

THE PATRIOT



Official Magazine of the Scottish ~ American Military Society

Black Agnes Countess of Dunbar



Defender of Dunbar Castle 1338



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Fergit, Hell

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RC contact information can be found on pages 25-28



REGIONS

1. New England (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)
2. New York (NY)
3. Keystone (NJ, PA)
4. Mid Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, VA)
5. South Atlantic (NC, SC, GA)
6. Gulf States (FL, AL, MS, LA)
7. Great Lakes (WV, OH, IN, MI)
8. Dakota Region (NE, SD, ND)
9. Hawkeye Valley (N IL, WI, IA, MN)
10. Missouri Valley (S IL, MO, KS)
11. Tennessee Valley (KY, TN, AR)
12. Texas & Oklahoma
13. Mountain (CO, NM)
14. Southwest (AZ, S NV, UT)
15. Northwest (WA, OR, ID, AK)
16. West (CA, N NV, HI)
17. Big Sky (MT, WY)



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Our Website: www.S-A-M-S.org

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BELOW ARE LISTED DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE PATRIOT. ANY ARTICLES SENT AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Submission deadline	Publication
February 25	Spring
May 22	Summer
August 21	Fall
November 20	Winter

Please submit your articles via e-mail to this address only:

JoPatriot@aol.com

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The Patriot (EIN 56-1356844) (ISSN 0736-5802). The editor welcomes articles bearing on military and veterans activities especially those relating to Scottish and American armed forces customs, traditions and heritage. However, the editor reserves the right to reject any submission. It is preferred that you e-mail all articles and pictures to ***JoPatriot@aol.com***. Digital photographs in jpg format and text in Word or MS Publisher for Windows. ©Copyright 2023 Scottish-American Military Society, Inc. All rights Reserved with Permission to Reprint on request.

Commander's Call and National Reports

From the Commander



"I,, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the order of the President of the United States and the orders of the Officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So, Help Me God."

We have all raised our hand and repeated this oath. It may vary from branch to branch, but it still says the same thing. Do you realize there is no expiration date? Would you be ready to pick up arms to defend our Country still? Think about what is happening in our Country. The News is not good.

The Scottish-American Military Society does not require members to sign or repeat an oath. We join on our own free will. The Question is, Why did you join?

While we represent our Scottish Ancestry, we shouldn't forget that we also represent our Military affiliations. The camaraderie of belonging to a brotherhood of men and women who have experienced tragedies, losses and sometimes unforgettable situations that the regular population cannot really understand or comprehend.

As an organization, we have to band together to help each other, to share stories, laughter, and sometimes tears. The only job we have in SAMS is to present our colors and hold our heads high and know that if we have to we can pick up those arms and still defend our Country. As Scotsmen we are more inclined to hold to those oaths we spoke so long ago.

Remember, there are many brothers and sisters who need us. If just to vent a little bit.

Don't forget why you joined SAMS; Get involved, reach out to others and hold your head high and tell them about this special organization that you belong to.

Spring is a time of rebirth; it is a time to meditate and reflect on where we are and where we want to go. Ask yourself one last question; are you ready to commit to SAMS and help make the necessary changes our organization needs to make, so we can grow and succeed as a Veteran organization that will allow us to still be here for the next generation of Veterans and their families?

—Kenneth Lloyd, NC

National Vice-Commander



As you know from the Winter edition, Commander Howard Farquharson's passing was a complete shock to most of us. My first inkling was a telephone call from National Adjutant Jo Lawrence, long-time personal friend: was I able and willing to take

up the primary task of a Vice Commander: "to lead when the Commander could not do so?" I volunteered, although, of course, never anticipated being called on.

The Society had just elected a new National Commander, Kenneth Lloyd – a splendid choice. Our By-laws stipulate that newly elected officers take office 1 January of the coming year, after the election is certified. Only a month, but an important month. A meeting of the Council had to be called for the election to be confirmed and certified, national officers (including Councilors) approved, committee chairs also approved, any time-critical items voted upon.

Instead of 30/60 days, two weeks had to do! I set up a Zoom call for 10 December – a new approach for us. In the interest of cost, we would have to keep it SHORT and to-the-point (OMG, we're a chatty bunch)! Our National Comptroller, Russ Adams, is excellent at trouble-shooting technology and was instrumental in getting everyone hooked up. Everyone maintained focus and good humor; we "got 'er done!" You will see in this edition of The Patriot who now holds office on your behalf. Your good will and helpful suggestions are always appreciated.

I was very relieved when Commander Lloyd took office and I returned to my position of Vice Commander. We could not do better than Ken Lloyd – he has the best interest of the Society foremost, and he has your back. He is deserving of your enthusiastic support; I am confident and optimistic of our future.

It is time to come out of pandemic hiding and gather with fellowship and purpose. "Come out, come out, wherever you are; come out, come out, today; come out, come out, wherever you are, come out, come out, and play" -- the Good Witch of wherever.

I do hope that the dust of my own life challenges has settled; so I can look forward to a more active role in supporting our Posts and Camps, with all your new projects and missions. Spring is coming – it's under the snowbank.

—Margaret Rothermel, NVC

National Adjutant



A nomination was put forth, and the Council, by unanimous vote, approved for Honorary Life membership, John M McGrath, USN, ret, POW Vietnam. All other Life memberships are still on hold until further notice.

If you have a Life member in your Post or Region, please check in on them for their status. RCs, please touch bases with all Life MALs. Because they do not pay dues, I don't hear from them and sometimes, long after the fact, (more than a year sometimes) I get a notice of their passing.

NOTE: It is very important that you *Please* include **full name** and National member number, Post / Society title *on all correspondences*. Otherwise, I spend a lot of

time trying to find folks on the Master File.

NOTE: I do not conduct SAMS business via Facebook or text messages. Any thing you want to discuss, report, etc., send it to the below e-mail address or pick up the phone and call.

Use the e-mail address samsnatadj.2019@aol.com for SAMS business ONLY.

—Jo Lawrence, NA

Comptroller's Report



—Russell W Adams, N. Comp

Assistant National Adjutant/Comptroller



—Mike Thomas, ANA/C

Cyber Committee Chair



—Ralph Wallace

Nominating Committee Chair

—Ralph Wallace

Quartermaster



Check back page for price changes.

—Doris Anderson

Budget/Finance Committee



—Connie Carlson

Dress Code Committee Chair

—Allan Sperling

Awards Committee Chair

—Marshall Perry

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Public Relations



It's almost Spring and time to do some valuable housecleaning of our Posts to get ready for the upcoming Games and Events we all will be participating in for our Posts and SAMS National. I'm going to go over a few items I've been asked about recently and I'd like to offer some suggestions as well:

MEDIA: If you need a parade announcement or a press announcement for any local media, please let me know and I'll be happy to write one up for your Post to use for any event to give to the media. I'm working on getting generic forms made available to all Posts for such usage and a place for all Posts to go out and get them at their discretion. SAMS National is trying to make sure that anything released to the press or local media, be it social media as Facebook blogs, Spotlights on Community Service, Military organizations, or even other companies where you may be asked for information regarding our organization that it encompasses our Mission Goals and our Organizational Statement. Consistency and transparency is of the highest regard to maintaining our History, Dedication, Preservation and Promotion of Scottish and American Armed Forces Customs, Traditions and Heritage. Let's all put our *best foot forward* for SAMS and our local Posts.

DONATIONS: Recently, I was contacted by a member's family who had passed away and they informed me that their Father, having been a long-time member of SAMS, wanted all his Scottish clothing to be donated to SAMS so it could be used to raise money for various projects. As many of you have already seen, with the help of Don Scoby, PC 1859, we created a Facebook group: "SAMS Exchange Buy/Sell/Trade Group" (facebook.com/groups/sams.exchange/?ref=share_group_link).

Every SAMS Member in good standing (dues paid with National), can join; *You Must Answer All three Questions*. You can buy items, sell your own items, or trade items with other members throughout SAMS. You list your own items that meet the criteria for being posted (Kilts, shirts, belts, shoes, hose, glengarry's, sporrans, and anything else that could be used by another member.) You work with your buyers and sellers as independent 'members' to make the sale complete. We ask that you conduct yourselves in a professional and adult way to satisfy the SAMS Group and help make it a success. Monies from some of the donated items will be set aside for special projects within SAMS like AGMs or other ideas of our membership.

In my own Post we took Scottish clothing donations, and used it to purchase a new trailer for our Post, replacing our aging one. We named it: "The Scottish Clothing Closet" and it was highly successful and still is in helping raise monies for our Post. You can look for gently used clothing as well on marketplace sites and resale shops to help your own Post if you're in need of fundraising ideas.

MEMBERSHIP/FUNDRAISING: I'm looking for ideas to start a Membership Drive within SAMS and Post level too. I know that one Post has a "Kilted Night Out" dinner and have suggested "Bring a Member" who may be interested in joining our organization. I'm hoping we can get bumper stickers that say, "Ask Me About SAMS" or some old timey metal buttons that read "SAMS B.A.M. – ASK ME" (BAM translates to Bring A Member or Become A Member). Some Posts have asked me how to fundraise, and how to recruit new members so they can grow. Right now, is the per-

fect time to do just that! Incorporate a “Scottish Dinner” theme into a monthly potluck and charge for admission. Use the recipes from The Patriot to offer samples of Scottish savoring to your local communities and invite potential members to come and visit with Post members. Have a photo loop playing on a laptop to show the guests how much FUN your Post is and what it is doing within the local Community. St. Patrick’s Day is just around the corner: have an Irish Dance and Bingo Night. Turn monthly Holidays into recruitment possibilities for your Posts by hosting events within the Community (don’t forget the kids - parents love events for kids too) to give back and to educate about Scottish/Irish/Welsh traditions and discuss military traditions too. Be prepared with National applications and Post applications for those who may join on the spot! Buy your Post a SQUARE (Credit Card reader so you can stop losing potential members to the “sorry I only have a credit card” excuse. We increased 10x when we bought our reader for our Post.

Send me your ideas, suggestions and *Together* let’s get things rolling to build up our membership and grow each Post under our organization! Please send to: debrallloyd01@gmail.com

—Debra Lloyd, debrallloyd01@gmail.com

From the Editor



With the weather and health restrictions improving, events are starting to gather steam. I ask that Posts restrict their photo counts to four (4) of your best only. I want to be sure everybody gets at least one shot on the color page. I am always open to articles from the general membership, including your Revolutionary War ancestors.

REMINDER: Send Patriot articles and photos to JoPatriot@aol.com. Please ID photos with *who* is in them, *when* was it taken, *where* was it taken, *what* was the event and include your full name, member number and Post number on all submissions. For Cadet awards, please include the Cadet’s full name and rank and what the award was for (Cadet of the Year, Superior Academics, etc.)

I do not take photos, etc., off Facebook, all submissions must come via e-mail. Thanks.

Jo Lawrence, *Managing Editor*, JoPatriot@aol.com



John Michael McGrath HOL80



A native of Colorado, he graduated from Annapolis in 1962 and after flight training was designated a Naval Aviator in 1963.

Flying the A-4C “Skyhawk” off the decks of the USS Ranger and USS Constellation, he flew 179 combat missions before being downed by enemy fire on 30 June 1967 over North

Vietnam. He chronicled and illustrated his experiences in his book ‘Prisoner of War—Six Years in Hanoi’.

After repatriation in 1973, he got a master’s degree in financial management from the Naval post Graduate School in Monterey, California. Mike returned to flying with VA-195 and VA-97 as executive Officer in 1997. In 1979 as the CO, he lead the squadron in highly successful WESTPAC cruises including operations on “Gonzo Station” during the Iranian hostage crisis.

Following sea duty, he served at the Naval Academy as Chairman of the Leadership and Law Department. He closed out his navy career with a three-year tour as naval attaché in Quito, Ecuador, retiring in 1987.

Mike recently retired from United Airlines. He and his wife live in Monument, Colorado.

Welcome to SAMS, Captain McGrath.

Silver Star: Awarded for Actions During the Vietnam War as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.

CITATION:



The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander John Michael McGrath, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while interned as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam from July 1967 to May 1969. Lieutenant Commander McGrath’s captors, completely ignoring international agreements, subjected him to extreme mental and physical cruelties in an attempt to obtain military information and false confessions for propaganda purposes. Through his resistance to those brutalities, he contributed significantly toward the eventual abandonment of harsh treatment by the North Vietnamese, which was attracting international attention. By his determination, courage, resourcefulness, and devotion, Lieutenant Commander McGrath reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Naval Service and the United States Armed Forces.



Flowers of the Forest



Lee Allen Busch R4524 Post 1821

9 January 1956 ~ 9 January 2023



A native of St Louis Missouri, Lee served in the Navy 1981-1986 as a Hospital Corpsman. He worked in the medical field after he left the service.

Attentive readers will recognize that, like William Shakespeare, Lee's day of birth and of death are the same. And like Shakespeare, Lee enjoyed telling stories and conversing with people.

Captain Busch served in the Civil Air Patrol Illinois Wing's 286th Composite Squadron, the official auxiliary of the Air Force, based in East Alton, Illinois. Founded on 1 Dec 1941, to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service, CAP has evolved into a premier public service organization that still carries out emergency service missions when needed — in the air and on the ground. Lee was proud of his service in this great organization.

He was a member of the Scottish-American Military Society and John J Pershing Post 1821. Lee enjoyed attending Scottish games, participating in canine obedience training, attending dog shows, and celebrating family gatherings. He was interested in exploring his Native American heritage. He was an herbalist and enjoyed science fiction and animals.

Lee is survived by his wife, Phyllis, their dogs, and other family members.

He was interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St Louis, on 27 January.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association: [//diabetes.org/](http://diabetes.org/) or a charity of your choice.

Timothy Charles Lally R0954 Post 1889

2 December 1940 ~ 20 January 2023



A native of New York City, Tim joined the Navy in 1958 and served aboard the USS Independence (a plank owner) as an Electricians Mate.

After his discharge in 1964, Tim attained his multi-engine pilot's license and aircraft mechanic's license. He worked for airlines in New York and New Jersey prior to moving to Washington in 1969. Tim worked for Lake Union Air Service in Seattle where he flew float planes in the Pacific NW and Canada and was a flight instructor. Tim joined the King County Sheriff's Department, serving 22 years as a Deputy assigned primarily to SE King County. Additionally, he had assignments as a Detective, in Traffic Enforcement and Marine Patrol. He also was a Field Training Officer and a member of Rescue 1 as an EMT and diver. Tim rounded out his working career as an aviation mechanic on Boeing Field for several years. Tim enjoyed work but he enjoyed retirement more.

Tim had the gift of gab and was always ready to tell a story with a twinkle in his eye and a grin. A model train enthusiast, he loved his horses and cats, Irish food, great whiskey, storytelling, laughter and sharing good times with friends and family.

He was an active member of SAMS, holding leadership positions, including National Commander for two terms and Post 1889 positions. For almost 40 years, Tim was a staple in the Post tent at Highland Games, and in the Color Guard at Celtic events around Puget Sound. A proud patriot, he was also a member of the VFW, American Legion and the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Tim is survived by his wife Mary, a son and daughter and two brothers. He will be dearly missed by many. He was interred at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent on 2 February.

Contributions can be made in Tim's honor to Wreaths Across America





Flowers of the Forest



James A Reid, Sr. OL531 Post 711

8 July 1929 ~ 16 December 2022



Having earned a Bachelor's degree, a Seminary degree, a Doctorate of Ministry and a Naturopathic Physician degree, Jim had the right to be called the Rev. Dr. Dr. James A Reid, Sr., but he preferred just plain Jim.

Best known for his work as a pastor in Southern Nevada, he created the Church on the Strip and served as Chaplain of the Las Vegas Strip. After he retired from his ministry, he became an Applied Kinesiologist.

He joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1950, serving with Squadron VMF, First Marine Air Wing, in Korea until 1952. Jim was active in SAMS Post 711, serving as the chaplain and conducting the Kirken O' the Tartan at the Las Vegas Highland Games for many years.

He will be greatly missed.

—Ed Gilmore, PC 711

Mary Louise Haywood Moses OL399

17 Nov 1951 ~ 23 Jan 2023



A native of Richmond, Virginia, she graduated from West Montgomery High School in 1971 and Montgomery Tech. Mary worked as a LPN (Charge Nurse) and was a member of Christ Episcopal Church Cleveland. She proudly served in the U.S. Army. In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her brother, John Nathaniel Haywood, Jr. Mary is survived by a nephew, and a sister-in-law. A memorial service with military honors was held on 15 February at the Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, North Carolina. Memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of the Carolina's.

H.C. Lamberton Jr. OHL77

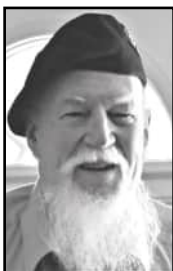
1919 ~ 2023

A Marine Corps 3rd Division and 1st Division, combat veteran, 1944-1946, and father of Post 1297 PC Chris Lamberton, died at age 104 years and 11 months, on 6 February in Florida. After the war, he was a Civil Engineer at a large firm, with whom he designed and built bridges, highway and airports. As a private pilot with an Instrument Rating and a Commercial License, he owned and flew his own plane throughout the country for business and pleasure. He moved from New Jersey to Florida in the 1970s, where he took up ocean sailing, and owned a series of several yachts. In his later years, he was working on a book on how to live to 100.

—Chris Lamberton, PC 1297

Geoff Withnell R3862 Post 2

December 1948 - February 2023



As a native of Weehawken, New Jersey, he was a Veteran and Quality Assurance Engineer. At the time of his passing, he and his wife Michele lived in Montgomery Village, Maryland.

Being a proud Marine, Geoff loved the camaraderie associated with SAMS. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, as well as an active member and good friend to all those in Post 2. He is survived by his wife Michele, three children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren, and his three brothers and sisters-in-laws.

