



Summer

July---August 2006



From the Desk of the President



Every second Wednesday of the month, this Society has a meeting at the Sterritt Center (refer to www.indyscott.org for topics and location). Now that the summer has arrived we get the opportunity to go off and visit Highland Games; there we can meet Scots from other areas of the state, make friends, and let others know about our Society and do some recruiting.

This means that the tent we man at the Columbus Games on September 9th-10th needs to be unique and attractive, plus we need members there to talk to people. We are also having a tent at the Irish Festival, which is very Irish, but they have given us over the years an opportunity to meet a large number of people (over 14,000 in 2005) and to explain the unique aspects of this Society. We have met with great success in having these people become members.

This year I am challenging the Society to come up with a unique Scottish theme for our tent (booths), and/or Scottish events. Last year was the 2nd year the kilted mile was run. We understand in the tug-of-war between McNivens and Claddagh Restaurants there were men's and women's teams. McNivens teams won both sets of "pulls" and promptly paraded behind a piper who led the team past the Claddagh Tent (Restaurant).

We need new and creative thinking on how to present things Scottish for these two events in September as well as the International Festival in November, so put on your creative Scottish hats/bonnets and amaze the Trustees with your ideas.

J.D. Dockery has returned from active duty in Iraq and once again resumed his position as Trustee. George McMath who filled the position when J.D. left to go to Iraq magnanimously offered this to him. I want to thank George for his wonderful help as Trustee and proudly welcome J.D. back.

SSI 2006 Board of Trustees

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Slainte, Gordon

The Fairy Flag of Dunvegan



On the Isle of Skye, in the drawing room of Dunvegan Castle, hangs one of the most treasured possessions of the Clan MacLeod, the Fairy Flag. The Fairy Flag, or “Bratach Sith” in

Gaelic, is reputed to have magical powers to protect the MacLeods against their enemies. Visitors to the Castle can see the flag hanging in a glass case on the wall. The flag on display is rather moth eaten and faded in appearance. It is a faded mustard brown color with red patches sewn to it.

The origin of the Fairy Flag is uncertain since most of the information about it is from oral histories and can't be proven. The traditional tales about the origin of the flag have two themes—Fairies and Crusaders. While the fairy stories can't really be related to facts, the connection with the Crusades can be linked to fact. The fabric in the Fairy Flag, once thought to have been yellow, is silk from the Middle East, and experts have dated the flag as being from between the 4th and 7th centuries A.D., at least four hundred years before the First Crusade. Other stories put forth the idea that it might have been the robe of an early Christian saint while another suggests that it was the war banner of Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, killed in 1066.

One of the fairy versions tells of a chieftain of the MacLeods who fell in love with a fairy maiden whom he begged to be his wife. She agreed on condition that at the end of twenty years he would let her return to her people. When the time came for the parting, the Chief took leave of his wife at the Fairy Bridge, 3 miles from Dunvegan. She gave him the Banner telling him that when he was hard pressed in battle, waving it would bring a host of men to his side. Another fairy version claims that one night the nurse put the young son of the Chief in his cradle in the Fairy tower and slipped off to join the festivities in the castle. The young child later became restless and kicked off his blanket. Fairies came and comforted him and wrapped him in a silk shawl, which became the Fairy Flag.

One of the “Crusader” versions tells of a MacLeod crusader in the Holy Land who was

warned by a hermit of an evil spirit, a destroyer of true believers that guarded a dangerous mountain pass on the borders of Palestine. The hermit told the MacLeod crusader that with a piece of the “True Cross” he might get through the pass. The MacLeod slew the spirit, The Daughter of Thunder, and before she died she revealed the future of his clan. She also directed him to take her girdle and make it into a banner and her spear into a staff.

Although its origin is a mystery and there are many other versions of its origin, the flag is reputed to have supernatural powers and if the Clan MacLeod ever faced mortal danger, the Fairy Flag was to be waved three times and the hosts of “Faerie, the Knights of the Faerie Raide” would come to the aid of the Clan MacLeod. The Flag could only be used three times and only in the most dire circumstances. All of the stories seem to agree that it has only been used two times, but there is some disagreement as to when those two times occurred. Some sources claim the Flag was used against the Clan Donald, once in 1490 and again in 1520, when the MacLeods were attacked and outnumbered. Other sources claim that one time was when a terrible plague killed most of the MacLeod's cattle and the prospect of a wintertime famine was imminent, the Flag was waved and the sick cattle recovered and the disease vanished. Still other stories allege that the Flag was first used when an infant MacLeod was at the point of death, but was brought back to health by the Flag.

