

# *The Sgian Dubh*

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**Clan Morrison Society of North America**

<https://clanmorrison.net/>

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**Morrison, Morison, Murison, Gilmore, Gilmour, Brieve, MacBrieve, Judge**

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## **A fashion statement in tartan**



What does a CIA analyst do after he retires from the shadowy world of smoke and mirrors?

For Clan member Jeff Perry, he traded the twilight for the limelight, walking the runway for the past two years in the annual New York-based Scottish fashion show Dressed to Kilt.

Jeff, who traces his Gilmour ancestors to the court of Scotland's King James VI, brought the Morrison tartan to the exclusive Highland fashion parade, celebrated as part of National Tartan Day and co-founded more than 20 years ago by the late actor Sir Sean Connery and Scottish entrepreneur Geoffrey Carroll.

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**Election issue:** Vote for the Board of Directors. Ballot link in Chairman's message.

# Morrison tartan on the runway

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He donned the great kilt in the unique Morrison weathered tartan, topped with a Jacobean jacket and shirt with lace at the sleeves and cravat at the neck; and a resolute look on his face that says, “Real men wear kilts!”

Jeff ordered his feileadh mor (Gaelic for “great kilt”) for his wedding to his wife Lisa two years ago at The Torridon, a five-star luxury hotel and former hunting lodge in the remote Scottish highlands of Wester Ross about an hour west of Inverness.

“I wanted to honor the memory of my Scottish ancestors as part of the ceremony,” he said.

Jeff comes from a long line of Gilmours (the Gaelic version of Morrison) with his 15th and 16th great grandfathers serving as knights to James VI, who also inherited the English throne after the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603. Jeff adopted the style of kilt that was widely worn by Highlanders during that time

His kilt is made of 20 feet of 16-ounce wool, basically in the shape of a large blanket. Wearing the feileadh mor requires precision and patience, he said, scoffing at YouTube videos that show a man wrapping himself in the great plaid in about 10 minutes.

“I can assure you that it requires a considerable amount of practice, patience and skill to master,” he said. “You’ll be lucky if it takes you less than 10 hours to put on when you first start!”

“The results produce a very distinctive look that will get noticed,” he said.

Jeff did, indeed, get noticed when he wore his outfit two years ago to a Burns’ Night Supper sponsored by the St. Andrew’s Society of Washington DC. where he first met Carroll. The co-sponsor of Dressed to Kilt was so impressed by Jeff’s great kilt that he invited him to appear in a special fashion show held in Washington later that year to mark the organization’s 20th anniversary.

Thus, a fashion star was born, and the Morrison tartan has gotten international recognition at Dressed to Kilt since then.

“Having introduced traditional Scottish attire into my life has been a very enjoyable experience and one that continues to open doors for my wife and me,” Jeff said.

*From the Chairman:*

# **Election for the Board of Directors**

**By Michael A. Morrison**

*Chairman Clan Morrison Society of North America*

It's that time again: Time to vote for your Society board members. This is a simple process.

Click here to file your ballot. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/75BKBFQ>  
This year we have only three nominees, each a Society member selected by the nominating committee and vetted by the Board of Directors.

The nominees are in good standing with the Society, and they are running unopposed. This happens when only one person is nominated for a certain position.

Your task is to ratify the nominees with a “yes” vote or reject them with a “no” vote. Ballots must be cast by Feb. 15, 2025.

As Chairman, I have appointed Bill Broome, the membership chairman, and Arthur Morrison, the convenor of the Stone Mountain (Georgia) highland games, as interim Members-at-Large. The Society's Constitution requires us to have at least two Members-at-Large. The positions opened because one member died, the other's term expired.

