

The Tartan News

Autumn 2013 Issue

Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania

www.pennscots.org

ACROSS THE POND



APPEARING AT THE ANNUAL

SAINT ANDREW'S SUPPER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

101 N. 23rd St.

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Michael Morrison, Chuck Krepley, and Dan Diviney will play a variety of traditional folk music from Scotland on fiddle, guitar, flute, whistles, mandolin and bodhran. Come and hear their variety of love songs, ballads, fast jigs, and reels, many of which have their origins in the 17th century, but can still be heard all around Scotland. There is no charge, but all are asked to bring a dish to share. Baked ham, rolls, and drinks will be provided.



Recommendations for St. Andrew's

So that we have some variety for dinner on November 19, it is recommended that you bring the following based on the first letter of your last name.

A-G: Salad or appetizer

H-P: Vegetables/Casserole

Q-Z: Dessert

We will not be using the kitchen, but warming trays will be available. Gwen Fourson will again be baking the ham for us. Utensils and paper goods will be provided. Mark your calendars now!

Notes from the Board

The Scottish Society of Central PA Board met on September 9 at the Oxford Hall Celtic Shop in New Cumberland, which is owned by Society members, Steve and Cindy Washburn. There was discussion of the recent McLain festival and it was noted that there were three new members who worked in the Society tent that day. Greatly appreciated were the efforts of Karen McVitty, David Hultberg, and Carroll Nelson, who as a re-enactor is known as "Bucky Lee." There were always throngs of people gathered around the tables holding Dan Maresh's books of tartan samples, and several people either renewed or became members of the Society that day.

John Goodrich is coordinating the Robert Burns Dinner and has reserved an extra room for us for the 2014 event. He is also working to keep the cost at 2013 levels.

Kirkin' O' The Tartan

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Pine Street Presbyterian Church

Harrisburg, PA

11:00 a.m.

Our Scottish Society Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Russell Sullivan will lead this traditional service of the blessing of the tartans. Our piper, Bill Gable, will lead us into the sanctuary promptly at 11:00. Please arrive no later than 10:30 so we can get lined up! Paula Goodrich is the coordinator for this, so she will see that we are where we are supposed to be and when we're to be there.

Remember to bring a small swatch of your tartan material to carry with you up the aisle. You will hand it to our Treasurer Dr. Jesse Weigel, who will place it on the font at the front of the church. The service will proceed with a memorial to members that have passed and a bit of remembrance of the history and the reason for such a ceremony. After the service, we recess, again to the sound of our bagpiper.

Next we all gather in the Reception Room to share the shortbread we have brought and perhaps have coffee and conversation with the members of the church who have been our hosts. If you have time to do so, please bring along some short bread for sharing.

Do plan on participating in this tradition on October 13!

Scottish Register of Tartans

As you think about attending the "Kirkin" you might be interested in reading more about how the tartans are maintained in Scotland. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in 2008 to protect, promote, and preserve tartan. The Register is a database of tartan designs and it is here that new designs are accepted. At the web site you can research and compare the many designs that have been catalogued. You can search for your family tartan by filling in the "search" box or you can just do it alphabetically by the first letter of your last name. Plan to spend some time browsing their web site:

<http://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/>

Scotland's People

If your membership in the Scottish Society is owing to your interest in your Scottish family history, as mine is, you might be interested in what I learned at a conference this summer. Every year, an organization called the Federation of Genealogical Societies holds such an event. This year, the conference was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana and since I was visiting family in Cincinnati, I drove up for one day of the four-day event. On August 23rd, I attended lectures all day from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The one that would be of most interest for SSoCP was entitled "Effective Use of Scotland's People Website." The speaker was Paul Milner, who is a native of northern England but who has lived in the U.S. since 1975 and holds dual citizenship. He is a professional genealogist and has been designing workshops, writing books, and lecturing for over 35 years.

The National Records of Scotland, www.nrscotland.gov.uk is a new organization formed April 1, 2011 by joining the General Register Office for Scotland and the National Archives of Scotland. This new National Records of Scotland also cooperates with the Court of the Lord Lyon in making records available at the ScotlandsPeople (no space between) Centre in Edinburgh. If you wish to visit, it can be found at the General Register House, 2 Princes Street and is said to be only a 5 minute walk from Waverly Station. You will be expected to pay an entrance fee. If you want to use the resources on line go to: www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk. You can search an index for free on-line, but you will have to pay a fee to view most actual documents. Most major credit cards are accepted.

This is said to be one of the largest online sources for original genealogical information, with almost 90 million records to peruse. Mr. Milner told us there are some Parish Registers that go back as early as 1538, although by law they were to begin in 1558. Government Civil Registration did not begin until 1854/5. There are census records available there for 1841-1911 but the Valuation Rolls might also be useful since they were taken every five years. An interesting comment was that the census questions were distributed on Sunday and picked up in people's homes on Monday, so there are little, if any, duplications in the records. As to married women's names, the Scots' women kept their maiden name, but the English census takers would often cross it out and put in the husband's name. We also learned that in Scotland, every child is recorded with his birth time. In England, it's only recorded for twins.

This was a very interesting session, but I think Mr. Milner must have known there were frugal Scots in the room that day. He told us, "Start with the LDS site, familysearch.org, because it's free!" For more info go to: www.milnergenealogy.com.

Burns Dinner

Saturday, January 25, 2014
Radisson Penn-Harris
Convention Center
Camp Hill, PA

Social Hour at 5 p.m.
Dinner at 6 p.m.

Entertainment:

Cormorant's Fancy

Registration and full information will
appear in the Winter Issue of
[The Tartan News](#)

Submitted by: Charlene Kemp



The Scottish Society of Central PA

P O Box 1006

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania Membership Form

For additional information please go to: 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, 2013 - June 30, 2014

\$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 | |

2013—2014 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAST DUE! PLEASE MAIL THEM!