

The Tartan News

A Publication of the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania

Attend the Scottish Society's Annual Meeting

Bring Tae the Spring Gathering

The Scottish Society of
Central Pennsylvania's
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 29th, 6:30 PM
Camp Hill Presbyterian Church
101 N. 23rd St., Camp Hill
www.thechpc.org

Soups, sandwiches and desserts will be
provided.

(Donations will be gladly accepted!)

The Annual Meeting is a time for membership and Society leadership to meet and discuss the future of the Society.

This year we are happy to announce that the Loud McLeod Pipe Drum Trio will perform! And you'll want to get your Tartan Day pins, which will be available for \$1.

You need not be heavily involved in Society affairs to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting (or to participate on the Board or committees). You need only to be a member to vote in elections of Board members and officers.

Even though you needn't be heavily involved to participate in the annual meeting, we hope you will consider doing so. Please see our current needs on page 6 of this publication and contact anyone on the Board for more information. (If you are not sure how to do this, you can always send an email to me at jenniferz@mail2world.com and I'll see that your message is promptly routed.) Thanks!

Please come and enjoy food, fellowship, and musical entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there!

Inside this issue...

Burns Supper Review	page 2 & 3
This & That	page 4
Upcoming Events	page 5
Help Wanted	page 6
Share Your Clan Tartan	page 6
More This & That	page 7
Membership Form.....	page 7
Kirkin' o' the Tartans.....	page 8

President's Message

Welcome again to our informative newsletter. We have several exciting events for you to attend in April and June. Also, don't forget to wear your favorite Tartan on April 6th for Tartan Day!!

Sunday, April 27th is our Kirkin' o' the Tartans ceremony at Pine Street Presbyterian Church. We have a free parking garage if you would like to park there instead of along the streets. The service starts at 11:00 a.m. at Third and Pine Streets in Harrisburg. Don't forget to bring a swath of your Tartan!

2008 Burns Supper Review

Our Society's 54th annual dinner, celebrating the 249th birthday of Scotland's national poet, was held at the Radisson-Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center on January 19th, one week earlier than normal. This earlier date may have partly explained a lower attendance of 144 (60 below last year) because a number of our members were absent on travel, including many members of Macdonald clan on a trip to Scotland. Our spirit remained good, however, and we enjoyed excellent musical entertainment from ever-popular Celtic singer Charlie Zahm, accompanied this time by fiddler and drummer. Many volunteer helpers (especially Flora Jespersen and Jesse Weigel) contributed to a successful evening.

Our Society piper Scott Erskine led two processions into the ballroom - the first of Society directors at 6pm to "start the ball rolling" and the second traditional Haggis Procession at 6:30, with Chef John Urwin and Ed Campbell's Honor Guard. This was followed by Society member George Birse, once again gave an excellent Address to the Haggis, in true Scottish brogue. The evening's authentic aura was further enhanced by heather and shortbread that was brought over from Scotland.

After completing the repast of Cock-a-leekie soup, haggis samples, entree (Shepherd's pie, salmon or vegetarian Portobello mushroom) and trifle dessert, our 15-year-old member Geordie Hall played the first of three pipe tunes to summon everyone back to the tables. She later did Amazing Grace and joined with Auld Lang Syne at the end, with the other musicians and everyone singing in a large circle just after 9pm.

Our Society chaplain, Dr. Russell Sullivan, once again gave a splendid Immortal Memory Address to honor Robert Burns - lively, succinct and instructive.

Our society is especially grateful to the same three sponsors who supported our event once again this year - Citizens Bank, Ed Campbell and James Macdonald.

The financial bottom line for the dinner was a small surplus of \$40 - helped by net raffle proceeds totaling \$270, with some 31 gifts taken away, including many kind donations. For the 4th consecutive year, the dinner price was kept at \$30.



President's Message, cont.

Tuesday, April 29th is our Annual/Spring Meeting at the newly refurbished Camp Hill Presbyterian Church on 23rd & Walnut Streets, just a block off of 21st and Market Streets. We will be electing and re-electing officers and board members for our Society. The Loud McLeods will perform for us with their energetic drums and bagpipes! We will have several soups, sandwiches and desserts to eat.

Saturday, June 14th will be our 8th Annual Pipes and Drums Festival. In addition to our competing Pipe and Drum bands, we will have sheep herding, a petting zoo and delicious food! Our shawl/scarf contest was very popular and we plan to repeat this event. The children and adults can join in on the Scottish games of the Haggis throw and Caber toss. We have Cabers (cardboard tubes) of every size!! This truly is a family event. Don't forget to bring your comfy lawn chair or blanket, camera and join in on the fun!! Come get your face painted in your favorite colors and characters! We will have numerous vendors on hand, too. The best part is that we have free parking and free admission!! Come join us and have some fun!!

