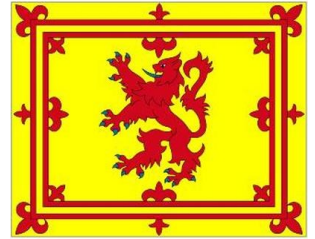




# The Caledonian

VOL. XL NO. 1 JANUARY 2023



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



## 2023 Officers & Board of Trustees

**Chief: Tim Swan**

156 Fuller Road, Osceola PA 16942  
(607) 329-8359 [twswan@rocketmail.com](mailto:twswan@rocketmail.com)

**Assistant Chief: Russell Gridley**

15 Foothill Road, Elmira NY 14903  
(607) 562-7046

**Secretary: Nedra McElroy**

4 Lackawanna Avenue, Bath NY 14810  
(607) 776-6727 [mscrayola@stny.rr.com](mailto:mscrayola@stny.rr.com)

**Treasurer: Alastair Cormack**

76 University Street, Alfred NY 14802  
(607) 587-8295 [cormack@alfred.edu](mailto:cormack@alfred.edu)

### Trustees

Wendy Brooks, [wbbpipes@gmail.com](mailto:wbbpipes@gmail.com)  
Jan Kostolansky, [jankosto59@gmail.com](mailto:jankosto59@gmail.com)  
Ray Margeson, [rmargeson@aol.com](mailto:rmargeson@aol.com)  
Bill Sitzman, [ibcengineering@juno.com](mailto:ibcengineering@juno.com)  
Sandy Swan, [sandyswan21@gmail.com](mailto:sandyswan21@gmail.com)  
Sam Watson, [barbsam418@gmail.com](mailto:barbsam418@gmail.com)

### Editor:

Nedra McElroy, [mscrayola@stny.rr.com](mailto:mscrayola@stny.rr.com)

**Caledonian Highlanders Pipes & Drums:**

Pipe Major, Tom Kennedy  
Band Historian, Lee Adelsberg

Like us on FaceBook and

Visit our website at [www.SASST.org](http://www.SASST.org)

Webmaster: Sean McElroy, [info@sasst.org](mailto:info@sasst.org)



## FROM THE CHIEF:

It's that time of year again, folks—your Officers and Trustees have been diligently working on plans for our favorite event, BURNS NIGHT!

We will once again hold the celebration at the Warplane Museum in Big Flats, and will be rolling out an exciting new menu!

## BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

featuring

The Caledonian Highlanders Pipe Band

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**Bring friends!**

January 28, 2022

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Big Flats  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Social hour: Cash Bar with beer and wine  
Whisky tastings by Finger Lakes Distilling

Burns Night Ritual: March of the Chiefs and  
Trustees, presentation of the Haggis, Toasts

Dinner: Haggis, Tatties & Neeps, Roast Beef,  
Chicken Balmoral, Roasted Vegetables,  
Rumbledethumps, Topsy Laird

Music by **Three Stone Fire**,  
Highland Dancing

Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle to support our  
scholarship program

\$45 per person: send check to  
Jan Kostolansky 110 Creekside, #127, Paint-  
ed Post NY 14870 **by January 20, please!**  
further info, (607) 368-8385

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

On another note, I have been busy celebrat-  
ing the holiday season (Grey Wolf, the Piper:  
have pipes, will travel...) participating in  
various parades and celebrations, in spite  
of the recent frigid weather...I hope that  
you had an enjoyable Holiday Season, and  
anticipate a healthy happy  
New Year.



*Timothy W. Swan*

Chief

### TRAVEL PLANS FOR 2023?

Check out the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, the birthplace of a genius – a celebration of the enduring legacy of Scotland's national poet

- Visit the humble cottage where Robert Burns was born and spent the first years of his life.
- Explore the museum which houses more than 5,000 Burns artefacts including his handwritten manuscripts.
- Follow in Tam o' Shanter's footsteps to atmospheric Alloway Auld Kirk and over the Brig o' Doon.
- Visit the Monument where Burns tourism began back in 1823.
- Celebrate the legacy of Burns with haggis, neeps and tatties in the museum café.

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favorite son. Robert Burns is Scotland's National Bard, and his poetry and songs are known and loved the world over. But who was he and what made him tick? The best place to get close to Burns and his genius is his birthplace in the beautiful village of Alloway. Our flagship museum starts a journey that weaves through the village, taking you from historical buildings to landmarks known to Burns.

Whether you're a die-hard Burnsian or brand new to the bard, a day immersing yourself here will open your eyes and ears to an enduring hero of Scotland's literary heritage.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum>

Ed. Note: From time to time, I've gratefully received Caledonian content items from members. I'm happy to share a couple of these here. The first is from **Gary Brown**, a retired Presbyterian minister from Hammondsport.

### A TRIP TO SCOTLAND

I grew up in Corning because my dad (who had grown up in Elmira) was a research chemist for Corning Glass. My mother had grown up on a farm in Coopers Plains outside of Corning. I ended up in ordained ministry, and in the 1970's, I was serving a Congregational Church in Scarsdale NY. In 1979, my colleague, the Senior Pastor there, was invited to do a clergy exchange with a Scottish pastor he had met the previous year on a tour of the British Isles. He didn't feel comfortable being away so soon for another trip, so he asked me if I would like to do it. My family on my father's side (his father's kin) are Browns from a town called Maybole in Ayrshire, so I jumped at the chance.

