



# The Tartan News

Summer 2014 Issue

Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania

[www.pennscots.org](http://www.pennscots.org)



## SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A new board of directors was elected at the annual meeting of the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania in April 2014. Several of the board members have long standing on the board and some of us are new. The board of directors is comprised of the following members.

- Ken Millage .....President
- John Goodrich ..... Vice President
- Jesse Weigel ..... Treasurer
- Jennifer Gardner .....Secretary
- Rev. Dr. Russell Sullivan.....Chaplain
- William Gable..... Piper
- John Cameron
- Allen Gordon
- Fred Hait
- Bucky Nelson
- Dan Maresh
- John Melville
- Kathleen White
- Charlene Kemp Silvas    ex officio

As the new president, it is my pleasure to welcome all of the people listed to serve on behalf of the membership. In my time on the board, I have seen many of the talents these people possess and of their willingness to be involved to make our programs fun, entertaining, and sometimes educational. It is the intent of all of us to provide opportunities for those who wish to express their “Scottishness.”

One of the goals all Society members should have is to create a stronger, growing, and more vibrant Scottish Society. The board members will do our best to keep our fingers on the pulse of things Scottish. We also ask the general membership to offer suggestions for programs, events, and entertainers. If you learn of something you wish to have included in what the society does, please let us know so we may investigate the possibilities. Please also remember that volunteers for events and writers

of articles for the Tartan News are always welcome.

There are four upcoming events in the next five months. I hope you are all able to attend some or all of these.

*Ken*

## BOARD MEETS SCOTTISH SCHOLAR

On July 21<sup>st</sup> members of the board of directors of the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania met with Dr. Duncan Sim, a scholar at the University of the West of Scotland in Paisley, Scotland. Dr. Sim was in the U.S. continuing research on American Scots. He and a colleague, Dr. Murray Leith, have conducted substantial research over a number of years on Scots living outside of Scotland, particularly in North America.

According to Dr. Sims, their “interests are essentially with the present day diaspora Scots. In the past, we have tended to focus our research on the continuing strength of identity of Scottish-Americans and their enthusiasm for maintaining a connection with Scotland. But we are also interested in those organisations who are in a position to facilitate and foster such connections. I hope to meet with and talk to some of these organisations and try to assess the extent to which they are actually facilitating the diaspora connection.”

He asked to meet with us as representatives of such an organization. We shared our thoughts and hope to see the results of the research when published.

Please go to our website, [pennscots.org](http://pennscots.org), to see an article with the same title that provides additional information and pictures.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 30, 2014

### McLain Celtic Games

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

*Two Mile House*

*1189 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle, PA*

Highland athletics, Scottish Society of Central PA, various clans, tartan education, vendors, food, entertainers (singers, dancers, pipers), and border collie demonstrations. \$10 adult tickets; children under 10 years of age free

September 28, 2014

### Kirkin' O' the Tartan

11:00 AM church service

*Pine Street Presbyterian Church*

*310 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA*

Scottish Society of Central PA Chaplain Rev. Dr. Russell Sullivan presides and offers the blessing over the tartans.

November 18, 2014

### St. Andrews Dinner

6:30 PM potluck

*Camp Hill Presbyterian Church*

*101 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Camp Hill, PA*

St. Andrew's Day is the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, the patron saint of Scotland. Tradition says Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross or "saltire." The Saltire (St. Andrew's Cross) was adopted as the emblem of Scotland.

January 17, 2015

### Burn's Night Supper

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*Radisson Hotel*

*1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA*

Celebrate the life, poetry, and music of Robert Burns, the national bard of Scotland. Food and drink, raffle of things Scottish, and entertainment by Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks. Pricing and menu details will be provided when available.

## CLAN HERITAGE

Greetings All,

I was asked to impart this story of my contact with certain officials back in the auld country for our newsletter. First off I have loved everything Scottish since I was a child. Even my Dad later told me of a Thomas Nelson who came here in the 18th century. No doubt fleeing British oppression after the revolt. I did some time back join our Society when it was know as the Harrisburg Scottish Society, and have been a drummer with three Pipe Bands. I joined the Clan Gunn Society of North America, but I felt something was missing. At this point I had no knowledge of my ancestors ever having pledged their loyalty to the Clan Gunn.

