

The Whistle

Scottish Society of Indianapolis

November – December 2025



Greetings Fellow Scots,

This year marks the 41st anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis in 1984. And it all began with an idea and a visit to the 1984 International Festival at the convention center in Indianapolis. The Society grew rapidly and did it all without cell phones, e-mail, website or QR codes!

Anyway, in the last three years, we have resumed monthly meetings and restarted the Games and Festival. A newsletter is now issued and has regular updates, notices, now being posted online.

We marched in the St. Patrick's Day and attended other festivals, like the Circle City Irish Festival, to represent Scotland and the Society. The year 2025 has been a busy year with the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

By the way, I have decided not to run for re-election this coming year. And will pass the gavel to someone else. Thank you for your dedication and participation, it has been a challenging year.

So please participate, attend, and volunteer to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. Let's keep it going for you and our dear future members. And indeed, we'll continue to share a meal, a good time, and a wonderful program about Scotland and its culture.

Yours aye,

Carter C. Keith

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Greg Bowers, Trustee

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Committee Chair Persons:

Games Chairman- Greg Bowers

Newsletter - Armand C Hayes

Bulletins

KILT NIGHTS - Looking for suggestions on how to revamp Kilt Nights and a venue to hold them at. Kilt Nights are necessary to increase membership and to promote our games. A Kilt Night is where several of our membership- if not all – show up at the scheduled time and place, wearing their Clan's attire and hand out/answer question in referencing the Scottish Society. Also prizes are given out and Scottish music is played to make it more lively. The hope is that at each Kilt Night we can add at least 4 or five new members. Contact Armand Hayes at 317-533-9099 or email: mrgoodnews53@gmail.com

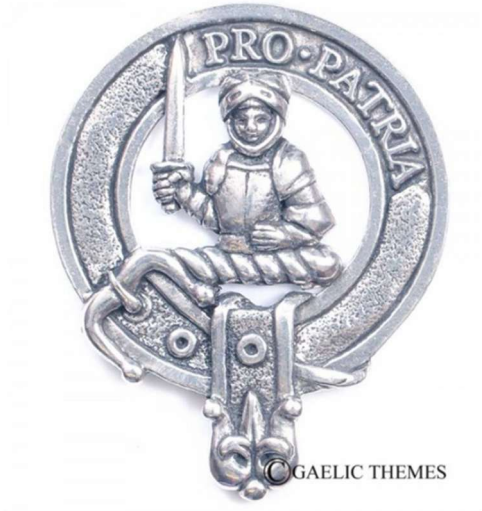
GAMES : The Fourteenth Annual Scottish Highland Games and Festival will be held on October 10th, 2026, from 8:30am to 9:00pm. The games will include Scottish heavy athletic competition, bagpipes, Celtic bands, authentic food, drink, and appropriate vendors and bands.

Articles Needed for the Thistle : The editor wishes to thank to everyone who is contributing articles for the SSI Newsletter. The Feature Article, Clan Spotlight, and most of the short articles and notices are contributed each quarter by our members. Send them by Email to : Armand Hayes at mrgoodnews53@gmail.com

Anyone attending Scottish, Clan or related events is encouraged to write a brief article describing the event and to enclose a photo or two. Feature Articles are also needed, 3/4 page (600 to 700 words) plus a graphic or photo. These can be about any Scottish social, historic or cultural topic. We are also are looking for recipes or articles on music!



Clan Bannerman Society



BANNERMAN USES A CLAN FORBES TARTAN (None of their own)

CLAN MOTTO: PRO PATRIA (For my country)

CLAN CHIEF: Sir David Bannerman

Bannerman is a lowland Scottish Clan that shares something with other Scottish names such as Armstrong and Turnbull in that it relates to an event in their history. Sometime during the late 11th and early 12th century, within the reign of either Malcom III or Alexander I, the Kings forces had assembled on the banks of the Spey where a rebel army had gathered on the other side. The Spey is a fast flowing river at the best of times and the rebels felt safe as the waters rose. The King was advised to wait until the river subsided before crossing to meet the rebel army. However the sight of the rebels so incensed the king that he took off into the river to meet them. The Kings chamberlain, Sir Alexander Carron realized that the King was in danger and rode after him with the royal standard. On seeing the standard being carried across the river, the rest of the Kings army followed across and defeated the rebels. As a reward for his quick thinking and bravery, Sir Alexander Carron was made hereditary Standard Bearer to the King. His descendants still bear the privilege and carry the Scottish royal banner at appropriate ceremonies.

David II granted the bannerman family the land of Clyntrees, Waterton, and Welltown in 1367. The family was later granted land west of Aberdeen in 1370 by the Abbott of Kinloss.

Towards the end of the 16th Century, the North East of Scotland was the scene for intense clan feuds between the Gordons and Forbes. The Bannermans were caught in the middle of this bitter conflict and at first took sides with Clan Forbes. However in 1608, Margaret Bannerman married George Gordon of Haddo, son of Sir John Gordon. Sir John was a loyal supporter of King Charles I and was executed for opposing the National Covenant.

