

The Scottish Society of Richmond, Virginia



What do you think about a name for the newsletter?

Some possibilities:

River City Caledonian

Scots Wha Hae

Down in the Glen

The Thistle and Heather

The Unicorn and Thistle

Other suggestions for a newsletter name are welcome—just send them in!

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July-August 2010

Summer Picnic: Beating the Heat

Though it's REALLY hot now, the weather was warm enough for us to need to seek shade at our annual picnic.

Society members gathered at the home of Margaret Duckworth on Saturday, June 14th. There was a modest turnout, but all in attendance had a good time. A delicious repast was provided by members; the spread included hamburgers, hot dogs, and barbeque, along with yummy sides and desserts. Good fellowship and music, too.

New officers were officially installed, having taken the oath to serve faithfully.

The one casualty, though, was Margaret's pool, which suffered a fatal rip, followed by a dramatic flood. No one was drowned, though, and no other property was damaged (and Margaret seemed to take it in stride). Still, members might have wanted a heads-up on the

timing of the deluge, so they could have soaked their feet as a respite from the day's heat. As it was, we just had to watch it flow by. In these dry July 100+ degree days, we could use a (minor) flood or two.

We'll continue the good times when the Society resumes functions in September. Hope to see you then!

(Below: Margaret keeps her chin up despite the loss of personal property)



Your Society at work

The Scottish Society of Richmond is a great organization for enjoying good fellowship, hosting some engaging and entertaining Scottish-themed presentations and demonstrations, as well as experiencing the fun and pageantry of a local highland games. But we strive to give back as well. Over the past year we collected a sizeable

food donation for the Central Virginia Food Bank; in the current economic climate this type of aid is much needed. In addition to helping the surrounding community, we like to offer scholarship support for those studying in and/or about Scotland. This year we awarded \$500 to Colleen McKenzie Gwinn, a student at the Univer-

sity of Richmond, to apply toward her exchange study at the University of Edinburgh.

If you know of any causes that the Society might lend a hand to, please contact a member of the board.



Letter from the President



I would like to say thank you to the Richmond Scottish Society and the Board for having me as the new President. We also have in place: a new Vice President—Doug Elder, a new Secretary—Joseph Schaub, and our continuing Treasurer—Maggie Mackay, and other dedicated members on our Board. We have a lot of wonderful things in store this upcoming year. We do hope that we can bring new and exciting events to our Society. If you have

any feedback, concerns, or questions please call me. I and the board will discuss the recommendations. I also would like to give a special thanks to Margaret Duckworth for opening her home and her wonderful flower-filled back yard for our June picnic. Those that did not come: you missed out of wonderful food and fellowship; I hope you'll be able to join us at the next picnic, and other Society events. Again, thank you Margaret.

On August 2nd we plan to resume the board meetings at the Methodist Church, where we will plan our new fall and winter actives for the Society. Also if you have not sent your dues for the year, please do so. We cannot operate successfully without your support, and we do not want you to miss out.

Thank you,
Andy Calvo
President



Edward I (Longshanks)
“Hammer of the Scots”

The Stone of Destiny

August 8 marks the anniversary of King Edward I's taking of the Stone of Destiny (also called the Stone of Scone) from Scotland. Edward had the English Coronation Chair built around it, and subsequent monarchs sat atop the Scottish artifact.

Plenty of legend surrounds the stone, both before and after its theft by the “Hammer of the Scots.” Some believe it was the stone used to crown the king of the Dalriada Scots & brought

over from Ireland. Others say Fergus brought the stone from Ireland. Both of these legends emphasize a Scottish connection to the High Kings of Ireland, crowned on the Hill of Tara. The most fanciful tale, though, is that the Stone is the pillow stone taken by Jacob in the Book of Genesis.

Some hold that Edward never actually took THE Stone, but that monks of Scone palace pulled a switch and either hid it

in the River Tay or buried it in Dunsinane Hill (if they did so, no “real” stone has yet been found).

The Treaty of Northampton (1328) records England's agreement to return the Stone, but it would remain in England for another six centuries. Scots would have to settle for the Stuarts sitting on the throne as kings and queens of the joined kingdoms of England and Scotland. *(Story continues below)*



The Coronation Chair with the Stone beneath

Flash forward six centuries later—when on Christmas Day, 1950, four Scottish students took the Stone, intending to return it to Scotland. In the course of this bold theft, they discovered that the Stone was actually broken. Upon passing it into Scotland, it was repaired by a stonemason on the orders of a Glasgow politician. The repaired Stone was left on the altar in Arbroath Abbey; possibly it was assumed that the Scottish Church would not cooperate in returning the Stone to England. However,

police returned it to Westminster. Finally, in November, 1996, the Stone was returned to Edinburgh Castle, though another rumor persists that this, too, is a replica. The Stone will stay in Scotland except for future coronations.

