

The Whistle

Winter Edition, January – March, 2018

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Fellow Scots,

State of the Society Address 2017

Ladies and Gentleman, Board of Trustees, fellow Scots; our St. Andrews / Founders Day dinner is one of our most important events of the year, and I'm pleased to see such a large turnout for this event. In other words I bid you welcome. I would like to thank Kristy Byers Stewart for her meticulous planning of this night's event. Kristy, Rick Blacklidge, and Patty Smith worked as a committee to organize, plan, and decorate, and I think they deserve a round of applause for a job well done.

This will be the fourth time I've stood before and delivered a report on the state of our beloved society. In years past I've spoken of many things, including, people, presence in community, member participation, solvency, scholarships and endowments. This year will be no different, as our Society continues to grow and prosper in Gach ni Albanach.

The key elements to any group or society are its people. Seems like an obvious statement, when in fact it becomes easy to forget the importance even the smallest contributions make. Small things like, bringing a side dish to meetings, or setting up chairs, working a shift in our cultural booth, to name a few. Bigger things like, presenting a program, scheduling and setting up the booth at events or working at the games. All are important contributions in the ebb and flow of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. When you really think about it, it's amazing how much our people do, for and with, our little group of Scots. I'd like to mention a few of note; my darling wife, whose support, makes it possible for me to be your president. Our board of trustees, Steven, Elisabeth, Andy, Matt, Kristy, and Samuel, thank you for your efforts this past year, and your continuing support of me and our society. My beloved Deneice again, along with Lise Douglass, as you've already heard, led yet another successful event called the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival; amazing job ladies. Our people and their contributions, big or small, have helped make 2017 a successful year.

Presences in community and member participation are linked together so tightly that one cannot be mentioned without the other. The Society started the year as we always do, celebrating Robert Burns with "Burns Lite". Kristy was pulled out of her comfort zone as she gave the 'Response to the Laddies'. We tasted whisky in February, and made an appearance at the IUPUI International Festival. We participated once again in the St Patrick's Day Parade and celebrated our heritage as Jane and Dan led us in some most excellent Scottish Country Dancing. We took a virtual tour as Carson Smith led us through the halls of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. We learned how "Washington started the Revolution" and attended, with spoken words of congratulations at the Latvian Centers 55th Anniversary Celebration. We learned about the Sons of the American Revolution,

had a Scottish Trivia Night, and learned about the Scottish women who supported the Jacobite cause. We enjoyed an evening outside at our "Great Scottish Summer Celebration" with piping and Celtic music. We exhibited again at the



From the Desk of the President

Columbus Scottish Games where we sponsored the Best Clan Tent Award and I was honored to present the award to Clan Wallace this year. We again hosted a tent at the Indy Irish Fest where we met and spoke with many people. We hosted the 8th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, where our efforts grew the event into the largest amateur games in North America. Lastly we exhibited at the 41st Indy International Festival where the host organization's president happens to be a Scotsman. Presence and participation were indeed extended into 2017.

The Society has grown to 126 individual and family memberships, in which 21 were added this year.

I'd like to report that the Scottish Society of Indianapolis is strong and solvent. We are in control of some 50,000 dollars including 15000 dollars in our rainy day fund, and I must note the games are paid for. The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis McMath Scholarship endowment now contains over 17,000 dollars bringing us closer to our first benchmark of 25,000 dollars. This of course, insures the continuation of our Society and our festival for years to come. I would also like to report that our by-laws for the Foundation and the society are current as of this year, thanks mainly to Steven.

I would like to add some fuel for thought, the Scottish Society of Indianapolis is an ever evolving entity we must be concerned and watchful that we can sustain our momentum into the future. Service from its members is the only way this can happen and I urge you to attend, volunteer, and participate. I state this fact to inform you of an opportunity to serve at the highest level, 2018 will be my last term as your president. I feel that a fresh prospective in the office is due and our Society will benefit from it. Aye change is difficult, but change is good.

In the end of course it's the people who bring things to fruition no matter how small or great the contributions are, all are important. As our commitments continue to grow so should our diligence in Gach ni Albanach.
Sláinte!