We look forward to seeing you at our many events this year.

2008 Burns Supper Photos



Karen Middleton at piano with husband Bob, this year's program manager and time-keeper.



Society Chaplain Rev. Dr. Russell Sullivan, delivering the Immortal Memory.



George Birse, attended by Chef John Urwin and The Haggis, as he recites Robert Burns' *Address to a Haggis* in his wonderful Scottish brogue.



Geordie Hall -- the youngest piper we know!



This & That

Safer in the Kilt

A new (British) safety report confirms what every real Scot knows. Donning the kilt instead of trousers is good for your health. Department of Trade and Industry determined that putting on trousers poses a serious risk of injury because people lose their balance and topple over hurting themselves. The critical and most dangerous part is pulling up the second leg when the first is still at half mast. The yearly home accident report by the DTI estimates there were 4400 trouser victims last year. Another 400 injured themselves putting on their underwear. Kiltmaker Gordon Nicholson of McCalls of Edinburgh seized on the report as evidence of what he has been preaching for years. He said: "If people would only wear traditional costume, all this pain and injury would be prevented. "I have never heard of anyone injuring themselves putting on a kilt. "I've heard of people injuring themselves once they've got it on," he added. "I would think if there were any injuries linked to kilts then they would be from dancing or drinking."

~submitted by Allen Gordon

British National Anthem, verse 6 (!)

Lord grant that Marshal Wade
May by thy mighty aid
Victory bring
May he sedition hush
And like a torrent rush
Rebellious Scots to crush
God save the King

~submitted by John Cameron

Library of Congress Settles Scottish Spat

Card-catalog classifications hardly seem the subject of trans-Atlantic imbroglios, but the Library of Congress recently settled one when it agreed to reinstate a past policy of classifying works by Scottish authors under the heading "Scottish literature." Early last year the library started classifying about 600 titles by Scottish writers as "English literature," with subheadings like "Scottish authors" or "Scottish poets." That offended the National Library of Scotland, which complained, enlisting the support of an American congressman, Mike McIntyre, Democrat of North Carolina. Early this month, the librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, wrote to the National Library of Scotland and the British Library, informing them that the Scots would get their own catalog distinction. As of now the Library of Congress is still classifying the works of Irish and Welsh writers under subcategories of English literature, but a spokesman, Matt Raymond, said the library has yet to receive any complaints.

~submitted by John Cameron
(Excerpt from New York Times Article: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/16/arts/16arts-LIBRARYOFCON_BRF.html)

Fiona asked her husband: "What do you like most in me, my looks or my intellectual ability?"

Josie looked at her from head to toe and replied: "I like your sense of humor." Josie should be out of intensive care soon.

Haggis ban an offal burden?

Scotland is considering lobbying the United States to lift a ban on haggis, hoping to boost sales of the sheep-stomach-based national dish.

The U.S. banned imports of Scottish haggis after Britain's outbreak of mad cow disease, which is linked to the human brain illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Scotland's government insist its haggis -- which usually contains the heart, liver and lungs wrapped inside a sheep's stomach lining -- is safe and wants the ban lifted.

"The Scottish government will consider engaging the U.S. government on its haggis import ban ... It is safe or we wouldn't eat it here," said a spokeswoman. "We think there is a large market for it amongst expatriate Scots there."

She cited growing sales of tartans and the prevalence of Scottish clubs as evidence that Americans were taking greater interest in their Scottish heritage.

Haggis, a globally recognized symbol of Scotland alongside bagpipes, kilts and Scotch whisky, is an essential part of Burns night celebrations, which commemorate national poet Robert Burns and fall on January 25.

~submitted by Graeme Goodsir

Whisky may not cure the common cold, but it fails more agreeably than most other things.

Other Events of Interest...



NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

Sunday, April 6th

We hope that you will proudly wear your tartan on April 6th.

Americans of Scottish descent have played a vibrant and influential role in the development of this country. However not until 1997 was this influence recognized by a single-year U.S. Senate Resolution that appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 1997. In 1998 National Tartan Day was officially recognized on a permanent basis when the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 155 recognizing April 6th as National Tartan Day. This was followed by companion bill House Resolution 41 which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005. The passage of this bill was due to the work of the National Capital Tartan Committee, Inc., and president James Morrison.

