



The Saltire

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



2020

www.sasri.org

Issue I

HAPPY HOGMANAY!



Weird and Wonderful Traditions of Hogmanay



Inside this issue:

State of the Society 2

Bash/Ceilidh 3

Lost Colony of Caledonia 4

Lost Colony of Caledonia 5

Members' Page 6

Annual Report; Notice of Annual Meeting 7

Tartan Day Parade 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

BURNS SUPPER
 FEBRUARY 1ST

ANNUAL MEETING
 MARCH 9TH

WHISKY TASTING
 APRIL 19TH



One of the largest and most exuberant New Year's Eve celebrations in the world, Hogmanay attracts tens of thousands of people who attend street parties in many Scottish cities, including Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. This event is observed over several days, the pinnacle being New Year's Eve. The exact origin of Hogmanay is unknown, but the most likely source seems to be French – in Normandy, presents given at Hogmanay were 'hoguignetes.' It is believed that Hogmanay became more widespread after Mary Queen of Scots returned to her home country after a visit to France in 1561. Let's look at some of the ancient traditions associated with Hogmanay: (Cont.. on page 8)

STATE OF THE SOCIETY

The financial health of the organization is strong, as set forth in the Annual Report (page 7). The Board decided to place slightly more than \$18,000 in certificates of deposit, which accounts are generating a nice return on investment thus far. If it appears that our overall assets are down a bit from last year, that's simply reflected in two significant expenditures. The Board voted to purchase a badly needed sound system to be used at various events throughout the year. In addition, we have purchased a new bolt of our State of Rhode Island tartan from the manufacturer in Scotland and now have enough tartan to last well into the near future.

Consistent with our mission, the Board voted to make a \$500 charitable donation to the James Thin Charitable Trust in Scotland as well as a \$500 charitable donation to McAuley Ministries here in Rhode Island. The Board also made \$100 gifts to The Rhode Island Highlanders Pipe Band and American Legion, Auburn Post.

The Society is contemplating another member appreciation event, perhaps in the Spring. Speaking of events, our Society held a Kirkin' o' the Tartans in November at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Pawtucket. If you've never attended a Kirkin', you'll have another chance next Fall - more on that in the next Saltire.

Finally, everyone should have received a membership dues notice, and thank you to those who have already sent their check as well as a gentle reminder to those who haven't yet done so.

Board of Directors

John MacLean	Chair	401-781-7909	jcmac1925@gmail.com
G. Richmond Cargill		508-644-9820	RIScotty12@gmail.com
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-440-4784	brenochjohn@gmail.com
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	jfmuzzy@verizon.net
Gail Kelleher	Treasurer	401-524-9455	kellehergail@gmail.com
James Kelleher		401-461-9552	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

Saint Andrews Society Gets Ready for the Holidays

By Cathy Poirier

It's nice to share a little holiday time together before Christmas, and it was especially nice to see that many of you attended one or both of our events - the Tartan Bash and the Christmas Ceilidh. The Bash took place on November 16th at the Shriners in Edgewood. It was wonderful to see so many friends old and new – the eighty-six people that attended truly seemed to enjoy the evening! Fintan Stanley and his drummer Benny Kelly provided the music for the evening. Although he was not feeling well that night, Fintan gave it his all and guests enjoyed listening and dancing to great music for the entire night. He is a real trouper! Another small change this year was the hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour – I hope you enjoyed them. I would appreciate you sending me [feedback](#) so I can compliment the Shriners or let them know how it could be improved next year.

Our next event was the Christmas Ceilidh held December 7th at the American Legion Post in Cranston. Approximately seventy members and friends attended the annual potluck bringing delicious food for us all to share and enjoy. The Ceilidh is a delightful start to the holiday season, an evening spent renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends. Our members and guests are quite talented in the kitchen, which was reflected in the many tasty food offerings on the buffet table. Approximately 30 pounds of canned goods were collected for the First Baptist Church in Pawtucket, and we thank Ruthie Gravel for transporting them to the First Baptist food pantry. The pantry feeds 150 families each month – thank you for contributing! *Sometimes Celtic* (Steve Venuti and Brian O'Donnelly) entertained the crowd, as did some individual performers. Our appreciation to Enoch Valentine, Donald Blais, Jim Kelleher and Jordan Cannady for their musical performances. And what can be said about the raffle table – it was magnificent this year! We thank you for all your wonderful donations... so much fun!

The evening ended as Ceilidhs do, with lots of lively dancing! Led by Kristen Howe, we all had a bit of opportunity to burn off some of those holiday calories! Holding hands and singing Auld Lang Syne before heading out to the chilly December night, our hearts at least, were warm. Don't forget – pictures of all of our events can be viewed on the [SASRI website](#).



THE LOST COLONY OF CALEDONIA by James Kelleher



Flag of the Colony of Caledonia in Darien, Panama.

As many of us learned in grade school, Queen Isabella of Spain pawned her jewelry in order to finance Columbus' voyage to the New World; a last ditch effort to save Spain's weakened economy. That effort was, of course, a smashing success and made Spain a colonial empire and a world power for centuries. What you may not know is that Scotland made a similar last ditch attempt at saving its economy; the lost colony of Caledonia.

The latter years of the 17th Century were not kind to Scotland. Its once-vaunted shipbuilding industry was in steep decline. Moreover, it produced very little to export and imported much of its goods from England at a harsh prices. The early 1690s saw a great famine that was followed by a depression that left Scotland on the brink. Scotland was thus faced with a choice; either succumb to the pressure to merge with England, or find an economic miracle. Enter the Darien Scheme.

