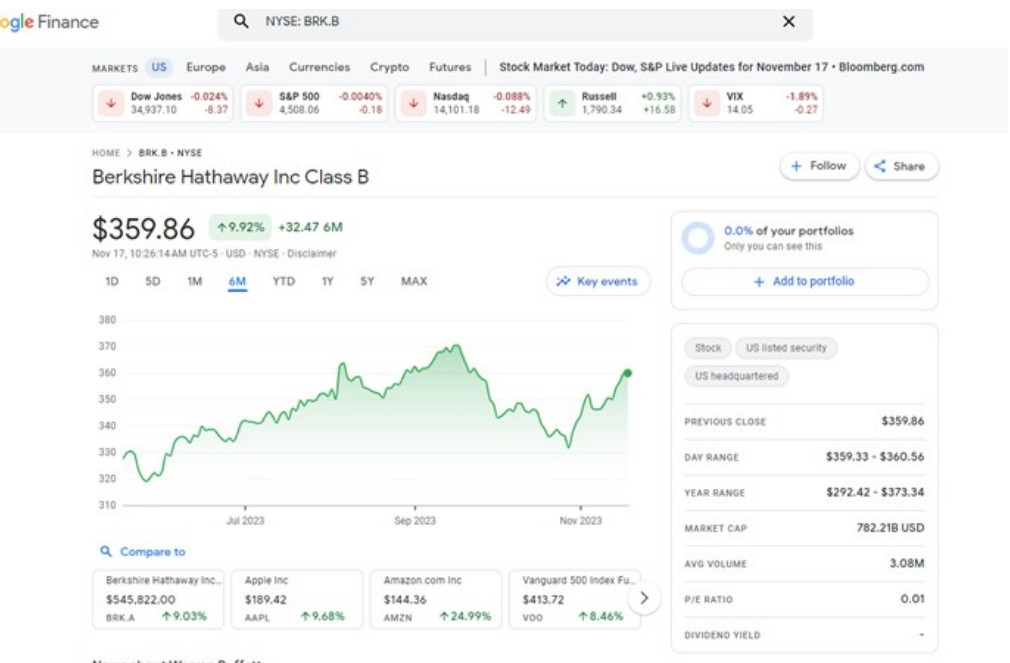
SECTION 1 – UPDATE ON CLAN'S INVESTMENT DECISION

On May 1st, 2023; the Clan bought 55 shares of BRK.B for 18,170.34 (330.37 each). We sold our positions in Alphabet (GOOG, 40 shares at \$107.14 – \$4286), Kraft Heinz (KHC, 106 shares at \$39.5 – \$4187), Regions Financial (RF, 264 shares at \$18.08 - \$4773), and Kinder Morgan (KMI, 294 shares at \$17.10 - \$5029).

On August 21st, 2023, the Clan bought a further 3 shares of BRK.B for \$1,056 (\$352 each). Then we bought 14 more at 347.80 on November 2nd 2023 and again 1 more share on November 16th at 358.90.

As of middle of the day on November 17th, 2023 BRK.B is bouncing around \$360.

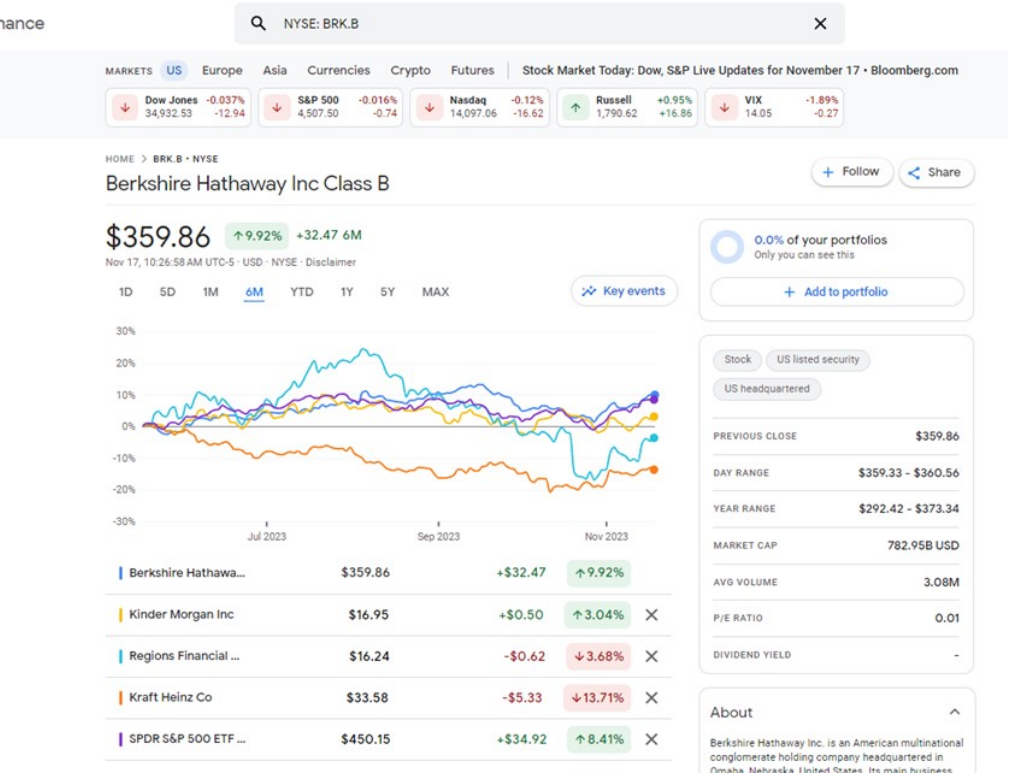
Figure 1 – BRK.B's price on November 17th, 2023