My wife and two sons and baby daughter (less that a year old) headed for Scotland in June. We were not experienced travelers, and we needed lots of extra equipment for the baby -- when we traveled we had 19 pieces of luggage! Our sons, embarrassed, pretended they didn't know us. We rented a car at the Prestwick Airport in Glasgow, and I drove (jet-lagged and on the "wrong" side of the road) to Aberdeen where the Scottish pastor's church was located. We moved into their home (they were living in ours), and I began about a month of preaching and doing pastoral care at St. Nicholas Church. The congregation was very welcoming, and for the first two weeks, we had blue skies every day. We had been warned that it would be a year without a summer for us, and we wondered where this fabled Scottish weather was. Then the gray curtain came down!

My wife's mother had told us, "You're not going to keep that baby away from me for a whole summer," so she made arrangements to join us for a period of our time in Aberdeen. I drove to Glasgow to meet her plane. Since her flight arrived late in the day, I had time to explore. I visited the home of Robert Burns in Alloway, Ayrshire, pictured in the recent SASST newsletter. I also went to Maybole, where I still had some living relatives. I met the town clerk, who was a relative, and she took me to see the village church (where undoubtedly many of my ancestors were baptized, worshipped, were married and had their funerals). I also met an older relative who recalled my great grandmother, who, she said, "was a wee woman."

There's far more to tell (needless to say) about this sojourn in Scotland, but for now let me say that it was a very special visit to a beautiful part of the world inhabited by some very kind people. That time in Scotland created in me a strong sense of connection to one of the places from which my family was transplanted many years ago.

Gary P. Brown



And the second—an unknown party wished to submit the following for this issue:

### WE SEE LONDON.....

Dear men in kilts,  
Do hear our pleas.  
For we can see,  
Between your knees.  
And when you sit,  
With legs apart,  
The view's enough  
To stop one's heart.  
In girlish youth,  
Alas, now lost,  
The rule was:  
Keep your ankles crossed!  
So mind your pose,  
When in a chair.  
Don't let us see  
Your underwear!

Anonymous



### INTERESTING BORDER STORY

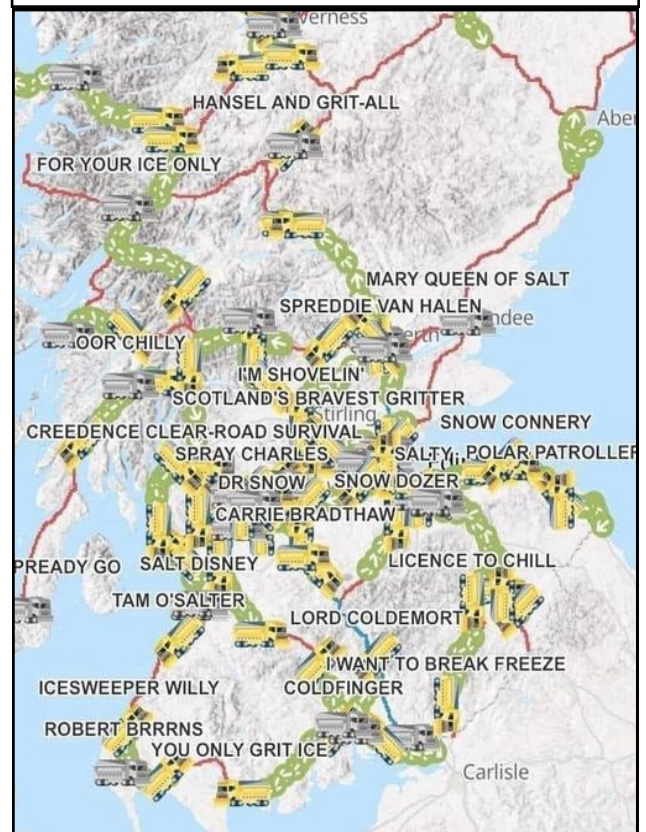
From "This Land Called Scotland" FB page  
This is the Ba Green, a 3 acre meadow on the English side of the River Tweed that, for no clear reason, belongs to Scotland.  
Well, it turns out the reason is pretty unusual: Scotland won it in a football game!  
But this wasn't football like you think of it today: this was "ba", or "mob football" sort of chaotic medieval ancestor to football and rugby. It was played on the streets of villages, and basically the only rule was that you had to get the ball through the village and to the opposing goal.  
Every New Year, the people of Wark on Tweed in England and Coldstream in Scotland would play each other, and whoever won would claim ownership of the Ba Green for that year.  
However, as time went on the town of Coldstream

grew much bigger than Wark, and because there was no limit to the number of players, Coldstream always won.

Eventually, the borders were made official, and the Ba Green became a permanent part of Scotland.

To general knowledge, this is the only piece of land ever won by a nation in a sports game.

### SCOTTISH GRITTER TRUCKS HAVE THE BEST NAMES...



Found on FaceBook Ayrshire Daily News page

### 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 2023 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.



## 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> |
| <i>Tim Swan</i>          | <i>2019 to</i>      |



Nedra McElroy  
4 Lackawanna Avenue  
Bath NY 14810-1650

Address Service Requested



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

### BURNS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

January 28 2 PM

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Big Flats

### TARTAN DAY 2023

April 6, Corning

No Games or Festival Dates have been  
posted at this time.