



The Caledonian

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JUNE 2013



THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It's mid-May and we are all looking forward to summer. Today feels more like it here in the highlands of Alleghany County. Last weekend there was snow in the air! Summer means picnics and Highland Games. There are new ones this summer on June 1st in Belmont, NY. We will be there and also at Ithaca and Dundee. If, by chance, you are going to any games at which the society will be participating, please stop at our tent and help out for a few minutes. We often could use a break to stretch, get food or check out the action. If you can say "Hi" to others, you can help out.

Picnic is July 13 at Harris Hill. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. The Society provides burgers and hot dogs along with lemonade and coffee. Bring your own place settings and cutlery as well as a dish to pass. We will be awarding our Burns Scholarship and also assisting the Bruce Stewart family with awarding their scholarship. We look forward to visiting with the Stewarts again.

This fall, we will again host an afternoon with Josh Condon, pianist. It will be at the 1st Congregational Church in Painted Post on September 29, 2013. Watch The Caledonian for more info. Last year, he provided us with a stupendous concert.

In October, we will have a chance to meet Steve Walker, owner of Walker Metalsmith Jewelry. He makes and sells Celtic Knotwork Jewelry. He has published a book on the subject. Time and place will be announced

later.

Future events include the Annual meeting and St. Andrew's Dinner, in November and The Robert Burns Dinner at the Radisson in January.

We will have a busy second half of the year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the events.

Thanks to George and Barb Cunningham for creating the Scottish-American Society. You will always be the First Chief and First Lady.

Blake

THE 2013 ANNUAL PICNIC AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

-Brenda Knapp-Mason

This year's Annual Picnic will be held on Sat. July 13 from 12 Noon-3pm at a **NEW** location, Harris Hill Park. The Board decided that a change of scenery would be nice, and after the picnic, you might take time to enjoy this area attraction with your family. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, along with coffee and lemonade.

The address is 599 Harris Hill Rd. Elmira, NY 14903 and the GPS coordinates are:

N 42 degree 07.527' W 076 degree 53.908'

Elevation 1718 feet

During the picnic, we will be awarding our annual scholarships to the following worthy young people:

Robert Burns Scholarship- Jenna Cunningham, granddaughter of George and Barbara Cunningham. A student at West Genesee High School in Syracuse, Jenna wrote an amazing essay and displayed a thorough knowledge of Scottish history and culture. Her academics are outstanding. She has applied to (among others) Carnegie Mellon University (Pipemajor, Lee's Alma Mater).

Bruce Stewart Scholarship- Sydney Farmer, a student at Hammondsport Central School. Sydney scripted a lovely essay

demonstrating her connection to and admiration for all things Scottish. She has applied to several well-known universities and has excellent grades.

We look forward to meeting these accomplished young women and presenting them with their scholarships.

We will be located at Pavilion #2, which is set back away from the road. There will also be signs posted with balloons to help mark where Pavilion #2 is once you are in the park (for those who are not familiar with Harris Hill.)

Harris Hill is overseen by Chemung County Parks and Recreation. The park offers 400 acres of wooded trails for hiking as well as a 25 meter pool with 1 and 2 meter dive boards and a wading pool, an amusement park with kiddie rides, a playground, a driving range, go carts, and mini golf.

Atop of Harris Hill, is the Gliderport (established in 1937) which is part of a ridge system that rises some 700 feet above the Chemung Valley below. You can relax on the deck and watch the sailplanes fly, take a glider flight, walk over to the National Soaring Museum (established in 1969), or take in the view of the valley from the overlook. (One of my favorite past times growing up in Horseheads was to come to the park, sit on the glider swings at the overlook with an ice cream cone and watch the sail planes. In fact it is still one of my local favs today!)

We hope you will join us. Bring your table service and a favorite dish to share as we honor the scholarship winners and their families and enjoy each other's company.

**RSVP for the Picnic to the
Ferrises, by e-mail
(lindaf14810@yahoo.com) or by
telephone (607) 776-7101
BY WEDNESDAY JULY 10.**

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

Brenda Knapp-Mason

Facebook is the world's largest social network, with more than 900 million users. That is why I believe that a social network like Facebook is a vital tool for people keeping in touch with each other. It has been one of my goals as your newest Board of Trustees member to reach another demographic with the goal of expanding our Society. With that in mind, I'm in the process of building a Facebook page called simply "Scottish American Society of the Southern Tier." This web presence will be in addition to our website, www.sasst.org.