—Mark Wardlaw



New Regular Members

Teddy E O'Brien	R5505	Poquoson VA	Sarah E Nick	R5511	Spokane WA
Brett T Landon	R5506	Minburn IA	Toby W Morison	R5512	Rabun Gap GA
Alexandra J MacPherson-Munro	R5507	Oro Valley AZ	Guy R Niles	R5513	Kempner TX
William P Colby	R5508	Loveland CO	Thomas A Bores	R5514	Conroe TX
Paul S Salvador	R5509	Phoenix AZ	Edward W Ward	R5515	Alexandria VA
Amy Jane Murrell	R5510	Colorado Springs CO	Noel C Pierce	R5516	Spokane WA

Welcome one and all. May your membership in SAMS bring you interesting times and many new friends

Easy Access to VA Products, Services

Login.gov is a U.S. government service that provides seamless access to government websites.

A *Login.gov* account allows you to use the same email and password to access VA.gov, My HealthVet, VA/DoD Ebenefits and the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. Plus, you can securely sign in to USAJOBS and TSA pre-check, and apply for SBA small business loans and disaster aid.

NEWS RELEASES

New VA Mission Statement recognizes sacred commitment to all Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. The DVA announced an updated version of its 1959 mission statement. The new mission statement is: 'To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.'

VA announces goal to house 38,000+ Veterans experiencing homelessness in 2023.

The DVA announced it has relaxed the masking requirement at VA medical facilities. This update ensures the safety of Veterans while accommodating individual masking preferences and aligning with CDC guidelines.

The VA announced the availability of \$52.5 million in grants to community-based organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and their families – including conducting Veteran mental health screenings, providing case management and peer support services, delivering emergency clinical services, reaching out to Veterans at risk of suicide and more.

DEPLOYED ACTIVE DUTY SAMS MEMBERS

The Annual dues of any SAMS member who is on Active Duty and deployed (thereby having an APO or FPO for a mailing address), will have his/her dues paid for the full year while he/she is deployed.

The National Adjutant must be notified of this fact by letter or email from the Post Commander or Adjutant Members-At-Large send a copy of your orders to the National Adjutant.

National Adjutant must be notified when deployed member returns stateside.

DUES ~ \$35 / year ~ 1 July ~ 30 June

Every member is responsible for keeping their annual dues up to date, either as an individual or via your Post.

- 1.) **Individual members**, send check with National member number on the memo line directly to the National Adjutant.
- 2.) **Posts may collect** National dues and send a check with names of members (with National R numbers) to the National Adjutant. To do this, Post must request (one time) dispensation from the National Commander.
- 3.) For **electronic payments**, contact Comptroller Russell Adams (rwardadams@charter.net) for instructions.

Posts are responsible for keeping track of their members.

You cannot be a member of a Post if you are in arrears with your National dues.

Members at Large may pay either via check or electronically as noted above.

All dues are due no later than **25 June** (to give us time to process prior to 30 June). After 30 June you are in arrears and will not receive The Patriot and you will not be able to vote in the National Election

MAKE NATIONAL DUES CHECKS PAYABLE TO SAMS

INCLUDE YOUR MEMBER NUMBER and FULL NAME ON ALL CORRESPONDENCES

INCLUDE YOUR POST NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCES.



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- Leather Patches
- PVC Patches
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505 453-1616

SQUADRONSHIRTS.COM

Per directive from National Commander

The issuance of life memberships is hereby discontinued, effective immediately.

Honorary (H: WW II, MOH and POW veterans with documentation) will continue to be honored per bylaw outline.

Discontinuance shall remain in place until discovery and effectuations of a process that minimizes the legal, but unbalanced, accounting of annual income caused by the increasing volume of life (L) members. Executive committee is charged with prompt resolution.

KERR'S IMPORTS

wpaul@best1.net

805-345-9680

William Paul

P.O. Box 583

Congress, AZ 85332

OUR ADVERTISERS ~ Tell'em you saw it in *The Patriot*

Show your support for all of SAMS advertisers whenever you shop at the Games or on-line.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

We Must take care of our brothers and sisters. Some websites to use as reference points for education purposes and in order for you to not be overwhelmed if you are supporting someone who is in desperate need.

- "988" direct dial number for the National Suicide Prevention Helpline.
- http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/ Go to "Warning Signs" tab to start for your initial awareness.
- <http://www.suicideoutreach.org/> Massive amount of information and links to all of the programs
- http://www2.nami.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Find_Support/Veterans_Resources/Veterans_and_Suicide/Veterans_and_Suicide.htm

Do not be afraid to ask for help for yourself or someone close to you.

Duty and Debt

Weeden Nichols R3454

A former commander, under whom I served in 1973 and 1974, has become, over the years, a very good friend. The bond is secured by the fact that we shared a friend, now deceased, of “best friend” stature to both of us. Colonel _____ and I correspond frequently. In a recent message to him, I reminisced as to how indebted I am to him for certain actions he took on my behalf prior to my departure from his command in Korea. He replied to the effect that no one is “indebted” to someone for simply doing his duty. He stated, in effect, that his two major interventions on my behalf (now almost fifty years ago) were warranted and deserved, that it was his duty to intervene, and that not only I, but the Army, benefited.

We are all familiar with those holders of public trust, holders of elective or appointive office, who use public assets or public actions as “trade goods” for their own enrichment or advantage. In other words, they are using what belongs to the public, and which should have been devoted to the public good, as though it is their own property, to give or withhold according to their own personal advantage. This is the connotation of “indebted” of which Colonel _____ was wary. He was right.

I’m usually careful with words, usually careful to make fine distinctions, but in this case should have chosen my words with greater care. The topic of duty was a matter both Colonel _____ and I recognize as centrally important to honor and principle. Yes, I agreed that others are not indebted to us when we simply do our duty, whether so doing is easy or difficult. Doing our duty is why we are here. And we should not consider, even for a moment, doing otherwise, no matter whether those involved are grateful, resentful, or totally uncaring, and no matter whether risk to ourselves is involved. (Parenthood is an example that almost anyone can understand, of duty done with no expectation of reward.) Having been more than ready to concede that, I must say, nevertheless, that my life would have taken a very different course, had Colonel _____ not intervened in those ways I (perhaps awkwardly) described in my communication to him. I must add also that I was subordinate to many, many persons during my military career. Only a very, very few met the standard of duty which Colonel _____ cited. Most of those to whom I was subordinate were self-serving. Most simply did not “rock the boat” on any matter of principle or on anyone’s behalf if there was no immediate payoff to themselves. Many “used” others to their own advantage. Some were competent. Many were not. Some were kind and decent, but lazy. A very few were actively unkind (as a matter of some obscure and distorted principle, or simply because they were bad people). Some deceived subordinates for operational reasons. Some deceived subordinates simply to manipu-

late or keep subordinates off balance. Some actively discounted or downplayed the accomplishments of subordinates, then secretly represented to higher command innovations by their subordinates as being of their own design. Many engaged in “empire-building” – merely expanding the number of persons under their control, under contrived justification, for résumé purposes, or equivalent.

My point in my original message to Colonel _____ was that I am aware and appreciative, constantly, of actions he took, relative to me, at critical times. “Indebted” was the wrong word. I have given a great deal of study and thought to ways in which an organization can operate efficiently and effectively in mission terms, while minimizing damage to its members, and maximizing development and commitment. (Such analysis is my own particular specialty.) I admit that my interest in such things was largely the result of bad example and bad experience, but good example and good experience played a part also. Colonel _____ was a good example to me, and he provided a memorably favorable experience.



5 February, Sacramento, CA. The 319th Signal Battalion conducted a Change of Responsibility ceremony where we said farewell to Command Sergeant Major Norman Delise and welcomed Command Sergeant Major Thomas Rulo.

L-R: RC 16 Aide Chuck Jamison (Post 1921), Steve Spriggs, AUSA, CSM Thomas Rulo, LTC Stephanie Lee Commander, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Lance Izumi, Sacramento Veterans Alliance Committee William Franko, VFW Michael Retzlaf, 335th Signal Command (Theater) BG Michael Dougherty .

Agnes Randolph, Countess of Dunbar

“Black Agnes”



Agnes Randolph (c. 1312–1369), known as “Black Agnes” for her dark complexion, was the wife of Patrick, 9th Earl of Dunbar and March. She was the daughter of Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, nephew and companion-in-arms of Robert the Bruce, and Moray’s wife, Isabel Stewart, herself a daughter of John Stewart of Bonkyll. Agnes became renowned for her heroic defense of Dunbar Castle in East Lothian against an English siege led by William Montagu, 1st Earl of Salisbury, which began on 13 January 1338 and ended on 10 June the same year during the Second War of Scottish Independence from 1331 to 1341.

Back story

Despite their defeat in 1314 by King Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn, English forces returned to Scotland in 1338 intent on conquering those pesky Scots. On 13 January they arrived outside the mighty gates of Dunbar Castle near the fallen town of Berwick.

This should have been a reasonably easy castle for them to take as its lord, Patrick Dunbar, Earl of Dunbar and March, was away with the Scottish army fighting an English army in the north.

The castle was under the command of Dunbar’s wife Lady Agnes Randolph, Countess of Moray, nicknamed “Black Agnes” for her dark hair and complexion. With only a handful of men left behind by her husband, Agnes had pledged herself to defend the castle.

Siege of Dunbar

On 13 January 1338, the English laid siege to Dunbar Castle, where Lady Reynolds was in residence with her servants and a few guards. However, she was deter-

mined not to surrender the fortress. Women were known to take charge of castle or manor business while their husbands were away in the Middle Ages and defend it if need be, but the stand of Lady Agnes is one of the best remembered instances.

In response to a request to surrender she replied:

*‘Of Scotland’s King I haud my house,
He pays me meat and fee,
And I will keep my gude auld house,
While my house will keep me.’*

Salisbury’s first attempt at taking the castle centered on catapulting huge rocks and lead shot against the ramparts, but this was met with disdain by Lady Agnes. Between these attacks, and in clear view of the English, Agnes sent her maids dressed in their Sunday finest onto the ramparts to dust and clean the marks of the shot from the walls with their dainty white handkerchiefs.



“Dusting of the ramparts”

The English employed a huge battering ram or ‘sow’, with a wooden roof to protect the men underneath. Agnes was ready for this and signaled for large boulders to be dropped from the ramparts. They crashed through the roof splintering it into pieces sending the surviving Englishmen fleeing in every direction. The countess simply advised Salisbury that he should “take good care of his sow, for she would soon cast her pigs [meaning his men] within the fortress.”

When one of the Scottish archers struck an English soldier standing next to Salisbury, the earl cried out, “*There comes one of my lady’s tire pins; Agnes’s love shafts go straight to the heart.*”

Unable to make progress through arms, Salisbury turned to craft. He bribed the Scotsman who guarded the principal entrance, advising him to leave the gate unlocked or to leave it in such a manner that the English could easily break in. However, the Scotsman, though he took the Englishman's money, reported the stratagem to Agnes, so she was ready for the English when they made entry. Although Salisbury was in the lead, one of his men pushed past him just at the moment when Agnes's men lowered the portcullis, separating him from the others. Agnes, of course, had meant to trap Salisbury, but she moved from stratagem to taunt, shouting at the earl, "Farewell, Montague, I intended that you should have supped with us, and assist us in defending the Castle against the English."

At one point, having captured Agnes's brother, John Randolph, 3rd Earl of Moray, was brought to within sight of the castle and forced by Salisbury to call to Agnes to surrender the castle or he would be killed. The English threw a rope around his neck and threatened to hang him if Agnes did not surrender the castle. However, she merely responded that his death would only benefit her, as she was his heir. She was not in line for the earldom but was the heir to his lands along with her sister. Salisbury quickly recognized the flaw in his argument and let the Earl live.

When supplies for her garrison began to run low after several months being cut off, Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie, who had earned a reputation for being a constant thorn in the English king's side, moved from Edinburgh to the coast with 40 men. Appropriating some boats, Ramsay and his company approached the castle by the sea and entered the castle via a half-submerged concealed doorway.

Charging out of the castle, the Scotsmen surprised Salisbury's advance guard and pushed them all the way back to their camp. It is said that the following morning Agnes sent a freshly baked loaf and some fine wine to the English commander and had the 'gift's arrival proclaimed loudly'.

Finally, on 10 June 1338, after five months of trying, Salisbury realized that he would never get the better of Agnes. The triumph of a Scotswoman over an English army was written into a ballad. As the mighty conquerors marched away the men made up a song:

'She makes a stir in tower and trench,
That brawling, boisterous, Scottish wench;
Came I early, came I late,
I found Agnes at the gate.'

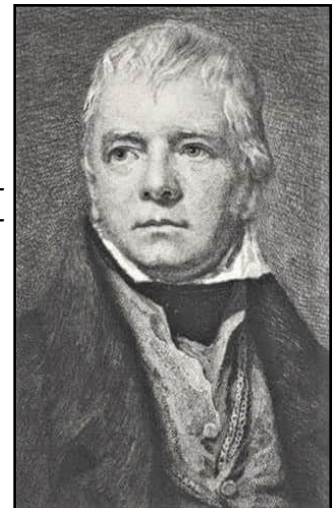
The failed siege of Dunbar had cost the English crown nearly 6,000 English pounds and they had gained nothing from it.

For centuries afterwards, Agnes' defense of Dunbar Castle caught the attention of contemporary chroniclers and Scottish historians due to her bravery and might

Some accounts describe her as Countess of Moray, on the assumption that she inherited the earldom when her brother John was killed at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346. However, the earldom actually reverted to the crown. But in 1371/2, Agnes' nephew, John

Dunbar, was created Earl of Moray by Robert II, his father-in-law.

Agnes's family was active in Scottish resistance against the English attempts to conquer Scotland in the 14th century. Her father, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, was appointed regent from 1329 to 1332. Her brother became joint regent in 1335, but was captured by the English shortly afterwards. In 1324, Agnes married Patrick, ninth Earl of Dunbar and March, governor of Berwick. After the Scottish loss at the Battle of Halidon Hill, Patrick was forced to make peace with the English surrendering Berwick which was in his charge. He was ordered by the English to refortify Dunbar Castle. However, by the following year, he had returned to his natural allegiance to Scotland, fighting the English partisans wherever possible. It seems that there were no surviving children of the marriage between Agnes and the earl. Their estates were left to children of the marriage between the earl's cousin John de Dunbar of Derchester and Birkynside, and his wife, Isobel Randolph, Agnes' younger sister.



Sir Walter Scott said,
'From the record of Scottish heroes, none can presume to erase her.'

SOURCES:

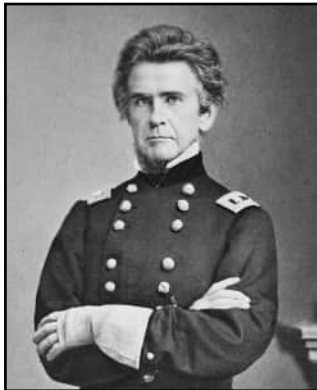
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The Great Locomotive Chase A Day Late and Mile Short

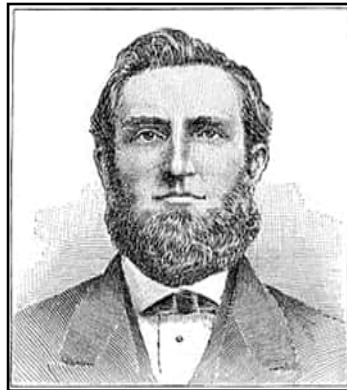
Jim 'Ski' Schiaffino

Some of us grizzled old folks might remember some songs on the radio about trains or locomotives and I don't mean 'The Little Engine That Could.' How about 'The Rock Island Line,' 'The Orange Blossom Special,' 'The City of New Orleans' or the Grateful Dead's 'Casey Jones'? Well, there is one locomotive story that will probably never be rendered in song. It involved four trains and it occurred during the Civil War,

For the start of the war, historians seem to remember only the Battle at Bull Run or Manassas, depending on which side you were on. (The North tended to name battles after rivers and streams, while the South usually named battles for nearby towns, communities, or railroad junctions.) In actuality, during the first years of the war, the Northern armies were busy capturing bunches of Southern towns. Chattanooga was one of them they were trying to take and therein lies a tale.



General Ormsby
"Old Stars" Mitchell



James J. Andrews

After capturing Nashville and Huntsville, Union General Ormsby "Old Stars" Mitchell was planning an attack on Chattanooga. A Union spy, James Andrews, conceived the idea of stealing a train and go "raise a little hell" by cutting telegraph lines, burning bridges, tearing up track and generally disrupting Southern communications, transport and supply lines.

In March he pitched the idea to General Mitchell who gave him the okay to plan and execute the operation. Andrews' Raiders were recruited for Mitchell's regiment. To avoid suspicion, one by one they drifted away in civilian dress. They were given the cover story that they were heading to volunteer for service in the Confederacy on the slim chance they might be discovered.

Their plan called for them to seize and sever the Memphis & Charleston Railroad between Memphis and Chattanooga, the only railway link between the Mississippi river and the east. They were supposed to meet a Southern engineer in Atlanta who was willing

to defect to the Union with his train if Andrews could supply a volunteer train crew to assist running by the train, tearing up track, and burning bridges, et. cetera.

It didn't go quite as planned. When they arrived in Atlanta, Andrews discovered the engineer had been pressed into service elsewhere. He asked if any of the raiders knew how to operate a locomotive; when none did, he called the raid off. On their way back to Union lines, two raiders were also confronted by Confederate soldiers while trying to cut the telegraph lines, but successfully pretended to be overworked wiremen.

Undaunted, James Andrews planned a second raid. His new proposal was a combined operation; General Mitchel would first lay siege to Chattanooga; simultaneously Andrews' Raiders would steal a locomotive, head northward and destroy the telegraph lines and the rail line between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The raiders would then cross through the Federal siege lines on the outskirts of Chattanooga and rejoin Mitchel's army. Those essentially simultaneous actions would bring about the capture of Chattanooga. Andrews' raid was intended to deprive the Confederates the use of the railroads and their interior lines of communication to respond to a Union advance. (None of the original raiders volunteered for the second raid. One stated that "he felt all the time he was in the enemy's country as though he had a rope around his neck.")

