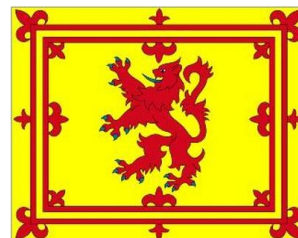




The Caledonian

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



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Chief: Rick Mason

10 Manning Avenue, Savona NY 14879
(607) 583-4256 rickmason47@gmail.com

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15 Foothill Road, Elmira NY 14903
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4 Lackawanna Avenue, Bath NY 14810
(607) 776-6727 mscopyola@stny.rr.com

Treasurer: Alastair Cormack

76 University Street, Alfred NY 14803
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Ray Margeson, rmargeson@aol.com

Bill Sitzman ibcengineering@juno.com

Tim Swan, twswan@rocketmail.com

Sam Watson, barbsam418@gmail.com

Editor:

Nedra McElroy, mscopyola@stny.rr.com

Editor Emeritus:

Herb MacDonell, forensiclub@stny.rr.com

Caledonian Highlanders Pipes & Drums:

Pipe Major, Lee Adelsberg,
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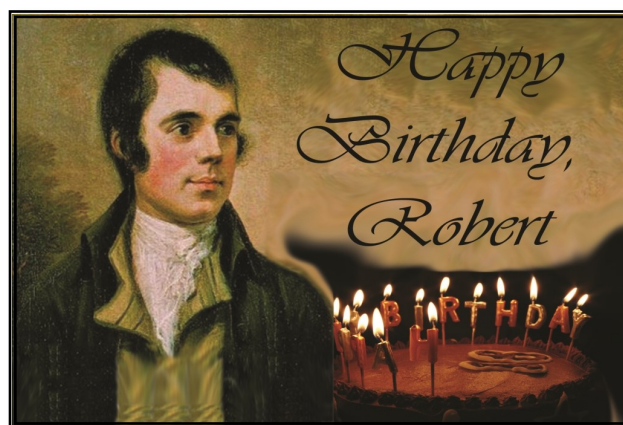
Webmaster: Sean McElroy, info@sasst.org

Please join us in celebrating the 260th
birthday of

ROBERT BURNS

with

DINNER & CEILIDH



On Saturday, January 26, 2019

At the Horseheads Elks Club

Gathering at 4 PM

To make your reservations for the
buffet dinner*,

call 962.7726 or 368.8385 or send
your check for \$35/person to

Jan Kostolansky,

7 Highland Drive,

Corning NY 14830

by Saturday, January 19, 2019

Bring a friend!

*Haggis, Cottage Pie, Chicken Skirlie, Penne
Pasta baked with Garlic, Olive Oil and
Romano Cheese, Garlic Smashed Potatoes,
Assorted Vegetables, Sticky Toffee Pudding

ST. ANDREWS DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING

A grand time was had by all those who attended this gathering at the Corning American Legion. We were made welcome by the attractive table settings and the



excellent food, and enjoyed a bagpipe concert by select members of our favorite band. All agreed that

the Legion might be the perfect location for next year's dinner and annual meeting, and we thank the



Caledonian Highlanders for the wonderful pipe music!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOGMANAY?

Source: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/hogmanay-traditions-in-scotland-1661711>

Hogmanay became important to the Scots in part owing to the ban on Christmas celebrations under Cromwell's Parliament in 1647. Even after restoration of the holiday under a new Parliament, the strict Scottish Presbyterians kept the ban, and Christmas remained a normal working day in Scotland until 1958!

Here are some traditions you may not be familiar with:

Redding the House - families traditionally did a major cleanup to ready the house for the New Year. Sweeping out the fireplace was very important and there was a skill in

reading the ashes, the way some people read tea leaves. After the big cleanup, someone goes from room to room carrying a smoking juniper branch to discourage evil spirits and chase away disease.

First Footing After the stroke of midnight, neighbors visit each other, bearing traditional symbolic gifts such as shortbread or black bun, a kind of fruit cake. The visitor, in turn, is offered a small whisky - a *wee dram*. The first person to enter a house in the New Year, the *first foot*, could bring luck for the whole year to come. The luckiest was a tall, dark and handsome man. The unluckiest a red head and the unluckiest of all a red-haired woman.

Bonfires and Fire Festivals Scotland's fire festivals at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins. The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea.

