

St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut

The Caledonian

Autumn 2020



From the Desk of the President:

One goal of this autumn Caledonian is to keep in touch even during an unusual time. No surprise that some of our typical news areas like events are not available. While other topics will be touched in a just in case mode; we'll also explore some pieces from various Board members.

Our annual Society meeting in early December is cancelled. The major annual meeting business is election of the Society officers and board. We will get to this as soon as is both allowed and practical.

From our bylaws: *The term shall be one year (January 1 - December 31) or until a successor is duly elected.*

Perhaps you will find a way to celebrate St. Andrew's Day on November 30 in 2020.

You may have heard this, but I was surprised. Covid-19 is in such a furious tear through the UK my sister-in-law is only allowed visitors outdoors sitting in her garden, and the bad weather prevents that. British nationals are not allowed entry into the US at this time, so she is blocked from coming.

Please invite friends and acquaintances to join or renew membership in the Society and support Scottish culture and heritage. The application is on the website. You could send the link to friends.

www.sasct.org/uploads/3/1/1/6/31160237/sasct_application_11-2014.pdf

Slàinte mhath!

Pam

Pamela Munro, President

Current SASCT Board of Managers

OFFICERS

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Pamela Munro | Recording Secretary | Peg Limbacher |
| Vice President | Catherine Sutherland | Corresponding Secretary | Heather Gromko |
| Treasurer | Peg Limbacher | | |

MANAGERS

Melanie Gustin, Sandy Sanderson, Joey Sanderson, Bud Wyllie, Gayle Wyllie, Kevin McCall



The Society 2021 Membership Renewal will be mailed in late November.

Please support the Society as we foster appreciation of Scottish heritage and culture.



Please return your membership renewal to our Membership Chairman:
Peg Limbacher 34 Ashlar Village Wallingford, CT 06492

Perhaps you know someone with Scottish interest. Please invite them to join us!

Find us on Facebook for posts of interest and announcements.

If you didn't receive this newsletter as an email attachment we may not have your current email address. Sadly more than half of your emails bounce back. Please be sure you include your email in the renewal.

SASCT Annual Robert Burns Celebration

This year's event planned for January 2021 is postponed until 2022.



Saint Andrew's Day November 30

St. Andrew's Day is the feast day of Saint Andrew celebrated on the 30th of November and Scotland's official national day. St. Andrew's Day is marked with traditional Scottish food, music and dance. Schools across Scotland hold special St Andrew's Day events and activities including art shows, Scottish country dancing, lunchtime ceilidhs, dance festivals, storytelling, reciting and writing poems, writing tall tales, cooking traditional Scottish meals, and bagpipe-playing.

Flowers of the Forest

Long time Board member Mary (Coutts) Ehrler of Bethany June 19, 2020
Former Board member Helen M. Ruthven of Branford April 23, 2020
Rev. Richardson Armstrong Libby served as Chaplain of SASCT April 2, 2020
Frederick Schmalz of Windsor Locks June 21, 2020
Martha Schmalz of Windsor Locks April 9, 2019
Terrance Tancredi of Salem December 17, 2019
Thomas Scanlon of Norwalk March 20, 2020



St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut Education Awards

Have a piper, drummer, dancer, kilt maker, Gaelic singer in your family?
The Society supports workshop participation in Scottish cultural lessons with education awards.
For details and award application see the page below. Applications are due by March 15, 2021.

<http://www.sasct.org/education-awards.html>



Connecticut Piping and Drumming Workshop

The Society is proud to have members organizing the **Connecticut Piping and Drumming Workshop** for a move to Enders Island in Mystic.

From the website www.ctpipingdrumming.com

"While it is difficult to anticipate what the spring will bring, be assured that we are taking everyone's health and safety as our utmost priority as we move ahead with planning. Check back on their website or Facebook page for updates!"

