

# The River City Caledonian



**Society Officers:**

**President:** Joseph Schaub

**Vice President:** Doug Elder

**Treasurer:** Maggie Mackay

**Secretary:** Charlie Sue Rap-  
pold

**Board members:**

Rosemary Day

Margaret Duckworth

Barbara Evans

Jerry Mackay

Bruce Sutton

David Tiller

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Volume 11, Issue 6

July-August 2012

## Hot Time, Summer in the City: Message from Our Picnic Host, Margaret

Well, what a lovely year the Scottish Society is having! We had a fantastic Burns Night in January; then, an equally fantastic picnic in June. (The best in recent memory!) Twenty-seven picnickers came to enjoy the delicious and plentiful food, the blooming and abundant garden, the fine weather, and the good cheer of fellow Scots. We had a truly GREAT time.

We who love the Celtic culture and seek to keep it as a vibrant force in American society intend to celebrate it joyfully through this coming year in the Society's activities. We plan to present a wide variety of programs and meetings to cover historical, cultural, social, and gastronomic as-

pects of our proud heritage.

Please mark the third Thursday of each month on your calendar; check your e-mails and newsletters. Let's energize each other in the celebration of our shared culture. It is so nice to gather not just at Burns night, at the picnic, at Christmas - but on a more continuing basis. Then we can build our togetherness and friendship throughout the year.

See you in September - and thanks for all you did to make the picnic a rousing success!

Margaret

*Follow-up:* Les and Isobel Douglas were among attendees at the picnic, and have joined the Society as members. Les and Isobel are recently of Ohio, and formerly of East Kilbride, Scotland. We welcome Les and Isobel into our own "clan."



## Cold Time, Summer in Scotland

While Society members enjoyed one another's company at Margaret's, your new president, Joseph Schaub, was shivering in Scotland. Joseph was combining a vacation with the Centenary Gathering of the Clan Maclean, of which he is a member. This was the 100th anniversary for the beginning of the reconstruction of Duart Castle, ancestral home of Clan Maclean. Some

800 clansfolk from around the world were in attendance. Macleans came from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Britain, France, Ireland, and Sweden. Though the weather wasn't great, it was very Scottish! During Gathering week, temperatures averaged in the 40s and 50s, and there was rain or its threat nearly every day.

You can look forward to one of our Fall programs' centering on the Gathering, its historical and cultural significance. Don't despair, though: you are promised an entertaining and informative program, not just a slideshow of someone's summer vacation!

## Message from the President

Dear Members:

*Ceud mìle fàilte!* (One hundred thousand welcomes!)

First, thank you for electing me your new president. I hope to serve you well over the next two years. The major goals I would like us to accomplish over that time are to grow our membership and to provide programming that consistently entertains and enlightens our members (events that make our members want to come back for more).

Having served as a board member and officer over the last few years, I can tell you that your officers and board are dedicated to serving the Society well. I hope you'll show your appreciation for their efforts. I also ask that we see some "new blood" infusing our leadership in the future.

Over the last year, we've tried to respond to an issue that several members had regarding communication about the various Society functions. We've thus provided timely reminders in the semi-monthly newsletters, we have sent out interim reports on items that fell in between newsletters, we've communicated through email, and we have initiated phone calling trees to make sure that those who don't follow email closely are in the know. You have my pledge that we will continue to step up our efforts to ensure that all members are kept current and do not miss anything.

In times of economic difficulties, organizations like ours tend to suffer. It's a time of uncertainty, and folks understandably undergo some belt-tightening and make fewer expenditures on things like society memberships. But let me stress what a bargain Scottish Society membership is. Our membership dues have stayed steady, despite rising costs. We've kept the prices for our biggest annual event, the Burns Supper, at the same level, so people don't feel an additional pinch come January. And, when you attend meetings, you get your money's worth in informative and entertaining programs.

So I ask that we all pitch in to not only survive the poor economy, but to grow and thrive despite it. How do we do that? Honestly, it's like anything else. It will take a little extra effort on everyone's part—not so much, though, that you'll feel it's a burden.

