



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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# The River City Caledonian

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2011



## A Taste of Scotland, a Bit o' Holly

November for the Scottish Society doesn't mean turkey—it means Scotch eggs, colcannon, smoked salmon, and shortbread. Yes, the time is nigh for our Taste of Scotland feast, on Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church.

Bring your favorite Scottish dish to share. If you're stuck for an idea, try [http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe\\_index.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_index.htm) for a listing of recipes that have found their way into Scottish kitchens (in fact, the recipe in this newsletter comes from that site).

In lieu of a program this month, we'll simply share good food and good fellowship, well worth turning out for.

December's meeting, as in the past, will be one of further fellowship, Celtic Christmas tunes, and what has become tradition: our Christmas gift giving (and taking) game. The more you participate, the more fun there is to be had.

The way it works is this: you bring a gift (not to put you out of pocket too much—it should only be about a \$5 item) and set it among the pile o' presents. After we've enjoyed the evening's food and conversation, each person will pick a present and unwrap it. The next person will then have the option of opening another present, or taking away the previous gift for their own. (It's not as mean as it sounds—it's all done in good humor, and often leads to a lot of laughter and

entertainment to see who will be "naughty" or "nice.")

We hope to see you there for the food and fun this November and December.



## Burns Nicht—Just around the Corner

Save the date! Saturday, January 28 is our annual Burns Dinner at Jefferson Lakeside Country Club.

Carl Peterson will provide the musical entertainment, and there will be the usual array of delicious Scottish food and drink. Not to mention that it gives us all an excuse to dress up and show off our finery.

Please be collecting items to donate to the silent auction. Remember that the auction helps us to offset some of the expenses of the event, so the more items we can successfully auction, the better for everyone.

We've worked to keep ticket prices at the same level as last year so you won't feel any addi-

tional pinch on your wallet. Invitations are being sent out for the event—please return your reply and check as soon as you can. If you have not received your invitation and are interested in attending, just contact treasurer Maggie Mackay (see the contact information on the back page of the newsletter).

**Ashland Old Time Holiday Parade: 2:30, Ashland, VA—come march with us! (see page 2)**

Come march in the Ashland Old Time Holiday Parade! See the info on this page! (Contact an officer if you want to march or have questions.)

THE RIVER  
CITY  
CALEDONIAN

Want to host your own St. Andrews Day event? Check out <http://www.scotland.org/culture/festivals/st-andrews-day/host-your-own-event/> for tips on how to go about it!

## A Plea for Participation

One of the benefits of Scottish Society membership is all the great programming one can enjoy. But you can only enjoy it if you're there! Attendance has been a bit light of late, and while we appreciate all those who have made it out to the general meetings as well as the tent at the Meadow Games, it would be even better if more of you could make it. I can bet that if you come to one event, you're more likely to come to more once you see what we have to offer. We've learned about Scotch whisky and women's highland wear so far

this year, and more educational and fun events are coming up.

You can let your voice be heard, too—if you have ideas for future programs, or would like to see a repeat of a past program topic, don't hesitate to let us know.

And please recommend us to others who might be interested in all things Scottish. I'm sure there are plenty of people in the Richmond area who would love to be part of the SSR, but who simply don't know about it.

Finally, if you'd like to join us by showing off a bit o' tartan, consider walking with us in the Ashland Old Time Holiday parade on Sunday, November 20. We will gather at the end point, John Gandy Elementary School, by 1:30, and shuttle to the start. The parade begins, 2:30, at the corner of Thompson and Snead Streets, goes down Henry Street to Gandy Elementary. To let you know how much stamina is required: this is a walk just under one and one-half miles. Hope to see you there!

## Local Events Calendar, November-December

November 7: Board Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church library, 7:00 p.m.

November 17: General Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.

November 20: Ashland Old Time Holiday Parade, Ashland, VA, 2:30 p.m. (see above)

November 30: St. Andrews Day (worldwide)—no SSR event scheduled, but celebrate in your own way!

December 3: Pub Night, Keagan's, 2251 Old Brick Road, 6:00 p.m. (this is in West Broad Village, Short Pump—near Whole Foods)

December 5: Board Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church library, 7:00 p.m.

December 15: General Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.