According to stories, the Flag even played a role in World War II. Young men of the Clan MacLeod were said to have carried pictures of the Flag in their wallets while flying in the Battle of Britain, and not one of them was lost to German flyers. It is also said that the Chief of Clan MacLeod had agreed to bring the Flag to the Cliffs of Dover and wave it if the Germans should attempt to invade Britain.



'Worst' Historical Britons List

Historians for BBC History Magazine have put a list of the 10 worst Britons of the last 1,000 years together. The historians chose one villain from each of the last 10 centuries. The one chosen for **1700-1800: Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (1721-65)**

A younger son of King George II, he was given the nickname "Butcher" for the merciless manner in which he defeated the Young Pretender, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, at the Battle of Culloden in April 1746 and quelled the Jacobite Rising.

2006 SSI Calendar of Events

July

6-9th—Grandfather Mt. Highland Games—MacRae Meadows, Linville, NC

12th—SSI Meeting: Program—Ed Adams: History of the Scots-Irish Meat provider—Cornelius

August

5th—Detroit Highland Games—Historic Greenmead Village, Livonia, MI

9th—SSI Meeting. Program—Judith Bastin: Mary Queen of Scots. Meat provider—Bastin

26th—Kalamazoo Scottish Festival—Kalamazoo, MI

September

9-10th—Columbus Scottish Festival—Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus, IN

13th—SSI Meeting: Program—Jack Davidson: Heraldry Part II. Meat provider—McClain

15-17th—Indianapolis Irish Fest—Military Park, Indianapolis, IN

October

6-7th—St. Louis Scottish Games--Forrest Park, St. Louis, MO

7-8th—Feast of the Hunter's Moon—West Lafayette

6-8th—Tennessee Highland Games—Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

11th—SSI Meeting: Program: Susan Walker—Scottish Ghost Stories. Meat provider—McMath

21-22nd—Stone Mt. Highland Games—Atlanta, GA

November

2-5th—Indianapolis International Festival—Indiana State Fairgrounds—Indianapolis, IN

12th—Kirkin' o' the Tartan—Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ

18th—Founder's Dinner—Jenn Park

December

13th—SSI Meeting. Program—TBA Meat provider—Davidson



The Scottish Cook

Edinburgh Gingerbread

8 oz Plain flour
1 tsp. Bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp Ground ginger
1 tsp. Cinnamon
pinch Salt
6 oz Butter
6 oz Treacle
4 oz Brown sugar
6 tblsp. Milk
2 Eggs
2 oz Sultanas
2 oz Almonds; flaked

Sift the flour, spices, salt and soda; and then stir in the fruit and nuts. Melt the butter with the treacle and sugar on a low heat. The mixture should remain coolish but the sugar dissolved. Add the milk and stir in the eggs. Pour the warm mixture into a well in the center of the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly to form a batter. Pour into a greased and lined 2 lb loaf tin. Bake at 325° for 1 1/4 hours. This is a fairly heavy recipe and may sink on cooling

Did You Know

The riding lawn mower was invented in Scotland in 1854 for use on large landed estates. It was a one horse powered reel type pull –behind mower with the driver seated behind the reel. The horse wore leather boots to prevent tearing up the turf. The mower was also fitted with a stone roller behind the driver to smooth the land already mowed. This device did the work of six men with hand pushed reel mowers.

