



The Caledonian

VOL. XXXIII, NO. 3 SEPTEMBER 2015



THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



2015 Officers & Board of Trustees

Chief: Blake Mayo

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

First VP: Gilbert Ferris

8788 Route 53, Bath NY 14810
ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com

Secretary: Nedra McElroy

4 Lackawanna Avenue, Bath NY 14810
mscrayola@stny.rr.com

Treasurer: Alastair Cormack

76 University Street, Alfred NY 14803
cormack@alfred.edu

TRUSTEES

Linda Ferris, *lferris@yahoo.com*

Jan Kostolansky, *jkostolansky1@stny.rr.com*

Bill Sitzman, *ibcengineering@juno.com*

Ray Margeson, *rmargeson@aol.com*

Rick Mason, *rmason7@stny.rr.com*

Susan McLaren, *smclaren@stny.rr.com*

Sam Watson, *barbsam418@gmail.com*

Editors:

Nedra McElroy, *mrcrayola@stny.rr.com*

Linda Ferris, *lferris@yahoo.com*

Editor Emeritus:

Herb MacDonell, *forensiclab@stny.rr.com*

Pipe Major, Caledonian Pipe Band:

Lee Adelsberg, *adelsbe@stny.rr.com*

Visit our website at www.SASST.org

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

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!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Hi Folks!

I hope you have had a nice summer--fall is upon us now and we look forward to many up-coming events. Did you know that Halloween has Scottish roots? Actually Halloween is All Saints Eve: the night before All Saints' Day. There is much lore and legend about Halloween in Scotland.

I am writing this letter on 9-9-15. It is an historic day in the UK: as of today, Queen Elizabeth II has reigned over her kingdom for longer than any other monarch in the history of Great Britain. I realize that some of our members may say, "Big deal," but the current Queen does have quite a bit of Scottish blood in her veins. It is reported that she and the family will be at her castle at Balmoral, in Scotland. She has served the country well, and I would like to wish her continued success. However, as a Yank across the waters with Scottish ancestry, I believe she would pay me no mind, but that is ok.

Speaking of leadership, my tenure as Chief is quickly coming to an end. As I look back at my time on the Board of Trustees, which has been over a decade, I have learned much from all of our members. I plan to stay active in the Society, but in the background, as I know the new Chief will do a superb job guiding us into the future.

There are three upcoming events to which I'd like to call your attention: our fall gathering on October 9 at the Big Flats Community Center, co-sponsored by the Caledonian Pipe Band. Our very own Barbara Cunningham will entertain us with song and stories. I am looking forward to the evening and the dish-to-pass dinner that night. Next on November 14 is the St. Andrew's Dinner and our Annual Meeting that will be held at Tag's in Big Flats. And of course all of us anticipate our annual Robert Burns Dinner on January 30 at the Corning Radisson. I look forward to seeing all of you at these events!

I have very much enjoyed being your chief for the last six years, and I know you will continue to support our new officers as you have done in the past.

Slaite, Your Chief, *Blake*

PICNIC 2015

We had a very fine time at the picnic in July, with perfect weather, a goodly number of participants, and a promising crop of scholarship winners to celebrate. The food was quite memorable as well...



We love to see a man with a broom. Thanks, Sam, for tidying around the pavilion!



Alistair doing admirable grill duty!

One of the fine Scottish delicacies that had folks buzzing was the Margesons' salad. It was delicious! Here is the recipe:

Ramen Salad

- 2 packages ramen noodles (beef)
- 16 oz. bag of cole slaw mix
- 1 bunch green onions (sliced)
- 1 cup toasted almonds
- 1 cup sunflower kernels



The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree...those Cunninghams are tall! (Note proud Grandma)



George Cunningham III, Kameron Kostolansky & Micah Page, the 2015 SAS Scholarship winners

Break up the ramen noodles and then layer in order given above.

Dressing

3/4 cup oil

1/2 cup sugar

1/3 cup vinegar (white or rice)

Season packages from ramen noodles

Mix together well & pour over noodles.

Mix. Refrigerate for 24 hours.

THE DUNDEE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

We attended this festival on September 12, and even though it rained all day, it was a wonderful event. The Caledonian Pipe Band played valiantly through the damp, and we enjoyed the many and varied activities, along with a nice representation of Scottish cuisine: there's nothing so comforting as a warm Scotch egg on a dreary day... 'Manning' the SASST booth were Gil and Linda Ferris, Jan Kostolansky, Nedra McElroy, as well as Rick Mason and Rob Morgan, shown below at the Clan Calling.



ST. ANDREWS DINNER, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

November 14 at Tag's Restaurant, Big Flats.

We will enjoy a buffet dinner at a cost of \$25/person. Gather at 5:30 with dinner to follow at 6:00 PM. At this meeting we will elect our new officers for 2016.

Make reservations by calling or e-mailing Gil & Linda Ferris, 776-7101 or lferris@yahoo.com by Wednesday, November 11.

SCOTTISH HALLOWEEN CUSTOMS

Many of our Halloween traditions have their roots

in early Scottish practices. See if you can attach a modern bit of Halloween behavior to these interesting old customs.

Halloween falls at **Samhain**, the Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Scots believed that ghosts of the dead and other supernatural beings such as witches and warlocks would be able to walk the earth for this one night of the year. To ward off potentially malevolent entities, huge bonfires were lit in communities along with smaller fires in turnips carved with hideous faces to scare them away.

Children would disguise themselves as evil spirits by blackening their faces and wearing old clothes to go "guising." This was so they could safely venture out and not be detected by wicked ghouls. After knocking at the doors of village inhabitants, children were expected to perform a "trick" by reciting a song, poem or joke before being rewarded with goodies.

Dookin' for apples is a time-honored game using only your teeth to grab apples floating in a tub of water. More exciting is:

Treacle Scones- with hands behind the back, take a bite of a scone (smeared with molasses-like treacle) which is hanging from a string.

Recently engaged?? Have a "significant other?" Find out if you will live happily ever after by tossing nuts into an open fire. If they quietly smolder your union will be a good one but if they hiss and crackle you could be in for a bumpy ride.

Robert Burns wrote a very LLLOONNNGGG poem "Halloween," in which he describes the "fearfu' pranks" associated with the night and the "Bogies" (ghosts) who were floating about. Too long to reproduce here, the poem is worth a Google.

A WEE BIT OF HUMOR

Angus called in to see his friend Donald to find he was stripping the wallpaper from the walls. Rather obviously, he remarked "You're decorating, I see." to which Donald replied "Naw. I'm moving house."

McDougal walked into a fish and chip shop. "I want 10 pence worth of chips, please. I want lots of salt and vinegar on them and two pence worth of pickled onions. And wrap the whole lot in today's newspaper".

Sign at a Scottish golf course: "Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling."

**Past Chiefs of the Scottish American Society
of the Southern Tier, Inc.**

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*



Nedra McElroy
4 Lackawanna Avenue
Bath NY 14810-1650

Address Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 9: Dish to Pass Dinner: Big Flats Community Center. Bring dish to pass, table service.

November 14: St. Andrews Dinner, Tag's Restaurant, Big Flats.
\$25 Buffet. Meet at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00.

January 30, 2016: Burns Dinner, Corning Radisson.
Meet at 5:30. Dinner at 6:00.

Please call Ferris to respond to any event:
776-7101 or ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com



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

Like us on FaceBook...