## The Scottish Society of Indianapolis



Spring Edition, April - June 2017

#### 2017 Board of Trustees

Robin Jarrett, President <u>cabdude1975grad@gmail.com</u> 317-446-8212

Steven Johnson, Treasurer <a href="mailto:angelcourt@yahoo.com">angelcourt@yahoo.com</a>

Elisabeth Hedges, Secretary <u>eahedges84@gmail.com</u>

Matthew Douglass, Trustee, Newsletter Editor, VP Whisky mattdougl@gmail.com

Andy Thompson, Trustee handyandy1@frontier.net

Samuel Lawson, Trustee, Website samueljlawson@gmail.com

Kristy Byers Stewart, Trustee kristybyers@att.net

#### **Committee Chairpersons**

Deneice Jarrett, Games Committee Co-Chair polyhedra1977@gmail.com

Lise Douglass, Games Committee Co-Chair lise douglass@yahoo.com

#### **Thistle Senior Writer**

Armand C. Hayes, mrgoodnews@comcast.net

#### **Contact SSI:**

www.indyscot.org indyscot@gmail.com



From the Desk of the President

Fellow Scots,

I'm writing to you all as I begin my fourth term as your president. It has been a privilege to serve in this position, and I look forward to more good things as we move through the year of 2017. This year we welcome to the board two new trustees: Kristy Stewart and Matthew Douglass. Matt and Kristy are already into the fray as it were, and their efforts are much appreciated. The board is moving forward with plans for programs and events for the coming months. Check out the schedule of events in this issue of the Thistle for more information.

I wish to bring to your attention three major upcoming events:

August the 19<sup>th</sup> is the date of our "Very Scottish Summer Celebration" with music, dancing piping, and more. Once again the All-American Picnic Company will provide cookout-style foods. We will hold a silent auction to raise funds for the endowment. There will also be an opportunity to sponsor a portion of our festival in October. I hope the weather will allow us to be outside this year in the new pavilion.

October the 14<sup>th</sup> is the date for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. Our committee is already hard at work planning for another great event.

Lastly, November 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for this year's St Andrews Dinner. More information to come on this event.

2017 is shaping up to be another great year for the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. I hope to see you all in the months to come.

Slanite
Robin Jarrett
FSA Scot
President, Scottish Society of Indianapolis

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

April					
a th					
6 <sup>th</sup>	National Tartan Day				
12 <sup>th</sup>	SSI Dinner Meeting 6:30pm, Program: A Virtual Tour of the Scottish Rite Cathedral by Carson Smith				
27 <sup>th</sup>	Trustees Meeting, Semi-Annual Foundation Meeting				
	Мау				
10 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly meeting: How Washington Started the Revolution by Jeff King Board meeting				
20-21 <sup>st</sup>	Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games http://smokymountaingames.org				
27 <sup>th</sup>	Indy 500 Parade				
	June				
10 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Solstice Celebration at the Latvian Center				
14 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly meeting: Program: Sons of the American Revolution				
15 <sup>th</sup>	Board meeting				
	July and Beyond				
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Carmel Parade				
Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish Society of Indianapolis "Summer Celebration" 5pm, Latvian Community Center				
Sept 9-10 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Scottish Festival, Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus IN				
Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, German Park				

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

41st Annual Indy International Festival, Indiana State Fairgrounds

SSI St. Andrews' Dinner, Fort Harrison State Park Inn

President Robin Jarrett wishes a hearty, "Failte Chun Ar Cumann!" or "Welcome to our Society!"

Join us in giving our new members a warm welcome:

Jack FifeSue GaeblerJonathan LewisSarah RaeBrent & Nancy SuttonJames Vandivier

Members, new and existing, may contact Steven Johnson, treasurer, to order a name badge.

Nov 9th-11th

Nov 18th

## Games News

By Games Co-chair Lise Douglass

The 2017 Games are still 6 months away but the Committee is already hard at work. We have identified and are addressing areas of potential improvement such as parking, communication and volunteers.

We are trying to start volunteer sign-up early this year; watch for the web sign-up site to go live soon.

Please visit the Sponsor page, <a href="http://indyscotgamesandfest.com/sponsor">http://indyscotgamesandfest.com/sponsor</a>, we need your help to make this year's event a success and early sponsorship helps fund our promotional advertisements. If you know of a company or individual who might like to sponsor our games, please let either of the chairpersons know, Lise: lise <a href="douglass@yahoo.com">douglass@yahoo.com</a>, or Deneice: <a href="polyhedra1977@gmail.com">polyhedra1977@gmail.com</a>.