For those interested in Archaeology

An online event, hosted by Archaeology Scotland, Thomas Legendre takes us on a journey to Kilmartin Glen, exploring the prehistoric landscape through fictional writing.
How do Neolithic sites become "personal" to us? How does the past become present, and the present past?

Check out the video, available on

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAlOAxPLHKKI&feature=youtu.be>



SASCT Board members have contributed below.

The Great Discovery

Melanie Gustin

When I retired as a teacher of the blind in 2012, I had no notion that my middle name was Scottish. How could I be so ignorant? Was my father unaware of his own heritage? He must have been aware to some extent, since his grandmother carried the name that became my middle one: Boyd. And she was intensely involved in her heritage. She had helped set up a DAR chapter in her town of Fulton, New York, back in the early 1900's, so she must have talked about it to her grandson. I so wish Dad had shared this when we were growing up.

I despised the name Boyd as a child. It was one more way to make fun of my name at school: Melanie became Melonhead, Boyd became Boy, Webb became Spiderweb. Sigh. I was glad to get rid of it when I married!

My plan upon retirement was to jump into family tree-building, which had always been an interest of mine. My father had died in 2001, so that resource was gone forever. My Mom, who had nurtured the interest in me, was now 90 and sadly no longer capable of helping me. I knew my maiden name, Webb, was English, and had thought Boyd was as well. Of course, I googled it, expecting nothing. But instantly there it was. Scottish!

Those of you who have known of your own Scots ancestry since childhood will not really understand this because that knowledge has become second nature to you, but I was absolutely astonished and thrilled at this discovery. My husband, Jim, and I had made our first ever trip to Scotland during the summer before, and I had fallen madly in love. In fact, I was presently in mourning over NOT being there. There is something about that place that pulls you. It pulls, lures, tugs, even when you have no idea that it is coaxing you home.

I now became obsessed. I joined Ancestry.com. I discovered the amazing Scots culture thriving in our own country. I joined House of Boyd Society. I joined our St. Andrews Society. I became the convener for House of Boyd in Connecticut and for the NYC Tartan Day Parade. I sucked up Scottish history like a vacuum cleaner. My family thought I'd gone off the deep end; had I?? And there was much eye-rolling from my children when my Christmas wish list had on it nothing but Scottish books, clothing, bagpipe music (oh yes! I love bagpipes!), and airline tickets headed East!

I had a goal now: to return to Scotland. The date I had in mind was 2014, to be there to celebrate the **700th** anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. I marveled at that number 700. We had nothing quite so ancient to celebrate in our youthful American history. And a sister event I was ecstatic about: marching with my Boyd clan in Stirling's celebratory kickoff parade!

A Remembrance

Lt. Col. Sandy Sanderson USAF (Ret.)

I had a happy adventure at the Glasgowlands Scots Festival in Massachusetts in the summer of 2017. Joey, my main squeeze, and I were there to assist Brian and Tabby Cooper with the Clan Donald tent. I did double duty with John Killion at the Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS) tent. At the last moment John invited me to fill in on the honor guard as they did their thing on the field during the opening ceremonies. He issued me a sabre to carry. I don't know much about the Manual of Arms with a sabre. So he gave me a quick training and off we went.

As we marched out, I was Tail-End-Charlie proudly holding my sabre at the "Carry Sabre" position in my right hand with the tip just inboard of the point of my right shoulder. I figured I could handle this job, ya know ... The Honor Guard detail marched smartly through a gap in the crowd marked off by yellow tape such as policemen like to use, bright, easy to see, but as it turns out not very strong. We did a Column Left – MARCH maneuver, got to our place and halted. We presented the flags at the proper times during the arrival of the various clans and the performance of the Massed Bands.

Then it was time to leave the field. John gave us Right FACE, Forward - MARCH. Shazaam! Tail-End-Charlie was now in the lead. Something Biblical about this: "The last shall be first" I led us to the proper point, ordered Column Right – MARCH, and then noticed that the yellow tape marking our gap in the crowd was gone, and actually there was no gap in the crowd any longer.