Alexander Bannerman of Pitmedden also supported the King and almost lost his estates during the civil war. His fortunes improved in the restoration when Charles II named Sir Alexander Bannerman a Baronet of Nova Scotia for his loyalty in 1682. Alexander's son Patrick supported the Stuarts during the first Jacobite uprising, aligning himself with the 'Old Pretender', James Francis Edward Stuart. James VIII knighted Alexander in 1715 but his support for the Jacobites led him to be sentenced to death when the uprising failed. Fortunately he escaped to France.

Despite this, the Bannermans supported the young pretender, Charles Edward Stewart when he arrived in Scotland. Sir Alexander, son of the second baronet joined the Jacobites at Stirling in 1745 with 160 men and stayed with the Prince until Culloden, fleeing after the battle he made his way north and then to France. In the climate that followed, Sir Alexander Bannerman, fourth Baronet, was forced to sell the Elsie estates due to their Jacobite connections. The estates were returned to the family in 1851 when Sir Alexander Bannerman, previously Governor of the Bahamas, acquired them.

Sir Campbell Bannerman was the Liberal Prime Minister from 1905 to 1908. He was made Prime Minister in 1905 by Edward VII, after the resignation of Arthur Balfour. He was responsible for the appointments to the cabinet of Herbert Asquith and David Lloyd George two of the country's best known prime ministers. Asquith succeeded him in 1908 and he died just a few days later, John Bannerman was a legendary Rugby player and was capped for Scotland 39 times. He was made a life peer as Lord Bannerman of Kidonan in 1967 and died in 1969.

Thirteenth Baronet served in the Cameron Highlanders. He became a Russian interpreter, and after his military career he taught at Gordonstoun and Fettes College in Edinburgh. Bannerman's son is the present Chief.

SEPTS – Bannerman has no Septs however is considered a sept of the larger Clan Forbes and closely aligned with the Gordons also.



DID YOU KNOW? -*The Scottish Society of Indianapolis* – had its origins in the International Festival. It's creator, organizer and first President is no other than our own President, Carter Keith!

News from Scotland

- ## Upcoming Events

Nov - Dec 2025

SSI Meeting and Side Dish Schedule

	November		December		January 2026	
Date:	Saturday, Nov 8		Wednesday, December 10		Wednesday, Jan 14	
Program	St. Andrew's Dinner (Annual Meeting)		Samuel Lawson, Yuletide Music on classical guitar		A Celebration of the Life of Robert Burns	
Meat Dish:	N/A		Ham Linda Cassady		Shepherd's Pie (& haggis!) Rick Blacklidge	
Side Dish to Bring:	A—F:	N/A	A—F:	Veggie/Casserole	A—F:	Salad
	G—McC:	N/A	G—McC:	Salad	G—McC:	Dessert
	McD—Z:	N/A	McD—Z:	Dessert	McD—Z:	Veggie/Casserole
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. If you invite guests, please bring their portions as well.						
Cover Charge: \$5 per Member, \$10 for Returning Guests. First-Time Guests attend for free.						
6:30PM: Social Time 6:45PM: Announcements & Dinner		Regular meetings are held at the Latvian Center 1008 W 64 th Street, Indianapolis			Contact Carter Keith, President 463-249-4761 keith035@protonmail.com	

CHILI COOKOFF

*October's Gathering brought in our grand Chili **Cookoff** with traditional chili, nonspicy chili, chili with beans, white chicken chili, and brown chili with chicken. The air was filled with the scent of chili and the tables held deserts and salads and a couple of Vegetables. Condiments among which were fresh onion, and fresh grated cheese and macaroni. The prayer was said and our Friends dug in savoring all the scents and air of excitement. Chili after chili was sampled and the table was filled with returning Patrons, sampling the next and then the next delectable chili dish. As the lecture began, it was to be observed our friends still munching on chili and sampling deserts. In the end the chili that seemed to be the favorite was the white chicken chili, produced by our very own Mary Thompson!*

INDIANAPOLIS SCOTTISH SOCIETY GAMES AND FESTIVAL

The day before, the field bustled with the business of setup and readying last minute details to prepare the field for the games and festival; trailers were backed in and placed, tents were marked and moved, and the athletes positioned their ropes, equipment was positioned and placed. Our Vice-President of Whisky, Matt Douglass moved his table and positioned his wears and equipment while the King and Queen and Company positioned their court, tents, and props! At the end of the day, most was prepared and you could observe the excitement as all the pre-preparation was in place for the following day; the smell of the testing of food, the testing that all beer taps were ready for the following day.

The following day were indeed bustling once again as at first light, the Clans began to bustle with the final positioning of the scene's and books, plaques, and decorations to demonstrate their clans. The King and Queen were in their bright costumes, and all last minute preparations were completed. The grounds volunteers, the Games Chairman made their final go-around to make sure that all possible was in place. Then they came- the patrons, all with smiles and anticipation; first a few and then the many!

