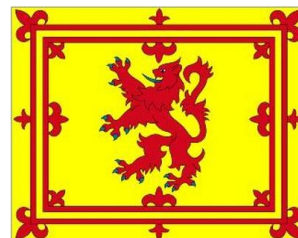




The Caledonian

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



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FROM THE CHIEF:

Your Board of Trustees and I have been hard at work attempting to firm up plans for our annual events which are quickly approaching! Here is the plan for St. Andrews and our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. It is a departure from our regular get together, and we hope you will be as excited about it as we are. Please plan on joining us!

St. Andrews Happy Hour & Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2021

4-6 PM

at the Quincy on Market

(upstairs at 2 Market St., formerly Tony R's)
Corning NY

We will enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres, good fellowship, the annual meeting and election of officers, and of course some pipe music. \$20 admission benefits our scholarship fund. Cash Bar.

Don your tartan and join us!

Reservations to

Jan Kostolansky, (607) 368-8385 and pay at the door, or mail your \$20 check to Jan at 17 Taylor Road South, Elmira NY 14903.

Hope to see you soon.

Timothy W. Swan

Chief



SCHOLARSHIP PICNIC

A beautiful day, good food and fellowship with friends old and new marked our annual picnic at Mossy Bank. We enjoyed meeting Clara Miller and Alec Barter and their families. The third winner, Ashly Dumbleton, was unable to join us that day. The Millers brought some vegan haggis for us to sample, and we learned that the Barter family celebrates Burns Night annually with their own home-made haggis...

Here is Sarah's essay:

It was a strange feeling, walking into the home of my ancestors' enemies. The great stone arch held up the defensive walls of Castle Campbell which rose before me. Though the sun shone brightly, my skin prickled. I was supposed to be here.

My MacDonald heritage has been a part of my

identity for as long as I can remember. My father spent many hours of my childhood exploring his family tree—English, Irish, and Scottish. He recounted MacDonald family picnics, where his cousins played highland games accompanied by bagpipes. His interest encouraged my fascination, and I longed to know where our ancestors came from and how they ended up in New York State.

In the summer of 2019, I visited England, Scotland, and Ireland under the guise of researching graduate programs, but the main prong of my quest was to return to the land my ancestors left. I found England very tame, with soft, rolling hills that dulled my imagination. Disappointed, I boarded my train north. From my seat, I witnessed the bland and curated English landscape grow into imposing hills and forests. Chugging along rivers and streams in the trough between steep hills, it felt like I was returning home.

That feeling only grew as I explored the landscape, delving into the woods and fields. On one ambitious day, I climbed down the hill where I was staying, hiked across the valley and up the gorge opposite. I knew somewhere at the top was a castle, and I was ecstatically keen to investigate it.

I can only describe my experience exploring the castle as religious. The moment I entered I was struck by an overwhelming feeling of euphoria and wholeness. Tracing my fingers along the worn stone, I wound my way up and down the central spiral staircase, entranced by the nooks and crannies, worn floors, high windows, and idiosyncratic marks throughout its many rooms. When I finally wandered into the great hall, I was overcome by the remarkable view looking out over the valley. The structure had swallowed me whole and spat me back out into the sunshine as a changed student of architectural history.

Through DNA testing, my family on both sides has discovered a strong ancestral connection to the city of Glasgow. That connection reinforced the feelings I had when I visited Scotland in 2019 that, somehow, I had been there before. That, among many reasons, is why I have chosen to continue my studies at the University of Glasgow. Not only do I wish to cultivate my mind, but I also want to cultivate my connection to our heritage and culture. I am pursuing a Master's degree in Gender History at the University of Glasgow because a comprehen-

sive understanding of the history of gender is necessary for inclusive exploration and interpretation of space. This program is organized by the University's Centre for Gender History which has the largest concentration of gender historians in Britain. These historians center the Scottish experience in their research and instill in students a deeper understanding of the culture surrounding them. At the University of Glasgow, I can connect modern gender experiences to past ideals, desires, and actualizations of gender. This MSc program will give me the tools to advocate for gender parity in historical representation, with Scottish history as a central pillar of my research. There, I will be able to grow my love and appreciation for all of Scottish architecture and build connections to the people and landscape I already adore. I am in love with Scotland, and I cannot wait to call it home.