This time he recruited 23 men from three Ohio regiments and one civilian, making certain that a few of the raiders were familiar with railroad locomotives. Following the same departing procedures, he instructed the men to arrive in Marietta, Georgia by midnight of 10 April. Only 22 of the raiders arrived at the rendezvous point at the appointed time. Two, Samuel Llewellyn and James Smith, perchance met a few Southern locals and were dutifully marched off to join a Confederate artillery unit.

As 'Rabbie' Burns wrote, "*The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley.*" On the day of departure, it was raining heavily turning the countryside to mud. This obviously played havoc with their plans. Andrews received word (erroneous) that Mitchell's troops would be delayed by one day. Andrews postponed his raid for a day from 11 April to 12 April. No one realized the cataclysmic difference twenty-four hours would make.

Unbeknownst to Andrews, General Mitchell launched his strike on 11 April. Meanwhile, the Andrews Raiders waited patiently in Marietta to start their raid 12 April. The raiders chose Big Shanty, Georgia as the starting point because they thought it lacked a telegraph station to send out an alarm about a stolen train. When the morning passenger train, pulled by the 4-4-0 type locomotive 'The General', stopped for breakfast at

the Lacy Hotel in Big Shanty, they took the 'General' and the train's three boxcars which were between the tender and the passenger cars, leaving the passenger cars at the station. Because they traveled in civilian attire it was decided that they shouldn't carry R&R tools with them. They were however able to obtain a single crowbar at Big Shanty.



The 'General' used by Andrew's Raiders

While he was eating his breakfast, William Allen Fuller, the train's conductor, casually looked out of the window to see his train leaving the station. This made him madder than a wet hen. He and fellow crewman, Anthony Murphy, bless their hearts, took after the stolen train on foot. After a few miles they chanced upon a siding with a work crew and appropriated their handcar. Now you might think that two men pumping a handcar had little chance of catching a locomotive. But



at that time locomotives normally averaged 15 miles per hour, with short bursts of speed of about 20 miles per hour. As Andrews intended to stop periodically to perform acts of sabotage, a determined pursuer, even on foot, could conceivably have caught up with the train before it reached Chattanooga.

To avoid suspicion the raiders kept to the train's timetable. Here is where the 24-hour delay began to affect the raid. They reached the siding of the town of Kingston ahead of schedule and had to wait there until a scheduled southbound train passed them before they could continue north. When the train had passed, Andrews noticed that it had a red flag on the back. He asked the station master why this train was carrying a red marker flag on its rear car. The railway official informed him that Confederate Army officials said Union General Mitchel was approaching Chattanooga intending to either capture or lay siege to the city and as a result, the Confederate Military Railways had ordered the Special Freight movements of armaments. The red train marker flag on the southbound train meant that there was at least one additional train behind the one which Andrews had just encountered, and that Andrews had no "authority for movement" until the last train of that sectional movement had passed him. It was here that the wheels really began to fall off the wagon.

Meanwhile, Fuller and Murphy's hand car uncer-

moniously fell into a wayside ditch as it rattled over some rails that had been sprung by the Raiders.



The 'Yonah'

Now, Dame Fortune smiled on the two men. Continuing their pursuit again on foot they literally stumbled upon the 'Yonah', an old locomotive that was serving out its few remaining years with an old iron mine. They shouted their wild story to a band of confused and disbelieving Confederate commandos guarding the engine. You can understand their confusion. Here were two wild eyed, sweating and disheveled civilians riding a handcar with some cockamamory story about a stolen train. The commandos eventually believed them and Fuller and Murphy were able to continue their pursuit on more even terms. This time on a locomotive with the accompaniment of the commandos.

Over an hour further ahead, the raiders were on a siding at Kingston awaiting the arrival of the next southbound train. Had this been a Friday, they would have been delayed by one train, but now on a Saturday the was delayed by three southbound trains all carrying munitions for Chattanooga. Not only was his plan starting to fail, the delay gave Fuller all the time he needed to close the distance.

Meanwhile, a crowd of curious bystanders began to form around the 'General'. (In the pre-Civil War era, locomotives were given names instead of numbers) The men in the boxcars began to grow restless with the slow passage of time. According to one of the men, Rev. William Pittenger, "So intolerable was our suspense that the order for a deadly conflict would have been felt as a relief." Finally, the last ammunition train passed and the 'General' was off again.

Several miles later the 'General' stopped again to cut telegraph lines and pull up more rails. Suddenly, the peaceful serenity of the air was pierced by the distant shrill of a train whistle. Quickly completing their tasks, the raiders immediately boarded the boxcars and once again the 'General' "sped" northward.

Now it was time for Fuller and Murphy to be surprised. A few minutes later the men aboard the 'Yonah' came upon the uprooted track and they slammed on the brakes in the nick of time to avoid disaster. Following a brief discussion they decided they didn't have enough time to repair the track, so once again they were to continue their chase on foot. Their

commando compatriots decided to return to their previous assignment rather than continue the chase on foot. A short distance up the track they stumbled upon yet another handcar and away they pumped.

Dame Fortune can be a real tease. Checking the schedule Andrews saw that yet another train, this time it was a southbound express, would be ahead of them. Word had it that it was behind schedule. Realizing that there was some form of pursuit behind them and already being in enemy territory, Andrews decided to take a gamble and order full steam ahead, hoping to arrive before the Express.

The gamble paid off. The express was just leaving the fueling siding when the 'General' arrived whistling screeching like a banshee. The Express stopped, allowing just enough space for the 'General' to pass by with inches to spare. There was now nothing but open rail between the raiders and the safety of the Federal lines. Now, only one more stop was needed to burn the Oostanaula Bridge.



Further back, Fuller and Murphy just happened upon yet another locomotive, 'William R. Smith' which was on a siding leading west to the town of Rome, Georgia. The 'William R. Smith' was an older, slower train but still faster than a handcar. So once again they were on even terms with the Yankee Raiders. *Let it not be said that Dame Fortune doesn't possess a sense of humor.* Two miles south of Adairsville, the pursuers were stopped by the broken track. Once again Fuller and Murphy continued the hunt on foot.

The General had been able to stop to take on more wood and water it needed to reach Federal lines. Now most of the track ran up a few steep inclines. These slowed the 'General's' progress in addition to burning more precious fuel.

Had this been a silent era Keystone Cops movie, no one would have been surprised by what happened next. Now breathing heavily, Fuller and Murphy, arriving just south of Calhoun, came upon a southbound train idling on a siding. Earlier, Andrews, with all the aplomb of a used car salesman, had persuaded the train to stop and allow the 'General' to pass. That train was the 'Texas.' Following a lengthy discussion, the conductor of the 'Texas' agreed to uncouple the train's boxcars and passenger cars and they continued their quest. Unable to turn the engine around, 'Texas' was now running backwards. At Calhoun, Fuller picked up eleven hitchhikers, more Confederate soldiers.

The 'Texas' eventually encountered the 'General' as the raiders were attempting to uproot more track. With their pursuers now almost within rifle range Andrews' men hastily climbed back aboard. Andrews

hoped to buy enough time to burn the bridge. To slow the followers, Andrews raiders uncoupled a boxcar to block the 'Texas' path. Disbelievably, he watched as the 'Texas' crashed into the boxcar and pushed it back the way it had come, eventually leaving it on a siding.

The Confederates would not be able to catch the 'General', but the raiders could slow it down further. Every so often they could throw a R&R cross-tie onto the tracks. The 'Texas' would have to stop to clear the track. Then, the 'Texas' would have to build up steam and slowly regain its top speed. At a very sharp curve the raiders threw down a cross-tie knowing the following train wouldn't see it in time to slow down. Sure enough, the 'Texas' hit it square on. Fuller later admitted that it caused quite a jolt and that the engine actually popped into the air before settling back on the track.

Finally, Andrew's men reached the bridge and discovered that the wood was too wet to burn. So they uncoupled their last boxcar and set it ablaze right smack dab in the center of the bridge. Once again, the 'Texas' pushed the flaming car to the next siding and continued the chase. By now the 'General' was running low on both wood and water. Andrew decided to put The General in reverse and crash it into the 'Texas'.

The Raiders jumped from the train and made off on foot toward friendly lines. The 'General' dutifully retraced its path. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough steam left in the boiler to crash and explode. The 'General' was barely moving when the two locomotives met. "The Great Locomotive Chase" was now over and the raiders were doomed.

All in all they were pursued by Confederate forces for 87 miles. All raiders were captured and were tried in military courts. They were found guilty of "acts of unlawful belligerency." Andrews was hanged, as were seven others. The rest were taken to the Knoxville prison. Fearing the same fate as their peerless leader, Rev. Parrott and the remaining raiders made a daring escape. Eight succeeded, traveling for hundreds of miles in pairs. They all made it back safely to Union lines, including two who were aided by slaves and Union sympathizers and two who floated down the Chattahoochee River until they were rescued by the Union blockade vessel *USS Somerset* in the Gulf of Mexico. Rev. Parrott and five others did not. He was held as a prisoner of war, Parrott was beaten more than 100 times in an effort to get him to divulge more information about the raiders' intentions and each time he refused. The POWs were eventually released in a prisoner exchange.

The twenty of the raiders were awarded the first medals of honor. The six surviving raiders were offered commissions as 1st Lts. After the ceremony the six raiders were taken to the White House to meet President Lincoln. This became a tradition for all Medal of Honor recipients. Later, all of the other soldiers who had participated in the raid also received the Medal of Honor, posthumously. As civilians, James J. Andrews and William Hunter Campbell were not eligible.

Both the 'General' and the 'Texas' survived the war

and have been preserved in museums. The ‘General’ is located at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, in Kennesaw, Georgia. The ‘Yonah’ was converted into a stationary boiler for the railroad’s shop facilities and was scrapped in 1873. The ‘William R. Smith’ was destroyed by a Union cavalry raid in Columbus.



The ‘Texas’ can be found at the Atlanta History Center.



Andrews Raiders Monument
at Chattanooga National Cemetery

**MEMORIALIZATION AND APPRECIATION
WAR AND PEACE, LOSS AND GRIEF**
Weeden Nichols MAL

Recently I read a column by a local columnist that was thought-provoking (not that it is uncommon for newspaper columns to be thought-provoking). The point of the piece was that memorialization of wars, battles, victories, and (perhaps) military leaders or national leadership, relative to war, is over-done to the point of glorifying war. The point was that negotiations, agreements, treaties, and other alternatives to war should be memorialized at least equally.

It is difficult to memorialize something that did not happen equally to things that did happen. Successful negotiations, agreements, and treaties cause something to not happen. (No need to beat that idea to death.) I thought the columnist should have looked upon such memorials as only a seeming glorification of wars, The memorial, perhaps, should invoke sorrow and grief for those who had to fight those wars, for those who have died and those who have suffered, and for the damage to nations, societies, infrastructure, and subsequent relationships, all incidental to war.

Personally, I lost close relatives and friends in many wars – the American War of Independence, the American Civil War, World War II, and Vietnam. I know I lost more than those of whom I am aware, but here are those of whom I am aware:

My 4th Great Grandfather, Moses Thomas, was killed, scalped, and further mutilated, by Joseph Brant’s band of Mohawks and Anglo-American Tories at the American War of Independence Battle of Minisink in 1779. (Mohawk chief Joseph Brant was a brilliant leader about whom much has been said and written – both in praise and condemnation.)

In the American Civil War, my great-grand-uncle Miles Rockwell, a corporal of New York Light Artillery, died in 1864 at the age of nineteen in the Confederate Military Prison at Andersonville. In that same war, I lost two first cousins in Confederate service (first cousins three times removed, of mine, and immediate first cousins to each other), both of them also nineteen years old: Kenneth McLeod, “on the breastworks at the Battle of Nashville” in 1864; and Ralston LaFayette Avera, in the Siege of Vicksburg, 28 June 1863.

My dear first cousin (also nineteen years old), Private First Class Robert Nichols Blume, died in Luxembourg in 1944, heroically saving his entire rifle platoon.

My very good friend, Donald J. Shang, died at Ban Me Thuot in the highlands of Vietnam, due to pilot error, in December 1968, only days before I arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. My first task (though unofficial) was, at the request of Don’s wife, to investigate the circumstances of Don’s death, which I did. (Ironically, Don’s wife subsequently married the young Army captain who informed her of Don’s death.) I have visited Don’s panel of “The Vietnam Wall” in Washington, D.C., fourteen times. That memorial is sad and solemn, in no way glorifying war, and perhaps all memorials that have to do with wars and battles should be sad and solemn.

But, I do agree with the local columnist who inspired me to write this essay. I do think that we all should reflect on wars, battles, and deaths that did not happen, as a result of successful negotiations, agreements or treaties, and give thanks for that which did not happen. And give thanks also for skilled and sincere negotiators who successfully accomplish agreements and treaties.



How Scotland Invented NASCAR

Not so much Scotland, but more correctly it's people

by James "Ski" Schiaffino Post 1814

Before you cast doubts on the validity of that headline, suspend disbelief and read on. Have you ever wondered why Scotch whisky has so many wonderful and delightfully different tastes? Scotch whisky is not like a vodka or a bourbon where only a past master could deduce the subtle differences. It has been said that Scotch is an acquired taste, some you like a lot, others perhaps not as much. Why are you writing about scotch and what does it have to do with NASCAR you might ask? Well, lend an ear, or in this case an eye, and you will get an answer.

Highlanders are noted for a wide variety of characteristics. In addition to being an independent lot, most were crofters. In America we would refer to them as tenant farmers. The land was owned by nobility (the Laird) and the lowly crofter paid his rent in the form of crops he grew. The crofters were also self-sufficient. In short, they consumed most of what they produced. If there was a surplus it was sold or traded. Each crofter would grow and make his own food and drink, this included Scotch whisky. Depending on the crop, the soil, the water quality, and many other variables each crofter's whisky bore its own individual and distinctive taste. Yes, I realize I'm still writing about whisky and not NASCAR, patience is a virtue, please.

The Highlands were blessed with many things, but there were also a few minor deficiencies, one of them being a lack of roads. One went on horseback or on foot or one didn't go. This was the primary reason that the Highlands proved difficult to conquer, or for that matter control. Roads were finally built in the Highlands, first by the master road builders the Romans, and later improved by the Scots traditional adversaries, the English.

Long after the two crowns were unified, the English found it necessary to enforce their laws, especially the ones concerning money. One of their favorite ways was to create a tax on almost anything (Kind of like congress today. In Maryland they even tried to tax the rain. I kid you not.) Apparently, Parliament hadn't learned anything from their little dust up with the American colonies. In this instance it was a tax on whisky. *Heaven forbid!*

To a Highlander, it was unthinkable that something he had planted, grown and harvested by the sweat of his brow and consumed with kith and kin would be taxed, especially by a foreign occupier. Something had to be done. One can't tax something one can't find, so the stills were hidden. Without roads, the Highland moors were not a place in which you aimlessly wandered in the daytime, let alone in the dark. So, resourceful Scots began to produce their beverages in remote places known only to them and usually at night, by the light or the shine of the moon. Hence the origins

of the term, moonshine, not moonlight.

By and bye, some nettlesome Scots were invited to take their leave of Scotland and ply their trade elsewhere. In this case, elsewhere was the part of North America we now refer to as Appalachia. To this day it is the very heart of Scottish and Scots-Irish culture in America. This area resembled the old country, the land was fertile, good for farming and more importantly it was a wonderful place to hide their stills.

All that is well and good, you might say, but what does it have to do with NASCAR? A fair enough question! In this case, it is absolutely true that history repeats itself. After many, many years, taking a nod from the Brits, the American government began to build roads there. Later, that same government found itself a wee bit short on the coin of the realm. So, once again following the mother country's lead, it decided to put a tax on whisky. Not only that but they had the temerity to *BAN it all together!*



What is a good Scottish American to do? (It's not only the Amish who say, "Be careful out there among the English.") So, the Scottish transplants, true to their heritage, thumbed their noses at the "revenuers" and continued to make moonshine. Enterprise is not a new idea for a true Scotsman and thus being Americans, they decided to sell it. But this presented them with a problem. How could they get their product to their customers without the "revenuers" becoming involved? They had cars, but then again, so did the law. More than likely, they would be the same kind of car, so there would be no advantage there.

They also knew that if they loaded down their cars with whisky it would be obvious that their cars were carrying extra weight and it would attract the attention of the revenue agents. That same weight would slow them down and they would be easily caught.

Like their ancestors, they knew their woods and the back roads like the back of their hands and, for that matter, the front of their hands too. They should have,

after all it was a Scotsman who invented the modern roadway, John Loudon McAdam. Also, Scots are famous for being engineers (think of Commander Montgomery Scott on board the starship Enterprise). Again this should come as no surprise because another Scot John Dunlop invented the modern tire or as he referred to it a tyre. Don't forget the overhead valve engine invented by the Scotsman David Dunbar Buick. If you can engineer a still, you can engineer a car. So, they were able to modify their cars to fit their needs.

The first thing they did was change the suspension so that even though they were carrying a lot of extra weight from the whisky, their cars still resembled the others on the road. Then they worked on the engines to make them very fast. Even with several hundred pounds of whisky, they easily outran the government agents. So, now the proverbial race was on.



Scots are also not known to be shrinking violets, their favorite flower is the thistle. So bragging rights became very important. It is a very short step from racing revenue to racing with each other to see who had the fastest cars. One day two Scotsman chanced to meet each other in a bar and one said to the other, "Say Angus is that your heap parked out front?" "You mean that shiny work of art parked next to that pile of rubbish you tool around in?" Um, come to think of it, that probably wasn't how it happened. So, two Scotsman chanced to meet in front of a bar and one said to the other, "Say Gordo, was that your junker I sped by the other morn'in?" "Junker? Why your car, couldna make it to a demo-lition derby without falling apart." "Why Gordy, bless your heart we ain't invented that race yet." No maybe that ain't it either. Oh well, two Scottish/Americans got to braggin' 'bout their shiny new cars and well you can guess what comes next.



Now, all of that engineering and racing cost money. Once again that famous Scottish creativity came into play. Being an enterprising lot, they realized that they used their cars to make money selling whisky, why not use the same cars to raise money without the government agents becoming involved?.

