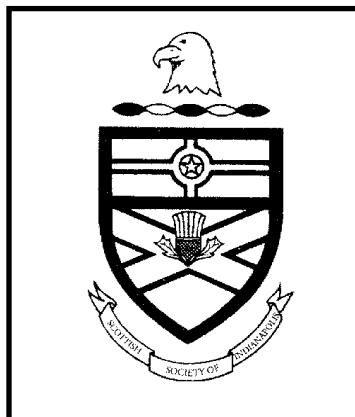


The Whistle

Fall

October—December 2008



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317-859-8163

Newsletter Editor:
Paladin1745@comcast.net

From the Desk of the President



The Society will be going into its 25th year Anniversary during this November's Annual Dinner and we can all make it a very memorable year by seeing what each one of us can do to make it so. We need to come up with new presentations on topics that we would like to learn about. Here is an example of what I mean, I enjoyed reading the book The Mark of the Scots by Duncan Bruce, but I really "bugged out" when in the chapter "Scottish Philosophy and the American Revolution" showed how "The Arbroath Declaration" of 1320 and "The National Covenant" of 1638 strongly influenced the

wording of "The Declaration of Independence" of 1776 and "The Preamble of the Constitution", 1787. This comparison was a great eye opener for me. The display that was created for our booth by Jack Davidson created a lot of discussion for both young and old. What made the concept sink in was that we could invite people to compare the two side by side. I would ask them to tell me what conclusion they arrived at after reading it. In this way they were able to uncover for themselves what the Scots and Scots/Irish did for this country. It is important for people to understand why they should be proud of their Scottish heritage; and by showing how it is relevant to today; it will attract people to become members of the SSI.

I certainly enjoyed my time at The Columbus Highland Games and the Irish Festival. Trustee Jack Davidson once again did a great job of setting up the booths and putting up the display and Past President Carter Keith's Banner Display made our flags fly tall and true. President Keith showed his mechanical skills when he put this together. What also made SSI stand out was that our members who "manned" the booths were in Scottish attire and did wonderful job in coaxing people into the booths and in being very animated when they effused about our Society and our meetings. The fact that we talked about the interaction that takes place, like County Dancing, the tug-o-war at the Midsummer Celebration and the up coming Scottish Wedding Customs in October, had the younger couples excited about the SSI. Educating the community about Scottish traditions and customs takes on a whole new meaning, when people are physically involved in the activities. Presentations are fine but when people hear how they can participate, it adds to their interest in coming to our Wednesday meetings.

It is a challenge for us all to make our 25th year exciting and it does require that all do their part to make it so. The new President and SSI Trustees will need your

ideas and participation in developing programs, including ones for the younger ones, as this will encourage the young families see that they have a place to come to, for the whole family.

At this time, I wish to thank the present and past Trustees who did so much to help run the Society and who contributed time and ideas to help the Society be what it is today. They pulled me out of a few messes and were a great team to work with. Actually, it was more fun than work and I greatly appreciated their help.

Slainte Gordon

Kenneth MacAlpin, Scotland's First King

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The House of Alpin was founded around 500AD by Fergus, the chief of the Scots of Dalriada. Their capital was at Dunadd and it was here that their kings were proclaimed. Little is known about these early kings as individuals until the 36th king, Kenneth Mac Alpin.

Kenneth MacAlpin was born between 800-810 AD in Dal Riada, during the Pictish occupation. His father, Alpin, King of Kintyre, had been beheaded fighting for a Pictish king and it is believed that his mother was Queen of the Picts, and that through her (and the matrilineal succession practiced by the Picts) that Kenneth MacAlpin in 845 received the crown of Alba and the title Rex Pictorum.

It was under Kenneth MacAlpin's rule that Scotland was united. Prior to this unification, Scotland had been a country divided with the area known as Dalriada under the control of the Scots (which had originally arrived from Ireland) and the Picts, which were the native inhabitants.

It is said that soon after his succession that MacAlpin held a banquet at Scone and he murdered seven earls of Dalriada who might have opposed his claim to be king of the Scots and the Picts. This murder is popularly known as "MacAlpin's treason."

