

THE PATRIOT



Official Magazine of the Scottish ~ American Military Society

Declaration of Arbroath



For so long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any condition be brought under British rule.

*It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting,
but for freedom — for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself*



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Would you like to be a contributing editor? Send an example of your field of interest to

RC contact information can be found on pages 25-27

REGIONS

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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)



Winter, 2023
Volume L No 4

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

February 25

May 22

August 21

November 20

Publication

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

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

JoPatriot@aol.com

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The Patriot (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.

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Commander's Call and National Reports

National Commander



As I said in the last issue of The Patriot – much needed changes were coming. By now, everyone has read or at least been told of the new Dress Code. I expect ALL Commanders to check their members at each function to be sure that they are complying. When the new Games season starts, they should all be in compliance. Anyone unable to dress-out; needs to let their Post Commander know so we can discuss it.

Now, I want to talk about a different subject; In the last couple of years, everyone is talking about diversity. It's on the TV in commercials, on talk shows and even on the radio, and at work.

First, let's look at the definition of Diversity; Diversity is a Noun. It is the Practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different Social, Ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientation, races, and religions, etc.

Equality and diversity should be supported for their own sake. The British dictionary defines diversity as "The state or quality of being different or varied". By now, some of you are asking "what's that go to do with me"?

Good Question.

The Scottish-American Military Society is an extremely diverse group of people. Yes, we are all military Veterans or the spouse of one. But have you really read the Bylaws and the Charter of SAMS? Are you one of those who believe SAMS does not include certain people? Not only is that wrong, but we also include widows and widowers and lineal descendants of Veterans. And YES, we include WOMEN VETERANS, and we are to respect them and not call them by any other name than VETERAN. Not any "pet" names not any digs or etc.

We accept White, Black, Hispanic, Chinese, etc. if they meet the qualifications. We also accept all religions and beliefs. All nationalities, so, again you may ask "what's this got to do with me?"

Recently I received a very disturbing report of an instance where a member while wearing a SAMS uniform decided to voice his opinion about a man, with whom he was acquainted. It was said loud enough to be heard by anyone standing nearby. This could have resulted in an embarrassment for our Organization and possibly worse. The members who witnessed this bigotry and antisemitic slurs were embarrassed themselves by having heard the remarks. I, as SAMS National Commander, and leader of our organization positively will not tolerate this type of behavior from any of our members. Bottom line, SAMS will not tolerate any kind of prejudices, racisms, or bigotry, especially if it is displayed while in a SAMS uniform and loud enough for God and Country to hear! Anyone displaying anything less than professionalism and respect will

be disciplined within our Bylaws.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me through email or phone listed in the front of the Patriot Magazine.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to EVERYONE!

—Kenneth Lloyd, NC

National Vice-Commander



—Margaret Rothermel, NVC

National Adjutant



What does the Adjutant actually do?

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary:

ADJUTANT: 1. A staff officer in the Army, Marine Corps or Air Force who assists the commanding officer and is responsible for the administration and preservation of personnel records and especially responsible for correspondence.

2. The chief administrative officer of a major military unit.

SAMS National by-laws:

National Adjutant (NA): "The National Adjutant shall have Society responsibility to perform and/or oversee the financial records, books, documents, papers, and custody of the Society Seal, and shall perform such other duties and have such other responsibilities as the Council may assign.

The National Adjutant shall attend and/or participate in, and record, or cause to be accurately recorded, the Minutes of all meetings of the Council and the Society membership, whether held in person or by electronic means. Together with the Commander, shall sign all contracts, notes, deeds, or other documents or papers that shall be authorized by the Council and, when required, affix the Seal of the Society thereto as provided by the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina;

The National Adjutant shall perform and/or oversee all duties and ensure proper management practices normally incident to the Office of National Adjutant of the Society, and shall be subject to the Society's Charter, By-Laws, Society Regulations, and as may be from time to time required by the Council."

As the NA, I receive and process all new member applications, assign member numbers and am responsible for keeping the Master File (member database) current. I receive and deposit new member and all renewal dues checks, coordinating with the National Comptroller on electronic payments and updating the Quick Books accounts.

As the NA I am the principle contact for any mem-

ber who has a question about their status, member number or has a change of address, etc. No one else has all the information to answer such questions. I answer every e-mail as soon as I can and welcome phone contacts.

I receive and preserves all Post and Regional Quarterly reports, notice of Post elections and Notice of a Member's Death. When needed, I print out new Post charters and coordinate with the National Vice Commander on formation of Camps. I send to the Assistant Quartermaster, all new member information for sending them their 'New Member' packet.

I send to The Patriot, an updated list of member addresses for mailing each quarterly Patriot.

At least twice a year, (January and at the end of July) I send to all PCs and RCs their members in good standing. Also to the National Commander and Comptroller, sorted by Post. I send to all PCs and RCs, the current National Application and expect PCs to share with their Adjutants and Post recruiters. (all new member applications be on the "Revised 22 Nov 2022" edition) I also expect all outdated National Applications to be destroyed. Sending new member applications on your Post Application is not correct.

I expect from each member, their renewal (or notification of electronic payment from the Comptroller) dues no later than 29 June of each year. (see each issue of The Patriot on the back outside cover).

If you are verifying a new member's proof of service, please read the app for complete information and that it is READABLE. If the 'newbie' is joining your Post, please put the Post number on the application, otherwise they will be marked as MAL. Per our By-laws, a person cannot be a member of a Post until or unless they are assigned an R number by the National Adjutant. Notice of renewal dates, etc., is in every Patriot. I encourage all Post PCs to start sending all their members notice of dues due in early April.

We are extremely disappointed that out of 1,484 ballots sent in the Fall Patriot ONLY 93 were returned! If you did not vote, you cannot complain.

NOTE: It is very important that you *Please include full name and National member number, on all correspondences, including checks.*

NOTE: I do not conduct SAMS business via Facebook or text messages. Anything 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 official business ONLY.

—Jo Lawrence, NA

Comptroller's Report



—Russell W Adams, N. Comp

Assistant National Adjutant/Comptroller

—VACANT

Councilor



SAMS member for almost 30 years and a member of Post 1921 Northern California since joining SAMS. I have also held nine consecutive terms as a National Councilor.

I currently reside in Grand Junction, CO and actively working at developing Camp/Post on the Western Slope of Colorado. The majority of SAMS membership in Colorado is on the "front range" including Denver and Colorado Springs. I'm hoping to expand and tie-in membership in the lower Grand Valley and portions of Utah to accommodate membership activities in the defined area between Salt Lake City and Grand Junction.

—Doug Kenyon

Councilor

Budget/Finance Committee Chair

National Dress Code Committee

National Cybersecurity Committee



I am a SAMS Life Member having been a member for several years. I started out as a regular member in Post 1847, Utah, then became the Post Secretary. About eight years ago, I was elected as Post Commander and served in that capacity until 1 April 2023 when I relinquished command to Kendall Sorenson. The last three years of my time as PC was very challenging given, as with all of us, dealing with the SARS-coV-2 pandemic and how it affected all of our activities for SAMS. Once the pandemic was officially declared over, the challenges of moving forward and back to "normal" before the pandemic. Come 1 April, it was the perfect time to relinquish command to a new PC and afford for the Post to move forward, onward, and upward. I am currently serving as the Post's Comptroller as well as the Colour/Honour Guard Commander.

At the National level, I have served two terms as a National Councilor-at-Large and currently hoping for a 3rd term, served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee (two years), Chairman of the National Dress Code Committee (and currently a member of the Dress Code Committee), Member of the National Cybersecurity Committee, and currently serving as the Chairman of the National Budget Committee overseeing the various aspects of finances and so forth for SAMS. Personally, I feel that by being a member on the National end of things has helped to forge that gap between Post and National level and, hopefully, I will be afforded to continue to do so. I personally feel it is so important that from the National level, we are actively involved with and engaged with our Posts. I believe in being proactive and involved, empowering our members within our Posts in that the Post belongs to them as well as the overall SAMS organization, fostering involvement in the Post as well as within National.

—Connie Carlson

Recruiting Committee Chair



As the new Recruiting Chair, I will be working with others to develop effective recruiting strategies, techniques, streamlining the process and assisting with education and guidance.

Something that has become a concern is establishing who is and who is not eligible for SAMS membership. The application does a pretty good job in presenting the basic requirements for membership. However, some are denying women, minorities and related groups from membership, even with military and Scottish, or Irish ancestry. We are Congressionally Chartered, and cannot do this to people who meet our membership requirements.

It can be illegal to deny women membership! Lets face it, at least 20% of the current active duty and reserve service members are women. Deny them membership at your peril. Many African, Latino, Pacific Islander and Asian ethnicities have Scottish or Irish ancestry, and is also very common among Native Americans. Face it, Scots and Irish have not been stingy with their DNA, so many groups that you might not expect to, qualify.

An example is the Afro-Celt Culture as studied by the University of South Carolina. Scots and Irish who were transported here and sold as indentured servants, were housed with individuals from Africa in the same barracks. The inevitable happened—children—and they were of mixed race. The study showed that many from Colonial South Carolina if African, 90% had Scottish or Irish blood and the same was true of the Scottish/Irish descendants of this period, 90% had Scottish or Irish Blood. You cannot tell just by looking at a person to determine eligibility, you have to ask questions. Lastly, there is the interest in the culture eligibility. So, most approaching you are probably eligible, you just need to determine how and if they meet the criteria.

—Robert E Donaldson, claughmohr@gmail.com

Dress Code Committee Chair



—Allan Sperling,
samsdresscode@yahoo.com

From the Editor



Due to serious health issues, Mike Thomas has given up the editorship of The Patriot. NC Lloyd asked me to take over temporarily to get The Patriot out in a timely manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please pass along a message to your members from NC Lloyd that he is looking for a new editor for The Patriot. If you know of any member in good standing with experience in writing, has Publisher and would be willing to take this job on, please contact

me and NC Lloyd with name and brief resume. I am more that willing to 'train up' a new editor.

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

Quartermaster



I am retiring as QM, effective 1 January. All SAMS supplies are being sent to Asst QM. Adrien Herbison.

—Doris Anderson

Asst Quartermaster

—Adrien Herbison,

samsnationalasstquartermaster@gmail.com

Awards Committee Chair



—Marshall Perry,
samsnatlawardschair@gmail.com

Web Master



Our web-site is currently being rebuilt. Watch this space.

—Don Scoby, pigwar1859comm@gmail.com

Public Relations



—Debra Lloyd, debrallloyd01@gmail.com

Cyber Committee Chair



—Ralph Wallace

Nominating Committee Chair

—VACANT

2023 Election Results

Total ballots received—93

All correctly filled out

National Vice Commander

Allen Sperling—92

National Comptroller

Russell W. Adams—93

Councilor at Large

Douglas Kenyon—91

Richard T. Farquharson—84

Connie L. Carlson—91

Jeremiah Johnson, CMA

Terms of office begin 1 January 2024

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5 Nov Veteran's Parade, Pleasanton, Post 1921 Piper John Ralls, L-R: Jim Hamilton XO Dave Reynolds, (hidden Mike Medeiros), Gary Kepner



New Regular Members

Jeffery McDonald	R5692	St. Louis, MO	Heidi N Hiatt	R5742	Kenmore, WA
Victoria Holts	R5693	Sierra Vista, AZ	Martin E Byrne	R5743	Wichita, KS
Aaron Hennequin	R5694	Sierra Vista, AZ	Darrell Hough	R5744	Tucson, AZ
Gordon Dixon II	R5695	Fountain, CO	Jennifer Brown	R5745	Tucson, AZ
Fred M Wiggins	R5696	Tulsa, OK	Walter Shannon	R5746	Sahuarita, AZ
Rory C Burke	R5697	Helena, MT	Donald J Luke	R5749	Tucson, AZ
Curtis Bunton	R5698	Hamilton, MT	Daniel Bearl	R5748	Jacksonville, FL
Michael K McCoy	R5699	Missoula, MT	Darrell E Lovins	R5749	Birchwood, TN
Nancy M Knopp	R5700	Great Falls, MT	Johnathann Vayo	R5750	Ft Walton Beach, FL
Gloria Nyswonger	R5701	Kalispell, MT	Michaela Vayo	R5751	Ft Walton Beach, FL
Jamie Nyswonger	R5702	Kalispell, MT	Jonathan C Sanford	R5752	Boring, OR
James Graham Prusa	R5703	Philipsburg, MT	Rachael Bassett	R5753	Saint David, AZ
Steven Stroud	R5704	Corvallis, MT	Laura ross	R5754	Tucson, AZ
Charles R Taylor	R5705	Libby, MT	Patricia Ballenger	R5755	Oro Valley, AZ
Trish Taylor	R5706	Libby, MT	Natalie Goes	R5756	Tucson, AZ
Richard D Campbell	Presley R5707	Maryville, TN	John Burnett	R5757	Tucson, AZ
James B Boorman III	R5708	Brandon, SD	Jamie Carbarly	R5758	Ft Bliss, TX
Daniel R McKillop	R5709	Belmont, NC	Lyle K Inscho	R5759	Tucson, AZ
Karlyn L Grant	R5710	Odessa, DE	Noah W Chetelat	R5760	Sierra Vista, AZ
Shawna A Smith	R5711	Las Vegas, NV	Darrell Van Fleet	R5761	Tucson, AZ
William R Hinderer	R5712	Peaks Island, ME	Russell P Janus	R5762	Tucson, AZ
Robert N Mertz	R5713	Herndon, VA	Lisa M Levine	R5763	Marana, AZ
James W Holloway III	R5714	Blaine, TN	Steven Levine	R5764	Marana, AZ
Greg J Gass	R5715	Colcord, OK	Michael Watson	R5765	Red Rock, AZ
James Keyes	R5716	Portland, OR	Jessica Lynn wells	R5766	Tucson, AZ
Bonnie Jean Lauchian	R5717	Arizona City, AZ	Vance P Thompson	R5767	Tucson, AZ
Seth England	R5718	Colbert, WA	Brian Crytzer	R5768	Sahuarita, AZ
Thomas Henderson	R5719	Prescott Valley, AZ	Ellen Crytzer	R5769	Sahuarita, AZ
John A Egbert	R5720	Sandy, UT	Kellee-Anne Lochmandy	R5770	Grand Junction, CO
Merritt A Pardini	R5721	Alexandria, VA	Anthony P Lochmandy	R5771	Grand Junction, CO
Thomas Creary	R5722	Ligonier, PA	Scotland J McPhail	R5772	Grand Junction, CO
Charles Leseman, Jr	R5723	Rossiter, PA	Kyle Bacher	R5773	Grand Junction, CO
Todd C Wiggen	R5724	Weatherford, OK	Dan Mina	R5774	Clifton, CO
James Forester	R5725	Conifer, CO	James McLaughlin	R5775	Delta, CO
Jaimee Lea Way	R57726	Arvada, CO	Richard MacTavish	R5776	San Ran Valley, AZ
Joseph K Gilkerson	R5727	Fredericksburg, VA			
Jackson W Guest	R5728	Watkinsville, GA			
William B Johnson	R5729	Powder Springs, GA			
James Graeme	R5731	Alpharetta, GA			
Dana McLendon	R5732	Brentwood, TN			
Timothy T Lowery	R5733	Enterprise, AL			
William Bedell	R5734	Raeford, NC			
Alisha Rae Gilliland	R5735	Carthage, NC			
Samuel T Gilliland	R5736	Carthage, NC			
Karl M Harnes	R5737	Southern Pines, NC			
Darrin S McInerney	R5738	Ellerbe, NC			
Alex J Orero	R5739	Cameron, NC			
Evan Woolis	R5740	Pinehurst, NC			
Shawn M Charbonneau	R5741	Gatesville, TX			



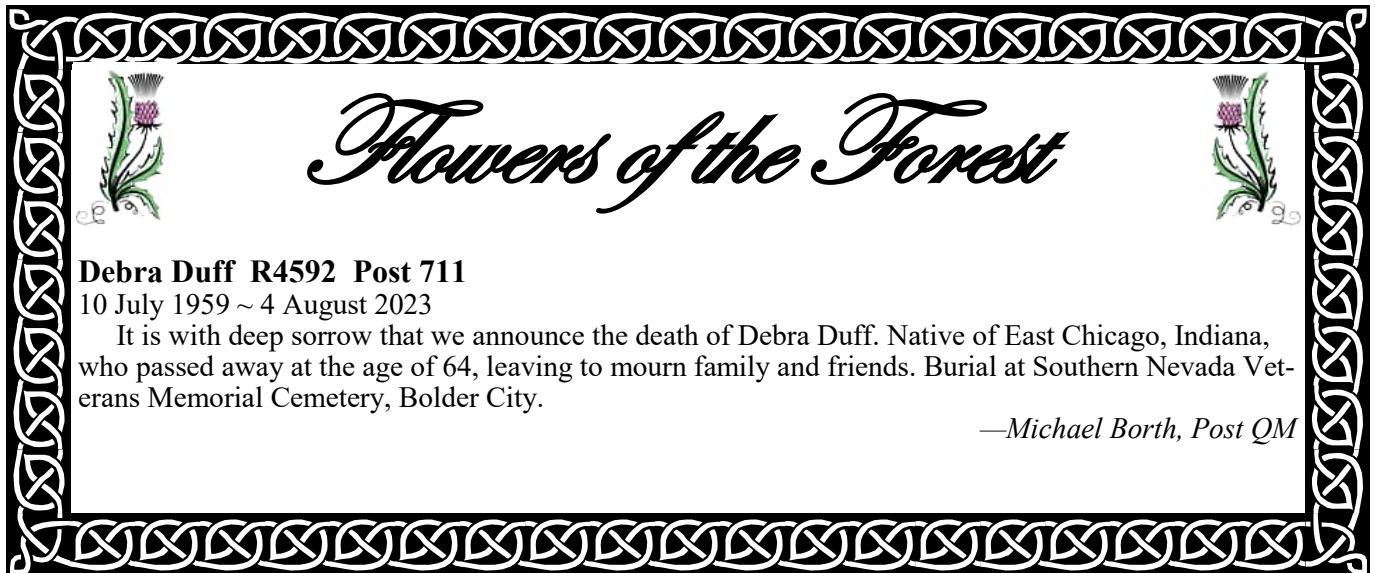
Merry Christmas to one and all

Welcome one and all. May your membership in SAMS bring you interesting times and many new friends.
We encourage all members to affiliate with a Post

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.