I'm hoping that the page will bring members closer together so that we can 'chat' between formal get-togethers. I'd like it to be a forum showcasing pictures of our activities, in addition to informing people of upcoming Celtic activities in our area. It would also be a useful place where members can ask questions such as "I'm going to the Ithaca Highland Games—does anyone want to carpool?" or "Does anyone have any recommendations as to where I can get my kilt altered?"

In the upcoming months, I will be e-mailing invitations to visit our site and "friend" us or to join Facebook, as you need an account to visit the page. If you already have a FB account and can't wait to see the page, you can visit the page at <http://facebook.com/pages/The-Scottish-American-Society-of-the-Southern-Tier>. If you do not have a Facebook account, it is free to set one up, easy and fun. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at scottstales@gmail.com.

Brenda

SCONES AND OATCAKES

Judging from comments shared since our April event, the spring program was very well received and word is that there are

first-time bakers out there amassing their ingredients for a foray into the world of making their own scones... whether you prefer 'skahns' or 'skones'...well done all around, Linda and Martha!

As a point of interest for those of you who are interested in the early history of the oatcake, we offer the following:

ARMY RATIONS

In the 1300's, Scottish soldiers were noted for their ability to march far longer than others. The reason for this, according to the 14th century French chronicler Jean Froissart, was that they made their own oatcakes. As part of his kit, each soldier had a wallet of oatmeal and a flat plate. "He casteth this plate into the fire, he moisteneth a little of his meal in water, and when the plate is heated, he layeth his paste thereon and maketh a little cake, the which he eateth to comfort his stomach." *If you were unable to attend this event, and would like your very own copy of the splendid cookbook provided there, e-mail Nedra McElroy and she will send you one.*



BONNY SCOTLAND

Jarlshof archaeological dig contains remains dating from 2500 BC up to the 17th century AD revealing prehistoric Scotland. Remarkable finds unearthed here have greatly contributed insights into the Pictish culture.

Structures on site include remains of a Bronze Age smithy, an Iron Age broch and

roundhouses, a complex of Pictish wheel-houses, and a Viking longhouse. The broch is a uniquely Scottish rock round construction that the use of or purpose has become vague.

CAPTION CONTEST



A conversation with Herb MacDonell the other day resulted in the following note from himself:

I found the photo of Bill and Emma Wood and it is attached. The more I think about it I do not believe we had a "Caption Contest" within the SASST. It was my Rotary Club that did that. We asked for a dollar a slogan to answer the question, "What is Emma saying or doing?" The prize was a bottle of single malt Scotch.

It might be fun to have a contest and see what our members will come up with and who will win.

Herb

Well, Lads and Lassies, here's your chance to see what YOU can come up with! The winning Rotary entry will be shared at the end of our contest...

GAELIC SAYING OF THE DAY:

'S fheàrr iasg beag na bhith gun iasg idir
A little fish is better than no fish at all.

GAELIC PHRASE OF THE DAY:

BEANNACHD LEIBH GOODBYE
(Ben-uch leeave) (lit) Blessings With You

A WEE BIT OF HUMOR

"Ye know why they call it a kilt? Because I 'kilt' the last man who called it a skirt."

Irate American golfer, on his way to a round of 150: "You must be the worst caddie in the world!"

Scottish caddie (dryly): "That would be too much of a coincidence, sir."

SCOTTISH TRIVIA

Mary, Queen of Pots

Apparently, Mary, Queen of Scots was a mean billiards player. The first recorded billiards table was ordered by Louis XI of France in 1470. She owned her own billiards table and was allowed it during her incarceration in England. However, in 1587, during her imprisonment at Fotheringhay Castle prior to her trial, she was denied the use of her table and complained bitterly. At Mary's request, after she was executed, her body was wrapped in the billiard table cloth.

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...

SCONES, OATCAKES AND OTHER DELIGHTS



...and a pinch of marmite



A bonnie spread for sampling



Martha's famous oatcakes



And stir, and stir, and it looks like this



Yum!



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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Address Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1: Allegany County Celtic Festival, Belmont <https://www.facebook.com/AlleganyCountyCeltic>

June 29, 30: Ithaca Scottish Games & Celtic Festival www.ithacascottishgames.com

June 14: Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards, Harris Hill Park, Big Flats, 12 PM

August 24-25: Cortland Celtic Festival www.cortlandcelticfestival.org

Sept. 7: Dundee Scottish Festival of the Finger Lakes <http://dundeescottishfestival.com/>

Sept. 29: An Afternoon with Pianist Josh Congdon at Painted Post Congregational Church

Nov. 16: St. Andrews Dinner

January 25, 2014 BURNS DINNER

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