



The Saltire

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society of Rhode Island
Founded 1923, Incorporated 1998



Volume 93

2017

Issue I



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In the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, Scotland celebrates the richness of its intriguing history, impressive cultural heritage and fascinating archaeology. If you plan on visiting Scotland this year, be sure to check out all the wonderful events that have been organized in celebration. Visit www.VisitScotland.org. The Neolithic village of Skara Brae was discovered on the Isle of Orkney in the winter of 1850. Wild storms ripped the grass from a high dune known as Skara Brae, beside the Bay of Skail, and exposed an immense midden (refuse heap) and the ruins of ancient stone buildings. The discovery proved to be the best-preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe. And so it remains today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whisky Tasting
April 30th

RI Highland Games
June 10th
Annual SASRI Picnic
TBD



YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

If you feel that you have a talent that you are willing to share with the society I ask that you contact one of your Board Members – contact information can be found on Page 5 of this issue. The Society has a need for Board Members, Committee Members, Saltire contributors and general volunteers. Being involved in the Society is very satisfying and a great way to get to know the membership and foster rewarding friendships and connections.

Let us continue to encourage Scottish culture in Rhode Island. Your fresh ideas, organizational skills and enthusiasm are needed.



Rhode Island Burns Supper 2017

By Cathy Poirier



The 54th annual RI Burns Supper was truly a celebration of The Bard! Held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on February 4th, the dinner-dance was an exceptional night of entertainment, thoroughly reflecting Scottish heritage.

As piper John MacLean played, old friends and new gathered to recognize the 258th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. Before dinner, board members of the RI St. Andrew's Society provided the requisite toasts to the President, the Queen, and of course to Robert Burns. This was followed by Brother Enoch Valentine reading Robert Burns' The Grace Before Meal.

Between the initial dinner courses of Scottish broth and salad, the crowd enjoyed David Ward's recitation of Burns' Address to the Haggis. After a delicious entrée of short ribs, 'neeps and tatties', the dessert of apple pie and ice cream was enhanced by Elizabeth "Betsy" MacLean's talk on The Immortal Memory.

Thoroughly researched and expertly delivered, Betsy's talk first mentioned how many of Burns' works stemmed from his daily life and concerns, reciting from his works and briefly explaining those connections. Betsy also pointed out how Burns' political and social conscience was reflected in his poems and songs, and deftly connected those concerns with today's political and social concerns, both at home and abroad.

Both interesting and entertaining, Betsy provided insight to the works of The Bard for everyone.

A trilogy of Burns' songs was beautifully performed by Felicia Baker, Elizabeth Smith, Deborah Valletti, Donald Blais and Brother Enoch Valentine, with the audience resoundingly joining in to sing the chorus of The Star O' Rabbie Burns.

A Burns' Night Supper in RI is not complete without the presence and performance of the RI Highlanders Pipe Band. The crowd rose to its feet in applause and anticipation as the band entered the room, led by pipe major Debbie Kane. In addition to the band playing the expected standards, the surprise performance of a drum and pipe duet was exquisite, and the solo performance of drum instructor was phenomenal. After their performances, the band graciously stayed and played a song or two while the audience engaged in Scottish country music, while giving the band of the evening, The Irish Express, a well-needed break.

Dancing continued and was enjoyed by all until the end of the evening. The festivities concluded when fittingly, since he piped us in, piper John MacLean accompanied everyone in singing what is perhaps Burns' most famous work, Auld Lang Syne to end what was deemed by all who attended, a delightful and lovely event.





The National Trust For Scotland Foundation USA gathered March 29th for the 10th Anniversary of “**A CELEBRATION OF SCOTLAND’S TREASURES**”, at New York’s Metropolitan Club. The foundation honored Ken Burns with the **GREAT SCOT AWARD**. The Great Scot Award is presented to a Scot or American who has contributed to the countries' shared heritage. The 2016 award was presented to Phyllis Logan, who portrayed Mrs. Hughes on **DOWNTON ABBEY**.



THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for supporting Peter and I over the last twenty odd years. We have made the decision to move to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada to be closer to our daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

We will miss each one of you. It has been a pleasure to get to know you over the years and those years have been full of fun and lasting friendships. We have helped each other through the good and the bad and stayed together and grown as a Society.

I leave you with the Rhode Island Tartan and in a healthy financial standing, accomplishments I am really proud of. I hope you will continue to wear the tartan and to let people know that Scotland has a strong foothold in Rhode Island. Please support your Board, I know they will continue to do their best to make SASRI thrive.

