



The Caledonian

VOL. XXXII, NO. 4

SEPTEMBER 2014



THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



2014 Officers & Board of Trustees

Chief: Blake Mayo

1433 State Route 244
Alfred Station NY 14803
bmayo@stny.rr.com

First VP: Bill Mackinnon Sitzman

110 Podunk Road
Trumansburg NY 14886
ibcengineering@juno.com

Secretary: Jan Kostolansky

7 Highland Drive
Corning NY 14830
jkostolansky1@stny.rr.com

Treasurer: Alastair Cormack

76 University Street
Alfred NY 14803
cormack@alfred.edu

Editors: Linda Ferris, ltferris@yahoo.com

Nedra McElroy, mscopyola@stny.rr.com

Editor Emeritus: Herb MacDonell

forensiclab@stny.rr.com

Pipe Major: Lee Adelsberg,

ladelsbe@stny.rr.com

Drum Major: Stuart Brown

TRUSTEES

Gilbert Ferris, ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com

Susan McLaren, smclaren@stny.rr.com

Alan Hutchinson, ahutchinson@stny.rr.com

Ray Margeson, rmargeson@aol.com

Rick Mason, rmason7@stny.rr.com

Visit our website at **www.SASST.org**

Webmaster: **Sean McElroy, info@sasst.org**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Note: Our Chief is again doing the memorial stair climb as he did last year with firefighters from all over the country. This year he's doing it TWICE! Way to go Chief. We are so proud of you!

Due to his commitment to the rigors of his training, we will forego his usual message.

OCTOBER GATHERING

Join us on Friday, October 10, 2014 for a special event: the kiltmaker, **Hazel Stewart** will talk about kiltmaking and the history of tartans. Hazel Stewart was born in Elgin, Scotland and immigrated to the U.S. in 1968 with her family. Her Mother and Father instilled in her the importance of her Scottish Heritage. Her mother is Ann Stewart, a world-renowned Kiltmaker. Her father is Ronald Stewart, master woodworker, musician and orator. In 2006 she married Norm Clark. He has embraced his Scottish heritage and joins Hazel in this adventure. As her Mom and Dad have retired and she and Norm have decided to carry on the family business as Kiltshop.com.

The event will be held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath, beginning at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 and program starting after dinner. Meatloaf and beverages will be provided, please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Call or e-mail Ferrises by Monday, October 6 to confirm your plans to attend this event! 776-7101 or ltferris@yahoo.com.



Directions to St. Thomas:

122 Liberty St., Bath, NY 14810
From I86 take exit 38.
At light, bear left onto Washington Blvd.
Go through one light and, at second light,
turn right onto Liberty Street
St. Thomas' church is immediately on the
left, next to Bath Village Hall.
Stone Church, red doors.
Enter by side entrance with handicap
ramp.

ST. ANDREW'S DINNER ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, November 15

Tags in Big Flats

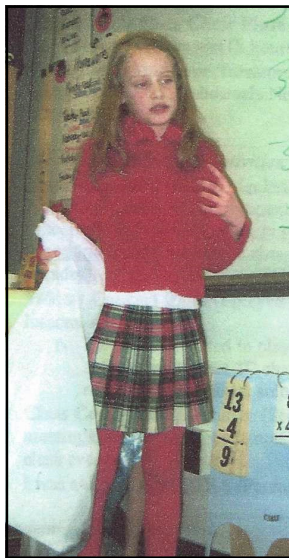
Buffet dinner with Salad, Roast Beef,
Mashed Potatoes, Pasta, Veggies, Desserts
Boston Cream Pie, Cookies and Beverages.
The cost is \$25. Make reservations by
calling or e-mailing Gil & Linda Ferris, 776-
7101 or lferris@yahoo.com by Wednesday,
November 12.

THE 2014 ANNUAL PICNIC AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

As announced previously, the scholarship
committee was delighted with the essay
written by **Juliet Downie**, the winner of the
Robert Burns Scholarship, and we promised
to share it with you. Here it is:

*"I have always been interested in studying
and appreciating other
cultures, and have often tried
to learn more about the
history and traditional
customs of various nations.
In particular, I feel a strong
tie to Scotland and its
culture, and I enjoy immers-
ing myself in the Scottish
tradition.*

*My fascination with
Scotland began in third
grade, when I researched
Scotland and its culture for a
school project. I knew that I
had Scottish ancestry on my
father's side; my father often*



*boasted about his Scottish heritage. I enjoyed
learning about kilts and tartan patterns, and about
bagpipes and other hallmarks of Scottish culture.
For the presentation at school, I proudly wore my
own tartan skirt in an effort to dress the part of a
Scottish lassie. I was charmed by the historical
appeal of Scotland and its folk traditions.*

*A few years later, my mother undertook a
large genealogy project in which she researched my
ancestors many generations back. Through her
research and the contributions of other family
members, I became much more knowledgeable
about my Scottish heritage. I learned that I have a
direct line back to Scotland through my paternal
side. My great-great-great grandfather, John
Downie, emigrated from Scotland to Bovina, New
York, in 1858 with his first wife and son. His family
came from Coatbridge, near Glasgow, where John
was originally a boatman but then retrained to
become a shoemaker before immigrating to the
United States. The Downies were members of the
Lindsay clan.*

*I also discovered that I have a physical
connection to my Scottish roots; my family has
inherited my paternal great-great-great-grandfather
John Downie's wooden chest, a large trunk used to
transport his belongings. It was used by later
generations to store tools and other possessions.
This chest made the journey in 1858 from Scotland
to New York onboard the ship City of New York,
and it now resides in my living room. It serves as a
constant reminder of my Scottish heritage, and of
the resilience and steadfastness of the Scots. Like
its original owner and Scottish culture at large, this
chest has weathered hardships and stood the test
of time.*