We're looking for your clan regent or convener to invite them to participate in the Games and Festival. Please let Jim Douglas (jimrock77@yahoo.com) or Sandy Douglas <a href="mailto:sandyd77@hyahoo.com">sandyd77@hyahoo.com</a> or Armand Hayes (<a href="mailto:mrgoodnews@comcast.net">mrgoodnews@comcast.net</a>) know who yours is.

The next Games committee meeting will be a pitch-in breakfast on Sat, May 13 at the home of Matthew & Lise Douglass, 11564 Senie Ln, Carmel, Indiana at 10 AM. Join us! <a href="https://www.indyscotgamesandfest.com">www.indyscotgamesandfest.com</a>

## Save the Date: October 14, 2017

Please save the date, October 14, 2017 for the eighth annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival.

### SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS MONTHLY MEETINGS

LATIVIAN CENTER 1008 WEST 64TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, 46260

6:30 - Social Time

7:00 – Announcements and Dinner

8:00 – Program/Guest Speaker

	April	May	June
Date	4-12-17	5-10-17	6-14-17
Meat Dish	Chicken by Elisabeth Hedges	TBA	TBA
Program	A Virtual Tour of the Scottish Rite Cathedral by Carson Smith	How Washington Started the Revolution by Jeff King	Sons of the American Revolution
Side Dish	A-F— Veggie/Casserole	A-F— Salad	A-F— Dessert
	G-McC—Salad	G-McC— Dessert	G-McC —Veggie/Casserole
	McD-Z—Dessert	McD-Z— Veggie/Casserole	McD-Z—Salad

Bring a side dish based on the first letter of your last name. Please bring at least 3 large servings per attending family member. Example: a couple would bring at least 6 large servings.

Meeting Costs: Members \$5, Returning Guests \$7, First-Time Guests are free.

Bring place settings and beverages of your choice.

Scotch whisky available, \$3 a shot.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Inc.
The Scottish Joundation of Indianapolis, Inc.
11722 Allisonville Rd, Suite 103, #234

Fishers, IN 46038

## Indy Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

By Jane Patton

Recently I was asked to write an article for SSI's quarterly newsletter, The Thistle. I set to work writing about Scottish Country Dance and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) and our local Indy RSCD social dance group. After writing a few paragraphs about our group it became clear how important one person was and still is to our history and how we **fun**ction today.

Let me introduce you to Ken Morgan. Some of you may know Ken or may have supped with him at our SSI monthly dinners. Dan and I first caught site of Ken and Scottish Country dancing at the 2014 SSI Highland Games. We watched the dancers demonstrate several dances and when Ken called for people to dance with them we naturally took four steps back. We took a business card and came away agreeing we really needed to check this out further. Well, you know how life is, work, kids, time got in the way of making a call to Ken to find out more about dancing.

Finally, in August 2015 I picked up the phone and called Ken. Ken couldn't have been more welcoming, explaining when and where to meet and what we needed to know. We were relieved to know we didn't need to know anything!! (A state we are very comfortable with!) We'd be added to his email group and meet about thirty minutes before regular dance started to learn a few simple steps and to meet our fellow dancers.

Deep breath. We were nervous because...well...it's dance after all and we hadn't had any formal dance since college. Ken caringly walked us through several beginning dance steps before more seasoned dancers arrived. From the beginning, we were welcomed, assisted, shown, and assured this dance class was all about having fun, laughter, learning new things and friendship. We left that first night looking forward to the next Monday night dance session.

Looking back, I'm sure there was speculation about our return. But in our minds, there was no question we'd be back. The atmosphere was as Ken described to me, relaxed and fun. We also found out we were now part of the demo team who would be dancing at the SSI Highland Games that year having no more than six dance sessions. Doing that was stressful and fun!!

We soon learned that Ken had established Scottish Country Dance in Indianapolis in 2005, a full 10 years before we came along. Indy RSCD is now 12 years old and Ken still plays an important role in our group, although he has turned over the leadership of Monday night dance to me. These past two years have seen our group flex and grow. We usually have at least 12 people attend dance and sometimes more.