Keep your ears open and your eyes peeled. When someone reveals an interest in things Scottish, speak up about the Society. When you speak with friends, acquaintances, and neighbors, let them know about the SSR. Point them to our website. Give them some of our literature (at April's meeting, I handed out brochures to attendees for this purpose). See a Scotland sticker on a car parked near you? Put a friendly note about the Society on their windshield. Basically, be an evangelist for the Society (not pushy—but friendly, helpful and inviting).

And when you bring others to the Society you get a renewed sense of pride and investment in it—you've brought others aboard, and now you want the Society to be that much better because you were responsible for bringing them in.

Please also consider serving in a leadership capacity. All organizations, ours included, can suffer from fatigue when the same people are doing the work, year in and year out.

Lastly (but definitely not least), do **SHOW UP**. We want to see you. We want you to enjoy and get something out of our programs. We want your participation and input. After all, the definition of "society" is "companionship or association with one's fellows."

We'll be providing you with the specific slate of activities for the 2012-13 Society year with the next (September-October) newsletter, but you know you can count on our general meetings the third Thursday of the month starting in September, the Central Virginia Games in October, and the Burns Supper in January. Start marking your calendars!

*Bidh mi 'gad fhaicinn* (I'll be seeing you)

— **Joseph Schaub**



## Scottish-themed Events in the U.S., July-August

July 7: Round Hill Scottish Games, Darien, CT  
 July 7-8: Monterey Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Del Ray Oaks, CA  
 July 12-15: Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC  
 July 21-22: Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Elizabeth, CO  
 July 28-29: Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Seattle, WA  
 August 3-4: St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games, Southfield, MI  
 August 4-5: Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Denver, CO  
 August 11: Cape Cod Scottish Festival, Yarmouth Port, MA  
 August 25: Kalamazoo Scottish Festival, Oshtemo, MI  
 August 25: William Wallace Day cookout, Chester, VA, 3:00 p.m. (see page 4 of this newsletter)

## Member News

### Welcome, New Members:

A big hello to Les and Isobel Douglas, who come to us from East Kilbride, Scotland by way of Ohio. Please give them a warm welcome the next time you see them

### Birthdays:

Ruben Andrew (July 2), Robert DeJarnette (July 8), Robert Rappold (July 8), Amy MacKay (July 9), Barbara Evans (July 12), Dennis Saidat (July 25), Erik Dillon (July 26), Elsie Nisbet (August 7), Rosemary Day (August 13), Doug Elder (August 18)

If you have any items or corrections to report, please let us know—email josephmelissal@verizon.net or call 804-264-4729.

## Recipe: Honey and Whisky Cake

### Ingredients:

6 oz self-rising flour (or all-purpose flour with baking powder)  
 6 oz butter  
 6 oz soft brown sugar (light brown sugar)  
 3 beaten eggs  
 4 tablespoons blended whisky  
 Rind of a small orange, grated

### Ingredients for butter Icing:

6 oz icing (frosting) sugar  
 2 oz butter  
 2 tablespoons clear honey  
 Juice from a small orange  
 Toasted flaked almonds as decoration

### Method:

Cream the butter and sugar together, add the orange rind and beat in the eggs, one at a time. Whisk until the mixture is pale and fluffy. Sift in half the self-raising flour (or all-purpose flour and baking powder) and pour in the whisky. Fold in to the mixture and sift in the remaining flour and again fold in. Grease two seven inch sandwich tins and divide the mixture between the two, smoothing the tops. Bake for 20/25 minutes in an oven at 375F/190C/Gas Mark 5 until the cake is a light golden colour. Turn onto a wire rack to allow it to cool. Put the butter, honey and one tablespoon of orange juice in a mixing bowl. Slowly sift in the icing (frosting) sugar and work the mixture till they are all combined. Use half the butter cream as a sandwich between the two halves of the cake and spread the rest smoothly on the top. Add the toasted almonds as decoration.



Seen Disney/Pixar's Brave yet? If not, go see it! It's a great show!