In 1695 and at the urging of a Dumfriesshire banker and trader, William Paterson, the Scottish Parliament chartered the Company of Scotland whose purpose was to establish trade with Africa and the Indies. It was to be funded by subscription, i.e., private investment. In effect, Scots were encouraged to buy bonds to finance the Company's endeavors, bonds which would pay a handsome return if (and only if) the Company was a success. The leaders of the Company eventually decided to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Panama, to be called Caledonia, the purpose of which would be to provide an overland trade route between the oceans that all of the seafaring nations would pay to use.

By 1698 sufficient funds had been raised to send a contingent of 1,200 settlers to the Darien peninsula at the southern end of present-day Panama. The settlers quickly erected Fort Saint Andrew and named their settlement New Edinburgh. The initial plan was to trade trinkets with the local natives while raising crops to sustain the colony. The local natives were unwilling to barter with the Scots and the weather proved to be extremely uncooperative as well. The land not only failed to produce crops but the extreme heat caused untold misery for the Scots, who were utterly unprepared for the inferno that is summer near the Equator. Beyond the deadly heat, the mosquitos brought the Scots an outbreak of malaria. After only nine months, the colony was abandoned; three hundred survivors and a single ship returned to Scotland to tell the tale.

Unfortunately, a second contingent had set sail for Panama just prior to the first group's return with the miserable truth. The second group of settlers, some 2,500 in all, landed at Darien in November of 1699 only to find New Edinburgh deserted and overgrown with weeds. These settlers were faced with the same obstacles that had befallen the first group, but also now faced a constant threat from a nearby encampment of Spanish soldiers. After a series of fierce attacks by the Spaniards, the settlers surrendered. The small group of surviving settlers was allowed to sail back home, lucky to be alive.

All tolled, nearly two thousand brave Scots lost their lives, and fully one-fourth of the private wealth in the Scottish economy disappeared. The economy was so devastated that there was now little choice but to negotiate a union with England. The Act of Union of 1707 afforded Scotland badly needed financial relief, but at a hefty price: the Scottish Parliament was abolished and the independent Kingdom of Scotland was no more.



Darien Chest used to collect sterling to fund the expedition (National Museum of Scotland)

Members' Page

Welcome New Members

Robert & Sandra Brown

Deborah Kelley

Charles Clark MacCabe and Patricia Jubinska MacCabe

Sharon Randall

Steven Volante

St. Andrew's Greeting 2019

Dear tae the hert o' each immigrant Scot,
Mem'ries o' hameland nothing can sever;
Scenes o' oor childhood will ne'er be forgot,
While we meet in true freenship taegither.

Oor emblem o' love — spring o' white heather —
Devotion we pledge tae Scotland again,
Renewing oor freenship, true tae each ither —
For truth is the trust o' a' honest men.

Proud of our fathers and proud of our race;
Proud of our heroes who kept Scotland free.
Proud of the faith in our homeland we place;
Proud to be Scotsmen where ever we be.

David Watson Young
November 30th, 1953

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

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 (kellehergail@gmail.com).

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Saltire*! If you wish to forego a paper copy and read the electronic version on our website (www.sasri.org) in the future, please send an email to kellehergail@gmail.com.

And What is Your New Year's Resolution?

Not only is it a new year, it's a new decade! Forget losing weight and becoming more organized – check out these [creative resolutions](#) to make 2020 a meaningful year.

Two Shows to Watch

First, *Outlander* returns with Season Five on February 16, 2020 on Starz, featuring 12 episodes. Second, closer to home, keep an eye open for *Meet the Frasers* premiering on E! in 2020. The show focuses on Matt Fraser, a 28 year old psychic medium, who happens to be the son of our own Roderick and Angela Fraser! Click [here](#) to read more about this reality sitcom. Sealbh math dhuit!



St. Andrew's Society of Rhode Island, Inc. – 2019 Annual Report

Operating Account – October 1 2018 thru September 30, 2019

Beginning Balance October 1, 2018		Beg. \$ 17,112.68
Total Deposits for this Period	\$13,615.32	
Total Disbursements	\$15,606.47	
Ending Balance September 30, 2019		<u>End \$ 15,121.53</u>

Tartan Account – October 1 2018 thru September 30, 2019

Beginning Balance October 1, 2018		Beg. \$ 6,243.24
Total Deposits Plus Interest	\$ 645.00	
Total Disbursements	\$ 400.42	
Ending Balance September 30, 2019		<u>End \$ 6,487.82</u>

Certificates of Deposit

		<u>\$ 18,667.14</u>
Operating Account CD	\$7,725.61	
Tartan Account CD	\$7,725.61	
Charitable Account CD	\$3,215.92	

Total Assets as of September 30, 2019

\$ 40,276.49

Notice of Annual Meeting

The St. Andrew's Society of Rhode Island cordially invites you to join us on March 9th for our Annual Meeting and the election of three members to our Board of Directors.

When: 7:00 PM on March 9, 2020 at 88 Boxwood Street, Cranston, RI. Please note location will be confirmed upon final tally of attendees.

Agenda: A vote will be conducted at the Annual Meeting to elect three persons to the membership of the Board of Directors for a period of five years.

Current Nominees: Cathy Poirier, James Kelleher and Gail Kelleher

Nominating Candidates: If any member wishes to nominate additional candidates, please email the name/s to Cathy Poirier at cath251@hotmail.com no later than February 9, 2020.

RSVP Instructions: If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please RSVP to [Cathy Poirier](#) by February 9, 2020.