I would like to add that I am very appreciative of these individuals for stepping up. Without volunteers the Society cannot legally operate. In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of Clan Morrison Society of North America and wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

## **Sample Ballot:**

Chairman Clan Morrison Society of North America:

Michael Morrison (incumbent) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Historian Clan Morrison Society of North America:

Dr. Edmund Potter (incumbent) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Clan Morrison Society of North America:

Rachel Morrison Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

# Out and about

*Morrison, Gilmores on the town, in the country*



Photo by Michael Morrison

## Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk

Keith Jodoin, his daughter Sydney and son Rayce (all of Fairfax, VA) wait patiently to march with Clan Morrison in the 53rd annual Christmas parade December 7 in Alexandria, VA, a town founded by Scottish merchants in 1749. Keith and Sydney wear the ancient green Morrison, while Sydney holds the modern red Morrison flag.



## A Morrison revises the '45 for Bonnie Prince Charlie

William Johnson, a Society member who traces his Morrisons to 1750 in North Carolina., appears in the clash of tartans worn by rebels of the Stewarts of Appin, a regiment raised in the ill-fated uprising of 1745 to restore Scotland's Stewart kings. He marched with the historic reenactors in the Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria, VA.

Below, the Society of Scottish Armigers and the Scottish American Military Society put up tents to welcome Andrew Morrison, the viscount Dunrossil, to the Tucson, AZ, games in November. Andrew is the regional chieftain for Clan Morrison.

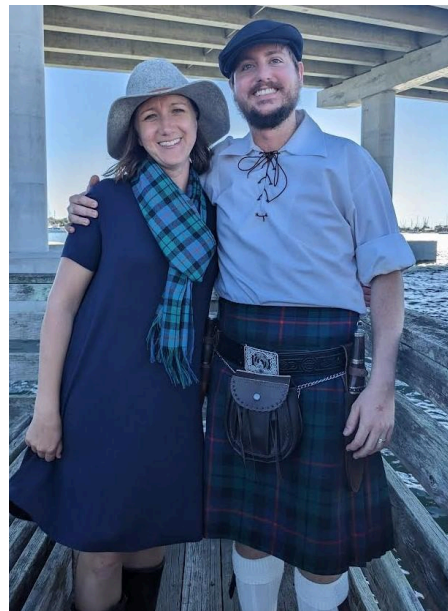






## Morrison's on the move

Sean and Emilee Morrison and their son Thaddeus (above at Grandfather Mountain) had a busy year traveling to games in North Carolina and making a pilgrimage to Dun Eistein in Scotland. Above right, Sean (in a toque and red jacket) holding Thaddeus is surrounded by his family at Dun Eistein. At right, Sean and Emilee find a quiet moment by the sea at the Crystal Coast games back home in North Carolina.





# Send us a sign

*Morrison, CO, marks 150 years: boomtown, tourist site, speed trap*



**Main street in Morrison**



**Photo by Andrew Morrison**

Mix the Old West, a movie star and dinosaurs, and you've got Morrison, CO, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in August.

Morrison, one of the best known towns in the United States to carry the clan name, was founded by George Morrison, a Canadian stonemason who immigrated to Colorado in the 1859 Gold Rush.

He failed as a prospector but fell back on his profession. He quarried high-quality stone from the mountainous region and developed a reputation for constructing buildings that today are recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1874, Morrison helped lay out the town that would bear his name and brought the railroad in from nearby Denver to ship out his stone

and attract tourists to the region's natural beauty.

Three years later on the outskirts of Morrison, an English naturalist and school teacher named Arthur Lakes discovered dinosaur remains from the Jurassic period. The excavation of the 150-million-year-old fossils landed Lakes in the middle of the so-called "Great Dinosaur Bone Rush" between two ruthless paleontologists, Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone\\_Rush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone_Rush)