We always have room for more and we welcome novice dancers. Ken always provides insight and instruction to all. Last summer, Ken was contacted by Bernadette Lange, a Certified Royal Scottish Country Dance Instructor who was visiting Indianapolis and wanted to dance with us. We have learned a lot from her and she makes it a point to plan her Indy trips to dance with us. The best parts of our Indy RSCD experience are the friends we have made!!

Turning over anything that you have developed, worked on, built, managed and nurtured is no easy task and more so when you have invested so much of yourself during 12 years. It was a leap of faith when Ken approached the dancers about a backup when he couldn't be available to lead the dance session. I volunteered to lead the Monday night dance when Ken was not available.

Towards the end of 2016 Ken advised our group that he and his wife Laura were considering a move to be closer to family. By this time, I had enough experience to appreciate his weekly efforts to manage music, create a program, ensure dance instructions were organized, send emails and manage some administrative details. I now <u>fully</u> appreciate Ken's efforts, as in addition to leading the weekly dance sessions there is also building and maintaining relationships with: Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), Cincinnati Branch of RSCDS, SSI, The Latvian Center, the many local dance organizations and international groups to name a few. I also appreciate the faith and support not only from Ken but from our social Scottish Country Dancers...they are exceptional!

A few weeks ago, I asked Ken a few questions about leading Indy RSCD, here's what he had to say.

How has leading Indy RSCDs impacted your life?

"I think it has enriched my experience in the Scottish culture community. It's also been some work. A dance program had to be created every week. In the beginning, the only dancers with experience were George and Betsy Wilson. Everyone else had to be taught from scratch. It's easier now because we have experienced dancers who help the newcomers."

What stands out as your most significant accomplishment?

"It pleases me that we have had a continuous Royal Scottish Country Dance Group for more than a decade. There have been other teachers before me in Indianapolis, but when the teachers left, the groups seemed to have broken up. I don't think past groups were close to the Indianapolis Scottish Society either. It is my hope that Scottish Country Dancing can continue as a permanent cultural feature of Indianapolis."

What's the best part about Scottish country dance for you?

"The laughter. The whole point of it is the joy people get from it. Sure, it exercises your mind and your body, but the joy people find in it is most gratifying."

Ken continues to join us in weekly dance sessions which are held most Monday evenings- 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Latvian Center. Beginner/novice dancing 7:30-8:30, Improver Dancing 8:30-9:30 p.m. No special clothing or footwear required, no partner needed, just bring a smile and plan to have fun while making good friends. Want to Scottish Country Dance? Email: IndyRSCD@gmail.com or contact Jane Patton @ 317-752-1098.

## Whisky Office Update

## Auchentoshan Three Wood

## Single Malt Scotch Whisky

--by Armand C. Hayes, Senior Whisky Writer

Above the banks of the River Clyde, nestled under the tops of the Old Kilpatrick hills, located between Glasgow and Loch Lomond, operates a small but formidable distillery known by the world as Auchentoshan. One of Scotland's finest, awardwinning whiskeys, is distilled thrice and then matured in American bourbon oak barrels. And then for the depth of flavor, is it finished first in Spanish Oloroso barrels, and finally in Pedro Ximemez Sherry Casks.

Unpeated, the optic barley is kilned and malted. Then being mashed, it is fermented in wooden washbacks and then is deliciously distilled for its first time through a copper pot still. Unlike any other scotch, it is then carefully run through an intermediate still for pureness. Finally, comes the third distillation for creating the great body that holds its' distinct flavorings!

Nose: Delicious and warm, melted toffee and vanilla with a hint of peach.



Palate: Lively buttery taste of vanilla carmel with a warm hint of hazelnut and cinnamon.

Finish: Pleasant finish of sweet carmel and peaches across the tongue and upper palate. Reminds one of an early summer day!





# Clan Grant Society





Craigellachie! (Rock of Alarm!)

**Clan Grant Hunting** 

Source: http://www.clangrant-us.org

The clan and name of Grant are of great antiquity. Feudal barons named Grant were land holders and office bearers in the Scottish highlands in the 13th century. These ambitious early Grants were undoubtedly the ancestors of our present-day chief and the forebears of the extended family later known as the Clan Grant. Our Chief, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet, 6th Lord Strathspey, and other hereditary chieftains of cadet families, descend directly from Sir Duncan le Grant of Freuchie, Knight, who held lands in Strathspey in the mid-15th century.