No problem! I was leading a bunch of big intimidating dudes in kilts at an impressive pace. And best of all, I had a sabre! I brandished same, waving it around in front of me while yelling out, "MALE A HOLE!" Wow, did they ever move! Scattered like. Well, whatever descriptive word your conscience allows you to use.

I might have to try this again sometime!

Heavy Athletics

Cathy Sutherland

History

The first recorded highland athletics is said to trace back to King Malcomb III (Malcomb Canmore) who lived from 1031 to 1093. He would test the abilities of his men in the areas of strength, running, riding, jumping and throwing in order to choose those that would defend his power and lands best. Other chieftains also developed contests to test their clansmen for defense of their households and development of their armies. It is also recorded that soldiers used these feats of strengths for both entertainment and to sharpen their skills for whenever or whatever might be needed.

Living close to nature it is not surprising that the Scots would choose things like rocks, stones, trees and various weights including sledge hammers to test their strength and overall prowess.

The Ceres Games held in Fife began in 1314 and is reported to be the oldest continuously held games. The highland games schedule in Scotland is from May to the last weekend in August. In the U.S. the season starts in January and ends in October or early November.

The ban by the British government in the 1700's from the wearing of the kilt and participating in highland games was an attempt to break up the strong national pride of the Scots and their Celtic way of life. In the old days a hard land require a strong and resilient population. This failed attempt seemed to only strengthen the Scots self-identity.

It is said that a Scot is a Scot wherever they live. This has given rise to the modern Highland games where the overall traditions and events can be embraced in all the parts of the world where Scots now live. Younger generations can learn and participate in events that the older generations are anxious to pass on their love of traditions. Everyone is allowed to participate in a highland games no matter whether they have Scottish Heritage or just want to be a Scot for a day.

Getting involved:

Sooooooooo if the heavy events interest you, how do you get started? The current games have added age, weight and gender classes have expanded participation to almost anyone. Some games even have wounded warrior classes for veterans.

The really nice thing about the heavy athletics is that at most games beginners and novice athletes are welcomed, helped and encouraged before, during and after a competition. Many of the athletes meet to train throughout the year. One of the best ways to connect with others interested in participating is to attend a games and speak to participants or the athletic directors. The governing body for Highland games in the United States is the North American Scottish Games Association (NASGA). This web site offers rules, connections and a place to find answers about technique and where the next games are.

In North America the traditional events are: stone put, Braemar stone, Scots hammer, heavy weight, light weight, caber, heavy weight for height, and sheaf toss.

Events contested:

Caber: Since each tree is unique, a caber can be of various lengths and weights most cabers for the open men's class are between 15 and 17 feet long with good taper and weigh between 120 and 170 pounds. The competitor tosses the caber by picking the narrower end up off of the ground while the rest of the caber is in the air vertically. When the fat top end go forward, the bottom end is pulled upward. The narrow end must travel over the fat end through the vertical. A perfect score is 12 o'clock with the competitor's feet at 6 o'clock.

Stones: Each games has its own stones so while the weight may be similar the actual stone is selected from nature so they are unique. In Scotland, they actual use a 16 pound shot put. Thrown from a painted circle or from behind a trig on grass. In North America, stones are throw shot put style from behind a trig (board or log with specific dimensions). Braemar stones are heavier and thrown from a stand.

Weights: The weights weigh 56 pound and 28 pound weights for the open men's class and are thrown also from behind a trig. Lighter weights are used for other classes.

The Scots hammer is a round headed sledge hammer that weighs 16 or 22 pounds. Competitors dig in to the ground with blades that can be made from anything included old bayonets. The hammer is wound around the head of the competitor with 2 hands on the handle and then let go over one shoulder towards the landing area.