Robin Jarrett, FSA Scot

President, Scottish Society of Indianapolis



CALENDAR of EVENTS

January

- 1 2018 membership renewal due from members
10 SSI Monthly Meeting, Program: Burns Night
18 SSI Trustee Meeting @ the Claddagh Irish Pub 3835 E. 96th St. Indpls. 46240
27 The 42nd Royal Highlanders Burns Supper, <http://42ndhr.org/burns.php>
27 SSGB Burns Supper, <http://www.bloomingtonscots.org>

February

- 3 Scottish Society of Louisville, Burns' Night Gala, www.scotsoflou.com/
14 IUPUI International Festival, <http://international.iupui.edu/festival>
21 SSI Monthly Meeting, Program: Scotch Tasting
NOTE THIS IS THE THIRD, NOT THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
22 SSI Trustee Meeting @ the Claddagh Irish Pub 3835 E. 96th St. Indpls. 46240

March

- 3 Games Meeting, @ the home of Matt and Lise, 11564 Senie Lane, Carmel, IN 46032
7 SSI Monthly Meeting, Program: Scottish Country Dancing
15 SSI Trustee Meeting @ the Claddagh Irish Pub 3835 E. 96th St. Indpls. 46240
16 St. Patrick's Day Parade <http://indystpats.com>

Beyond

- April 6 National Tartan Day
August 4 Scottish Society of Indianapolis "Summer Celebration" 5pm, Latvian Community Center
October 13 The 9th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, German Park
November 10 SSI St. Andrew's Dinner, Ft. Harrison State Park Inn

Bulletins

February Meeting to be the **THIRD** Wednesday, not the second

The Latvian Center might have a hall rental on the second Wednesday in February, the 14th, so we are moving our February monthly meeting to the following Wednesday, Feb 21st. Trustee meeting also moved, to Feb 22nd.

Annual Elections Announcement - 2018 Board

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis annual elections were held at the November 18th meeting. The existing President and Board of Trustees were re-elected by acclamation.

Mark Your Calendars:

The Summer Celebration will be August 4th at the Latvian Center.

The 9th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival will be October 13 at German Park.

Games Sponsors Needed

Please visit the Sponsor page, <http://indyscotgamesandfest.com/sponsor>, we need your help to make this year's event a success.

Sponsorships are tax deductible. Proceeds fund the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis McMath Scholarship at IUPUI. If you know of a company or individual who might like to sponsor our games, please let either of the chairpersons know, Lise:

lise_douglass@yahoo.com, or Deneice: polyhedra1977@gmail.com.

Local News and Events

By Matthew Douglass

October Dinner Meeting

Featured a lesson by the Tudor Rose Players on singing and dancing at the Games.

November Dinner Meeting

The annual St. Andrew's Dinner was held November 18th. The November meeting each year is a semi-formal, catered event, held on a Saturday instead of a Wednesday, and includes elections for the Society Board of Trustees. This year it was at Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park Inn and included live entertainment by Pictus. Trustee Andy Thompson



was the MC, Joe Ketterman piped in attendees and all Clans in attendance were recognized. Games Co-Chairs Lise Douglass and Deniece Jarrett reviewed the 2017 Scottish Highland Games and Festival and President Robin Jarrett gave the State of the Society Address. Rick Blacklidge received the Tommy Thomson Award. The event enjoyed record attendance and re-elected all current trustees and the president by acclamation. Thanks to Kristy Stewart, Rick Blacklidge and Patty Smith for a great job organizing, decorating and setting up. Through the fundraising challenge of Pat Tussing and donations from attendees and Pictus, \$585 was raised for the McMath Scholarship Fund.

Festival of Trees

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis decorated one of the 80 themed holiday trees on display, *A Very Scottish Christmas*, at the Indiana Historical Society Festival of Trees. The trees will be on display November 17th through January 6th.



International Festival

The Society again exhibited at the Indy International Festival Nov 9-11 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Thanks Carson Smith for organizing.

December Dinner Meeting

Hogmanay was celebrated at the December meeting, along with a photographic slide show by President Jarrett of the year in review and beautiful music by our own Samuel & Rebekah Lawson of Celtic Rain.

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

	January	February	March
Date	1-10-18	2-21-18	3-7-18
Meat Dish	Robin - Chicken	John and Margaret Herder	Rick Blacklidge
Program	Burns Supper Lite	Scotch Tasting	"Scottish Country Dancing" presented by The Indy RSCD and Jane Patton
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, \$4 a shot.			