*Have you paid your 2012-2013 Society Dues? Please send your annual dues to treasurer Maggie Mackay if you have not already—we need your continued support to exist! See page 8 for address.*

## St. Andrews Legion Anniversary Cookout

The St. Andrews Legion Pipe Band of Richmond is hosting a cookout to mark its 11th anniversary and William Wallace Day. The cookout will be held Saturday, August 25th, at 3:00 p.m. The address of the event is 3809 North Light Drive, Chester, VA.

Organizer Tim MacLeod promises "a wonderful evening of fellowship and a fine gathering in Highland fashion, with traditional Piping & Drumming. A brief speech shall be rendered to pay tribute to the 707th anniversary of Wallace's execution which took place on 23 August 1305 in Smithfield England and a copy of the original 'Letter of safe passage' that was granted to Wallace by King Philip of France, will be on display along with its' translation, courtesy of the Society of William Wallace." Proceeds from a donation bucket at the event will be equally divided between the

St. Andrews Legion and the Society of William Wallace.

Attendees will also be able to purchase raffle tickets for a replica of the William Wallace sword (not the Hollywood film sword, but a replica of the sword actually believed to have been Wallace's). The drawing will be held January, 2013. If Society of William Wallace representative Randy Detricson is in attendance, the replica sword will be available for viewing.

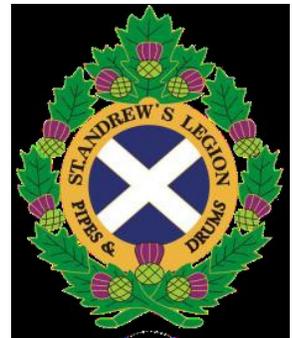
Grilled barbecued chicken breast, potato salad, and baked beans will be provided as the main course; attendees are asked to bring their own drinks.

RSVP to Tim MacLeod, PipesofArgyll@aol.com.

This event is not directly affiliated with the Scottish Society of Richmond, but like the SSR, it enjoys common members and many of

the same aims as the SSR: attention to Scottish heritage as well as food and fellowship.

Look for the official invitation to be distributed over email. If you do not use email and want to attend, ask a Scottish Society officer and we can put you in touch with Tim.



**The September-October newsletter will contain fixed dates for meetings, pub nights, and other events the Society is hosting or participating in.**

## Scottish-Themed Events Coming Up this Year

Some events require more than a month or two's notice. Here are some events to note on your calendar beyond July and August:

September 1-2: Virginia Scottish Games, the Plains, VA

September 8: Gayton Kirk Festival, Richmond

October 5: John Turner and Friends, Second Stage, Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen

October 6: Virginia Celtic Gathering and Celtic Festival, Lanexa, VA

October 20-21: Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games (We will have a tent at the former Richmond/Plains Celtic Festival.)

November 18: Ashland Holiday Parade (The Society marches in this parade.)

January 24: The Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch 3rd Battalion, With The Royal Regiments of Scotland and the Band of the Scots Guard, Carpenter Theater, Richmond Center Stage

## The Islands of St. Kilda: At the Edge of the World

(This is the second in a series of articles about more recent Scottish history.)

On the 29th of August, 1930 the population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island.

There had been people on St Kilda since prehistoric times, exploiting the rich resources of the sea, growing crops and keeping animals. It is not clear when the first settlers came to St Kilda, but simple stone tools found on Hirta suggest that Bronze Age travellers may have visited St Kilda from the Western Isles some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. In the 1830s the Rev. Neil Mackenzie found what were probably remains of burial cists in Village Bay. Excavations in 1995 revealed a possible burial structure dating from the Bronze Age.

In historic times, a small population - about 180 in 1697 - rented the land from a distant landlord, latterly the Macleods of Dunvegan in Skye. They lived in a small settlement in Village Bay with seasonal dwellings (summer shielings) in Gleann Bay.

