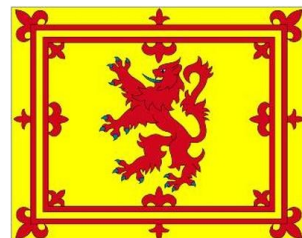




# The Caledonian

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



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## FROM THE CHIEF:

Greetings,

Spring is at our heels and summer knocking at the door, and with the pandemic hopefully contained at last, 2021 is shaping up to be more of a "normal" year. My family has decided to take on a new challenge and get

back to our roots by learning Scottish Gaelic together. I find this a huge challenge, but also extremely rewarding to learn a language from my ancestral home land.

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee for reviewing dozens of applications and naming three winners. Congratulations to **Clara Miller**, from Bath, the Cunningham Essay Award, **Alec Barter**, from Corning, the Burns Scholarship, & **Ashley Dumbleton**, from Dundee, the Stewart Memorial Scholarship. The annual picnic is July 24th at the Mossy Bank Park in Bath, starting at 11 a.m. The scholarships will be awarded and we'll have food, music and much merry-making, so hope to see everyone there.

Also in the works: update of the website with new photos, news and events. Tentative dates are set for St. Andrews: November 6, 2021 and Burns Night Celebration: January 22, 2022. More details to come as we work through them.

Our FaceBook page has had lots of traffic lately—we now have 158 members, many of them from across the pond contributing entertaining content.

An interesting tidbit from my piping adventures: As an avid bagpiper, I've been blessed with the opportunity to play at many funerals and memorial services of various faiths. Interestingly, I hadn't been allowed to play inside a Catholic church because, according to one of the priests I spoke with, bagpipes and trumpets are instruments of war and not allowed in the church. I'm not sure if this is a rule of Catholic churches in general or only a coincidence that pertained to the four

Catholic churches I had so far participated with. At these churches I was asked to play from outside the building. Last month, however, at a service at St. Peters in Wellsboro, Pa., I was at last invited inside to play. This priest was enthusiastic to have the pipes echoing off the inside of his sanctuary and said he had never heard of the rule. Perhaps it is a state rule for each church.

Gash Durachd! ("Best Wishes" in Scottish Gaelic)

Hope to see you soon.

*Timothy W. Swan*

Chief



## SCHOLARSHIP PICNIC



Once again we will be gathering at Mossy Bank Park Pond Pavilion for our annual picnic honoring the winners of this year's scholarships with good food and fellowship on Saturday, July 24th at 11 am. Bring a dish to pass and an appetite! We hope to enjoy some pipe music and share

some stories and to congratulate the three outstanding young people who have been awarded our scholarships this year.

Call Jan Kostolansky (368-8385) now and tell her you're coming with a dish to pass and your table service. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. See you there!

## TARTAN DAY CELEBRATION

In celebration of the 801st anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, The Scottish American Society of the Southern Tier held a Tartan Day Celebration on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Centennial Park, Corning. The Declara-



tion of Arbroath was a call for the right of Scots to rule themselves and helped shape the American Declaration of Independence.

The Celebration opened with an Invocation by the Reverend Joshua Barrett and a Proclamation from the Mayor of Corning followed by a short Kirkin' O' the Tartans ceremony. Capping off the Celebration, The Caledonian Highlanders Pipe & Drum Band provided a tattoo.



## FOOD NOTES: CRANACHAN

(Found on the Internet at *Atkas Obscura*)

In centuries past, Scots ate "cream crowdie" for breakfast. The meal consisted of oats and heather honey—a fragrant, woody product harvested from the moorlands—mixed into a soft cheese called *crowdie*. Over time, fresh raspberries (when in season) and whisky (always in season) were tossed into the mix, creating a festive trifle more akin to an after-dinner treat. Today, Scots across the country call it *cranachan* (pronounced CRAH-nuh-kun), and regard the mixture as traditional dessert fare. Cranachan bears only a slight resemblance to the simple meal that inspired it. Nowadays,



crowdie cheese—once a staple of every single-cow household in the country—is hard to come by. Due to lack of access to raw milk and regulations against its commercial sale, chefs often replace the rare cheese with freshly-whipped cream. (Ed. Note: *Indeed, any recipe I was able to locate on line called for whipped cream...*) Heather honey, an expensive, difficult-to-acquire delicacy, is similarly elusive. "Cranachan" still shows up on restaurant menus, but you're likely to receive a trifle of heavy whipped cream layered with whisky - and honey-soaked toasted oats and raspberries if you order one.

Cranachan has also become a staple at the Burns Supper. Modern Scots' decision to feature this



dessert on their holiday menus is likely a result of cranachan's association with a sense of national identity more so than seasonal significance, as the dead of winter is verifiably not raspberry season.

## CLOCHODERICK STONE

(Found on the Internet at *Atkas Obscura*)

**AS THE STORY GOES,** A giant was hiking through Scotland when a stone became stuck in his shoe. He plucked the stone out and left it behind. That massive rock came to be known as the Clochoderick Stone. This is just one of many legends surrounding the stone that measures 12 feet high and 17 feet across.

The first documented account of the Clochodrick Stone dates back to 1204, where it was believed to be the final resting place of Rhydderch Hael, ruler of the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde. His victory at the battle of Arderydd brought Christianity to the area. Unfortunately, excavations did not uncover any evidence of the grave.

The stone's history goes back even further. Although the stone no longer moves, it was originally a logan stone or clach bràth as they were known in Scotland. These stones could be rocked without much pressure as they were balanced on other stones. They were used as open-air courts by druids to determine innocence or guilt and were common wherever druids had a presence.

The rocks became something of a tourist attrac-



tion in the 18th and 19th-centuries. Many were damaged or vandalized from misuse. Such was the fate of Clochoderick Stone, which sadly no longer rocks.

Its history doesn't stop there. The stone is actually a glacial erratic and was carried 50 miles from its original location in Inverary, before being deposited at its present location.

## Are You Happy?

Geordie had never paid much attention to his wife when she was alive but, surprisingly, he found after she passed away that he missed her a lot. He decided to go to a medium to see if he could contact her. During the seance, a breeze wafted through the darkened room and suddenly Geordie was sure he heard his wife's voice.

*"Maisie!" he cried. "Is that you?"*

*"Yes, Geordie."*

*"Are you happy?"*

*"Yes, Geordie."*

*"Happier than you were with me?"*

*"Yes, Geordie...much happier!"*

*"Then Heaven must be an amazing place."*

*"I'm not in Heaven."*

## 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



**WE ARE ANTICIPATING THAT  
OUR USUAL ACTIVITIES WILL  
PREVAIL THIS YEAR...**

**TENTATIVE FUTURE DATES:**

**Picnic: July 24**

**St. Andrews Dinner and  
Annual Meeting:**

**November 20**

**Burns Night: January 22**