

# The Tartan News

Summer 2013 Issue

Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania

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

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual McLain Celtic Festival

Saturday, August 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Two Mile House

1189 Walnut Bottom Road

Carlisle, PA 17013



The Scottish Society of Central PA is always actively involved in the McLain Festival and members are encouraged to attend this day of good food, fun, music, and highland games.

There will be exhibitions of pipes and drums as well as numerous Scottish and Irish dance performances. This is also another opportunity to hear Charlie Zahm, who has sung for the Burns dinner many times. SSoCP will once again sponsor the “Bonnie Knees” competition and will also have a tent where members and guests will be welcomed.

Tickets are \$10 at the gate on the day of the festival and children under 10 are admitted without charge if accompanied by an adult.

## A wee bit more info...

If you are attending the McLain Festival for the first time, the directions are as follows:

If heading South on Route 81 take exit 45, turn left; if heading North take exit 45 and turn right. Proceed on the Walnut Bottom Road approximately 7/10 miles. Parking is available just across the street in the shopping center parking lot.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for a savings of \$1 each at History on High-The Shop, 33 West High Street or the Historical Society, 21 North Pitt Street in Carlisle.

In New Cumberland, tickets may be purchased at the Oxford Hall Celtic Shop at 233 Bridge Street. Note the new address!

The SSoCP tent will have many volumes of tartan info that Dan Maresh has collected and he is always willing to share his knowledge. You can also pick up a friendly greeting and some shortbread!

People come from all over Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland for this event. A recent newspaper article stated that “....some folk festivals get bigger, while this one only gets better.”

\*\*\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\*\*\*

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Kirkin' o' the Tartan at  
Pine Street Presbyterian Church

Details will be provided in the Fall issue of The Tartan News.

### The Scottish Society of Central PA Board Members for 2013-2014

*President:* Charlene Kemp

*Vice-President:* John Goodrich

*Secretary:* Roy MacDonald

*Treasurer:* Dr. Jesse Weigel

*Chaplain:* Rev. Dr. Russell Sullivan

John Cameron

Bill Gable

Mark Hagenbuch

Fred Hait

Virginia Keister

Dan Maresh

John Melville

Ken Millage

Jen Gardner, ex-officio

## From the Board

The Board met on June 17, 2013 to set dates and discuss upcoming events. The Treasurer reported no outstanding debts. Dues for the year are now being collected and once again both dues and e-mail addresses are solicited. E-mail addresses for mailing of the newsletter can be sent to: [HbgScotSoc@aol.com](mailto:HbgScotSoc@aol.com)

John Cameron will continue to be the webmaster and he has also set up a Facebook account for the society, so do go to it and hit "like." The SSoCP web site is: [www.pennscots.org](http://www.pennscots.org)

Members of SSoCP are invited, (actually "begged" may be the better word), to help out with the tent during the McLain Festival. Anyone who can contribute an hour or two is asked to contact Jennifer Gardner at: [jennif32449@verizon.net](mailto:jennif32449@verizon.net)

The board also has decided not to host a Pipes and Drums event in the near future. This was decided after hearing advice from various members who did not feel we have sufficient membership interest to carry out such a massive endeavor. But, how about a Society picnic next summer? Let us know!

## Fall Celtic Festivals

If you can't get to the McLain Festival, you may want to plan a visit to one of these:

August 17, 2013

### **10th Annual Celtic Festival**

105 Carroll Road  
Sunbury, PA

[www.spyglassridgewinery.com/  
celtic.html](http://www.spyglassridgewinery.com/celtic.html)

September 6, 7, 8, 2013

### **Edinboro Highland Games and Scottish Festival**

Edinboro University Campus  
Edinboro, PA

[www.edinboro.edu/events/  
highlandgames/](http://www.edinboro.edu/events/highlandgames/)

September 21, 2013

### **Ligonier Highland Games**

Idlewild Park, Route 30  
Ligonier, PA

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

September 27, 28, 29, 2013

### **Celtic Classic Highland Games**

Main Street  
Bethlehem, PA  
[www.celticfest.org](http://www.celticfest.org)

October 5, 6, 2013

### **Chesapeake Celtic Festival**

Snow Hill, MD (5 mi. north on Old  
Furnace Rd. off Rt. 12)  
[www.celticfest.net](http://www.celticfest.net)



# Scots in the Civil War

With all the attention on Gettysburg, marking the 150th anniversary of the battle there, it begs the question of any Scottish involvement. One wonders why would any Scotsmen be involved in our internal struggles anyway? In researching this story I found some very simple, and funny, answers that have been supplied by others. One such: "I think there was a certain percentage of Scots in the nineteenth century that simply could not resist the temptation to join in a bonny fight, regardless of where it was." One was suggested: "They needed more space to practice their bagpipes. Scotland, having more than a hundred pipers at the time, was full up."

Whatever their motivation, there were huge numbers of men of Scottish extraction that fought. The Scots-Irish or "Scots by way of Ireland" as they are characterized by the historian James G. Leyburn, played a huge role in the war. The Confederate Army was primarily composed of Scots-Irish and included such notable leaders as Jeb Stuart, Nathan Bedford Forrest and Stonewall Jackson. Robert E. Lee's mother was of Scottish ancestry and family lore maintained that she was a direct descendant of Robert the Bruce. In a twist of irony, the Union victor, Ulysses S. Grant was himself of Scots-Irish descent.