What is a Veteran? The Legal Definition

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.”

This definition explains that any individual that completed a service for any branch of armed forces classifies as a veteran as long as they were not dishonorably discharged. This meaning also answers the question, there is no minimum time of service required to be considered a “veteran” so long as you served on active duty.

Also note that active duty service members differ from reservists and the National Guard. These groups must have served on active duty for a period of 180 days or more to be considered a veteran (again, without having been discharged dishonorably).

Understanding the Difference Between Types of Military Service

ACTIVE DUTY: is simply full-time. Active-duty members are available for duty 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, with the exclusion of leave or are you authorized time off. Active-duty members fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Defense and can serve in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

“PART TIME”: Performing duties one weekend per month, plus two weeks of training per year, members of the Reserves and National Guard are considered part-time, though, since the Gulf War in 1990, they’ve spent exponentially more time called to full-time active duties. In fact, National Guards and Reserves generally spend two years of their six-year enlistment performing full-time active duty.

The principal difference between the National Guard and the Reserves is that the federal government is in charge of the Reserves, while the National Guard units predominately belong to individual states. Currently, National Guard are considered veterans if they served over 20 years even if they don’t get deployed. Prior to 2016, they were considered veterans only if they served 180 days or more in a federal status, such as serving on active status.

A program called the Active Guard/Reserves (AGR) includes members of the Reserves and National Guard that take part in full-time active duty. To make sure that National Guard and Reserve units are ready to mobilize at all times, AGR members provide daily operational support. For veteran’s benefit service requirements, AGR duty is similar to full-time active-duty service.

Source: VA.ORG

NOT ASSOCIATED WITH VA.GOV (U.S. DVA)



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 R# on the memo line directly to the National Adjutant, make the check payable to "SAMS"
- 2.) **Posts may collect** National dues and send a check with list of members with National R# to the National Adjutant. 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**. 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.

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.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

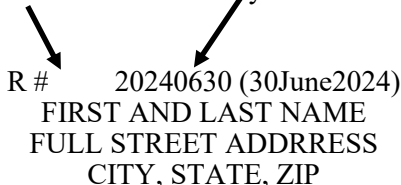
We Must take care of our brothers and sisters. Some websites to use as reference points for education purposes and in order for you to not be overwhelmed if you are supporting someone who is in desperate need.

- "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.

THE ANATOMY OF YOUR MAILING LABEL

Member number Date your dues are due



Please be sure to **INCLUDE** your full name and member number on all correspondences to PCs, RCs and National Officers. Also, it is very important that you notify your PC and the National Adjutant as soon as you change your home address, primary phone number or e-mail address.

If you are a two member household and do not want a Patriot sent to each member, send the full name, member number and a simple "no Patriot" of which member that does not want a Patriot to samsnatadj.2019@aol.com so it can be noted on the Master File.

Your old Patriots might be appreciated at a local library, Vet Center, Veteran's Home or high school. They also make great 'eye grabbers' for display in your tent at events.

VA NEWS

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the addition of three new Vet Centers and six Vet Center Outstations (smaller satellite locations) will be located in Arizona, California, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands to improve access to counseling for Veterans and service members.

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including no-cost professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, and their families. Services include counseling for needs such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma. Vet Centers also provide referrals to connect Veterans with their VA health care or benefits. In Fiscal Year 2023, more than 115,000 Veterans, service members, and their families received counseling at VA's 300+ Vet Centers nationwide.

"In 300 communities across the country, Vet Centers provide Veterans, service members, and their families with quick and easy access to the mental health care they need," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We're expanding this program to make sure that these heroes get the support they so rightly deserve – no matter where they live."

VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D said "Expanding this program throughout the U.S. and its territories reaffirms our commitment to meeting Veterans, service members, and their families where they are and improving the overall mental health and wellbeing of those who served."

Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief, and transition after trauma. Vet Center teams proactively work in the community, reducing barriers to care and improving access to care.

The newly approved Vet Centers, Vet Center Outstations, and their statuses are as follows:

- ◆ Sierra Vista Arizona Vet Center Outstation: This Outstation is in the leasing phase, with an anticipated opening date in 2024.
- ◆ Solano County California Vet Center Outstation: Will be located at 420 Executive Ct. N, Suite A, Fairfield, CA 94534 and is anticipated to open in early 2024.
- ◆ St. Cloud Minnesota Vet Center Outstation: Located at 330 Hwy 10, Suite 101, St. Cloud, MN 56304 and is anticipated to open at the beginning of 2024.
- ◆ Vineland New Jersey Vet Center Outstation: In the leasing phase, with the anticipated opening date to be determined.
- ◆ Clarksville Tennessee Vet Center: The current Outstation will convert to a full-sized, independent

Vet Center, staffed by a Vet Center Director, Outreach Specialist, Program Support Assistant, and three counselors. The location will remain at 141 Chesapeake Lane, Suite 101, Clarksville, TN 37040. The anticipated date of the transition is to be determined.

- ◆ Fredericksburg Virginia Vet Center: Is in the leasing phase, with the anticipated opening date to be determined. It will be staffed by a Vet Center Director, Outreach Specialist, Program Support Assistant, and two counselors.
- ◆ Leesburg Virginia Vet Center Outstation: Is in the leasing phase, with the anticipated opening date to be determined.
- ◆ U.S. Virgin Islands Vet Center: The current St. Thomas Outstation will convert to a full-sized, independent Vet Center, staffed by a Vet Center Director, Outreach Specialist, Program Support Assistant, and two counselors. The new Vet Center will be located at 9164 Estate Thomas, St. Thomas, VI 00802 and is planned to open by early summer 2024.
- ◆ Saipan Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Vet Center Outstation: Is in the leasing phase, with the anticipated opening date to be determined.

In the coming years, VA will continue to expand the Vet Center program to meet Veteran demand and provide local support to those who served.

To view open counseling and administrative positions at VA's Vet Centers, visit USAJobs and search Readjustment Counseling. To locate and connect to a Vet Center nearest you visit the Vet Center directory.

Bedford Virginia Women Veterans' health clinic expands

Work will soon begin on a \$15 million renovation, ushering in a new era of care for women Veterans.

Women are the fastest growing demographic at Bedford VA, and now comprise nearly 1500 patients served. With increasing demand, hospital leaders recognized infrastructure needed upgrading to meet sensitive needs.

"We are grateful to have won the contract to renovate this space for Bedford VA's women Veterans clinic," said Mark Voner, CEO of Veterans Development Corporation and a Veteran. For Voner, giving back touches close to home as he relies on VA for his own care.

Renovation will add much needed space for female Veterans. The redesign adds privacy, more exam rooms, upgraded clinical equipment, and dedicated space to host group counseling supporting mental health. "This whole building renovation will add much needed space for our female Veterans," said Charmaine

Brooks, lead engineer. “I am thankful to be leading this important project.”

For Army Veteran Leanna Lynch, news of the expansion brought relief. As a member of the Massachusetts Governor’s Women Veterans Advisory Council, she hears concerns from fellow women Veterans needing access to quality care. “Women Veterans have a set of unique needs. Safety and privacy are very important to us,” Lynch said. “Over the moon about the clinic expansion for so many reasons. Most exciting is the expanded services and space that is safe and private.”

The project, expected to finish in spring 2025 after a year and a half of intense renovation, promises to transform access at the growing campus. It helps Bedford VA deliver the full spectrum of primary, specialty and gender-specific care women Veterans earned through their military service and sacrifice.

Who is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery?

Veterans, service members, spouses, and dependents may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, as well as other benefits, if they meet one of these requirements. One of these must be true:

- ◆ The person qualifying for burial benefits is a Veteran who didn’t receive a dishonorable discharge, **or**
- ◆ The person qualifying for burial benefits is a service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, **or**
- ◆ The person qualifying for burial benefits is the spouse or surviving spouse of a Veteran (even if they remarried after the Veteran’s death), **or**
- ◆ The person qualifying for burial benefits is the minor child of a Veteran (even if the Veteran died first) or, in some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran.

A U.S. citizen who served in the Armed Forces of a U.S. ally during wartime may be eligible if they meet both of these requirements. Both of these must be true:

- ◆ The service member ended their last active service honorably by death or otherwise, **and**
- ◆ The service member was a U.S. citizen at the time they entered their last active service and at the time of their death.

A National Guard or Reserve member may be eligible if they meet any of these requirements. At least one of these must be true:

- ◆ The National Guard or Reserve member met their legal minimum active-duty service requirements, was called up to active duty and served their full term of service, and didn’t receive a dishonorable discharge, **or**
- ◆ The National Guard or Reserve member was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death, or would have been entitled to retirement pay if they weren’t under 60 years of age at the time of death, **or**
- ◆ The National Guard or Reserve member died while

hospitalized or getting treatment at the expense of the U.S. for an injury or illness that occurred while they were performing active-duty services for training or inactive-duty training under honorable conditions, **or**

- ◆ The National Guard or Reserve member became disabled or died from a disease or injury caused—or made worse—by their service during a period of active duty for training, **or**
- ◆ The National Guard or Reserve member became disabled or died from an injury or certain cardiovascular disorders caused—or made worse—by their service during a period of inactive-duty training.

A member of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps may be eligible if they meet any of these requirements. One of these must be true:

- ◆ The officer died under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, **or**
- ◆ The officer died under honorable conditions while performing authorized travel to or from a training camp or cruise, **or**
- ◆ The officer died under honorable conditions while hospitalized or getting treatment at the expense of the U.S. for an injury or illness that occurred while they were attending or traveling to a training camp or cruise under honorable conditions

A commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may be eligible if they meet any of these requirements. At least one of these must be true:

- ◆ The officer served on full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945, **or**
- ◆ The officer served before July 29, 1945, and was assigned to an area of immediate military hazard (as determined by the secretary of defense while in time of war or by a national emergency as declared by the president), **or**
- ◆ The officer served in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continued to serve there until their death.

A commissioned officer of the Public Health Service may be eligible if they meet at least one of these requirements. One of these must be true:

- ◆ The officer served on full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945. If their service was considered active duty for training, they must have become disabled or died from a disease or injury caused or made worse by their service.
- ◆ The officer performed full-time duty prior to July 29, 1945:
- ◆ In time of war, **or**
- ◆ On detail for duty with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, **or**
- ◆ While a part of the military forces of the United States by executive order of the president
- ◆ The officer served on inactive-duty training, and

their death resulted from an injury caused or made worse by their service.

WWII Merchant Mariner may be eligible if they meet at least one of these requirements. One of these must be true:

- ◆ The Merchant Mariner had oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1945, **or**
- ◆ The Merchant Mariner had oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, and died after November 11, 1998, **or**
- ◆ The Merchant Mariner served on blockships in support of Operation Mulberry during WW II.

To get a DD-214 documenting this service, mail an application to: Commandant (G-MVP-6) United States Coast Guard 2100 2nd Street, SW Washington, DC 20593.

A Philippine Armed Forces Veteran may be eligible if they meet these requirements.

- ◆ The Philippine Veteran was a citizen of the U.S. or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the U.S. at the time of their death, **and**
- ◆ The Philippine Veteran was residing in the U.S. at the time of their death and one of these must be true:
- ◆ The Philippine Veteran served before July 1, 1946, in the Philippine military (including recognized guerrilla forces), while these forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, and died on or after November 1, 2000, **or**
- ◆ The Philippine Veteran enlisted between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, with the Armed Forces of the United States with the consent of the Philippine government, and died on or after December 16, 2003.

A Hmong Veteran may be eligible if they meet all of these requirements. All of these must be true:

- ◆ The Hmong Veteran died on or after March 23, 2018, **and**
- ◆ The Hmong Veteran resided in the U.S. at the time of death, **and**
- ◆ The Hmong Veteran was naturalized under Section 2(1) of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 (also called the 2000 Act)

What burial benefits do Hmong Veterans qualify for?

Hmong Veterans are eligible for burial in a national or private cemetery. They're also eligible for a headstone or marker, but not for other memorial items (like a burial flag or Presidential Memorial Certificate) or for military funeral honors (like the playing of "Taps").

Spouses and surviving spouses of Hmong Veterans aren't eligible for interment or any other burial benefits, even if they were naturalized under the 2000 Act.

Specific groups that aren't eligible

These family members aren't eligible:

- ◆ A former spouse who isn't also a Veteran whose marriage to an eligible Veteran or service member

ended by annulment or divorce

- ◆ Family members of a Veteran convicted of subversive activities (unless the Veteran receives a pardon from the President of the United States)
- ◆ Other family members who don't meet the eligibility requirements

People aren't eligible if they were ordered to report to an induction station, but were discharged at that point and never actually entered military service.

Veterans aren't eligible if they:

- ◆ Separated from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions, **or**
 - ◆ Have a character of service that disqualifies them
- A VA regional office determines eligibility in cases where the Veteran has:
- ◆ An undesirable, bad conduct, and any other type of discharge other than honorable, **or**
 - ◆ Multiple discharges of varying character

Veterans aren't eligible if:

- ◆ They've been convicted of a federal or state capital crime and may receive a sentence of imprisonment for life or the death penalty—and the conviction is final, **or**
- ◆ Clear and convincing evidence shows that they've committed a federal or state capital crime, but they couldn't have a trial due to flight to avoid prosecution or death

These Veterans also don't qualify for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone, or marker.

Veterans convicted of certain sex offenses

- ◆ Veterans aren't eligible if they were convicted of a Tier III sex offense and sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment—and the conviction is final.

These Veterans also don't qualify for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone, or marker.

Veterans convicted of subversive activities

- ◆ Veterans aren't eligible if they were convicted of subversive activities after September 1, 1959, unless they've received a pardon from the President of the United States.

Veterans burial allowance

You may be eligible for Veterans burial allowances if you're paying for the burial and funeral costs and you won't be reimbursed by any other organization, like another government agency or the Veteran's employer. You must also meet all of these requirements.

One of these relationships or professional roles describes your connection to the Veteran:

- ◆ You're the Veteran's surviving spouse (We recognize same-sex marriages.), **or**
- ◆ You're the surviving partner from a legal union (a relationship made formal in a document issued by the state recognizing the union), **or**
- ◆ You're a surviving child of the Veteran, **or**
- ◆ You're a parent of the Veteran, **or**
- ◆ You're the executor or administrator of the Veteran's estate (someone who officially represents the Veteran)

The Veteran must not have received a dishonorable discharge, and one of these circumstances must be true:

- ◆ The Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability (a disability related to service), **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died while getting VA care, either at a VA facility or at a facility contracted by VA, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died while traveling with proper authorization, and at VA's expense, either to or from a facility for an examination, or to receive treatment or care, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died with an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death, if they would've been entitled to benefits before the time of death, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died while receiving a VA pension or compensation, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died while eligible for a VA pension or compensation at their time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay **or:**
- ◆ The Veteran had been getting a VA pension or compensation when they died, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran had chosen to get military retired pay instead of compensation

Note: We'll also provide an allowance for the cost of transporting a Veteran's remains for burial in a national cemetery.