I decided to do some research and obtain contact information. I sent emails to both the Secretary and the current Hon. Life President, Commander Iain A. Gunn, of the Clan Gunn Society of Scotland. During my research I discovered an old Document known as a Declaration of Manrent. In short it is a long winded way of saying "My Sword is Yours." I printed up and put in the necessary information of myself and sent along with a photo of me wearing 18th century Hieland attire. The Commander was most pleased, and said it was the first ever to be sent to him. So as it stands I have been accepted as a Sept to Clan Gunn. This will be now for all of my kin from this time on. Is that a legacy?

During our communications I was informed of the Loon Mountain Hieland Games in New Hampshire on 19, 20, 21 of Sept. this year and that the Commander was going to be there. If that was not enough, the President of the Society for North America and other officials will be there. Seems it will be a grand affair for the Clan Gunn who is to be honored. Maybe because they made peace with the Keiths after all these years.

Well to wrap things up, I think it would be worthwhile for anyone to make contact with the current Chief of their respective Clans. As I did not have any conformation of my family's connection with the Clan, I do now.

Yers Aye,  
Carroll (Bucky) Nelson

# SCOTLAND INDEPENDENCE VOTE

*Introductory Note:* At the last St Andrews Day meeting some members asked questions about the coming Scottish referendum vote – some thought it was over, some wanted to know what would happen next. This is a non-political, brief attempt to describe what is going on.

WHAT ARE THEY VOTING ON?

WILL THIS CHANGE HISTORY OR CHANGE VERY LITTLE?

ISN'T SCOTLAND ALREADY "INDEPENDENT?"

*Scotland Votes:*

**Thursday, September 18, 2014.**

*The Ballot Question:*

**Should Scotland be an independent country?**

Scotland became part of the United Kingdom in two steps. First, the Union of Crowns in 1606 when the Scots King also became King of England. Then in 1707, the Union of Parliament ended the Edinburg Scots Parliament in favor of Westminster in London. Scots were happy with the first but not the second change.

Over the next 3 centuries there were various effort to reform the relationship. It was not until 1967 that the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) won a first electoral victory. In 1979, a national referendum failed to garner the required 40% support.

Another referendum in 1979, however, showed great support for a Scottish government with taxing powers. This led, through various stops and starts, to Westminster's "Scotland Act" which "devolved certain powers back to Scotland. In 1999, the Scottish Parliament resumed its governmental functions with a First Minister (Prime Minister), a Cabinet, and a range of significant powers under SNP majority.

Now, Scots vote for MSPs (Member Scottish Parliament), MPs (Member {Westminster} Parliament), and MEPs (Member European Union Parliament). That's a lot of government.

**Scotland currently has major powers** (see left box below) but subject to Westminster sufferance – that is, they could, theoretically, be withdrawn.

**With independence, more powers** would be gained (see right box below) and control over already devolved powers solidified.

## Devolved Matters

- > agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- > education and training
- > environment
- > health and social services
- > housing
- > law and order (
- > local government
- > sport and the arts
- > tourism and economic development
- > many aspects of transport

## To Gain

- > control over oil reserves,
- > control over Scotland's defense and foreign policy.
- > greater autonomy over its financial and legal powers.
- > control of Immigration policy
- > direct European Union membership

## What happens if Scots vote YES:

Negotiations ensue to clarify language and content of legislation for the Westminster Parliament to spell out precise terms of independence.

## What happens if Scots vote NO:

Negotiations ensue to clarify language and content of legislation for the Westminster Parliament to spell out precise terms of additional devolution.

Either way, all parties appear committed to increasing Edinburg's powers over the Scottish people.

The difference would be that Scotland's destiny would be in its own hands. That is a powerful thought!

Latest poll results: August 11, 2014

FOR: 39% AGAINST: 61%

*Article submitted by John Cameron.*



The Scottish Society of Central PA  
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



### Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania Membership Form

For additional information please go to: [www.pennscots.org](http://www.pennscots.org)

To become a member of SSoCP, or to renew an existing membership, please complete and return this form with your payment to: SSoCP, PO Box 1006, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Membership Dues: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

\$15 for individual membership

Please note if you are making a payment for the past year(s).

\$20 for family membership

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s)  Individual  Family Membership. *(Check one)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am most interested in the following: *(Check ALL Areas of Interest)*

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Art/Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Dance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bagpipes            | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Cuisine   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local History          | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Work      | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Baking     | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Services |   |

**2014–2015 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE! PLEASE MAIL THEM!**