The landlord rented land to the islanders through a factor who collected the rents on his annual visit to St Kilda. He was represented by a Ground Officer, a St Kildan, who dealt with the islanders on a day-to-day basis. Until the late 19th century, rents were mainly paid in kind. The factor sold the produce, and supplied

the islanders with imported goods. Rent was paid in barley, oats, fish, produce from their cattle, sheep, and especially seabirds. Land was divided according to the run-rig system common elsewhere in Scotland. Each tenant's plots were scattered throughout the arable area, and the plots were re-allocated annually. Agricultural reforms in the 1830's secured each tenant his own strip of land, on which he built his house.

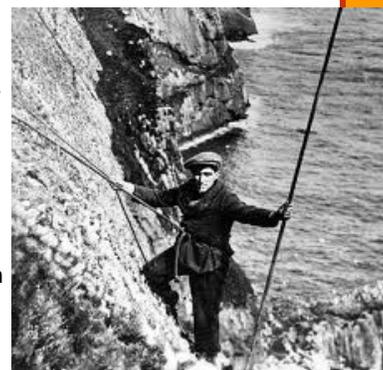
St Kilda is a major seabird breeding ground, and the islanders took gannets, fulmars and puffins for food, feathers and oil, some of which they consumed themselves, the rest going to pay the rent. The birds were taken during the breeding season which lasted from about March to September. They were caught by hand, or with a fowling rod or a snare.

There were no roads on the islands, produce being carried by people on their backs. They used small open boats to move between the islands, managing stock such as Hebridean sheep and collecting puffins on Bore-ray, and collecting gannets and their eggs from the sea stacs. Until a jetty was built in Village Bay in 1901, all their produce was landed - precariously - on the rocks. They had little contact with the mainland until the mid 19th century. The factor arrived by boat each year to collect the rents and was accompanied by a minister

who performed baptisms and weddings. In the 18th century ministers or missionaries were sent to the islands on a more regular basis. A church and manse were built in the early 19th century for a resident minister, and there was a school from 1884. The St Kildans were of Hebridean stock and spoke Gaelic. They dressed in a manner similar to people from the Western Isles. In 1697 Martin Martin recorded that they loved music and games, but by the late nineteenth century their adherence to the Free Church of Scotland led to a less joyful life.

By the mid 19th century there was increasing contact with the outside world. A steam yacht - the *Vulcan* - visited St Kilda in 1838. From 1877 the *SS Dunara Castle* began regular summer cruises to St Kilda, and was soon joined by others such as the *SS Hebrides*.

The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th Century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957.



**Bird-catching on the cliffs**



**The St. Kilda Parliament**



**Current visitors to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow can view a fine exhibit about St. Kilda.**





## Eilean Donan Castle: Scotland's Most Picturesque Castle

The name **Eilean Donan**, or island of Donan, is most probably called after the 6th century Irish Saint, Bishop Donan who came to Scotland around 580 AD. There are several churches dedicated to Donan in the area, and it is likely that he formed a small cell, or community on the island during the late 7th century.



The first fortified structure was not built on the island until the early 13th century as a defensive measure, protecting the lands of Kintail against the Vikings who raided, settled and controlled much of the North of Scotland and the Western Isles between 800 and 1266. From the mid 13th century, this area was the quite separate "Sea Kingdom" of the Lord of the Isles where the sea was the main highway and the power of feuding clan chiefs was counted by the number



of men and galleys or "birlinns" at their disposal. Eilean Donan offered the perfect defensive position.

Over the centuries, the castle itself has expanded and contracted in size. The medieval castle was probably the largest, with towers and a curtain wall that encompassed nearly the entire island. The main keep stood on the island's highest point. Around the end of the 14th century the area of the castle was reduced to about a fifth of its original size, and although the reason is unclear, it probably relates to the number of men required to defend the structure. By the 16th century a hornwork was added to the east wall to offer a firing platform for the newly introduced cannons.

Eilean Donan also played a role in the Jacobite risings of the 17th and 18th centuries,

which ultimately culminated in the castle's destruction.