You can't get burial allowances for certain individuals. We don't provide burial allowances if the individual died in any of these ways:

- ◆ On active duty, **or**
- ◆ While serving as a member of Congress, **or**
- ◆ While serving a federal prison sentence.

If you're eligible, you may receive these benefits:

- ◆ VA burial allowance for burial and funeral costs
- ◆ VA plot or interment allowance for the cost of the plot (gravesite) or interment
- ◆ VA transportation reimbursement for the cost of transporting the Veteran's remains to the final resting place

We provide burial benefits for all legal burial types, including cremation and burial at sea. We also provide burial benefits for donating the Veteran's remains to a medical school.

You must file a claim for a non-service-connected burial allowance within 2 years after the Veteran's burial. If a Veteran's discharge was changed after death from dishonorable to another status, you must file for an allowance claim within 2 years after the discharge update.

There's no time limit to file for a service-connected burial, plot, or interment allowance.

You'll need to send copies of these documents:

- ◆ The Veteran's military discharge papers (DD-214 or other separation documents)
- ◆ The Veteran's death certificate

- ◆ Any documents or receipts you have for the cost of transporting the Veteran's remains
- ◆ A statement of account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

The statement of account should include this information:

- ◆ The Veteran's name
- ◆ The type of service or item purchased
- ◆ Any credits
- ◆ The unpaid balance

As a surviving spouse, do I need to file a claim for burial costs?

No, you don't need to file a claim as a surviving spouse, as long as you're listed as the Veteran's spouse on the Veteran's profile. When we receive notice of the Veteran's death, we automatically pay a set amount to those eligible surviving spouses to help pay for the plot, the cost of interment, or transportation of the remains to the cemetery.

To Apply. Fill out an Application for Burial Benefits (VA Form 21P-530EZ). Download VA Form 21P-530EZ (PDF)

Mail the application and copies of supporting documents to your nearest VA regional office.

Note: If a Veteran's remains aren't claimed, we'll pay the person or organization responsible for the Veteran's burial a burial allowance based on the rates in this table. If the deceased qualifies, we may pay you back for the costs of moving the Veteran's remains to a VA national cemetery.

Have more questions?

Call us at 800-827-1000 and (TTY: 711). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET. Or call your VA regional office.

Military Awards and Decorations

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for cases involving Air Force and Army personnel, the NPRC will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request along with the records verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Use the addresses listed below, and mail your request accordingly.

How To Request Military Awards and Decorations.

For the Veteran: in general, the military services will work replacement medal requests for the veteran at no cost. This includes family members with the signed authorization of the veteran.

For the Next-of-Kin: the process (and cost) for replacement medals requests differs among the service branches and is dependent upon who is requesting the medal, particularly if the request involves an archival record.

For the General Public: if the service member sepa-

rated from military service 62 (or more) years ago, the public may purchase a copy of the veteran's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) to determine the awards due and obtain the medals from a commercial source. If the service member separated less than 62 years ago, the public may request such information from the OMPF via the Freedom of Information Act (see Access to OMPFs by the General Public). All below can be requested online.

ARMY: write to: National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Dr, St Louis, MO 63138.

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:
U.S. Army Human Resources Command Soldier Program and Services Division - Awards and Decorations Branch ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 1600 Spearhead Division Ave, Dept 480, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

NAVY: write to: National Personnel Record Center, 1 Archives Dr St. Louis, MO 63138

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:
Department of the Navy
Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-35), 2000 Navy Pentagon. Washington, DC 20350-2000

MARINE CORPS: write to: National Personnel Record Center, 1 Archives Dr, St. Louis, MO 63138

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:
Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMMA) 2008 Elliot Rd, Quantico, VA 22134

AIR FORCE: write to: National Personnel Record Center, 1 Archives Dr, St. Louis, MO 63138

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:
Active Duty Veterans: Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center HQ AFPC/DP1SP 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

Reserve and Air Guard Veterans: Air Reserve Personnel Center HQ ARPC/DPTARA 18420 E Silver Creek Ave, Bldg 390 MS 68 Buckley AFB, CO 80011.

COAST GUARD: write to: Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 900 (PSC-PSD-MA) Stop 7200 Arlington, VA 20598-7200

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:
Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4) Washington, DC 20593-0001

Cold War Recognition Certificate:

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified Federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the U.S. during the Cold War era from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

What Service does the NPRC Provide?

The NPRC, upon request, will provide copies of DD-214s (or equivalent) or SF-50s to authorized requesters. These documents may be used to apply for the Certificate. For information on how to obtain a copy of your DD-214 (for military service personnel) or SF-50 (for Federal civilian personnel) search the Internet for "Cold War Certificate Program - HRC

Homepage" for information concerning the application process.

While the NPRC provides proof of service and separation documents; the Center does not supply the Certificate itself, nor does it have the application form available.

General James Ferguson

Born 23 Feb 1828 in Belfast, Antrim, Ireland to Francis Ferguson and Mary Patrick. He was baptized a member of the LDS Church at Liverpool England in 1842 and emigrated to California. In 1846 he was a Utah Pioneer, he enlisted in the Mormon Battalion as Historian and Sergeant Major. He married Lucy Nutting in San Francisco. They soon left for Salt Lake City, Utah. He was appointed by Brigham Young as the first Sheriff of the Great Salt Lake County. He was the commander in the Utah Expedition to Fort Bridger and Green River in 1853.

Lt. Ferguson of the Nauvoo Legion (territorial militia) fought in a battle with Native Americans at Fort Utah which is now Provo, Utah. He was Brigham Young's personal bodyguard. He also served as the Territorial Attorney General. He was a noted Shakespeare actor in Salt Lake.

He served a mission for the LDS Church to England in 1854. He helped create opportunities for the handcart emigration in 1856. He was named Adjutant General of the Nauvoo Legion when he returned to Salt Lake.

After the Utah War he practiced law and continued his acting. James Ferguson and his partners started the Mountaineer newspaper around 1859. He died at age 35 on 30 August 1863 at Salt Lake City, Utah. He was buried at Salt Lake City Cemetery, Utah on 31 August 1863.



THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

A MONUMENTALLY IMPORTANT HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

By Jerry Paul

Many have doubtless heard of the Declaration of Arbroath, a letter written in 1320 by the barons and the whole community of Scotland to the pope, requesting that he recognize Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king, but how many have read the full translation? Perhaps the most famous and best known lines from the Declaration are:



“As long as a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be subjected to the lordship of the English. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself”.

The Declaration, probably drawn up by Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath, was originally written in Latin and authenticated by seals as documents at that time in history were not signed; it was sealed by eight earls and about forty barons. In the centuries since it was written there have been various copies and translations made, the copy held by the National Records of Scotland is the ‘file copy’, the only version to survive in its original form. It was kept in Edinburgh Castle until the seventeenth century; when work was being carried out on the castle it was removed to Tynninghame, the home of the official in charge of the records, where unfortunately it suffered damage through damp. It was returned to the custody of the Deputy Clerk Register, the predecessor of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland, in 1829. Although the Declaration had been damaged the full text was known from an engraving made in the early eighteenth century, which was re-engraved around 1815 by William Home Lizars and Daniel Lizars.

The Declaration was written during the war of independence with England, which began in 1296 when Edward I attempted to conquer Scotland. The country was left without a monarch on the deaths of Alexander III and his granddaughter Margaret, Maid of Norway, and Edward used an invitation to assist in selecting a successor as an excuse to press English claims of overlordship; he invaded when the Scots resisted. Despite William Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge in 1297, Edward persisted with his campaign, and in 1306 Rob-

ert the Bruce seized the throne and began a prolonged struggle to secure his position. Wallace's further victory at Bannockburn in 1314, in which an English army under Edward II was defeated, was a major achievement, but the English still refused to recognize Scotland's independence or to acknowledge Bruce as king. By 1320, after the Scots defied the pope's efforts to establish a truce with England, Scottish relations with the papacy were poor, and following the excommunication of Robert I and three of his barons by the pope the Scots sent the Declaration of Arbroath as part of an attempt at counter diplomacy. Despite the pope writing to Edward II urging him to make peace, Scotland's independence was not finally acknowledged until 1328.

The full text of the Declaration of Arbroath

“To the most Holy Father and Lord in Christ, the Lord John, by divine providence Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman and Universal Church, his humble and devout sons Duncan, Earl of Fife, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, Lord of Man and of Annandale, Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, Malise, Earl of Strathearn, Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, William, Earl of Ross, Magnus, Earl of Caithness and Orkney, and William, Earl of Sutherland; Walter, Steward of Scotland, William Soules, Butler of Scotland, James, Lord of Douglas, Roger Mowbray, David, Lord of Brechin, David Graham, Ingram Umfraville, John Menteith, guardian of the earldom of Menteith, Alexander Fraser, Gilbert Hay, Constable of Scotland, Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland, Henry St Clair, John Graham, David Lindsay, William Oliphant, Patrick Graham, John Fenton, William Abernethy, David Wemyss, William Mushet, Fergus of Ardrossan, Eustace Maxwell, William Ramsay, William Mowat, Alan Murray, Donald Campbell, John Cameron, Reginald Cheyne, Alexander Seton, Andrew Leslie, and Alexander Straiton, and the other barons and freeholders and the whole community of the realm of Scotland send all manner of filial reverence, with devout kisses of his blessed feet.”

“Most Holy Father and Lord, we know and from the chronicles and books of the ancients we find that among other famous nations our own, the Scots, has been graced with widespread renown. They journeyed from Greater Scythia by way of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Pillars of Hercules, and dwelt for a long course of time in Spain among the most savage tribes, but nowhere could they be subdued by any race, however barbarous. Thence they came, twelve hundred years after the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea, to their home in the west where they still live today. The Britons they first drove out, the Picts they utterly destroyed, and, even though very often assailed by the Norwegians, the Danes and the English, they took possession of that home with many victories and untold efforts; and, as the historians of old time bear witness, they have held it

free of all bondage ever since. In their kingdom there have reigned one hundred and thirteen kings of their own royal stock, the line unbroken a single foreigner. The high qualities and deserts of these people, were they not otherwise manifest, gain glory enough from this: that the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ, after His Passion and Resurrection, called them, even though settled in the uttermost parts of the earth, almost the first to His most holy faith. Nor would He have them confirmed in that faith by merely anyone but by the first of His Apostles - by calling, though second or third in rank - the most gentle Saint Andrew, the Blessed Peter's brother, and desired him to keep them under his protection as their patron forever."

"The Most Holy Fathers your predecessors gave careful heed to these things and bestowed many favours and numerous privileges on this same kingdom and people, as being the special charge of the Blessed Peter's brother. Thus our nation under their protection did indeed live in freedom and peace up to the time when that mighty prince the King of the English, Edward, the father of the one who reigns today, when our kingdom had no head and our people harboured no malice or treachery and were then unused to wars or invasions, came in the guise of a friend and ally to harass them as an enemy. The deeds of cruelty, massacre, violence, pillage, arson, imprisoning prelates, burning down monasteries, robbing and killing monks and nuns, and yet other outrages without number which he committed against our people, sparing neither age nor sex, religion nor rank, no one could describe nor fully imagine unless he had seen them with his own eyes."

"But from these countless evils we have been set free, by the help of Him Who though He afflicts yet heals and restores, by our most tireless Prince, King and Lord, the Lord Robert. He, that his people and his heritage might be delivered out of the hands of our enemies, met toil and fatigue, hunger and peril, like another Macabaeus or Joshua and bore them cheerfully. Him, too, divine providence, his right of succession according to or laws and customs which we shall maintain to the death, and the due consent and assent of us all have made our Prince and King. To him, as to the man by whom salvation has been wrought unto our people, we are bound both by law and by his merits that our freedom may be still maintained, and by him, come what may, we mean to stand. Yet if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King; for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."

"Therefore it is, Reverend Father and Lord, that we beseech your Holiness with our most earnest prayers and suppliant hearts, inasmuch as you will in your sin-

cerity and goodness consider all this, that, since with Him Whose Vice-Regent on earth you are there is neither weighing nor distinction of Jew and Greek, Scotsman or Englishman, you will look with the eyes of a father on the troubles and privation brought by the English upon us and upon the Church of God. May it please you to admonish and exhort the King of the English, who ought to be satisfied with what belongs to him since England used once to be enough for seven kings or more, to leave us Scots in peace, who live in this poor little Scotland, beyond which there is no dwelling-place at all, and covet nothing but our own. We are sincerely willing to do anything for him, having regard to our condition, that we can, to win peace for ourselves."

"This truly concerns you, Holy Father, since you see the savagery of the heathen raging against the Christians, as the sins of Christians have indeed deserved, and the frontiers of Christendom being pressed inward every day; and how much it will tarnish your Holiness's memory if (which God forbid) the Church suffers eclipse or scandal in any branch of it during your time, you must perceive. Then rouse the Christian princes who for false reasons pretend that they cannot go to help of the Holy Land because of wars they have on hand with their neighbours. The real reason that prevents them is that in making war on their smaller neighbours they find quicker profit and weaker resistance. But how cheerfully our Lord the King and we too would go there if the King of the English would leave us in peace, He from Whom nothing is hidden well knows; and we profess and declare it to you as the Vicar of Christ and to all Christendom. But if your Holiness puts too much faith in the tales the English tell and will not give sincere belief to all this, nor refrain from favouring them to our prejudice, then the slaughter of bodies, the perdition of souls, and all the other misfortunes that will follow, inflicted by them on us and by us on them, will, we believe, be surely laid by the Most High to your charge."

"To conclude, we are and shall ever be, as far as duty calls us, ready to do your will in all things, as obedient sons to you as His Vicar; and to Him as the Supreme King and Judge we commit the maintenance of our cause, casting our cares upon Him and firmly trusting that He will inspire us with courage and bring our enemies to nought."

"May the Most High preserve you to his Holy Church in holiness and health and grant you length of days."

"Given at the monastery of Arbroath in Scotland on the sixth day of the month of April in the year of grace thirteen hundred and twenty and the fifteenth year of the reign of our King aforesaid."

Acknowledgement: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Translation: <https://declaration.scot/>

ADDENDUM: The letter itself is written in Latin. It uses the Latin versions of the signatories' titles, and in some cases, the spelling of names has changed over the years. This list generally uses the titles of the

signatories' Wikipedia biographies.

Listed below are the signatories of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320:

- ◆ Duncan, Earl of Fife (*changed sides in 1332*)
- ◆ Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray (*nephew and supporter of King Robert although briefly fought for the English after being captured by them, Guardian of the Realm after Robert the Bruce's death*)
- ◆ Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March (*or Earl of Dunbar*) (*changed sides several times*)
- ◆ Malise, Earl of Strathearn (*King Robert loyalist*)
- ◆ Malcolm, Earl of Lennox (*King Robert loyalist*)
- ◆ William, Earl of Ross (*earlier betrayed King Robert's female relatives to the English*)
- ◆ Magnús Jónsson, Earl of Orkney
- ◆ William de Moravia, Earl of Sutherland
- ◆ Walter, High Steward of Scotland (*King Robert loyalist*)
- ◆ William de Soules, Lord of Liddesdale and Butler of Scotland (*later imprisoned for plotting against the King*)
- ◆ Sir James Douglas, Lord of Douglas (*one of King Robert's leading loyalists*)
- ◆ Roger de Mowbray, Lord of Barnbougle and Dalmeny (*later imprisoned for plotting against King Robert*)
- ◆ David, Lord of Brechin (*later executed for plotting against King Robert*)
- ◆ David de Graham of Kincardine
- ◆ Ingram de Umfraville (*fought on the English side at Bannockburn but then changed sides to support King Robert*)
- ◆ John de Menteith, guardian of the earldom of Menteith (*earlier betrayed William Wallace to the English*)
- ◆ Alexander Fraser of Touchfraser and Cowie
- ◆ Gilbert de la Hay, Constable of Scotland (*King Robert loyalist*)
- ◆ Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland (*King Robert loyalist*)
- ◆ Henry St Clair of Rosslyn
- ◆ John de Graham, Lord of Dalkeith, Abercorn & Eskdale
- ◆ David Lindsay of Crawford
- ◆ William Oliphant, Lord of Aberdalgie and Dupplin (*briefly fought for the English*)
- ◆ Patrick de Graham of Lovat
- ◆ John de Fenton, Lord of Baikie and Beaufort
- ◆ William de Abernethy of Saltoun
- ◆ David Wemyss of Wemyss
- ◆ William Mushet
- ◆ Fergus of Ardrossan
- ◆ Eustace Maxwell of Caerlaverock
- ◆ William Ramsay
- ◆ William de Monte Alto, Lord of Ferne

- ◆ Alan Murray
- ◆ Donald Campbell
- ◆ John Cameron
- ◆ Reginald le Chen, Lord of Inverugie and Duffus
- ◆ Alexander Seton
- ◆ Andrew de Leslie
- ◆ Alexander Straiton

In addition, the names of the following do not appear in the document's text, but their names are written on seal tags and their seals are present:

- ◆ Alexander de Lamberton (*became a supporter of Edward Balliol after the Battle of Dupplin Moor, 1332*)
- ◆ Edward Keith (*subsequently Marischal of Scotland; d. 1346*)
- ◆ Arthur Campbell (*Bruce loyalist*)
- ◆ Thomas de Menzies (*Bruce loyalist*)
- ◆ John de Inchmartin (*became a supporter of Edward Balliol after the Battle of Dupplin Moor, 1332; d. after 1334*)
- ◆ John Duraunt
- ◆ Thomas de Morham

Legacy

In 1998 former majority leader Trent Lott succeeded in instituting an annual "National Tartan Day" on 6 April by resolution of the United States Senate.