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Inc.

The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis, Inc.

11722 Allisonville Rd, Suite 103, #234

Fishers, IN 46038

Review of the 2017 Games



The sun came up again this year and blessed us with a perfect day – October 14th – the eighth annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. It was a great day indeed!

It is hard for me to believe that it has already been nearly five years since my dear friend, Lise Douglass, and I volunteered to take on the leadership of the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. At the time, we couldn't envision how much growth and success was possible in the years ahead – growth and success that would not have been possible without a dedicated crew of

committee members, volunteers, and sponsors.

Lise and I wish to extend a heart-felt thank you to the committee members and volunteers for their time and talents towards the Games and Festival.



We are often asked to quantify the success of our event in dollars and cents. And if asked to do that now, we will just say – we did well, very well.

But we prefer to discuss the success of Games and Festival in other terms. What did we try new? How did the event grow? Who did we honor? What athletic records were set? What was the vibe in the crowd? How yummy was the food, how sippable the whisky? How festive the music and the dance? And the faces of the children? Were they full of joy and awe?

These are the questions we ponder when considering the success of the day. And to these questions, I must say and hope you concur – we did well, very well. Now we will set our sights on 2018. How can we make the Ninth Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival even better? One thing we know for sure - we need the continued support of ALL!



Our next Games meeting will be at the home of Matt and Lise Douglass on March 3, 2018. Please plan to join us!

Bringing an event of this magnitude to the community has always been and will continue to be a labor of love – hard work, passion-driven, and shared with family and friends who love all things Scottish.

We remain your Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival Co-chairs,
Deneice Jarrett and Lise Douglass





Sponsorship Opportunities

The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis is a 501(c)3 organization.

Champion of the Royal Court.....\$TBD

- Presenting Sponsor ("...Games & Festival Presented by...")
- Placement of 5 branding banners*
- Logo recognition or name on promotional materials**
- Link to organization website
- Live promotional announcements during the festival
- Introduction of a company representative
- Location to display your organization, if desired
- 20 Sponsor badges (includes admission)
- 20 Additional festival admissions via will-call

Royal Steward\$5,000+

(Monetary/in-kind is acceptable if applicable)
Sponsorship of a major area, such as second stage, athletic field, village
Placement of 3 branding banners*
Logo recognition or name on promotional materials**
Link to organization website
Live promotional announcements during the festival
10 Sponsor badges (includes admission)

Earl.....\$2,500-4,999

(Monetary/in-kind is acceptable if applicable)
Sponsorship of an activity, such as athletic competition or dance demonstration
Placement of 1 branding banner*
Logo recognition or name on promotional materials**
Link to organization website
Live promotional announcements during the festival
6 Sponsor badges (includes admission)

Baron.....\$1,000-2,499

(Monetary/in-kind is acceptable if applicable)
Logo recognition or name on promotional materials**
Link to organization website
Live promotional announcements during the festival
3 Sponsor badges (includes admission)

Knight.....\$500-999

(Monetary/in-kind is acceptable if applicable)
Live promotional announcements during the festival
2 Sponsor badges (includes admission)

Laird\$300-499

(Monetary/in-kind is acceptable if applicable)
2 Festival admissions via will-call
Certificate honoring your donation

Chieftain.....\$100-299

(Monetary only)
2 Festival admissions via will-call

Highlander\$50-99

(Monetary only)
Certificate honoring your donation

Sponsor Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Level: _____

Tel: (_____) _____ Amount: _____

Email: _____

Please make check payable to The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis & mail with this form to:
The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis
11722 Allisonville Road, Suite 103, #234
Fishers, IN 46038-2327

Note: _____

Thank you for your support of this great cause!

*Sponsor to provide banner(s) with pre-approval on design and content from the festival co-chairs.

**Sponsor to provide logo. Media completed prior to exchange of funds will not be required to be changed.

12/13/17

News from Scotland

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

Economy

As reported by Electric Scotland concerning an article on BBC News, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation advises that Scotland's poverty rate is lower than the rest of the UK and has been falling in the last 20 years. The rate for pensioners and families with children has fallen. Though changes in the costs of housing, lower pay and benefits could reverse that once again. The foundation reports that households considered in poverty are those that receive less than 60% of the median income.