They thought up the idea of inviting folks to watch them race their cars and here's the true Scottish genius in play - getting them to pay for that privilege as well. First, they had the folks simply stand on the side of the road. Then, as more people came to watch they started to race on a farm, then a ballpark. Well, you can guess the rest of the story.

Then some city slicker suggested that maybe the overhead valve engines shouldn't compete against the flathead-six engines. "Them Hudsons and Buicks is beatin' them Chevy's evertime." So rules were born. That eliminated a whole bunch of feuds.

So scotch begat distilleries. Distilleries began moonshine. Moon shine begat racing, racing begat stock cars, stock cars begat racing fans, and thus we have The National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing.

If you are inclined to watch a NASCAR event, put down that lager and grab a wee dram of the *Uisge Beatha* - water of life and enjoy the race. If your non-Scottish friends look at you askance, sip it, wink at them, smile and knowingly say, *Slangeva!*



27 January, Post 1821 Rendering Honors at the funeral of Post member, Lee Busch at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St Louis.

L-R: Steve Marquard, Doug Neff, PC Allyn Hinton, RC 10 Quincy Watt, Neil Cantwell, VC Steve Butler, Rick MacIvor, Michael Boyd, Pete Cauchon



A brief history of America's favorite vehicle

The Jeep

by James "Ski" Schiaffino Post 1814

It's difficult to find a motion picture that doesn't have one in it. They seem to be mandatory in every war picture produced before the 1960's. There was even a TV show featuring one with a 50-caliber machine gun driving all over North Africa. It seems as though every street has at least one of the newer incarnations of it. It is the ubiquitous Jeep. So how did this unique vehicle get its name?

Irving Hausmann, who was one of the engineers working for Willys-Overland, reported that he heard and picked up the name "Jeep" from soldiers while testing the vehicle. Another interesting theory is that the name "Jeep" came from the Ford GP (general purpose.) The idea was that U.S. soldiers that used the Jeep wore Government Issue Clothes and ate Government Issue food. They used Government Issue weapons and tools. They proudly referred to themselves as "GI's" not "doughboys". So it follows logically that they would refer to their favorite form of transport as a G.P. ie: Jeep. There is a theory that has been around for a while, claiming that the Jeep abbreviation stands for "Just Enough Essential Parts."



Then there was a popular comic strip Popeye - the sailor man. As the story goes Popeye and Olive Oyl, had a pet named Eugene the Jeep. Eugene the Jeep is a yellow creature about the size of a dog who walks on his hind legs. He has a bear-like head and ears but a large nose, long tail, and protruding belly. The only word he could say was "Jeep". But he could disappear from one place and reappear in another, and can walk through and on walls and ceilings. Oh yeah, he only ate orchids. Eugene's character is known to "go anywhere and do anything," which is ironically Jeep's motto for their vehicles. Personally, I hold Occams' Razor as the reason for its name. As a kid I watched Popeye cartoons and still have a soft spot in my heart for Popeye's pet. So Jeep it is.

The story of the Jeep begins in the late 1930s, when the Army was searching for a vehicle that was light, rugged and could travel over rough terrain. The Jeep was the result of a request. It was small, lightweight, had four-wheel drive for cross-country travel, and capable of carrying a light machine gun. Initially, only two companies provided vehicles to meet this requirement: American Bantam and Willys-Overland. After the initial tests, the Army opened the door to other manufacturers, notably Ford, and the race was on.

The first version of today's Jeep was produced by the American Bantam Car Company. The vehicle was completed in a span of just 75 days. It was delivered on Armistice Day 11 November 1940. While only two

prototypes were made you could see that the basic design of the Jeep was firmly established.



Willys Overland began to refine their original concept, and carried the name "Blitz Buggy". The Army was sold on the design of the Blitz Buggy, almost.

They pointed out that American Bantam Car Company lacked the production ability that both Willys and Ford offered. The military claimed to own the designs and turned them over to both companies. In just a few weeks, two other companies had test vehicles available. The vehicles had the names Willys Quad and Ford Pygmy. Bantam the originator was now out of the picture.

In July of 1941, Willys won the contract due to its engine being the more powerful of the three. The contract called for the production of 16,000 revised MB models at a unit price of \$738.74. (!) Horses along with motorcycles, both solo and sidecar, were rendered obsolete almost immediately. These models were designated Willy's MB. In total, there were over 639,235 Jeeps built during World War II. Reporter Ernie Pyle once said, "It did everything. It went everywhere. Was faithful as a dog, as strong as a mule, and as agile as a goat." It constantly carried twice what it was designed for and still functioned perfectly. President Eisenhower once called it "One of three decisive weapons the U.S. had during WWII." (No doubt after himself and the M1.)

World War II Jeeps had a three-speed transmission that included a four-wheel drive. Its engine was capable of producing 60 horsepower (for its time that was a lot of power) and was capable of doing 65 miles per hour but, it was much happier doing 45-50. It started when you pushed a button. No keys please. While the Jeeps primary use was for the ground, it could be converted to rail use if necessary. Once connected to a train, Jeeps had the ability to pull up to ten tons by rail.

Jeeps could also be modified to ford streams, small rivers and swamps. It was nicknamed "Seep" for Sea Jeep. Only 13,000 were made; as they proved to be

more than a bit unwieldy. Enough said, some “improvements” didn’t live up to their name.

Some Jeeps were used to carry baggage racks, ambulance litters, snowplows and even wire cutters. The wire cutter Jeep was the sine quo non for the front line combat troops. At Normandy, GI’s literally ran into barbed wire and even hastily strung communication wires placed by the enemy, over trails, roads and any other place a GI could conceivably walk. These wires could injure or kill motorcycle and vehicle personnel. To counter this, shortly after D-day a tall vertical steel bars were mounted to the front bumpers, that would either cut offending strings, or deflect them over the heads of the jeep crew.

It would not be out of line to claim that without Jeeps, the Normandy invasion would not have been successful. Jeeps enabled the GI’s to move inland and cover more ground than the average foot soldier. Although it was designed as a three-person patrol car, it could easily carry as many GI’s as could be crowded into or on to a Jeep. The speed of this movement allowed the Allies to surround and force the surrender of about 30,000 German troops in the “Falaise Pocket”. This effectively eliminated German resistance in western France.

The Jeep’s simplicity of design enabled it to be supplemented with all manner of adaptations; Some had rocket launchers while others were tested as armored scout cars. But the most radical design was the Rotobuggy. (Try hard not to laugh.) The idea was to turn the jeep into a rotor kite (or gyrokite), similar to an autogyro.

Of course there was and still is the Philippine Jeepney. For the sake of public decency we won’t discuss what happened to the hundreds of Jeeps we abandoned in the Philippines.

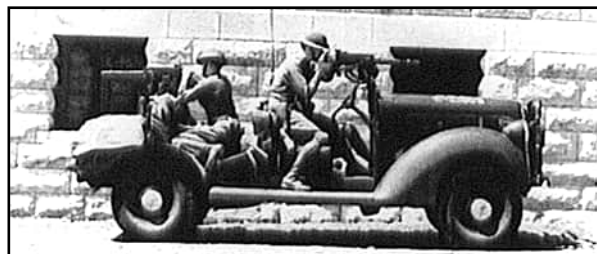
And so with that unique version now burned into your mind, I shall wrap up our tour de force of America’s (and a few other places in the world) favorite form of land transport. It was first in our hearts and still resides there.

Fini!

Below are pictured a Jeep in a French town (the one in black and white) in 1944. Adjacent to it is the same town with a Jeep (but not the same Jeep) parked in the same spot but in 1962.



Rotobuggy



The twin gun reconnaissance car



The Seep



A typical Jeepney





Repairs in Progress, Sikorsky Ch-3E. Post 81 Chuck Shaw and Jessica Wiesner.

Heritage Aircraft Program, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson. Post 81 Front L-R: Travis Goes, Mike Norton, Chuck Shaw, Alfa Co. CDR Guy Peabody, Dave Rafus, Gordon Walker. Back Kneeling L-R: Judith Sperling, Mark Ballinger. Back Standing L-R: PC Allan Sperling, Jo Rafus, Sean Stoner.



Post 1298. PC George Shott, Master of Ceremonies and "Toast to the Lassies"

Jack Ralston, our 2IC, presenting the "Immortal Memory"

Our Piper Martin Docherty, COL USA (Ret)



Post 1775 Ray McDowell from Columbia, SC took a group of Army JROTC Lugoff-Elgin High School to lay wreaths at Quaker Cemetery, Camden, SC.

SAMS on Parade



Post 81 Christmas banquet 2022
Gordon Walker, first recipient of the "William Wallace" statue for outstanding contributions to SAMS and the Post.



Almost everybody! Post 81 Christmas Banquet, 2022. McBain of McBean (with Feathers and dog) and Dr. Lisa MacFarlane, our Guests of Honor



Post 81 Alex Wilson, Amy Fee (with handmade wreath), David Cook, and Gordon Walker at the Four Chaplains Memorial in Tucson



18 Feb Post 1806 Annual Potluck, in Monument.
Front-back: Pat Carey, Lizzy Potter, Jason Mackay, Fred Frandsen, Chris Boughn, Trish Frandsen, Dorrie Boughn, John Russell, Jeri Gene Baumann, Ted Bauman, John Russell, Sandy Russell, Peyton Russell, Don Guyton, Amy Murrell.



14 January Salisbury National Veterans Cemetery.
Post 1775 L-R: Bernie Sahadi, Frank Ballentine, Marshall Perry, PC Kenneth Lloyd



Post 1297 Color Guard, Prescott Veterans Day Parade, 11 November. L-R: Mike Breedlove, VC Ron Jones, Stephen Chase, Patrick Callahan, Bill Walters, Tony DeSiderio, Chaplain David Harder.



Got a Patch? Post patches are always welcome for display.



Inland Empire Post 1955 newly chartered
L-R: Noel Pierce, Brenda McGuire, Mark Loe, Ray McGuire, Ed Wattawa, Jonathan Adamshasperet, Mike Brownlee, Lori Brownlee, Michael Gill.



February, Post 1839, Robert Burns Supper celebration in Kerrville. QM Raeleen Cummins Vieyra and PC George Cummins Vieyra.



Charter Presented to Post 1955 By RC Donaldson
L-R: VC Mark Loe, PC Ed Wattawa,
Jonathan Adamshasperet



15 January, Post 1839 and Scots of the Texas Hill Country, Kirkin' O' The Tartan, Kerrville. L-R: Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer, Anna Giron, Kirk Scheel, PC George Cummins Vieyra, Raeleen Cummins Vieyra, Kathleen Skeen, Winston Skeen, Post Historian Dennis Finuf.



Post 1852 Burns Dinner, a cooperative event with the Northwest Scots Guard.
L-R: VC Kevin Rentner, PC Les Tate, NWSG Commander Daniel Gepford



Post 1297 L-R: PC Chris Lamberton, Chaplain David Harder, Diane Jones, VC Ron Jones, Adj David Somerville, Treas Matthew Hepker, Mike Breedlove, Patrick Callahan, Tony DeSiderio.



Post 81 Robbie Burns Supper, Sierra Vista. Back L-R: Ben Middleton, Bravo Co. CDR David Barnhill, David Cook. Middle L-R: Tiffany Rexroad-Rodriguez, Sarah Barnhill, Brianna Collins, Andrew Collins, Judith Sperling, Bravo Co. Adj. Rick Bowman. Kneeling L-R: James Harper, PC Allan Sperling.



18 February Post 1806 Annual Scottish Potluck, Monument, CO. John Russell recites a Robby Burns classic to Sandy Russell's harp accompaniment.

Post 81 Sierra Vista Robbie Burns Supper.
L-R: James Harper, Bravo Co. CDR David Barnhill, Curt Tipton, PC Allan Sperling





28 January, Post 100 AGM, Fox Hallow Golf Course
 L-R: Sharon Kenney Mitchell, Gary Mitchell, Kathy Burnham, Robert Burnham, Rita Merrill, Frank Merrill, Estell Colby, Judy Orr, Dennis Orr, Bill Colby, Katy Colby.



An all Navy gathering in Monterey. Post 1921 Sarah Sperling, PC Jo Lawrence, RC14 Allan Sperling



Army JROTC Lugoff-Elgin High School Cadet Captain James Parnell laying a wreath on a grave at Quaker Cemetery, Camden, SC.

Post 1775
 Bill Humphries lays a wreath at Sunset Cemetery in Shelby NC, an older cemetery with a lot of historical graves.



Regional Commander's Report

1. NEW ENGLAND

MAINE: Maine Scottish Festival and Highland Games
St. Andrews Society of Maine. TBD

NEW HAMPSHIRE: 15-17 Sep, Loon Mountain
New Hampshire Highland Games. *Nhs Scot.org*

VERMONT: Labor Day weekend, Burlington Irish
Heritage Festival. *burlingtonirishheritage.org/*

MASSACHUSETTS: 15 July Northampton, Glasgow
Lands Scottish Festival. *glasgowlands.org*

RHODE ISLAND:

CONNECTICUT: 8 Oct. Scotland Highland Festival
—*Gene Chisholm Jones, RC, cwo4bosun@aol.com*

2. NEW YORK.

12 Aug, Central New York Scottish Games. *Cnyscot-
tishgames.org*

Aug or early Sep (TBD), Newfane, Niagara Celtic Festi-
val

—*William Wolf, RC, wdewolf@ix.netcom.com*

3. KEYSTONE

PENNSYLVANIA: June, Kilt Fest PA Hi-land
Games. *kiltfestusa.com/*

Apr (TBD) Dillsburg, Dills Celtic Festival.
dillscelticfest.com/

NEW JERSEY: 10 Sep, Augusta, NW Jersey Celtic
Festival. *iaanwj.com/feis.html*

—*Bill Johnson, RC, usscout15690@aol.com*

4. MID ATLANTIC

DELAWARE

MARYLAND: Apr (TBD) St Leonard, Southern Mar-
yland Celtic Festival, Celtic Society of Southern Mary-
land

13 May, Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival. *sasmm.com*

23 May, Fair Hill, Colonial Highland Gathering. *fair-
hillscottishgames.org*

VIRGINIA: 25 Mar, Big Island, Celtic Festival and
Highland Games

WASHINGTON DC

—*Bill Johnson, RC, usscout15690@aol.com*

5. S. ATLANTIC

GEORGIA: 6 May, Savannah Scottish Games.
info@savannahscottishgames.com

20-22 October, Stone Mountain Highland Games.
smhg.org

NORTH CAROLINA: Apr (TBD), Huntersville,
Loch Norman Highland Games

Jul (TBD), Linville, Grandfather Mountain Highland
Games. Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Inc.

27-28 May, Greenville Furman Univ, Greenville Scot-
tish Games. *contact@gallabrae.com*.

Oct (TBD) Laurinburg, Scotland County Highland
Games

(TBD), Nebo, Foothills Highland Games.

18 Jun, Franklin, Scotland Celtic Festival and Games.
Taste of Scotland Society.

May (TBD) Winston-Salem, Bethabara Park Highland
Games

(TBD) Crystal Coast Highland Games.

18 Feb, Asheville Celtic Fest

SOUTH CAROLINA: 5 Nov, Charleston Highland
Games.

(TBD) Florence, Swamp Fox Highland Games.

12 Nov, Clover Highland Games

—*Lachlan Hyatt, RC, lachlanhyatt1@hotmail.com*

6. GULF STATES

FLORIDA: 1 Apr Dunedin Highland Games. *Dun-
edinhighlandgames.com*

23 Apr, Ormand Beach Celtic Festival.

Ormonndbeachcelticfestival.com

ALABAMA: 23 Sep, Daleville, SE Alabama Highland
Games

LOUISIANA:

7 Oct, West Monroe, NE Louisiana Celtic Fest. *Face-
book.com/nelacelticfest*.

MISSISSIPPI: 13-14 Oct, Brandon, Celtic Fest Mis-
sissippi. *Celtic Heritage Society*.

—*Charlie Kehm, RC, chkclanguunflorida@gmail.com*

7. GREAT LAKES

WEST VIRGINIA: Apr (TBD) Parkersburg Scottish
and Celtic Heritage Festival.

scottishcelticheritagefestival

OHIO: 23 Jun, Harveysburg Ohio Celtic Festival

23 Jun, Wellington, Ohio Scottish Games. *Ohioscot-
tishgames.com*

INDIANA: Sep (TBD) Columbus Scottish Festival,
Bartholamew Co. Fairgrounds

(TBD) Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games

MICHIGAN: 24-26 May, Alma College Highland
Games. *Almahighlandfestival.com*.

4-5 Aug, Detroit Highland Games. St Andrew's Socie-
ty of Detroit.

—*Steven Smith, RC, samsregion7cdr@gmail.com*

8. DAKOTA REGION

NEBRASKA: Jun (TBD) Gering, Scot's Bluff Celtic
Gathering. *Facebook.com/scotsbluffcelticgathering*

SOUTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA

—*Ronald D Hunter, RC, ron@niobaracarriage.com*

9. HAWKEYE VALLEY

NORTHERN ILLINOIS: 23 Mar, Manhattan Irish
Festival. *Manhattanirishfest.com*

IOWA: Aug (TBD) Iowa Irish Fest and Highland
Games. *mattfaltis@rocketmail.com*

(TBD) Davenport Celtic Fest and Highland Games of
the Quad Cities. (Facebook)

@celticfestivaandhighlandgames

WISCONSIN: 17-20 Aug. Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Irishfest.com

2-3 Sep, Wisconsin Highland Games. *Wisconsinscot-
tish.com*

MINNESOTA: Aug (TBD) St Paul Minnesota Scot-
tish Fair and Highland Games.

—*Matthew Heffron, RC, matt.heffron@spatz.org*

10. MISSOURI VALLEY

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS: 20 May, New Berlin, Springfield Area Highland Games and Celtic Fest. *St Andrews Society of Central Illinois*

MISSOURI: 6 May, Manchester, St Louis Scottish Games. *macmail@stlouis-scottishgames.com*

8-9 Sep Buffalo, Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival. *buffalochamber@gmail.com*

KANSAS: 23 Apr, Wichita Highland Games and Celtic Fest. *Wichita-highlandgames-celtic-festival* (TBD) Kansas City Scottish Highland Games
—Walter M. Watt, RC, *wmwatt50@hotmail.com*

11. TENNESSEE VALLEY

TENNESSEE: May (TBD) Townsend Smokey Mountain Scottish Highland Games.