Tattoo Marching to America

Plans to bring the Edinburgh Military Tattoo to the U.S. for the first time were unveiled during April by the city's Lord Provost during his visit to New York for Tartan Week. Although talks are already underway, it will be a few years before it can be staged at a venue such as Madison Square Garden or Yankee Stadium, probably at the same time as the annual Tartan Week. The Tattoo has already been staged overseas in recent years in New Zealand and Australia, with great success. The U. S. project may be organized by the current Tattoo Chief Executive, Brigadier Melville Jamieson, who is retiring after this year's performance at Edinburgh Castle. (THE MACNEWSLETTER [SS of Evansville and the Tri-state] February 2006)

The Declaration of Independence

In the steamy days of Philadelphia's summer of 1776, the representatives of the thirteen American colonies met to decide whether to break completely with Britain. They did so in a Georgian building now called Independence Hall, partly designed by a Scot, Andrew Hamilton, who once owned some of the square on which it stands. It was in response to the appeal of a Scot, John Witherspoon, that the Declaration of Independence was signed after it had been given to Thomas Jefferson, a descendent of a sister of King Robert I, the Bruce, to draft. The document was written in the handwriting of an Ulster Scot, Charles Thompson, who was secretary of the Congress for all its fifteen years. The declaration was first printed by another Ulsterman, John Dunlap, and was publicly proclaimed by a third Orangeman, Capt. John Nixon, while Andrew McNair rang the Liberty Bell.

A young Philadelphia seamstress whose husband John Ross (nephew of George Ross, who signed the declaration) had been killed in the revolution, was engaged to make the first American flag. Her name was Betsy Ross.

Of the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence, at least twenty-one, or almost 38 percent, have been identified as having Scottish ancestry. But even this figure does not adequately measure the Scottish performance, since there were few Scots living in Massachusetts, Maryland, or Connecticut, and hence no Scottish delegates to the convention from these colonies. Of the men who represented the remaining ten colonies, almost half of those who risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, were of the Scottish nation. Even more remarkable, ten of the thirteen colonies had Scottish governors during the ensuing war. And all of this was produced by a people who, according to the 1790 U.S. census, were only 6.7 percent of the white colonial population. ([The Mark of the Scots](#), pp.31-32).

Sheriffmuir, the Forgotten Battle

When we were in Scotland last fall, my wife decided that she wanted to visit as many battlefields as possible. While in Stirling we ask the lady at the guesthouse how to find Sheriffmuir. Her reply was "why would you want to go there, there is nothing there, no one goes there." Well we went anyway and found the site looking much like it had probably looked at the time of the battle.

The battle of Sheriffmuir, fought on 13 November 1715, is considered the most significant and the last battle of the second rebellion. Queen Anne, the last of the Royal Stuarts in the Protestant succession, had died in 1714 and was succeeded by George the Elector of Hanover, who became King George I. George quickly

succeeded in alienating many supporters of Queen Anne and in Scotland the antagonism to the succession of a German who spoke little English was strong, especially among the Highlanders.

On September 6, 1715, the Earl of Mar, John Erskine, declared his support for James III, the Old Pretender and raised the Royal (Stuart) standard at Braemar and headed south to join with the English Jacobites. At first things went well for Mar, he found himself in command of 12,000 armed Jacobite clansmen, the largest Jacobite army ever raised in Scotland, many of the northern towns declared for James and by mid-September Mar had established himself in Perth. To counter the uprising the government sent a combination of Scottish and English regiments under the command of John Campbell, the second Duke of Argyll.

On November 10th, more than two months after the start of the Rising, Mar set out from Perth in the direction of Stirling. Argyll moved north to meet him and on the morning of November 13th the two armies met at Scheriffmuir in the Ochil Hills, a couple of miles north of Dunblane. Argyll was outnumbered (about 2:1), but his army was made up of regulars fighting under an experienced commander. Argyll assembled the right flank of his army uphill, with General Wetham administering over the left flank. MacDonald of Clanranald, MacDonnell of Glengarry and MacLean of Duart commanded the middle and right flanks of the Jacobite troops. Throwing off their plaids the Scots charged the enemy in the traditional highland charge with claymores. The Jacobites routed the left wing of Argyll's army, but Argyll's cavalry had broken the center and left wing of the Jacobite forces. The battle ended with both sides' left flanks defeated. Mar did not send his reserves and neither side saw fit to risk a second round. Argyll fell back to Dunblane, while Mar withdrew to Perth. While both sides claimed victory, the battle amounted to a defeat for the Jacobites since Argyll still held Stirling and blocked their way into England.