Once the warfare had ended between Scot and Pict, the job of wise legislation helped seal the union. MacAlpin turned his attention to reforming laws, repressing and punishing crime, as well as improving the administration of justice. He is credited with a code of laws sometimes referred to as "Code MacAlpin". The Code required that every shire in the kingdom have a judge to decide "controversies". It also called for all persons suspected of any crime, to be subjected to an inquest "of seven wise and judicious men", or of any greater odd number of men. Code MacAlpin established penalties for particular crimes such as hanging for the crime of theft and beheading in the case of murder. Women convicted of these crimes were to be drowned or buried alive. Blaspheming God or speaking disrespectfully of his saints, of his king, or of his chieftains could result in having your tongue cut out. Lying about your neighbor would result in your losing your sword and being shunned by the community. There were also laws to protect agriculture and laws concerning the churches and clergy.

It was Kenneth MacAlpin who moved the Scottish coronation site to Scone in the heart of Pictish land where the Scottish king accepted the crown over the Stone of Destiny, which Scottish legend claims was brought with them from Spain, once rested in Ireland at Tara and thence brought to Scone. Kenneth's first capital was at Dunstaffnage in Argyll but not long after his accession, he moved it to Scone where Moot Hill became the legal center for Scotland. Moving the capital from Dunstaffnage served a twofold purpose, to move the capital from the danger of Viking attack as

well as to show MacAlpin's authority by moving the capital to the heart of Pictish land.

Kenneth MacAlpin died of cancer in February 6th, 858 or 859 (there is some disagreement among authorities) at Forteviot and was buried on Iona. He left his kingdom to his brother Donald, although both of his sons eventually succeeded to the throne. During his reign, Kenneth pushed the boundaries of his kingdom south of the river Forth until it reached as far as the river Tweed. However, the kingdom of Strathclyde, based at Dumbarton, remained untouched.



We are beginning a new feature in **The Thistle**. In an effort to learn more about our Scottish heritage, in each issue of **The Thistle**, we are going to select a Clan and have an article on that Clan's history. These will be Clans represented in the Society's membership.

Clan Gregor



The Clan Gregor held lands in Glenstrae, Glenloch, Glenlyon, Glengyle, and Glenorchy. They were descended from the ancient Celtic royal family through the hereditary Abbots of Glendochart, a descent which is proclaimed in the motto, '*S Rioghal Mo Dhream* translated as *Royal is my Race*.

Tradition holds that Gregor was the son of Kenneth MacAlpin; however he may have been Griogair, son of Dungal, who is said to have been a co-ruler of Alba, the kingdom north of Central Scotland, between AD 879 and 889. Most modern historians agree that the first certain Chief was Gregor of the Golden Bridles. Gregor's son, Iain Camm (Ian of the One-Eye) succeeded as the second Chief sometime prior to 1390.

Robert the Bruce granted the barony of Loch Awe, which included much of the MacGregor lands, to the Chief of the Campbells. In common with many royal gifts of the time, it was left to the recipient to work out how he would take possession of it. The Campbells harried the MacGregors who were forced to retire deeper into their lands until they were largely restricted to Glenstrae.

In 1589 John Drummond, the Kings forester, was murdered after hanging some MacGregors for poaching. The Chief, Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae, took responsibility for the act and was condemned by the Privy Council. King James VI issued an edict proclaiming the name MacGregor "altogidder abolished," meaning that those who bore the name must renounce it or suffer death.

The Proscriptive Acts of Clan Gregor were enacted on the 3rd of April 1603. This draconian ruling authorized the capture of Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae and his leading kinsmen. In the spring of 1604, Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae, Chief and Laird of MacGregor was hung with thirty of his warriors against the West End of Saint Giles Kirk where the Tollbooth stood. Today, the "Heart of Midlothian" in Edinburgh marks the spot where the MacGregor Chief was executed.

The names of Clan Gregor were erased from existence. To even claim one of these names openly was to invite an immediate execution. The clanfolk of the Gregorach were ordered to take different names, usually assigned. They were to obey implicitly the new Chief placed over them. It should be noted here that many of the Gregors refused. Of those who refused (and were caught); the men were executed, the women were stripped bare, branded, and whipped through the streets. The women and children were sold into slavery for Britain's new colonies in North America.