Well, its time again. Region 11 is gearing up for the SAMS Cadet Medal Set/ROTC Dirk Awards. Our Region supports. 29 High Schools in 18 Counties and three states, as well as two Universities in TN with three senior ROTC programs. We lost Post 1843 due to lack of attendance, and that hurts!

Post 328, (Knoxville is going strong and has recruited several new members, but as always we need more! It has been a busy Spring, Post meetings, sending out our JROTC/ROTC brochures, Burns Dinners and Kirking.

Post 328 lead the Kirking at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Knoxville (established in the 1790's and still has the original chapel and grave yard.) They coordinated as the resident experts with the Church and the Scottish Societies of Knoxville and Oak Ridge. A tremendous success! Post 328 also coordinated with the Scottish Society of Knoxville, and participated in their 40th Annual Burns Night. Post 328 both posted the Colors at the dinner and did the Haggis Parade. It was very well received as always. I was honored for my 41 years of participating, leading and working with Scottish Games and societies in Eastern Tennessee, with being inducted into the Smoky Mountain Highland Games and Festival "Wall of Fame" at the dinner.

On an administrative note, to relive several paper burdens I appointed member Sherry Oppenheim as my Regional PAO, putting her shutterbug into action as well.

KENTUCKY: (TBD) Emience Central Kentucky Highland Games

(TBD) Glasgow. *glasgowhighlandgames.com*

ARKANSAS:

—William J Frazer, RC. *lovatscot@aol.com*

Aide: John Byington, *Byington_J@holston-aap.com*

12. TEXAS / OKLAHOMA

After the November Salado Scottish Festival, the only functions in the Region were the various Scottish Society and Post meetings along with the St. Andrews Night and Burns Night Dinners.

March to May is our busiest time of the year.

TEXAS:

3-5 March North Texas Irish Festival, Fair Park, Dallas (Post 1845)

March 25-26 Sherman Celtic Festival- Sherman TX. (Post 1845 and Region-12)

1-2 Apr Helotes Highland Games. (Posts 1836 & 1839)

22 Apr Grapevine Celtic Fest and Games. Windermere Park, Grapevine (Post 1845)

29 Apr Stonehenge Celtic Fest and Games. Kerrville (Posts 1839 & 1836)

5-7 May Texas Scottish Festival, Decatur. (Post 1845)

29 May Memorial Day Veterans Parade, Scarborough Renaissance Faire-Waxahachie. (Post 1845)

Oct 14 Houston Highland Games, Humbolt. (Region 12)

10-12 Nov Salado Scottish Festival, Salado (Post 1298, Region 12)

Hopefully this year at Salado, we can have another Region 12 gathering dinner.

OKLAHOMA:

19-21 May Sterling Classic Scottish Festival, Yucon. (Region 12)

15-17 Sept ScotFest, Broken Arrow. (Region 12)

—Bill Stevens, RC. *cptvill86@gmail.com*

13. ROCKY MOUNTAIN

COLORADO: 23 Jun Colorado Springs Pikes Peak Celtic Fest. *pikeseakcelticfestival.com*

15-16 Jul Elizabeth Celtic Fest.

23 Sep Estes Park Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Fest. *coloradoscots.org*

(TBD) Edgewater Colorado Scottish Festival

NEW MEXICO: Oct (TBD) Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival

—Maggie Rothermel, RC. *upland.weyr@gmail.com*

14. SOUTHWEST**ARIZONA:**

3-5 March, Phoenix Highland Games, Gilbert Regional Park

23 Jul Flagstaff, Arizona Highland Celtic Fest. *Nachs.info/festival.shtml*

4-5 Aug Prescott Highland Games.

Prescottareacelticsociety.com

4-5 Nov Tucson Celtic Fest and Scottish Games

SOUTHERN NEVADA:

1 Apr Las Vegas Highland Games. *lasvegascelticsociety.org*

14-16 April, Las Vegas Highland Games, Craig Ranch Park

UTAH: Jun (TBD) Utah State Fair Park Scottish festival and Highland Games. *utahscots.org*

The holiday season has kept activities quiet for the most part in the Southwest Region with a few banquets and Robbie Burns Suppers here and there. With Spring coming on, I expect things will get more active.

We start this year with a new National Commander, Kenneth Lloyd, and a fresh outlook on where SAMS is going. As with most organizations, there is room for improvement, but my outlook is positive, and I look forward to SAMS growing as an organization. Recruitment is a big thing we need to work on, bringing in new members, both young and old, but we can only do that by being active, visible and squared away. One of the most common phrases I hear while attending events, both as a PC and RC is, "Who are you guys, I've never heard of you before?" Therein lies the prob-

lem, nobody knows who or what we are.

I would encourage all members to get out and be involved in as many community activities as possible, even though they may not be Scottish, patriotic, or veteran related. We are distinct in that we wear our kilts and our uniform shirts with our military badges and awards. This draws public attention, which in turn creates interaction with veterans who find us interesting and want to be a part of Scottish American Military Society.

Even though you may be a small Post or Camp, and the best you can do is two members at an event, put your kilt and uniform on and be visible. Have business cards, SAMS applications, and maybe brochures to hand out as you talk about the organization. Be willing to take their applications and membership dues on the spot (cash/checks/credit cards). Several of the Posts within the SW Region have an "Interest Sheet" that they ask people to sign if they don't take an application. Get their name, email, phone number, and branch of service. After a week, email and/or call them to follow up. It shows that we care and are interested in them becoming members of SAMS.

—Allan D. Sperling, RC, cdswregion14@gmail.com

15. NORTHWEST

This has been an eventful winter. We had a few losses of various active members, to include a Past National Commander, Tim Lally. We have also officially gained a new Post, Inland Empire 1955, Spokane. Several Burn's Nights and just gatherings. Definitely looking forward to warmer weather and things getting more active.

The Game season starts in March in Parma, Idaho. I am hoping to get out to Games in Idaho and Oregon and see about getting new Posts started there. We are growing in this Region, hope to see more Posts and activity as a result. Most of the Posts up here have started regular monthly meetings and have started to schedule bonding events such as kilted nights out, whiskey tasting, Burns Nights and other activities. With Spring, other activities come into play and recommend that we look at activities such as assisting at Soldier's Homes or the VA as a volunteer, they have a real need.

Also of note, the VA is currently looking to hire almost 58,000 new employees nation-wide. The main requirements are a clean criminal record, High School diploma and ability to use a computer. These are entry level jobs in the Medical Administration Department, you start here and advance to better positions as time and your skills develop. The VA is also in severe need of Doctors, Nurses, Techs and other professions as well. COVID really hurt the VA and it needs to get things back on track to take care of Veterans.

ALASKA: May (TBD) Anchorage Celtic Spring Festival

June (TBD) Palmer Highland Games

WASHINGTON: Jun (TBD) Tacoma Highland Games. tacomagames.org

Jun (TBD) Prosser Scottish Fest and Highland Games. prosserscottishfest.org

8-9 Jun Skagit Valley Highland Games. celticarts.org/events/highland-games-home

Jun (TBD) Enumclaw Pacific NW Highland Games and Clan Gathering. sshga.org

IDAHO: 20 Aug Boise Highland Games at Expo Idaho. *Scottish American Society of the Treasure Valley*

OREGON: May (TBD) Eugene Scottish Festival. eugenescottishfestival.com

—Rob Donaldson, RC, claughmohr@gmail.com

16. WEST

CALIFORNIA: 22-23 Apr Bakersfield Kern County Scottish Games

27-28 May Orange County Scottish Fest.

2-3 Sep Pleasanton Scottish Games.

www.carnifest.com

Oct (TBD) Ventura Seaside Park Highland Games. Everfest.com

NORTHERN NEVADA

HAWAII: 1-2 Apr Oahu Scottish Fest and Games.

Organized by the Hawaii Scottish Association, the 2023 Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games and Ceilidh will be held on the grounds of Jefferson Elementary School on Kapahulu Ave. The Festival features Highland Games and heavy athletics, Highland Dance competition, entertainment including piping, music, song and dance, a gathering of Clans from around Hawaii, as well as from the mainland, demonstrations of swordplay, weaving, and fencing, vendors featuring Scottish wear, Celtic clothing, jewelry, musical instruments, housewares, etc. and food vendors offering traditional Scottish fare, local grinds and more. There are keiki athletic events, as well, so the entire family has fun!

—Bob Wyllie, RC, bob.wyllie@msn.com

Aide: Chuck Jamison, oakpiper@gmail.com

17. BIG SKY

MONTANA: Aug (TBD) Hamilton Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering. *Bitterroot Celtic Society*

WYOMING: 24-25 Mar Evanston Celtic Festival. Eanstoncelticfestival.com

Jun (TBD) Cheyenne Celtic Music and Arts Fest.

Facebook.com/CelticFestival

The position of RC 17 is still open.



Post Exchange

Post 1, (Alexander-Mercer) Philadelphia, PA

—Chris Sommers, PC, chmsomm@@comcast.net

Post 2, (Post of the Potomac)

Hello! I'm Mark Wardlaw, new interim commander. I'd like to thank previous commander, Chris Angell, for his help in a smooth transition. Our Post is small but we get to handle some high profile events in and around the Metro DC area thru out the year.

Memorial Day weekend, we participate in wreath laying at the war memorials on the DC National Mall. In previous years, we've had actors Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise stop by for a "photo op". Recently, Deana Martin, (daughter of the late great Dean Martin) requested a photo with our group! In all, we lay seven handmade wreathes, thanks to Bill and Betty Wolf, post colors and render honors at the various memorials.

Veterans Day, we post the US service flags at the WWII memorial as wreath bearers pass by. Met US Senator Bob Dole one time there.

Two annual parades that we attend are St. Patrick's Day and Scottish Christmas Walk, both held in Alexandria, VA. They are very festive with large crowds. We usually decorate my Jeep, play Christmas music and hand out candy. The Scottish Walk is a must see event and should be on your bucket list!

If you're interested in attending any of these events or are just visiting the No VA, DC, MD area, please touch base! We like to assist other SAMS members to have a special visit. *With Fire and Sword!*

--Mark Wardlaw, interim PC, bnvremodel@yahoo.com

Post 7, (Lt. Hugh McKay) Savannah, GA

—Walt Harper, PC, wfh31307@hotmail.com

Post 10, (BG Jimmy Stewart) Los Angeles, CA

—Greg Nutt, PC, airforcevet@gregnutt.com

Post 26, SE Michigan

POC, I. O. Benedict, iobenedict@icloud.com

Post 48, (Col Alexander O. Brodie) Phoenix, AZ

—John Low, PC, samspost48chaplain@gmail.com

Post 60, (Gen Elijah Clark) Atlanta, GA

—Rick Conn, PC, rickconn@bellsouth.net

Post 75, (Minuteman) W. MA, W. CT

Andrew 'Drew' Lyons, Interim PC, andrewjlyons@yahoo.com

Post 76, (Patrick Henry) Yorktown, VA

—Tommy Beard, PC, beardtg@yahoo.com

Post 77 (Paul Gillman) Delmont, PA (Provisional)

—Doug R. Fulton PC, fulton12b@yahoo.com

Post 81, (Archie McIntosh) Southern, AZ

In November of last year, the Post adopted a Sikorsky CH-3E Helicopter that is part of a static display at the entrance to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. This veteran of the Vietnam War has stood neglected for many years and needed some repairs. Post 81 learned of the Air Force's Heritage Aircraft Program, put in the

necessary paperwork and was approved to adopt and maintain the helicopter. On 10 February, led by Post member Sean Stoner (who is active duty USAF and an aircraft maintainer), Alfa Co. Cmdr Guy Peabody, Chuck Shaw, David and Jo Rafus, Mark Ballinger, Jessica Wiesner, Travis Goes, Mike Norton, Gordon Walker, and Judith and PC Allan Sperling gathered to make the necessary repairs. Needed tools, materials, and other equipment was provided by the Air Force and after about three hours of collected efforts, the repairs were completed. We ended the afternoon with a BBQ right next to our adopted bird.

We ended 2022 with a Christmas Parade in Palominas, the morning of 4 December and our Annual Formal Christmas Banquet that evening. It was a long day for some and surprises for others. Gordon Walker, a long time Post member, was awarded our first ever "William Wallace" statue for his outstanding overall efforts and contributions to the Post. James Harper from Bravo Co. and Travis Goes from Alfa Co. were also awarded plaques for their contributions, as was Kiven Hardison for his excellent development and leadership of the Post Honor Guard.

21 January found us providing the Honor Guard for the Robbie Burns supper in Sierra Vista that was organized by Post member Rick Bowman. James Harper, Curt Tipton, Bravo Co. cmdr David Barnhill, and PC Allan Sperling presented the Colors as well as escorting the Haggis. 25 January, Ben Middleton, James Harper, Tiffany Rexroad-Rodriguez, and Dave Cook paid their respects at the service of Paul Kerchum (102), a retired Army Air Corp/Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, who had survived the Bataan Death March in WWII and was interred at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Ft. Huachuca.

We started February with a Robbie Burns Supper on the 4th hosted by Knights of St. Andrew/Scottish Rite in Tucson. We posted the Colors with HG cmdr Kiven Hardison, Asst. HG cmdr Gabriel Cutler, Rick Bowman, Travis Goes, and George Lipphardt as the Honor Guard. Afterwards, those mentioned as well as Mark and Patty Ballinger, Ben and Jennifer Denton, Jason Conley, Jessica Wiesner, Chuck Shaw and family, James Harper and family, David Cook, and Judith and PC Allan Sperling enjoyed the traditional Haggis and maybe just a touch of Scotch Whiskey.

On 4 February, Post members Amy Fee, Alex Wilson, David Cook, and Gordon Walker participated in the 80th Anniversary Memorial for the Four Chaplains who perished aboard the torpedoed USAT Dorchester during WWII. Amy presented a handmade wreath and David participated in the massing of the colors with the SAMS flag.

11 February found us on two fronts, with Bravo Co. in Sierra Vista hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at a local restaurant. Bravo Co. Cmdr David Barnhill, Andrew Collins, Sarah Barrett, David Cook, and Kenn Barrett all donned kilts to pour coffee, bus tables, and

promote SAMS and Post 81. Their efforts were rewarded by a significant donation to the Post coffers.

At the same time, Alfa Co. Adj Gordon Walker, Alfa Co. Cmdr Guy Peabody, Travis Goes, Bob Montgomery, and PC Allan Sperling participated in the Esperanza En Escalante Extravaganza held in Tucson. We provided the Color Guard for the opening ceremonies and manned an information booth for the remainder of the event. Esperanza En Escalante is a transitional housing area for veterans and this event which included concerts and a car show was to raise money to help these needy veterans get back on their feet.

Late last year, we were approached by the Planning Committee for the Phoenix Highland Games and asked to be the Honor Guard for both the Military Tattoo to be held on 3 March and the opening and closing of the Games on the 4th and 5th. We were quite flattered to be asked, and have been practicing diligently, rain, wind, or shine to look as sharp as possible.

The Post ended 2022 with 40 events (not including meetings and Honor Guard practice) under their belts. So far, we've participated in seven events in January and February.

2023 looks to be another busy year for us, and this is all due to our members who get out and take part in our various events. Thank you all!

—Allan Sperling, PC, samspost81@gmail.com

Post 100, (MGen Keith L. Ware, Jr.) CO

Our activities have been fairly restricted this winter due the amount of snow we have received and colder temperatures than we are used to in the recent past.

We participated in Wreaths Across America, with placement of wreaths at four cemeteries in the Denver area. We did not participate on the specific day of Wreaths Across America as the program at Fort Logan is too restrictive and inflexible for our efforts to place wreaths on specific grave sites. We placed wreaths on 15 Medal of Honor gravesites and on 15 gravesites of SAMS members and friends in four cemeteries in the Denver area.

We held the our AGM on 28 January. Plans were discussed for events during 2023 and included four Scottish Festivals in Colorado as well as other events tied to Tartan Day, Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America, as well as other event ideas. Election was held for officers for the 2023-2024 term. James Rairdon was elected PC, Robert Burnham VC and Frank Merrill Comptroller. We are looking forward to a "much" more normal 2023 compared to the past few years.

Gary C. Mitchell, Past PC, for

—James Rairdon, PC, rairdon8071@comcast.com

Post 116, Roanoke, VA

—John R Burton PC, ray.burton.vmi73@gmail.com

Post 131, (ADM Franklin Buchanan) Jacksonville, FL

—Bruce Gervin, Sr. PC, brucegervin@gmail.com

Post 328, (Alvin C. York) Knoxville, TN

—Thomas Smith PC, volfireman56@gmail.com

Post 711, (Tom Moran Memorial) Bolder City, NV

We were all saddened by the passing of our senior Chaplain, Jim Reid, who served our Post for several years and could always be found at the Highland Games officiating at the Kirkin' of the Tartan. There will be a service for him at the Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada on 21 April at 1000 to celebrate his Life of Service to his Country, and his Post. A piper will be present to play a lament at his gravesite with Posy members in Highland Regalia. He will be missed by all. He and his wife, Linda, were great friends to PC Ed Gilmore and VC Bob Garlow and his wife. Several Post members were able to visit him at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, in Boulder City, when they were volunteering at the Home.

So far this year the Post has taken part in 12 events and had two Post meetings. Post QM Mike Barth and PC Gilmore attended the Burn's Night on 28 January and had a grand time. Post members have had two Post Shoots, with refreshments at the Leatherneck Club afterwards. The Post made a donation to the Nevada Veterans Assistance League (NVAL) for the NVAL Golf Tournament to be held on 13 May at the Boulder Creek Golf Course in Boulder City. The event is the main fund raiser for the NVAL and the proceeds are used for special needs support of the Veterans Home residents. Items purchased by NVAL in the past include batteries for wheelchairs, portable oxygen units, haircuts, special outings and shows, and other items not provided by the State. These ensure the residents are kept happy and feeling safe in their surroundings. Post VC Garlow is the Vice Chairman of NVAL, his wife Sue is the Treasurer, and PC Gilmore is a member of the Board.