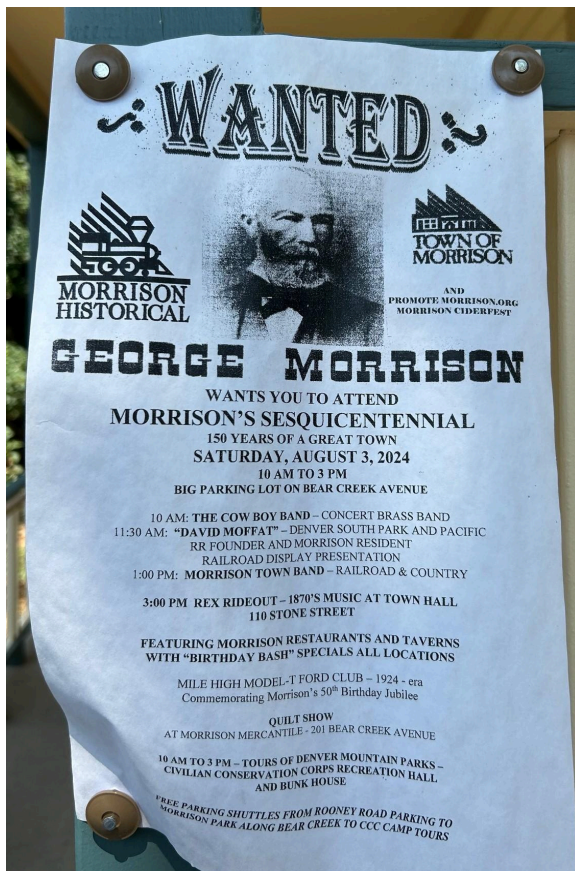
**George Morrison**

In the 20th Century, the town achieved fame on the silver screen. Morrison's grandson, George, grew up there; but the lure of Hollywood drew him to California where he acted in 132 cowboy movies.

While filming *The Big Trail* in 1930, he met the star of the film, who happened to share his last name – Marion Michael Morrison, known professionally, of course, as John Wayne – who would join our society 40 years later.

Today, the town of about 500 attracts visitors who love to hike around its rugged mountains. However, if you visit, beware.

Morrison, CO, is also known as a notorious speed trap. More than half of the town's budget, according to reports, is raised through traffic fines.



**Photo by Andrew Morrison**  
**Poster announces the town's birthday**



# Hal Morrison: a life lived large in a kilt

Everyone who knew Hal Morrison remembers him for his love of life, family, Scotland, Clan Morrison, veterans, fishing and single malt whisky.

Ian Morrison, one of his 11 grandchildren, summed it up best.

“He was funny, kind and caring and someone who really took to his Scottish heritage by always going to the games. His son, my dad William Hall Morrison III, is just like him,”

Hal and Ian’s grandmother Sherry were a “true romantic and loving couple to each other,” Ian added.

Hal had his devilish side, as his family revealed in their obituary.

“Hal Morrison lived BIG! He loved his family, his friends and his country.

“He was generous, grumpy, mischievous, stubborn, but, oh, so kind. He is in Paradise now, fishing, drinking scotch and smoking a good cigar.”

William Hal Morrison Jr. died Dec. 7, 2024, in Columbia, SC, after a lengthy illness. He was 76. Hal served 31 years in the Navy, retiring as a command master chief petty officer. After the Navy, Hal formed the Morrison Dental Laboratories and worked also as a dental industry consultant.



Hal was widely known in the Scottish-American community and especially among members of the Clan Morrison Society of North America. He most recently served the society as a member of the chairman’s advisory committee.

He was also a charter life member of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS).

“SAMS owes a great debt to Hal

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Morrison and his family, one that we can never repay ... ,” said Kendall Sorensen of SAMS Post 1847 in Utah.

Others remembered Hal for his love of Scotland's national drink.

Kenneth Luckey of North Carolina recalled first meeting Hal 30 years ago and continuing to join him at Scottish games in the Tarheel state.

“Hal was the very first person that introduced me to Lagavulin, still my favorite single malt,” he said.

William D. Morrison, also of North Carolina, expressed appreciation for Hal’s naval career.