The weight for height is tossed over a crossbar like that used in pole vaulting. The competition starts off at lower heights and moves up by agreed upon increments. Each competitor gets three attempts to clear a height. Only competitors that clear a height can go on to the next height. The winner is the competitor that clears the highest height.

The sheaf toss started out as mostly a North American event. The sheaf is a bag filled with rope or similar material simulating a sheaf of wheat or hay that weight 16 or 20 pounds. The competitor uses a pitch fork to spear the bag and toss it over a crossbar similar to the weight for height but with very different techniques.

Scoring: Each event is scored separately. The ultimate goal is to score the most points in order to win the coveted Athlete of the Day title.

Cathy Sutherland is Athletic Director of the Round Hill Games at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, Connecticut. She has directed athletics at Highland Games and Festivals over many years. Cathy is vice president of our SASCT and a retired physical education teacher.

Doing Genealogy Research in Scotland

Peg Limbacher, FSA Scot

I had planned on giving you a first-hand account of doing genealogy research in Scotland, as I had reservations to visit Edinburgh, starting April 25, 2020, for 10 days. Also hoped to take a side trip to Kirkcaldy, where my mother was born. I had already booked 3 days of research and selected my seat in 2 different research rooms in ScotlandsPeople's Center on Princes St. Edinburgh. I have done research in Scotland several times over the last 25+ years, but not recently and my plan was to bring you back current information.

However, the pandemic hit and my trip was cancelled. So rather than a first-hand account, this will be the "internet's view of doing research in Scotland". Hopefully my first hand report will be in 2021. I am praying I will be able to go.

Let's start with some basics in regard to doing genealogy research in Scotland. Here is a map with the parishes. If you know the parish, it will definitely help you narrow down where you have to look to find your relatives.

Scottish naming patterns (general guidelines).

My guess is that these are not used as much today as in the past, but it is a good start.

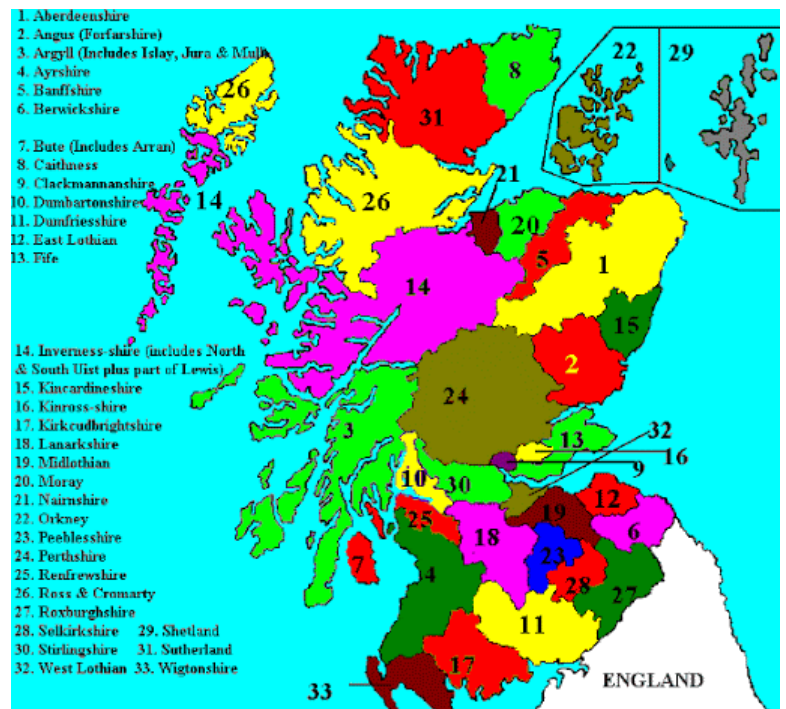
| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 st son | named for the father's father |
| 2 nd son | named for the mother's father |
| 3 rd son | named for the father's grandfather |
| 4 th son | named for the mother's grandfather |
| 5 th son | named for the father's grandfather |
| 6 th son | named for the mother's grandfather |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 st daughter | named for the mother's mother |
| 2 nd daughter | named for the father's mother, paternal |
| 3 rd daughter | named for the mother's grandmother, |
| 4 th daughter | named for the father's grandmother |
| 5 th daughter | named for the mother's grandmother |
| 6 th daughter | named for the father's grandmother |

In some cases you will find that the order is reversed with the 1st and 2nd children, i.e., the 1st born son being named after the mother's father and the 2nd born son after the father's father. If this is the case, then the daughters are also usually reversed.