The BBC also reports that EU trade is 'linked to 134,000 jobs'. Approximately 560,000 Scottish jobs are in some way supported by UK sales. This calculation predicts that for the UK, trade is 400% more important to Scots than the rest of the EU. The sale of whisky, oil and chemicals are some of the top items. So drink your Scotch to help our fellow Scots.

Sports

Reported in Edinburgh, Meadowbank Stadium has been closed this last weekend permanently. Built in 1970 for the Commonwealth Games, it has been used by many sports clubs and celebrities over the last 5 decades. There is a new sports centre due to open in 2020, partially funded by residential and commercial development on a portion of the Meadowbank's property.

Archeology

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland has helped fund the Historical Archaeology Research project on Staffa at 'Fingal's Cave', off of the West coast of Mull (a part of Staffa). This is the location of the vertical hexagonal columns of basaltic lava formations which has inspired so much artwork and music. The purpose of the research is to shed some light on the history of the notion that it is a relic of mediaeval Christianity in the Hebrides. The research includes a small scale excavation into the upper floor layers of the bothy, or communal cabin. It is relatively difficult to access the site and everything has to be brought in including water since there is no direct source of fresh water on the Isle. Some prehistoric pottery was recovered from the late-Neolithic period and a flint blade. The excavations will resume in March for a better understanding of activity in the historic period.



A shard of prehistoric pottery found near 'Finigals Cave'.

SCOTTISH JOKE

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

A tourist man, sitting in an English pub sipping scotch when in walks 3 women and sit at the table next to him. He quietly listens to the conversation and notes a strong Gaelic brogue. "Are ya ladies from Scotland?" He asked.

"Och - Wales, sir -Wales!" Continuing their conversation.

The man quickly responded, "Are ya whales from Scotland?"

KAPOW

Clan MacKenzie Society

in the United States



Mackenzie Ancient

Clan Mackenzie

Crest: A mount in flames Proper

Motto: *LUCEO NON URO*: "I shine not burn"

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes



Mackenzie Ancient Hunting

Beginnings

The longstanding tradition of the earliest family historians in the 16th century is that this very ancient family descended from a member of the Norman Irish House of Geraldine (whence sprang the noble families of the Earls of Leinster and Desmond). This Colin Fitzgerald was supposed to have settled in Scotland in the 1260s and to have so powerfully aided King Alexander III at the Battle of Largs in repelling the invasion of Haco, King of Norway, that he was rewarded by a grant of the lands of Kintail, in the County of Ross. The name of Colin's purported grandson, the 3rd Baron of Kintail, who in Gaelic was called *Coinneach MacCoinneach* (Kenneth son of Kenneth), became corrupted in English into Mackenzie (pronounced: MacKenny) and from him it was believed all the families of Mackenzie in Scotland arose. The name Mackenzie therefore derives from the Gaelic: *MacCoinneach*, meaning: "Son of the Fair One".

Following the discovery in the 19th century by the Celtic scholar, William Forbes Skene, of an ancient genealogical manuscript, known as MS 1467, it has since been widely accepted that an 11th century Celtic chieftain known as Gilleoin *na h'Airde* was the original progenitor of the Mackenzies (as well as the Mathesons), they being a branch of the Royal Scottish House of Dalriada, descended in the direct male line from the ancient High Kings of Ireland. This is further borne out by recent DNA analysis.



The Mackenzies as a clan first came to prominence under Alexander *Ionraic* ('The Upright'), the 7th Baron of Kintail, who died in 1488. He rose in power as a supporter of the Crown against the all-powerful MacDonald Lords of the Isles and was rewarded by a grant from the Crown of some of their forfeited lands. From their original patrimony in Kintail, around Loch Duich with Eilean Donan Castle as their picturesque stronghold, the Mackenzies came to dominate the whole of Ross-shire. The Mackenzie chiefs established seats further east in the 16th century at Kinellan and Castle Leod near Strathpeffer, and then in the 17th century set up court in the castles of Chanonry and Brahan on the Black Isle.