The Lordship of Glencarnie (from the Gaelic *Glenchearnich*, glen of heroes) and the Barony of Freuchie (from *fraoch*, place of the heather) were among the earliest holdings of Sir Duncan Grant in Strathspey. These lands generally encompass the present-day towns and environs of Aviemore, Carrbridge, Dulnain Bridge, Boat of Garten and Grantown-on-Spey.

The first known reference to the Clan Grant was in a notarized agreement between James Grant of Freuchie and Finlay Farquharson and his tenants in Strathdee. The document referred to "*lye Clan de Grantis*" and was dated October 8, 1527, but the concept of clanship existed long before that time.

Strathspey, the valley of the River Spey, was the "country of the Grants". During the halcyon days of the clan system, it was the stated goal of succeeding chiefs to consolidate and hold all the lands in Strathspey "between the two Craigellachies". And they very nearly succeeded!

Craigellachie is the name of the high hill overlooking the modern town of Aviemore. It is also a village situated thirty-five miles downstream – hence, the two Craigellachies. *Creag Eileachaidh* (Kra GEL a key) means "rock of alarm". In former times, huge bond fires were ignited on high hills in Strathspey to designate a gathering place for the men of the clan, or to proclaim a great celebration, such as the birth of the chief's first-born son. The clan's motto or rallying cry was, and is today: "*Stand fast, Craigellachie!*"

Although the principal families of the clan were entrenched in Strathspey as early as the 15th century – and in Stratherrick (on the southeast side of Loch Ness) before that – important cadet families were later established in other parts of Scotland. There were Grants in Glenmoriston, at Corrimony and Shewglie in Glenurquhart, at Monymusk in Aberdeenshire, and Kilgraston in Perthshire. With the passage of time, these families became virtually autonomous and conducted their affairs independently of their more powerful distant cousins in Strathspey.

In the late 17th century, Ludovick Grant of Freuchie (d. 1716) was the de facto Chief of the Clan Grant. In 1694, Glencharnie, Freuchie and all his other lands – which by that time were considerable! – were consolidated by the Crown into the Regality of Grant. From that time forth, Ludovick Grant, 8th Laird of Freuchie, and subsequent heritors lineally descended from him, were known as the Chiefs of Grant, and their principal residence of *Ballachastell* (town of the castle) was called Castle Grant.

A century later, Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet (1738-1811), was perhaps the ablest chief of his long line. He was well-educated and well-traveled; he was a dedicated public servant and ardent improver of his vast estates; and he was keenly aware of his over-riding responsibilities to his family, tenants and clansmen. Sir James Grant was the founder of Grantown, which was a creative attempt to provide employment for his clansmen during a time when many highland lairds were clearing tenants from their lands. Sir James was a Member of Parliament, Cashier of Excise for Scotland, Lord Lieutenant and Sheriff of Inverness-shire. Patriotic to a fault, he raised and served as Colonel of two regiments during the conflict with France during the last decade of the 18th century.

During the 19th century, the Earls of Seafield were Chiefs of the Clan Grant. In 1858, the 7th Earl, Sir John Charles Ogilvie-Grant (1815-1881), was created 1st Baron Strathspey in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and in 1879, he was made a Knight of the Thistle. The Earls of Seafield were avid planters of trees; they assumed leadership roles in the affairs of the Church of Scotland; and generally served as conscientious guardians of their vast estates.

Since 1915, when the 11th Earl of Seafield, Capt. Sir James Ogilvie-Grant, was killed in World War I, while serving in Belgium with the Cameron Highlanders, the Chief has been the Lord Strathspey. Today, the Right Honorable 6th Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet of Nova Scotia, is Chief of the Clan Grant. Lord Strathspey lives in retirement at Duthil, one of the oldest holdings of his ancestors in

Strathspey.

**Duthil Kirk Clan Center** 

Back in 1986 the dream of a Clan Grant centre in the Strathspey area became reality when the then owner, Gerald Brandon-Bravo from Whitebridge, gave Duthil church to the Clan Grant Society. Duthil Kirk is located 7.5 miles W-SW of Grantown-on-Spey, and is located next door to the residence of the Chief of the Clan Grant, Lord Strathspey. In August of 1986 the kirk was officially turned over to the Clan Grant Heritage Trust in the presence of an audience of Grants from around the world.