CIA INVESTMENT REPORT (CONT)

Since May, two of the four stocks that we sold have gone down (RF, KHC) significantly and one has been essentially flat (KMI).

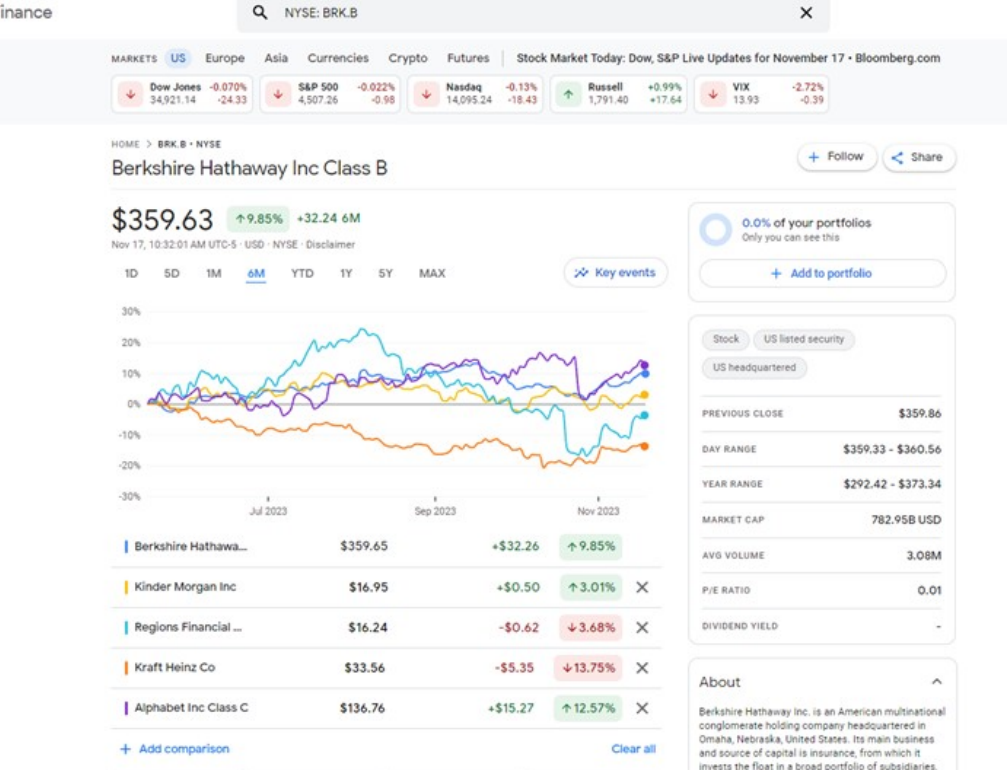
Figure 2 – BRK.B (blue line) performance vs KMI (yellow), RF (light blue), KHC (orange), and SPY for reference (purple).



The other stock, Alphabet has gone up on all the AI hype but AI is an incredibly risky area and Alphabet stock is way outside of the Clan's risk profile. Frankly, if the AI boom hadn't hit the tech stock market across the board, I'd bet that Berkshire would've beaten Alphabet too.