The Saining of the House This is a very old rural tradition that involved blessing the house and livestock with holy water from a local stream. Although it had nearly died out, in recent years it has experienced a revival. After the blessing with water, the woman of the house was supposed to go from room to room with a smoldering juniper branch, filling the house with purifying smoke. Of course, this being a Scottish celebration, traditional mayhem was sure to follow. Once everyone in the household was coughing and choking from the smoke, the windows would be thrown open and reviving drams (or two or three) of whisky would be passed around.

TASTE TREATS DEPT: CROWDIE

Source: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/foods/crowdie-cheese-scotland>

Historical accounts vary when it comes to the origins of the raw milk cheese known as *crowdie*. Some say the fresh dairy spread comes from Scotland's Viking era, which began at the end of the eighth century, while

others point even earlier, to the Picts, a northern Scotland-dwelling group who first appear in historical texts in the late third century. Although it gradually became popular in single-cow homesteads across the country, this spreadable, mousse-like product is now a rare find.

Crofters (farmers who tended small, rented plots of land) traditionally made crowdie using raw milk left to sour on a

window sill or by the fireside. They gently curdled the mixture, then added salt and cream after straining out the whey. Today, modern regulations



ban raw crowdie-making due to the resulting cheese's high moisture content and short shelf life. Despite the potential for pathogenic breeding grounds in commercial production environments, steadfast artisans stick to making the real deal on the down-low. Industrial renditions that use pasteurized milk result in little likeness to traditional crowdie.

Scots spread the tangy topping on sweet and savory dishes alike, akin to cream cheese. Crowdie works just as well with trout and potato as it does smeared alongside jam on scones. Bakers also use it as a dessert cheese in cheesecakes and trifles. Food lore traces the origins of *cranachan*, a popular Scottish dessert medley of whisky- and honey-soaked oats, raspberries, and fresh cream, to an older meal of crowdie cheese mixed with oats and honey.

Though *crowdie* most often refers to the soft cheese, the term has culinary and linguistic associations with oats. Scots have historically referred to oatmeal-based gruel as "crowdie." Over time, the cheese won the official title, but lest we forget the battle, crowdie is still often sold coated in oats.

DAVID HUME'S TOE

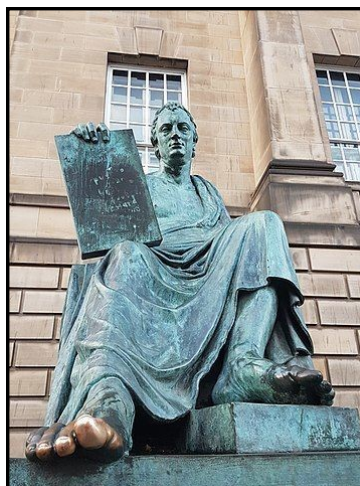
Source: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/david-humes-statue>

Local tradition dictates that a touch of David Hume's toe will bring good luck, though the practice ironically defies the philosopher's vehement rejection of superstition. Since 1995, when the public statue was erected at the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, it's become an international point of interest for handsy passersby.

Shortly artist Alexander Stoddart's sculpture of the great Scottish Enlightenment thinker was installed in front of the High Court Building, philosophy students began making pilgrimages to his likeness and rubbing his toe for luck and wisdom. Over two decades later, hordes of tourists crowd around Hume's foot at all times of day, rendering the sacred toe a shiny golden sphere from all the contact.

This popular Edinburgh landmark portrays Hume as an ancient Greek philosopher, though Hume was also an influential historian, economist, and writer who lived in the Scottish capital from 1711 to 1776.

One of the best-known figures to come out of



the Scottish Enlightenment, Hume was invested in the natural sciences, the necessity of government, and empirical observation. In staunch opposition to superstition, which "rouses the vain fears of

unhappy mortals," he wrote in his six-volume *History of England*, Hume would likely frown upon his statue's ritual significance.

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 **2019** 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 mscopyola@stny.rr.com if you want to be removed from the membership database.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter!

By the same token, if your e-mail or telephone or mailing address has changed, please keep us in the loop. Tell Nedra!



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

BURNS DINNER: Horseheads Elks Club, January 26

Details Page 1

ALLEGANY CELTIC GAMES: Cuba NY, June 1

DUNDEE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL: Dundee NY, July 13

CENTRAL NEW YORK SCOTTISH GAMES:

Liverpool August 10

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

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