Voting Instructions: By February 29th the final list of candidates for the three positions on the Board of Directors will be posted to the Membership Page of the SASRI [website](#). Voting will be done in-person at the meeting on March 9th, but you may send a proxy to vote on your behalf if you are unable to join us. If you intend to send a proxy, please notify [Cathy Poirier](#) no later than February 29, 2020.

We look forward to your participation -- Lang may yer lum reek!



New York Tartan Day Parade

Saturday, April 4th, 2020

Member Graeme Smith had hoped to organize a SASRI group to take part in this event this year - a stirring march up the Avenue of the Americas to commemorate Tartan Day. Unfortunately, an unexpected commitment has meant he is unable to organize a group – but you CAN still take part!

The organizers put together individuals who wish to take part in this unique experience in a “Friends of Scotland” block. You can register as an “Individual” and will be grouped with other likeminded brave souls. Individual pipers can also take part in a “band” block. That group will be provided a music set and a Pipe Major to get you off on the right note! Participation in the event is FREE! Line up at 1:00 pm and the march kicks off at 2:00 pm. Full details and registration at: <http://nyctartanweek.org/tartan-day/>



Weird and Wonderful Traditions of Hogmanay

by Gail Kelleher

(cont. from page 1)

Redding the House – Similar to Passover, families did a major clean up to ring in the New Year. Sweeping out the fireplace was important, and hearth ashes were read (the way tea leaves are read). And after a big cleanup, fire was re-introduced into the house by way of a smoking juniper branch carried room to room to discourage evil spirits and scare away disease.

First Footing – Neighbors visit with each other after midnight, bringing symbolic gifts of shortbread or black bun (kind of fruit cake). The visitor is rewarded with a wee dram. Now the first visitor could bring luck for the whole year; the luckiest visitor would be tall, dark and handsome man, with the unluckiest being a red-haired woman. Why, you wonder? Viking raiders first brought fair hair to Scotland, so if a Viking woman entered first, she'd be most likely followed by an angry Viking man!

Bonfires & Fire Festivals – The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea, and has recently become an element in Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration. Use of fire at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins.

Singing Auld Lang Syne – How this became the New Year's song is something of a mystery. Robert Burns allegedly sent a copy of the original song to the Scots Musical Museum with the remark, “The following song, an old song, of the olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man.” Click [here](#) to watch a fascinating video of *the* New Year's Eve song, explained.

Saining of the House – This tradition involves blessing the house and livestock with cold water from a local stream. The woman of the house then fills it with purifying smoke with a burning juniper branch – once everyone is sufficiently choked by the smoke, windows are thrown open and reviving drams (two or three) are passed around.



The Saltire

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



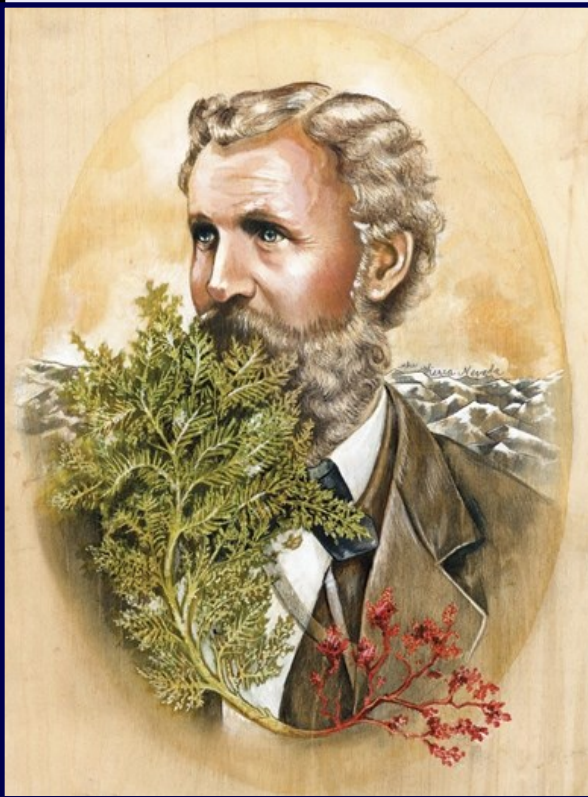
2020

www.sasri.org

Issue II

John Muir - Citizen of the Universe by Gail Kelleher

Inside this issue:



brought me back to 1973 when my parents subscribed to National Geographic magazine (didn't all parents?) I remembered reading a captivating article about John Muir that sparked my imagination and a love of nature that has stayed with me.

Born in Dunbar, Scotland on April 21st in 1838, Muir and his family emigrated to the United States in 1849, eventually arriving in the Wisconsin wilderness. Ironically, he spent many dreary years *clearing* the forest for farmland. It is amazing that he would emerge from this wilderness sweatshop and be able to look upon any tree with love! So how did John Muir evolve from farm boy to naturalist? As you will see, fate intervened.

<i>State of the Society</i>	2
<i>Burns Supper</i>	3
<i>John Muir</i>	4
<i>John Muir</i>	5
<i>Members' Page</i>	6
<i>Lighting the Way</i>	7
<i>Registration Renewal Options for 2021</i>	8

In early January of this year (before the world turned upside down), Jim and I attended a presentation by Bill Harley at the Barrington Public Library. Mr. Harley is a well-known songwriter and storyteller who performs regularly for children here in New England and across the country. Why did we sexagenarians attend? Mr. Harley was performing a book written by John Muir: [Stickeen: John Muir's Adventure with a Dog and a Glacier](#). Besides being a fascinating story and great portrayal, it

Surprisingly at that time, Muir was best known as an inventor, creating items like: hand-whittled clocks, including one with a rock-weighted pendulum 14 feet long, intended to be hung from a tree so fieldworkers might know the time; an "early-

Continued on page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHISKY TASTING
 TO BE DETERMINED



STATE OF THE SOCIETY

Like virtually everything else, the affairs of the Society are more or less on hold at the moment. I can report that the Annual Meeting was held on March 9, 2020. At the meeting three Board members were reelected for a five year term. Congratulations to Gail Kelleher, Cathy Poirier and Jim Kelleher on their reelection.