## Events in Scotland, November-December

November 11: A Taste of Loch Fyne, Clachan, Argyll

November 18-20: Fiddle Scotland—a weekend of nonstop fiddle music, Edinburgh

December 10: Carols in Culzean Castle, Maybole, Ayrshire

December 24: Torchlight Procession, Aviemore, Inverness-shire

December 30-January 1: Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration

December 31: Glasgow's Hogmanay celebration

December 31-January 1: Stonehaven Fireball Festival, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire

# Recipe: Scotch Trifle

## Ingredients:

6 sponge cakes  
 Half pound raspberry or strawberry jam  
 2oz ratafia biscuits  
 Rind from a lemon, finely grated  
 Vanilla essence/extract  
 Quarter pint double (whipping) cream  
 Flaked browned almonds, glacé cherries, angelica  
 Quarter pint medium sweet sherry  
 2 tablespoons Drambuie

## Ingredients for Custard:

4 egg yolks

2 egg whites  
 1 pint milk  
 1 oz caster (granulated) sugar

## Method:

The custard is made by putting the milk and sugar into a saucepan and bringing to the boil. Mix egg yolks and whites and pour the hot milk over them, stirring well. Return to the saucepan and stir over a gentle heat with a wooden spoon. When the custard runs in ribbons down the back of the spoon, strain into a basin and cover with dampened greaseproof paper to stop a skin

forming. Split the sponges, mix with jam and put in a glass dish. Crush the ratafia biscuits and scatter on top with the lemon rind. Mix the sherry and Drambuie and pour over the sponges. Leave to soak. Pour the custard evenly over the sponge etc. Whip the cream until stiff and sweeten a little, if preferred. Spread over the trifle. Sprinkle with flaked almonds, small ratafia biscuits, sliced angelica. If you have any "hundreds and thousands" confection, sprinkle that on too, just before the trifle is served.



## Best Wishes

### Welcome, new members!

Roger Franklin Dickenson (Clan MacLeod)

Mayree Margaret (Maggie) Sheffield (Clan Murray)

### We wish a happy birthday to the following Society members:

### November:

Anne Scholte, Nov. 7

Maggie R. Caskie, Nov. 13

Valerie Miller, Nov. 13

Roger Dickenson, Nov. 19

### December:

Scott Henry, Dec. 5

Jerry Mackay, Dec. 15

Liliana Page Young, Dec. 16

Martha Darlene Curtis, Dec. 18

(If we don't have your birthday in our database, please let us know so we can wish you the best on your special day!)

And happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to everyone!

### John Balliol



## John Balliol: Toom Tabard

John Balliol is not remembered kindly by history. King of Scots from 1292-1296, he is known to the Scots as **Toom Tabard** ("empty shirt").

In 1284 Balliol had attended a parliament at Scone, which had recognised Margaret, Maid of Norway as heiress to King Alexander. Following the death of the Princess Margaret, in 1290, John Balliol was a competitor for the Scottish crown in the so called 'Great Cause', as he was a great-great-great-grandson of King David I through his mother (and therefore one generation fur-

ther than his main rival Robert Bruce, 5th Lord of Annandale, grandfather of the future Robert the Bruce), being senior in genealogical primogeniture but not in proximity of blood. He submitted his claim to the Scottish auditors with King Edward I of England as the arbitrator.

Edward I, who had coerced recognition as Lord Paramount of Scotland, the feudal superior of the realm, steadily undermined John's authority. He demanded homage to be paid towards himself, legal authority over the Scottish King in

any disputes brought against him by his own subjects, contribution towards the costs for the defence of England, and military support was expected in his war against France. He treated Scotland as a feudal vassal state, and repeatedly humiliated the new king. Tiring of their deeply compromised king, the direction of affairs was allegedly taken out of his hands by the leading men of the kingdom, who appointed a council of twelve—in practice, a new panel of Guardians—at Stirling in July 1295. These men were more likely a group of advisors to King John, and they went on to conclude a treaty of mutual assistance with France—known in later years as the Auld Alliance. In retaliation, Edward I invaded, commencing the Wars of Scottish Independence. John was imprisoned in the Tower of London until allowed to go to France in July 1299. From 1301, John lived the rest of his life on his family's ancestral estates at Hélicourt, Picardy.

