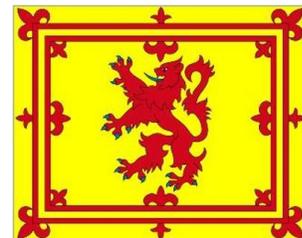




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FARE THEE WELL, CHIEF

George M. Cunningham

1925-1914

IN CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

Eulogy by Alan Hutchinson

The fact is no eulogizer can properly salute or do justice to the multi-faceted life of George M. Cunningham.

He was a true Renaissance man, a man for all seasons. An award winning and patent producing Mechanical Engineer, coach, teacher, medaled athlete, a singer, bag-piper, a mainstay of the Caledonia Highlander's Bagpipe band, founder and chief of the Scottish American Society/husband/father/grandfather. What credentials!

We know the story of his emigration to the US where he became a patriotic American through and through, but his love for his homeland never diminished. It must be noted that a major contribution to his conversion to the American way of life was finding his soul mate and love of his life--not a Scottish lass, but an American beauty named Barbara. A blind date occurred in the state of Pennsylvania one evening, no time was wasted--the next morning a bouquet of yellow roses was delivered to Barbara and the courtship and matrimonial journey began.

George always took the High Road and led by example. He was a role model in his professional and off-duty hours. He and Barbara gave a positive moral code of conduce to their sons, George T. and Bryce. He also gave the boys some of his physical stature.

For the rest of us--to make his acquaintance was to gain the counsel of a wise and compassionate friend, who was a great morale booster to his companions. I more than once felt his arm on my shoulder as he would ask, "How are things going, Laddie?" His wonderful sense of humor and wink would lift many a somber moment and who will ever forget his willingness to burst into song? Even in his last days in the hospital, he would delight and entertain the nurses by serenading them with a Celtic ditty or two.

George's mental brilliance was well established, but he always had time for us common folk.

Among his other admirers, I will never forget George's "Address to the Haggis," his singing of "Hail Caledonia," or his bagpipe performance at the annual Robert Burns Dinners.



Truly Bobby Burns must have had a friend like George when he wrote

"An honest man here lies at rest
The friend of man, the friend of truth
The friend of age and guide of youth

Few hearts like his with virtue warmed
Few heads with knowledge so informed"

A fitting epitaph also for our George.

As George closed his singing of "Hail Caledonia" with the final verse, he sang with great gusto--

"Give me the land of the heather and the kilt
The mountain and the river
For the blood leaps in my veins
When I hear the bagpipe strains
Scotland, dear old Scotland forever"

So how do you say goodbye to a consummate man, a loyal friend and loved one?

How do you say goodbye? You don't--you carry him in your heart and memory forever.



On the following page is a facsimile of the typescript of George's beliefs, which he shared years ago with his son George T. His son shared it with us at the memorial service and was kind to provide a copy for this issue of the Caledonian. Thank you, George!

I Believe

I believe that there is only one God. He is known throughout the Planet by many names.

He is prayed to by different groups who each in their own way are devoted to him with ever lasting love and spirit.

Each group prays to him in a given name, some through a loving disciple who gave his life in God's name

I believe there is only one God the Universal God. He who gave us the choice to love or hate

He established the Universal Laws of Science.

- 1) Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only be transformed from one form to another.

The occurrence of Death: I believe our spirit is transformed

- 2) Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

In life; how we react to our fellow man will result in an equal response.

Democracy for all Mankind, Human rights, Respect for all things in Nature.

George M. Cunningham
George M. Cunningham



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*
Doug Coburn *December 1991 to December 2000*
Donald Flatt *December 2000 to December 2003*
Tom McIntyre *December 2003 to December 2009*
Blake Mayo *December 2009*



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REMEMBER

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

January 24, 2015: **BURNS DINNER & CEILIDH**,
Radisson Hotel, Corning.

Social, 5:30, Dinner Seating 6:00 PM. \$35.

Gift tickets available for Holiday giving!

Contact Ferris (607) 776-7101 for further info and
to make your reservations.

THESE EVENTS AND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

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