The annual Whisky Tasting is officially postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whenever the coast is clear and we are all able to resume such activities, it will be rescheduled and a new notice and invitation will go out to all. In the meantime, we fervently hope that each of you has a sufficient supply of at-home whisky to carry you through until we're able to have a dram together.

Lastly, the Board has voted to offer on-line dues payment and registration beginning next year. Please refer to the article on Page 8 for more details. Until we meet again, everyone please stay safe and healthy.

Board of Directors

John MacLean	Chair	401-781-7909	jcmac1925@gmail.com
G. Richmond Cargill		508-644-9820	RIScotty12@gmail.com
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-440-4784	brenochjohn@gmail.com
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	jfmuzzy@verizon.net
Gail Kelleher	Treasurer	401-524-9455	kellehergail@gmail.com
James Kelleher		401-461-9552	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

Burns Supper 2020



Nearly 300 guests filled Rhodes on the Pawtuxet February 1st to celebrate the 261st birthday of Scotland's beloved poet, Robert Burns. Guests mingled during the cocktail hour before being ushered in to the ballroom to begin the night's celebration. Master of Ceremonies Stephen Venuti welcomed everyone and introduced G. Richmond Cargill, Shirley Loiselle and John MacLean to offer toasts to the President, the Queen and to himself, Robert Burns. While soup and salad were served, Piper John C. MacLean Jr. ushered in the haggis, while Branson Hay Kommalan delivering a spirited rendition of *Address to a Haggis*.

After dinner, Melissa Bowler and James Bagley were welcomed to the stage to perform a Toast to the Lassies and the Lassie's reply followed the [Immortal Memory](#) by Jim Kelleher. Brother Enoch Valentine and Donald Blais performed Burns songs from the stage with the crowd loudly joining in the chorus of *The Star of Rabbie Burns!*

A highlight of any Burns Supper is the pipe band; not all Burns Suppers are lucky enough to have a live band performance – we are *really* lucky to have Pipe Major Debbie Kane and the RI Highlanders along with percussionist Mr. Norm McLeod. One must truly appreciate the many hours of practice and dedication required to deliver such a spectacular performance! The evening ended with ceilidh dancing, raffle calling and *Auld Lang Syne*. Clasp hands, singing, and undulating back and forth towards the center of the circle – it's just what Robert Burns would have wanted.

Remember, pictures for this and all other Society events may be viewed at www.sasri.org under the Gallery tab.

If you are interested in learning more about Robert Burns, listen to the five part #TaeTheBard podcast series via Spotify, or the iPhone podcast app with host Dr. Pauline Mackay. Dr. Mackay is considered one of the world's leading experts on Burns, and her podcast includes interviews with modern creatives and expert guests. In addition to being a lecturer at the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies, Dr. Mackay is the secretary to Burns Scotland: The National Burns Collection.

Continued from page 1

rising” machine that tipped the sleeper out of bed at the appointed hour; and a mechanical scholar’s desk that shoved a textbook under the student’s gaze, allowed a given period for perusal, then replaced it with another. At the age of 22 sporting his trademark thick beard, he left the Wisconsin homestead with a sample of his inventions where he became a bit of a superstar at the 1860 Wisconsin State Agricultural Fair. He struggled between a strong yearning to “go wild” and the need to earn a living. He listened to his more practical instincts and took a job with a carriage maker, boosting the company’s efficiencies with his mechanical innovations. The owner offered him a partnership, assuring a profitable and humdrum life – until the accident.

While working in the carriage shop, a file slipped from his grasp and lanced his right eye, causing the left eye to become sympathetically blind. Faced with the possibility of being sightless for life, he vowed that if he were ever to regain his sight, he would give up inventions of men and devote himself to the “study of the inventions of God.” After being confined to a darkened room for six weeks, his sight gradually returned and he kept his promise. Muir began a series of rambles, travelling “by the widest, leafiest, and least trodden way I could find.” He spent his time studying and admiring nature, recording his observations in a journal that included his careful drawings of insects he encountered, sketches of rock formations, and perhaps a carefully pressed flower he wanted to preserve. These rambles (some as long as 3,000 miles) were dangerous for obvious reasons, including being preyed upon by robbers. Muir once had his bag stolen but it was ultimately returned to him as it only contained “a comb, brush, towel, soap, change of underwear, and a copy of Burns’ poems.” When his last few dollars ran out, Muir took refuge from bandits by sleeping in the Bonaventure Cemetery, building a lean-to among the tombs and eating nothing more than crackers and muddy water while waiting for a packet of money from his brother to arrive at the post office. Muir described the graveyard as “so beautiful that almost any sensible person would choose to dwell here with the dead rather than with the lazy, disorderly living.”