Further additions to the proscriptive acts denied the Gregors basic necessities of food, water, shelter, and care for infants and the elderly. The Gregors were denied the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, marriage, and last rites. The gentry of Scotland were encouraged to hunt the Gregors with dogs as if they were common game stock. But, without a doubt, the most horrifying act was the commission of selling Gregor heads to the government to attain pardon for thievery and murder.

The surviving MacGregors continued in two groups. The first were those who legally changed their name to satisfy the law, but never changed their heart or blood. The other group were those who took to the great highlands and continued to use their Gregor names in defiance. At Loch Katrine on the 7th of March 1671, the 3rd son of Chieftain Donald (Glas) Gregor of Glegyle and Margaret Campbell, cousin to John Iain (Glas) Campbell 11th Laird of Glenorchy, later in 1681 The Earl of Breadalbane, was born and baptised at Buchanan Parish as Robert MacGregor. Because of the

proscription he was forced to assume his mothers name of Campbell. His somewhat fictionalized adventures have been immortalized in Sir Walter Scotts novel, *Rob Roy*.

The persecution of Clan Gregor finally ended in 1774 when the proscription against them was repealed - 171 years later. (Taken from the history of the Clan Gregor, Clan Gregor Society, Edinburgh)

New Book Out

If you haven't heard yet, SSI member Laura Robinson Hiner is soon to have a new book out titled Travel, My Way. This first small volume chronicles some of her experiences while traveling in Ireland and Britain with friends and family. It shares with the reader some of her fun times and memories, gives a few travel tips and other information aimed at helping to plan your own European adventure.

It also explains British terminology, foods and customs as well as containing color photographs.

The book will be available on amazon.com, at selected Barnes and Noble stores, and at www.laurahiner.com. Pre-sale special price: \$14.00-No shipping and handling fees. Normal price: \$15.95 - plus up to \$5.00 shipping and handling fees (USA)

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE

Since the Society is now putting the newsletter mainly on the website, it is even more important that we have your correct email address and other contact information. This information will not be given out to anyone else, but will be used to notify you of the posting of the new issue of The Thistle, reminders of meeting, and any other special announcements of which the members need to be informed. Steven Johnson has undertaken the task of updating your contact information. You may check with him at a meeting to see if he has your current information or you may email him at IndyScot@gmail.com. You may also send your information to The Thistle at paladin1745@comcast.net.

Clean-Up Day

Saturday October 18 will be the annual clean up day at the Latvian Center. The groups that meet at the Center are asked to help with the clean-up. The time for the clean-up will be from 9-1. Lunch will be provided by the members of the Latvian Society. Let's all pitch in and help with the upkeep of this nice facility that we are all enjoying. Let's see if we can get a larger group to help this year than last year.

Columbus Scottish Festival 2008

The honored clan at the 2008 Columbus Scottish Festival was Clan Keith and the winner of the Best Clan/Society Tent award given by Clan Davidson and the Scottish Society of Indianapolis was The Scottish Society of Louisville.

Those looking for musical entertainment could choose from Hogeye Navvy with their selection of shanties, drinking songs and Scottish, Irish, English and North American ballads; the Celtic rock music of the Hooligans from the mountains of western North Carolina; or balladeer Collin Grant-Adams with his contemporary, and traditional music of Scotland and Ireland as well as some of his original compositions.

The Shire of Cuil Choluim—the shire is the Columbus based entity of The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA). The avowed purpose of the SCA is the study and recreation of the Middle Ages & Renaissance, its crafts, sciences, arts, traditions, literature, etc. was in attendance at this year's festival again giving the young folks a look into that period of time.

The Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard presented the colors at the opening ceremony. The Indiana State Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard are members of Indiana chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution. They wear uniforms which would have worn in the Revolutionary War.

The pipe bands in attendance this year included the Southern Indiana Pipes and Drums, the Indiana Caledonia Pipe Band, the Murat Highlanders, and the Pipe Band of the Fountain Trust, winners of the award for the Best Band for the 2007 games.