In 1719 the castle was garrisoned by 46 Spanish soldiers who were supporting the Jacobites. They had established a magazine of gunpowder, and were awaiting the delivery of weapons and cannon from Spain. The English Government caught wind of the intended uprising and sent three heavily armed frigates *The Flamborough*, *The Worcester*, and *The Enterprise* to quell matters. The bombardment of the castle lasted three days, though met with limited success due to the enormity of the castle walls, which in some places are up to 14 feet thick. Finally, Captain Herdman of *The Enterprise* sent his men ashore and over-whelmed the Spanish defenders. used to blow up what had remained of the bombardment. **(continued next page)**

## July and August in Scottish History

July 9, 1867: Queens Park Football Club was formed, the first senior club in Scotland. The club dominated the early days of Scottish football, supplying all 11 players to the first ever Scottish international side. With the advent of professionalism, the club determined to retain its amateur status and as a result slid down the leagues. Nicknamed the Spiders, Queen's Park are still the only amateur team in the Scottish senior football set-up, and still play their games at Hampden Park, Glasgow, the home of the Scottish national side.

July 13, 1249: Alexander III, King of Scots, was crowned at Scone. Crowned at the age of eight, Alexander ruled Scotland for 35 years. His reign became known as "The Golden Age" as it was a largely peaceful and prosperous time for the Scots, with only a minor conflict with Norway over the Inner Hebrides to mar it. The end to his reign was a disaster for the nation, however, as he died without issue, and the subsequent infighting amongst the nobility led to English overlordship.

August 4, 1870: Sir Harry Lauder, Scottish music hall comedian, was born in Portobello. The biggest Scottish entertainer of his age, his most popular songs included, *I Love a Lassie* and *Roamin' in the Gloamin'*. Lauder was the first entertainer to perform for soldiers at the front line during the First World War and earned a knighthood in 1919 for this and for his work in recruiting Scots for the army, including paying for 100 pipers to march through Scotland as a recruitment drive. His signature tune was *Keep Right on to the End of the Road*, supposedly written after he lost his only son during the Great War.

(Eilean Donan Castle, continued from previous page)

For the best part of 200 years, the stark ruins of Eilean Donan lay neglected, abandoned and open to the elements, until Lt Colonel John Macrae-Gilstrap bought the island in 1911. Along with his Clerk of Works, Farquar Macrae, he dedicated the next 20 years of his life to the reconstruction of Eilean Donan, restoring her to her former glory. The castle was rebuilt according to the surviving ground plan of earlier phases and was formally completed in the July of 1932.

(from the Eilean Donan webpage)

## Clan Profile: Clan MacRae

The name MacRae, frequently translated as Son of Grace, more properly refers to a person in an ecclesiastical/religious profession. MacRae, MacCrae, McCrea, MacRay, Mccree—regardless of the spelling in English or in Gaelic, it is all the same word.

The Clan MacRae came from Ireland to Clunes, Scotland (west of Inverness) during the 13th century or even earlier. It is probable that the MacRaes came to Scotland as Irish Christian missionaries, because of both the meaning of the name and the many MacRaes in high and low church offices throughout the centuries.

The Clann MacRath continued to exist in Ireland. They lived in counties Tipperary, Fermanagh, and Waterford, where many of them served as Bishops and Poets, and where later a John MacGrath was granted a baronetcy. While the majority of the references are to County Tipperary, it is stated that their castle ruins were to be found in County Waterford. A Captain Redmond MacGrath appears in King James' Irish Army List of the late 17th century. We continue to be known for the same character traits and occupations today: fiercely loyal, devoutly religious, poetic.

While it has been said that the MacRaes had no chief but MacKenzie, the early registration of the Coat of Arms referred to by Lord Lyon in his Judgment of 1909 appears to indicate that the MacRaes were an armigerous family and likely had their own Chief from an early date, either at Clunes, Scotland or earlier still in Ireland.

The MacRaes of Clunes were on the estate of Lovat during the reign of King William the Lion, or before 1214 AD. At the time they were known as the Brazen Wall of Bisset. They possessed Clunes Easter and Wester, Acheyvaich, Obriochaens, Kill-finan, Corrifoinos, Carrowgare, Kill-St. Ninian and Drumbuy in Urquhart.

