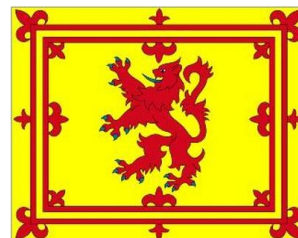




The Caledonian

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2021



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



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FROM THE CHIEF:

Your Board has been meeting regularly via ZOOM, and are making headway on plans to revitalize the Society and entice new membership. The committee working on this initiative consists of Blair Sibley, Wendy Brooks, and myself. We hope to have a finalized plan in place to share in the next *Caledonian*. Mean-

while, all gatherings will remain on hold due Covid-19 restrictions. Stay safe, be well, get your vaccination!

Hope to see you soon.

Timothy W. Swan

Chief



A CORRESPONDENCE with BARBARA

by Nedra McElroy

Barbara Cunningham has been sharing some interesting observations from her relatives in Scotland. Her niece is a tour guide and volunteer at the Glasgow Cathedral.

Barb writes: Spoke a.m. to relatives in Glasgow. Grim, terrible lockdown. Only allowed 5 miles travel from home. RE Burns dinner. They had a virtual Burns dinner in July, commemorates his death. Maybe we could do that... Please go to www.glasgowcathedral.org to see celebration by Internat'l Federation of Burns's societies with Prince Charles at helm for R. Burns birthday. Maybe something there you could use in newsletter.?? Let me know if this was helpful.. Barbara
(I responded, wonderful: tell me more!)

I'll add more of what my niece sent from Glasgow. No mixing (gathering) in homes. Allowed to meet only one person outside of home. No travel allowed beyond 5 miles of local authority area. Restaurants, pubs closed except for curbside takeaway. People only allowed out for work if they can't work from home. Vaccine priority is staff and residents of care homes. Vaccinations for over 70s to get first dose by mid-February.

If you saw the Glasgow Cathedral service. the Cathedral is closed due to gov't regulations. I was raised in a church like that. Did you notice they sang Gregorian chant? Didn't have that in my home church. but I am nostalgic about the service. I attended a parish church in Paisley, Scotland. Not as grand. but I have the hymnal. Barbara

(I responded: I loved the music and the message from HRH, particularly the toast with that 2-handled cup. Do you suppose it was whisky? Or simply

tea. He did say Slainte, which made me think it might be booze...)

Barb's answer:

The 2 handled whisky cup is known as a Gaelic quaich. more info on YouTube. Hope this comes in time for Newsletter. Wishing you all good things Scottish.

Barbara

And this is what I found: The quaich is a traditional



Scottish drinking vessel which was used to offer a guest a cup of welcome and also a farewell drink, usually a dram of whisky. The quaich has a rich heritage in Scotland. Indeed, they are a uniquely Scottish invention, having no apparent connection to any other

European drinking vessel.

The word quaich comes from the Gaelic word 'coach', meaning cup and is pronounced 'quake'. To be really accurate the 'ch' sound at the end of the word is sounded as in the word 'loch', which can be tricky for non Scots.

Today quaichs have become a common site during Scottish wedding ceremonies. The newly married couple will each take a hold of one of the handles as they share a drink to symbolize their love, togetherness and trust. They may also pass the quaich around the guests to reinforce the trust and happiness of the couple, the families and all invited.

Many people today still offer welcome toasts to their guests using the quaich, but most give them as a gift to those they hold dear, or to celebrate a joyous occasion, such as a birth or marriage. These beautiful Scottish drinking cups are displayed in homes the world over and are, overwhelmingly, seen as a symbol of love, friendship, admiration and respect.

AND SPEAKING OF...GLESQA

A Wee Ode by Helen Elliot

Found somewhere on the Internet...

When I was a child they called me a wean

The place where I lived, not a home but a hame

My mum was maa mammy, my dog was ma dug.

My uncle was Hugh but to us he was Shug.

A potato—a tattie, a turnip—a neep

My house was a hoose and to cry was to greet.

A wisnae was wasn't and did not was didnae

A kiss wa a winch and a red face a riddy.

If someone was iss well they looked peely-wally.

And to go up the pub you were aff for a swally.

Up was still up but it coupled with doon

And your condiments limited –red sauce or broon.

My armpit—my oakster, my head was ma heid

And if somebody died, well that meant they were deed.

Bringing us to POETRY CORNER: another poem found somewhere on the Internet...

TAE A VIRUS

By Willie Sinclair from Ayrshire

Twa months ago, we didna ken,

yer name or ocht aboot ye.

But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,

yer feeding like a gannet.

Disruption caused, is so immense,

ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,

they garnished it wae limes

But noo it's filled us awe wae fear

These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,

it's whit they awe advise

But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,

that's how we'll awe survive.

Just stay inside the hoose ye bide

Nae sneakin oot for strolls

Just check the lavvy every hoor

And stock-take your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff

Noo that's the Jet2 patter

Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh

And paddle 'doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while.

Nae need for suntan cream

And awe because o this wee bug

We ken tae be ...19.

The boredom surely will set in,

But have a read, or doodle

Or plan yer menu for the month

Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look aboot

A change, it would be nice

We've beans and pasta by the ton

and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot

Aye true, a few have died

Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb

They came, they left, they tried.

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.