In 2008, the film *Stone of Destiny*, based on the student theft of the Stone, was released. Directed by Charles Martin Smith, it starred Scottish actor Robert Carlyle (*Trainspotting*, *The Full Monty*, *Hamish Mac-*

beth) as the Scottish Nationalist Politician.

Today, you can visit the Stone at Edinburgh Castle.

The Stone of Destiny



Recipe: Whisky-Mac Prawns (Whisky with green ginger is known as Whisky Mac)

Recipe Ingredients:

- 2 fluid oz. blended Scotch whisky
- 2 fluid oz. green ginger wine (Stone's ginger currant wine available at Total Wine and other stores)
- 1 Tablespoon of honey
- One 1-inch square of peeled fresh ginger, chopped finely
- 2 ripe avocados
- 8 oz. cooked prawns or shrimp
- Lettuce leaves, lemon slices, and possibly a whole prawn or shrimp, for garnish



SIMONFOODFAVOURITES

Mix the whisky, green ginger wine, honey, chopped ginger. Peel the avocados and remove the stone. Chop the avocados into bite-size pieces, place in a dish, and soak them and the prawns/shrimp in the whisky mixture for half an hour. Place lettuce leaves in six dishes and add the prawn mixture. Finish with a slice of lemon and a whole prawn or shrimp (if available).

Society Member News

Births: Congratulations go to:

- Vance and Hazel Smith on the birth of their granddaughter, Piper Leigh Ragland, born Feb. 5.
- Erik and Casey Dillon on the birth of their daughter, Annabelle Grace, born in April. And congratulations to proud grandmother Barbara Evans!

Flowers of the Forest: The Society sends our condolences to:

- Scott Henry, on the passing of his mother, Virginia Henry.
- Margaret Duckworth, on the passing of her brother.

New Member Update:

- Welcome to Catherine (Cathy) Fern Maxwell. Cathy lives in Powhatan; and we look forward to seeing her at upcoming meetings and events. Please make her welcome when you see her.

Thank you: to Judy Moore Garrett for her memorial contribution in the name of her husband, Christopher Garrett.

*Please remember
to keep an eye
(and an ear) out
for anyone who
might enjoy being
part of the
Society—let them
know what we
have to offer, and
extend an
invitation to check
us out!*

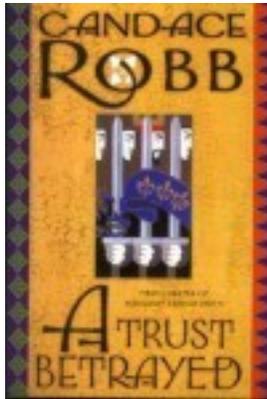
Did you know? (Tidbits and little known Scottish-related facts)

- Scotland, before the continents separated millions of years ago, was connected to the Appalachian Mountains. To honor this Caledonian-Appalachian connection, the International Appalachian Trail organization has extended its IAT trails to include Scotland.
- David Byrne, former leader of the New Wave band Talking Heads, was born in Dumbarton, Scotland, to Scottish parents.
- Only about 1.5% of Scots in Scotland speak Gaelic.
- Just 130 out of Scotland's 790 islands are inhabited.
- John Logie Baird, a Scot, was one of the inventors of television.



John Logie Baird with his mechanical TV
Copyright MZTV

Book Review: *A Trust Betrayed* (review by Margaret Duckworth)



Candace Robb

(Image courtesy of Random House)

A Trust Betrayed, by Candace Robb, brings to life Scotland in 1297. An intricate story of political intrigue, lost romance, and dastardly murder is told through the personal quest of Margaret Kerr, a young Perth lass whose merchant husband has not been heard from in five months –since he mysteriously rode off to Edinburgh. Margaret’s desperate fear for her Roger leads her cousin, Jack, on a mission to find answers. However, when Jack returns to Perth in a funeral shroud, Margaret rips it open, only to find he has been murdered. Making a rash and courageous decision, she takes her maid and runs off to Edinburgh to seek Jack’s killer and knowledge of Roger – totally unaware of the dangers she will meet.

