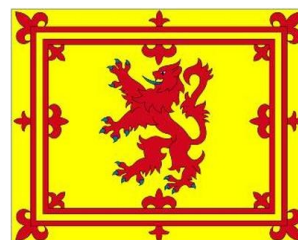




The Caledonian

VOL. XL NO. 4 SEPTEMBER 2023



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



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FROM THE CHIEF:

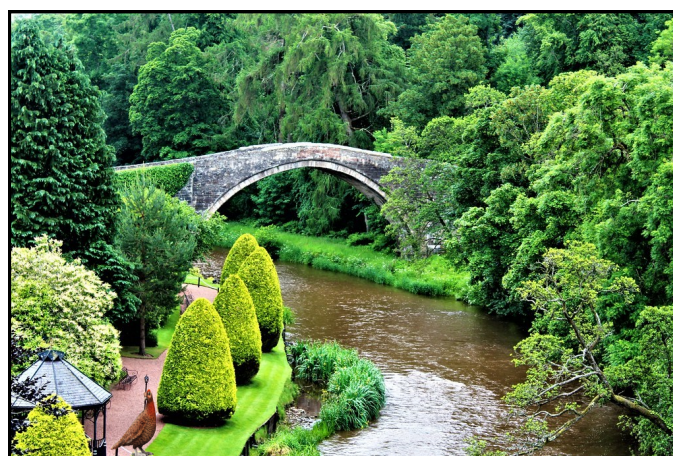
Our celebration observing St. Andrews Day with our annual meeting and election of officers will be held on **November 18** this year. (Traditional St. Andrews Day is November 30.) Our Secretary and Treasurer serve one year terms, and are up for re-election. We would welcome nominations or volunteers to fill vacancies on the Board...if

you are interested, please contact me! It would be a pleasure to welcome new people to the Board!

The meeting will be held on Saturday, November 18 at 3 PM at the Corning First Congregational Church of Christ featuring light refreshments. Please RSVP to Jan Kostolansky, by e-mail at left or at (607) 368-8385

The election of officers traditionally employs the use of a stone from 'Brig O'Doon Bridge' donated many years ago by Scotty Barr. The bridge is categorized as a 22m, single-span arch bridge. It dates from the late 1400s but no longer carries vehicular traffic.

Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns, immortalized the bridge in his poem Tam O'Shanter. Burns would be familiar with the bridge as he was born about one mile away, in the same village.



I am happy to announce that we will have an additional bit of entertainment with Scottish Small pipes, at our Burns Night celebration. We will have a short introduction to the small pipes and a few tunes by Justin Crawford, Pipe Major of the Penn York Highlanders and good friend of mine. So in all, there will be the Great Highland pipes with the Caledonian Highlanders Pipe and Drum band, music and dance by the Three Stone Fire and special guest with the Scottish Small pipes.



Timothy W. Swan

Chief

20 WEIRD FACTS ABOUT SCOTLAND FOR SAINT ANDREW'S DAY

By Mariam Elhamy (found at <https://www.cairowestmag.com/weird-facts-about-scotland-for-saint-andrews-day/>)

1. Scotland's national animal is a unicorn. Because unicorns are colorful and pretty so why not?
2. It's pretty obvious, but Scotland has the highest rates of redheads in the world! Gingers are so cute, no?
3. The Scots are big on mythology. From giants to unicorns, Scotland's mythology holds some of the most famous unsolved mysteries in the world.
4. Scotland has over 900 offshore islands, most of which are uninhabited.
5. Scottish inventor **John Logie Baird** was the first to invent the world's first color tv. While Scottish scientist **Alexander Graham Bell** invented the first telephone and the world's first color photograph was taken in Edinburgh. Seems like the Scots have got it all figured out!
6. Golf was actually invented in Scotland, the world-famous St Andrews is known as the home of golf and is where The British Open is held every 5 years.
7. It is believed that bagpipes actually originated in ancient Egypt and was brought to Scotland by the Roman invaders. Yay Egypt!
8. The shortest commercial flight in the world is a 1.7-mile route between two Scottish islands. The flight between Westray and Papa Westray near the mainland of Orkney lasts just 57 seconds.
9. **King James I** passed a law in 1818 banning street football. This law was ignored in Alnwick until 1827 when the **Duke of Northumberland** provided a field for the game to be played on legitimately.
9. A 112-second echo was recorded to be the longest echo in a man-made structure by a shot fired from a pistol in an underground fuel depot constructed in Scotland

before World War Two.

10. "Braveheart" was the nickname given to **Robert the Bruce** not **William Wallace**. **Wallace** was a nobleman and not a peasant and he was much younger than 38-year-old **Gibson**.
11. Scotland's official languages are English and Scottish Gaelic, Gaelic is the founding language of Scotland and is thought to originate from Ireland. Speakers of the language were persecuted over the centuries but it is still spoken today by around 60,000 Scots.
12. Bonnybridge is a small town in Scotland and it is considered a UFO hotspot with more than 300 sightings reported every year.
13. The Fortingall Yew, known for being one of the oldest trees ever, ages between 2,000 and 3,000 years is located in the village of Fortingall in Perthshire, Scotland.
14. You might not know this but Scotch whisky is malt or grain whisky that was first made in Scotland.
15. Haggis is a dish typically made with the heart, liver, and lungs of sheep, and boiled with seasoning in the animal's stomach. It has been banned in Scotland since the 70s.
16. There are over 4,500 listed buildings in Edinburgh, of which around 900 are listed at category A. This is more than any other city in the world.
17. In Scotland, it is estimated that there are 3,000 castles, nearly one for every 100 square miles, so no matter where you are, a castle is never far away.
18. Scotland has more than 600 square miles of freshwater lakes, including the famous Loch Ness.
19. People stopped living in caves only 100 years ago in Scotland when cave-dwelling was banned in 1915 after they found 24 men women and children, some naked and scarred, living in a cave.
20. The Meikleour Beech Hedge is the longest hedge in Scotland and the highest of its

kind in the world. It was planted in 1745 and is (530 m) long and (30 m) high.

