



St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks



March 2009

Letter From Your President

Dear Friends and Kinsmen,

I hope the winter goes well for you wherever this finds you.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend our annual Burns Supper this year due to family commitments. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the event and those who attended. Also, many thanks to the staff at Will Rogers.

Although I'm now in the Glens Falls area I do keep in touch with the Board of Directors and members also. If anyone needs to contact me I can be reached at 518.793.1825 or 51C Hiland Springs Way, Queensbury, NY 12804.

As many of you know, Fort Ticonderoga is planning a Scottish event in Late June. They will need a lot of help getting this off the ground and it has the potential to be the main Scottish event in the Adirondacks in the future. Should you be looking for a worthy cause to support please contact me so I can refer you to Fort Ticonderoga staff.

I hope I see you all at our Tartan Day observance in April.

Yours aye, Bill

Future Events

April 4th : Tartan Day will be celebrated in our usual manner with Peter Fish leading a hike up a local mountain, probably Baxter Mt. A dinner will follow. Those interested should call Peter at 576-4405 for information about the meeting place and time, and about dinner arrangements.

April 24th : SASA Board meeting at 7pm at the home of Al and Jini Hood, 138 Beech Hill Circle, Lake Placid.

July 4th : Lake Placid Parade. Meet at the Olympic Center at 4:30 pm. Parade will start down Main Street at 5 pm.

June 20th (not July 5th) : Scots Day at Fort Ticonderoga. SASA will take part in the events of the day. More information in the June newsletter.

Mission Statement:

- ◆ The Perpetuation of Scottish Heritage, Traditions, Culture, Education and Genealogy.

To Contact Us :

- ◆ St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks, P.O. Box 1424 Lake Placid, NY 12946
- ◆ We are on the Web: www.kvvi.net/~adkscot

YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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News From Members

Jack LaDuke, husband of SASA Director Marina Roy Duke, has announced his retirement from CAX-TV. Although he was a full-time reporter there for 17 years, his journalism career goes back to when he was 12 years old in Keeseville reporting on Boy Scout activities for the Essex County Republican. Jack and Marina spent some time in Central America where he was training young people in photography and other media skills. While there he covered a devastating volcano eruption in Nicaragua. He recalls that the volcanic ash "virtually covered the city".

Back home in the North Country, Jack worked for several organizations and was responsible for covering news in the Northeast for national broadcast. He was part of the communications for the 1980 Winter Olympics and the 1998 ice storm, and has interviewed many interesting people including Hillary Clinton. Jack is now seen at many local events with his camera including the Burns Supper and the Winter Carnival.

Rita Leonard has opened the Robert Louis Stevenson Tea Room in Saranac Lake. It is located at the former Sageman House at 78 Church Street. The Tea Room features custom blended teas based on Stevenson's literary references such as "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", and incidents in his life such as "The Equator" for his time spent sailing in the South Pacific. Sandwiches are available as well as customized dinners and catering. Rita takes charge of blending the teas while her husband, Les Hersshorn, is the executive chef. The Tea Room will be open year-round for breakfast, lunch, tea, and dinner. Call 891-6406 for reservations or go online to www.therobertlouisstevensontearoom.com.

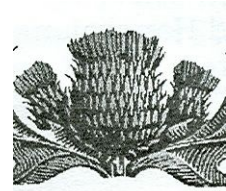
New Members

Welcome to these new SASA members:

Susan J. Grimm from Saranac Lake

Beth Nolland from Plattsburg

Gordon J. Hamilton from Pottersville



Where In The World Is Scotland?

The St. Andrew's Society project of a binder of information on Scotland for elementary schools has three purposes. First, it is intended to assist elementary school teachers with their programs on world cultures and to encourage them to include Scotland in the curriculum. The second purpose is to carry out our mission which is the perpetuation of Scottish history, traditions, culture, education, and genealogy. The third is to promote interest in the St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks and possibly gain new members.

The research, writing, and organization has been completed by Jini Hood. Now it is time to get the binders into the schools and this will be done by the membership. April is the best time to contact the schools, explain the project to the principals and teachers, and ask if they would like to have a copy of the binder. Members will bring the binder to the schools and hopefully get a photo with the principal for publicity.

This is a unique opportunity for the Society but help from the membership is essential. It will not take much of your time. Please step up and help.

Jini will be away in March but willing members may contact her at 523-1466 and leave a message or e-mail a-al-hood-1@att.net. She will contact you in early April.

Raffle Winners

At the Burns Night at Will Rogers the winners of the raffle prizes were announced. The pack basket, handmade and donated by Sarah Irving, was won by Pam Kennedy from Watertown. The tartan tote bag filled with a large assortment of bottles and packages of Scottish goodies was won by Rita Leonard of Saranac Lake.