Margaret is a wonderful heroine: young, naïve, intelligent, brave, and very resourceful. The characters who people the book are well crafted – from the caring innkeeper, pub-wise smuggler who is her uncle to the dainty, fastidious, rise-to-the-situation girl who is her “lady’s maid.” All combine to make an interesting, well told mystery adventure.

There is, however, another aspect to this book which is marvelous”; it presents a vivid & lively portrait of 13th century Scotland. Robb’s attention to detail is meticulous.

She presents with well researched accuracy the details of daily life in medieval Scotland: the food, the clothes, the weaver’s thatched cottage, the filthy street, the miserable accommodations, the backyard kitchen. All of this comes to life as Margaret’s search unfolds against the backdrop of a power struggle to rule Scotland. Edward Longshanks, John Balliol, Robert Bruce, and William Wallace wage their wars for control, and Scotland’s crisis becomes Margaret’s personal crisis.

(Candace Robb has been praised for her 15th century series featuring Owen Archer, a one eyed archer-spy. *A Trust Betrayed* (2001) is the first of three books featuring the amateur sleuth Margaret Kerr.)



Scotland Events, July/August (from www.welcometoscotland.com)

July 8th-11th: Scottish Open (Golf), Rosdhu House, Luss by Alexandria, Dunbartonshire

July 14th-17th: Hebridean Celtic Festival, Isle of Lewis

July 28th-August 7th: Aberdeen International Youth Festival (music, theatre, dance)

August 6th-28th: Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

August 8th-11th: Stonehaven Folk Festival

August 13th-September 5th: Edinburgh International Festival (music, theatre, dance)

August 14th: World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow

August 14th-30th: Edinburgh International Book Festival

Glasgow Revitalized (from www.scotland.org)

When Glasgow was forced to address the decline of its traditional industries, city fathers became aware it needed to reinvent itself. Decades on, Glasgow stands proud again as a world-class destination and one of the best examples of urban re-generation in existence.

From the late 1960s, Glasgow suffered a slump caused by competition in industries like ship building. The River Clyde, which once saw the construction of renowned Cunard shipping line vessels such as the QE2 and the Royal Yacht Britannia, was a shadow of its former self. If you walked these same quay sides today, the only thing you would recognise is the water.

The regeneration of the River Clyde corridor, through both public and private investment, has changed Glasgow beyond recognition. Architecturally bold structures like the Glasgow Science Centre, IMAX Cinema, Glasgow Tower, the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) and the Clyde Arc and Tradeston Bridges have altered the waterfront skyline with striking effect.

New business districts with modern residential and office space have replaced empty yards and have been linked to the bustling centre by pedestrian paths and cycle ways. A new lifestyle has been introduced to the river, through quality hotels and retail esplanades such as the impressive Braehead Shopping Centre.

With the opening of the new Riverside Museum at Glasgow Harbour in 2011 set to reinforce Glasgow's reputation as a tourism hotspot, what was once 'the second city of the British Empire' is a story of success and one that is set to run and run.



Glasgow Tower

**The Scottish
Exhibition &
Conference
Center**

Clan Profile: Clan MacLeod

The origins of the Clan MacLeod can be traced to Leod, born about 1200, son of Olaf the Black, the Norse King of Man and the Isles. Leod married the daughter and heiress of Mac-Raild about the year 1220. Through his son Tormod came the MacLeods of Harris, Dunvegan (in Skye, seat of the chief to this day), and Glenelg, and through his second son, Torquil, came the MacLeods of Lewis.

Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod (1878-1976) was the first female chief. Her grandson, Hugh Magnus MacLeod of MacLeod currently serves as the 30th chief of this famous clan. Chiefs of the clan must drink from the horn of Ruaraidh (Rory) Mor as a rite of passage upon becoming Chief. The horn holds one and one half bottles of claret which must be drunk "without setting down or falling down." One of the clan's most treasured possessions is the Fairy Flag, said to possess magical properties for aiding the clan in its time of need.

(The Dunvegan Cup, Fairy Flag, and Rory Mor's Drinking Horn)→



**THE SCOTTISH
SOCIETY OF
RICHMOND,
VIRGINIA**

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**We're on the web:
www.richmondscots.org**

We're also on Facebook: join
our Facebook group today!

Would you like to contribute to
the newsletter? Contact Society
secretary Joseph Schaub at
jschaub@vcu.edu

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.