



# The Caledonian

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



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

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(607) 562-7046

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(607) 776-6727 [mscrayola@stny.rr.com](mailto:mscrayola@stny.rr.com)

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76 University Street, Alfred NY 14802  
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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

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



### FROM THE CHIEF:

Hello warmer weather and welcome back robins. Although it was a moderate winter, I'm sure we are all ready for spring. Basketball enthusiast call this month March Madness due to the tournament that leads to the Final Four. But I call it March Madness due to all the piping

events that fill most of the month. From Solo piping at schools, pubs, restaurants and parties to the many parades in PA and NY.

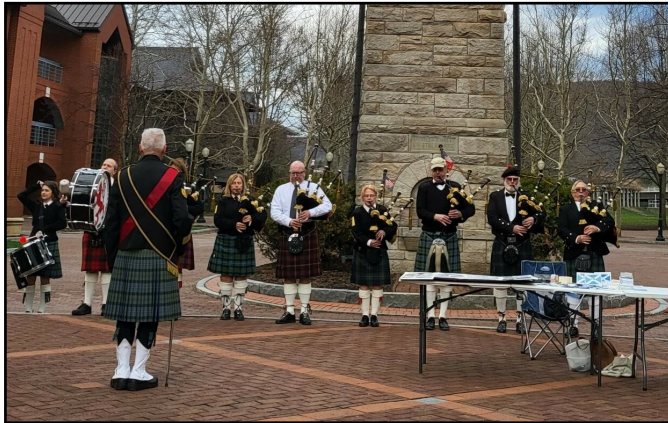
Although we associate Bagpipes with Scotland they were not invented there. What we know as the Great Highland Bagpipes were developed in Scotland. It is thought that invading Roman Armies brought the Bagpipes to Scotland. The earliest named piper was Emperor Nero (37-68 CE). But they are thought to have originally been from the middle east. There are more than 130 types of Bagpipes from around the world including India, Ireland, Canada, Sweden, Libya and of course Scotland. New Zealand has more Pipers than Scotland! Worldwide there are approximately 140,000 competitive bagpipers and about 780,000 overall Pipers. That is down from 1.1 million, less than ten years ago, according to the Glasgow School of Piping. When you see the numbers, us bagpipers, are dying off fast. At that rate bagpiping will be gone in fifty years.

Bill Sitzman and I were recently invited to the ASMS School in Corning, by SASST member Valerie Christy. Valerie's daughter attends the school and is one of my piping students. We set up a display, talked about Scotland and played for the students. Bill did his 'Find your Clan' table, Valerie had a nice display of Scottish items and apparel, and I had a display of bag-piper apparel and instruments.

Tartan Day is fast approaching. April 6th is International Tartan Day. On that date from 11 am to 3 pm we will offer music by the Caledonian Highlanders Pipe and Drum band, a ceremony including a proclamation by Corning City Mayor and a calling of the clans. Bill Sitzman will be there with his 'Find your Clan' and we are hoping to have other vendors of things Scottish. Hope to see you there!

 *Timothy W. Swan*  
Chief

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING TARTAN DAY!



The Scottish-American Society of the Southern Tier  
presents their fourth annual



Saturday, April 6, 2024

11 AM - 3 PM

Centerway Square, Corning, NY  
followed by a Market Street Pub Crawl

### Program

Welcome, Invocation by Chief Tim Swan  
National Anthem with Michael Flanagan  
Proclamation Presented by Bill Boland, Mayor of Corning  
Calling of the Clans by Chief Tim Swan  
Listen to the Pipes: Concert by  
The Caledonian Highlanders Pipes & Drums  
Find Your Clan: Bill Sitzman

**All are welcome!**  
**Hope to see you there!**  
**Bring friends!**  
**Wear your tartan!**

Questions, comments, concerns: [info@sasst.org](mailto:info@sasst.org)

## THE NATIONAL TARTAN DAY RESOLUTION:

\*Whereas April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320 and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on that inspirational document;

\*Whereas this resolution honors the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, Scottish Americans successfully helped

shape this country in its formative years and guide this Nation through its most troubled times;

\*Whereas this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts;

\*Whereas this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success;

\*Whereas these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate designates April 6 of each year as "National Tartan Day".