Burns Supper At Will Rogers

Once again the walls of Will Rogers Village at Saranac Lake rang to the tune of pipers. The facility generously donated the use of their dining room for our Burns Supper.

The cocktail hour was held downstairs in a recreation room with a tray of cheese and crackers donated by the Will Rogers staff as well as many other appetizers. After the residents' dinner hour, the ladies decorated the tables with tartan and heather and pipers announced the start of the dinner. The kitchen staff graciously heated the haggis which was carried in by Chris Beattie with piper Cameron Anderson. Peter Fish recited Burns "Address to the Haggis". Some Will Rogers residents were saying the words along with Peter. Jeanne Breen and Nancy Beattie served.

The Dogs of Jazz played during dinner. Al Hood was emcee with Jeanne and Bob Breen giving a toast to the laddies and the lassies. Other toast followed as well as Irish dancing, piping, and more recitations.

As the flags were piped out of the room several of the residents thanked the group and said how much they appreciated our being there. SASA is grateful to the staff of Will Rogers for their generosity and cooperation.



Photos by Jack LaDuke



Scholarship Winners

Thanks to a very successful sale of raffle tickets and generous contributions by members, two scholarships were awarded this year.

Adam Blaine from Peru is a second time winner and demonstrated his talent at the recent Burns Supper. He is a member of two pipe bands and is also an accomplished pianist.

Beth Nolland, a new member SASA member from Plattsburg, is a beginning piper still working on the chanter. She will use the scholarship to take further lessons.



Photos by Jini Hood



Jean Armour's Wedding Dress

A fragment of a black silk dress that Jean Armour wore at her wedding to Robert Burns was recently located in San Francisco. Alan Archibald, a descendant of Jean Armour's sister, acquired the piece at an auction house and has loaned it to the National Trust for Scotland. It will be put on display at the Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway when the building is completed in 2010.

The black silk for the dress was purchased by Burns as a wedding gift to Jean. After her death in 1834 the dress was passed into the family. Following the 1896 Burns Exhibition in Glasgow, the dress was sold to an American buyer. At the recent sale Mr. Archibald said it was right that the piece be returned, and he is delighted that many people will be able to share the excitement of the find.

From the BBC News, submitted by Terri Hood

Glasgow Church Recycled

The congregation of Colston Milton Parish Church in Glasgow wants to use "drink cans and car tyres" along with other recycled materials to build a new church. The congregation is presently meeting in a church hall since the previous building was sold for development.

The Scottish Climate Challenge Fund is supporting a feasibility study investigating the possibility of creating a building from scrap. Old wood, rubble from demolished buildings and many other items might be used in the project. The money from the sale of the previous church will re-invested in the project.

Rev. Christopher Rowe said, "A wonderful group of men and women who drink in the woods got inspired by the idea, . . . and started bringing their empty beer cans to the manse to use in the new building." He is hopeful that local people will actually build the church themselves using simple construction methods rather than put all the money in the pockets of big construction companies.

From the BBC News, submitted by Marjory Moeller

Hail To The Chief

Scotland's Prime Minister Alex Solomon sent his congratulations to President Obama and included an invitation to visit Scotland during the 2009 Year of the Homecoming. He noted that 12 U.S. Presidents have been of Scottish descent including Barack Obama. According to genealogists President Obama's ancestry goes back to William the Lion through a maternal ancestor Edward FitzRandolph.

During official ceremonies the musical salutation "Hail to the Chief" is played to signal the arrival of the president. The familiar words are from Sir Walter Scott's poem, "The Lady of the Lake", and was adapted by English songwriter James Sanderson for a London musical. It was first played to honor an American president in 1815 at a commemoration of George Washington's birthday. First Lady Julia Tyler suggested that it be made the official song at presidential appearances.

Scottish Banner Dec. 2008 and Jan. 2009

Book Review

Curious Scotland by George Rosie is sub-titled "Tales From a Hidden History."

Mr. Rosie, a journalist, has written about incidents in Scotland's lesser known past. He calls them "random histories" and "neglected episodes".

Do you know what became of Burns' children? Who was behind the military's "Operation Vegetarian"? What was the Gordonstoun Round-up? Was author Daniel Defoe a secret agent?

This book covers many such topics not found in textbooks. Recommended by Dorothy Irving

Your Newsletter

The SASA newsletter is published quarterly. Items of interest to our membership and comments are always welcome.

Send your family news, favorite stories, recipes, travel tales and Scottish humor. Photos will be returned.

Contact us at P. O. Box 1424, Lake Placid, or e-mail: Jini Hood at a-al-hood-1@att.net