So, we continue to march forward, sometimes inch by inch, but always forwards! The Post wishes you all the best and Pray for a better year ahead. God Bless. Yours Aye!

Submitted by: —Bob Garlow, VC,

bobsuegarlow64@embarqmail.com, for,

—Ed Gilmore, PC, 702-301-4080

Post 777, (777th Highlanders) Las Vegas, NV

We are preparing for our upcoming Highland Games, 15-16 April. The Games will be held at a new location this year, at Craig Ranch Regional Park, North Las Vegas. Please come join us during our Games and have fun at our new venue.

—Michael Meyers, PC, scoobydragonaz@gmail.com

Post 808, (Princess V Ka'iulani) Honolulu, Hawaii

The Post is being reinvigorated in the prime recruiting ground of Honolulu. With Joint Base Pearl Harbor/Hickam, Schofield Barracks/Wheeler Army Airfield, and Marine Corps Base-Kaneohe (K-Bay), there are lots of active, retired, and former military within an easy commute of Honolulu.

—Tim Cooke, PC, kona.tim@hotmail.com.

Post 1297, (Arizona Highlanders) Prescott, AZ

We had a busy fall, with five major events; Prescott Frontier Days Parade 3 July; Chino Valley Territorial Days, 3 September; Prescott Hope Fest, to benefit Veterans, 10 September; Prescott Pow Wow, 17 Septem-

ber; Prescott Scottish Highland Games, 24-25 September; Prescott Veterans Day Parade, 11 November.

In January, we joined with the Prescott Area Celtic Society for a Robert Burns Dinner. Our 17 participating members, spouses, and guests, represented over 255 of the attendees. We've just completed a highly successful 3rd Annual Veteran Support Project, (a non-profit that supports homeless veterans.) in support of Veterans located here in Prescott.

Upcoming events include the official wreath laying ceremony for Vietnam War Veterans Day, a Tartan Day event, Cruise-In for Vets, and the official wreath laying ceremony for Memorial Day.

—Chris Lamberton, PC, chris@vaildunlap.com

Post 1298, (SGT John MacGregor) Central Texas

We started 2023 with our 8th annual Robert Burns Supper and welcomed a large attendance. Our Post is a critical player in the planning and setting-up of the annual Salado Games and last November was no exception. In spite of the freezing cold and rain, we set up over 44 clan tent sites. The new Games location was enjoyed by clans and visitors alike. We have done this activity for over 10 years and provided the Color Guard for the last 6 years. During the last November games, we had two of our comrades win events: Guy Kerby – “Bonniest Knees” and an 18 year old single malt Scotch (picture w/prize in last quarter’s “The Patriot”) Rick Briggs, 2nd in the over 60 in the Highland Games.

We are overjoyed to see our membership grow over the last two years. From six to 13 active. At our first quarter meeting in March, we will be planning for the National Tartan Day, 4th of July, and setting up a recruiting booth at the Belton, Market Day over the summer.

—George Shott, PC, shottgeorge@gmail.com

Post 1314, (Granite Mountain Highlanders),

Prescott Valley, AZ

In December, we had a great turnout for our annual Christmas party at Gabby’s Restaurant in Prescott Valley. Decorations were provided by Kathy Laurier and Kathleen Nelson. They were FABULOUS.

On 28 January, the Post participated with Prescott Area Celtic Society in the Robert Burns Dinner at the Centennial Center in Prescott. The turnout, entertainment, and food were excellent. Thank you for a wonderful fun filled evening.

In February, due to a snow storm, our Valentine’s Dinner was cancelled at the last minute.

Our meetings have had a good attendance and we followed up after the general meeting with a wonderful dinner at our local Thai restaurant in Prescott Valley.

—Don Klien, PC, donaldklien62@gmail.com

Post 1739, (The Frontiersmen) South Central PA

—Mike Wertz PC, mmwertz23@gmail.com

Post 1775, (Col Patrick Ferguson) N. & S. Carolina

LET THE GAMES BEGIN! That’s our Post Battle Cry for 2023. We had our Business meeting and added two new games to our Calendar: Wilmington’s Port City Games and Badin Celtic Festival. That gives us

eight Games and four events (Parades/Picnic/Christmas Party) We still have one Game working out the logistics and another that coincides with an event on Veterans Day.

This year we will be at the following:

1 April, Tartan Day South, Cayce, SC,
15-16 April, Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC,

13 May, Badin Celtic Festival, Badin, NC,

26 May, the Great Scott Parade, Greenville, SC,

27 May, Greenville Scottish Games, Greenville, SC,

3 June, Wilmington Port City Games, Wilmington, NC,

6-9 July, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC

7 Oct, Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, NC,

21 Oct, Crystal Coast Highland Games, Beaufort, NC .

TBD: Foothills Highland Games, Nebo, NC

Our events for this year; 17 June, Annual Post Picnic at PC Lloyd’s Home/Farm in Denton, NC,

11 Nov, Mooresville Veterans Day Parade and town 150th year Celebration,

9 Dec, our Annual Christmas Party, in Charlotte, NC.

TBD: Post 30th Year Anniversary.

This gives our Post 9 Games and 5 Events. We are *Growing!*

We are very honored to announce that 6-9 July, at Grandfather Mountain, we will be joining forces with the current four-member Color Guard, The Losantiville Highlanders from Cincinnati, OH. A group of like-minded Cincinnatians of Celtic descent who were organized in 2015. As many of you may know from reading our SAMS history, both SAMS and Post 1775 got their start at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Our founding Post members met and discussed forming a Post to support Veterans of Scottish ancestry. It has been in our blood ever since and we look forward to stepping out onto that track with the National Colors, Saltire, North Carolina, Canada, and the SAMS flag and two swords, on the front line and the Celtic Nations on the second row all flying high in the mountain breeze with our heads held high and our kilts swinging in time to the call of cadence. We would like to invite all SAMS members who may be traveling to attend this International event, the biggest Games East of the Mississippi, located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, to drop in on our two tents, come outfitted in your Post’s uniform and plan on marching with us on that mountain. You will need to get your reservations made early, as tickets go extremely fast as do the local Hotel/Motel rooms and accommodations. Post 1775 will host a Veteran Hospitality tent where all Veterans can come and share a bottle of water and a cookie with our members. This event has been our biggest recruitment event in years past. Please let us know if you plan on attending. We look forward to meeting you at the tents. Bring a sweater, woolly pulley, your kilt, uniform shirt, Glengarry or Balmoral, rain cape (yes it rains up there!) good walking and plan on hang-

ing out with us for the four days of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

During the Wreaths Across American Program, our members went to different cemeteries and laid wreaths. One of our members, Bill Humphries, from Forest City, NC travelled to Sunset Cemetery in Shelby, NC to lay wreaths. It was an older cemetery and had a lot of historical graves. Another member, Ray McDowell from Columbia, SC took a group of Army JROTC from Lugoff-Elgin High School to lay wreaths at Quaker Cemetery, Camden, SC. Cadet Captain James Parnell is seen in the photo laying a wreath on a grave. The group photo is all the Cadets who participated in the event and they should all be proud of the work they performed that day!

After the Christmas holiday, our local Veterans Cemetery - Salisbury National Cemetery in Salisbury, NC asks for volunteers help pick up the wreaths laid earlier in the season because that too is an undertaking that needs to be done at each location. Four Post members: Bernie Sahadi, PC Kenneth Lloyd, Marshall Perry and Frank Ballentine went on 14 January. They said this was a humbling experience and they couldn't believe the number of people who turn out to help each year. Two others, Matt and Tammy Lomison had signed up to lay wreaths at Rural Hall Veterans cemetery but due to a change in time, they were unable to participate but we commend them for trying to participate in WAA program.

Our Post now has 118 members on the roster. If I could name one thing that is the downfall of running a Post; it would be recruitment and retainment. Do we have all the answers on how to recruit and retain members? No, but we do know that we must always communicate with our membership, even if they don't communicate with us. Keep up the good work and keep recruiting! We hope to see you in July.

—Ken Lloyd, PC, kennethalloyd01@gmail.com

Post 1787, (MG Caesar Rodney) Odessa, Delaware

—Jim Grant, PC, uncle.duck@verizon.net

Post 1806, (Zebulon Pike) Sothern Colorado

The Post offers their sincerest condolences to the friends and family of our National Commander Howard Farquharson.

We are coming off the holiday season and gearing up for the festival season. We held our annual Scottish Potluck with over 30 attendees. Members prepared and sampled fine Scottish and Irish cuisine ranging from Dundee Stew to Mincemeat Pie Tarts whilst enjoying a live selection on the pipes and a Robby Burns Poem recited to harp accompaniment. We will hold our biennial elections for Post officers in March. Those interested may contact the Nominating Committee (Sand Russell or Karen Martin). We look forward to April for our Annual Charter Dinner to commemorate the founding of the Post. For details contact Jason Mackay or John Russell. Our first Fest of the season will be the Pikes Peak Celtic Fest at the Western Mining Museum in Colorado Springs. Hope to see you there!

—Jason MacKay, PC, jmackay801@gmail.com

Post 1812, RI, E Mass, E CT

—VACANT, PC

Post 1813, Columbus, OH

—POC, Ray McFee, ray.mcfee@gmail.com

Post 1814, (Ft. McHenry) Baltimore, MD

—VACANT, PC,

Post 1821, (John J Pershing) St Louis, MO

A busy winter session. Veteran's Day Parade 6 November, providing Color Guard for the John Ford Highland Pipe Band (JFHPB) followed by a joint social at a local restaurant. Attended a Veteran's Day event in St Peters, 11 November. Attended the Air Force Band of Mid America's annual holiday concert at the Touhill Auditorium on the University of Missouri's St Louis campus 16 December. JFHPB invited us to their annual holiday dinner. It was well attended.

We lost a member, Lee Bush, 9 January, to illness. We provided a final salute to Lee at his funeral and internment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Provided a Color Guard for the Scottish St Andrew Society's Robert Burns Dinner 21 January.

Upcoming events are: "Annual Swap Meet at Jefferson Barrack's Park 4 March. Hosting a recruitment booth at the St Lous Scottish Games and Festival 6 May. Our annual business meeting and elections are upcoming but no date has been set. We enrolled two new members this year: Tim Gates and Doug Neff.

With fire and Sword.

—Steve Butler, Adjutant for

—Allyn Hinton, PC, marinepatches@aol.com

Post 1824, (Ozark Highlanders), MO

—Mike Gibbens, PC, mike3517@hotmail.com

Post 1836, San Antonio, TX

—Mike Canion, PC, mikecanion@gmail.com

Post 1839, (Lone Star), Kerrville, TX

Greetings to all comrades worldwide. We are doing great in the state of Texas and beginning to enjoy life and outdoor activities. On a sunny day in October, 1839 participated in the annual Scots of the Texas Hill Country (SOTTHC) picnic in Kerrville. On 6 November, we celebrated Kirkin' o' Tartan at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort, followed by a great luncheon with our fellow Scots from the SOTTHC. We had a wonderful Scottish Christmas luncheon in Dec at "Food for the Soul" in Comfort. Our Post participated and honored our Veterans at the Wreaths Across America ceremony 17 Dec at the Kerrville Veterans Cemetery.

On 15 Jan, our Post and SOTTHC participated in the Kirkin' o' Tartan at the First Presbyterian Church in Kerrville. On 4 Feb our Post was the Color Guard for the annual Robert Burns Night Celebration in Kerrville.

Presently, we are planning for the San Antonio/Helotes Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival on 1-2 April. We are planning on having two booths to preserve and promote Scottish and American Armed Forces customs, traditions and heritage. In addition, on 29 April, we are planning for the Stonehenge Celtic

Festival and Highland Games in Ingram/Kerrville. We will erect two tents to provide a forum for exchange of Scottish and American military history and genealogical information.

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Winter and you all have fun celebrating Scottish activities. God-speed.

—George C Vieyra, PC, vieyra_cummins@msn.com

Post 1845, Ft Worth / Dallas

Picking up from November, our Post membership participated in both the St. Andrews Dinner and the Burns Night Dinner in both Dallas and the Cowtown Scottish Society's Dinners (Ft. Worth) (AKA CSS). The Dallas Diners were hosted by the Dallas Scottish Society and the Daughters of Caledonia. For the first time, the Dallas and CSS Burns Nights were on the same night. Due to this I could only be at the Cowtown dinner. The CSS always uses Post members to present the haggis and the presentation of the Colors. Our Color Guard for Burns Night was Robert Northcraft-MacDonald, Thomas Duncan, new member Elizabeth Daniels, myself and Robert's friend Darrell Coppen who is also a veteran. We had 10 members at the St. Andrews Dinner.

On 18 February we had a meeting in Arlington at a Braums Restaurant. Besides myself, Jerry Collier who drove up from Waco, Thomas Duncan, Gary Kuebler, honorary Post members Jill Burt and Gary Ballard, Dietrick, Cynthia, Matthew, and Stefany Whisenn and, Troy Jenkins, Kevin Gates and new member Anthony Heimos.

We discussed upcoming events. Primarily the North Texas Irish Festival and the Sherman Festival which Gary Ballard and Jill Burt have a major involvement in organizing. Jill is putting SAMS in the forefront in Sherman! Details in the next Patriot.

—Bill Stevens, PC, cptvill86@gmail.com

Post 1846, (Hawkeye) State of Iowa

—Jay Knox, POC, jeknox@mchsi.com

Post 1847, (Gen James Ferguson) Salt Lake City, UT

Working with a couple of "officers" in recruiting/retention efforts but am diligently trying to encourage ALL Post members to step it up, be active, etc. Can lead horses to water, but cannot make them drink - I have offered the water so it is up to them overall. I cannot be doing it all...and it's all falling on my shoulders. "Enuff said!"

—Connie L Carlisle Carlson, PC, mudskipper1@earthlink.net

Post 1852, (Three Rivers), SW WA, NW OR

On 21 Jan we held our 5th DIY Burns Supper, this time in cooperation with the Northwest Scots Guard, a sister organization of veterans who provide Honor Guard services within the same region as us. Since they had never done a Burns dinner before, we provided guidance and most of the presentations. With a 5-lb haggis and a large variety of Scottish foods provided by attendees, we enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and entertainment beginning with the Parade of the

Haggis followed by the Address to a Haggis done in Lallans by PC Les Tate. While the presentation about the life of Robert Burns was more sedate, this was followed by the humorous and endearing Toast to the Lassies and the Reply to the Laddies. The evening ended with piping and the group singing Auld Lang Syne. We expect this cooperative event to continue in future years.

We were pleased to recently learn that the Portland, OR Highland Games is resuming in mid-July after a three year hiatus. This event provides our largest regional audience to educate and recruit.

On a side note, several members of Post 1775, NC and SC, which includes the Kings Mountain revolutionary battlefield, expressed interest in obtaining kilts and accessories in the Kings Mountain 1780 tartan, whose design is based on the battlefield and was created by our PC Les Tate. With the aid of a Scottish business in Portland, OR, a large length of the custom woven tartan, along with several kilts and accessories have been ordered, all to be made in Scotland, with a few members opting to obtain a length of tartan and have their kilts made by a US-based kiltmaker.

—Leslie Tate, PC, lrtate@live.com

Post 1854, (Ron Marx Heartland) Wichita, KS

—John Sample, PC, jsample87@yahoo.com

Post 1858, Minnesota:

—VACANT PC

Post 1859 (Pig War) Coupeville, WA & Lower British Columbia

On 19 February I trekked to Spokane with RC 15 Rob Donaldson and Post 1889's Adj Mike Batnick for Post 1955's Flag and Charter Presentation Ceremony. It was an honor getting to pipe in their ceremony and congratulate PC Ed Wattawa and 1955's Founders. Seeing their meeting, the plans they already have set for the coming year, and getting to meet their members individually, Rob, Mike, and I concluded that this is a Post that will go far!

Seeing the growth in Washington along with making connections like these is among the highlights of my SAMS experience. Four of 1955's members expressed interest in learning to play Highland bagpipes from me -- which I will be able to facilitate online, further that the five of us should be able to meet within the state a few times a year. I'm not only thrilled at the idea of another Post having a band of piping members, I've already imagined the exhilarating experience it would be when we can meet up and put 1859's and 1955's pipe bands together on a parade route!

We are planning a Kilted Night Out for early spring with an Open House focus. We will be inviting individuals who have expressed interest in SAMS and joining our Post. Members At Large in our area along with members of the DAR, SAR, VFW, veterans in our community, pipers and drummers from our local scene, along with Pig War spouses, family members, and friends. We are also planning a 'pilgrimage' to San Juan Island for a tour where the historic Pig War took place in 1859. Pig War Post is growing both in size and

activity and is excited to participate in the 2023 summer season

—Donald P. Scoby, PC, pigwar1859comm@gmail.com

Post 1860, (J. Elliott Williams) Charleston, SC

Greetings! We have been busy heading into Spring and Summer. Post officer elections are underway. Our plans for participating in the Charleston St. Patrick's Day Parade are being finalized. This is always a good time. We wish our comrades a good future and Post prosperity. Slainte!

—Kevin Smith, PC, warpipes@gmail.com

Post 1861, (LCPL Kenneth J Haywood) San Diego, CA

—Jay Rindler PC, karlori@aol.com

Post 1864, (Edward M. Cobbs) Reno, NV

We are working on reorganizing the Post.

—John Callan, POC, jcallan409@gmail.com

Post 1889, (Mt. Rainier) Seattle, WA

—Shane L Inman, PC, slinman87@gmail.com

Post 1912, New Mexico

—Thomas B. Hill, PC, basscdr@gmail.com

Post 1921, (Admiral William A. Moffett) No. CA

We are facing the loss of a few of our 'traditional' Highland Games here in northern California. There is a slight chance a couple will come back next year. On the bright side, there are some Scottish centered 'street fair/pub crawl' type of events this spring, where we will have an information table. One never knows, just might pick up a new member or two and at least it keeps us in the public eye.