CIA INVESTMENT REPORT (*CONT*)

Figure 3 – Alphabet (*yellow line*) versus everything else.



"I am personally skeptical of some of the hype that has gone into artificial intelligence. I think old-fashioned intelligence works pretty well."

Charlie Munger, Berkshire Shareholders Conference Q&A Session 2023

While seven-months does not make a lifetime, this is a good sign that we are going in the right direction.

CIA INVESTMENT REPORT (*CONT*)

SECTION 2 – PERSONAL MUSINGS ON BRK.B'S POSITIONS IN KHC AND GOOG

"You should invest in a business that even a fool can run, because someday a fool will"

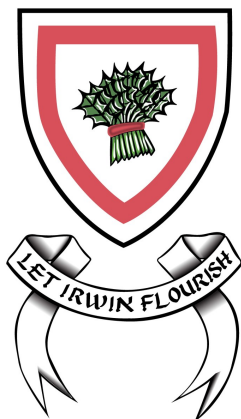
Warren Buffett

Berkshire has a fairly substantial position of \$11.3B in Kraft Heinz (SEC Filing). While this is a small portion of the \$384.2B the company has in stocks in total, this position is something I wish they'd just get rid of given the sordid history detailed here: Berkshire and Heinz. It should be a great business given that it sells consumables like Ketchup and mac and cheese, but you just can't get over bad management and political focus taking away from running a business (Heinz Jet).

Interestingly the Clan entered its position in KHC in January, 2019 at \$47/share, just one month before the horror show discussed in that seeking alpha article. Four and a half years later and the company is way down below what we paid and still declining. I couldn't be happier that we walked away. Buffett eventually saw the light with respect to IBM (Buffet sells IBM) and I keep hoping he will with KHC too.

Well dear reader you finally made it to the end! You can read more about BRK.B in my July 12th, 2023 article in the HLC (July 2023 HLC) or here: <https://www.berkshirehathaway.com/> and I hope this article gives you some sense of the accountability that we hold ourselves towards here on the Executive Committee. Please send any questions or comments to treasurer@clanirwin.org

- Kenneth Erwin, Treasurer



REFERENCE INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Non Profit Status

We are registered as a charitable, non-profit organization under USIRS Regulation 501(c)(3). Donations may be tax deductible in the US.

Submissions

Persons wishing to submit articles or photos of interest to The Holly Leaf Chronicle's newsletter may contact the Editor at:
hlc@clanirwin.org

Remuneration

No Association Officer receives monetary compensation or other benefits, for their services.

Membership Eligibility

Membership is open to all persons who support the Scottish Clan Irwin and the many spellings of the name.

W W W . C L A N I R W I N . O R G

Follow Us!



- for general information -

www.facebook.com/groups/clanirwin

- for members -

www.facebook.com/groups/membersofclanirwin



www.twitter.com/clan_irwin



www.instagram.com/clanirwin_association

- * **Have you stopped your landline phone in the last 5 years?**
- * **Did you tell us to remove it from your record?**
- * **Do you have a cell number we can add to your record?**
- * **Are there any other changes in your contact information?**

**If so, please let us know at
membership@clanirwin.org**

**Even if you aren't sure, we'll be happy to verify
any changes you wish to mention.**

Thanks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GAMES IN **BOLD**, CIA WILL BE CONVENING.

CALIFORNIA REGION

- * Mar 1 - 3, 2024 • Phoenix Scottish Games • Phoenix, AZ
- * Mar 3 - 10, 2024 • Sonora Celtic Festival - Calaveras Celtic Faire • Sonora, CA
- * Apr 20 - 21, 2024 • Kern County Scottish Games • Bakersville, CA

CANADA REGION

- * Mar 16 - 17, 2024 • Celtic Fest Vancouver • Vancouver, BC

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

- * Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2024 • Celtic Calling Gathering • Charleston, WV
- * Apr 27, 2024 • Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland • St. Leonard, MD

MID-CONTINENT REGION

- * Mar 16, 2024 • Fargo Celtic Fest • Morehead, MN

NORTHEAST REGION

- * Jan 11 - 14, 2024 • Boston Celtic "Music" Festival • Cambridge, MA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

- * Mar 29 - 31, 2024 • Durango Celtic Festival • Durango, CO
- * Apr 12 - 13, 2024 • Redstone Highland Games & Festival • Saint George, UT
- * Apr 13 - 14, 2024 • Colorado Tartan Day Festival • Longmont, CO