We'll be back to check up on you all. This is not a goodbye, but instead “until later”. We will retain our email address and encourage you to check in now and then. The privilege to contribute has been ours.

Joyce Dell



RI HIGHLANDERS

BAND NEWS

A LITTLE THANK YOU TO THE BAND

The RI Highlanders are always very well received when they play at Burns Night. The Board is delighted to show our appreciation for all they do to promote Scottish music by giving the band \$1000 towards their new blue Argyle jackets. Pipe Major Debbie Kane accepted the donation on behalf of the band and would like me to pass along sincere thanks to our membership.

The Band has extended an invitation to the membership to drop in at any time to their weekly practices. Wednesday 7-10 at Varnum Memorial Armory, 6 Main Street, E. Greenwich

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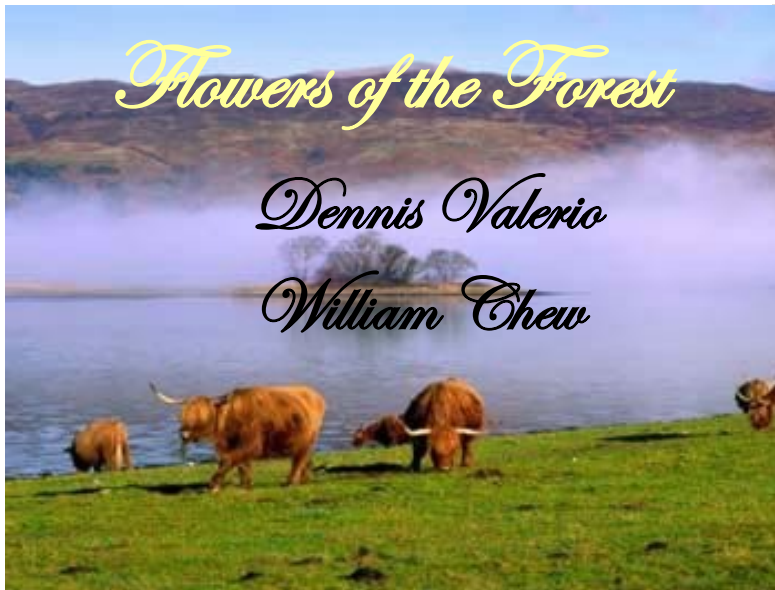
Member's Page



Flowers of the Forest

Dennis Valerio

William Chew



Welcome New Members

Roberta M. Humble

David & Vicki Caddis

Torre & Patricia Peterson

Michael Moore

Brian & Mary Jo MacKinnon

Dave & Lorna Beveridge

Stephanie Hall



The Clan MacLean Association is organizing the International Gathering at the Duart Castle, Isle of Mull June 20 – 25. 2017 will be the 125th Anniversary Gathering of Clan MacLean, since the reformation of the Clan in 1892, which was the 1st Gathering of the Clan after the Battle of Culloden. Safe travels to our own John MacLean!



Jim & Gail Kelleher and Joe & Nancy Muzzy competed in the NE Dancesport Championships in Mystic CT held in March. Our Scottish Country Dancers did us proud in this ballroom event!

LAMB SLIDERS WITH MINT AND CAPER MAYONNAISE

Courtesy of Food and Drink Magazine, Canada – One of my favourites. They freeze well uncooked. Enjoy! Joyce

SLIDER

- 1 lb. ground lamb
- 1/3 cup green onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. salt, or to taste
- 1/4 tsp. ground pepper, or to taste
- 1/3 cup feta cheese, finely diced
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 large egg
- 3 Tbsp. breadcrumbs

SAUCE

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. capers, finely chopped
- 2 tsp. fresh mint, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard



In a large bowl, gently mix together lamb, green onions, cumin, salt, pepper, feta, Worcestershire sauce, egg and breadcrumbs

Divide mixture into 8 equal portions. With wet hands, form into 8 patties, making a 1/4 inch indent in the middle of each so that it cooks evenly.

Heat an oiled grill on high and cook burgers for 5 minutes on each side or until cooked thoroughly.

Meanwhile, make mayonnaise by stirring together all ingredients.

Place on a slider bun and top with mayo.

Note to membership: Favorite recipes may be submitted to either jfmuzzy@verizon.net

or gailkr@verizon.net for publication in future issues of the Saltire .

JOHN BARLEYCORN'S BEST

Revisiting Memorable Themes From The Past



*The SASRI Tasting Team Will Explore New Whisky Offerings
From Some Well Received Past Tasting Themes
- complete with small bite pairings*

Sunday April 30th, 2017 at 3pm
Anawan Club, Rehoboth, MA

Limited to 25 paid tasters

Taster - \$45 per person (non-member \$50)

Non-taster - \$20 per person (non-member \$25)

*To secure your reservation please be prompt and make your check payable to
St. Andrew's Society of RI and mail to:
Peter Dell, 28 Cook Road, Cumberland, RI 02864*

To avoid any delays or errors in registering – please provide a return address, telephone number & or email address with your payment so we may promptly notify you if the tasting is full when you're reservation is received.

Directions

Route 44 East, to Route 118 South, left onto Kelton Street, right on to Gorham Street.

Watch for the sign for the club and a flag on the left.

Follow the dirt road to end at an idyllic log cabin – you have arrived

Cabin telephone #508-252-4615



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SAINT ANDREWS DAY CELEBRATION



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St. Andrew's Day, November 30th is celebrated the world over – but nowhere more than in Scotland. In addition to Scotland and fishermen, St Andrew is also the patron saint of unmarried women. St. Andrew's Day is regarded as a particularly auspicious occasion for girls and young women to perform the various folkloric rituals designed to reveal the identity of future husbands.

Since 2006, it has been officially recognized as a national holiday in Scotland, with events such as celebratory St. Andrew Feast dinners happening around the nation, and is marked around the world by the many St Andrew's Societies. The day features a celebration of Scottish culture, including dancing, food and music, and both the British Prime Minister and Scotland's First Minister give St. Andrews Day messages.

St Andrew's Day officially marks the start of Scotland's Winter Festivals, which includes the other seasonal highlights of Hogmanay and Burns Night. In Edinburgh, you'll find storytelling events and traditional music, as well as food and drink markets offering street food, sweet treats and seasonal crafts from local makers. And if you happen to be in Edinburgh, be sure to visit St. Mary's Cathedral which houses a precious relic – a bone from St. Andrew himself.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NH Highland Games

Sept. 15-17

Tartan Bash

Nov. 18th

Christmas Ceilidh

Dec. 2nd



THE “REEL” HEROES OF DUNKIRK

With a tip of the tam and gratitude to J. Roy McKechnie



This summer saw the release of the motion picture “Dunkirk”, an epic portrayal of perhaps the most dramatic and important rescue in all of human history. As with so many of history’s moments, there was a Scottish connection which endures to this day. In May, 1940, German forces raced towards France as a result of a blitzkrieg campaign in which the Nazis simultaneously invaded Belgium, The Netherlands and France itself. The British Expeditionary Forces in France were outnumbered and overwhelmed, and it soon became clear that the BEF forces as well as French and Belgian forces would be cut off, surrounded, and defeated. With his generals urging a final tank advance to wipe out the forces, Hitler hesitated. This hesitation provided the time to attempt the evacuation. It is no exaggeration to say that the fate of Europe and the entire world hinged on the success of that effort. A makeshift flotilla, including fishing boats and private pleasure boats, set sail over the English Channel while the Royal Air Force provided protection from above.

Against all odds, some 338,000 soldiers were safely evacuated and, four years later nearly to the day,

formed the backbone of the D-Day invasion that defeated the Nazis and liberated Europe. In addition to the flotilla and the RAF, the epic evacuation would never have succeeded without last line of defense as the Germans attacked; namely the Royal 51st Highland Division. These heroes held off the Nazis but were themselves unable to escape and, facing certain annihilation, surrendered.

The enlisted 51st troops were marched off to POW camps in Holland and Germany, while the Division officers – Argyles, Seaforths, London, Scottish, Cameronians, Black Watch, et al – were transported to Oflag VII C, Laufen Castle near Salzburg, and it was there that a flash of terpsichorean genius struck Lt. Jimmy Atkinson.

A subaltern in the 7th Battalion Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, Atkinson was a devoted Scottish country dancer. To help pass the weary early days of what would become five years of captivity, he began “thinking of dance tunes to keep my mind off grizzly thoughts, and soon an idea began to form.” Atkinson’s idea was pure inspiration. He envisioned a new dance formed around the diagonal

bars of the St. Andrew's Cross, the Scottish emblem and the design of the Highland Division's Badge. He joined the Oflag VII C reel club, shared his vision with the club's founder, London Scottish Lt. A.P.J. Oliver, and the two began sketching the idea on paper. While they had a clear view of the bulk of the new dance, what to do about the opening eight bars had them stumped. The answer came from Lt. Col. Tom Harris Hunter, former CO of the 51st Division's Royal Army Service Corps. and one-time Chairman of the Perth Scottish Country Dance Society: Key the new reel's initial eight bars to the start of "Lady Susan Stewart's Reel" in which the man leads his partner up the set.

By December 1940, the group meeting three times a week and (for lack of instruments) whistling various dance tunes, had polished the reel to what is essentially the dance today, "The Reel of the 51st". The notation of steps were sent home

via Prisoner Mail, but the Germans, suspecting some kind of Gaelic chicanery ("cast off 3 places, 5 to 8 lead up to top corners, 9 to 12", held all England-bound POW communications until Col. Hunter arranged a demonstration of the notations and their steps. Both Hunter and Lt. Atkinson sent the instructions home, but only Col. Hunter's were delivered to his wife in Perth.

Mrs. Hunter, a leader of the Perth wartime dance club, transcribed the steps, distributed copies, and to her amazement began to field requests for more from far and wide, and in doing so raised the equivalent of some \$750 for the Red Cross. The new dance even seems to have reached London fairly early on since the Royal Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, were said to have performed it at a 1941 Caledonian Ball.



The photo's annotation reads "1940,3 NCO,51ST High. Div" . It is believed to have been taken at Stalag XXI B POW camp in Schubin in 1940. The photo is from the 51st Highland Division web page.

“State of the Society” Report

As most of you already know, our beloved Joyce and Peter Dell have, alas, moved to Canada to enjoy retirement with their daughter and grandson. We, of course, wish them every joy and happiness but at the same time recognize the size of the shoes to be filled. Rest assured that fill them, we will.

Our Board of Directors is currently comprised of seven members (see below) and the Board members have undertaken several steps to ensure the vitality of the Society. Each of our annual events is ably chaired and all systems are go for this year’s Tartan Bash (November 18), Christmas Ceilidh (December 2) and for the Burns Supper (February 3) to kick off a full slate of 2018 activities.

The Board has undertaken the task of updating and streamlining our bylaws to reflect a reorganization of duties and in order to ensure that this Society will continue to flourish in the future. In addition, the Board is pleased to report that the Society is on a sound financial footing as we move forward.

On a different note, the Society is delighted to introduce our new and improved webpage! As you’ll soon see, our webpage has been completely redesigned in a more user-friendly format. Here you’ll find easy access to upcoming events, as well as interesting and useful information. Please check us out at www.sasri.org.

Finally, please know that your Society appreciates your continuing participation, welcomes your feedback and input, and looks forward to you sharing a little of your time and talent. As you can imagine, each of our activities is the result of planning and preparation by members like you. We’d love to have you join us in those efforts if you are willing and able. Whether it be planning, purchasing, decorating or in some other aspect, and whether it be for one event or many, please know that your efforts are more than welcome. It is your Society; put your stamp on it.

If you’re willing to lend a hand, please feel free to contact any of the Board Members .

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A Member Reminisces on his Trips to Scotland

By John Topping

I was born and raised in the north of England (1943 to 1960), in Preston Lancashire which is only about 70 miles south of Gretna Green. Preston is close to the big English seaside resort of Blackpool, close to where my mum was born and raised. We went there fairly frequently especially in the summer as did many Scottish families, bringing with them many Scottish pound notes which were readily accepted in Blackpool but were not in many other English towns (no euros in the UK!).

In my mid to late teens (early 1960's) I learned to drive, particularly in my uncle's Austin Mini, the forerunner of the current Mini-Cooper. He and I took a holiday in Scotland, driving up the east coast in rainy weather. The weather became clear and sunny and the views were spectacular as we drove across the north coast from John O' Groats through Thurso and beyond. Then we cut off the north-west corner and went down to Oban, then a lovely small harbour village, but also the eastern end of the transatlantic telephone cable from Great Britain to the US in the days before satellites.

Years passed. I married Fran (1967) and we moved to Canada (1970), and then to the US (1977). More years passed and in 2001 I lost my job and in searching for a new one, I took a trip to Edinburgh for a conference (the International Commission on Glass Science). A side activity included a highland games which featured throwing hammers, tossing cabers, highland dancing, a demonstration of falconry, and an opportunity for us to "play" the pipes. We did not really play; we just blew and the piper played the notes...., it takes a lot of puff! I also climbed the hill known as Arthur's Seat (that also takes a lot of puff) and met a geologist up there who told me that we were standing on the "birthplace of geology". He was very thrilled to be there.

Shortly after that we moved to Charlestown RI. We took a side-trip to Nova Scotia which was delightful, especially the "highlands" and "the only Scotch distillery in North America". In Pictou we were surprised to see a replica of the old sailing ship the "Hector", the Canadian equivalent of the US Mayflower, which brought the first settlers from Scotland to Nova Scotia in 1773. At last, I took another real trip to Scotland, driving from Preston (where else) to Loch Lomond, then past Loch Ba, through Glencoe (very misty), Rannoch Moor, and to the Isle of Skye via the car-ferry from Mallaig ("speed bonnie boat etc."). We stayed a few days there and we hiked the Quiraing and drove across the moors to Uist, Uig, with lovely views of the Cuillins. Then off the island via the bridge across the Kyle of Lochalsh, briefly past Loch Ness, and on up to Ullapool where we found that the boat excursion that we had planned to take did not run on Sundays. We did find an alternative that gave us good views of the coast, the wild ponies, and seals. We also found a monument to the aforementioned Hector that apparently left from Ullapool, another surprise. We then travelled past Loch Ness again and the Urquhart Castle to the Cairngorms for a day or two of scenic drives and hikes. Finally we headed toward Edinburgh but stopped for an unexpected visit to the Dalwhinnie distillery (Fran's favorite scotch). In Edinburgh we explored the Castle, St Giles church, the Royal Mile, Princes Street, the tartan weaving store, and the Scotch Heritage Centre where a TV camera crew was filming for a documentary (we ended up being on the "telly"). All in all, it was a wonderful trip!

Member's Page

The Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival & Games was held on a glorious day! The event was packed with folks from all over New England, enjoying the sunshine, food, and athletic competitions, and communing with their fellow Scots and Scotophiles. Our booth at the Clan Village was well attended, and perhaps we'll see some of those visitors as future members. And we are proud to announce that one of our members was a finalist in the Bonny Knees contest! Can you guess who this is?



Flowers of the Forest
Alan Garrott Cameron
April 19th, 2017

Scottish Country Dancing

Join us for Scottish Country Dancing! Our group meets **three times a month from October through June**; the new season begins October 2nd, 2017. All skill levels and ages are welcome; no prior knowledge or experience required. Just come have fun— we are a friendly group!

Dress is informal, but soft shoes for wood floors are recommended. Non-society members are welcome. Dances are held Monday evenings (EXCEPT the 2nd Monday of each month) at:

The American Legion Hall – Auburn Post

(Behind Cranston City Hall) 7 Legion Way Cranston, RI 02910

Doors open at 7:15 pm, with dancing from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm; the cost is **\$6 per person**. Tea and Refreshments will be served.

If this is your first time attending, please contact Ruth Gravel (ruthgravel@gmail.com) so she will know to expect you, and to answer any questions you may have.

NOTICES

Dear Members, please be so kind as to notify Shirley Loiselles when a Society member passes on so that she may include this information in the Saltire -

(shirleyloiselle3@gmail.com)

If you have a special event/photo that you would like to include in the next Saltire, please send this information to Joe Muzzy (jfmuzzy@verizon.net) and/or Gail Kelleher (gailkr@verizon.net).



Whisky Tasting 2017

By: Cathy Poirier

The whisky tasting of Spring 2017 is one to be remembered! Held at the Anawan Hunt Club in Rehoboth, Massachusetts the 20 tasters were well warmed after imbibing the choice whisky selections of Peter Dell and Joe Muzzy. The six samples were considered to be the “best of the best” of previous tastings, and each proved to be a favorite of at least one of the tasters.

Not to be outdone by the whisky, the food pairings provided by Donald Blais were divine! Served by Joyce Dell, Shirley Loiselle and Nancy Muzzy, tasters and non-tasters alike were delighted to delve into such delicacies as potatoes stuffed with sour cream and chives, haggis puffs and smoked salmon. The usual array of cheese, crackers and assorted fruits available also helped to assuage any hunger pangs throughout the afternoon.

While the day itself was cold and raw outside, inside the clubhouse was filled with the warmth of good friends enjoying good food and whisky. You just can't beat that!

The following pictures are of some of the places visited by John and Fran Topping and mentioned in his article on page 5.

First is the seaside village of Oban.

Second is Arthur's seat.

Third is Urquhart Castle.