US Senate Resolution 155 of 10 November 1997 states that "the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320 and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on that inspirational document". However, although this influence is accepted by some historians, it is disputed by others.

In 2016 the Declaration of Arbroath was placed on the UK Memory of the World Register, part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

2020 was the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath's composition; an Arbroath 2020 festival was arranged but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh planned to display the document to the public for the first time in fifteen years.



Mary MacDonald MacPherson, Màiri Mhòr nan Òran (Big Mary of the Songs)

Mary MacDonald MacPherson, known as *Màiri Mhòr* was a Scottish Gaelic poet from the Isle of Skye, whose contribution to Scottish Gaelic literature is focused heavily upon the Highland Clearances and the Crofters War; the Highland Land League's campaigns of rent strikes and other forms of direct action. Although she could read her own work when it was written down, she could not write it down herself. She retained her songs and poems in her memory and eventually dictated them to others, who wrote them down for publication. She often referred to herself as *Màiri Nighean Iain Bhàin* (Mary, daughter of fair haired John), the name by which she would have been known in the Skye of her childhood.

Born at Skeabost, Isle of Skye, in 1821, she moved to Inverness in 1844 where she married shoemaker Isaac MacPherson in 1847. She and Isaac had five children who lived to maturity. Following the death of her husband in 1871, *Mairi Mhòr* took employment as a domestic servant with the family of a British Army officer. She was accused of stealing clothes belonging to the officer's wife, who had just died of typhoid, and sentenced to 40 days imprisonment. All court documents relating to the case appear to have been lost and it is unclear exactly what happened. It is often claimed that another servant with a grudge against her planted the stolen clothes in *Mairi Mhòr's* box. She protested her innocence for the rest of her life and was almost universally believed by the Gaelic speaking community. At the time of her trial, she was supported by John Murdoch, campaigning journalist and founder of *The Highlander*. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, Inverness solicitor and politician, is also said to have acted on her behalf, but it is unclear in what capacity. This marks the start of a friendship between the poet and the politician that lasted for the rest of her life. Her brush with the law and the feeling it aroused is recorded in *Tha mi sgìth de luchd na Beurla* (I'm tired of the English speakers). She said that the *tàmailt* (humiliation) she endured brought her muse to life.

On her release, aged about 50 in 1872, *Mairi Mhòr* moved to Glasgow. Here she seems to have learned to read and write in English, and qualified with a nursing certificate and diploma in obstetrics from Glasgow Royal Infirmary. In 1876 she moved to Greenock to work but often returned to Glasgow for *cèilidhs* and other gatherings of Skye people. Both Glasgow and Greenock had sizeable Gaelic-speaking communities at the time. It is thought that she probably sang at many of these *cèilidhs* as there is evidence of her frequently doing so after she retired to Skye in 1882. By this time she had acquired a reputation for her songs and her championing of the crofters in the increasingly heated debate over land rights. She sang at the first ever National Mòd in Oban in 1892 but did not win a medal.

On returning to Skye she lived with a friend, Mrs.

MacRae of Os, until Lachlann MacDonald, laird of Skeabost provided her with a rent free cottage. She then became actively involved in the Crofters' War and the Highland land issue, which provided the themes of some of her best known songs. She is known to have been present at Highland Land League meetings and to have been actively involved with campaigners such as Alexander Mackenzie and her friend Fraser-Mackintosh in the run up to the Napier Commission of 1883-4 and the Crofters Act of 1886.

In one of her songs of this period, "*Nuair chaidh na ceithir ùr oirre*" she describes a crossing of the Strome Ferry with Fraser-Mackintosh, Mackenzie (*Clach na Cùdainn*), his son and Kenneth MacDonald to gather support for the land struggle. 'Clach' tells her that the boat will sink if she gets on board with the rest as she weighs in at over 2030 lbs. Instead she is to wait behind and the boatman will return for her alone. She was 5' - 9" inches tall so the epithet *mhòr* can refer to her physique as well as to her status in Gaelic poetry. Among other well known and frequently sung songs from her Land League period are "*Oran Beinn Li*", "*Coinneamh nan Croitearan*" and "*Eilean a' Cheò*".

Like her contemporary Gaelic bard and activist, Mary Mackellar, she greatly admired and became friendly with Professor John Stuart Blackie. She was a skilled spinner and wool worker and made Blackie a tartan plaid. Later she devised a tartan which she called "The Blackie". Blackie gave her a beautifully crafted *cromag* (shepherd's crook). She also presented Fraser-Mackintosh with a woollen suit. She had done the spinning and dying but not the weaving.

Her last known address, at Beaumont Crescent, Portree, in the building now called the Rosedale Hotel, is commemorated today with a blue plaque.

Màiri Mhòr died in Portree 1898 and was buried in Chapel Yard Cemetery in Inverness beside her husband. A gravestone was erected by Fraser-Mackintosh.



Photograph of *Màiri Mhòr* with her spinning whorl

The Confederate Navy

By James Schiaffino

For some ersatz historians the nautical events of the Civil War begin and end with the battle at Hampton Roads and the draw between the *CSN Virginia* and the *USS Monitor*. Although a few might mention, although not by name, General Winfield “Old Fuss and Feathers” Scott and his “Anaconda Plan” to surround the South like a snake and choke away its life-giving commerce including cotton. However, as a matter of fact there were naval engagements just off the coast of Cherbourg, France, the Aleutian Islands, St. Paul Island in the Indian Ocean, the Sea of Okhotsk and Ponape Island in the South Pacific, to name but a few.

The Confederate States did have an actual ‘high seas’ navy. It wasn’t large but it was dangerous. It consisted mostly of three ships: the *Oreto*, the *Sea King*, and the *Enrica*. These were British-built sloops of war with both sail and steam power. Once they had been launched and were away from “neutral” England they were renamed the *CSS Florida*, the *CSS Alabama* and the *CSS Shenandoah*, respectively. During their entire lifetimes they never once caught a glimpse of a Southern coastline. They also kept many Union ships away from Southern shores and caused shipping insurance to skyrocket.

These three ships patrolled all the world’s oceans forcing the Union Navy to send ships in search of them to far away locations such as the Indian Ocean, as previously mentioned. Ships that could have been put to better use blockading Southern Ports.

Their crews were British, recruited with high pay and plenty of grog. These three ships were very successful, sinking 135 Union merchant vessels. During her two year adventure, the *CSS Alabama* patrolled the waters of the Eastern Atlantic to the Azores, the Gulf of Mexico, Brazil and even South Africa and the East Indies. The *CSS Alabama* captured or sank 65 Union ships and captured over 2,000 sailors. The *Alabama*’s motto: *Aide-toi et Dieu t’aidera* (French for “God helps those who help themselves”) was engraved in the bronze of the great double ship’s wheel.

CSS Alabama was a screw-driven sloop-of-war built in 1862 at Birkenhead on the River Mersey opposite Liverpool, England by John Laird Sons and Company. *Alabama*’s ordnance consisted of six muzzle-loading, 32-pounder naval smoothbores (three firing to port and three firing to starboard) and two larger and more powerful pivot cannons. The pivot cannons were placed fore and aft of the main mast and could be rotated to fire across the port or starboard sides of the cruiser. She was captained by Raphael Semmes. During her lifetime she burned 65 Union vessels, most of them merchant ships but also the Union Blockade side-wheeler *USS Hatteras*. During all of *Alabama*’s raiding ventures, captured ships’ crews and passengers were never harmed, only detained until they could be placed

aboard a neutral ship or ashore in a friendly or neutral port.

The *CSS Alabama* met her end 5,000 miles from Richmond outside the French coastal town of Cherbourg. On 11 June 1864, she had stopped there for repairs and resupply. For two years she had been pursued by the *USS Kearsarge* under the command of Captain John Winslow. He finally caught up to her three days later. Always a Southern gentleman, *Alabama*’s Captain Semmes sent a note to Captain Winslow stating, “Captain Winslow: Sir- I am undergoing a few repairs here which, I hope, will not take longer than the morrow. Then I will come out and fight you a fair and square fight. Most respectfully yours, Captain Semmes.”

While in port the *Alabama* took on a hundred tons of coal which would help barricade her engines and keep her low in the water providing the enemy with less surface area to hit.

The crew of the *Kearsarge* had lined the flanks of the ship with chains and tacked wooden veneer over them. While awaiting the *Alabama*, they sent their valuables ashore and spent their time sharpening cutlasses and pikes anticipating a boarding attempt.

The French shut down communication between the two vessels to prevent spying to create any unfair advantage. Meanwhile, excitement on shore built. Excursion trains brought hundreds of curious sightseers and a small flotilla of pleasure craft hovered just beyond the breakwater of the harbor. Famed artist Edouard Manet witnessed the fight and immortalized it in a painting.

The *Alabama* left drydock and proceeded to steam out of Cherbourg harbor to meet her fate. As she sailed past the French ship of the line *Napoleon*, that ship’s band played ‘Dixie’ to encourage *Alabama* on to its destiny. The French broadside ironclad, *Couronne*, escorted the Confederate cruise out past the three-mile limit to guarantee that the battle would take place in neutral waters.

Just before 1100, the *Alabama* began to lob shells at the *Kearsarge*. The two ships circled each other trying to gain an advantage. Both tried to “cross the T” and inflict heavy fire along the length of the ship. Neither were successful. Then a shell from the *Alabama* tore into the stern of the *Kearsarge*. It could have potentially ruined the steering and broken the wooden keystone that held the ship together. The crew held their collective breath waiting to see if their ship would founder. The shell failed to explode.

A perfect shot from the *Kearsarge* however, found the *Alabama*’s steering, suffering severe damage. She made a break for neutral water but she was too severely damaged and sank stern first in 200 feet of water. The ship’s officers were rescued by a private British steam yacht *Deerhound*, while *Kearsarge* stood off to recover

her rescue boats. Captain Winslow had to sullenly stand by and watch *Deerhound* spirit his adversary away to England. Semmes and 41 crew members successfully reached England. Semmes eventually returned to the Confederacy and became a Confederate admiral in the last weeks of the war.

The *CSS Florida* patrolled the Eastern Atlantic from Bermuda to the West Indies and to Tenerife in the Canary Islands before heading to Bahia, Brazil. *Florida* captured 37 prizes in her impressive career. Two of her prizes were absorbed into the Confederate States Navy as *CSS Tacony* and *CSS Clarence* and in turn took 23 more prizes. Operating in the Atlantic and West Indies over the next eight months, *Florida* captured 22 prizes, striking terror in the United States' merchant marine and frustrating the Union Navy's efforts to catch her. In August 1863, she went to Brest, France, remaining there until the following February, when she again put to sea past watching Union forces. Under the command of First Lieutenant Charles M. Morris, *Florida* took another 11 prizes between then and October 1864, when she arrived at Bahia, Brazil.

On 7 October 1863 while anchored off the coast of Bahia, her captain went ashore with half his crew. The *CSS Florida* was caught defenseless in an illegal night attack by Commander Napoleon Collins, of the Union Navy steam sloop-of-war *USS Wachusett*. Towed to sea, she was sent to the United States as a prize, despite the Empire of Brazil's protests at the violation of its sovereignty. For his actions, Commander Collins was court-martialed and was convicted of violating Brazilian territorial rights. Not surprisingly, the verdict was set aside by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles.

On 28 November 1864 while at Newport News, Virginia, the *Florida* sank under dubious circumstances after a collision with the Union Army Transport *USAT Alliance*, a troop ferry.

The *CSS Shenandoah* was built in 1863 by Alexander Stephen & Sons, Glasgow, Scotland, for Robertson & Co., Glasgow, to be named *Sea King*, her name was changed to *CSS Shenandoah* and James Waddell was named captain. She was charged with seeking enemy merchant ships on the Indian Ocean route between the Cape of Good Hope and Australia, and the Pacific whaling fleet. On route to the Cape, the Confederates captured six prizes. Five were burned or scuttled, after the crew and passengers had been removed. The sixth was bonded and used to transport the prisoners to Bahia, Brazil, where they were released.

Shenandoah sailed for the Pacific Ocean and arrived at Melbourne, Colony of Victoria, on 25 January 1865, where she signed on 40 crew members and filled her storerooms. She then sailed for the Indian Ocean, taking only one prize in the Indian Ocean.

En route to the North Pacific whaling grounds, on 3

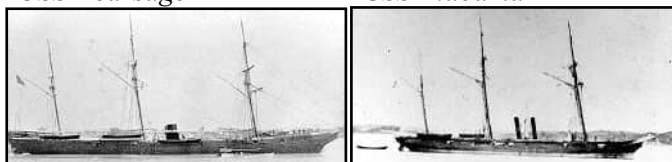
-4 April 1865, Waddell burned four whalers in the Caroline Islands. After a three-week cruise to the ice and fog of the Sea of Okhotsk yielded only a single prize, due to a warning which had preceded him, Waddell headed north past the Aleutian Islands into the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. *Shenandoah* then proceeded to capture 11 more prizes.

The *Shenandoah* was never involved in conflict against any Union Naval vessel. She had remained at sea for 12 months and 17 days, traversed 58,000 miles. She captured Union merchant vessels valued at nearly \$1,400,000 (equivalent to \$24,800,000 in 2021) The *Shenandoah* was the only Confederate vessel to circumnavigate the world. She was the last Confederate vessel to lower her flag. It occurred mid-river on the River Mersey at Liverpool, England, on 6 November 1865. Three months after the end of the civil war.



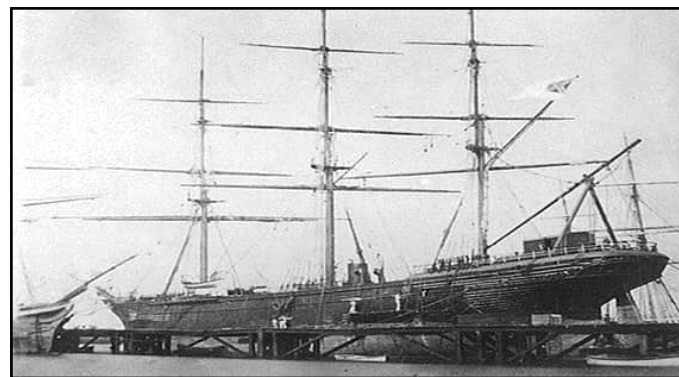
USS Kearsage

CSS Alabama



CSS Florida

USS Wachusett



CSS Shenandoah





Post 1775 Color Guard version of “Put Your Little Foot” or is it the “Hokey-Pokey”?



Post 1775 Color Guard at Beaufort NC Crystal Coast Highland Games. L-R: Victor St Pierre, Caleb Rice, Clifton Maddox and Barrett Graham.



Post 1775 picnic. Holding the cake for our 30th Anniversary. L-R: Adj Frank Ballentine, PC Ken Lloyd, VC Cory Nickles, Compt Jason Hudson.



Post 1775 Julie Ballentine and Jill Raines marched in the Mooresville Veterans Parade handling out American Flags, stickers and candy.