We picked up a new Navy League Sea Cadet Division, located in Benicia (once the capitol of California). I make it a practice to pin the medal on their uniform (not yet OK'd by the Navy League for wearing) even though it is for only that day. (see photos on page 35) These youngsters just beam with pride. I also frame the certificate; so much classier than in a paper folder. Two more inspections on the schedule, Grey Ghost, and Hancock Divisions. We really look forward to these events. Seeing youngsters as they grow, becoming outstanding young women and men.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the VFW hall in Folsom. A very nice venue, the food was good, and I think everyone had a good time. So nice to gather without having to put up a tent, or conduct business...all dressed to the nines. Lots of "opportunity drawing" items and a 50-50 to go into the kitty for next year. Managed to dodge another storm looming in the West. After so many years of severe drought, we are getting our fill of the wet, both frozen and liquid.

—Jo Lawrence, CO, jall140@aol.com

Post 1952, (Frank H. Kennon) Central Florida

—Wesson Williams, PC, wessonwill@yahoo.com

Post 1955 (Inland Empire) Spokane WA

Greetings all SAMS members. After a long process, I'm happy to report that on 1 Feb. 2023 we recruited enough new members to form a permanent Post representing Spokane, and the surrounding area.

Our big boost in membership came at the Spokane

Highland Games last August. We had enough members present to form the Color Guard for the opening and closing ceremonies, and they helped with recruiting new members. We were so busy at our tent signing up new members, we hardly had time to take a break! But it was all for the good.

While waiting for permanent status, we held monthly meetings and elected our officers, PC Ed Wattawa, VC Mark Loe, Adjutant Ray McGuire, Treasurer Brenda McGuire, QM Jonathan Adamshaspart.

On Veterans Day, Ray, Brenda and I attended a breakfast sponsored by VFW Post 51 in Spokane. While low keyed, it gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to other veterans in our community.

Our main debut was at the Robert Burns Night in Spokane. Attendees included myself, my wife Sally, Mark and Wanda Loe, Ray and Brenda McGuire, Mike and Lori Brownlee. Sally and I led the toast to the ladies and lassies.



RC Rob Donaldson, Post 1859 PC/PM Don Scoby, and Post 1889 Adjutant Mike Batnick, attended our monthly meeting on 19 Feb. Rob presented us our charter, SAMS flag and banner. Don played the bagpipes during the ceremony. Jon presented me with our Post mascot, "Chesty Gnome." Many thanks to Rob for his hard work in helping us form our Post.

Now we will get down to business on participating in upcoming events. We formed a planning committee to do just that. Coming up: the St. Patrick's Day Parade and National Tartan Day.

Our Post number, 1955, is derived from the year the St. Andrews Society of the Inland Northwest was founded.

—Edward Wattawa, PC,
inlandempirepost1955@gmail.com



RADM Richard Hetherington O’Kane USN Ret. MOH

Born in Dover, New Hampshire in 1911 of Irish ancestry, O’Kane graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover in 1930 and the United States Naval Academy in May 1934, upon which he was commissioned an officer in the Navy.



He first went to sea on *USS Chester CA-27*, then *USS Pruitt DD-347*. In 1938 he completed Submarine Training at New London and started his long connection with submarine service on the *USS Argonaut SM-1*. His next assignment was as Executive Office, *USS Wahoo SS-238*. The *Wahoo* completed five combat patrols during his assignment that ended in 1943.

After commissioning, October 1943, of the *USS Tang SS-306*, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and made the Commanding Officer. In five War Patrols the *Tang* sank 31 ships, one of the very top Pacific Campaign records for submarine achievement.

One of his favorite tactics of attack was to take the *Tang* into an enemy convoy and attack ships ahead and behind in the heart of the convoy while avoiding escorting combat ships. He excelled at combat aircraft lifeguard duties to recover aviators. Off Truk Island *Tang* rescued 22 airmen (and one Japanese airman) in one mission, earning a Presidential Unit Citation; one of two earned during his command of the *Tang*.

In five war patrols on the *Tang*, O’Kane was originally recognized with sinking a total of 24 Japanese ships – the second highest total for a single American submarine and the highest for a single commanding officer. Postwar reviews of Japanese war records, corroborated by *Tang*’s surviving logs and crewmen, revised the totals to 33 ships totaling over 118,323 tons sunk. This placed *Tang* first for both number of ships and tonnage (ahead of *USS Tautog*’s 26 ships and *USS Flasher*’s 100,231 long tons). Several times during the war, he took *Tang* into the middle of a convoy and attacked ships ahead and behind – counting on *Tang*’s relative position, speed, and low profile to keep clear of enemy escorts.

Under O’Kane, *Tang* also performed “lifeguard duty”, a common joint operation, with a Fast Carrier Task Force, of positioning one or more submarines in a “ditching station” off an enemy island under air attack in order to rescue downed pilots. Off Truk, he and the *Tang* rescued 22 airmen in one mission, thus earning a Presidential Unit Citation.

O’Kane was captured by the Japanese when O’Kane launched a spread of three torpedoes and the third circled back and sunk the *Tang* in the Formosa Strait (a circular run of a Mark 18) during a surface night attack on 24-

25 October 1944. O’Kane and eight of his crew survived the sinking but only five, including O’Kane survived being exposed to the cold water and were taken prisoner.

O’Kane lost all but eight members of his crew. A few had been on the ship’s bridge with O’Kane when the torpedo hit. The others were stuck inside the sinking vessel but were able to get out using an underwater escape device called the Momsen Lung. After treading water for hours, the sub’s survivors were picked up by a Japanese destroyer – survivors of the ships they’d sunk, no less. They spent the next 10 months as prisoners of war was at first secretly held captive at the Ōfunanavy detention center, then later moved to the regular army Omori POW camp for the remainder of the war in the Tokyo area until the war was over. Newspapers reported that O’Kane weighed 88 pounds and suffered from beriberi and scurvy when he was finally freed. After the war, he testified at Japanese war crimes trials.

Following his release, O’Kane received the Medal of Honor for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity” during his submarine’s final operations against Japanese shipping.



In the years following World War II, O’Kane served with the Pacific Reserve Fleet as commanding officer of the submarine tender *USS Pelias*, was executive officer of the submarine tender *USS Nereus* and was Commander, Submarine Division 32 (ComSubDiv 32). He was a student at the Armed Forces Staff College in 1950–51 and was subsequently assigned to the Submarine School at New London, Connecticut, initially as an instructor and, in 1952–53, as the com-

manding officer.

After he was promoted to the rank of captain in July 1953, O’Kane commanded the submarine tender *USS Sperry* until June 1954 and then became Commander, Submarine Squadron Seven (ComSubRon 7). Following studies at the Naval War College in 1955–56, he served in Washington, D.C., with the Ship Characteristics Board.

O’Kane retired from active duty in July 1957 and, on the basis of his extensive combat record and under the ‘tombstone promotion rule’ in effect at the time, was simultaneously advanced to the rank of rear admiral on the Retired List.

He wrote two books about his war experiences: “Clear the Bridge” in 1977 and “Wahoo” in 1987.

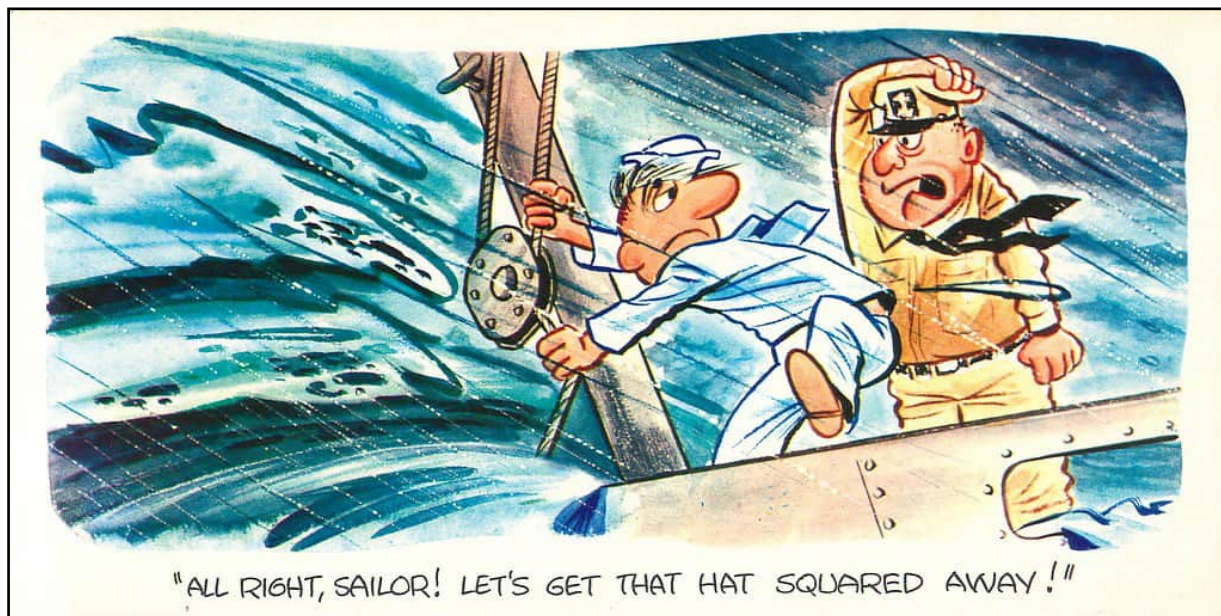
Other awards earned by RADM O’Kane include the Navy Commendation Medal W/V, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Prisoner of War Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal W/9 stars, World War II Victory Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

He died 16 Feb 1994 in Petaluma, CA. Rear Admiral O’Kane and his wife are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Source: US Navy Memorial and Wikipedia.



Post 2021 PC Jo Lawrence presents Seaman Apprentice Adrian Fisher Outstanding Cadet of the Year 2022 Annual Inspection RADM William O’Kane Division, Navy League Sea Cadet Corps.



America's forgotten Goddess She was here long before we were

Jim 'Ski' Schiaffino

It might come as a surprise to you, but our country hasn't always been called *America*. Initially, it was referred to as *Columbia*. When the colonists began to search for a word to describe their country, they wanted to emphasize the difference between Europe and the new world.

It was first used in 1697 by Massachusetts Chief Justice Samuel Seawall. Although he referred to it as *Columbina*. The actual term *Columbia* was coined by Samuel Johnson. To them it was important that it end in "ia" as in *Britania and Gallia* and it recognized Christopher Columbus as the original discoverer. (Virtually all of the original explorers of the new world were Italian. ie: Columbus, Vespucci, Verrazano, Cabato.) It had been in use since the 1738 by both Europeans and Colonists to describe the new world.

In debates about the colonies, the British Parliament used the term *Columbia* instead of "the colonies." The name also appeared in a collection of complimentary poems written by Harvard graduates in 1761, on the occasion of the marriage and coronation of King George III.

*Behold, Britannia! in thy favour'd Isle;
At distance, thou, Columbia! view thy Prince,
For ancestors renowned, for virtues more*



Columbia became the symbol of the new United States welcoming immigrants

Long before the Statue of Liberty arrived on the scene, a quasi mythical figure, Columbia, became the unofficial representative of our country. She is pictured as a classical goddess in a gown resembling the stars and stripes wearing a Phrygian cap, which signifies freedom and the pursuit of liberty.

Columbia first appears in the poetry of African-American Phillis Wheatley starting in 1776 during the revolutionary war:

*One century scarce perform'd its destined round,
When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found;
And so may you, whoever dares disgrace
The land of freedom's heaven-defended race!
Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales,
For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails.*

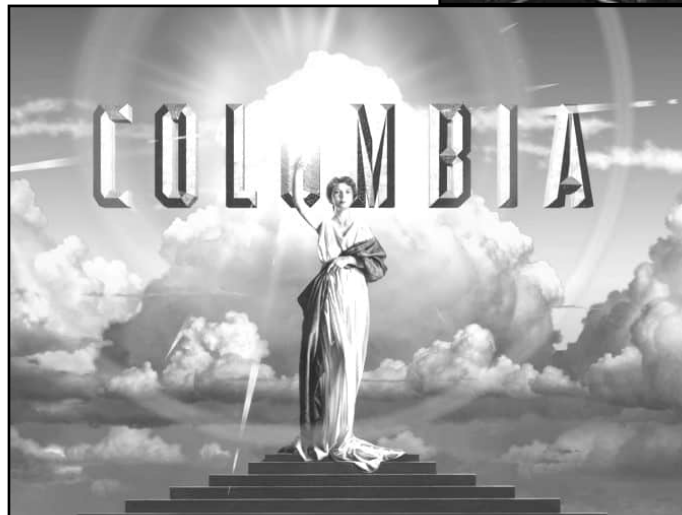
Especially in the 19th century, Columbia would be visualized as goddess-like female national personification of the United States and of Liberty itself, comparable to the British Britannia, the Italian Italia Turrita, and the French Marianne, often seen in political cartoons of the 19th-early 20th century.



Political cartoonist Thomas Nast frequently depicted her in his cartoons. She was used almost exclusively instead of Uncle Sam until after World War I. During that war she was pictured on a medal, instead of a Purple Heart, standing over a kneeling "doughboy". However, on Liberty Bonds she was replaced by The Statue of Liberty.

In 1798, Joseph Hopkinson wrote lyrics for Philip Phile's 1789 inaugural "President's March" under the new title of "Hail, Columbia." Once used as the de facto national anthem of the United States, until 1931, when "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially named the national anthem. It is now used as the entrance march of the Vice President of the United States.

The song "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean" (1843) commemorates the United States under the name Columbia. However, Columbia isn't completely forgotten. Columbia pictures still uses her as their logo. And it is Columbia that adorns the top of Memorial Hall in Washington DC.



A different take on “Scottish” History”

Why Scotland isn’t European

James ‘Ski’ Schiaffino

It seems as though throughout most of history the Highlands were a little different than the rest of the country. It wasn’t just the topography, the language or the clan culture. One couldn’t exactly put their finger on it, but the Highlands just seemed to be different, and there is a good reason for that idea. The northwest part of Scotland was once a part of North America, not Europe.

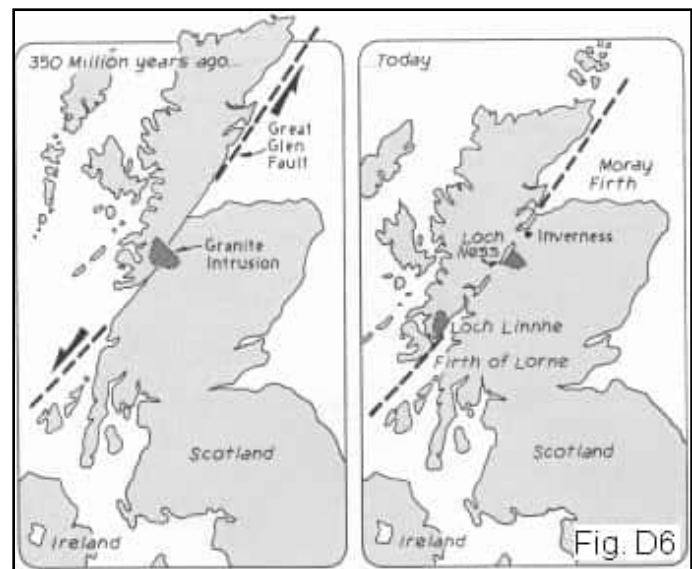
At one time, all of the continents were joined. Pangea or Pangea: a supercontinent that existed during the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic eras. It assembled from the earlier continental units of Gondwana, Euramerica and Siberia during the Carboniferous approximately 335 million years ago, and began to break apart (plate tectonics, the movement of the earth’s crust.) about 200 million years ago, at the end of the Triassic and beginning of the Jurassic. In contrast to the present Earth and its distribution of continental mass, Pangea was centered on the equator and surrounded by the superocean Panthalassa and the Paleo-Tethys and subsequent Tethys Oceans. There are nine major plates in the earth’s crust and they move about 2.75 inches a year. About 425 million years ago they began to drift apart.



About 135 million years ago, Greenland was joined to Labrador, Newfoundland and in a small touch of irony, a wee part of what was later to be called Nova Scotia. This small chunk of Greenland / Labrador / Newfoundland / Nova Scotia was separated from North America as the newly emerging Atlantic Ocean pushed its way northward. Greenland stayed separated while Labrador / Nova Scotia merged again with the North American Plate. In a wee bit of geographic irony, the land that was to become Northwest Scotland split from Nova Scotia. It floated around somewhat aimlessly buffeted by plate tectonics.

It was also a lot further south, about 2,000 miles

further. The climate was subtropical as it was near the equator. As the still forming Atlantic Ocean began to grow, it worked its way northward. Eventually it crashed into what was to become Europe and collided with the European plate. A portion of it was subducted under the plate while Northwest Scotland remained above and merged with the European plate England. Thus creating the mountainous area we call the Highlands today. Maybe that’s the real reason the sassenachs have always had a disagreeable view of Scotland.



The Great Glen hosts the most prominent fault in the British Isles. It originated towards the end of the Caledonian Orogeny (around 430-390 million years ago), and cuts diagonally across the Highlands from Fort William to Inverness. Like other major fault zones around the world, the Great Glen has a long history of reactivation.

At any rate the place the two lands met is called the Great Glen Fault. You probably know it as Loch Ness. Not the Loch per se, but the land below it. The fault runs the entire length of Northern Scotland. The land on the east side of the Loch was Europe while the land on the west side was North America.

At that time the land was covered with a glacier. As the glacier grew it pushed rocks and boulders south. When the glacier began to melt and retreated north, the rocks blocked the melt water flow and eventually Loch Ness was formed. This was about 10,000 years ago.

A wee bit further south on The Great Glen Fault, a similar event occurred. But the glacial melt water was able to flow away and a fertile valley formed. Today we call it Glen Coe.