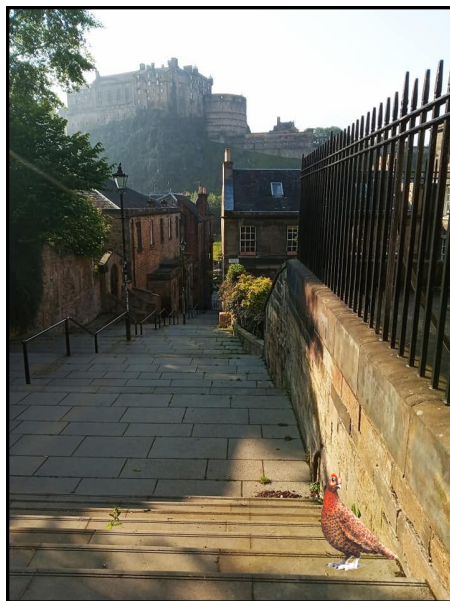
ONWARD TO EDINBURGH TRAVEL TIP

*For the next time you go to Scotland...
found at Atlas Obscura.com*

As Edinburgh Castle rests on the remains of an extinct volcano, it's prominently featured from several visual vantage points. A visitor is by no means cut short on photographic opportunities of this majestic sight.

Anywhere along the tree line boulevard of Princes Street allows for a more naturalistic snapshot of the castle. One location that offers perhaps the best views is unknown to many travelers and is tucked away in a hidden corridor off the Grassmarket. These are the Vennel Steps, also known today as The Miss Jean Brodie Steps.

It's here that nearly 150 steps take visitors up from the bustling square of bars and restaurants, to an idyllic vista with unobstructed views of the castle. The word



"Vennel" refers to an old French word that means "a small street between two large structures."

In the 1820s, a businessman named James Brown decided to open up the area surrounding his adjacent stables, creating a residential square known as Brown's Place. This fronted on to the accessible passageway, which had existed for several centuries, with a stunning and advantageous view.

There are several notable features surrounding this excellent location. At the top are the remnants of both the Flodden Walls and Telfer Walls, medieval barriers erected to keep invading armies at bay. At the midway point on the staircase is the former home of Bessie Watson, the young suffragette who led many equal rights parades by playing her bagpipes.

In 2018, the staircase was rechristened The Jean

Brodie Steps in honor of the title character from the novel, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* on the author's Muriel Spark's 100th birthday. A scene from the Oscar-winning 1969 film was shot here.

SURNAMES OCCURRING MOST OFTEN IN SCOTLAND'S REGISTERS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Counting only: (a) the surname of the CHILD for births (b) the surnames of BOTH PARTIES (e.g. both BRIDE and GROOM) for marriages, and (c) the surname of the DECEASED for deaths. Note: the surnames from these registers may not be representative of the surnames of the population of Scotland as a whole, as (a) they include the surnames of non-residents who were born / married / died here; (b) they exclude the surnames of residents who were born / married / died elsewhere; and (c) some age-groups have very low birth, marriage and death rates; others account for most births, marriages and deaths. Listed by Position / Surname / Number:

1 SMITH	1924	21 GRAHAM	559
2 BROWN	1367	22 PATERSON	549
3 WILSON	1288	23 MILLER	546
4 STEWART	1143	24 FRASER	530
5 ROBERTSON	1111	25 HENDERSON	517
6 THOMSON	1073	26 DAVIDSON	515
7 CAMPBELL	1053	27 MCDONALD	507
8 ANDERSON	995	28 HAMILTON	498
9 SCOTT	783	29 MARTIN	496
10 REID	773	30 CAMERON	492
11 MACDONALD	763	31 JOHNSTON	490
12 MURRAY	743	32 FERGUSON	481
13 TAYLOR	742	33 HUNTER	478
14 CLARK	643	34 DUNCAN	473
15 ROSS	635	35= GRAY	472
16 MORRISON	603	35= KERR	472
17 WALKER	595	37 BELL	467
18 MITCHELL	593	38 MACKENZIE	446
19 YOUNG	580	39 SIMPSON	443
20 WATSON	579	40 KELLY	440

PLEASE 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 2021 or later, you are in arrears.** If you are not current with your dues (Single \$10, Family \$15, Patron \$25, Benefactor \$50 or more, Life \$250), please remit to Nedra McElroy, 4 Lackawanna Ave., Bath NY 14810 straight away.

Members whose dues have not been paid will be removed from the Society mailing list!

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, keeper of the database.



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

<i>George Cunningham</i>	<i>1973 to 1985</i>
<i>Don Campbell</i>	<i>1985 to 1991</i>
<i>Doug Colborn</i>	<i>1991 to 2000</i>
<i>Donald Flatt</i>	<i>2000 to 2003</i>
<i>Tom McIntyre</i>	<i>2003 to 2009</i>
<i>Blake Mayo</i>	<i>2009 to 2015</i>
<i>Gil Ferris</i>	<i>2015 to 2017</i>
<i>Rick Mason</i>	<i>2017 to 2019</i>



Nedra McElroy
4 Lackawanna Avenue
Bath NY 14810-1650

Address Service Requested



**CURRENT SOCIETY EVENTS HAVE
BEEN PUT ON HOLD DUE TO THE
PANDEMIC.**

**TENTATIVE FUTURE DATE:
Annual Scholarship Picnic July 17**