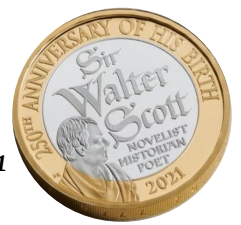


Sarah and Alec doing battle...



SIR WALTER SCOTT 250TH ANNIVERSARY

By Hannah Brown 22nd July 2021
Found in *The Scotsman*



The Royal Mint, the original maker of UK coins, has today launched its first ever commemorative £2 coin in honour of the late Sir Walter Scott including a feature of the iconic Edinburgh landmark, 250 years after the great writer's birth.

One of the most influential Scots in history, Sir Walter Scott is renowned for his contribution to literature with his novels and poems, many of which remain literary classics to this day.

Marking the 250th anniversary since his birth, Scott's legacy has been celebrated for the first time on official UK coin.

Available in gold, silver and brilliant uncirculated, the commemorative keepsake was first unveiled in the 2021 Annual Set and today launches as an individual collectors' item at The

Royal Mint.

On the canvas of a £2 coin, the words Sir Walter Scott and Novelist, Historian and Poet are inscribed in the same calligraphy seen at Abbotsford's grand entrance and chapel.

The design also includes Scott's portrait modelled on the Scott Monument – one of Edinburgh's most iconic landmarks.

To celebrate the launch, the Original Maker collaborated with Scott's Abbotsford home and Trustee and direct descendant, Matthew Maxwell Scott – the great, great, great, great grandson of the famous writer.

Mr Maxwell Scott, Trustee at Abbotsford, said: "I'm extremely proud to see my ancestor recognised on a very special coin from The Royal Mint – a fitting tribute during a year of 250th birthday celebrations. It is a beautiful coin. Sir Walter was a collector of beautiful things and I think he would have loved to have this coin in his collection among the many treasures at Abbotsford."

Speaking of the design, Stephen Raw, who also designed the Sherlock Holmes coin in 2019 and the First World War Armistice coin in 2018, said:

"Sir Walter Scott was such a fascinating character, there were so many routes that you could explore. Being a textual artist, I'm fascinated by lettering and I chose a combination of distinctive Gothic lettering from the chapel at Abbotsford alongside some lettering used by Scott in the magnificent entrance to his home.

"As for the portrait, I used the wonderful sculpture of Scott that sits within his monument on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. I hope that collectors enjoy the design and that when people see the coin, they might be encouraged to visit Abbotsford and the Scott Monument – the second largest such memorial to a writer in the world they say."

Clare MacLennan The Royal Mint's Divisional Director of Commemorative Coin said: "Sir Walter Scott's status as one of Great Britain's greatest writers endures 250 years after his birth and the anniversary celebration is a wonderful occasion to commemorate his legacy on a £2 coin.

"The exquisite design, with the inscription Novelist, Historian and Poet, reminds us of the wide-reaching influence of his work. What a treat it has been to reveal this collectable piece of art in collaboration with his great, great, great, great grandson Matthew Maxwell Scott and the fantas-

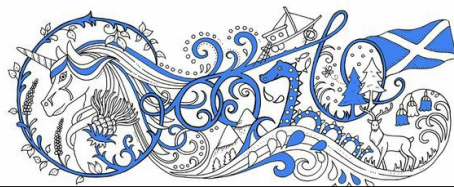
tic team at Abbotsford, the famous home of Walter Scott, as part of their Anniversary celebrations."



Celtic Legend

Hag stones, also known as Holey Stones or Witch Stones, are stones that have a naturally occurring hole and are usually found near oceans and other bodies of water. They are said to be powerful protection talismans, and when worn or carried they protect the bearer from curses, hexes, negative spirits, and harm. They have also been used to prevent nightmares, being strung on a bedpost or placed underneath pillows. It is also believed that if you peer through the hole of the stone that you can see the Fae Folk and otherworldly entities. If one broke, it is thought to have used its power to protect a life.

St, Andrews
Google
Doodle



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



DATES TO REMEMBER:

St. Andrews Annual Meeting & Happy Hour
Saturday, November 6, 2021

Burns Night/Scottish Heritage Showcase
Saturday, January 22, 2022

There have been questions about the resumption of festivals:
we've been checking, and so far, as far as we know, these are 'on' for 2022:

(Links on our website)



Allegany Celtic Festival: June 4, 2022

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival: Sept. 17-18, 2022