The MacRaes of Clunes remained in eastern Scotland and several settled at Beaully Priory and the area known as the Black Isle where they formed an educated class of clergy, whose descendants became Provosts, Writers (attorneys) and public servants in the county of Ross at Chanonry/Fortrose and at Dingwall. They lived on or near the estate of Lovat. Bisset of Lovat's daughter and heir was fostered in the home of MacRae of Clunes and when she married Fraser, thus forming the line Fraser of Lovat, the MacRaes continued to be supporters of the family and retained close bonds of friendship. This appears to be the senior branch of the family, as Lord Lyon noted that the first MacReath Coat of Arms was registered in the east not the west, as it bore devices customary in the area of Clunes and was not of the style of West Highland Clans.

Written by Cornelia W. Bush



Ella Gilstrap and Lt. Col John MacRae-Gilstrap, rebuilders of Eilean Donan Castle

Ancient Hunting MacRae tartan



CLAN MACRAE



**THE SCOTTISH  
SOCIETY OF  
RICHMOND,  
VIRGINIA**  
P.O. Box 1264  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Not a member? We'd love for you to join us! Visit us on the Web: <http://www.richmondscots.org> download an application form, print, fill out, and send in with your dues. Or contact us at the above address, by email, or phone to get more information.

**Visit our Facebook page, too!**

Officer Contact Information:  
Feel free to contact an officer if you have any questions or suggestions relating to the Society, its business or events.

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Charlie Sue Rappold, Secretary  
(Contact info to come)

The Scottish Society of Richmond was founded in 1978 for the purpose of sharing ideals of Scottish heritage. It provides a gathering place for those with an interest in Scotland, educational programs and events on Scottish themes, as well as scholarships and awards for those studying Scottish arts and culture.

The Society meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church (903 Forest Avenue, Richmond). Membership forms can be found on our website.

[Alternate sites, when used, are advertised on our website and other media.]

### Get Your Scottish Society Merchandise!

Proudly display your Scottish Pride with several items in the SSR Store. We have created the Richmond Scots store at [cafepress.com](http://cafepress.com) for you to purchase your SSR logo swag from. Whether it's a T-Shirt, Sweatshirt, or a mug, you'll be able to proudly display your Scottishness.

Café Press does all the hard work; you simply use the link on our website to order your merchandise and Café Press does the rest. A portion of all sales goes directly to the Society, so not only are you telling the world you are a Scot and you are proud, but you are helping the Scottish Society at the same time.

Just visit the website, <http://www.richmondscots.org>, and follow the "Store" links.



# Member Survey

In an effort to make the Scottish Society of Richmond the best it can be, we'd appreciate your feedback to the following questions. Send your responses via email (see address under "Member News") or fill out the paper copy of this form, tear it out, and bring it to the next General meeting you attend (or mail it in):

1. If you didn't make it to some, many, or most of the meetings in 2011-12, why not?

- A. Programs weren't of interest
- B. Conflict with meeting time/days
- C. Too far to travel
- D. Other (explain)

2. What kinds of events would you like to see more of? (Note all that apply)

- A. Pub nights/ informal get-togethers
- B. Dancing demonstrations
- C. Musical programs
- D. Genealogy programs
- E. Programs on history
- F. Programs on other aspects of Scottish culture (write out specifics—what other aspects would you like to see explored?)

G. Group outings to Scottish-themed events nearby (concerts, Highland Games/festivals, etc.)

H. Other (write in suggestions)

3. How satisfied are you with the newsletter?

- A. Very satisfied—don't change a thing.
- B. Pretty satisfied, though I'd like to see more \_\_\_\_\_(write out specifics):

C. In need of serious change; want to see the following changes made: (write out specifics)

4. What do you believe would be the best way(s) to improve the Scottish Society? (please write out specific suggestions)

5. Do you know someone who might be interested in the Scottish Society? Let us know their names and contact information.