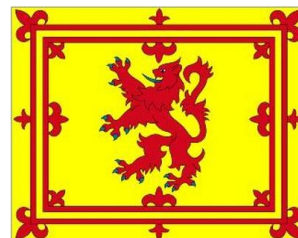




The Caledonian

VOL. XXXVI NO. 4 October 2018



THE SCOTTISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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REMINDER FROM THE CHIEF:

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

Saturday, November 17

Corning American Legion

8 River Road, Corning

**We will enjoy a buffet dinner at a
cost of \$30/person.**

**Gather at 4:00 with dinner to
follow at 5:00 PM.**



**At this meeting we will
enjoy good food, good
friends, the music of
the pipes, and elect
and install our new
officers for 2016.**

**Make reservations by sending
your check to**

Jan Kostolansky

7 Highland Drive

Corning NY 14830

(or call or e-mail) 368-8385

jjk35@empireaccess.net

by Wednesday, November 14.

Richard K. Mason, Chief

THE PICNIC

We once again gathered at Mossy Bank Park in Bath for our annual scholarship awards picnic. Scholarship winners this year were Cunningham: **Samuel Cohen**, Burns: **Mitchell McCall**, and Stewart: **Rachel Derby**. Congratulations to all these worthy young people!



Please remember that we are always open to suggestions for choice of venue for any of our events--just let a Board member know if you have ideas for us--and that includes suggestions for events or fund raising! We're all in this together, and the Board represents YOU!



FESTIVAL SEASON

We are still looking for more participation to enable us to take in a couple of festivals each summer. This year we went to Allegany and Dundee with difficulty due to the lack of able-bodied folk to help with the



setting up and the tearing down. Please think about joining us next year--they are truly enjoyable events for any Scot or aficionado of Scottish culture!

The Scottish Festival at Dundee was hot, hot, hot, but wonderful just the same. We enjoyed meeting folks and taking in the varied entertainment. Our Caledonian Highlanders once more blew the field away. Our friend Hazel Stewart, the Kilt Maker was there, some enjoyed a visit with her, and the other vendors are always fun for browsing. If you've never partaken of the pleasures of a Scottish Festival, this is the one you should sample, and to reiterate, we can always use the help in staffing our tent!

Oh, and was there mention of the FOOD? There were incredible Scottish delights available to tempt us: including a very unique food truck called *Potatoes and Molasses*, touting healthy farm-to-you British food, which included tasty Scotch eggs. (And this year we did not need them to do double duty as hand-warmers...nor did we need our Mackintoshes!) Thanks to Chief Rick, Gil & Linda Ferris, Nedra McElroy, Bill Mackinnon Sitzman, Jan Kostolansky, Ian Mackenzie and Barbara Cunningham for their assistance in our booth. Russ and Carolyn Gridley were also spotted in the crowd, and some possible new members were signed up.



THE FIDDLER AND THE PIPER REVISITED

You might remember the Fiddler and the Piper, Rebecca Lomniky & David Brewer, who provided a delightful concert for us in 2014...they were back in the area in July, and some of us caught their act in Centerway Square in Corning. They are now based in California and have added a member, Adam Hendey on guitar, and call themselves *The Fire*. There will be return engagements in this area, as they are Cornell alumni and enjoy this part of the country. They are awesome, we really enjoyed their high-energy performance and

hope to catch them again when they're in town.



TRAVELOGUE: THE LOVE BOAT

Most people going the [Isle of Skye](#) from mainland [Scotland](#) drive over the Skye Bridge. But those who opt instead to reach the island by crossing the Kyle Rhea strait are in for an extra special experience: a ride on the world's



last manually operated turntable ferry.

The *MV Glenachulish* is a small but fascinating vessel. The nearly 50-year-old ferry previously served other crossings, but has been making the winding route between Glenelg and Kylerhea since 1982.

About six cars can pack onto the ferry. Once the cars and their passengers are loaded, dock workers manually pull and push the top part of the *Glenachulish*, which was built atop a giant turntable, to spin it around. Once everything's facing the correct direction, the ferry sets off on its journey across the strong currents of the strait.

The local community bought the unusual vessel in 2007 after its previous owner retired. More than a decade later, the boat is still sailing strong. It was renovated in 2017, so travelers can look forward to many more future crossings on this rare ferry.

The ferry operates seasonally, from April to October. A car with up to four passengers is £15.00 one way.

...AND THEN THERE'S AIR TRAVEL

Loganair, a Scottish airline offers a commercial flight between two Orkney Islands, Westray and Papa Westray, which can take as little as 47 seconds, depending on winds. The entire 1,750 yard flight costs just about \$30 with no in-flight service.

[youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwyVWaCAD2A>]

THE WELL OF THE SEVEN HEADS

On the banks of Loch Oich in the Scottish Highlands sits an old obelisk monument with a macabre tale. At first glance, it looks like any other typical monument, but a close inspection reveals that it's crowned by a grisly carving of a hand holding a dagger and seven severed heads. Erected in 1812 by the Chief of Clan Macdonnell, the monument marks the spot of an ancient well and gives a nod to a horrific series of events.

In 1663, Alexander and Ranald MacDonald were murdered by their cousins during a

family brawl after returning from their schooling in France. Alexander was the 13th Chief of the Keppoch family and an unpopular clan reformer.



After two years, no justice was meted out mainly due to the murdering MacDonalds having many sympathizers in that area. A kinsman to the victims, Iain Lom, Gaelic Poet Laureate of Scotland, sought justice and revenge. After appealing to Sir James of Duntulm Castle on the Isle of Skye, he agreed to apply to the privy council in Edinburgh who issued letters of "fire and sword" against the killers.

Sir James' brother Archibald was put in charge of 50 men and guided by a very eager Lom, who lead them to the murdering MacDonalds of Inverlair. The killers were served justice in the Highland way and decapitated. Lom then wrapped the severed heads in his plaid and washed them at the well before presenting them to Lord Macdonnell of Invergarry Castle as proof before sending them to Edinburgh.

During an exhumation of a mound in Inverlair, seven headless corpses were discovered, thus confirming the story of the Well of the Seven Heads (Tobar nan ceann).

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK) ABOUT KILT PINS (found at <https://clan.com/>)

What is a kilt pin?

A kilt pin is an accessory that is used to weigh down the outermost layer of a kilt - known as the apron - to keep the fabric in place.

How did it come to be?

Unlike other aspects of traditional Highland Dress, the kilt pin is a relatively new addition to

the ensemble. Though it is not known exactly when the kilt pin was invented, it is widely claimed that it was **Queen Victoria** that instigated the trend. Some say that one blustery day at Balmoral Castle (the Queen's Scottish residence), Her Majesty was inspecting a Scottish regiment of soldiers when she noticed that one particular soldier was struggling to maintain his modesty as his kilt repeatedly tried to blow up with the wind. The Queen reportedly removed a pin from her clothing and fastened it to the soldier's kilt. Others say that it was in fact her own modesty that she was trying to protect as she took a pin from her hat and used it to weigh down her kilted skirt.

How do I wear a kilt pin?



The apron of a kilt should be allowed to move freely so that it does not restrict movement and the kilt avoids damage. Because of this, it is important that the kilt pin is fastened on the outer layer only. The pin should be attached on the right hand side of the apron approximately 4 inches from the bottom of the kilt and 2 inches in from the fringed edge.

How do I choose a kilt pin?

A kilt pin can come in a simple safety pin design or can be more stylized - perhaps depicting your clan crest or encrusted with a jewel. The choice is based simply on personal preference.

PAY YOUR DUES!

Look at your mailing label. If it says 'lifetime,' or 'benefactor,' 'fellow,' or 'comp,' you are current in your membership and will remain so. If there is a year above your name, and it is not 2018 or later, you are in arrears. If it says 'trial' above your name, you need to pay your dues. If you are not current with your dues (Single \$10, Family \$15, Patron \$25, Benefactor \$50 or more, Life \$250) please remit them to Nedra McElroy, 4 Lackawanna Ave., Bath NY 14810 straight away, or tell her [<mscopyla@stny.rr.com>](mailto:mscopyla@stny.rr.com) if you want to be removed from the membership database.

It remains important to the financial health of the society that our membership data is current and up to date! Thank you for your attention to this important matter!

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



<i>George Cunningham</i>	<i>December 1973 to December 1985</i>
<i>Don Campbell</i>	<i>December 1985 to December 1991</i>
<i>Doug Colborn</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 to December 2015</i>
<i>Gil Ferris</i>	<i>December 2015 to December 2017</i>



Nedra McElroy
4 Lackawanna Avenue
Bath NY 14810-1650

Address Service Requested



DATES TO REMEMBER

ST. ANDREWS DINNER/ANNUAL MEETING: November 17, 4:00
Corning American Legion, details page 1

BURNS DINNER: Horseheads Elks Club, January 26
Details to follow

ALLEGANY CELTIC GAMES: Cuba NY, June 1

DUNDEE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL: Dundee NY, July 13, 2019

CENTRAL NEW YORK SCOTTISH GAMES: Liverpool August 10

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

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