BRITAIN'S COMMANDO MEMORIAL & Commando Basic Training Centre

George Shott PC 1298



In the summer of 2017, I was part of a tour group called “The Lonestar Tour” which consisted of friends and musicians of Central Texas Celtic music. We were scheduled to perform at several pubs along the tour. After an incredible day at and on Loch Ness, we headed to Fort William. Eight miles past the Fort, the bus came to Britain’s highest mountain, Ben Nevis in the Lochaber District. At the foot of the mountain near Spean Bridge, stood an imposing monument upon which stood three giant figures obviously soldiers. I immediately hurried over to the structure and saw that it was the British Commando Memorial. The dedication plaque read: “IN MEMORY OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE COMMANDOS WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 – 1945 THIS COUNTRY WAS THEIR TRAINING GROUND”. I gazed up at the three figures and sensed their strength, resilience, and accomplishments. A Garden of Remembrance was added next to the site where surviving WWII commandos’ ashes are deposited and where families and friends of fallen contemporary Commandos of the Falkland War and in Iraq, Afghanistan.

What is the history of this monument?

The monument was the work of sculptor, Scott Sutherland who won the design competition for the commission, The Commando Memorial in 1949. The base of the bronze statue has a date of 1951. H. H. Martyn & Company Foundry cast the sculpture. The Queen Mother officially unveiled the memorial on 27 September 1952. The bronze sculpture has three Commandos in typical uniforms consisting of cap comforters, webbing, and rifles atop the stone base looking toward Ben Nevis. The figures represent actual Commandos – the one in front is Commando Jack Lewington, Frank Nichols and Regimental Sergeant Major Sidney Hewlett of the Welsh Guards who was one of

the founding NCOs of the commandos. The monument is 17 feet tall overall.

The monument was located on a two-mile historic pathway. Along with the Commando Memorial, it is the site of the former High Bridge built by General Wade where the first shots were fired in the Jacobite Rising of 1745. The spot was chosen as it was the route from Spean Bridge railway station to the former Commando Training Centre at nearby Achnacarry Castle, ancestral seat of the Camerons of Lochiel.



Established in December 1940, the training was loosely based on the tactics of the Boer Commandos, particularly small-scale raids to disrupt damage, and destroy enemy infrastructure and supply. Initially made up of British Army regiments, the famous SOE (Special Operations Executive) spent 4 to 6 weeks preparing for insertion into occupied France. The Royal Marines, in 1942, undertook training at Achnacarry Castle. Americans, also trained as part of the OSS (Office of Strategic Services). The site was redesignated as the Commando Basic Training Centre in early 1942 and came under the authority of the Special Service Brigade. Foreign nationals from occupied countries were also trained. The newly formed US Army

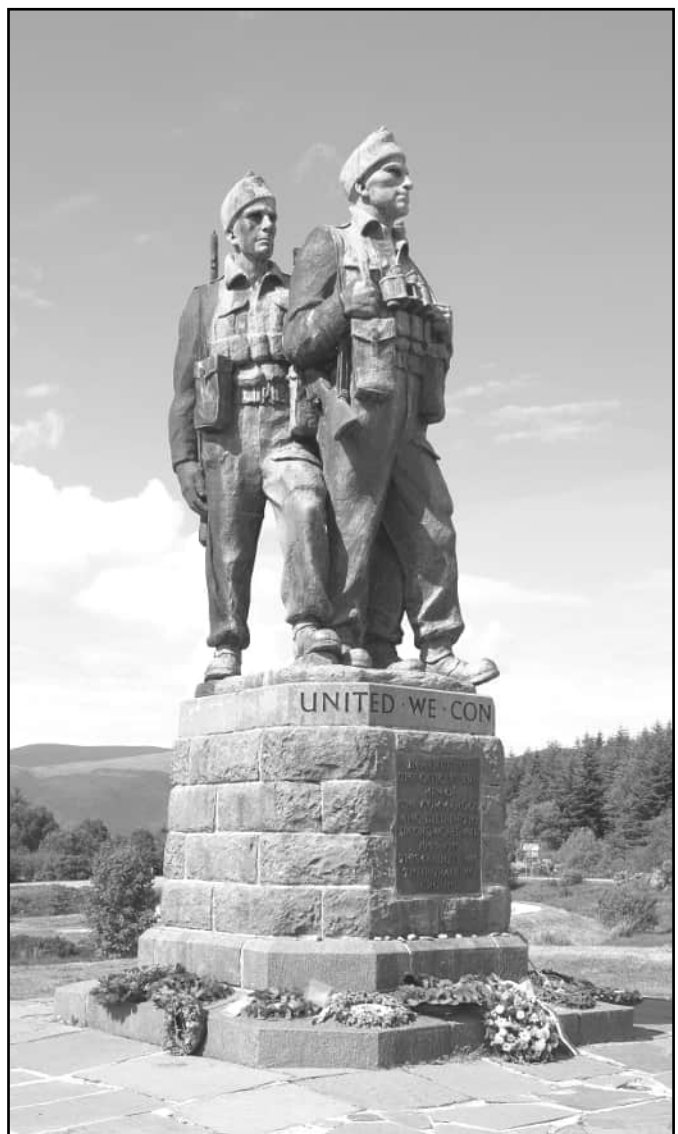
Rangers were trained there as well.

Training was extremely rigorous. In a Dieppe, France raid, a member of 4 Commando supposedly remarked to his commander, "J.....C....., sir This is nearly as bad as Achnacarry!" Many soldiers died or were seriously injured. Training commenced when trainees got off the train at Spean Bridge, and had to march seven miles to the castle. Officers and men trained together with no ranks used. Intensive physical fitness, survival training, orienteering, and vehicle operation were just part of weapons familiarization and use, demolition, close-quarter combat, amphibious training, and scaling cliffs. Live ammunition was used to simulate battle conditions. In 1943, Commando training shifted to more conventional methods of warfare. The reason was from the success of the Allies. Agents were placed all over Europe and as D-Day approached, thousands of agents were on the continent preparing the Resistance organizations. When the Centre closed in 1946, over 25,000 personnel had been trained at Achnacarry.

For more information on this topic, I direct your attention to the BBC television program, "Churchill's Secret Agents: The New Recruits". In five episodes, the viewer sees 14 off-the-street candidates undergo the actual Commando syllabus. They arrived at the station dressed in 1940's clothes with period luggage. They were met by the castle personnel, loaded into two period Bedford trucks and drove to the site. At the castle, they were told to change into WWII, British Army uniforms and all held the rank of Lieutenants. They had no contact with the outside world. They ate in the dining room, read WWII era newspapers and listened to BBC radio programs. Even the castle windows were taped to prevent shattering from bombs. Certain courses were highlighted from the syllabus which covered the five-week training in the spy arts. They used the actual suitcase radios, learned Morse code and decoding, lock-picking and making keys and unlocking devices, learned demolition such as stuffing explosives in dead rats and exploding them. Exercise on the different topics had to be successfully completed. They were given false identities and had to use them in public situations. They were "captured" by the Gestapo and interrogated to test their identity cover stories. They had to swim across a below-freezing loch and scale a 60-foot cliff going up three ladders which were not aligned. The last event after "Finishing School" was an exercise which tested everything they had trained on. I won't tell you what happened. Six candidates successfully completed the course. One thing that drove all of them was that they were following in the footsteps of actual agents many of whom were killed. A question asked of them was, "Given the choice of going home or staying, what would they do?" Their responses were telling. The six were physically and educationally diverse: a paralegal (male), 60+ year old drama teacher/grandma (Female), ex-paratrooper w/ artificial leg (male), tiny young research scientist (female), math graduate (male), and interpreter (female).

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Scottish Kitchen Recipes ~ Real Scottish Food

After the brutal winter we just experienced an outdoor spring picnic just might be the recipe for an enjoyable time. So, in keeping with the spirit of the season here are a few suggestions you might find appealing for your get out of the house spring picnic

By Jim "Ski" Schiaffino Post 1814



Eostre is the Scottish Goddess of Spring

Eostre is connected with growth, renewal, abundance, new beginnings and fertility. As symbols of rebirth and fertility, eggs and rabbits are sacred to her, as is the full moon.

Tangy Deviled Eggs

Ingredients:

As many eggs to boil as you have people to feed
Plain Yogurt
Limes
Mustard
Paprika

Method: Place eggs in water you have brought to a boil. Use a slotted spoon to slip the eggs into the water. Cover and immediately turn flame down so water will only simmer. Do not boil. Allow eggs to cook for five minutes or until you have shelled one to see if it is done. If you hold the cooled egg under a tiny stream of cold water from the faucet it will shell much easier. Cut the eggs in half and take out the yolks. Put these into a bowl. Mash with a fork and add yogurt until the eggs become smooth as you mash them, do not add too much yogurt. Add the juice of one or two small limes. Add just enough mustard to color the egg yolks. Refill the cooked egg whites with this mixture. A sprinkle of Paprika over the top adds more color. Paprika is a good spice to teach children to like. It is very high in vitamin A. The limes are high in vitamin C.

Deviled Eggs with Crispy Shallot Gremolata

Ingredients:

12 large eggs
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1 large shallot, thinly sliced into rings
Kosher salt
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tsp Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice, plus more
2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh chives
2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley
1 tsp finely grated lemon zest
Pastry bag with a large star tip

Method: Place eggs in a medium pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil, remove from heat, and cover. Let sit for 9 minutes. Remove eggs with a slotted spoon and transfer to an ice bath. Heat oil in a small saucepan over medium-high. Add shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and transfer to paper-towels; season with salt and let cool. Peel eggs and halve lengthwise. Pop out yolks and place in a medium bowl; reserve whites. Add mayonnaise, mustard, and lemon juice to yolks and stir with a fork or whisk until very smooth; season with salt and more lemon juice, if desired.

For the gremolata, toss chives, parsley, lemon zest, and reserved shallots in a small bowl; season with salt. Fit a pastry bag with a large star tip (or use a resealable plastic bag with a hole cut out in the corner). Scoop egg yolk mixture into pastry bag and pipe into egg whites. Top with shallot gremolata before serving. 8 Servings

Traditional Scotch Eggs

Ingredients:

Hard cooked eggs
1/2 lb Sausage meat
1 Egg, slightly beaten
1 qt oil for frying
1 cup Seasoned flour
1 cup bread crumbs
Salt and pepper to taste

Method: Hard-boil the eggs by placing in a pan of cold water and heating slowly until it starts to simmer. Do not allow water to boil as this will toughen the whites, but keep at this temperature for 30 minutes. Place in cold water and shell when eggs are quite cold. Dip in seasoned flour. Cover with sausage meat, then dip in beaten egg and coat with bread crumbs, pressing crumbs well in. Fry in deep fat or oil (375°F) until golden brown. Drain, and cut in halves. Serve hot or cold.



Two Potato Salad with Mustard Dressing

Ingredients:

1 lb boiling potatoes quartered lengthwise and cut crosswise into 3/4 inch pieces
 1 lb sweet potatoes quartered lengthwise and cut crosswise into 3/4 inch pieces
 1 Tbsp white wine vinegar
 2 Tbsp Dijon-style mustard
 1/4 cup olive oil
 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
 2 Tbsp finely chopped sweet gherkin

Method: Mix all the ingredients together and refrigerate until use.

Sweet Watermelon and Salty Feta

Ingredients:

21 oz watermelon
 1/2 red onion
 1/2 cup fresh mint
 1/2 cup black olives
 8 oz feta cheese

Method: Quarter and slice the red onion. Soak the onion in ice water for 20 minutes. Chop the watermelon into 1 inch pieces. Chop the mint finely. Chop the black olives. Crumble the feta cheese. Mix all the ingredients together and serve.

Scottish Fish Cakes

Ingredients:

1-1/2 lb potatoes, boiled
 1/2 lb salmon filet, diced
 1/2 lb cod filet, diced
 5 Tbsp olive oil
 2 Tbsp fresh basil and parsley, chopped
 Salt and pepper to taste
 2 large shallots, chopped
 2 free range eggs, beaten
 Juice of 1 orange
 Juice of 1 lemon

Method: Marinade the salmon and cod in orange and lemon juice, salt and pepper, basil, parsley and olive oil. Boil potatoes until cooked, drain and then bake them in the oven (low heat) for 10 minutes. Mash the potatoes and (while potato is still hot) mix in the fish and marinade. Leave the mixture to cool. When the mixture is cold, add the beaten eggs and mix in. Take handfuls of the mixture and shape into large egg-sized balls, flatten to about 1 inch thick rounds. Broil for 2 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Low Fat Turkey Sausage Quiche

Ingredients:

1/2 lb turkey sausage
 1/2 cup skim milk
 1 uncooked pie shell
 1/2 cup low fat shredded Monterey Jack cheese
 salt and pepper to taste
 1/2 cup low fat mayonnaise
 2 eggs
 1 Tbsp. Cornstarch
 tabasco to taste

Method: Brown turkey sausage and drain. Mix all other ingredients together and stir in meat. Pour into pie shell and bake at 375°F for about 45 minutes or until golden brown. Slice and serve.

Forfar Bridies

Ingredients:

For Short crust pastry:

4 cups flour
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 Cold water
 1/2 pound salted butter (2 sticks), cut into small pieces

For Filling:

1 lb ground beef
 1 small onion, peeled, ends removed, chopped
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 1/4 cup water

Nonstick cooking spray or 1/2 teaspoon shortening

1 beaten egg

Method: To prepare pastry: In a large mixing bowl, sift together the flour and salt. Add the butter and cut into flour until the mixture resembles fine bread crumbs. Mix in enough cold water to hold the mixture together. Form into a ball. Wrap in wax paper or plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for 30-45 minutes.

To prepare the filling: In a large bowl, mix together the uncooked ground beef, onion, salt, pepper and water. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray or grease with shortening. Remove the pastry from the refrigerator. Lightly sprinkle the work surface with flour. Roll out the pastry to about 1/8-inch thickness. Cut into 6-7 circles approximately 5 to 6 inches in diameter. Evenly divide the filling among the 6 circles, placing the meat mixture on one half of the circle. Brush the edge lightly with the beaten egg. Fold the pastry over the filling and seal by lightly crimping the edge. Brush the top with beaten egg. Repeat with remaining filling and dough circles. Place on a prepared baking sheet, bake for 50 minutes or until golden brown on top. Makes 7 Forfar Bridies.

Real Maryland Fried Chicken

Fried chicken originated in Scotland. It was married with West Indian spices to produce the fried chicken we enjoy today.

Ingredients:

8 chicken thighs
 2 cups whole milk
 4 cups flour
 2 Tbsp Old Bay Seasoning
 2 Tbsp paprika
 2 1/2 tsp sage
 1 tsp salt
 2 Tbsp pepper
 oil, to deep fry

Method: Wash the chicken parts and pat dry. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Dip chicken into milk and dredge in flour mixture. Repeat. Deep fry at 360°F for 20 minutes.

Buttermilk Fried Rabbit

Ingredients:

2 to 3 domestic raised rabbits, cut into serving pieces
 2 cups buttermilk
 2 Tbsp Italian seasoning,
 (home made: mix together 1-1/2 tsp oregano, 1-1/2 tsp thyme, 1 Tbsp dried parsley, 1 Tbsp paprika, 1 tsp garlic powder, 2 tsp cayenne, or to taste)
 1-1/2 cups flour
 1 heaping tsp salt
 About 2 cups vegetable oil

Method: Mix the buttermilk with all the spices except the teaspoon of salt and the flour. Coat the rabbit with the mixture and set in a covered container overnight, or at least 8 hours. When you are ready to fry, pour the oil into a large pan — a big cast iron frying pan is ideal — to a depth of about an inch. The general idea is you want the oil to come halfway up the side of the rabbit. Set the heat to medium-high. Meanwhile, take the rabbit out of the buttermilk and let it drain in a colander. Don't shake off the buttermilk or anything, just leave it there. Let the oil heat until it is about 325°F; this is the point where a sprinkle of flour will immediately sizzle. When the oil is hot, pour the flour and salt into a plastic bag and shake to combine. Put a few pieces of rabbit into the bag and shake to get it coated in flour. Set the coated rabbit pieces in one layer in the hot oil so they don't touch. Fry for about 8 to 12 minutes. Fry gently — you want a steady sizzle, but nothing raging, and you definitely don't want the rabbit to just sit in oil. You might need to adjust the heat. Turn the rabbit pieces and fry for another 10 minutes or so, until they are golden brown. The forelegs will come out first, followed by the loin, and the hind legs will come out last. You will probably need to fry in batches, so just leave the uncooked rabbit pieces in the colander until you are ready to flour and fry them. Don't let the floured pieces sit. When the rabbit is good and fried, let them rest on a rack set over a paper towel to drain any excess oil. If you are cooking in batches, set this in a warm oven.

Hare in Ale with Saffron

Ingredients:

1 large hare
 1 lb. onions, finely chopped
 1 cup fresh bread crumbs
 1/2 tsp. Saffron
 4 cups real ale
 salt and freshly ground pepper
 a little dripping, or oil and butter

Method: Lightly brown hare pieces in a little dripping, or oil and butter, in a deep casserole. Cover with real ale, add onion, bring to boil on the stovetop. Put the casserole in the oven, cook at 425°F for about 3 hours. Remove from oven, stir in breadcrumbs and saffron. Check seasonings. Cook until hare is tender and serve with cooking liquid. Serves 5 - 6.

Golden Brownies

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1 tsp. Salt
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 3/4 cup sugar
 2 cups chocolate chips
 3/4 cup butter (melted)
 1 tsp. Vanilla
 3 eggs

Method: Pre heat oven to 350°F. Combine dry ingredients in a small bowl. Combine wet ingredients in a larger bowl. Mix dry ingredients to liquid. Spread evenly onto a greased baking pan. Bake 30-35 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Rhubarb Dream Bars Crust

Ingredients:

For the crust:

2 cups flour
 3/4 cup icing sugar
 1 cup butter

For the filling:

4 eggs
 2 cups sugar
 1/2 cup flour
 1/4 tsp. salt
 4 cups diced Rhubarb

Method: Combine flour, sugar, cut in butter until crumbs form. Press into 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350°F for 15 mins. Blend eggs, sugar, flour and salt until smooth. Fold in rhubarb and spread over hot crust. Bake 45 min. until filling is brown. Cut into squares when cool.



Bha e uabhasach math (va eh oo-uussoch ma)
 It was awfully good!



Math dha-rireadh!
(Ma gha reeroo)
Great Stuff!

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