Muir’s next adventure led him to the west coast. As he stood atop the Pacheco Pass on a crest of the Coast Ranges and looked across the San Joaquin Valley, he set his sights at his goal: The Sierra Nevada – a vista unattainable today due to a yellow veil of smog smother-

ing that once beautiful panorama. As he entered Yosemite Valley, Muir saw Bridalveil Fall from a distance and remarked to a travelling companion, “that dainty looking fall... it looks small from here... maybe 15 or 20 feet, but it might be sixty or seventy.” That waterfall Muir calculated on first sight measures a staggering 620 feet! Muir built his first cabin on the banks of Yosemite Creek. Imagine a full view of Yosemite Falls outside your doorstep! Inside, a brook ran through one corner providing a fresh water supply. Wild plants grew within the walls, and a few frogs made their home there as well, *ribbiting* him to sleep each night. Many a ramble began and ended there over the next two years. To support himself, Muir took work as a shepherd during the summer, a horsebreaker, sawmill operator, carpenter, harvest hand, and as a guide in Yosemite. This provided him enough money to continue his investigations and wilderness journeys. He nearly always climbed alone, taking with him only an ice axe and some dried bread and tea leaves. He slept with only a thin blanket, and even left that behind for more difficult climbs.



Mechanical Scholar’s Desk - each piece is hand carved

Once, stranded on a frozen mountaintop, he danced the Highland Fling to keep warm until dawn's light allowed him to descend. Another time, while climbing a wall above Yosemite, he heard a roar and found himself riding an avalanche 2,500 feet to the canyon floor. Miraculously unhurt, he rejoiced in "this flight in what might be called a milky way of snow-stars... the most spiritual and exhilarating of all the modes of motion I have ever experienced."

By 1878, Muir's friends encouraged this 40 year-old wandering bachelor to settle down. He married Louisa Strentzel, the daughter of a prominent physician in 1880. Muir managed his father-in-law's fruit orchards for the next ten years. His marriage was a happy one, and the couple were blessed with two daughters. For a man who spent most of his life rambling the wilderness, married life provided time for him to become a successful naturalist author. It was around this time that Muir began to see the disastrous effect of overgrazing and extreme logging. He lobbied Congress to create Yosemite National Park – the bill passed in 1890. He was then approached by Professor Henry Senger of UCal-Berkeley to attend a meeting which later became the Sierra Club. Muir became the club's first president and continued efforts to expand Yosemite Park. He camped with then President Theodore Roosevelt for three days in Yosemite and convinced the President to bring Yosemite under federal control and increase its size. During this camping trip, the duo woke up under four inches of snow causing T.R. to exclaim, "this is the grandest day of my life!"

In his twilight years, Muir travelled from continent to continent preaching his conservation gospel. A conversation with a Japanese nature enthusiast, Ryozo Azuma, inspired the latter to help develop Japan's national park system which is considered one of the finest in the world. (In Japan, spending time with nature is called 'forest bathing.') John Muir died in 1914 after a bout of pneumonia. His writings are instructive, beautiful and prescient: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Note: Like many great men and women, Muir's legacy is a complicated one. When Muir first saw the Yosemite Valley, he was struck by its park-like appearance — pristine and untouched by civilization. But that was not the case; the Ahwahneechee, the original inhabitants of Yosemite, practiced controlled burning to reduce shade so they could grow food, maintain meadows, and burn underbrush that, left alone, became a fire hazard. The Ahwahneechee literally used fire to fight fire. However, for Muir (as it was for many conservationists in the nineteenth century), these fires were "the great master-scurge of forests" and extinguishing their fury would be his divine mission. "Only fire," he wrote in 1869, "threatens the existence of these noblest of God's trees." Muir's conservation efforts had the opposite effect of what he was trying to achieve. If you are interested in reading more about this view, click ["How John Muir's Brand of Conservation Led to the Decline of Yosemite"](#)



Hickory Clock shaped like a scythe to symbolize Father Time

Lighting the Way

By Jim Kelleher

Our coronavirus crisis has caused millions of people around the world to attempt to work from home (this writer included). While all have experienced various challenges in doing so, many have been pleasantly surprised at how much they are able to accomplish without leaving the cozy confines of the house. It is likely, however, that few in the stay-at-home workforce are accomplishing quite as much as one Marion Lafferty is from her kitchen in Lanarkshire, a dozen or so miles southeast of Glasgow. While we are busy working from home calling clients, preparing reports and the like, Ms. Lafferty is operating the two hundred and six lighthouses that adorn the Scottish coastline and protect seafarers and their cargo.

Prior to the end of the Eighteenth Century, shipwrecks were commonplace along the treacherous landscape where Scotland meets the sea. In 1786, the Commissioners of the Northern Lights was formed to oversee construction of a series of lighthouses. The projects quickly fell to the supervision of a visionary Glaswegian engineer named Robert Stevenson. Stevenson was responsible for the design and construction of more than a dozen lighthouses in some of the most challenging locations along the Scottish coast, lighthouses still very much in use today. Stevenson's three sons followed in his footsteps and designed numerous other lighthouses still in use as well as creating innovative methods of light refraction and projection still used in the 21st Century. The family was disappointed when Robert's grandson and namesake decided against a career in lighthouse design and instead became one of Scotland's most famous novelists. In a nod to the family legacy, one of Robert Louis Stevenson's most famous works, "Kidnapped", centers on a shipwreck.

Eventually the management of the lighthouse network fell to the Northern Lighthouse Board, which in 1832 settled into a permanent home on George Street in Edinburgh. By the close of the Twentieth Century, all of the lighthouses had become automated and run by computer from the central headquarters. Like so many workplaces around the globe, the George Street headquarters was closed last month, but the lighthouses still needed to be in operation. The solution was for Board employee Marion Lafferty to convert her kitchen table into a computerized command center. And so today the shipping lanes are alight thanks to Marion Lafferty, who with her dog Cooper by her side, "mans" the beacons from the comforts of home.



Bell Rock Lighthouse (1810), 12 miles off the coast of Angus – considered to be the most challenging of the lighthouses built by Robert Stevenson.