The date of April 6th commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims, and which was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence.

National Tartan Day Website: www.tartanday.org



MID-SUMMER DANCE

Saturday, June 21st 4 PM - 8 PM

Silver Springs Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsburg

The Harrisburg Scottish Country Dancers are hosting a Mid-Summer Dance, with live music. A pot luck will be served and dancers are asked to bring a small food item to share. For information regarding admission fee, directions, etc., please contact

Jessica Hart at hartmitch@comcast.net, or 717-486-3929, or Brad Zuke at bradzuke@verizon.net, or 717-569-0668.

Dance briefs and more information can be obtained at:
<http://www.geocities.com/scottishcountrydance/UpcomingEvents.html>

Scottish Country Dancing was introduced into Central PA in the early 1700's by Scottish immigrants. It was gradually supplanted by newer dancing styles and eventually disappeared entirely. It was revived in 1982 by the organization of the Harrisburg Scottish Country Dance Society under the leadership of Douglas Rae. The Society also reintroduced Scottish Country Dancing to the traditional instruments of Scotland to Central PA, featuring the great highland bagpipes at its 12th Night dances.

Upcoming Events

National Tartan Day

Sunday, April 6th

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Pine St. Presbyterian Church, Hbg.

Sunday, April 27th, 11 AM

(See back cover for details.)

Annual Spring Meeting

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, April 29th, 6:30 PM

(See front page for details.)

Pipes & Drums Festival

Fort Hunter Park, Harrisburg

Saturday, June 14th

The Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania

www.PennScots.org

President: Jen Gardner

Vice President: Graeme Goodsir

Secretary: John Goodrich

Treasurer: Jesse Weigel

Past President: Shirley Johnstone

Board of Directors: John Cameron,
Jessica Hart, Dan Maresh, Peter
Nelson

Pipes & Drums Coordinator:

John Melville

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Ziegler

Submissions are welcome at:

jenniferz@mail2world.com

Every effort will be made to include
relevant articles.

Help Wanted, Needed & Gladly Accepted!

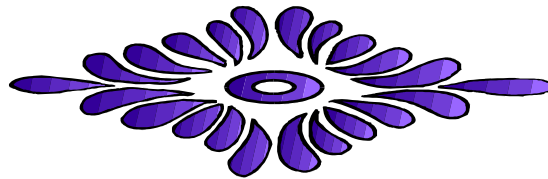
Our society has SPECIAL NEED for two enthusiastic people to join our board of directors for the following purposes:

~ONE to develop closer member communications - welcome new members, recruit new members and retain current members, while also surveying membership about new ideas for enjoying our events.

~ONE with a special role to encourage and develop interest BY YOUNG PEOPLE in our Society's activities and culture. We have funds available for this important purpose - for contests, awards, etc. - but need ideas to pursue and an able person to coordinate and implement this program. Attracting youth interest is vital for our Society's future.

The Board meets most months for a few evening hours and there is some communication and planning by email and phone.

If you can commit to a few hours a month with a lively bunch, please contact Graeme Goodsir at 975-9479, or talk to any board member. Thanks!



Proud of Your Clan's Tartan?

The Scottish Society of Pennsylvania maintains a collection of tartan banners, which are displayed at the annual Burns Night and at other functions. Currently, the Clan tartans represented are:

- Buchanan
- Burns (District)
- Cameron
- Campbell
- Fraser
- Galbraith
- Hamilton
- Johnstone (Ancient & Dress)
- MacDonald
- MacLeod
- Stewart (Dress)
- Thompson

There is an opportunity for you to add your Clan to the list!

You can do so by contributing a piece of your tartan (27" wide by 34" long). We will mount it in the same manner as existing banners and add it to our collection.

This can be a fitting way to show your tartan!

If interested, please contact John Cameron at 717-497-9933.

More This & That...

The Scottish Blackface Sheep is also known as Blackfaced Highland, Kerry, Linton, Scottish Mountain, Scottish Highland, Scotch Blackface and Scotch Horn. The breed is the most common breed of sheep in the United Kingdom. This tough and adaptable breed is often found in the more exposed locations, such as the Scottish Highlands or roaming on the moors of Dartmoor.

Early monastery records show that monks in the 12th century raised sheep that are the progenitors of the modern Scottish Blackface breed. The monks used the wool of the dun-faced sheep, as they were often called, for their own clothing and exported large amounts to Europe. Latter records show that in 1503 James IV of Scotland established a flock of 5,000 Scottish Blackface Sheep in Ettrick Forest in the area south of Peebles in the Borders. Today the Blackface is the most "important" breed in the British Isles. Roughly 30% of all sheep in the UK are Scottish Blackface.

