



The Caledonian

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



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FROM THE CHIEF:

So here we are, again, at the start of a new year. For me it has been an extremely busy year. I'm just coming off the Christmas season as the Christmas Piper. As always spreading myself way to thin, piping at Dickens of a Christmas in Wellsboro PA, Sparkle in Corning, six

parades, two Wreaths Across America events, a couple funerals and a few other private events.

The Scottish American Society was busy as well with the Burns Night Celebration last January, which was a very successful event for raising funds for the scholarships. Then we had the Tartan Day event in Center Way Square in Corning, which again was a successful endeavor, then our picnic in late summer, honoring our scholarship winners. And finally our Annual meeting and St Andrews Day luncheon. There are so many behind the scenes activities to prepare for each of these. The board meets monthly and each member plays an important part. **Nedra McElroy**, our very talented Secretary, keeps us organized and puts this wonderful newsletter together for you.

Although it will be tough to top last year we will strive to make 2024 as good or better. We will start off this month with our **Robert Burns Celebration**. It will be held on January 27 at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center starting at 3 pm and ending around 6pm. We will again have all the traditional schedule of events with the address to the haggis, the toasts, Scottish food, auction and music. But this year we are adding additional entertainment. We are honored to have **Justin Crawford**, the Pipe Major From the Penn York Highlanders, sharing his talent on the Scottish small pipes. We will also have music from the **Caledonian Highlanders Pipes and Drums** plus music and dance by **Three Stone Fire** with their traditional Scottish folk music. We will again have Chef **Amanda Hughes** from A.Hughes Catering Co., Westfield PA preparing a wonderful Scottish meal and dessert. Please be sure to RSVP to me by **January 13**. You may send a check (\$45/person) or use my PayPal account: [timothyswan1780](https://www.paypal.com/paytoee/timothyswan1780).

We hope to see you there!
Bring a friend!

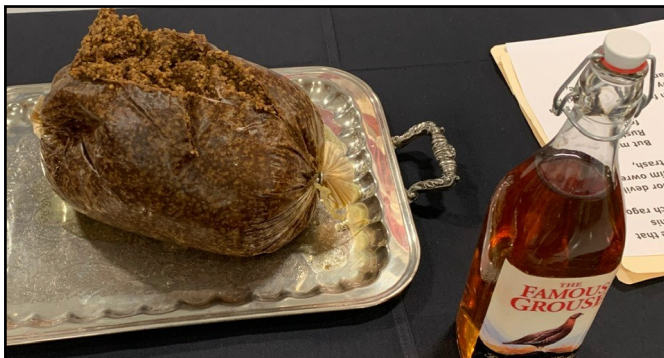
 *Timothy W. Swan*
Chief

ALL IN THE FAMILY:

You might be interested in seeing this young fellow, happily getting the feel of his new set of pipes...Santa had some help from Grandpa Tim, and adorable Finn O'Neil seems to be enjoying himself immensely. He also



looked quite dashing in his kilt at the Burns Dinner last year with his mom and dad, **Tori and Caleb O'Neil**. We don't think it will be long before he'll be joining the band in piping in the haggis!



GREYFRIAR'S BOBBY

—found on FaceBook: *Scottish Genealogy's* page
January 14th marks the 152nd anniversary of the passing of Edinburgh's beloved pooch, **Greyfriar's Bobby**. The wee Skye Terrier was, reportedly, the canine companion of the Greyfriar Kirk's Sexton, **James Brown**. When James passed away, he was buried in the Kirkyard he had tended. Next to Brown's grave is a table monument and wee Bobby was known to take shelter there, "guarding" his master, Jock.

When wee Bobby heard the daily firing of the One O'clock Gun from the Castle, wee Bobby would head out of the Kirkyard and stop next door at Traill's Coffee House where the owners would feed him scraps.

In 1867, the city imposed a mandatory licensing for all dogs in an effort to reduce the number of strays within the city. Any dogs who were not licensed would meet an early death. This created an outrage by citizens who were fearful that wee Bobby would be euthanized since wee Bobby's master, **Jock Brown** was dead so could not purchase a license for the wee dog.

