



The Caledonian

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THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The leaves are falling!! Happy Autumn everyone. We have a busy schedule for the next few months, please check your calendars and join us for as many events as you can.

Our Scholarship fundraiser (only one scheduled this year) is November 5th. Along with the Valley Folk, we are sponsoring a pair of Scottish performers who will present a multi-media show focusing on John Paul Jones, the Scottish-American Naval hero. Tickets are \$10. We need to sell 40 to break even and another 50 to fund one Scholarship. We hope you'll support this effort. It promises to be very entertaining as well with music, drama and film. Bring family and friends at 2PM, Corning Methodist Church at First and Cedar Street.

The proceeds from this show will help fund the Robert Burns and the George Cunningham scholarships each of which is \$500.

We will elect our new officers for the coming year on Saturday, November 19th at Tag's--our annual St. Andrew's Day Dinner. Details are found elsewhere in this issue of The Caledonian.

We are looking for someone to serve as a trustee of the SAS. If you would be willing to help us steer this organization, please contact me asap.

Several of our members and I attended a memorial service for Don Campbell, former Chief of the Society. He was very active in the community as well as in the Society, and has left a legacy of which we can all be proud. His passing is a great loss to us.

I am honored to carry on his work as chief. Hoping to see you all soon.

Chief,
Gil Ferris

STRANGE SCOTTISH FORTUNE TELLING GAMES

There are lots of interesting (and fairly odd) Scottish fortune telling games that were played on Halloween.



The woman is cracking an egg into a bowl of hot water to try to read her future in the shapes of the coagulating egg.



There is a Scottish tradition called reading the "Luggie Bowls". The participant would be blindfolded, and asked to stick their hand in one of the three bowls. The other players would mix the bowls up after the person was blindfolded. One bowl was empty--representing a person who would never marry. One bowl was filled with clean water---representing a future marriage partner who was pure of heart/or a virign. Another bowl was filled with dirty water---representing a partner who was not a virgin when married.

This one is awfully vague....a blue ball of yarn was tossed into a lime kiln. A rhyme was read, and the voice of your future love was supposed to reply from the depths of the kiln.



Found at: http://rhinestonearmadillo.typepad.com/my_weblog/2010/10/scottish-halloween-fortune-telling-games.html

Tattie Bogles

Then there are "tattie bogles" (potato scarecrows) or "neep lanterns" (turnip lanterns) made by scooping out a turnip and cutting through the skin to create eyes, nose and mouth. A candle was then placed inside (and turnip was on the menu for days afterwards). The pumpkin serves the same purpose in the USA and these are increasingly found in Scotland in more recent times - they are easier to scoop out! But children who have fun doing this do not realize that they were continuing a tradition of placing skulls on poles round encampments to scare away evil spirits.

THE FOUNDING OF THE SAS

Recollections by Barbara J. Cunningham

George Cunningham felt there was a need for a society. He emigrated to the US in 1953 at the invitation of Dresser Industries. He retired in 1987 as a senior engineering research associate holding 13 patents with Corning, Inc. He was a Scot through and through and a charismatic individual. George was a piper, singer, dramatic enactor of the Toast to the Haggis and a superb organizer. He was also an international track star: his silver medal from Scotland gives his time for the mile as 4 minutes, 17 seconds. He ran for Penn State University and the prestigious New York Athletic Club, competing against Olympians Horace Ashenfelter and Curtis Stone, four time Olympian. George gave generously of his time serving as track coach during Corning Community College's first few years and as vice president of the Horseheads Art Guild. He was an artist in oils and watercolors.

In 1975, George began tirelessly putting together a group of people with Scots heritage. They met frequently in our basement rec room in Horseheads. Earl H. Robertson, former Methodist minister, gave George valuable assistance in drawing up a constitution and by-laws. At that time, Earl was employed at Westinghouse in Horseheads.

George and Earl contacted anyone in the area with a Scottish surname. Stuart D. Brown, along with his wife Alice and Peg Carlin were early members who sang at the dinners. Dan Lipp and first wife, Rosa and Alan and Barbara Hutchinson were active in the Scottish Folk Dance group, which, I believe, was started by the Lippes. Other members were Ethel Spotts,

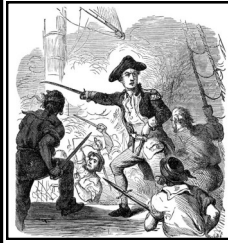
dance soloist, and husband Chucksie, a piper. Melanie Robertson Cole Beardislee and son T. Robertson, D. Harlieyl, Paul and Clara Mae Campbell were early members. The SAS was incorporated in 1976. George Cunningham was the first chief and carried that mantle for 11 years. He served as a trustee until 2003. He spend countless hours keeping the SAS going after his initial efforts. He managed to get Tartan Day recognized in New York State. Efforts to claim a St. Andrews Day on the calendar were unsuccessful. Piper Burt Schoonover made the first velvet pulpit banner and its replacement when someone took the original.



St. Andrews 2003: Five chiefs all in a row: Don Campbell, George Cunningham, Tom McIntyre, Doug Colburn and Donald Flatt

We must not forget the huge contribution of the Caledonian Highlanders under the direction of Lee Adelsburg. The first Burns dinner in the area was held in 1970 at the Lake Street Presbyterian Church in Elmira, with the band participating. The following year, George was the master of ceremonies at the Burns dinner held at the Lodge on the Green, Painted Post. The Caledonian Highlanders band performed and they are among the first SAS members. I remember singing solos at that dinner. I sang at the dinners 15 times until 2004. A dinner another year was at Elmira's Mark Twain Hotel with over 200 attending. George was determined that the Scottish heritage be perpetuated in the USA. Scots contributed much to its formative years. He would be so proud of what has been accomplished; the SAS is his legacy.

Support our Scholarship Fund!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**JOHN PAUL JONES,
 Scottish Naval Hero**

**Sat., Nov. 5 2016, 2 PM
 Corning Methodist Church
 144 Cedar St., Corning NY**

Admission: \$10

Contact Ferrises or tickets will be available at the door.

Proceeds to benefit the SASST Robert Burns and George Cunningham Scholarships

Alan Reid and Rob Van Slante have released four critically acclaimed albums and have toured worldwide, also guesting at festivals such as the U.S.A.'s Mystic Seaport Sea Festival and Old Songs Folk Festival, Australia's National Folk Festival, plus a variety of British and European festivals. Their multi media presentation on the life of John Paul Jones, originally premiered at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival has been showcased throughout the U.S and the U.K.



**ST. ANDREWS DINNER,
 ANNUAL MEETING AND
 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

November 19, 2016

**Tag's Restaurant
 Big Flats**

We will enjoy a buffet dinner at a cost of \$30/person. Gather at 5:30 with dinner to follow at 6:00 PM.

At this meeting we will enjoy another of those vastly popular and entertaining, unrehearsed and lightly costumed dramas, depicting events in the life of St. Andrew.

We will also find time to elect and install our new officers for 2016.

**Make reservations by calling or e-mailing
 Gil & Linda Ferris, 776-7101 or
 Iferris@yahoo.com by Wednesday,
November 16.**

**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 to December 2015*



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Address Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 5 - John Paul Jones Presentation, Corning Methodist Church
Nov. 19 - St. Andrews Dinner @ Tag's
Jan. 28, 2017 - Burns Dinner, Horseheads Hilton Garden Inn

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>

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'Neep Lantern