Alexander's son was known as "Kenneth of the Battle" for his taking up arms against the MacDonalds. He died in 1492 and his life-size stone effigy can still be seen at Beaulieu Priory where he was buried. John, his son, played a distinguished role in the battles of Flodden and Pinkie, and under John's grandson, Colin *Cam* ('Crooked' because one-eyed) the Mackenzies continued their rise to power by supporting first Mary, Queen of Scots, and, then following her deposition, her son, James VI. In 1609, the chief was made Lord Mackenzie of Kintail, and in 1623 his eldest son became Earl of Seaforth, named after the great sea loch on this Chief's recently acquired island principality of Lewis. The 2nd Earl played a prominent role in national politics throughout the Civil Wars, becoming Charles II's Secretary of State for Scotland during Cromwell's

Interregnum. Another branch of the Mackenzies became the Earls of Cromartie, the first Earl, George Mackenzie, being Queen Anne's Secretary of State. He was a man of astute wit and political ability who played a significant part in bringing about the Union of Scotland and England in 1705.

It was the Seaforth Mackenzies' loyalty to the Stuart Kings which brought about their demise at the beginning of the 18th century. *Kenneth the 4th Earl was one of the first Knights of the Thistle*, the Scottish Order of Chivalry, and he continued to support his fellow Roman Catholic King, James VII after the deposed monarch was sent into exile in 1688. James created him Marquis of Seaforth in the Jacobite peerage. His son, William *Dubh* ('Black'), the 5th Earl and 2nd Marquis, raised an army of 3000 men in 1715 for the Jacobite Pretender, and had to flee to France, returning in 1719 to be severely wounded at the Battle of Glenshiel, where he fought alongside Rob Roy.

While William *Dubh* was later pardoned and his son came to support the Hanoverian Government during the Jacobite Rebellion in 1745, his cousin, the 3rd Earl of Cromartie, used his local influence to raise a significant force of Mackenzies in opposition on behalf of the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie. Following Lord Cromartie's capture at Dunrobin Castle he was sentenced to death in London, but fortuitously reprieved at the 11th hour. His lands and titles were nonetheless forfeit and he was exiled to Devon.

Although their national influence had waned, the power and influence in Ross-shire of the Seaforth family in particular and the Mackenzies in general was such that the Government had no choice but to pardon them in due course. The 5th Earl's grandson, Kenneth, was created Viscount Fortrose and Baron Ardelve in 1766, and then restored to the Earldom of Seaforth in 1771 (albeit these titles were in the Irish peerage). In gratitude the Chief raised the 1,000 strong 78th Regiment of Foot: the Seaforth Highlanders, who first served in the Mysore Campaign in India in 1776. He died without a male heir in 1784 and his titles became extinct. The chiefship and Seaforth estates then passed to his cousin, Colonel Thomas Mackenzie, the great-grandson of the 3rd Earl. Shortly afterwards, he was killed commanding the Bombay army in India, at the battle of Geriah. His younger brother, Francis, succeeded him. For his military and colonial service to the British Empire – having been Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seaforth Highlanders and Governor of Barbados – he was created Lord Seaforth in the British peerage in 1797.

Marriages between the Seaforth and Cromartie families and those of some of England's leading landowners saw the restoration of both their rank and fortunes. Owing to this and the zeal of men such as Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the celebrated Canadian explorer, and Colonel Colin Mackenzie, the first Surveyor General of India, the leading members of the Clan finally found themselves playing a major role at the forefront of the nation, helping to forge the British Empire.

However, the doom of the Mackenzies had supposedly been foretold by *Coinneach Odhar*, known as the Brahan Seer, who according to legend had famously cursed the Seaforth line and foretold the dispersal of the Mackenzies' once extensive landholdings in Ross-shire. Having risen in power and influence to hold lands which stretched from the Outer Hebrides in the west to the Black Isle in the east, the male line of the Seaforths ended with Francis's death in 1815 when all four of his sons died before him. The demographic catastrophe was recorded in the words of Sir Walter Scott in his poem, *The Lament for the Last Seaforth*.

In recent years, however, the fortunes of the Clan have been revived. In 1829 Lord Lyon recognized the Mackenzies of Allangrange as heirs male of Kenneth, 1st Lord Kintail (via his son., the Hon. Simon Mackenzie of Lochsln). However, their chiefship was short-lived and the role was effectively dormant following the demise of that branch of the family in 1907. On the 12th June, 1980 Lord Lyon King of Arms recognized Roderick Francis Grant Mackenzie, Earl of Cromartie, as the lawful *Cabarfèidh*, Chief of Clan Mackenzie. His son, John Mackenzie, Earl of Cromartie is now chief. He lives at Castle Leod, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire.