David and Jill Raines provided the vehicle representing 1775 in the Mooresville Veterans Parade

SAMS on Parade



Post 1847
12 Oct,
Utah State Capitol
Nicole Thompson
Presenting shadow
box to
SK2 Thompson



Post 328 Color Guard at opening ceremonies on Veterans Day at Maryville College, Maryville, TN.
L-R: PC Bill Wade, Randy Gratz, RC John Byington, Walter Andruzzi, Adj Terry Allmond led by Post Piper Welker Spencer



20 Oct Moab Festival Post 1847 Honor Guard
L-R: PC Kendall Sorensen, Connie Carlson, Nicole Thompson



Homeless Veteran Stand Down 17 Oct. El Paso Co., Colorado Springs. Post 1806 members preparing to issue new jeans to homeless veterans.
L-R: Fred Frandsen, PC John Russell, (over John's shoulder) Ned Carroll, Jay Mackay, spouse Sandy Russell, Jack Casey Not in photo: Terri Jo Blackwell-Nelson. Photo by Rollande Glynn



Provo Airport Utah Honor Flight welcome home flag line 8 Nov.
L-R: Robert Nay (American Legion), Rob Timmons, PC Kendall Sorensen, Andrew Thomas (American Legion), John Roberts, Connie Carlson



Post 81, Pony 1-2 CH3E, Helicopter Wash.
L-R: Adj. Gordon Walker, Travis and Natalie Goes,
Amy Fee, Allison Stoner, Sean Stoner, Michael Norton,
Suzi and Alex Wilson.



Post 1839 San Antonio/Helotes Scottish Highland Games, L-R: PC George Cummins Vieyra, QM Raeleen Cummins Vieyra, Post Historian Dennis Finuf.



Post 1861 San Diego Games at Vista. PC Jay Rindler,
Dave Schuett

5 Nov
Post 1839
Kirkin' o'
Tartan,
Comfort, TX
PC George
Cummins
Vieyra and
QM Raeleen
Cummins
Vieyra



5 Nov, Post 1839 Kirkin' o' Tartan, Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Comfort.
L-R: PC George Cummins Vieyra, QM Raeleen Cummins Vieyra, Mary Contois, Piper Jonathan Gobeert, Theresa Crawford, Reverend David A. Guthrie, Historian Dennis Finuf;
Front L-R: Pastor Katie Evans, Penny Finuf, Aphy St. James Feeley (with Chapie), Anna Giron and three auxiliary members in the back.



Post 7, Labor Day weekend, Virginia Scottish Games
L-R: PC Mark Wardlaw, Stacy Spadafora, John "Doc"
Miller, Sam Kistler, Robert Brown, Joe Spruill, Post
116 PC Ray Burton



11 Nov, San Jose Veterans Day Parade. Post 1921 L-R: John
Ralls, David Miller, Paul Baxter, Mike Medeiros, XO Dave
Reynolds.



Post 2. Little service rivalry between Mark Wardlaw
and Doc Miller, GO NAVY!



11 Nov California State Veterans Home, Yountville.
Post 1921 CO Jo Lawrence, Tom McCombs
12 Nov Mare Island Naval Cemetery, Vallejo. Post
1921CO Jo Lawrence, Bob Wylie, Tom McCombs,
Chuck Jamison.



21 October, Post 1775 and Garrison Commander of the
78th Fraser Highlander's Ft. New Inverness, Major Bryan
Harkins and his wife Teresa Harkins exchanged wedding
vows at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. Both The
78th Fraser's and Post 1775 served as honor guards for the
service.



October, Post 1921 Gary Kepner on Honor Flight, Korean
Memorial, Washington, DC



Post 81, Sierra Vista Veterans Day Parade. L-R (rear): PC Allan Sperling, Jessica Wells, Dave Cook, Rick Bowman. Center: Kiven Hardison, Guy Peabody, Travis Goes, Terry Bastian, David Barnhill, Sarah Barrett. Front: Post 81 Piper Bryan Laidlaw.

Post 1864 April Green, I have never been so busy with piping request. In the last month, I have played for two funerals, a VA event and the town's Christmas celebration. I love piping and every month I get better playing. Also, I designed the Post patch.



20-21 Oct. Parade of Tartans, Stone Mountain Highland Games L-R: PC 81 Allan Sperling, Myken Spiesz, 1775 PC Ken Lloyd, Post 60 Kenn Angus, 1775 VC Cory Nickles, Post 60 John Graf, 1775 Debra Lloyd

Regional Commander's Report

1. NEW ENGLAND

MAINE:

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

VERMONT:

MASSACHUSETTS:

RHODE ISLAND:

CONNECTICUT:

Bill Wolf, John Killian, and I participated in a Veteran's Day flag retirement ceremony at Fort Independence on Castle Island in Boston, MA. Bill spoke the majority of the event with John was acting Sergeant-at-Arms for the flag retirement and I accompanied John with sword to protect the flag and we let the pipes into the ceremony. I also acted as Chaplain saying a prayer over the event as the sister that normally performs this duty was unavailable. The event was organized by the Castle Island Association in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

—Drew Lyons, Interim RC, andrewjlyons@yahoo.com

2. NEW YORK.

—, RC,

3. KEYSTONE

PENNSYLVANIA:

NEW JERSEY:

—, RC,

4. MID ATLANTIC

DELAWARE

MARYLAND/VIRGINIA:

WASHINGTON DC

—Bill Johnson, RC, usscout15690@aol.com

5. S. ATLANTIC

GEORGIA:

NORTH CAROLINA:

SOUTH CAROLINA:

—Lachlan Hyatt, RC, lachlanhyatt1@hotmail.com

6. GULF STATES

FLORIDA:

ALABAMA:

LOUISIANA:

MISSISSIPPI:

—Charlie Kehm, RC, chkclangunnflorida@gmail.com

7. GREAT LAKES

WEST VIRGINIA:

OHIO:

INDIANA:

MICHIGAN:

—Steven Smith, RC, samsregion7cdr@gmail.com

8. DAKOTA REGION

NEBRASKA

SOUTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA

—Ronald D Hunter, RC, ron@niobrara-carriage.com

9. HAWKEYE VALLEY

NORTHERN ILLINOIS:

IOWA:

WISCONSIN:

MINNESOTA:

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

10. MISSOURI VALLEY

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS:

MISSOURI:

KANSAS:

—Walter M. Watt, RC, wmwatt50@hotmail.com

11. TENNESSEE VALLEY

TENNESSEE:

KENTUCKY:

ARKANSAS:

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

Aide: John Byington, john.byington@baesystems.com

12. TEXAS / OKLAHOMA

TEXAS:

OKLAHOMA:

This has been the busiest festival season I have ever had! Out of the eleven weekends from 1 September to 12 November, I have done one Post meeting, seven festivals, and had only three weekends off at home. That's a lot of driving. I don't want to be too thick in the description here, this would end up being too long of an epic tail.

It all started with a very long drive from Ft. Worth to Estes Park, Colorado for the Longs Peak Highland Games and Scottish Festival, where I joined several friends the DFW area including, Post 1845 members Thomas Duncan, Kevin Gates and his wife Teri, honorary member Jill Burt, her son James, and other members of Jill's 'inner circle'. Naturally I visited NVC Maggie Rothermel, and other members of Post 100. At this Festival, Jill insisted we catch a musical duo, The Harp Twins. They are on UTube, but it is best to catch them in person. They will be at the San Antonio Highland Games 6-7 April. They play heavy metal on the electric harp!

From Estes Park on 11 September, I drove in three stages to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, arriving on the 15th for ScotFest. At Broken Arrow, I was met by three local members who helped me set up my tent, and the tent of another honorary member of Post 1845, Gary Ballard, with his wife Margarete who manned their tent for Clans MacDuff and MacClelland.

SAMS in Oklahoma did very well due in large part to Fred Wiggins who spoke at some length to an insanely large number of people about SAMS to veterans, and others who I had not met on my previous trips to ScotFest. These 'previous contacts' were happy to learn of our progress to start a State of Oklahoma Post in the near future. Some had already joined SAMS National.

The next weekend, I was back in Ft. Worth for a meeting of Post 1845, nicely attended by several members. Next, on 30 September, I was in the Houston area at the San Jacinto Battlefield Memorial, for the San Jacinto Highland Games. Their motto was 'Come and

Throw It'. It was a small one-day event. Lawrence Ching, my Point-Of-Contact in Houston, brought his tent set-up, so I got to travel light. Although it was a small affair, I did talk to one of the lady athletes who got contact information from me about SAMS and Post 1836 in San Antonio where she lives. Lawrence made a few contacts and as the 'boss' for the Memorial was well pleased with the way everyone behaved themselves, he said he would have no problem with hosting the Games again next year.

I was back in the Houston area the weekend of 14 Oct. for the one day Houston Highland Games and Scottish Festival, held in Humble, just east of Houston. Lawrence again brought his tent and set-up. He got a few more contacts on his contact list. We had an excellent view of the Games.

The next weekend, I was again in Oklahoma in Choctaw Creek just east of Oklahoma City for the three day Oklahoma Highland Gathering, their second year. Again, Fred Wiggins was in fine form interacting with the festival goers. We got five pages of contact information from interested veterans and five signatures on the Post Charter Petition. We also had the initial Post organizational meeting of Oklahoma SAMS members. Greg Gass as organizing Post Commander, Todd Wiggen as VC, BJ Chinnery, who has been working ScotFest with me for about eight years, continues on as Adjutant, and Fred Wiggins as Quartermaster/ logistics. We had a lively set of discussions which lasted a little over an hour.

The first weekend in November, Fred, again, as he had done in Choctaw Creek, provided the brand new tent he bought for the Post for this two-day festival. BJ brought it to the venue, which this time was at the Oklahoma Fair Grounds. This festival is the Oklahoma Renaissance Faire and Highland Games, a two day Festival in its second year. We got more contact signatures, but no more Petition signatures. Disappointing, but we still have one more Oklahoma Festival to go in Yucon in May 2024. Fingers crossed.

My final festival was at Salado, Texas 10-12 November, the oldest Scottish Festival in Texas in its 62nd year, started in 1961. This was another three day festival. George Shott and Post 1298 crew were out in full force and fine form. I'm sure George will go into detail in his Post report, so I will leave the details to him.

The Region 12 tent was between Clans Duncan, and Stewart. I was ably assisted by Thomas Duncan of Clan Duncan and John Bowers of Clan Stewart in the tent. This was Clan Stewart's AGM. I spoke with Amy Seagraves, whom I had met at Broken Arrow, OK at ScotFest a few years ago at the Clan Stewart tent. We were both surprised to see each other. As a member of Clan Stewart, she and her husband drove down from Oklahoma for the AGM. She assured me that her SAMS Application was on top of her desk and its submission to National Adjutant Jo Lawrence is imminent!

—Bill Stevens, RC. cptvill86@gmail.com

13. ROCKY MOUNTAIN

COLORADO:

NEW MEXICO:

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

14. SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA:

NEVADA:

UTAH:

The RC, along with several members of Post 81 attended the Prescott Highland Games 23-24 September and provided Chief Escort for McBain of McBain. Both Post 1297 (Prescott) and Post 1314 (Prescott Valley) were present and recruiting new members.

The Tucson Celtic Festival and Highland Games held 3-5 November, hosted both McBain of McBain and Urquhart of Urquhart. Post 81 provided the Chief Escort details.

—Allan Sperling, RC14, cdrswregion14@gmail.com

15. NORTHWEST

ALASKA:

WASHINGTON:

IDAHO:

OREGON:

COVID is over and the games been in full swing this year. Old friends have been seen and new friends made. Numbers at the Games were much higher than pre-COVID and we gained several new members as a result. Region 17 looks like they will be getting a Camp and look forward to seeing it happen. Member participation hasn't recovered from COVID yet, but it will happen. Keep it positive.

This is the down time, this is when we can build our relationships in Posts and build the necessary bonds to keep us going. Kilted Nights out, Whiskey tasting, Holiday parties and so forth all go to build comradery, which is vital to any Veteran's organization. If your Post or Camp hasn't set up an events committee, you need to do so. This committee would be setting up the necessary social events and informing the membership.

I have heard rumors of a new Game forming, McClary being one of them. This one would function like Kelso, free admission and set up and we would be on the ground floor and handling the Colors at the Games.

1889 has lost a long time and I believe, a founding member. Chuck Cook passed away in September. He was a lion, retired CSM, member of the Washington Tartan Society and was at every game helping people find their connection to Scotland and the Clans. He was a fixture at games throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. He will be missed very greatly.

I would like to give a shout out to all who made it happen this year, there are so many and not enough space here to do so. There are many, who have worked in the background making sure the details are covered. Thanks for your work, it has been noticed.

Finally, I am looking at establishing a new "award" for Region 15, "The Golden Sporrán." The purpose is two-fold, one is to encourage proper wear of the SAMS uniform; the second is to bring a bit of fun in to things.

In essence, it is to be presented to the individual with the biggest faux pax over the year. They would be required to wear it outside of Color Guard and related duties at SAMS events for a full year. Then it is passed onto the next honoree by the current holder.

A committee of humorless individuals will determine the "winner" of this dubious honor.

—Rob Donaldson, RC, claughmohr@gmail.com

16. WEST

CALIFORNIA

NORTHERN NEVADA

HAWAII:

Post 1864 Northern Nevada is busy working on getting back up to speed. They now have a Post patch.

1921 had a busy Veterans Day weekend. Looking forward to new schedule of events. Due to health reasons, Bob Wyllie is stepping down.

—VACANT

Aide: Chuck Jamison, oakpiper@gmail.com

17. BIG SKY

MONTANA: .

WYOMING:

—The position of RC 17 is still open.

Post 1775 Color Guard at Mooresville Veterans Parade. Leading, VC Cory Nickles.,


L-R: Bernie Sahadi, Adrien Herbison, Chris Montroy, Randy Hedrick, Bill McKeithan ,Bill Humphries, Frank Ballentine, Jason Hudson, Melanie Hudson, Victor St. Pierre.



21 October Stone Mountain Highland Games
.L-R: 1775 PC Cory Nickles, Post 81 PC Allan Sperling, Post 328 Adj Terry Allmond, 328 PC, Bill Wade, NC Kenneth A Lloyd



Auld Lang Syne



Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to min?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne

Robert Burns

Post Exchange

Post 1, (Alexander-Mercer) Philadelphia, PA

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

Post 2, (Post of the Potomac)

Greetings. We made it thru the heat of summer and now we're gearing up for the Winter season. The Post was represented at the Virginia Scottish Games over Labor Day weekend. Nice event held at The Plains outside of Dulles. Coming up 2 Dec, the annual Scottish Christmas Walk held in Old Town Alexandria. Very festive event that should be attended at least once in your lifetime!

—Mark Wardlaw, 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

Post members wishes all our fellow veterans and patriots have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We are hoping for a great year in 2024 and looking forward to building up our membership.

Slàinte maith, h-uile latha, na chi 'snach fhaic! (Good health, every day, whether I see you or not!)

—Greg Nutt, PC, airforcevet@gregnutt.com

Post 26, SE Michigan

—Kevin Riddell, PC, riddellk9@gmail.com

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

Except for July and August, meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month at the IHOP in Glendale.

—Carlos Gomez, PC, cgit54@gmail.com

Post 60, (Gen Elijah Clark) Atlanta, GA

—Rick Conn, PC, rickconn@bellsouth.net

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

—Andrew Lyons, PC, andrewjlyons@yahoo.com

Post 76, (Patrick Henry) Yorktown, VA

—Tom Metz, PC, tmetz2666@verizon.net

Post 77 (Paul Gillman) Delmont, PA

Had a gorgeous day in September at the Ligonier Highland Games. Picked up two new members and caught up with some old members. Anticipating some gatherings in the near future for St. Andrew's Day, Burns Supper, hikes, and dinners.

On 18 November, we received our Charter, having satisfied all requirements. Onward and upward!

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

Post 81, (Archie McIntosh) Southern, AZ

On 9 September, several members presented the colors at the Shoot Out Arena Bull Riding event in Tombstone.

15 September, National POW/MIA day, found the Honor Guard presenting the colors during the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony held at Evergreen Cemetery in Tucson.

The Prescott Highland Games 23-24 September, several of our members went up to support the South-west RC and the local Posts.

We adopted a static display CH3E Sikorsky helicopter that sets at the entrance to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. On 21 October, members of the Post gathered at the base and performed a semi-annual wash down of the helicopter. When a call was put out to various veterans organizations and DMAFB entities in 2021, to help maintain and preserve the nine historic aircraft, Post 81 was the only organization that stepped up and adopted one of the warbirds. Our aircraft was recently repainted, and we are very proud to be the maintainers of this veteran.

On 28 October, we participated in the 35th Annual 'Nam to Sand Jam', held in Tucson. This event, started originally as 'Nam Jam' was created to welcome home those who served in Vietnam. It has since been expanded to include veterans of all conflicts since then. The Post Honor Guard presented the colors and manned a SAMS Recruiting/Info Booth. Despite low attendance this year due to other events occurring in Tucson, we brought in four new members.

On 26 October, several members of both Alfa and Bravo Companies traveled to Bisbee to participate in the annual Kirkin' of the Tartans, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church. We posted the colors at the beginning of the service and then stayed to enjoy the food and Scottish dancing which followed.