HAPPY SAINT ANDREW'S DAY!

TIGH NA CAILLEACH

There is a wonderful website, Stravaiging.com, that explores interesting sites in Scotland. Roughly translated, stravaiging means wandering aimlessly... and in doing so, you might run across this fascinating place!

Hidden away in a remote glen west of Glen Lyon, it's a small turf-roofed "house" which is home to a "family" of water-worn stones known as the Cailleach (old woman), the Bodach (old man), the Nighean (daughter) and further children. It is thought to be an ancient shrine to the cult of the Mother Goddess.



Each spring the family are brought out of their house at Beltain, and each October they are returned for the winter before Samhain a tradition that has been going on certainly for hundreds of years, but possibly even thousands.

Shielings (rough-cut huts for sheltering animals in pastures) nearby were still in use until after 1782 and the inhabitants would re-thatch the Cailleach's house, repair the walls and bring the family out to watch over their herds. When the herds moved back down for the winter the family would be sealed up in the house until the following year.

Later, after farming methods changed, a succession of local shepherds or gamekeepers continued the practice of bringing the family out each year and putting them back in the shelter for the winter.

Legend has it that the Cailleach, Goddess of Winter, gives birth to a new child every hundred years. Writing in 1888, **Duncan Campbell** said that there were 12 stones, although this may have been said to give the site a Christian spin, associating it with a St Meuran (probably St Mirin) and his eleven disciples. Today there are 7 stones in total.

WALTER SCOTT OF HARDEN , A REIVER

Found on FaceBook: A Daily Dose of History

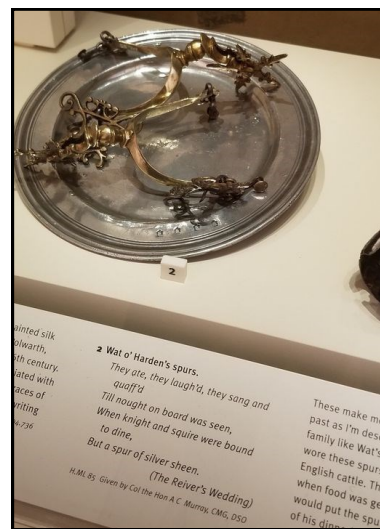
For nearly four hundred years, from the late 1200s to the early 1600s, the borderlands separating Scotland and England were essentially lawless. Frequently crossed by armies of the two warring countries, and with an agricultural base inadequate for its population, there developed within the Borders, as the area was known, a culture of raiding and robbery.

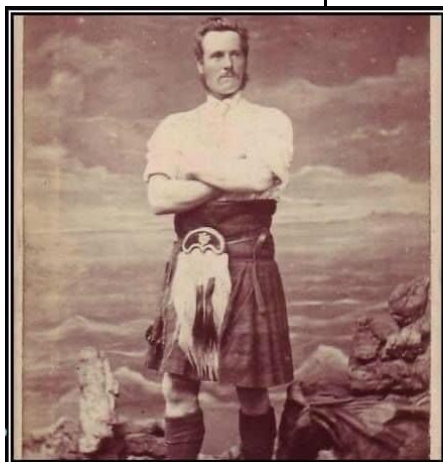
The men who raided and plundered neighboring villages and farms were called reivers, a word derived from the Middle English verb meaning to rob, pillage and plunder. To protect themselves and their possessions the people in the Borders lived in fortified towers and, when possible, would bring their livestock in at night. More than once a band of reivers had their homes robbed and plundered by the very men whose homes and farms they were simultaneously robbing.

One of the most notorious reivers of the late 16th and early 17th centuries was **Walter Scott of Harden**, commonly known as **Auld Wat O'Harden**. The village of Harden is just a few miles from Hawick in the Scottish Borders. From there Auld Wat raided throughout southern Scotland and northern England.

According to legend, if supplies were running low, when **Auld Wat** sat down for supper his wife would present him with a plate with his spurs on it, rather than a meal. That was her way of telling Wat it was time for him to go on a raid to bring in more food.

Auld Wat's plated spurs are on display in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.





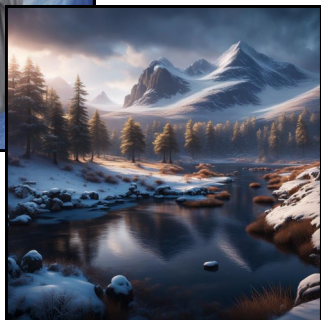
Chiefs of the Scottish-American Society of the Southern Tier, Inc.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <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> |



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Address Service Requested



DATES TO REMEMBER:

ST. ANDREWS DAY/ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, November 18

First Congregational Church of Christ, Corning

BURNS BIRTHDAY BASH

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center

TARTAN DAY

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Centerway, Corning (tentative)

Here's something to think about—the depiction of **Cailleach** above found on line was created with an Artificial Intelligence app. So, I visited the site and asked for a depiction of the Highlands of Scotland in winter, and look at the result. Human intervention not necessary...?!?