SOUTHEAST REGION

- * **Jan 6 - 7, 2024 • Florida Keys Celtic Festival • Marathon, FL**
- * **Jan 13 - 14, 2024 • Central Florida Highland Games • Winter Springs, FL**
- * **Feb 3 - 4, 2024 • Tally Highland Games • Tallahassee, FL**
- * Feb 3 - 4, 2024 • Celtic Family Jamboree • Brooksville, FL
- * **Feb 10, 2024 • Suncoast Scots Highland Games • Palmetto, FL**
- * **Feb 16 - 18, 2024 • Mount Dora Highland Games • Mount Dora, FL**
- * Feb 24, 2024 • NE Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival • Green Cove Springs, FL
- * Mar 2, 2024 • SE Florida Highland Games & Festival • Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- * Mar 2, 2024 • Panama City Beach Scottish Festival • Panama City, FL
- * Mar 9 - 10, 2024 • St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival • St. Augustine, FL
- * **Apr 6, 2024 • Dunedin Highland Games & Festival • Dunedin, FL**
- * **Apr 20, 2024 • Ormond Beach Celtic Festival • Ormond Beach, FL**

UPCOMING EVENTS *(CONT.)*

MID- SOUTH REGION

- * **May 18 - 19, 2024 • Smokey Mountain Highland Games • Townsend, TN**
- * **Sep 7 - 8, 2024 • Middle Tennessee Highland Games • Hendersonville, TN**

SOUTHWEST REGION

- * **Mar 23 - 24, 2024 • Sherman Celtic Festival & Highland Games • Sherman, TX**
- * **Apr 6 - 7, 2024 • San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Festival • San Antonio, TX**
- * **Apr 20, 2024 • Scottish Tartan Festival • Minden, LA**
- * **Apr 20 - 21, 2024 • Grapevine Lake Celtic Festival • Grapevine, TX**

TIDEWATER REGION

- * **Feb 17 - 18, 2024 • Asheville Celtic Festival • Asheville, NC**
- * **Mar 2, 2024 • Irish Fest Camden • Camden, SC**
- * **Mar 23, 2024 • The Sedalia Center's Celtic Festival & Highland Games • Big Island, VA**
- * **Apr 11 - 14, 2024 • Tartan Day South Highland Games • Cayce, SC**
- * **Apr 20 - 21, 2024 • Loch Norman Rural Hill Highland Games • Huntersville, NC**

Flowers of the Forest



LARRY A. SELNER

1937 ~ 2023

Larry Arthur Selner, 85, of Curwensville died on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at the Ridgeview Elder Care and Rehabilitation Center, Curwensville.

He was born on November 29, 1937 in Clearfield, a son of the late Albert W. 'Benny' and LoDema 'Dema' (Irwin) Selner.

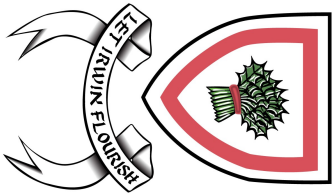
Larry taught History and English for the Curwensville Area School District. He had also been employed by the Clearfield Area School District, American Schools and the Clearfield Saddle Club. He was a member of the Curwensville Masonic Lodge, the Democratic Party of Clearfield County, and Curwensville Historical society. He enjoyed local history, reading, and traveling. Larry served with the US Army from 1960-1965.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Charlotte Selner of Brighton, CO; and nieces and nephews, Della Selner of Chambersburg, Lynelle Vogel of Denver, CO, Kristen Selner of Dachau, Michael Selner of Denver, CO, Greg Selner of Curwensville, and Craig Selner of Denver, CO, 12 great nieces and nephews, and 13 great great nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his two brothers, Gary Irwin Selner and Barry Selner and his sister in law Noretta Kay Bartell Selner.

Funeral services will be held at the Beardsley Funeral Home and Crematory, Curwensville on Saturday at 11 AM. Interment will follow in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Curwensville. Military honors will be accorded at the funeral home. Friends will be received at the funeral home on Saturday from 10-11 AM.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to The Curwensville Historical Society, the Curwensville Library and the Clearfield Democratic Party. To sign the on-line guest book go to www.beardsleyfuneralhome.com.

<https://www.beardsleyfuneralhome.com/memorials/larry-selner/5160611#details>



Clan Irwin

Association

155 Hattaway Road
Calhoun, LA 71225

TIMED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY