



The Saltire

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



Volume 90

2009

Issue 2

250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THE BIRTH OF ROBERT BURNS

STORY ON PAGE FOUR



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SCOTTISH ARTS EVENT AT NATHANAEEL GREENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

On culture day, students at Nathanael Greene Middle School stopped in their tracks when they turned down the corridor and saw their teacher, Mr. Cannady fully "kilted" out. "It was a big success," Cannady said. "The kids were quite

interested in learning all about the kilt, its history as well as its use in modern times." Mr. Cannady's 6th grade English students are part of the Advanced Academic Program at Nathanael Greene Middle School.
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Save the Date



4th Annual Whisky Tasting
May 17th, 2008 at 3PM
 See page 6 for details



Student Project, Burns Cottage



A Scottish Version of Monopoly



Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold



In Africa the local Swahili name for African Blackwood is Mpingo. Woodwind musicians around the globe are concerned for the future of this amazing tree. Without proper conservation and regulation of this resource, the mpingo may be commercially extinct within 20 years.

The Mpingo, or African Blackwood, is a very slow-growing tree, reaching maturity after 70 years. In Mozambique, Kenya, and Tanzania the tree is not being reforested at the rate of harvest. While bassoons are made increasingly of maple, the best clarinets, oboes, wooden flutes, and bagpipes are made from the Mpingo.

The wood's unusual qualities and characteristics are especially suitable for wind instruments. Underneath the light colored sapwood is the core or heartwood. The best heartwood is inky black, but ranges from dark brown of indigo-purple. The darkest wood seems to be a result of very slow growth. The wood turns beautifully on a lathe, taking precise cuts and finishing to a lovely natural lustre. The best heartwood can bring \$18,000 per cubic metre. The wood is hard and durable. The very fine grain and oils allow a beautiful finish without need of varnish. It can blunt axes and so is rarely used for firewood. The densest Mpingo heartwood sinks in water. Its natural oiliness

seals the surface and prevents moisture from moving deep into the grain. The oils protect metal rings, keys, and mounting screws from corrosion. The wood's resistance to changing moisture and temperatures result in a more stable tone.

Quite frequently pipers complain about their pipes shrinking and/or cracking, the result of early harvest and turning of uncured, immature Mpingo. This is the result of increased demand for the wood and of the economic realities of living in Africa. Two of the three countries mentioned are now quite unstable. In an earlier column I talked of the pipes I bought from a retired piper in Pawtucket. I have since sold my first set of pipes (made by Kenneth MacLeod) and kept the old Grainger & Campbell pipes. While my MacLeod pipes were the envy of other pipers in my band, the older Grainger & Campbell pipes have an even steadier, mellower tone. They stay in tune much longer. My G&C pipes are older and are perhaps turned from older, denser wood harvested at a time of less demand.



There are conservation associations devoted to the preservation of Mpingo trees. The US Pipe Band Assoc. is contributing money and publicity to the cause. Much of the information in this article comes from The Mpingo Conservation Project.



Scottish Arts Event at Nathanael Greene Middle School

By

Jordan Cannady



“My students start each day off with some sort of writing prompt or exercise. Also, while they do the prompt they listen to a new song carefully selected for them.

“I expose them to a wide variety of music; everything from Opera to Scottish bag piping, from Mississippi Blues to Tangos. The music that the students have most enjoyed has been that of a Scottish band called Malinky.

“I had the opportunity to spend some time with Malinky when they came to Rhode Island for their final concert before flying back to Scotland this month. When I told their lead singer Fiona, that their song, Broomfield Hill was the student’s favorite she was thrilled.

She loved the idea of 6th graders in Providence, RI. being engaged by their music. That night, in the middle of their concert, the group stopped and told the audience the story about the 6th graders who love their Celtic music. They then dedicated Broomfield Hill in honor of their 6th grade fans and performed it.”

After the concert, the band all autographed a poster for the students. They told Cannady that next fall, when they return, if they are in town during a school day, they would like to stop by the school and meet their young fans.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns and Cannady, a Scottish musician in his free time decided to add on a special two week lesson covering the literature and arts of Scotland.

Over the two week period the students learned a “wee bit o’ Scottish Gaelic”, read and practiced some of the poetry of Robert Burns, wrote extensive research papers, wrote parodies of Burns poetry and worked in groups to create projects including models of Burn’s Cottage, a Scottish Castle,

a 17th century Scottish farm. Some students, designed intricate board games, baked real Scottish Shortbread and Empire Biscuits, wrote original plays and even created Scottish PowerPoint presentations.

To reward the students for all of their efforts, Cannady put on a special Scottish Arts Event in the auditorium for the students and their parents. The entertainers included Bob Hanold SASRI piper, Tom Maguire an Irish musician and playwright and THE DRAM BOYS a Scottish duo featuring Jordan Cannady and his partner Richmond Cargill.

The event was strongly supported by members of Saint Andrew’s Society of Rhode Island. Mr. John MacLean of the St Andrews Society of Rhode Island brought a genuine Haggis with him and did a spirited recitation of Robert Burn’s popular poem, Address to a Haggis. The students each had their own copies of the poem in the Old Scottish Language and loudly recited the poem back to him from the audience.

During the show, two different student groups performed original Scottish plays and two girls recited Scottish poetry.

The students filled the hall with their voices when they joined in and sang along with the DRAM BOYS on the traditional Scottish song, MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN. The show ended with THE DRAM BOYS, BOB HANOLD and the entire audience joining in and singing the immortal Burn’s classic AULD LANG SYNE.

Afterwards, the parents joined Jordan and the other Scottish entertainers and guests in the library for traditional Scottish baked goods and coffee. They then spent time admiring many of the projects and examples of some of the writing assignments done by the students during the two week lesson.





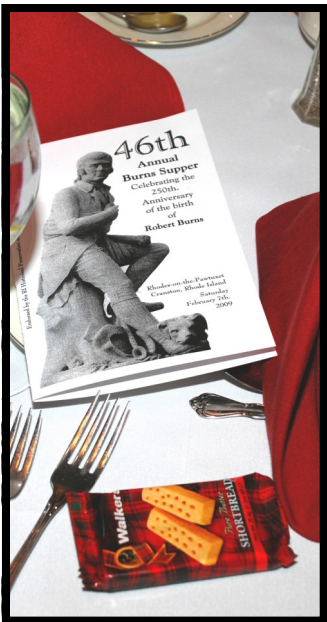
250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THE BIRTH OF ROBERT BURNS

In a difficult economy, it was a pleasure to welcome almost four hundred people to Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet to celebrate the 250th. anniversary of the birth of Scotland's Bard: Robert Burns.

The Burns Anniversary Committee worked very hard to maintain the cost at \$45 and providing an exceptional entertainment value with the following line up:

Music by the Irish Express; Solo Piping by Jack MacLean; the great voice of Donald Blais with Bro. Enoch Valentine on keys; the Rhode Island Highlanders pipe band under the direction of Debbie Kane; the Immortal Memory by Robert Hanold; Potter Photography to help you record your memories of a great night and, last but not least, Joyce Dell calling and encouraging us all to dance.

A huge "Thank You" to all for another fabulous night.



Graeme Smith serves his guest's.



First ones on the floor to get the dancing started.





The audience lifted their glasses in a toast to Robert Burns.



Brother Enoch John says grace.



Piping in the “celebrated” haggis.



Bob Hanold gives the “Immortal Memory”.



The Rhode Island Highlanders did a great job.





HOLD YOUR
SPOT
RESERVE SOON

WHISKY TASTING

May 17th, 2009 at 3pm
Anawan Club,
Rehoboth, MA

Member John Aulerich will take you on

A Single Malt Tour of the flavors of Scotland

Limited to 25 tasters - member preference until May 1, 2009

*To guarantee your reservation payment must be received ahead of time
– no exceptions*

Hors d'oeuvres will be served

Taster - \$35 per person (non-member \$45)

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

Please note : Non-members may use the differential in price towards the cost of a membership in the society.

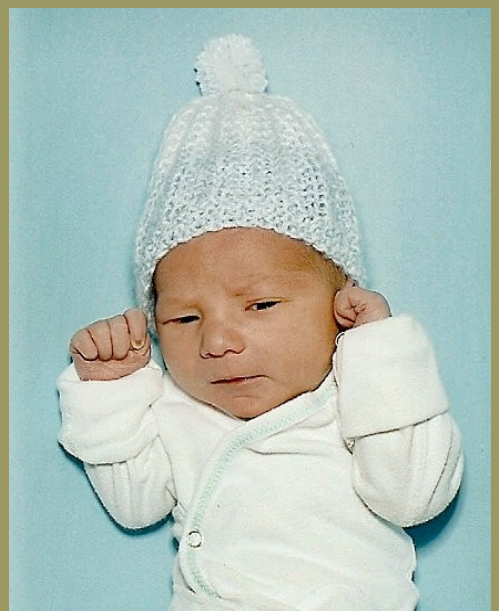
*To secure your reservation please make your check payable to
St. Andrew's Society of RI and mail to:
Virginia Butler, 14 Marjorie St., Coventry, RI 02816*

*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*

Members Page



Manami & Majyu, guests of Michael Costello,
say goodbye to Bob & Joyce



Proud new Great Grand-Parents
Virginia & Joe Butler
Joseph Michael M^cMillan
February 25th 2009
7lbs 2ozs

“Thank you note from the girls to Michael”

Good evening Michael,

I had a very very good time last Saturday!!

I could learn and enjoy many things thanks to you.
Also, I could meet many new people. They were so kind and friendly
and I was very happy to meet such a NICE people.

And thank you very much that introduced Majyu and me in front of
everyone.

I was very nervous but it was good experience for me. I was very
happy because people were
welcomed Majyu and me.

And I enjoyed dance very much!! Scottish dance were very fun!!
I was feeling in the movie. I was very very HAPPY.
I thought dancing is No border!!
I'll never forget this experience. Someday I want to go your hometown
Scotland.

Thank you very much.

See you

Manami Tanaka



Proud new grandparents -
Richmond and Carole Cargill
share a picture of
Michael Spencer Farina born
March 23rd, 2008



CELTIC MUSIC

By Ruth Gravel



APRIL

Long Time Courting/Matt Heaton & Flynn Cohen - Irish/American

Blackstone River Theatre, April 11th at 1:00 PM

Maeve Donnelly with Tony McManus - Irish/Scottish

Blackstone River Theatre, April 18th, 8:00 PM

MAY

North Sea Gas - Music From Scotland

Blackstone River Theatre, May 9th, 8:00 PM

JUNE

Pendragon

R.I. Highland Festival

June 13th



Long Time Courting



Maeve Donnelly with
Tony McManus



North Sea Gas



Pendragon

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OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY

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Let's Not "Skirt" the Issue 8

Joe and Nancy Muzzy and Cindy McDonald volunteered to organize the Tartan Picnic and what a great day it turned out to be. It was not without its trials. They arrived at the cabin to find it closed with no access to the cooking facilities or toilets. They adapted well and by the time our members arrived there was the smell of barbecue and music playing in the background.

Later in the day we thankfully gained access to the cabin – with an apology from the caretaker.

What a pleasant and entertaining afternoon. If you were unable to attend this year, please plan on attending in 2010. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members in a casual setting.

We were entertained by Roger Tremblay and Friends. They played on the porch with the backdrop of the cabin and the sun dappling through the trees on to the lake – beautiful. A broad repertoire of Scottish and Irish tunes filled the air and they had all feet tapping and a few singing along.



Upcoming Events

October 11th
 Scottish Highland Festival
 and S.A.S.R.I.
 Annual Meeting
 Scotland, Connecticut

November 6th
 Tartan Bash

November 8th
 Kirkin o' the Tartan
 St. Michael's Church,
 Bristol, R.I. @ 10:00 AM



Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold



Technology changes so rapidly, while I am somewhat set in my ways. My cell phone doesn't take pictures, and I don't know how to text. I'm not even sure what "twitter" means. I suppose it is fitting that I play a primitive instrument that has changed very little over the last thousand years.

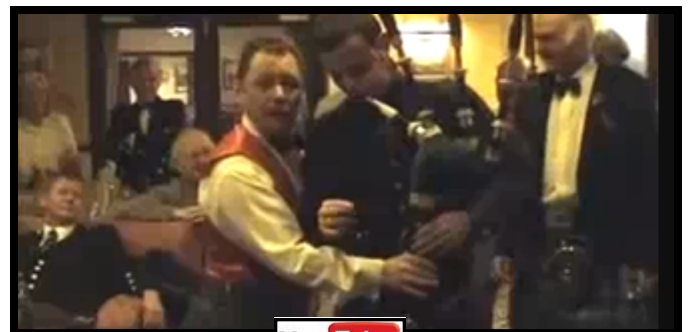
Because it has only nine notes, and the volume is constant, this instrument is more limited than most. Of course such limitations serve almost as a challenge or dare to the best pipers. In spite of my clumsy and limited use of the computer/internet, I have sampled quite a few film clips on YouTube and those featuring Gordon Walker are quite entertaining.

Gordon Walker was born in 1967, and started his piping lessons at the age of four. He was very successful in

the junior piping competitions and then literally blew away the competition at the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. He won the Silver Medal in Piobaireachd at the age of 16, the youngest winner ever. Piobaireachd requires flawless technique and endurance, as some pieces go on for 15 minutes. Moreover, the lament calls for a level of emotional maturity and thoughtfulness not expected in a 16 year old piper. Walker's best years of competition were the '90's, but you can see his amazing skills in a number of clips on YouTube. A particular favorite is entitled "Gordon Walker 3—Glenfiddich Ceilidh". The distillery sponsors a famous piping competition at Blair Castle. The following evening the New Scotland Hotel in Pitlochry hosts a ceilidh for piping fans and the competitors. In this clip Walker is accompanied by a small band in the background as he plays first a slow air, "El Alamein", then the very popular hornpipe "The Mason's Apron". Walker has adapted the second tune with amazing fingering and embellishments. Towards the end he runs his right hand up and down the chanter in a kind of piper's arpeggio. This is what I meant when I said earlier that some people are challenged to broaden the range of such a limited instrument.

If you search, you can find a clip of Walker playing along with Chris Armstrong on one chanter. As Armstrong plays, Walker approaches, tunes his drones, and says something in the piper's ear. Walker then places his right hand on the chanter. What follows is a miracle of the human brain. Pipers use both hands to make each note, and these fingerings are in our muscle memory. But these two pipers play the very difficult "Glasgow City Police Pipers" very well, even as their brains deal with only half of the finger positions. All the while Walker is holding a cigarette in his other hand. The man smokes, drinks, and plays circles around everyone else.

The next time you tire of computer games, look up these two clips on YouTube for some entertainment.



YouTube



A WEE DRAM

Members of the society and friends gathered at the Anawan Club for yet another successful Whisky Tasting. SASRI member John Aulerich chose a selection of specialty single malts. He both educated and pleased the palate of all “tasters” that attended. SASRI friend Donald Blais complimented the whiskies with his fine selection of hors d’oeuvres.

Thanks to the Fairbairn family for organizing the event and to the other members who contributed – great job!



RI SCOTTISH HIGHLAND FESTIVAL



A lot of planning goes in to such a large project, two of our members work very hard to organize the games – Liz Holt is Vice President of the Scottish Heritage Society and also arranges the great entertainment we enjoy at the games and Marcia Hays is Secretary and co-chair of the games.

Our society gained new members and dressed more people in the State of Rhode Island Tartan.

If you have not visited the games we would urge you to mark your calendar for June 12, 2010.

We arrived at Richmond, RI at 8.00am and had the tent set up, decorated and ready to welcome visitors by 9.00am. It was a beautiful day and with all the tents arranged around the main field it gave us the opportunity to watch and participate in the opening ceremonies.

The board members manning the tent were kept busy with a constant stream of visitors asking questions about our tartan, their clans and a few that just wanted to test our knowledge or relax and visit for a while.

The society was well represented, Bob Hanold our Society Piper was the Festival Piper, Jena and Ian Fairbairn competed in the athletics, Richmond Cargill and Jordan Cannady (The Dram Boys) sang in the main tent.





Scotland v USA International Polo 2009



Flanked by the Saltire and the SASRI flag on the winner's podium - L to R - Peter Dell, Graeme Smith, Will Ramsay, Charlie Swanson, Richmond Cargill, John MacLean, Ed Bromley-Martin and Nick Walter with a rather disconsolate team USA below.

Saturday June 20th saw members of the St Andrew's Society of Rhode Island join a crowd of 500+ to watch Scotland - frankly - thrash team USA and make up for their defeat in 2008.

In their sixth outing in as many years against team USA - Scotland quickly went three goals ahead, but the USA quickly caught up and the first chukka ended 4-4. In the second a strong attack by the Scots and some dubious penalty calls against them left some Scots supporters wondering how the day was going to go. However the cool overcast and the soft field - akin to a boggy Scottish moor must have made the Scots feel at home. Conditions were so soft that the umpires called for extra divot stomping by the crowd after just two chukkas in order to repair the damage. Thereafter the Scots NEVER looked back. Competent defense on the odd occasion when the Americans attacked smothered all but one goal from them. The Scots just kept forcing the penalties or completely outplaying their way around the

Americans. Their clear calls to each other as to where to place the ball when a player was clearing an American attack meant the ball more often than not landed in front of an attacking Scotland team mate. As one American spectator was heard to comment - "This is getting embarrassing" as the Scots just kept piling on the goals to run out the game 17 goals to 5. The umpires called the game a few seconds early to save the horses, the field, (and the Americans!) from what was clearly a foregone conclusion. The game was team USA's second ever worst defeat in 16 years and leaves Scotland 4 games to 2 ahead in games played at Newport.

SASRI member Graeme Smith - replete in Charlie Jacket from a wedding earlier in the day - handed out the prizes and team SASRI ably led by Joyce Dell manned the society tent dispensing information and membership applications to the crowd.

Graeme J.W.Smith



Mary, Queen of Scots



"In my end is my beginning."

Mary, Queen of Scots is one of the most fascinating and controversial women in Scottish history. She was a kind and tolerant monarch but did not have the political skills to rule Scotland successfully. In 1567, she was forced to abdicate the throne in favor of her son, James. The next year, she fled to England, hoping that her cousin, Elizabeth I, would help her. However, her presence in the country was dangerous to the English queen, who suspected Mary of plotting against her. She remained imprisoned in England for 19 years, until the English government ordered her executed in 1587.

Mary became queen at 1 week old, when her father, James V of Scotland, died. Her regents arranged a marriage treaty, with Henry VIII of England, in which she would marry the king's son, Edward. However, as Henry continued to send his army north toward Scotland, the treaty was broken off and five-year-old Mary was sent to France to wed the Dauphin François, son of Henri II of France. The French royal family accepted Mary as one of their own, and Mary and the Dauphin were very close even as children. She was educated in the same way as French princesses, and learned to speak Latin, Italian, Spanish and Greek (as well as her native languages of English and French) and to dance, sing, play the lute, and carry on conversations about religious matters. She married François in 1558 at the age of 16.

In the same year, Mary's cousin, Mary I of England, passed away and Mary's father-in-law, Henri II, encouraged her to claim the throne of England. Most of Catholic Europe believed her to be the heir to England's throne. Elizabeth I, who succeeded her sister as queen,

never forgot this offense to her, although Mary probably did not have much say in the matter. In 1559, Henri II of France died and Mary became queen of France as well as Scotland. Unfortunately, a year later her mother, Marie de Guise, died in Scotland and 6 months later her husband, François II of France, died of an ear infection. Mary left France to return to Scotland in 1561.

Mary, although depressed by her recent losses, was determined to create a bright future for Scotland. In an era of religious persecution, she resembled her English cousin Elizabeth in that she was tolerant of all religions in Scotland. She began at once to try and strengthen the power of the Crown against the rebellious Scottish nobility, which would lead to more peace and stability within the kingdom. She managed to keep peace with Spain, France and England, although without any actual treaty. In 1565, she married her cousin Lord Darnley in order to provide an heir to the Scottish throne. In 1566, Darnley, who wanted more power than Mary was willing to give him, joined a group of Scottish nobles who imprisoned her at Holyrood Palace. However, Mary somehow won over Darnley and they escaped together. Three months later, her son, James, was born. In 1567, the nobles who had plotted against Mary had Darnley murdered. The queen married the leader of these rebels, the Earl of Bothwell, in order to keep peace in the kingdom and protect herself and her infant son. But now the nobles were angry that Bothwell had more power than them. They captured Mary and forced her to abdicate in favor of her son, James.

In 1568, Mary set sail for England, convinced that her cousin Elizabeth II would support her. Elizabeth did not know what to do with her possibly rebellious cousin and kept Mary in the north under guard. As the years passed, she was imprisoned in various castles. Of course, Mary began plotting to escape, but the plots grew more ridiculous and murderous as time went on. In 1586, Mary was put on trial for plotting to kill Elizabeth and claim the English throne. Although she defended herself admirably even without any friends or supporters, Mary was sentenced to death and executed on February 8, 1587. Mary's motto as a ruler had been "In my end is my beginning", and certainly in her death began her legend. She was celebrated as a martyr across Europe, and in 1603, her son, James VI of Scotland, became the king of England after Elizabeth's death.

Paper submitted by Kaia Heimer-Bumstead,
a student of Jordan Cannady's at Nathanael Greene
Middle School, Providence, R.I.

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Scholastic, 2002

Members Page

Flowers of the Forest

Mary "May" Audette
Dorothy Rose "Dottie" Houlihan
Gordon Wolfe
Carol A. Valerio

IMPORTANT – WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BE MORE EFFICIENT

The society would like to compile a list of member e-mail addresses to enable us to keep you informed of all functions and/or cancellations and at the same time save postage and paper during these economic times. The newsletter will continue to be printed and mailed to each member.

Please confirm your e-mail address to our Membership Chairperson, Cindy McDonald at

cindymac123@hotmail.com or by calling 401-792-0102.

Members with no access to e-mail will still receive all notices by mail. Please note – the society will not publish e-mail addresses or sell and/or give addresses to any other organization.

Your help with this project would be very much appreciated.

Yours aye,

Joyce



Curling

An Ancient Scottish Sport

Curling is now being offered in Rhode Island by the newly formed Ocean State Curling Club. The curling matches are scheduled for Saturday evenings from 7pm-9pm beginning October 10th, 2009.

St. George's School,
 Cabot/Harmon Ice Center,
 372 Purgatory Road,
 Middletown, RI 02842

Find more information @
www.oceanstatecurling.com

or call 401-354-2232



SASRI Country & Ceilidh Dance Class Begins

September 28th 2009

7 Legion Way, Cranston

Doors open 7.15 pm

Class starts: 7.30pm



LET'S NOT "SKIRT" THE ISSUE!!!

We've all heard the remarks from the "uninitiated"-- those folks who don't realize that robes and skirts were worn long before the confinement of trousers was invented. Now, when you're out in a blizzard, trousers (and long johns!) are preferable, but for the proud Scotsman making his way to a festival or some other Gaelic event, there's none else that should be worn than his kilt. While sporting one's tartan, however, one may

well have to bear the remarks of one's (non-Scottish) neighbors. You should initially attempt to enlighten these folks by explaining the significance of the lovely plaid, and that Scots have been wearing their woolen kilts since before the birth of Christ, according to many British cultural historians. However, if this approach doesn't stop their taunts, here is an assortment of retorts:

"It's not a skirt; it's a kilt. Do you know why these Scottish tartan garments are called kilts? Because if ye call 'em

"skirts", ye'll be kilt!"OR: "It's only a skirt if I'm wearing pumps with it."If someone should ask you, "What are you wearing under that?", you should answer, "Do you ask that of women wearing skirts?"

Richmond Cargill brought tears to a wee lad's eye when, after a church service the laddie asked him, "Why are you dressed funny?" To which Richmond replied, "I'm not dressed funny, YOU'RE dressed funny!!!" The lad then let out a wailing, "MMMAAAA!!!", and ran to his mother's comforting presence, and never bothered Mr. Cargill nae maer!

Of course, our own inimitable John MacLean's response is still my favorite. When teased by some teenage neighbors who snidely asked, "What kind of a man wears a skirt?", John boomed in his usual masculine baritone: "One who can!!!"

This response is most fitting, because as we Scots know, it is WE who CAN wear the tartan with authenticity and true pride in our heritage. The very masculine Sean Connery securely sports his kilt, so why should any other Scotsman suffer the sarcasm of passersby?

With the "ammunition" given above, perhaps the jestful comments of those uninformed neighbors will cease-- or, just threaten to whip out your bagpipes and drown them out!!!

Submitted by member Denice Mitchell

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Happy New Year



"A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YIN AN AW"

The Society ended the year with the Christmas Ceilidh. We had a wonderful evening, with a very good turn out, faces old and new.

The evening began with our famous "pot luck supper" and as always there was a great selection of traditional dishes and plenty to go around twice. The Dram Boys had us all tapping our feet and singing Christmas Carols. We danced and danced – we needed to after devouring the fabulous selection of desserts.

The most rewarding thing of the evening for me was to see all the smiling faces and the piles of food donated by the members. I sent out a letter asking for food donations for the Jonny Cake House Food Bank and our friends and members came through. Our

membership chairperson, Cindy McDonald, delivered 160 pounds of food and thanks to the donations of cash from members and the proceeds from our dance group's raffle; we sent \$250 plus a match of \$250 from our Charitable Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Here's to a great 2009 – it is what we make it,

Joyce

P.S. Member Warren Halstead brought a delicious Mulligatawny soup. Please turn to the MEMBER'S PAGE for this sought after recipe.

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Save the Date
February 7th
2009

Burns Night





Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold



The sun shines through the trees, casting shadows over the mourners and the gravestones. The funeral director announces the end of the graveside service and invites the mourners to join the family at the local steakhouse for food and consolation. At this point I strike up the pipes and slowly walk away playing "Amazing Grace", the traditional fade-away.

But on one occasion I turned the hymn into a quick march, striding to my car as quickly as possible. This strange graveside job began with an unusual phone call.

"Hi. Got your name from a friend. He says you play pipes at funerals."

"Yes, how can I help you and your family."

"You can meet me one hour before the graveside, so we can set up a surprise at the end of the service."

Quite often I've been a surprise gift from the bride to the groom, but never have I been hidden from mourners in a cemetery.

We met on a hot summer day in Taunton. One side of the family wanted pipes; the other side was adamantly opposed.

So I hide behind the hedge until the end of the service. My employer gave me the signal. My instructions were to play the hymn as I walked quickly to my car. Once there, I was to get in and drive away immediately. As I left the cemetery, two groups of unhappy people glowered at each other over a fresh grave.

Since pipers often are part of very important ceremonies and ritualized reunions, we often are witnesses to the best and worst in human behavior.

Perhaps you recall my column on the funeral of a bulldog on the Cape Cod Canal. One family can't speak to each other, while the other family has enough love for everyone and the pets.

On another note, the people at MacCallum Bagpipes have invented a flexible blowpipe for the pipers in the Omani government's pipe bands. These poor pipers must play while riding camels. The rough, rolling gait of the animal can cause sudden lurches. As a result pipers have lost teeth and have damaged the soft palate of their mouths.

Camels! Makes marching in a rainy parade seem positively delightful.

My band played in the Milford Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 7. You remember the day—howling winds, rain and sleet in the western hills. Temp. in the low 30's. The parade starts at 4:00 pm. I wasn't there. Being a warm weather piper, I think I would have preferred playing in the desert on a camel.



Exclusive to *The Saltire from Way Out There*

Reporter *J. Roy McKechnie*



Saturday, June 28, 2008: A date which will live in gustatory fame. At least for Utahns with a taste for 1930's/1940's history, Art Deco-ey decor and fittings, good old honest meat loaf, foot-long chili dogs, pot roast and root beer floats. That's the date when a classic, circa 1939 O'Mahony of Elizabeth, New Jersey-built, New England-style diner ---- yes, the real thing, once the pride of, first, Fall River, MA, then for more than 50 years, Middletown, RI, finally sold, abandoned and left to molder away --- was reborn in one of Utah's most remote, back of the mountains, "four-corners-and-a-cloud-of-dust" communities, Oakley.

The name of the transplanted landmark: The Road Island Diner!

Barbara and I joined scores, maybe hundreds of curious (in every sense) locals in an opening day welcome. And unlike any of the others in the hungry masses present we were well and truly Rhode Islanded, toggled out in, respectively, R.I. Tartan sash and kilt.

How the diner was saved, its incredible, 2400+ mile back-road journey from Aquidnick Island to the wilds of Utah's Wasatch Back, and the extraordinary pains taken by its new owner to re-create its original décor with loving accuracy from color scheme, glass fittings, Formica tables, chrome bar stools, to marble counter, mahogany trim and original booth upholstery material are elements of nothing short of a saga. To add to the show, the new owner not only has re-created the original uniforms of the servers (dark green dresses with white collars and head bands for the girls; black slacks, white shirts, black bow-ties and white paper hats for the lads), he's also given the wait-staff the option of adopting the personae of original servers by assuming their names... e.g. "Hattie", "Flora", "Mickey" and, Barbara's and my waiter, Tyler Galovich, aka "Floyd."

The culinary landmark's owner, Utah businessman Keith Walker, spent over a million dollars on the project, much of it in securing, from all sorts of sources, exactly correct fittings and finishings, gadgets and doohickies from an era long past. Curiously, he's not a food guy... he is, he says, just a businessman with a love of the 30's and 40's. With The Road Island Diner he's certainly proved that. And on opening day he was something else... a warm and welcoming host.

For me, climbing aboard The Road Island Diner was a giant stride down memory lane. In the '30's and late '40's, pre-Rte.'s 95, 495, etc., the road to the Cape led through Fall River, and one fairly regular Cape-ward family stop there was at what we knew as Al Mac's (McDermott, that is) Diner, "Justly Famous Since 1939!" Yes... the same one as has just been transplanted. Then, in the 1950's, when I was one of a Herreshoff 15 crew that in summer, regatted around Narragansett Bay, an obligatory Newport-bound stop was "Tommy's Deluxe Diner", Middletown. Yep... the same old eatery. And I'd bet that many a SASRI-ite has memories akin.

Oh... Barbara's and my opening day lunch? For Barbara, a foot-long chili dog, a chocolate milk shake and a sampling of creamed spinach. And for me, 'twas a grilled 4-cheese and bacon sandwich and an iced tea. Dandy! Next visit... Meat Loaf!!





TARTAN BASH



First ones on the floor.



Our 86 year old banner proudly displayed.



Ann Buckley (centre) won the coveted woolen cape.



Here's to you.....and to you.



The Haggis brought the crowd to it's feet.





CHRISTMAS CEILIDH



Doing justice to our pot luck supper.



Welcome back Judith
(second from left)



Shirley and her Mom share a
Christmas Cracker.



Raffle offerings



Oh no! It's King Peter.



They never get enough dancing..



Hard choice for Bowman
Halstead.



mystery & Legends

Perhaps it's something about the ambience of old castles, the sound of the wind over lonely moors or the mystery lurking round dark woods – but there's no denying that parts of Scotland certainly have a special atmosphere. Local legends tell of fairy-folk or mysterious monsters haunting lochs, or unexplained sightings high on the Scottish hills. Best not to take it all too seriously!



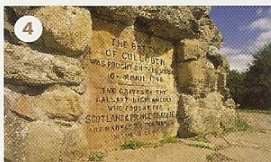
1 ROSSLYN CHAPEL
Setting for Dan Brown's *the Da Vinci Code*, local tales have phantom monks floating around, while strange lights around the chapel herald deaths in the Sinclair family, according to the writings of Sir Walter Scott.



2 EDINBURGH CASTLE
A headless drummer, a ghostly piper on the battlements, prisoners left over from the Napoleonic Wars and even a phantom dog – just some of the strange apparitions reported from here!



3 GLAMIS CASTLE
Lots of legends here, including the 'Grey Lady of Glamis' flitting around chapel and clock-tower, while the 4th Earl of Crawford haunts a walled-up room – where he plays cards with the Devil!



4 CULLODEN
A battle-worn Highlander sometimes haunts the memorial cairn. A dark-haired Highlander in Stewart tartan appears on one of the grave mounds.



5 CROMARTY
Old-established picturesque town associated with writer Hugh Miller. (Birthplace cottage open to view). In his 'Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland' he describes a local mermaid.



6 LOCH NESS
The magical kelpie, or 'water-horse' is a stock figure in Gaelic legend. The most famous water-horse in the world, known as the Loch Ness Monster, or 'Nessie', may be seen here.



7 DUNVEGAN CASTLE
Remnants of a silk flag possibly dating from as early as the 4th century AD. Legend states it was worn by fairies to be used only three times by MacLeod chiefs for protection in times of trouble. It has been used twice so far.





8 LOCH MORAR
The deepest fresh water loch in Europe joined to the sea by the River Morar, Britain's shortest river. Legend says that 'Morag' the monster lives in the loch.



9 ROB ROY & TROSSACHS VISITOR CENTRE
From his birth by Loch Katrine to his final resting place at Balquhittern, discover the story and the legends of Rob Roy, the most famous Highlander of them all.



10 STIRLING CASTLE
Once the most strategically important of Scotland's fortresses, Stirling Castle is associated with William 'Braveheart' Wallace and his defeat of the English occupying forces at the nearby Battle of Stirling Bridge.


 Members Page
 

Mulligatawny Soup

The Daughters of the
British Empire of Louisiana

Submitted by member Warren Halstead

- 4-5 lbs. chicken
- 11 cups of chicken broth
- 2 sliced onion
- 3 sliced carrot
- 3 stalks of celery sliced
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 TBSP. butter
- 2 chopped onion
- 3 peeled and sliced Granny Smith apples
- 3 TBSP. curry powder (or to taste)
- 6 TBSP. flour
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ tsp. allspice
- ¾ cup cream or half and half

Place first six ingredients in large
saucepan.

Cover and simmer 1 hour.

Remove chicken. Discard skin and bones,
and cut meat
into small pieces.

Strain broth. Put into refrigerator until
fat has risen to the top and can be
skimmed off.

Cook chopped onion and curry powder
and cook another
minute, stirring all the time.

Add broth, bay leaf and allspice. Cover
and simmer for 30 minutes. Add
chicken pieces and simmer for 15 min-
utes.

Stir in cream or half and half.

*Literally meaning "pepper water", Mulliga-
tawny Soup was a favorite of the British in
colonial India.*



Flowers of the Forest
Roscoe John

SAVE YOUR PAPER & PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS AND HELP THOSE IN NEED

Member Ruth Gravel needs your help. Ruth is involved with a food bank in Pawtucket. It goes without saying that they need food and cash donations, but there is another item that they need – PAPER & PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS. Since we have all started to be good citizens and use the re-useable bags the food bank have a shortage.

If you are like most of us, you will occasionally forget the re-useable bag and acquire a few paper & plastic bags. Please save them and call Ruth at 401-762-5258 when you have a supply. Your help would be very much appreciated.

TARTAN BASH RAFFLE WINNERS

Captain Nicholas Brown
Ann Buckley
Clifford Gardner
Carolyn Gordon
Ernest Mansolillo



January

Pendragon - Blackstone River Theatre, January 31st

February

Matt & Shannon, Heaton - Blackstone River Theatre, February 21st

Martin Hayes fiddler & Dennis Cahill guitar - Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI, February 21st Guitar playing Irish/Celtic, www.commonfencemusic.org

March

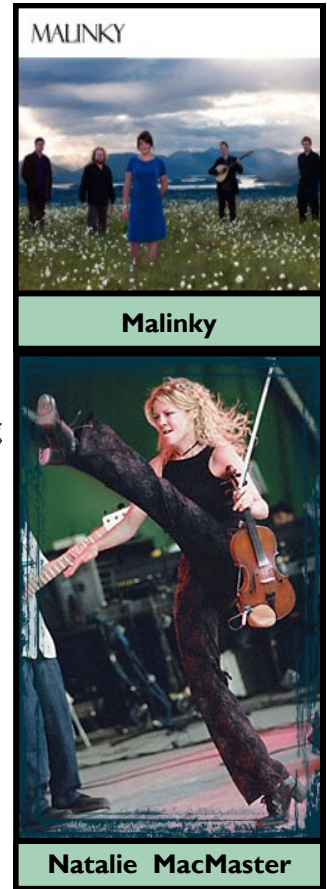
Enter the Haggis - Northampton Massachusetts, March 14th,
www.iheg.com

Malinky – Blackstone River Theatre, March 14th

Pendragon - Narrows Center for Arts, Fall River,
Massachusetts March 13th,
Blackstone River Theatre, March 15th

Natalie MacMaster – Mechanics Hall, Worcester, Massachusetts, March 16th

Battlefield Band – Blackstone River Theatre, March 22nd



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