## Septs of Clan Grant:

Allan, Allen, Bisset(t), Bowie, Buie, Gilroy, MaccAllan, M(a)cgilroy, M(a)cllroy, McKerran, M(a)cKiaran, M(a)cKessock, Pratt and Suttie. Currently these are the Sept families which have had their status formally recognized by the Chief. The Mores of Drumcork were recognised by Sir Patrick, the late Chief. The Allans of Rhynagairn were recognized in 2008 by Sir James, our current chief. The Siol Lewis - Cherokee descendants of Ludovick Grant, younger of Crichie (none of whom bear the surname Grant) have now been recognized officially (since the International Gathering in 2010). The Siol Cudbright - Métis descendants of Cuthbert Grant sr. of Cromdale. The current Chief of Clan Grant is the Rt. Hon. Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Bt., Lord Strathspey, 33rd Chief of Grant.





## **SCOTTISH SYMBOLS** --by Armand C. Hayes

The Celtic Triskele or triskelion is the magical symbol and lucky number of three. In this design, it stands for three always in motion; motion indicates cosmic energies. As well, it can have other implacable meanings as well, such as life, death, and rebirth, or past, present, and future, to signify the energy relationships involved in cycles. As the related symbol the trisquetra, with the three arms or legs, it can also stand for action or competition. The triskele date of first usage was during the iron age, about 500 B.C.E.

and was later adapted to Christian usage about 500 C.E. in the British Isles, to symbolize the Christian Trinity.

## **SCONE PALACE**--by Armand C. Hayes

Near Perth Scotland, still stands the village of Scone. At its edge stands the red sandstone ruins of Scone Palace, where in centuries past, Scottish kings were crowned over the original home of the "Stone of Scone" or "Stone of Destiny". Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century as an Augustian Priory in a Gothic style or architecture, it was granted Abbey status when an addition was built and dubbed the name Scone Palace. Visited during the Scottish reformation in the mid 1500's, by John Knox, the mob that came with him from Dundee damaged heavily the Abbey.

Being the home of the Earls of Mansfield for several centuries, the Palace and Abbey have been added to several times, including the major changes in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Five decades later, landscaping was added as well as updates to the interior decorations and the addition of running water, to make the Palace ready for a visit by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

The original priory is unknown as to the location however it is known that of a charter made in 906 C.E. that rose Scone to center of government and higher importance. And many historians believe that it was of prominence in pre-roman times, putting it in the heart of the ancient Pictis Kingdom. Kenneth MacAlpin was the first king known in history to have been crowned at Scone in 843 C.E.

Folklore has it that Fergus, son of Erc was the first king of Alba and brought the stone from Ireland. Other folklore suggests that the Stone of Scone is none other than the "Stone of Jacob, taken by Jacob from Haran (Genesis 28:10-22). It is known however that Edward I of England in 1296, took the stone back to Westminister Abbey and made it part of the Edward's chair or coronation chair. Or was it? Could it be that folklore has it right, in that a stone and two bronze tablets were located in the ruins of MacBeth's castle on the high hill of Dunisnane where it was found by archaeological workmen in 1819? Or is the 1996 stone the original? At any rate, it is reported that Scone Palace is a must to see; a five star attraction!

## The First Game of Golf -- by Armand C. Hayes

Though in history there were many games played with a wooden stick and ball throughout a variety of nations, the modern game of golf was played first in Scotland in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The first noted record was by James II who banned the game because it was a distraction to learning the art of Archery. The first reported golf clubs were after James II lifted the ban in 1502, and the clubs were his for he had by that time become an avid golfer himself. The old site at St. Andrew's (in Fife, Scotland, 10 miles southeast of Dundee) has become the holy grail site for golfers; the Guinness World Book of Records has certified, however, that Mussleburg Links Golf Course in East Lothian as the oldest course on record, opening in 1672. The first golf tournament is the notable Open Tournament, at Prestwick Golf Club in Ayrshire, Scotland, starting in 1860.

## **NEEPS AND TATTIES**

--by Armand C. Hayes

## **Ingredients:**

2 medium size turnips

3 medium size potatoes

4 tbsp spicy mustard

1/4 cup milk or cream

1 tsp black pepper

3 tbsp butter (optional)

1/4 cup bacon bits (optional)



#### Method:

Boil turnips and potatoes until soft; pour off. water and mash together turnips and potatoes, depending on how coarse or smooth your desire is. Blend in additional ingredients. Serve hot.

# Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

--by Armand C. Hayes

Books sold through the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; you can find out more by going to www.socantscot.org/shop.



