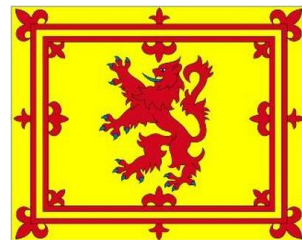




# The Caledonian

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THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Hello all,

Now it is March, and that makes many of us think about spring. We have made it through a long winter. There will be a bit more snow, I'll bet, but that will soon be gone too. Spring is a time of renewal. In the Celtic world it is an important time of the year.

Coming up in April, we're anticipating two events. April 6th is National Tartan Day in North America, marking the anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Arbroath, the document that gave Scotland its independence from England, later rescinded by the English. So if you have any plaid to wear on the 6th of April, please do. (There is never a bad occasion to wear your plaid.) Our gathering at the Big Flats Community Center is on April 12th—it will include a dish to pass and culinary entertainment. I would love to see many people out for this. It is a fun evening. There is more information below about this.

In the summer, there are always Highland Games going on. If you are interested in going to any of the local games and would like to help us in our tent, please let me know at 607.661.6090. We do enjoy attending these events and would love to have your help. We usually go to the games in Ithaca NY as well as the Dundee games. But there are many others in the region including a brand new event, the Allegany County Celtic Games in Belmont NY on June 1st (I hear that is the Chief's birthday).

Until we see each other again,

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

An Irish blessing

Slainte, Your Chief,



## PASSING THE TORCH

With Herb MacDonell's able assistance and generous contribution of his archives, Linda Ferris and Nedra McElroy are taking on the production of the Caledonian. Herb has provided the following brief history of the MacDonells' stewardship of the newsletter: Phyllis MacDonell was Editor following Don Campbell. She took over in December 2001 and put out 41 issues through October 2010.

Following Phyllis' passing in December 2010 her husband Herb took over as Editor and he put out 8 issues through October 2012.

The first issue mailed to Phyllis and Herb was the March 1998 issue. The newsletter archives provided by Herb go back to Volume XV, No. 2. If anyone has earlier issues they would be willing to share, they will be copied and returned...

## THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

### Skirlie

If you had the Chicken Skirlie at the Robert Burns dinner, you know this is tasty. Here's how to make your own. The ingredients might surprise you.

In a large frying pan melt:

2 Tablespoons oil

2 Tablespoons butter

Add and cook until soft:

One small onion-minced

3 slices of bacon- minced

When the bacon is beginning to brown, add

2 cups REAL (not instant) oatmeal

Cook and stir until the oatmeal is starting to turn a bit brown and all liquid has been absorbed.

Add 1 ½ cups of chicken (or beef) stock, stir, cover and cook on low for 10 minutes until all the stock is absorbed.

Makes a wonderful side dish for any meat or fish. Put ¼ cup inside a flattened chicken breast and bake for Chicken Skirlie.

### APRIL GATHERING

"I asked the maid in dulcet tone

To order me a buttered scone.

The silly girl has been and gone

And ordered me a buttered scone.

What do you know about scones, other than

that they are delicious? Come to our April 12 meeting and learn the history of Scotland's most famous treat.

Linda Ferris will demonstrate the modern method of scone making, have samples of several types and give an edible history of this well-known baked good. You'll get a book of scone recipes too!

Then, Martha Sitzman, who makes the world's finest oatcakes, will demonstrate her method of making them. Yes, there will be samples and she will share her famous recipe.

Dinner is dish to pass with meatloaf and coffee/tea/water provided by the SAS.

Let us know you're coming! Call Jan Kostolansky (962-7726) to reserve your spot (and scones/oatcakes!

### A WEE BIT OF HUMOR

A Scotsman was shipwrecked and finally washed ashore on a small island. As he regains consciousness on the beach, he sees a beautiful unclad woman standing over him. She asks, "Would you like some food?"

The Scot hoarsely croaks, " Yes, please, I haven't eaten a bite of food for a week and I am very hungry !"

She disappears into the woods and quickly comes back with a basket of food. When he has choked it down, she asks, "Would you like something to drink?"

" Oh, yes ! That food has made me very thirsty and I would very much like a drink!"

She goes off into the woods again and returns with a bottle of 75-year-old single-malt Scotch whiskey. The Scotsman is beginning to think that he's in heaven when the unclad woman leans closer and says, "Would you like to play around?"

" Oh, you beautiful woman, don't tell me you've got a golf course here too!"

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

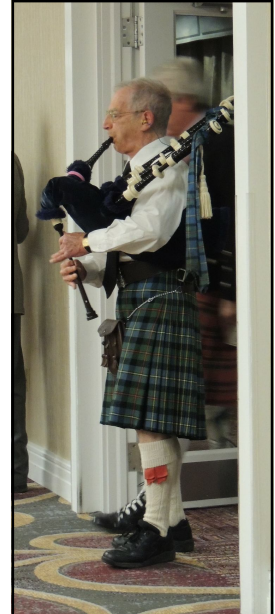
Please be advised that if you are not current with your dues (Single \$10, Family \$15, Patron \$25, Benefactor \$50 or more, Life \$250) please remit them to Alistair Cormack straight away! We're trying to update our records...



Happy 254th Birthday, Robbie Burns!



Our Ceilidh was a burning success!





## Past Chiefs of the Scottish American Society of the Southern Tier

*George Cunningham*    *December 1973 to December 1985*

*Don Campbell*        *December 1985 to December 1991*

*Donald Flatt*         *December 2000 to December 2003*

*Tom McIntyre*        *December 2003 to December 2009*

*Blake Mayo*           *December 2009*



Nedra McElroy  
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### DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6, 2013: National Tartan Day

April 12, 5-9 PM: **Scones & Oat Cakes:** Our spring gathering at Big Flats Community Building:  
Dish to pass 6:30, meatloaf provided.

May 18: Finger Lakes Celtic Games and Festival , Shortsville

June 1: Allegany County Celtic Festival, Belmont

June 29, 30: Ithaca Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

August 24-25: Cortland Celtic Festival

Sept. 7: Dundee Scottish Festival of the Finger Lakes

Nov. 16?: St. Andrews Dinner, El Monte Inn

**January 25, 2014    BURNS DINNER**

ALL THESE EVENTS AND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE <http://www.sasst.org/events.html>