Also, there really were a number of men who had come directly from Scotland that fought in the war. There is actually a monument to these men in Old Calton Cemetery in Edinburgh. It is presently inscribed with only six names. They are:

Lt. Col. William L. Duff, Sgt. Maj. John McEwan, Robert Steedman, James Wilkie, Robert Ferguson, and Alexander Smith. All these men fought for the Union.

The Reverend Doctor Bill Mackie, who served with the Royal Navy and Royal Army Pay Corps, is leading a movement to increase the number of names on the

monument by learning the stories of the men who served. Steven McKenzie, the Scotland Highlands and Islands reporter for the BBC, has written several stories of these additional Scots' involvement, and excerpts are used here with permission of the BBC.

Among these as yet unheralded soldiers is the Glasgow born John McTammany, who served in the 115th Ohio Volunteers. He had aspired to be a concert pianist, but those hopes were dashed when he was seriously injured after his enlistment. While recovering, he repaired pianos and music boxes and in 1876 he invented an automated instrument called the roller paper piano player.

The son of the Scottish missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, was living in America at the time and joined the Union forces. Two brothers, James and Alexander McRobbie fought for the Union. James survived, but Alexander died at Gettysburg.

Col. Robert A. Smith, from Edinburgh, fought with the 10th Mississippi and was wounded at the Battle of Munfordville in 1862 and later died as a result. Also from Edinburgh was James Lorraine Geddes. He not only saw action as part of the 8th Iowa Volunteers, but he also composed war songs. Among these are [The Stars and Stripes](#) and [The Soldier's Battle Prayer](#).

The Reverend Mackie tells the story of George Henry Mackenzie, who was born in North Kessock, near Inverness, and had been an officer with the King's Royal Rifle Corps before he arrived in America and enlisted in 1863. He served as a captain leading the Black Union soldiers. However, at some point he deserted the army and then rejoined in 1864. He actually fought in three battles before he was arrested and jailed for his earlier desertion! He was released from prison when the war ended and he went on to become one of the world's best chess players. He was the chess champion of the US from 1871-1889



and his name is listed on the game's World Hall of Fame.

Another of these stories is that of Katie Cumming. She was said to be a lady of wealth who left her father's plantation to nurse the wounded and dying. When the war began, her mother and two sisters fled to England but she stayed behind with her father and brother, both of whom had enlisted in the Confederate Army. Upon hearing the call for nurses, she first took on the duty of caring for those wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, one of the bloodiest of the war. Katie Cumming's diaries are an important record of life in the southern part of the US during the war. She was born in Edinburgh, but she's buried in Mobile, Alabama.

Another ex-serviceman, Allan Mitchell, who has also been researching Scots who fought in this war, tells the story of Bennett Burley/Burleigh. He was born in Glasgow, but served in the Confederate Army. He was caught up in what is known as the Philo Parsons Affair, which was a failed effort to free Confederate soldiers from a prisoner of war camp on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie. He returned to Britain and later became a war correspondent.

One of the most interesting and unusual stories that Mr. Mitchell tells is that of Marian McKenzie. Marian was born in Glasgow but had come to America and she actually disguised herself as a man so she could fight! She joined the Union Army and succeeded in serving in three different regiments, two of them being the 23rd Kentucky Infantry and the 92nd Ohio Infantry. When one infantry would discover her ruse and throw her out, she would simply go and join another!

In addition to the work of the BBC staff, there is some very interesting writing at two other web sites I can recommend. Of course [www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com) is always a "go to" source of interesting information. The other web site that has some very good articles about the Scots' involvement in our internal war can be found at

[www.scotsman.com](http://www.scotsman.com). Go to the articles entitled [Scots and the American Civil War-So whose side were we on?](#) and [American Civil War-How a tartan wearing regiment from Scotland joined the Northern cause.](#) For both sites, just go to the web page and type in "American Civil War" to read these other articles.

This story began with a reference to Gettysburg and the proud, brave Scots who served at some point during the Civil War. There is one story about the 79th New York Highlanders however that might be an example of cultural differences being a hindrance. Stories abound as to why they finally gave up wearing the kilt, but one has to wonder how they didn't know which flag they were seeing. One big mistake was made during the Battle of Gettysburg when the Highlanders mistook the Confederate flag for that of the Union and they ceased firing. It was said that the Stars and Bars of the Confederate flag very much resembled the Stars and Stripes of the Union flag when seen from a distance. The colonel of the regiment died there. He was James Cameron, the brother to Simon Cameron, the Secretary of War and whose name is still important in Harrisburg.

No matter how you feel about this war and no matter on which side your own ancestors fought, this part of our history brings to mind a famous quote from our 28th President. Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) once said, "Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood."

Sources:

BBC News at [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news)  
[www.freerepublic.com](http://www.freerepublic.com)

Davis, William C., [The Civil War-First Blood](#), Time-Life Books, Alexandria, VA 1988

Leyburn, James G., [The Scotch-Irish, a Social History](#), Univ. of NC Press, Chapel Hill, 1962

Webb, Jim, [Born Fighting-How the Scots-Irish Shaped America](#), Broadway Books, NY, 2004

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### 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, 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!**