#### A Partial Book List:

A Cromwellian Warship Wrecked off Duart Castle, Mull, Scotland, in 1653 by Colin J M Martin

An Inherited Place by Ian Armit and Jo McKenzie

Anatomy of an Iron Age Roundhouse by Ian Armit

Archaeology and the Sea in Scandinavia and Britain by Ole Crumlin-Pedersen

Bearsden - A Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall by David J. Breeze

Late Roman Silver by Fraser Hunter & Kenneth Painter

Living and Dying at Auldhame by Anne Crone & Erlend hindmarch, with Alex Woolf

Making for America by Vanessa Habib, Jim Gray & Sheila Forbes

On the Fringe of Neolithic Europe by Anna Ritchie

Painting The Town -Scottish Urban History in Art by E. Patricia Dennison, Stuart Eydmann, Annie Lyell, Michael Lynch and Simon Stronach

Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness by Martin Carver, Justin Garner-Lahire, Cecily Spall

Remember Now Thy Creator by Naomi Tarrant

Scotland in Later Prehistoric Europe edited by Fraser Hunter and Ian Ralston

The Antiquasrian Rediscovery of the Antonine Wall by Lawrence Keppie

The Birth of Industrial Glasgow The Archaeology of the M74 by Michael Nevell

The Declaration of Arbroath by Geoffrey Barrow

The Stone of Destiny by Richard Welander, David J Breeze & Thomas O Clancy

#### RESOURCES

#### **Magazines**

The Highlander Magazine is a magazine of Scottish Heritage, including articles of cultural history, military history, famous Scots, castles, heritage, traditions, legends, genealogy, clan news, music and celebrations, and event listings. The magazine is published bimonthly thru Angus J. Ray Associates, Inc.

www.highlandermagazine.com

Scottish Life Magazine is a magazine of past and present events, culture, and heritage. Learn of events and travel in Scotland. There are Featured articles, book, reviews, and music. Printed in full color, this quarterly magazine will help you with current travel planning. www.scottishlife.org

Scots Heritage Magazine brings Scotland's culture, clans and fascinating history to you with interesting editorial and beautiful photography. Each issue is like a passport to the Scottish diaspora as the unique and authentic articles on Scotland's rich history and its vibrant past and present, and is indeed prescribed reading for those with a passion for our country. www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

#### **Online Publications**

*ElectricScotland.com* is a site with many links. If you enjoy a good read or want to do some serious research then you're in the right place. Read our many biographies of Famous Scots, and our histories of places in Scotland. We have histories of every aspect of Scottish history and probably the largest collection of information on the Scots Diaspora and Scottish Clans and Families. News, including history, travel, culture, and heritage. There are links to connect you with clans and current events. Alastair McIntyre GOTJ, FSA Scot does a fabulous job connecting you with all things Scottish. www.electricscotland.com

#### Organizations accessible on line

Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc. (COSCA) is a service and advocacy organization that provides support and assistance to the many Scottish clans and organizations active in the United States.

Heritage should never come to an end. But who makes sure? Heritage, language, places, relics, culture, values, ancestry. They can all pass away in a surprised and exasperated heartbeat. Unfortunately there is no governmental 'Department of Scottish American Heritage' that will keep our very special culture and history alive and relevant in this forward looking age. www.cosca.scot

Scottish Tartans Museum is in Franklin, NC; and is a non-profit heritage center. They fund themselves by the sales from their gift shop. It was founded in 1963 as a tribute and study of the history of origins and the development of tartans and the Scottish emigration experience into North Carolina. tartans@scottishtartans.org

#### Language

\*NEW\* LEARN GAELIC is a free interactive site which offers lessons, videos, grammar tutorials, a dictionary and more. The site was launched by Scottish actor Gary Lewis, who had to learn Gaelic for his role as Colum McKenzie, Laird and Chief of Clan McKenzie in the *Outlander* television series. http://learngaelic.scot

American Scottish Gaelic Society: (An Comunn Gaidhealach Ameireaganach) Gaelic is the language of the Scottish Highlands and islands and is one of the few surviving Celtic languages, once spoken throughout Scotland. Gaelic has existed in the British Isles far longer than English and is closely related to Irish and Manx. Scottish Gaelic is more distantly related to Welsh, Cornish, and Breton. ACGA's mission is to nurture and preserve Scottish Gaelic language and culture, particularly in North America. http://www.acgamerica.org/