1776

If you missed the performance of 1776 at the Scottish Rite Theater you missed a great show. The show written by Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards originally opened on Broadway on March 16, 1969. The musical follows the activities of the Continental Congress through the months of May, June, and July of 1776 as it dealt with the issue of American independence. It follows the debate regarding whether or not the Colonies should declare independence from Britain, the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the debate over and changes made to the document written by

Thomas Jefferson, and finally the adoption of the Declaration.

Having seen the musical more times than I can remember, I can say that the cast was well chosen and they all gave excellent performances. SSI member Ed Adams gave a very realistic performance as George Read of Delaware, who was one of the members who originally opposed independence. The cast made the events come to life for the audience, and the audience gave them a standing ovation at the end of the play.



2006 Glasgow Highland Games

While it was a warm day in Glasgow, which will surprise no one who has been to the games, it was cooler than many previous years, which made for a more pleasant time at the games even though the crowd seemed smaller than usual with fewer clan tents and vendors. The slightly cooler weather was certainly more comfortable for a group of the 78th Fraser's who gave several excellent demonstrations of their military expertise.

The 2006 Chief of the Games was Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, Chief of the Clan Elliot; and the honored clan this year was Clan Wallace.

This years musical choices included Celtic rock from the groups Seven Nations, the ric blair band, and a new group called Albannach, which I was told is made up mainly from members of the disbanded Clann An Drumma. More traditional Celtic music was provided by Father, Son and Friends, The Boatrights, and the perennial favorite Colin Grant-Adams. There were the traditional pipe bands performances as well as the pipe and drum competitions. Highland and country dancing demonstrations, harp competition and workshops provided other enjoyable activities.

There were the usual amateur and professional heavy athletic competitions, including the 56 & 28 pound weight throw, the 22pound hammer toss, the

caber toss and the sheath toss. It was really amazing to see the athletic prowess of these competitors and to see the effort they put forth in the competition. With even those how did not win meriting praise for their work.

As usual all the folks involved put in a great deal of work and the Games were a great time for those of us in attendance and made the 2006 Glasgow Highland Games a first class event.

2006 Fort Wayne Highland Games

by Susan Walker

This year's Indiana Highland Games and Festival at Fort Wayne was a true Scottish experience. It was both cold and wet. In fact Ron and I almost didn't go, thinking that it would be rained out, but the rain stopped and it turned out to be a great time. Many members of the SSI were at the games. The pipe bands were great and provided just the right touch of Scottish music. There were quite a selection of vendors selling good food and all types of goods including warm sweatshirts. Great fun was provided for the children including something involving knocking down King George's soldiers. The Celtic entertainment was loud and hot as usual. There was so much going on it was difficult to see and hear it all and at the end of the day we were sorry to leave, but glad to know we could return next year.



Scottish Humor

. After discovering that they had won 15 million pounds in the Lottery, Mr. and Mrs. McFlannel sat down to discuss their future. Mrs. McFlannel announced, "After twenty years of washing other people's stairs, I can throw my old scrubbing brush away at last." Her husband agreed - "Of course you can, hen. We can easily afford to buy you a new one now." (Electric Scotland)

Help!

Help!

Help!

Help!

We need to update our membership list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Please help by filling out the form and bringing it to a meeting or mailing it to:

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis
2270 Van Ness Place
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-4703

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Meeting Schedule: July—August 2006

July	August	September
Date: Wed. July 12	Date: Wed. August 9	Date: Wed. Sept. 13
Meat Dish: Cornelius	Meat Dish: Bastin	Meat Dish: McClain
Program: Ed Adams: History of the Scots- Irish	Program: Judith Bastin: Mary Queen of Scots	Program: Jack Davidson: Heraldry Part II
A-E—Salad	A-E—Dessert	A-E—Veggie
F-N—Dessert	F-N—Veggie	F-N—Salad
O-Z—Veggie	O-Z—Salad	O-Z—Dessert
Social Hour 6:30 p.m.	All meetings take place at the Sterritt Senior Center. Corner of 56 th St. and Post Road on the grounds of Fort Ben	For more information contact Gordin Inglis 317-849-7841 or any Board member.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.		
Program 8:00 p.m.		

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis
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