Members' Page



Welcome New Members

Harold & Deborah Young
 Gilbert D. & Jewel A. Woodside
 David Carpenter & Margaret Asselin
 Ted M. Watson, Jr. and Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Campbell
 Luke MacInnis & Lauren Dworak

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Saltire!* If you wish to forego a paper copy and read the electronic version on our website (www.sasri.org) in the future, please send an email to kellehergail@gmail.com.

Dear Members,

Please be so kind as to notify Gail Kelleher when a Society member passes on so that she may include this information in the Saltire.

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 (kellehergail@gmail.com).

Congratulations!

A hearty congratulations to Catherine Poirier on her well-deserved retirement! We know you'll fill your new-found time with reading, relaxing and enjoying your grandchildren – Best Wishes for many happy and healthy years to come!



New Hampshire Highland Games – September 18-20, 2020

A message from their Facebook page:

March 26, 2020

We're thinking about our NHSCOT friends & family around the world and hope you are all staying safe & well. You've been asking, so we want to let you know that we are very cautiously moving forward with plans for the 45th Annual NH Highland Games & Festival, scheduled for September 18-20, 2020.

Early bird tickets for the Games will be on sale soon. In the event that we cancel the 2020 Games, all ticket, clan and vendor fees will be refunded.

If you have any questions, please reach out to info@nhscot.org. Thank you and stay safe.

Happy 90th Birthday!

We don't usually post birthdays in the *Saltire*, but when you read about it in the *Providence Journal*, why not share some cheerful news? Happy Birthday Phillip McMaster! You can read the full story [here](#).

Springtime in Edinburgh



ON-LINE DUES PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION RENEWAL OPTIONS FOR 2021

As many of you may know, the Society began offering an on-line payment option last Fall for tickets to the 2019 Tartan Bash and did so for the 2020 Burns Supper as well. So many people took advantage of the convenience of an on-line payment and the relatively small cost of doing so that the Board has decided to offer that option regarding next year's dues.

Our re-registration dues payment is \$25 for an individual membership and \$40 for a family membership. There has been, of course, a cost to the Society for stamps, envelopes, card stock and the like. In order to offer the on-line option for next year at the least additional cost, the Board has calculated its costs for mailing paper re-registration forms. That amount will be deducted from your membership fee to defer some of the Ticket Leap on-line surcharge. As a result, the \$25 individual membership fee for next year will cost only \$25.62 if you choose to pay it on-line and the \$40 family fee will cost only \$41.37 to pay on-line. (These figures are based on the current fee charged by Ticket Leap and are subject to change.)

In order for this pilot program to be successful, we will need those who wish to pay and re-register on-line to let us know that they plan to do so. Please know that we plan to provide this information again in the September *Saltire*, and will at that time provide the method for letting us know that you wish to participate in this way. Once you've committed, you will receive a December email reminder of the details in order to make your payment and re-register in January, but you will not receive a mailing. If you do not wish to register and pay on-line, you will continue to receive a dues letter and paper registration form as in the past. Please think about whether you might want to take advantage of this program, and keep an eye out for the September *Saltire* for further information.