## 'THE LEGEND OF THE SCOTTISH BAGPIPES'

*Found on FaceBook: Scottish Kilts and Clan History,  
along with several other Internet sites*



Made by a **MacIntyre** piper more than 800 years ago, these pipes are believed to be one of the oldest sets of bagpipes in existence. The story recalls that the **MacIntyre** piper made the pipes after he had a dream in which a faery told him to heat his poker to be white hot and use it to pierce the bottom of his chanter, side to side. According to the faery, the pipes would make the sweetest sound in Scotland. Known as the 'Faery Pipes of Kinlochmoidart', they are suppos-



edly enchanted. Legend recalls that the pipes were played at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and that they were never played by the losing side of a battle. Of the original instrument, only the chanter now survives. A further distinction which is claimed on its behalf is that it is the first chanter ever to be made with sound holes.



It is normally kept in a special case in the West Highland Museum in Fort William in Lochaber. The blow-pipe, drone, and tartan bag date from a later period. An engraved silver plate has also been added to the drone to commemorate the pipes' importance.



Piper Andrew McIntyre with the Faery Chanter

It was played by **Andrew MacIntyre** from Edinburgh at the clan's banquet in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in July and later by **Ruaraidh Petre**, nephew of **Archie McIntyre**, a descendant of the MacIntyres, who formerly possessed it.

On this second occasion the performance was in Glenoe, the an-

cestral lands of MacIntyres at Loch Etive between Oban and Taynuilt. There a ceremony was held at a cairn to commemorate the chiefs of Clan MacIntyre. It was attended by the current chief's son, the first time the family had returned to Scotland since emigrating to the US in 1822.

**Dr Alison MacIntyre**, organiser of the gathering, said: 'The chanter has been out three times in 200 years. The last time was at the 2008 MacIntyre banquet when it was played by **Archie McIntyre**.

'The West Highland Museum was very gracious in letting us use the chanter from the Faery Pipes. Legend says they were enchanted pipes and we were really excited to have them at the banquet and at the cairn. It was a great few days for the MacIntyres.'

## A HISTORY OF TARTAN

### Part 1

by **Karen Gardiner** found at [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)

Tartan is known to have been worn in Scotland since at least the third century A.D., yet its precise origins are shrouded in mystery. Unlike tweed, tartan (often called "plaid" in the United States) uses a simple "two over two" twill weave to create a bright pattern of interlocking stripes—a process that visitors can watch at mills in the Borders, Highlands, and Edinburgh.

Traditionally made from wool, the strong and hard-wearing cloth was favored as practical everyday wear by Highlanders, the largely Gaelic-speaking clan societies of Scotland's north. By the mid-18th century, the bold print became a symbol of allegiance to **Charles Edward Stuart**, better known as **Bonnie Prince Charlie**, who led an army of tartan-wearing rebels known as Jacobites into England in 1745.

It was the last in a series of Jacobite uprisings that attempted to topple Britain's Protestant **King George II** from the throne and restore the Catholic House of Stuart, which had originated in Scotland.

After the Jacobites' final defeat at Culloden in 1746, Highland dress, the traditional clothing that reflected the region's rural environment, was banned. Among the prohibited garments were the phillabeg (little kilt), trews (tartan tights), and tartan-patterned great (trench) coats.

But one of "the greatest misunderstandings," says **Peter MacDonald**, historian and head of research and collections for Scottish Tartans Authority, is that tartan was "banned per se," rather than only some patterned items. Nevertheless, "because the Highlander was forced into Lowland dress"—the more tailored, European clothing style of the period—"his everyday link to tartan was irrevocably severed," MacDonald wrote in an essay. The ban's 1782 repeal changed tartan forever.

*Continued in next issue...*

## 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!



Prince Arthur dressed up as Bonnie Prince Charlie for the 1871 Waverley Ball

## 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:

### TARTAN DAY

Saturday, April 6 11 AM—3 PM  
Centerway Square, Corning

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PICNIC

Saturday, July 13  
Mossy Bank Park, Bath

Finger Lakes Celtic Games and Festival: Canandaigua, May 18th 2024

Genesee Valley Museum Celtic Faire: Mumford: June 22 & 23

Central New York Scottish Games: Liverpool, August 10

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games: Sept. 14 & 15