The Tucson Celtic Festival and Highland Games were 3-5 November and we provided the Color Detail for the Athletic Games Opening as well as the Opening Ceremonies. We also had the distinct pleasure of providing Chief Escort for our resident Chief, Richard McBain of McBain, as well as Chief Wilkins Urquhart of Urquhart. Our SAMS booth was well received, with seventeen new members joining, and an additional six joining for the Camp that is being established in Grand Junction, CO.

10 November found us participating in the Tucson Veterans Day Parade, and on 11 November, we marched again in the Sierra Vista Veterans Day Parade. On 12 November, the Post Honor Guard had the honor of presenting, posting, and retiring of the colors at the Royal Air Force Memorial in Mesa. During WWII, RAF Cadets trained at Falcon Field before returning for combat duty around the world. This memorial was to honor the 23 Cadets killed in raining.

—Allan Sperling, PC, samspost81@gmail.com

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

—James Rairdon, PC, rairdon8071@comcast.com

Post 116, Central/Western, VA

—Ray Burton PC, ray.burton.vmi73@gmail.com

Post 131, (ADM Franklin Buchanan) Jacksonville, FL

VACANT

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

—Bill Wade PC, billwade7@gmail.com

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

Greetings to all, we are all in reasonably good

health and our Post has had 56 events under our belt, not bad! We had 32 unaccompanied veteran internments at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Also eight Post meetings, two staff meetings and three JROTC presentations. We also participated in the Las Vegas Highland Games/Celtic Festival and nine Post shoots at a range in Las Vegas.

Our VC Bob Garlow has stepped down due to health issues and other commitments with numerous organizations including several veterans' groups. He and his wife Susan will continue as members of our Post and as SAMS Life members.

Daniel McDonald was appointed by PC Gilmore as Post VC until elections are held in June 2024.

We were saddened by the passing of Post member Debra Duff, wife of Life Member Harrison Duff. She passed away 4 August 2023 in a local hospital and was interred in the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City on 27 September. Eight Post members attended the service including Piper Zane Simpson who piped Amazing Grace at a service in the cemetery chapel that included the Lord's Prayer and reading from Revelation Chapter 21. At the grave site the 23rd Psalm was read the song Going Home was piped as a lament for her and her husband.

On 23 September, PC Gilmore did a presentation for outstanding academic achievement at Valley High School in Las Vegas to Army JROTC Cadet Sergeant Major, Ariana Ramirez. She was presented the SAMS Medal, Certificate of Achievement, SAMS Challenge coin and a little spending money for her outstanding efforts.

On 16 November we also participated in another unaccompanied internment at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. These internments are held for unaccompanied veterans who typically have no family members present. Our Post along with other veterans' groups and patriotic citizens are present to make sure no veteran is forgotten.

On 2 December, we will be having our Post meeting and Christmas party. We will have food and a gift exchange.

Our Post wishes all of SAMS a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully submitted

*QM Mike Barth, barth259@hotmail.com for
—Ed Gilmore, PC, 702-301-4080*

Post 777, (777th Highlanders) Las Vegas, NV
—Tessa Seawell, PC, akhalteke88@yahoo.com

Post 808, (Princess V Ka'iulani) Honolulu, Hawaii
—Tim Cooke, PC, kona.tim@hotmail.com.

Post 1297, (Arizona Highlanders) Prescott, AZ
, PC, chris@vaildunlap.com

Post 1298, (SGT John MacGregor) Central Texas
Another Salado Scottish Games is in the history books and is indeed historic, having celebrated its 62nd Annual Gathering and Games.

Our Post was again instrumental in laying out the clan village and supervising its weekend. We sited 73 tent spaces for 45 clans. The clans loved the location again which allowed open views and movement. We were the Color Guard leading the Opening Parade. Later, we orchestrated a Memorial Service for Veterans Day.

Planning began immediately for our 9th Annual Robert Burns Supper on 20 Jan, 2024. The entertainment is booked and the haggis has been purchased. Our Piper is back for his 9th appearance

—George Shott, PC. shottgeorge@gmail.com

Post 1314, (Granite Mountain Highlanders),

Prescott Valley, AZ

Once again Post Color Guard marched in the Aqua Fria Festival parade in Dewey-Humboldt 16 September. Our members had a booth for Membership and Wreaths Across America. On 23-24 September our Color Guard participated in Opening Ceremony for the Prescott Area Celtic Society Highland Games at Watson Lake. Our members provide a area for veterans to relax with some refreshment, Membership drive and Wreaths Across America were also present. Thank you all who participated.

In October, we were busy practicing for the Memorial Table presentation for our school district to teach our younger generation to respect and honor our fallen soldiers (brothers, sisters, fathers, uncles, aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers) for what they have given to have freedom in our country.

In November, Prescott celebrated Veterans Day with an amazing 110 entries in the parade of all Branches of Military, originations, Young Marines, and ROTC. We had our very best representation of 12 members, including Color Guard. Thank you to our members and community for your support.

—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
We held our Post picnic on 16 September, and had an awesome turnout. We celebrated our Post's 30th year with cake and Ice Cream. Awards were handed out to members who participated in the Color Guard and recruiting at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Myken Spiesz received a certificate for her extraordinary leadership and a Certificate of Appreciation. One of our long-time Post Awards, named the "Virgil C. Liner Founding Father's Award" was awarded to Frank Ballentine for 2022 and PC Kenneth Lloyd, for 2023. These last two recipients filled up the plaque and it will now be retired within the Post. The first recipient of this award was our first PC Virgil Liner. It was a fitting salute to the work that PC Lloyd has accomplished along with his Post Officers in his three terms as PC. We have grown from 42 to the current roster of 155 members in the last 6 years! Thanks to ALL our members in helping 1775 in turning 30 YEARS OLD! Members and their families enjoyed Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, and everyone pitched in with a side or a des-

sert. To top off the picnic; every member received a red Post 1775 T-shirt. It was a beautiful day.

In October our Color Guard traveled to Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg, NC. The Color Guard was out on the field in good form. Guard members included: Cory Nickles, Adrien Herbison, Marshall Perry, Frank Ballentine, Jason Hudson, Larry Mercer, Melanie Hudson and Clifton Maddox.

Our Post Adj Frank Ballentine traveled to Beaufort, NC for the 3rd Annual Crystal Coast Highland Games. The Color Guard was smaller, but they got the job done. Guard members were Victor St. Pierre, Caleb Rice, Clifton Maddox, and Barret Graham,

20-22 October PC Kenneth Lloyd, was at Stone Mountain Highland Games with VC Cory Nickles, SAMS PRO Debra Lloyd, Compt Jason Hudson, Melanie Hudson, Myken Spiesz along with Post 81 PC and RC 14 Allan Sperling, and his wife, Judith. All attending helped Post 60 recruit new members into their Post. It was a great weekend and Post 60 came away with 10 new members. We got to meet Post 60 member and National Comptroller, Russell Adams and his wife Caroline. Members of 1775 and 60 carried the military tartans in the Parade of Tartans and the Coordinator stated this was the first time those tartans had ever been out on the field during the Parade of Tartans! We enjoyed participating with Post 60 at SMHGS. Post 328, came to meet us and we enjoyed talking to PC Bill Wade, and Adj Terry Allmond. It was an awesome networking of SAMS Posts and members.

Our members were asked to join the 78th Highland Frasers to do a sword arch for the Garrison Commander, Bryan Harkins and his new wife, Theresa's handfasting ceremony. Our members and the 78th Frasers did a remarkable job.

On 29 October, our Color Guard participated in the Annual Kirkin-of-the-Tartan on Reformation Sunday at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, NC. Guard members were Bernie Sahadi, Bill McKeithan, Randy Hedrick and Frank Ballentine.

November found 1775 in the Mooresville's Veterans Parade and the town's 150th year celebration. We had an 11-member Color Guard and a vehicle in the parade with David and Jill Raines's participation and decorating talents and Julie Ballentine marched alongside of Jill Raines, handing out American Flags, stickers, and candy. It was a good day, the rain held off and the town of Mooresville treated all the Veterans to a luncheon behind Richard's Coffee Shop and Military Museum. Guard members: Cory Nickles, Bernie Sahadi, Adrien Herbison, Christopher Montroy, Randy Hedrick, Bill McKeithan, Bill Humphries, Frank Ballentine, Jason Hudson, Melanie Hudson, and Victor St. Pierre.

On 18 November our Honor Guard participated at the funeral of 96 year old Ned Harbin, a Charter and Founding member of 1775. Ned was an Air Force LTC and flew at one time with the Flying Tigers before switching over to Intelligence. Ned was very active in the Boy Scouts, having witnessed many young men become Eagle Scouts. Ned will be laid to rest in Ar-

lington National Cemetery. We are honored to have been asked to be the Honor Guard at his funeral.

On 12 November, Post VC Cory Nickles and QM Adrien Herbison performed a Flagpole Dedication for Trinity United Methodist Church in Trinity, NC.

We hope to start 2024 on a good note; our Calendar of Events will be heavy with Highland Games and other Events throughout the year. We are extremely proud to have 155 members on our roster and hope to see 200 by 2024's end.

—Cory Nickles, VC, for

—Ken Lloyd, PC, kennethlloyd01@gmail.com

Post 1787, (MG Caesar Rodney) Odessa, Delaware

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

Post 1806, (Zebulon Pike) Sothern Colorado

At this writing we prepare to attend and assist at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Wreaths Across America ceremony on Dec. 16th. Following that, a casual lunch will take place at The Airplane Restaurant, a converted KC-97 piston-engine tanker plane near the Colorado Springs Airport. On the calendar for 2024: January is a social TBD; February is the 6th Annual Scottish Pot Luck to be held at the Woodmoor Barn, Monument, CO. In April we will have a formal dinner likely at Patty Jewett Country Club with a special induction ceremony. Then we build enthusiasm to operate our booth at the Pikes Peak Celtic Fest in mid-June.

—John Russell, PC, johnnyboy80133@comcast.com

1812, RI, E Mass, E CT

VACANT

Post 1813, Columbus, OH

—Ray McFee, ray.mcfee@gmail.com

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

Post has had a busy six months. We provided Color Guards for the John Ford Highland Pipe Band in several parades: 4 July, St Louis parade, 17 September Green Tree Festival in Kirkwood, 11 November Veterans Day Parade and several local events in middle and southern Illinois.

We were invited to post the Colors for the Clan McDonald AGM in August. We provided a Color Guard for the Daughters of the American Revolution when they marked the grave of Ralph Quarles who served in the Virginia militia and the American Army from his 16th birthday until the end of the war when he rose to the rank of colonel.

We held an annual business meeting 11 June where officers were elected (Drill Master and Quartermaster), PC provided his goals and agenda for the year, change to uniform policy, made two appointments for Post Chaplain, provided copies of the Post by-laws. Under new business – Neil Cantwell announced upcoming Color Guard commitments and is the Region's representative on the National Dress Code committee.

Upcoming events

27 November, St Louis Christmas Parade

20 January 2024, Color Guard for the Scottish St Andrew Society's Robert Burns dinner

11 May, St Louis Scottish Festival with Color Guard and recruitment booth.

We updated our Dress Code, Color Guard Manual, and Sword and Bayonet practices.

—Steve Butler, VC / Adjutant for
—Quincy Watt, PC, wmwatt50@hotmail.com

Post 1824, (Ozark Highlanders), MO

Post 1824, nothing to report

—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. We are doing great in the Texas Hill Country and enjoying life and outdoor activities. The Post presented two medal awards to two local HS ROTC cadets.

21 Oct we participated in the annual Scots of the Texas Hill Country (SOTTHC) and picnic.

5 Nov Kirkin' o' Tartan at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church followed by a formal lunch.

9 Dec we plan a Christmas party on in Kerrville.

16 Dec Wreaths Across America at the Kerrville VA Cemetery followed by Christmas Night parade in Comfort.

27 Jan 2024, our plans include a Robert Burns Night Supper with the San Antonio Scottish Society (SSSA).

3 Feb 2024, We have committee members for the Robert Burns Night Supper on in Kerrville.

6-7 Apr 2024 San Antonio/Helotes Scottish Highland Games Celtic Festival

27-28 Apr 2024 the Ingram/Kerrville Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival.

Our goals are to preserve and promote Scottish and American Armed Forces traditions and heritage. 1839 enjoys providing a forum for exchange of Scottish and American military history and genealogical information. We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Fall and you all have fun celebrating Scottish activities. Godspeed.

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

Post 1845, Ft Worth / Dallas

—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

This quarter, we were able to make contact with Utah Cold War Veterans Foundation and organized for presenting the Utah Cold War medal to members. Along with attending the Moab Scottish festival (our own Dan Lamont is the president), we welcomed home two honor flights, assisted in the Korean War salute, presented two veterans with shadow boxes from their service, and placed flags on veteran graves for Veterans Day. We also had the honor to work with 'Missing In Action' to lay six unclaimed veterans remains to rest, a sobering experience. The Post is continuing with the project of 'Veterans helping Veterans'. We are also getting ready for the award season with expanding to the Sea Cadets.

On 9 Dec we will be hosting an Army-Navy football watch party, along with 'Operation Snowball Express' 2 Dec for Gold Star families, and plan to assist with 'Toys for Tots'.

We look forward to continued growth with activities and hopefully new members. But either way, we aim to have fun doing it. Anyone can follow our Post on 'Facebook' and 'Instagram' under SAMSPost1847.

—Ken Sorensen, PC, kendall.sorensen1@gmail.com

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

The festivals in our coverage area concluded with the two-day McMinnville, Oregon Scottish Festival on 7-8 October. Longtime and rapidly aging Post members PC Les Tate and Larry Ledgerwood set up and manned our display both days, while slightly younger longtime member Kevin Rentner assisted on Sunday. We tested a more open and inviting arrangement at this event and, while the event was well attended and we talked with some prospective members, we did not recruit any new members. Our annual sword raffle concluded at the event and the drawing was won by a Sea-Bee who is working on his Civil Engineering degree and lived nearby. We also handed out a few DOD-issued Vietnam Commemorative pins to veterans and noted that this national program will conclude in 2025. Planning for our annual DIY Burns Dinner has begun and it should prove to be as delightful and delicious as last year's event.

—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 BC

Pig War Post is pleased to be onboarding new members both with the 2023 games season and after. In September we had a Open House Kilted Night Out which also attracted members of the VFW, DAR and SAR. It was a great evening connecting with similar-minded individuals and building bridges between our important organizations. We plan to support our area Wreaths Across America in December hosted by the Mt. Vernon DAR Chapter -- our pipe and drum corps contributing to the opening ceremony followed by all Post members laying wreaths -- and the clean-up project in January.

Currently two of our members are organizing a First Aid course to be held in early 2024. This training is open to 1859 and all interested area SAMS, and will be open to friends and family. This activity is for the purpose of lending more immediate aid to our Postmates when things happen during our operations -- because things happen. Organizing our people to be prepared was my idea, and I encourage all other Posts to do the same, along with updating our first Aid Kits -- especially since we already have people with ample experience and training in our ranks. If you would like to know more of my vision for this, please feel free to email me. Lastly, Pig War Post is already looking toward a 2024 Memorial Day ceremony we supported

this year, and intend to make this a regular event.

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

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

—Harl Porter, PC, 107Harl@sc.rr.com

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

On the third weekend of June, the Post participated in the Annual San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans, held at the Bringle Terrace Park, in Vista, approximately 30 miles North of San Diego. SAMS members participated with the 42nd Highlanders/ Black Watch color guard (re enactment group). Respectfully Submitted,

—Jay Rindler PC, karlort@aol.com

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

—John Callan, PC, 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

This fall has been somewhat busy, especially Veterans Day weekend. As our Post membership is scattered throughout Northern California, it is sometimes difficult to muster up a full-flag Color Guard for this holiday weekend. Post members participated in activities in the Sacramento area, the Pleasanton Parade on 5 November, 11 November at the San Jose Parade, and at the California State Veterans Home in Yountville (10 mi north of Napa) and on 12 November at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, the oldest naval cemetery on the west coast and is a National Historic Landmark. Now in the process of being taken over by the VA National Cemetery Association. Buried here are 860 service men and women, plus 100 family members, including three Medal of Honor recipients and two War of 1812 veterans. We are currently planning our annual Formal Dinner held at the end of February.

Wishing one and all the best during the Holidays, no matter how you celebrate them.

—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

On Veterans Day, we made an appearance at VFW Post 51/American Legion Post 9 event. Present were PC Ed Wattawa, QM Jonathan Adamshasperet, Piper Seth England, Michelle England, and Tom Fleming. We had a recruiting table set up with vintage weapons on display and a kilt that was worn during World War One by a relative of Jonathan's who "over there". While we didn't recruit any new members, we did generate some interest among veterans present. Seth played some pipe tunes during our time there.