The Saltire

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

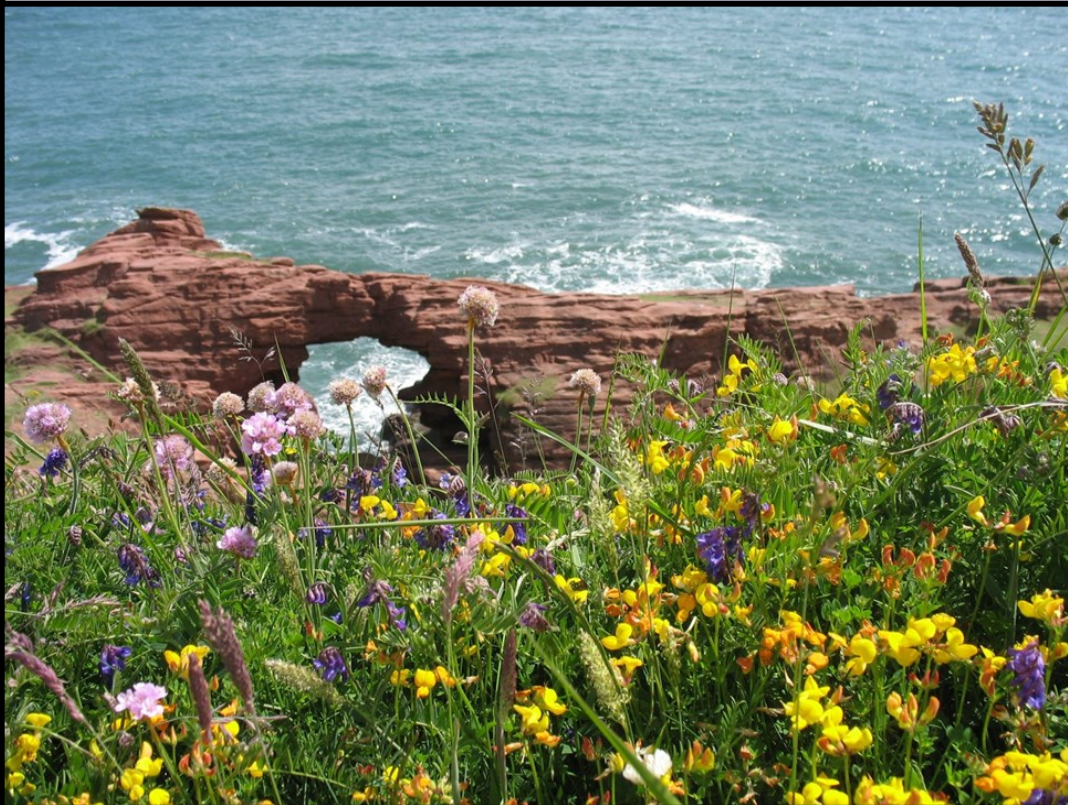


2020

www.sasri.org

Issue II

This Too Shall Pass



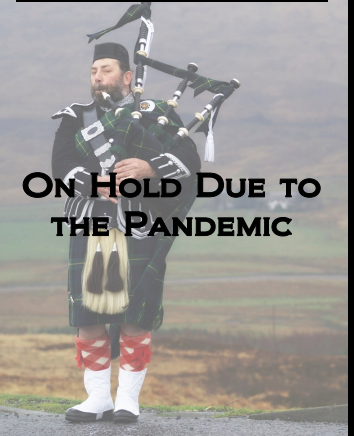
Seaton Cliffs – Arbroath, Scotland

Inside this issue:

<i>State of the Society</i>	2
<i>The World is Their Oyster</i>	3
<i>The Long and Winding Road</i>	4
<i>The Long and Winding Road</i>	5
<i>Three Ways to Slake Your Thirst</i>	6
<i>Members' Page</i>	7
<i>Tartan Picnics Remembered</i>	8

As we reported in the April edition of The Saltire, all of the activities of the Society are still on hold due to the ongoing pandemic. Like all of you we fervently hope and expect that 2021 will be a much better year, and the Society will be prepared to resume our activities just as soon as it is safe to do so. Absence does indeed make the heart grow fonder, and we know that all our members are very much looking forward to the day we can raise a glass together. Please know that we will be making provisional plans for 2021, and we hope that by the time the next Saltire is published in January we'll have a more definitive light at the end of the tunnel. Once we can see that light, we'll be ready to break out the whisky, press the pleats on our kilts and get up and dance to the skirl of the pipes.

UPCOMING EVENTS



STATE OF THE SOCIETY

At the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors (safely conducted remotely), the Board voted to **suspend the dues requirement for the following year**. Given that 2020 has been a year devoid of Society activities, it is only fair that the dues paid for 2020 will be applied towards the 2021 dues. Accordingly, you will not receive a dues notice at the end of this year, and we will be postponing the rollout of our online payment option. We began to offer an online payment option for last year's Tartan Bash as well as the 2020 Burns Supper, and the many persons who used that option provided lots of positive feedback in that regard. As a result, we have begun to plan for an online dues payment option, but that program will not begin until December of 2021.

The Cranston American Legion hall has recently been sold. As many will know, the Legion hall has served as a home to our Scottish dance group as well as serving as the site of our Christmas Ceilidh each December. It may well be that the new owners will agree to rent us the hall for those purposes, but the pandemic struck before we were able to reach out. We will certainly have those situations clarified by the time the dancing (and the Ceilidh) can resume.

As everyone is keenly aware, the pandemic has caused great hardship to businesses both large and small. Anne Robinson and the good folks at The Scottish Gourmet have been exceptionally good to the Society over the years in supplying gift baskets for our raffles and, of course, as our supplier of haggis. Since so many Scottish events and suppers around the country will be postponed this year, it would be wonderful if our members would take the time to peruse their website <https://www.scottishgourmetusa.com/> and consider placing an order. If you can't make it to Scotland this year, at least you can have FedEx bring some Scotland to your door!

Board of Directors

John MacLean	Chair	401-781-7909	jcmac1925@gmail.com
G. Richmond Cargill		508-644-9820	RIScotty12@gmail.com
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-440-4784	brenochjohn@gmail.com
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	jfmuzzy@verizon.net
Gail Kelleher	Treasurer	401-524-9455	kellehergail@gmail.com
James Kelleher		401-461-9552	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

THE WORLD IS THEIR OYSTER

By Jim Kelleher

As we all know, there are certain food and drink pairings that blend perfectly. For those in the know, whisky and oysters are just such a match made in heaven. It is, therefore, only fitting that when a group of Americans sought help in restoring the oyster population, they reached across the sea to Scotland.

A few centuries ago, there were an estimated trillion (not a typo) oysters in and near the waters of New York City's harbor and for decades the area was known as the world's oyster capital. The exponential growth of that area from scattered villages to booming metropolis necessarily damaged the waters and the resulting erosion and development devastated the oyster population to nearly zero. In the past decade, a group of dedicated volunteers began the ambitious "Billion Oyster Project". As the name indicates, the group seeks to greatly replenish the population in and around the New York harbor area. As you would imagine, such an ambitious undertaking requires many hands and much effort.



Talisker Distillery in Carbost, Scotland on the Isle of Skye.



Student volunteers restoring oysters to New York harbor.

Nearly four thousand miles away lies the Talisker distillery, the oldest and largest distillery located on the Isle of Skye. Hearing of the project, the folks at Talisker jumped in to help. Specifically, the project involves cleaning and drying empty oyster shells and then seeding them before depositing them into the sea. Talisker has undertaken an effort to collect empty oyster shells throughout the European Union and has, to date, collected one and a half million pounds of oyster shells. The project has already been able to deposit millions of reseeded oysters in the harbor and seems well on the way to achieving its lofty goal. The next time you're in the mood for oysters, do yourself a favor and have a wee dram, perhaps a Talisker in honor of their efforts to help their friends across the ocean.