Tents were beginning to be visited, wares were being examined and purchased, and the athletes began to make their warmups and practice throws. Then the cars were moved from the field and the pipe band went through its warmup as the clans lined up for the parade. The bands began to play and the music filled the air. The wonderful smells of a successful festival filled with delicious cakes, sandwiches, meat dishes, and coffee filled the air. That is when we knew that we had, once again...another successful festival !



WHISKY REVIEW



EDRADOUR SINGLE MALT 10 YEAR

Edradour Distillery was established in 1825 and is known as Scotland's Smallest Distillery. It is labeled as a Handmade Scotch and is located in the hills above Pitlochry in the Southern Highlands, in an area known as the "Pocket Glen", in a unique cluster of buildings, virtually unchanged in the last 150 years. The distillery building houses the equipment – just capable of producing commercial quantities. At 12 cases a week, this delicious whiskey is produced; making Edradour Single Malt Whisky a rare pleasure for the few!

The three member crew of this distillery continue to produce the finest single malt whisky available. Golden in the glass, the delicious and delightful Aroma of sugared almonds and a hint of oloroso, melts into a smooth, creamy, and light malty taste followed by a mellow warming finish. A whisky of rare distinction. Says the "Three Men of Edradour"!

TASTE:

Nose: of sugared almonds and cream with a slight hint of fruit.

Palate: Here is where you get the taste of a creamy caramel sugared almond. The background taste of olorosa and light malt. Half way through you experience the fruity flavors with a slight honey overture with a peppery feel.

Finish: A flow of fruit and almond mixed with a slight honey fruit with a honey-peppery ending.

ANCIENT SYMBOLS – The Thistle



The **Thistle**, Scotland's national emblem holds significant symbolism from its' origins in **Celtic culture**. It is known for its' flexibility and durability, strength, and shielding nature. The thistle represents Scotland's determination to resist invaders. As an example, legend holds that a group of Scottish soldiers were alerted to a Norse

ambush when an invader thorned his foot, stepping on a thistle. Over millenniums, this connection has led to defense and protection cemented into the thistle's rugged defense and protection cemented into the portrait as **the national symbol of Scotland**.

The thistle's prickly exterior and bright, lively. Purple flowers reflect Scotland's rugged beauty and spirit. In Celtic culture, the thistle is seen as a symbol of endurance and determination, qualities that the people of Scotland have long valued. Additionally, its association with royalty stems from its regal purple color, a hue often linked to nobility and honor.

GOBLIN LORE –

Scottish Goblin lore includes a variety of Goblins. From **Redcaps**, a blood thirsty creature that haunts and dwells in border castles, to the **Shellycoat**, that is a rier dwelling prankster. Another variety are the **Wirry-cows**, a shape -shifting night goblin. There are however a house goblin or elf called the **brownie** which can be helpful or easily offended depending on how you treat them if you have one or more living in your house. If offended by you, you may receive their malice, mischievousness, or if you leave them a fine morsel or a delicious pint, they may complete your chores or deliver a charm of good luck!

JOKES –

Q: What is a vampire's least favorite food?

A: Garlic bread!

Q: What is a witch's favorite school subject?

A: Spelling!

Q: What do skeletons order at a restaurant?

A: Spare ribs!

Q: What is a vampire's favorite holiday?

A: Fangs-giving!

Q: What did the sweet potato say to the mashed potato?

A: I yam what I yam

Q: What did the Grandmum say when she burned the holiday turkey?

A: Oh, good gravy!

Q: How do you invite Santa to a party?

A: You request his presents!

Q: What kind of ball doesn't bounce?

A: A snowball!

Q: What do gingerbread men use if their legs get broken?

A: Candy canes!

Q: What do you call a reindeer ghost:

A: A Cari-boo!

2026 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership in the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Inc. as indicated:

☐ Life \$250 ☐ Family \$35/yr ☐ Individual \$25/yr ☐ Student \$10.00/yr

☐ Senior Family \$30/yr ☐ Senior Individual \$21/yr

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail is used to send the SSI newsletter four times each year, as well as occasional announcements about SSI events. We do not sell or share e-mail with any party, and we prohibit any party from using this e-mail for any other purpose. ___ Do not send the newsletter via my e-mail. ___ Do not send SSI event information via my e-mail. ___ Please send my newsletter via US postal mail.

Facebook User Names: _____

Email Address(s): _____

Address information is used to send your membership renewal, will be used to send your newsletter to if you request it, but is not shared with any third party, sold, shared or rented.

Phone: _____ (home)

(cell) _____ (cell) _____

Note if you are a *new member*, your membership dues will be halved from June on, in the year. If you are a past member, you have the option of renewing your membership at the annual rate any time during the year or attending as a guest for \$10/person as often as you like.

Please make your check out to The Scottish Society of Indianapolis and mail it along with this form to the address below.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

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