*My father is proud of his Scottish heritage,
and several years ago, he received the book How
the Scots Invented the Modern World by Arthur
Herman as a Christmas present. He relished it and
I, too, have flipped through its pages, enjoying the
historical detail and information about everything
that the Scots have accomplished, from feats that
are widely known to more obscure accomplish-
ments.*

*Today I still become attentive and excited
whenever I hear or see something about Scotland
in my history textbooks or on the news. As a senior
in high school, I am looking forward to the opportu-
nities that college may bring to study abroad at a
foreign university. In particular, I am greatly interest-
ed in traveling to and studying in Scotland. I can
envision myself living amid the centuries-old build-*

ings of Edinburgh or Glasgow, hearing church bells toll in magnificent cathedrals, and becoming steeped in Scottish culture. Until the opportunity arises, I will have to satisfy my interest in Scotland by listening to Fiona Ritchie's weekly radio program The Thistle and the Shamrock, broadcast on NPR from her studio in rural Scotland. The program showcases Celtic music, both old and new, from Scotland and areas with strong Scottish roots. Listening to the diverse mix of Celtic styles and musical traditions momentarily transports me to the foothills of the Scottish Highlands and reminds me that while Scotland has a rich and storied history and celebrated traditions, it also has a firm place in the modern world. I would like to explore that place, but for now, I must appreciate Scotland from afar.

--Juliet Downie

The Bruce Stewart Memorial Scholarship was won by **Tristan J. Ponader** of Beaver Dams. Here is his winning essay:

Scotland holds special interest to me. First, I knew that I had Scottish ancestry. Through my father's mother, I am a member of the Wilson sept, under Clan Gunn, and through my mother's father, I have a Scottish great grandmother who actually taught at the University of Edinburgh! Unfortunately, her name has been lost to time, but we believe that she was of the Stewart Clan. Second, my interest was sparked by a visit to the United Kingdom. As a member of the West High Viking Marching Band, I performed in the London New Year's Day Parade in 2011. While I was there I saw a real highland pipe band. I always liked hearing the bagpipes in parades, but for some reason I was especially fascinated in London. Upon my return home, I began looking into Scottish culture.

I started off looking up my family history in Scotland. My grandmother has done a bit of research of her side of the family, and from her I learned about the Gunn Clan. This clan is from the Caithness area of Scotland, and is descended from the Norse chieftain Gunni, who settled there in the late 1100's. The Caithness is the northmost part of the Scotland mainland, an area with vast rolling hills, farmlands, and conifer forests.

From my uncle I learned about my distant grandmother of the Stewart Clan. The Stewart Clan is from the southern part of Scotland, in the Teviotdale and Lauderdale districts. This clan is descended from French nobles who acquired land in the British Isles after the Norman Invasion of 1066. The clan got its name because an early member,

Robert Fladd, was appointed Steward of Scotland under King David the First in the early 1100's. The name Steward got corrupted to Stewart over the years.

Perhaps my favorite aspect of Scottish culture is the system of identification of clans through clan kilts and tartans. I discovered a guidebook to the various clans that had belonged to my grandmother, which was really interesting. I read the book, and learned about my sept and clan, as well as other clans. In fact, I amuse myself by identifying the various tartan patterns in shirts and other clothing I see people wearing. However, to fully understand the story behind the tartans and clans I had to learn Scottish history. I bought a book on the country, from which I learned Scottish history, as well as more about the culture. I also decided that I want a kilt. I think wearing a kilt would help me connect with my heritage. I don't own one yet, but would like to have a kilt in the Gunn Tartan once I can afford it. Besides owning a kilt, I'd also like to learn the bagpipes.

Learning about Scotland is a connection to my heritage. In modern America, history and heritage are often pushed to the side and ignored. Like many Americans, I didn't know much about my own family history or heritage. Learning about my heritage allows me to have a link to the past. To deepen this connection to the past I have taught myself many old and nearly forgotten skills that relate to both Scottish and American history. For example, I can build and use axes, start fires, and find food in the wilderness. I am currently learning how timber framing works. It is a construction technique used in many traditional Scottish buildings. And I recently felled a pine tree with an ax and am making a bench from it, all by hand. I'd like to go to the Scottish Games this summer and watch the traditional sports--maybe even learn how to toss a caber myself! Over all, my interest in Scotland and Scottish history has taught me something about the Scottish part of my past, the history of a unique culture, as well as useful skills.

Lang may yer lum reek!

--Tristan Ponader

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

Past Chiefs of the Scottish American Society of the Southern Tier



<i>George Cunningham</i>	<i>December 1973 to December 1985</i>
<i>Don Campbell</i>	<i>December 1985 to December 1991</i>
<i>Doug Coburn</i>	<i>December 1991 to December 2000</i>
<i>Donald Flatt</i>	<i>December 2000 to December 2003</i>
<i>Tom McIntyre</i>	<i>December 2003 to December 2009</i>
<i>Blake Mayo</i>	<i>December 2009</i>



Nedra McElroy
4 Lackawanna Avenue
Bath NY 14810-1650

Address Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 27: The Valley Folk concert at the Corning Methodist Church, 7:30 PM:

Archie Fisher, Glaswegian, will be the featured performer!

Oct. 10: Kiltmaker **Hazel Stewart**, Dish-to-pass Dinner. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath, gather at 5:30 PM, eat at 6 PM.

Nov. 15: **St. Andrew's Dinner**, Tag's, Big Flats, 5:30 PM

January 24, 2015: **BURNS DINNER**, Radisson Hotel, Corning



ALL THESE EVENTS AND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.sasst.org/events.html>