Septs Surnames

Charles	MacBeth	MacQueenie
Charleson	MacConnach	MacThearliach
Clunes	MacCure	MacVanish
Clunies	Maceur	MacVennie
Cross	MacIver	MacVinish
Iverach	MacIvor	MacVinnie
Iverson	MacKenna	MacWeeny
Ivory	MacKenney	MacWhinnie
Kenneth	MacKerlich	Makiver
Kennethson	MacKinna	Murchie
Kinnach	MacKinney	Murchison
Kynoch	MacKinnie	Smart
Macaweeney	MacLeay	Tuach
MacBeolain	MacMurchie	
MacBeath	MacMurchy	


There are several variations in the spelling of the name Mackenzie, i.e. MacKenzie, McKenzie, Macenzie, McEnzie, Makenzie, MaKenzie, M'Kenzie, Kenny, Kenney, MacKenny, MacKenney, McKenny, McKenney, Mackinzie, McKinzie, MacKinney, McKinney &c, they are accepted as Septs or variations of the Mackenzie Clan name. Often in centuries past it was the local Monk or Minister who could read and write and who also decided on the spelling of people's names when entering Baptism, Marriage or Burial records. So when writing an unfamiliar name it had to be written as it sounded and misspellings would often occur especially when the informant had a strong accent. If you are not sure that your name was derived from "Mackenzie" or a Sept name then please do ask us.



CLAN CHIEF:

HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE CABARFEIDH THE 5TH EARL OF CROMARTIE

John Ruaridh Grant Mackenzie, Viscount Tarbat, Baron Castlehaven, Baron MacLeod



The Tale of Badenoch

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

On the high ridges of Monadhliath range, in the Northern Grampians, where thrusts at the range of ridges called Drumalban (which lies the valley of the Spey and through it runs the River of Spey), and to the northwest – Inverness, is the District of Badenoch or Badenooch. It is an area still wooded and covered with valleys, vales, glens and boggs. It is in these vales and boggs that evidence still shows of the fire. Once a lush pine forest, labeled as magnificent with many accounts of being full of wild beasts and wild game. Tradition holds that the evil Queen Mary set it to fire to punish her husband for being so often and long to these lush forests on many hunting trips. However there is another story to share with you. A tale of the witch of Laggan, or the witch of Badenoch.

The tale begins with a hunter of the truest nature, whose aim of gun nev’r missed and the sharpest of skian dhu’s at his side. Resting with his hunting hounds after a long morning hunting boar in the cold mountain air, the hunter reclined by his wee small fire within a craig of rock. As a dark storm whistled over, in popped a large black cat pitifully drenched from the storm. The hounds bristled upon seeing the cat and attacked it. “Great hunter,” cried the cat, “I claim your hand of protection; spare me! Oh spare me!” Moved by the pitiful plea, he pulled back his dogs and invited her to the fire to warm and dry herself.

“Nay dear hunter, not until you bind your hounds. For they will likely attack and tear me to pieces.” The woodsman forlornly replied, “But no rope have I.”

“Here,” said the cat, “a strand of my long hair to bind thy dogs, to hold them securely whilst I dry myself by your fire.” The hunter did not trust the cat and instinctively wrapped it around his jacket; then pretended to bind the dogs, instead bound it to a large branch laying nearby. When the cat was convinced that the dogs were secured, she approached the warm fire and laid down to dry herself. A short time had passed when the hunter noticed that she had grown greatly in size.

Alarmed, the hunter jumped to his feet, “Death to you o great cat, for you are bewitched!”

“Aye-yes!” Cried the cat as she posed to lunge, “Tighten hair! Fasten and tighten!” Still growing, she was now the size of 5 large woodsmen together. The cat shift changed herself into her own likeness, that of the goodwife of Laggan. “Hunter of the woods and hills, today you die for I am an avowed leader of my sisterhood of which you have always been ravaging enemies! Macgillichallum of Razay is gone but by his last breath, I avenge him!” Now the cat shift changed into a hideous witch and sprung at the hunter.