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD *by Gail Kelleher*

Several years ago, my husband Jim was discussing our upcoming trip to Scotland with his friend Craig Johns. Craig told Jim about a white-knuckled car ride after arriving in Scotland on one of his pleasure trips. The road he was travelling was replete with hairpin turns which were exacerbated by Craig's tiredness from his overnight flight. When Craig reached his destination, he was badly in need of a drink. The sympathetic bartender informed Craig that the road he had driven was in fact the [Long and Winding Road](#) immortalized by Paul McCartney.

A83, the inspiration for the song, is a scenic drive which connects the Central Belt via A82 from Glasgow with Campbeltown Kintyre in the southwest of Scotland. The road is nearly 100 miles long and travels through some of the most beautiful countryside of Scotland. Much of the road hugs the shores of Loch Fyne, and its highest point of 245m above sea level occurs at the famous pass Rest and Be Thankful from which Glencoe can be admired. The phrase Rest and Be Thankful was inscribed in the stone near the junction of A83 and B828 by the soldiers who built the original military road in 1753 following the Jacobite rebellion. *Cont. on pg. 5*



Looking down onto Glencoe from Rest and Be Thankful

Cont. from pg.4

So how did Paul McCartney begin his 47-year love affair with Scotland? It began in 1966 when (now) Sir James Paul McCartney purchased property in Mull of Kintyre, the 600-acre High Park Farm as a tax break. He was not a regular visitor until 1968, when he married Linda McCartney. They raised their family in the simple beauty of the farm, which provided a refuge for Paul as tensions grew among *The Beatles* and as a place to grieve when the group ultimately disbanded. *The Long and Winding Road* was the last song released by the band in May of 1970.



High Park Farm

The farm became a place for Paul to gain back his confidence musically after *The Beatles*. Songs like *Every Night* and *Maybe I'm Amazed* were written during his time at High Park Farm, but did you know that in 1977 Paul wrote a Scottish song? *Mull of Kintyre* is his tribute to Scotland, and his expression of affection for the Kintyre peninsula.

"I wrote the song when I realized there were no new Scottish songs being written," he recalls. It was a great experience recording it with the local pipe band and really exciting to see the amazing success it had in the charts at the time, so those memories mean I still love it and it's a very special song for me."

It became one of the top 50 biggest selling singles worldwide! Click [here](#) for a charming video by Paul about his love song dedicated to the *Mull of Kintyre*.

When Linda McCartney died in 1998, Paul's visits to the farm became less frequent and in 2013, an announcement was made to the caretakers that their services would no longer be needed. His children grown and the love of his life gone, Paul moved on too. Sometimes it's better not to relive perfect memories.

Three Ways to Slake Your Thirst this Summer

Although summer is waning, someone forgot to turn down the heat! Interested in adding to your summer drink itinerary? Here are three with Scottish flare to try – if you can't find the Scottish brands named below, substitute your favorite. Slàinte Mhath!

Lilliard Gin Floral Cocktail

1 fl oz of Lilliard Small Batch Craft Gin
1 fl oz of elderflower liqueur
Tonic water
Lime wedge for a garnish

Mix the gin and elderflower liqueur in a glass. Add the ice followed by the tonic water, then stir lightly but not too much. Garnish with the lime wedge.

Lower East Side Summer Whisky Punch

1 fl oz of Lower East Side Blended Malt Whisky
4 fl oz of elderflower cordial
Chilled soda water
1 fl oz of Angostura Orange Bitters
1 small sprig of tarragon
Fresh lemon peel
Ice cubes

Except for the soda, mix all of the ingredients in a bowl. Stir well but don't break the tarragon. Pour into a glass and top with the soda. Add some more ice. Say a traditional Scottish toast of 'slange var', then drink.

Ninefold Rum Punch

1.5 fl oz of Ninefold Premium Scottish Rum
3 fl oz of pineapple juice
2 fl oz of orange juice
1 fl oz of coconut water (or coconut milk for a creamier effect)
Splash of grenadine
Lime wedge for garnish

Mix the pineapple juice, orange juice and coconut water together, plus two thirds of the rum. Stir gently. Next add the grenadine, then pour the final third of rum on top. Garnish with the lime.

Members' Page

Flowers of the Forest

Anne Schroeder 2/5/20

Thomas Boyle 5/6/20

Janice Valentine 5/15/20

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

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 (kellehergail@gmail.com).

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Saltire*! If you wish to forego a paper copy and read the electronic version on our website (www.sasri.org) in the future, please send an email to kellehergail@gmail.com.

Entertainment

If you enjoy *Outlander*, be on the look out for a new 8-part travel docuseries featuring Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish: *Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip with Sam and Graham*. The series will premiere on the Starz Network (no release date yet).

The synopsis for the series reads: "Created by the two Scotsmen, *Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip With Sam and Graham* promises a celebration of Scottish history and culture as Heughan and McTavish take viewers along on their adventures, discovering the rich, complex heritage of their native country, meeting various local artisans and experts, and experiencing genuine moments of awe and fascination as the duo share their travels with the audience rather than simply guiding them."

Here's a peek at the trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_3rOPt-RDM

Congratulations to John C. MacLean!



As most of you may know, the MacLean Clan was to be the honored clan at this year's highland games in New Hampshire. Sadly, the games were canceled due to the pandemic, but our own John MacLean was one of four recipients recognized during the 1st Annual Certificate of Appreciation & Recognition ceremony on July 11 held virtually by the Clan MacLean Association.

Leslie H. McLean, President of CMAUS, gave special recognition to John for his work, often by himself at the Clan Village in New Hampshire, "telling everyone the history of Clan MacLean and how proud we should be."

Well Deserved, John!

Tartan Picnics Remembered

Since we can't be together for the Tartan picnic this year, please enjoy some photos from picnics in years past.