(text: Wikipedia)

## Clan Profile: Clan Sinclair

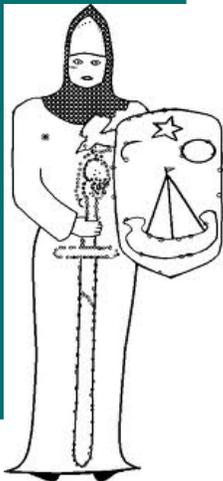


Sinclair Tartan and  
Crest



Sinclair Lands in  
the far Northeast  
of Scotland

Enhanced  
sketch of  
the so-  
called  
“Westford  
Knight”  
engraving  
found in  
Westford,  
Mass.



Off to the far north for this issue’s profiled clan:

In olden times surnames were not used but the key family figure in the late 9th Century was a Norwegian, Rognvald, Jarl of Møri, who, with King Harald Fairhair, conquered the Orkney Isles and later Caithness and was created Jarl or Earl. One of his sons Einar succeeded to the title and established the line of Norse Jarls, most of whom owed allegiance to both the Scandinavian and Scottish Monarchs until 1470. Another Rollo conquered Neustria (Normandy) in France and his direct descendent was the 7th Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror, who became King of England. The name Sinclair probably comes from St Clair-sur-Lo in Normandy and was estab-

lished in Scotland in 1057 when William St Clair, a close relative of William the Conqueror, was given the life barony of Rosslyn, near Edinburgh, and in England, by others of his family, after they were given land and titles following the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The link of the name Sinclair to Caithness and Orkney was established in the mid 14th century when Sir William St Clair of Roslin married Isabella daughter and heiress of Malise, Earl of Caithness. Although Caithness and Orkney is considered ‘home’ for the Clan, Sinclair families are found not just throughout the UK but worldwide. The main Scottish branches of the family are headed by the Earl of Caithness, Earl of Rosslyn, Lord Sinclair, Viscount Thurso and Sir Patrick

Sinclair of Dunbeath. However, given its history it is not surprising to find branches of the family in Norway, Sweden, France and Germany. Equally, Sinclairs have played and are still playing a prominent role in the history of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America.

The current chief of Clan Sinclair is Malcolm Ian Sinclair, the Right Honorable The Earl of Caithness.

(from <http://www.clansinclair.org/history.htm>)

See the story below for a remarkable but little-known Sinclair legend.

## Scots in America Before Columbus?

There is evidence that a Scottish explorer might have reached America 100 years before Columbus. According to claims, in 1398, Prince Henry Sinclair sailed from Orkney to the New World. His Italian navigator, Nicolo Zeno, recorded the voyage. Prince Henry set sail with 200-300 men in tiny ships. The voyage took the explorers to Faeroes, Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and to New England. They had harmonious contacts with the Micmac Indians throughout at least one year. Several archaeological artifacts remain to validate their miraculous adventure: the Zeno narratives and Zeno map, a Venetian cannon in Nova Scotia, the Micmac Indian legends, and a rock carving in Westford, Massachusetts.

Unfortunately, Henry returned and was soon slain in an ambush in Orkney. It is thought that his assassination was ordered by the Hanseatic League to rid itself of such a powerful rival. To make sure that Prince Henry’s trans-Atlantic achievements were not followed up, the Hansea arranged to have Sinclair’s son, also named Henry, arrested at sea while escorting the crown prince of Scotland. Both were confined for the next fourteen years in an English prison.

(from <http://www.clansinclairsc.org/600thcelebrat.htm>)

## Wick malt named world's best whisky

(from BBC Scotland Business News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-15123862>)

A single malt distilled in one of Scotland's most remote distilleries has been named the world's best whisky by a leading expert.

Old Pulteney was crowned World Whisky of the Year in Jim Murray's 2012 Whisky Bible. The 21-year-old single malt scored a record-equaling 97.5 points out of 100.

The whisky is matured in American oak casks and bottled at the Pulteney distillery in Wick, Caithness.

Whisky expert Mr Murray tasted more than 1,200 new drams before deciding on the winner. He said:

"The 21-year-old Old Pulteney absolutely exploded from the glass with vitality, charisma and class.

"Pulteney doesn't have the financial muscle of the major whisky barons to market its malts on the global stage.

"I hope that this award helps one of Scotland's great unsung distilleries to become discovered around the world."

Pulteney has a chequered past in the Caithness town. New temperance laws saw the parish of Wick vote to end the public sale of alco-

hol in 1922, a ban that stayed in place for 25 years. Faced with falling demand, Pulteney closed in 1930 - but reopened in 1951 after prohibition was overturned in a further vote.