However, the hounds having not been bound, lunged with a most furious of attacks. Screamed the witch repeatedly, “Fasten, hair, fasten! Tighten and choke!” The nearby branch snapped like a toothpick! And too late, the hounds sank their teeth into the witch. Finally tearing herself free, shrieking and screaming, the wife of Laggan crawled from the craig, immediately shift changing into a raven and fled by wing over the mountains towards her cottage. Though faithful were the dogs, both beaten and spent, fell to the ground expiring at the hunter’s feet. Sorrowfully weeping, he buried his trusty hounds and returned to his home.

Upon arriving, the hunter related the story of what happened. His wife explained that she had heard of a terrible sickness that had come on the goodwife of Laggan. How she had heard that the goodwife had taken to her bed. The hunter went to the home of the goodwife of Laggan. The goodwife was terrified and explained how she

had sold her soul to the Devil in order to become a witch so as to gain riches. It does not come naturally for me as it does you; you are so lucky she snapped. My life has become so despaired and now I must forfeit my life for my bargain. At that a dark shadow filled the room and with it the goodwife of Laggan was gone.

Some say that she returned from the dead and set the forest ablaze to punish the huntsman for his good fortune and is why the magnificent forest of Badenoch burned.

CHARBROILED LAMB- serves approximately 6

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

2 lbs. lamb
¼ cup olive oil
1 tbsp. parsley
1 tbsp. chive
1 ½ tsp. salt
½ tbsp. black pepper
5 tbsp. melted butter



Cube lamb into 1 inch cubes and place in mixing bowl. Add oil and turn in meat to coat and then adding other ingredients. Skewer meat and place on a broiling pan. Broil for approximately 9 minutes, turning after the first 4 ½ minutes. Remove from skewers and place in serving bowl for a few minutes.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS: Mix with cut fresh spinach and cubed potatoes. Serve with barley bread.

Thanks to geniuskitchen.com for the photo.

SAINT COLUMBA AND THE ISLE OF IONA

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

Bede dubbed him ‘a most reverend and holy man of the British race’, and began the tradition that he had been trained in Rome. It is believed that he was the son of a British chief, and had been sent to mission in the fifth century as a bishop to Ireland and became the scion of the Ui Neill, a royal family in Ireland. Having both missioned the Island of Iona, and being a warrior-monk, was banished and sent as penance to Dalriada. Again in 563, he set sail with twelve companions to do the work of God. Columba built the first Celtic Church and also a monastic community. A few years later, the king of Dalriada gave him the Isle of Hinba and then Iona, a small island off of the west coast of Mull. History tells the story of the “Book of Kells” with the help of Adomnan, Columba’s biographer. From there, he converted much of Scotland and norther England’s pagans to Christianity.

Built of wood and clay, the Abby of St. Columba was built by he and his twelve companions. Their wives and daughters were placed on the Woman’s Island (Eilean nam Ban). As they built the Abby, Columba banished the frogs and snakes making it more serene and less threatening. The Abby became a place of learning and artistic excellence and later held an extensive library and held the Book of Kells, which is now protected in the library at Trinity College in Dublin.

In 574 A.D. Columba ordained Aedan mac Galbhraim, one of the kings of Dalriada. And Iona became a sacred isle where many Kings were buried; 48 Scottish Kings, 4 Irish Kings, and 8 Norwegian Kings were buried. Iona as well was the beginning of the Viking age; in 806 A.D., the monks were slaughtered and most of their work was pillaged and burned. Today, there is a ferry from Fionphort on the Isle of Mull, at Oban and then at Lochaline and Kilchoan on the Peninsula of Ardnamurchan.

Glenkinchie 12 Single Malt

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

Glenkinchie 12, a bright lowland scotch distilled near the village of Pencaitland, in East Lothian. Founded in 1825, it is thought that it was the Milton Distillery that had been in the area at the time. The distillery was rebuilt by Major James Grey in 1881, and in 1969, the distillery stopped malting its own grain. It is now among the Diageo Group.

A single malt, pot still type distillation of mash and malted grain.

Nose: Floral notes, apple, and a slight aroma of anise and barley.

Palate: A dryer after-taste with hints of anise and cinnamon. Sweet and slightly caramelly.

Finish: Toffee and cream, a hint of apple, with a slight feel of pepper.