If your family is like mine, the same names keep appearing from generation to generation and you can get very confused on which Alexander or Elizabeth or Margaret you are researching. On the other hand, the naming patterns can be a blessing because it can narrow down your search dramatically when the person has a middle name. For instance, my mother's name is Helen Black Allison. Her paternal grandmother was Helen Black. My mother's mother was Margaret Watson Urquhart and my great-grandmother was Margaret Watson.

You may also find instances where a child is named 'out of pattern,' after an aunt or uncle who has died, or after an admired other relative or friend. In addition, you might find a name 're-used'---and you will know that the earlier child had died.



Doing Genealogy Research in Scotland ~ page 2

Some websites of interest:

Scotlands Peoples Center is a paid site. Scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The ScotlandsPeople Centre is the official government resource for family history research. We provide access to the Scottish birth, death, marriage and census records, Catholic parish registers, Coats of Arms, valuation rolls, wills and testaments and more.

National Library of Scotland: www.nls.uk
National Records of Scotland: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history>
National Archives of Scotland: www.nas.gov.uk
Ancestral Scotland: www.ancestralscotland.com

Census of Scotland

Census records are closed for 100 years under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Census records are available 1841 to 1911 at the ScotlandsPeople website. However, it is possible that the 1921 Scottish census will not be released in early in 2022.

FYI, in the United States, *according to the "72-Year Rule," the National Archives **releases census records to the general public 72 years after Census Day. As a result, the 1930 census records were released April 1, 2002, and the 1940 records were released April 2, 2012. The 1950 census records will be released in April 2022.***

Scottish genealogy or family history societies.

Check their websites to see what they have. Not all societies have a physical location. Also, consider joining the society where your family came from, as they have good information and in some cases members who will help you with your research. They won't do it all for you, but they will give you some guidance. Personally, I belong to Aberdeen & NE Scotland and Fife FHS.

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS in Aberdeen; Borders FHS in Galashiels; Family History Society of Buchan, in Peterhead; Caithness FHS in Halkirk; Central Scotland FHS in Stirlingshire; East Ayrshire FHS at The Dick Institute in Kilmarnock; Fife FHS, c/o Arlene Little in Donibristle Village, Cowdenbeath; Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS in Glasgow; Highland FHS in Inverness; Lanarkshire FHS in Motherwell; Lothians FHS in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian; North Ayrshire FHS in Largs; Orkney FHS in Kirkwall, Orkney; Renfrewshire FHS in Gourock; Shetland FHS in Lerwick; Tay Valley FHS; and the West Lothian FHS in Fauldhouse Bathgate, West Lothian

Some books that may be of interest.

The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide, Amanda Epperson, 2018
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors, 2011
Scottish Genealogy Research by David Dobson, 2011
Collins Scottish Clan & Families Encyclopedia, 1994
Tracing your Scottish Ancestry through church and state records, and Tracing your Scottish Family History on the Internet, Chris Paton 2020;
Finding your Scottish Ancestors, Kirsty F. Wilkinson, 2020
Black's Surnames of Scotland, 1946

Peg Limbacher took a course in 1989 at Stirling University in Scotland on researching your Scottish Ancestors and has done research in Scotland several times since. Peg belongs to Aberdeen & Northeast Scotland Family History Society. She is the treasurer of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and our SASCT secretary, treasurer.