We are now making plans to participate at Burns Night in January, 2024

—Edward Wattawa, PC,
inlandempirepost1955@gmail.com



5 Nov, Richmond Highland Games, Post 116.
L-R: House of Gordon Mac Adams, PC Ray Burton,
unidentified



5 Nov, Richmond Highland Games, Post 116.
L-R: Old Dominion Firefighters Emerald Society
(USAF Fire Protection), William Riddel, Clan Leather-
neck Donald Green, PC Ray Burton



The Battle of Dupplin Moor

11 August 1332

The Battle of Dupplin Moor was fought between supporters of King David II of Scotland, the son of King Robert Bruce, and English-backed invaders supporting Edward Balliol, son of King John I of Scotland, a little to the south-west of Perth, Scotland, when a Scottish force commanded by Donald, Earl of Mar, estimated to have been stronger than 15,000 and possibly as many as 40,000 men, attacked a largely English force of 1,500 commanded by Balliol and Henry Beaumont, Earl of Buchan. This was the first major battle of the Second War of Scottish Independence.

In 1331, under the leadership of Edward Balliol and Henry Beaumont, Earl of Buchan, the disinherited Scottish nobles gathered in Yorkshire and plotted an invasion of Scotland. Edward III was aware of the scheme and officially forbade it, in March 1332 writing to his northern officials that anyone planning an invasion of Scotland was to be arrested. The reality was different, and Edward III was happy to cause trouble for his northern neighbor. He insisted Balliol not invade Scotland overland from England but turned a blind eye to his forces sailing for Scotland from Yorkshire ports on 31 July 1332. The Scots were aware of the situation and were waiting for Balliol. David II's regent was an experienced old soldier, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, who was appointed to the role of guardian of Scotland. He had prepared for Balliol and Beaumont, but he died ten days before they sailed.

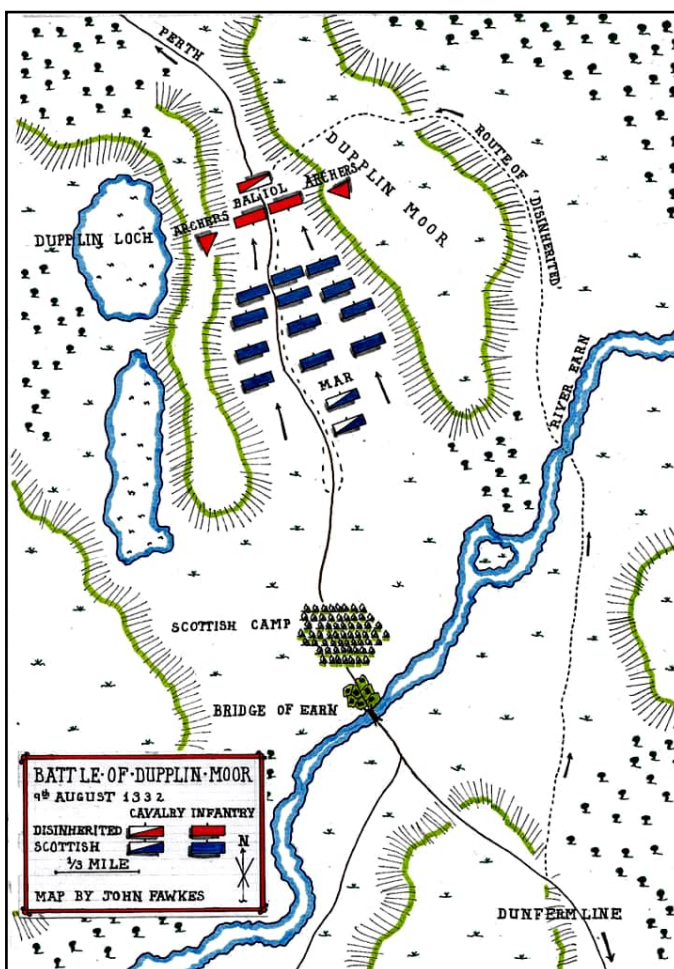
Balliol's force was small, only 1,500 men: 500 men-at-arms and 1,000 infantry, the latter mostly longbowmen. He anticipated being joined by many Scots once he had landed. While they were underway, the Scots selected Donald, Earl of Mar, as the new guardian of Scotland, and so also regent for the young David. Mar was an experienced campaigner and a close blood relative to the young King David. He divided the large Scottish army: Mar commanded the part north of the Firth of Forth, while Patrick, Earl of March, commanded those to the south. Balliol had been in communication with Mar and hoped he would come over to his side with many of his troops. Knowing Mar to be commanding the troops on the northern shore of the firth, Balliol landed there, at Wester Kinghorn (present day Burntisland), on 6 August 1332.

While the invaders were still disembarking they were confronted by a large Scottish force commanded by Duncan, Earl of Fife, and Robert Bruce (an illegitimate son of King Robert the Bruce). The Scots attacked the part of the English force on the beach, but were driven off after a hard-pressed assault by the volleys of the English longbowmen and by their supporting infantry before Balliol and Beaumont's men-at-arms could get ashore.

Balliol and a small force marched on the Scottish capital Perth. A Scottish army at least ten times stronger

occupied a defensive position on the far side of the River Earn. The invaders crossed the river at night via an unguarded ford and took up a strong defensive position.

In the morning the Scots raced to attack the English, disorganizing their own formations. Unable to break the line of English men-at-arms, the Scots became trapped in a valley with fresh forces arriving from the rear pressing them forward and giving them no room to maneuver, or even to use their weapons. English longbowmen shot into both Scottish flanks. Many Scots died of suffocation or were trampled underfoot. Eventually they broke and the English men-at-arms mounted and pursued the fugitives until nightfall.



Historic Environment Scotland has identified a site on Gaskmoor, which it suggests corresponds with the accounts in the chronicles. This is on the Dupplin plateau, south-east of Dupplin Loch, and 5 miles south-west of Perth.

The sides of the valley, and the narrowing of the valley, would have pushed the wings of the schiltrons into the center, bunching the Scots and creating the deadly crush that appears to have been the main cause of the disaster. The steep slopes would have given a great deal

of protection to the English from any flanking moves. The width of the valley would accommodate 500 or so dismounted men-at-arms, while the western end of the valley opens out; this is where the Scots would have started, and it would not have been immediately obvious that the topography was a funnel for them.

This choice of terrain “is evidence of the tactical brilliance of the English, who were battle-hardened veterans.” (Historic Environment Scotland added the battlefield to the Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland on 21 March 2011.) Perth fell, the remaining Scottish forces dispersed.

Scottish accounts of the time dismiss their losses as trivial, while one English source gives 90 Scots killed, two give 900, and a fourth 1,000. One chronicle, the Brut, reports that Fife was “full of shame” at being defeated by such a small force. There is no record of the casualties suffered by Balliol’s men. Mar withdrew his main force to the capital, Perth, amalgamated the survivors of Kinghorn and sent out a general call for reinforcements. Buoyed by their victory, Balliol and Beaumont’s force completed their disembarkation and marched to Dunfermline, where they foraged, looted a Scottish army and then headed for Perth.



Balliol was crowned King of Scots at Scone – the traditional place of coronation for Scottish monarchs – on 24 September 1332. Within two months Balliol granted Edward III Scottish estates to a value of £2,000, which included “the town, castle and county of Berwick”. Balliol’s support within Scotland was limited and within six months it had collapsed. He was ambushed by supporters of David II at the Battle of Annan on 17 December. Balliol fled to England half-dressed and riding bareback. He appealed to Edward III for assistance. Edward III dropped all pretense of neutrality, recognized Balliol as King of Scots and made ready for war. After the defeat of the Scots at the Battle of Halidon Hill in July 1333 by the English, Balliol was reinstated on the Scottish throne. He was deposed again in 1334, restored again in 1335 and finally deposed in 1336, by those loyal to David II. The Second War of Scottish Independence finally ended in 1357. The modern historian Ranald Nicholson states that Edward III copied the tactics used at Dupplin Moor – “all the men-at-arms dismounted, while archers were posted on either flank” – in the English victories at Halidon Hill and Crécy.

SOURCE: Wikipedia



Bill Wolf, John Killian, and Drew Lyons participated in a Veteran’s Day flag retirement ceremony at Fort Independence on Castle Island in Boston, MA. Bill spoke the majority of the event with John acting Sergeant-at-Arms for the flag retirement and Drew accompanied John with sword to protect the flag and we led the pipes into the ceremony. Drew also acted as Chaplain saying a prayer over the event as the sister that normally performs this duty was unavailable.

The event was organized by the Castle Island Association in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).



Sinking the *HMS Royal Oak*

By Jim Schiaffino

The outbreak of WW II found the British Home Fleet stationed at the large natural harbor of Scapa Flow, Scotland, located on the Orkney Islands, giving it the strategic position to guard the northern routes to the Atlantic thus preventing German navy from attacking the life blood of Great Britain. It was considered virtually invulnerable to attack.

The main entrance was blocked with anti-submarine booms and the few alternate water approaches were closed with 'blocking' ships. (Outdated ships sunk to block passage, much like the tactic used by Gen. Sam Smith to block the British from entering the Baltimore harbor during the War of 1812.)

However, on the moonless night of 14 October 1939, German Kriegsmarine U-47 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Gunter Prien accomplished the unthinkable, he entered Scapa Flow. He had used a shallow channel between an island and two blocking ships to bypass the defenses. The water was so shallow that once he actually grounded his boat. The boat was briefly illuminated by the headlights of a passing taxi, but no alarm was sounded.

Upon entering the harbor, he was disappointed to find it virtually empty, the Home Fleet having weighed anchor the day before. However, as the U-47 was making way toward their usual berths about four miles away, a lookout quickly identified the *HMS Royal Oak*. Fate stepped in and Kapitänleutnant Prien changed course to attack. Unknown to him at the time he was heading straight toward four British warships including the brand new light cruiser *HMS Belfast*.

The *Royal Oak* was a WWI battleship that was considered too slow to be part of the Home Fleet. It was named for the tree that sheltered Charles II during his escape following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. However, it was useful for patrols and as an anti-aircraft platform to protect the fleet at Scapa Flow. As such it was anchored some distance from where the fleet would normally anchor. Kapitänleutnant Prien fired four torpedoes; one lodged in the bow tube, two missed and a third exploded against the anchor chain of the *Royal Oak*. Strangely the explosion raised no alarm.

The U-boat Kapitänleutnant Prien fired his stern tubes and both missed. Again, no alarm was sounded. In a final attack his three torpedoes found their mark. The explosion caused the ship immediately to list 15 degrees lowering the open starboard side portholes under water. Shortly she rolled to a 45-degree list. The *Royal Oak* foundered in 13 minutes.

Moored alongside the *Royal Oak* was her tender, *HMS Daisy 2*. As she struggled to cut her mooring lines, she was lifted above the water by *Royal Oak's* anti torpedo bulge before she slipped free.

The *Daisy 2* then began to rescue the survivors from the frigid waters. Even though there was a submarine present, the captain of the *Daisy* ordered her lights

turned on and rescued 386 men. Of the full complement of 1,234 seamen, 833 perished, including Rear Admiral Henry Blagrove whose personal gig, also moored alongside the *Royal Oak*, followed her beneath the waves. **Source:** Scotland Magazine



German Kriegsmarine U-Boat



HMS Royal Oak

Eight ships of the Royal Navy have been named HMS Royal Oak, after the Royal Oak in which Charles II hid himself during his flight from the country in the English Civil War:

1664 HMS Royal Oak was a 76-gun second rate launched in 1664 and burnt by the Dutch in 1667 in the Raid on the Medway.

1674 HMS Royal Oak was a 70-gun third rate launched in 1674, rebuilt in 1690, 1713, and 1741. Her 1741 rebuild left her as a 64-gun fourth rate. She was a prison ship between 1756 and 1763, and was broken up in 1764.

1769 HMS Royal Oak was a 74-gun third rate launched in 1769 and used as a prison ship from 1796. She was renamed HMS Assistance in 1805, and was broken up in 1815.

1798 HMS Royal Oak was to have been a 74-gun third rate but she was renamed HMS Renown before her launch in 1798.

1809 HMS Royal Oak was a 74-gun third rate launched in 1809, on harbor service from 1825, and broken up in 1850.

1862 HMS Royal Oak was an ironclad frigate launched in 1862 and sold in 1885.

1892 HMS Royal Oak was a Royal Sovereign-class battleship launched in 1892 and scrapped in 1914.

1914 HMS Royal Oak (08) was a Revenge-class battleship launched in 1914 and sunk at anchor in 1939, in Scapa Flow.

FLAG ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL

Jerry Paul

With the Festival and Color Guard season almost behind us for this year, I have been asked by Debra Lloyd, SAMS' Public Relations Officer, to re-publish this article, first published in The Patriot in 2010, with appropriate amendments to include the newly formed US Space Force, to detail the correct flag etiquette and protocol to be applied in all instances where SAMS Posts display or parade colors or flags, in order that we might be ready and all singing from the same hymn sheet in 2024 and beyond. This is a complex issue which SAMS Posts should take great care to get right in displaying or parading colors and flags; inappropriate presentation of colors and flags can inadvertently give great offense and should therefore be avoided at all costs. Numerous sources have been used to compile this article, all of which are acknowledged.

The order of precedence for flags is as follows:

- 1) National
- 2) State
- 3) Military
- 4) Other - including the SAMS Flag

The National Flag of the United States of America shall take precedence over all other flags when displayed or paraded in the United States; all other National Flags should be presented in alphabetical order, using the English language, so that no one country has precedence over another. If therefore, the National Flags of the USA, Canada, Ireland and the Union Flag of Great Britain, officially The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, were presented, they would be so in that order of precedence.

SAMS Posts frequently also display or parade the National Flags of Scotland and Wales, in which case the following should be considered. England, Scotland and Wales are sub-nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, each having their own National Flags. England has the Cross of St. George (a red cross on a white field); Scotland the Cross of St. Andrew or the Saltire (a white saltire on a blue field) and Wales the Red Dragon or Y Ddraig Goch (red passant dragon on a green and white field). Northern Ireland does not currently have an official National Flag other than the Union Flag; the Ulster Banner, which shows a red cross on a white field with red hand, star and crown, *should not be displayed or paraded as it ceased to be officially recognized with the dissolution of the Parliament of Northern Ireland in 1973*. The National Flags of Scotland and Wales should not take precedence over the Union Flag of Great Britain when displayed or paraded together; the order of precedence will therefore be: Union Flag of Great Britain; The Saltire; The Red Dragon.

The Royal Flag of Scotland or Lion Rampant Flag of Scotland (gold, with a red rampant lion and royal tressure) is often seen displayed or paraded as the National Flag of Scotland; this is entirely incorrect and

inappropriate. It is not a National Flag but is the Scottish Royal Banner of Arms and the personal banner of the Sovereign. Use of the Royal Standard of Scotland is restricted under the Act of the Parliament of Scotland 1672 cap. 47 and 30 & 31 Vict. cap. 17, and any unauthorized use of such is an offence under the Act. Its correct use is restricted to only a few Great Officers who officially represent The Sovereign, including;

- ◆ The First Minister as Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland
- ◆ Lord Lieutenants in their Lieutenancies
- ◆ The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
- ◆ The Lord Lyon King of Arms
- ◆ Other lieutenants specially appointed.

The Saltire is the correct flag for all individuals, organizations and corporate bodies to fly in order to demonstrate both their loyalty and Scottish nationality. SAMS Posts should never display or parade the Scottish Royal Banner of Arms.

The Military District of Washington, Ceremonies and Special Events Office, Army Regulation #840-10 mandates that State flags should be displayed according to the date that each State was admitted to the union. On the rare occasion that multiple State flags are flown by a SAMS Post or Color Guard at an event, it will be the responsibility of the Post or Color Guard Commander to ensure that the correct precedence is observed.

The Department of Defense Directive 1005.8 prescribes that the precedence of military flags is determined by service birthdays. The appropriate order is given below:

- ◆ US Army - Birthday - 14 June 1775
- ◆ US Marine Corps - Birthday - 10 November 1775
- ◆ US Navy - Birthday - 13 Oct 1775 - Abolished Feb 1781 - Reinstated 7 Sep 1781
- ◆ US Air Force - Birthday - 18 September 1947
- ◆ US Space Force - Birthday - 20 December 2019
- ◆ US Coast Guard - Birthday - 4 August 1790

According to the Institute of Heraldry, and in keeping with the order in which troops are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, during peacetime the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. During wartime, if the Coast Guard comes under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.