The introduction of Black Faced Highland sheep to America first occurred in June, 1861, Hugh Brodie imported one ram and two ewes for Brodie & Campbell, New York Mills, New York. In 1867 this flock and increase was purchased by T. L. Harison of Morley, St. Lawrence County, New York.

There has never been a case of naturally occurring Scrapie in a Scottish Blackface Sheep. In a controlled study in the UK goats and Blackface were infected by researchers but there is not one documented case of naturally spread scrapie in a Blackface raised in the USA or the UK.

(Further information: http://www.ramshornstudio.com/blackface_breeders_guild.htm, <http://www.scottish-blackface.co.uk/pages/homepage.htm>)

~submitted by Rohan Goodsir, via Graeme Goodsir

Membership News

Please join us in welcoming new members:

- Doug Baillie
- Daniel, Kelly, Kylie & Sydney Cameron
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hooker
- Karen Rowley
- Russell Sullivan

It was one of those days of soaring temperatures in Scotland (when the thermometer recorded over 21C/70F) and Hamish was feeling the heat. "It's just too hot to wear clothes today," he said as he stepped out of the shower and asked his wife "What do you think the neighbors would think if I mowed the lawn like this?"

"Probably that I married you for your money," she replied.

Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania Membership Form

To become a member of the SSCPa, or to renew an existing membership, please complete and return this form with your payment to:
SSCPa, P.O. Box 280, Enola, PA 17025

If your address label is incorrect, or is not on the reverse of this form, please write your name and address in the box below. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Membership dues:
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009
\$15 for individuals
\$20 per family

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ year(s) membership.

Email address(es): _____

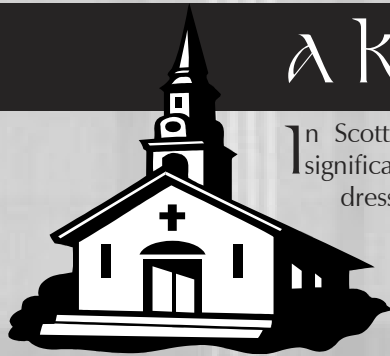
We do NOT share your contact information.

Please let us know if you are interested in learning about or participating in any of the following areas:

- Scottish Art/Music
- Scottish Dance
- Bagpipes
- Genealogy
- Scottish Cuisine
- Local History
- Membership Services
- Cooking/Baking
- Committee Work
- Event Planning

If you have any comments, requests or suggestions on how we might improve the Scottish Society, we'd love to hear them.
Your feedback is valuable and appreciated -- thank you!

A Kirkin' o' the Tartans



In Scottish history the tartans played significant roles in the Highlanders' dress codes, as well as in their distinct battle uniforms. As the English ultimately discovered, the tartan was, more than anything else, central to the Scots' overall identity and purpose. In fact, it was their most common link.

Historians tell us that by the time of the events culminating in the Proscription Act of 1746, it had become illegal to wear or even to display the tartan, much less play the bagpipes or sing Highland songs. However, the Scots, after the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746, when they were forbidden to wear the tartan because it was a symbol of Scottish rebellion against England, brought bits of tartan to church specifically to secure God's blessing on their clan colors.

The Scots were determined to hold fast to their ancient identities and the true meaning of their blessed rites. To that end, a sort of 'underground' Kirkin' o' the Tartans would often be held. The Clansfolk would usually walk to their nearest Kirk in an orderly fashion, sometimes carrying upon their person swatches of the material, appropriately concealed, to be 'Kirked'. Then, at a time

and pre-arranged signal known only to both clergy and parishioners, the Clansmen and Clanswomen would fondle their tiny tartan bits, while the presiding minister blessed the cloth in fluent Scottish Gaelic.

And so this tradition continues today. This year's *Kirkin' o' the Tartans* service will be held on Sunday, April 27th. Wear your tartan and/or bring a piece of tartan for the dedication.

A Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Sunday, April 27th, 11 AM
Pine St. Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg
www.pinestreet.org

Officiated by Rev. Russell Sullivan

*Free parking at the South Street Garage. Bring your ticket into church for validation.

Plan to stay for the reception following the service.

Questions? Contact Shirley Johnstone at: 249-6128

History from: <http://www.arizonascots.com/kirkin.html>



The Scottish Society
of Central Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 280
Enola, PA 17025

Our Annual Meeting is April 29th