Celtic Symbols

By Thistle Senior Writer Armand C. Hayes

THE CAT

Scottish Gaelic for cat is Cat Sith / Cat Si. In Celtic mythology, the cat si is a fairy creature which is a black cat with a white diamond or spot of fur on its chest. The Scottish folk believe that it was a black wildcat and the English and some Scots believe cat si is actually a witch that for nine times, she could transform herself into a cat and back; the final time she would remain a cat.

In ancient Scottish lore, it was believed that the cat could steal the soul of a dead person before it was taken by the Gods who would pass over the body prior to burial. So the people held wakes to keep the cat si away from the body before it was buried. However they refrained to build a fire at the wakes, that cats are attracted to warmth.

At the festival of Samhain, which marks the end of harvest seasons, around October 31, is a marking and opening of a portal between this world and the Otherworld where the dead would cross over. The Celts or ancient Scots would leave drink and food to appease the spirits. In terms of the cat si, one would leave a saucer of milk and that would ward off evil.

Several Clans use the cat in their badges/crests.



A lion rampant guardant sable
CLAN BAXTER



A lion rampant, holding in
the dexter paw a fleur de lis Or
CLAN BROUN



A lion stantan [Azure](#) armed
and langued Gules
CLAN BRUCE



The head and neck of a
Lion Sable langued Gules
CLAN CHALMERS



A cat salient Proper.
CLAN CHATTAN



A lion rampant Or, in his
dexter paw a dagger Proper.
CLAN CUMMING



A lion's head affrontée
Looking through a bush
Of oak Proper
CLAN DUNDAS



A demi-lion rampant holding
in its dexter paw a star or
mullet
CLAN EWING



A lion's head coupé
Or
CLAN FAIRLIE



On a chapeau Gules furred
Ermine, a demi-lion Gules
Holding in his dexter paw
A sword Proper
CLAN FARQUHARSON



A lion's head erased
Proper, crowned with
an antique crown Or
CLAN GREGOR



A Demi lion Argent holding
in his dexter paw a cross
crosslet fitchee Gules
CLAN HERON



On a cap of maintenance
Proper, a lion's head
Erased Argent
CLAN HOME



A lion Gules, issuant from an
antique crown Or, holding in
its dexter paw a sword erect
And in its sinister a thistle
Slipped both Proper
CLAN LUNDIN



A grey demi-cat-a-mountain
salient, on his sinister fore-
leg a Highland targe Gules
CLAN MACBAIN



A demi-lion Gules holding
in the dexter paw a broad-
sword erected in pale Proper,
hilted and pommelled Or
CLAN MACDUFF



A demi lion rampant
CLAN MACFIE



A cat-a-mountain sejuant guardant
Proper, his dexter fore-paw on the
ground, his sinister in a guardant
posture, and his tail reflexed
under his sinister paw
CLAN MACGILLIVRAY



A lion's head erased Sable crowned Ermine holding an arrow, crowned with an antique Crown of six (four visible) Points Or, between two Branches of laurel issuing From the Wreath at either Side of the head both Proper
CLAN MACLAREN



A cat sejant Proper
CLAN MACPHERSON



An heraldic tyger rampant point downwards Argent pheoned Gules
CLAN MACQUEEN



A demi-cat-a-mountain rampant guardant Proper, grasping in his dexter paw a serpent Vert, langued Gules, its tail environing the sinister paw
CLAN MACTHOMAS



A lion sejant affrontée Gules, ducally crowned Proper, in his dexter paw a sword Proper hilted and pommeled Or, in his sinister a fleur de lis Azure
CLAN MAITLAND



Issuing out of a tower Sable, a lion rampant Gules, armed and langued Argent
CLAN MOFFAT



Issuing from a crest coronet Or, a demi-lion rampant Gules, armed and langued Azure
CLAN MONCREIFFE



A lion issuant Or armed and langued Gules
CLAN NICOLSON



A demi-lion rampant Gules holding in his dexter paw a primrose
CLAN PRIMROSE



A demi-lion rampant gules, armed and langued Azure
CLAN STUART OF BRUTE



A-cat-a-mountain serjant rampant Proper
CLAN SUTHERLAND



On a chapeau Azure furred Ermine a lion rampant proper holding in his paws a balance Gules
CLAN VANS



A demi-lion issuant Gules, holding a sword Proper
CLAN YOUNG

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, books, 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 the country. www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Books

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; www.socantscot.org/shop.

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

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/>