A Pulteney spokesman said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this award. It is a tribute to the traditional craftsmanship we have honed over the centuries and also to the unique character that the town lends to our whisky."



J. M. Barrie

## November, December In Scottish History

November 8, 1736: poet & playwright Alan Ramsay opened Scotland's first public theater

November 10, 1871: journalist Henry Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone

November 12, 1869: the University of Edinburgh first admitted women to the study of medicine

November 16, 1093: Queen Margaret (later St. Margaret) died

November 17, 1292: John Balliol ascended to the Scottish throne

November 22, 1926: publication of poet Hugh MacDiarmid's *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*

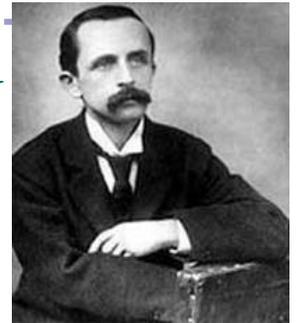
December 4, 1795: birth of leading Victorian intellectual Thomas Carlyle

December 7, 521: birth of St. Columba in Donegal, Ireland

December 18, 1745: Last battle ever fought on English soil— Jacobites defeated Hanoverians in a skirmish at Clifton

December 24, 1165: King William I ("The Lion") was crowned at Scone

December 27, 1904: J.M. Barrie's play *Peter Pan* premiered in London



## Author Profile: Kate Atkinson

Folks who tuned in to Masterpiece Theatre in October saw "Case Histories," adaptations of three of author Kate Atkinson's mystery novels featuring private detective Jackson Brodie, a York native living and investigating in Edinburgh. Like her detective, Kate Atkinson was born in York and now lives in Edinburgh. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and has been a critically acclaimed international bestselling author ever since. She is the author

of a collection of short stories, *Not the End of the World*, and of the critically acclaimed novels *Human Croquet*, *Emotionally Weird*, *Case Histories*, and *One Good Turn*. *Case Histories* introduced her readers to Jackson Brodie, former police inspector turned private investigator, and won the Saltire Book of the Year Award and the Prix Westminster. *When Will There Be Good News?* was voted Richard & Judy Book Best Read of the Year. After *Case Histories* and *One Good Turn*, it was her third novel to feature the

former private detective Jackson Brodie, who makes a welcome return in *Started Early, Took My Dog*. Kate was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2011 Birthday Honours, for services to literature.

Top right: Kate Atkinson.

Bottom Right: Jason Isaacs as Jackson Brodie in "Case Histories"

(From Kate Atkinson home page)



Questions? Contact an officer or  
Board member:

Andy Calvo: 716-0563

Doug Elder: 314-0384

Maggie Mackay: 672-1927

Joseph Schaub: 264-4729

Margaret Duckworth: 264-7453

Barbara Evans: 363-7059

Jerry Mackay: 672-1927

Dani Tiller: 798-6252

David Tiller: 798-6252

You can also email any officer by using  
the email links found on our website.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1264

Glen Allen, VA 23060

On the web

<http://www.richmondscots.org/>



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).



## 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.

Great Christmas present ideas!



**Upcoming: You know about the Burns Night, but here's a new event that also will allow you to step out in tartan. So mark your calendars:**

- The William Wallace Society will be holding a potluck dinner/Hogmanay celebration at the Benedictine Abbey (on River Road) on the evening of **Monday, January 2**. The event will honor the late David Ross, unofficial ambassador of all things Scottish and friend to the Scottish Society. The William Wallace Society seeks to fund the purchase and preservation of artifacts related to Scottish patriot William Wallace.
- The evening will also offer a chance to see the debut of the Benedictine Cadets pipe band.
- Various Celtic groups from the area have been invited, so it will be a chance to socialize with a large crowd of those who appreciate the sound of pipes. It can also serve as a good way to introduce the Scottish Society to others who don't know about it, and to "drum up" interest in the Scottish Society.
- There will be a raffle drawing for a beautiful claymore sword. (Those of you who were at the Meadow Celtic Festival might remember Randy Dedrickson's selling of these raffle tickets.)
- The event is free—you need only bring a dish to share.

The finer points of this event, including the time it will be held, are currently being worked out. Stay tuned for further details—we'll update you with the January/February newsletter, which will be out before the end of December.