Lord Provost **William Chambers** was also the Chairman of the RSPCA. He paid for Bobby's li-

Honoring Robert Burns 265th birthday,
the Scottish-American Society of the Southern Tier presents

BURNS DINNER



January 27, 2024 3-6 PM

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center
Big Flats, NY

Featuring Scottish Menu, Scottish Music with the Caledonian
Highlanders Pipes and Drums, Small Pipes Selections and
Three Stone Fire with Highland Dancing
Genealogical Assistance: Find Your Clan
Silent Auction benefitting our Scholarship Fund

Public Welcome

\$45

RSVP by January 13 to Chief Tim Swan, (607) 329-8359
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cense which reads "Greyfriar's Bobby from the Lord Provost 1867. Licensed" This essentially meant that wee Bobby now belonged to the City of Edinburgh and was free not only to remain at his master's side within the graveyard, but also to wander the street to get his afternoon meal. Bobby's collar with the license and his bowl are on display at the Edinburgh Museum in the Canon-gate on the Royal Mile.

This fountain and statue of

Bobby was erected in the street in 1873 by **Baron-ess Burnett-Coutts**. The precast mold of the statue are also on display in the museum.



Just inside the Kirkyard at Greyfriars is a monument erected in memory of Bobby. People often leave sticks when they visit. The City has recently erected a more stylized area around the monument. In this case, new isn't necessarily improved.

Ed. Note: Not to rain on anybody's parade, but there is an interesting disclaimer to this Bobby story in the January 13, 2023 *Edinburgh Reporter* found here: <https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2023/01/greyfriars-bobby-shedding-new-light-on-an-old-story/>. Oh, Dear!



In case the New Year provides an occasion for a good curse...granted, many of them are *gasp* *Irish* curses, but, they are wonderfully picturesque...

CELTIC CURSES

May the mornings scream at you.

May the enemies of Scotland never meet a friend.

May you melt off the earth like snow off the ditch.

May his pipe never smoke, may his teapot be broke

And to add to the joke, may his kettle ne'er boil,

May he keep to the bed till the hour that he's dead,

May he always be fed on hogwash and boiled oil,

May he swell with the gout, may his grinders fall out,

May he roll howl and shout with the horrid toothache,

May the temples wear horns, and the toes many corns,

Of the monster that murdered Nell Flaherty's drake.

May his spade never dig may his sow never pig

May each hair on his wig be well thrashed with a flail

May his door have no latch, may his house have no thatch,

May his turkey not hatch, may the rats eat his meat

May every old fairy, from Cork to Dunleary,

Dip him snug and airy in river or lake,

Where the eel and the trout may feed on the snout
Of the monster that murdered Neill Falheerty's drake.



HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY NEW YEAR

An important element of Hogmanay celebrations is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a 'Guid New Year'. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note. Here's hoping that your Hogmanay included the recommended dark haired male as first guest after midnight. This 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year. To first foot a household empty-handed is considered very rude, never mind unlucky!

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

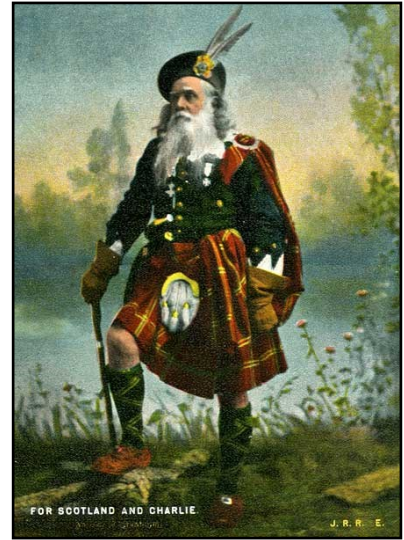
Look at your mailing label. If it says "lifetime," or 'benefactor', 'fellow', or 'comp,' you are current in your membership and will remain so.

If there is a year above your name, and it is not **2024** 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 membership is not current will be removed from the Society mailing list!

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
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Address Service Requested



DATES TO REMEMBER:

BURNS BIRTHDAY BASH
Saturday, January 27, 2024
3-6 PM
Wings of Eagles Discovery Center
RSVP by January 13!

TARTAN DAY
Saturday, April 6, 2024
Centerway, Corning (tentative)