“Thank you for your service and RIP, Sailor,” he wrote. “Your shipmates have the watch...may you have fair winds and following seas.”

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## Membership report

<b>Life USA:</b>	388
<b>Annual USA:</b>	84
<b>Life Foreign:</b>	15
<b>Annual Foreign:</b>	7
<b>Total Membership:</b>	<b>494</b>

## New Members

Richard Edward Morrison, Jr.  
Tracey Lynn Brackett  
Barbara Folensbee-Moore

Washington, DC  
Kennesaw, GA  
Lenoir, NC

## Deceased Members

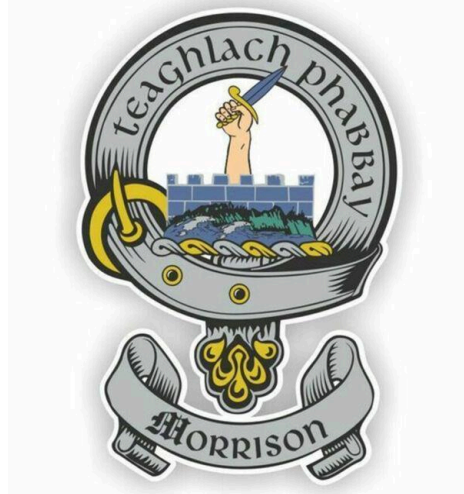
William Patrick Morrison  
William Hal Morrison, Jr.

Lubbock, TX  
Chapin, SC

## Annual dues

Annual members are reminded to pay their membership dues by Jan. 31, 2025. These can be paid online with PayPal. You may also download the renewal form from the society website and mail a check.





## CMSNA Executive Leadership

**The Chief of Clan Morrison:** R. Alasdair Morrison of Ruchi

**Chairman:**

Michael S. Morrison

**Vice Chairman:**

Vacant

**Treasurer:**

(Michael S. Morrison, acting)

**Membership:**

William Broome

**Secretary:**

Vacant

**Historian:**

Edmund Potter, PhD

**Chaplain:**

Vacant

**Newsletter Editor:**

James Morrison

**Scholarship Director:**

Robert S. Morrison

**Past Chieftain:**

Anne M. Morrison

**Webmaster:**

William Broome

**Past Chairmen:** Anne Morrison, Chris Gillmore, Arthur Morrison, Edwin F. Holcombe Jr., Jim Morrison, Gerald B. Morrison, Jeffrey Moore, David H. Blain, David R. Gilmour

**Members at Large:** William Broome, Arthur Morrison

**Chairman's Advisory Committee:** Edwin Holcombe Jr., Jim Morrison, Robert "Bob" Morrison, David R. Gilmour, Chris Gillmore, Jennifer Wolcott

# Clan Morrison Society of North America needs you

A volunteer organization is only as good as the members who devote their time to make it work. The CMSNA needs members to step forward and help keep the society functioning. Right now we need a vice chairman and a treasurer on the board of directors. We are always looking for conveners to host Clan Morrison tents at Scottish festivals in your areas. You can help by going to the “Volunteer” page on [clanmorrison.net](http://clanmorrison.net). I also need regional correspondents for the quarterly newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested.

— James Morrison, editor  
[jamesellismorrison@gmail.com](mailto:jamesellismorrison@gmail.com)

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## A final thought from the editor: Modesty of Morrisons

Alexander Carmichael, a 19th Century Scottish folklorist, left a gift for Clan Morrison in his collection of Highland lore called the *Carmina Gadelica*.

At the Virginia Scottish Games, we prominently exhibit his review of our clan as part of our tent display. We call it: “The Modesty of the Morrisons.” But we didn’t say it, Carmichael did.

“The Morrisons have been celebrated throughout the ages for their wit, poetry, music, philosophy, medicine and science;

“For their independence of mind, sobriety of judgment, their benevolence of heart and their unfailing hospitality.”