There were demonstrations of Border Collie Sheepdogs on both Saturday and Sunday. The demonstrations showed how Sheepdogs work in herding sheep. There was also a Duck Herding Demonstration

The Festival also included the 17th annual Columbus Scottish Festival European Car Show. Each day a judge chose a best of show and the spectators voted for a people's choice. Category winners will each receive a trophy on both days of the show. Once again I thought of taking my car, but they always have some pretty classy cars at the show and I don't know how mine would stand up against the competition, besides I hate driving in the rain with no top on the car

Of course what would a true Scottish festival be without the athletic contests? The Scottish Highland games or Heavy Events are the modern continuation of an ancient Celtic tradition. Each event tests the athlete's strength and skill. Just watching these athletes competing against one another and against themselves is something to behold.

Founder's Day Dinner Saturday, November 15, 2008 George's Neighborhood Grill

Menu

Filet Mignon with Whisky Sauce Apricot Glazed Salmon with Mango Sauce Chicken Marsala
Cock-A-Leekie Soup House Salad with Scottish Black Cherry Vinaigrette
Garlic Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Rolls & Butter
Scottish Gingerbread with Warm Butterscotch Sauce
Soft Drinks

*For so long as one hundred men remain alive,
we shall never under any conditions submit to the
domination of the English. It is not for glory or riches
or honours that we fight, but only for liberty, which
no good man will consent to lose but with his life.*

THE DECLARATION OF ARBRACHTH, 1320

2008-2009 Events Calendar

October

5th-6th—St. Louis Scottish Games--Forrest Park, St.Louis, MO. **SUSPENDED**

5th-7th—Tennessee Highland Games—Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

8th—SSI Meeting. Program: A Gretna Green Wedding—Gary Davidson

17th-19th—Stone Mt. Highland Games—Stone Mountain Park, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.smhg.org/>

Oct18th—Clean Up day at Latvian Center. 9am-1pm. Lunch furnished.

November

8th—Fountain Trust Tartan Ball. West Lafayette.

15th—Founder's Dinner—Geroge's Bar andGrill

20-23rd —Indianapolis International Festival—Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion—Indianapolis, IN

December

10th—SSI Meeting Program: Hogmany/ Toasts and Social Hour

31st—New Year's Eve Party Latvian Center 8PM-1AM. \$30/ (Will include the various ethnic groups that use the Center for events. This years hosts will be the Latvians) Snacks included/cash bar.

Attire: men-jackets/ladies-cocktail dresses

January

14th—SSI Meeting Program: Robert the Bruce—Becky Dockery & Katie Bader

25th Founder's Day Dinner Reservation Form **George's Neighborhood Grill** **6935 Lake Plaza Drive (71st & Binford Blvd.)** **Saturday, November 15, 2008**

Office Use Only

Date received _____ Amt. \$ _____

All reservations must be received by Friday, November 7, 2008. Reservations received after this date will be charged \$35 per person. Please make checks payable to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. Checks for the proper amount should be sent to:

Judith Bastin
6610 East US 136
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$32 per person for the Founder's Day Dinner. Total amount enclosed \$_____.

Name _____

6:30 PM – Social Hour 7:00 PM – Dinner

The dinner includes soup, salad, potato, vegetable, entrée, dessert, and soft drinks.

Please choose one entrée for each person attending and indicate the number needed below.

Filet _____ Salmon _____ Chicken _____

Meeting Schedule: October—December 2008

October

Date: Wed. Oct. 8
Meat Dish: Douglass

Program: A Gretna Green-
Wedding—G. Davidson

A-E—Salad

F-N—Dessert

O-Z—Veggie

Social Hour 6:30 p.m

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Program 8:00 p.m.

November

Date: Sat. Nov. 15

Founder's Dinner

George's Neighborhood
Grill –6935 Lake Shore Dr.
(71st & Hwy 37, Binford Blvd.)

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

All meetings take place
at the Latvian Center
1008 West 64th Street

December

Date: Wed Dec. 10
Meat Dish: TBA

Program: Party & Social
Toasting

A-E—Dessert

F-N—Veggie

O-Z—Salad

For more information contact
Gordon Inglis 317-849-7871
or any Board member.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

3067 River Bay Drive N
Indianapolis, IN 46240-2985

Member of COSCA