Note: When parading service branch flags in a multi-branch Color Guard, unless all six branches can be represented none should be on parade.

The Merchant Marine, Vietnam Veterans, and

POW/MIA flags can be displayed following the military flags. There is some latitude in the order of display regarding these three flags. The US government has not officially recognized the Merchant Marines as being a branch of the military (it's members are often not given veteran's status), but it is felt to be appropriate to honor them as a military branch and thus place their flag at the end of the military branches. The Vietnam Veterans and POW/MIA flags could be reversed in their order if so desired. It is considered appropriate to place the flag for the living veterans (who are here to see the honor so accorded them) before the flag for those not presently in our midst. You can use your discretion here. The POW/MIA flag is actually that of a private organization, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia; as such it is outranked by almost every other flag, including other private patriotic organizations that are older, for example VFW, American Legion etc. It is not the flag of any Government organization so there are no official regulations regarding its display except that it almost always displays below National, State and Military flags in order of precedence. Exceptions are that on the six National observances for which Congress has ordered display of the POW/MIA flag, Armed Forces Day; Memorial Day; Flag Day; Independence Day; National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day, it is generally flown immediately adjacent to the United States Flag as second in order of precedence. When flown over National or State buildings, in conjunction with National and State Flags, the POW/MIA flag has precedence over State Flags as prisoners of war and those missing in action come from every State.

To put these various regulations, directives and instructions into perspective, Post 100 in Colorado, with which I have paraded on many occasions, if parading all of their colors, would normally, other than on those six National observance days previously referred to when the POW/MIA flag order of precedence is amended, do so in the following order of precedence:

USA; Canada; Ireland; UK (Union Flag); Scotland (Saltire); Wales; Colorado State; US Army; US Marine Corps; US Navy; US Air Force; US Space Force; US Coast Guard; POW/MIA; Vietnam Commemorative; WWII Commemorative; SAMS.

It is critical to note that when colors and flags are displayed outside of SAMS Post tents or paraded, the National Flag of the USA is always positioned to the right, with all other flags in order of precedence to its left; when viewed from the front therefore, the National Flag of the USA will be on the left with all other flags to its right. When a Color Guard is advancing in rank it should never be given the order to 'about face' as the order of precedence will be reversed and the National Flag of the USA will as a result occupy the position of the lowest order of precedence. The correct manner in which to turn the rank about is to wheel 180 degrees, thereby maintaining the order of precedence,

or to counter-march 180 degrees. The counter-march is a wheel from the center which should only ever be carried out in an anti-clockwise direction in order that the National Flag of the USA continues to advance; to counter-march clockwise will retire it through the parade maneuver, which is inappropriate. The counter-march, when carried out properly is a very smart maneuver but it does require some practice beforehand! When paraded in file, the National Flag of the USA will always be the foremost flag, immediately behind the protector.

Should any Post Commander or Member have any questions on anything mentioned in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jerry Paul

Email: JerryGP@msn.com

Acknowledgements:

- * The National Flag Foundation: <http://americanflags.org/docs/etiquette>
- * The Military District of Washington, Ceremonies and Special Events Office, Army Regulation #840-10.
- * The Department of Defense Directive 1005.8.
- * The Institute of Heraldry.
- * The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office.
- * The official website of The British Monarchy - www.royal.gov.uk
- * The United Kingdom Department for Culture Media and Sport.
- * The Court of The Lord Lyon - www.lyon-court.com
- * The Parliament of Scotland.



Scottish Bagpipers in World War I

By Jim Schiaffino

During WW I, over 2,500 bagpipers heroically served the Scottish regiments. They were the first ones out of the trenches. Of these, 500 pipers were killed and 600 wounded. These extraordinary men were sitting ducks as they went over the top to pipe their men into battle. The bagpipes were used as an incentive to battle, motivation for the troops, and intimidation of the enemy. They celebrated victories and mourned the fallen. They were also for communication, signaling orders, tactical maneuvers, and firing of weapons.

But that wasn't their only job. When they were not in action their role was also very important with many acting as stretcher-bearers and entertaining the troops to keep morale up. Afterwards, when the immediate fighting was over, laments were played to signify the loss and reverence and to make sure they gave a respectful death to Scottish men who died in battle.

Harry Lunan was the last surviving piper from that war. He was serving as the piper when the 5th Gordon Highlanders took part in the assault on High Wood in July 1916. Harry said, "You were scared, but you just had to do it, they were depending on you." In the first assault, he played the tune "Cock o' the North". The first time he "went over the top" he added, "I just played whatever came into my head, but I was worried about tripping on the uneven ground, which interrupted my playing. The enemy fire was murderous. I played my company over the bloody top, right into the German trenches. It was stupid as hell...men falling all around me, falling dead...it was bloody horrible. I was lucky to survive. Hearing the pipes gave the troops courage. The Germans were scared of the bloody pipes." Lunan's piping caused a variety of reactions from not only Scottish troops and British regiments, but from the non-British troops as well. "The French enjoyed the pipes, they couldn't get enough. They would sing along in French."

On 25 September 1915, the 7th King's Own Scottish Borderers had been under continuous heavy fire and had suffered another mustard gas attack, the company's morale was at rock bottom. As the company was preparing to 'go over the top', the commanding officer ordered Piper Daniel Laidlaw to start playing, "To pull the shaken men together ready for the assault." Immediately, the piper mounted the parapet and began marching up and down the length of the trench. Oblivious to the danger, he played, "*All the Blue Bonnets Over the Border.*" The effect on the men was almost instant and they swarmed over the top into battle. Laidlaw continued piping until he got near the German lines when he was wounded. As well as being awarded the Victoria Cross, Laidlaw also received the French

Criox de Guerre in recognition of his bravery.

Longueval was the scene of very heavy fighting by the 9th (Scottish) Division during the Battle of the Somme. On 20 July 2002, a memorial was unveiled in Longueval to pipers killed in the Great War. More than 120 Pipers and Drummers came to the unveiling.



The memorial depicts a piper in full battle dress, kilt and tin helmet, climbing up and over the parapet of a trench encouraging the men on with the sound of his pipes. It was created by Andy De Comyn. The plaques around the base of the statue show the regiments which lost a piper.

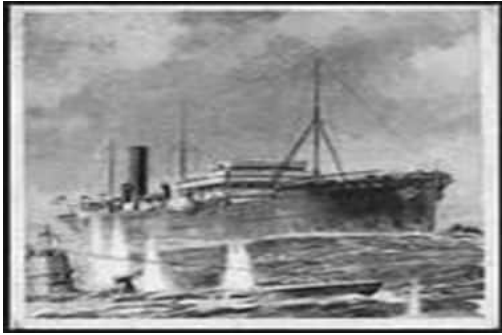
The inscription at the Piper's feet reads:

"The pipes in the street were marching bravely
The marching lads went by with merry hearts
and voices singing
My friends marched out to die
But I was hearing a lonely pibroch
Out of an older war,
"Farewell, Farewell, Farewell, MacCrimmon,
MacCrimmon comes no more."
Lt. A. F. Mackintosh MC
Seaforth Highlanders
Cha Till,
Cha Till,
Cha Till, MacCriomain,
Cha Till Gu Brath
Gu Latha Na Cruinne.



Bagpiper leading his regiment over the top. Look closely—he's facing the battle; smoke comes from shells. (Wikimedia)

The Q-ships of World War I



You probably heard of Q-Ships, but do you really know much about them?

Q-Ships, also known as Q-boats, Surface Raiders and Mystery Ships, were heavily armed gunboats disguised as merchantmen. They were designed to lure enemy submarines close and as the submarine prepared to attack the Q-Ships would attack first.

They got their name from Queenstown, Ireland (now Cobh) where British ships were converted from merchant vessels into disguised gunboats. They were totally different from lightly armed merchantmen found in convoys. They operated independently.

Q-Ships typically had an array of weapons that might include heavy 12-pound guns, smaller 6 and 3-pounders, modern 4-inch guns, and Maxim machine guns hidden behind false panels. They could also be concealed with elaborate disguises to render them invisible until needed.

Both the British and Germans used Q-Ships. The British Q-Ships' purpose was to sink German U-boats; while the German Q-Ships function was to attack and sink British merchantmen, thus depriving Britain of much needed supplies.

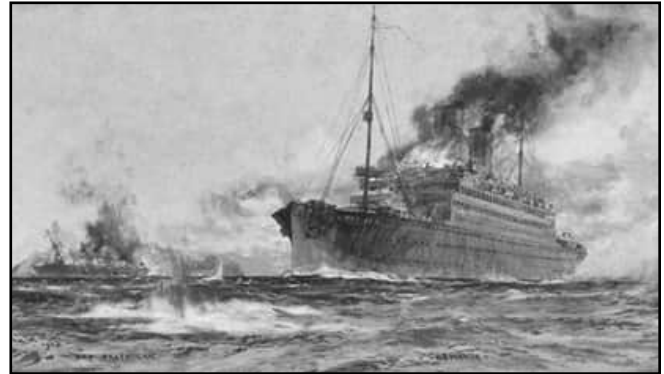
In World War I, German U-boats could only remain submerged for short periods of time, and they were often deployed to sea with a limited and costly supply of torpedoes. Due to these limitations, most U-boat commanders preferred to run their vessels on the surface, utilizing deck guns for the majority of their attacks on enemy vessels. They could also board the vessel and open its sea cocks to sink the ship.

The usual Q-Ship tactic was to wait until the submarine had surfaced, then give up and deploy a "panic party". This was a charade where members of the crew pretended to abandon the ship in lifeboats. This was to fool the sub's captain that they had abandoned the ship. After the "panic crew" had fled, the ship would appear to be deserted. It was hoped that the ruse would trick the U-boat to draw near enough to board it or use its light guns to sink it. At this point, the ship would raise their true colors--the white flag of the Royal Navy. Simultaneously, the gun crew would man their guns and false panels would drop to reveal the blazing deck guns.

The British employed about 180 Q-Ships, but only 10 saw combat, and only 14 U-Boats were destroyed. Germany employed at least 13 Q-Ships. They were

moderately successful with a total tonnage sunk of about 145,960 tons.

Probably the most unusual Q-Ship battle was a surface battle between a British and a German Q-Ship. The British had converted a passenger ship, the RMS Carmania, to resemble the German passenger ship, the SMS Trafalgar. The German Q-Ship was actually the real SMS Trafalgar. It had been disguised as the RMS Carmania. In an unusual turn of events the two ships met off the coast of Brazil. During the battle, the British Carmania/Trafalgar sank the German Trafalgar/Carmania. So, the British ship disguised as a German ship, sank the actual German ship disguised as a British ship. You could claim that the pretend Trafalgar sank the real Trafalgar or the real Carmania sank the fake Carmania. It's just one of those quirky events that happen during a war.



The "Trafalgar" sinks the "Carmania"



The Royal Navy Ensign

Scottish Kitchen Recipes ~ Real Scottish Food

Jim "Ski" Schiaffino



The Celtic god of winter is Taranis, (which means Thunderer"), god of thunder, lightning, and storms. He is also known as the wheel-god, symbolically represented by the wheel and the lightning flash. The wheel was one of the most important symbols in Celtic mythology and culture called Rouelles. The Celts believed that the sun and moon were pulled across the sky by chariots. Wheels were found on coins and were worn as pendants, amulets, or brooches which were usually made of bronze. Such pendants were thrown into rivers and are associated with the cult of Taranis

So here are a few recipes that just might help you through Taranis' cold-cold months

Cream Of Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

750g pumpkin (preferably butternut)
15g butter
1 medium onion, chopped
2 bacon rashers, chopped (optional)
4 cups water
1/4 cup cream
1 small chicken stock cube, crumbled

Method: Using sharp knife, remove skin and seeds from pumpkin, cut into small even pieces. Melt butter in large saucepan, add onion and bacon, stir constantly over heat until onion is soft. Add pumpkin to pan, then water and stock cube, bring to boil, reduce heat, cover, simmer for about 30 mins or until pumpkin is tender. Remove saucepan from heat. Blend or process mixture in several batches until smooth. Return mixture to pan, stir in cream, reheat, stirring constantly without boiling. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Hearty Lentil Soup with Bacon and Herbs

Ingredients:

1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped carrot
1 slice bacon, chopped
2 tsp minced garlic
2 cups dried lentils (about 12-1/2 oz.)
7 cups canned low-salt chicken stock
2 large sprigs fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried
1 bay leaf

Method: Combine onion, celery, carrot, bacon, and garlic in a heavy, large Dutch oven. Stir over medium-high heat 2 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low and cover and cook until veggies are tender, about 7 minutes. Uncover and add 7 cups broth, lentils, thyme and bay leaf and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered until the lentils are tender, stirring occasionally, about 45 minutes. Discard thyme and bay leaf. Transfer 1/2 of soup to a food processor, cool slightly. Puree until smooth. Return puree to Dutch oven. Bring soup to a simmer, thinning with more broth, if desired. "the porridge of the evening" in so far as saying that it is good rib-sticking stuff that can be a great meal on its own. (Can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate.) Makes .6 servings

Scotch Broth

Ingredients:

1/4 lb pearl barley
1/4 lb dried peas
1/2 lb mutton or braising beef steak
water
2 tbsp salt
3 leeks
3 carrots
1 turnip (swede)
1 onion
1 small white cabbage or 5-6 leaves of kale
1 oz. fresh Parsley, chopped
A little black pepper

Method: Before going to bed soak the barley and dried peas in water. It doesn't really matter what the temperature of the water is, but I prefer to set the barley and peas going in boiling water. The next day place the beef in a saucepan, cover with cold water add the salt and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for about an hour. Whilst the meat is cooking, chop up the carrots and turnip into small cubes. Chop the onion, leeks and cabbage (or kale) finely. Add the soaked barley and peas to the boiling mutton or beef and then add the prepared vegetables and allow the mixture to simmer for a further hour. If the level of the liquid should fall too low add extra boiling water. Fifteen minutes before the end of the second hour add the chopped fresh parsley together with a little freshly ground black pepper. The broth can be served straight away but tastes even better upon reheating the next day, so never make small quantities of Scotch broth, always plan on two days worth. It is said that in some households the broth pot is constantly on the stove and is merely added to as required. Personally I prefer my broth during the winter.

Herrings in Oatmeal

Ingredients:

8 fresh herrings
8 oz oatmeal
4 oz butter
1 tsp salt
freshly ground black pepper to taste

Method: Split and bone herrings, wash well. Mix salt and oatmeal together. Roll herrings in oatmeal, make sure both sides are coated. Heat the butter in a frying pan until hot. Add herring skin side up, fry both sides



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

for 3-5 minutes. Remove from pan and drain on paper towel. Serve immediately with mashed potatoes and garden peas.

Steak & Kidney Pie

Ingredients:

1 Beef Kidney
1 1/2 Lbs. Sirloin Steak
1 Med. Onion, chopped
1 oz. seasoned flour
4 oz. button Mushrooms
1 Tbsp. Worcester Sauce
Brown stock or water with gravy powder added.
Jamaica Pepper (allspice) to taste.

Method: Use a shallow dish or large plate with a wide edge, about half an inch. Dredge the meat in the seasoned flour and layer it with the onions and mushrooms in the dish. Add the stock or water, about a pint, and then put a strip of puff pastry around the edge of the pan, brush with water and add the top pastry. Don't forget to put a "bird" in the center of the pan first to hold up the pastry. Brush with milk and bake for 1.5 hours at 350 F

Ham Loaf

Ingredients:

Mix together 2 lbs ground beef, and 1 1/2 lbs ground ham
2 eggs
1 cup tomato juice
1 1/2 cup cracker crumbs
1 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
Method: Mix well and cook short time 400 degree F. and rest of hour at 350 degrees. Serves Ten

Peas and Noodles

Ingredients:

2 cups uncooked noodles
1/2 cup chopped onion
3 Tbsp butter
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup creamed small curd cottage cheese
1 Tbsp poppy seed
3/4 tsp salt,
dash of pepper
8 1/2 oz can green giant peas, drained
2 Tbsp grated parmesan cheese

Method: Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain in large pan. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Combine sour cream, cottage cheese, poppy seed, salt and pepper add onions. Stir in noodles and peas, heat through. Add parmesan cheese.

Cauliflower Salad

Ingredients:

1 head cauliflower sliced thin
1 green pepper chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
1 2 oz jar olives, sliced
4 or 5 chopped green onions
Method: Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl.
Dressing: 1/3 cup French dressing
1/3 cup mayonnaise

1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp salt.
Mix and chill

Potato Scones

Ingredients:

1/2 lb Cooked Potatoes
2 oz Flour
1/2 oz Butter
Pinch Salt
A little Milk or Buttermilk to bind

Method: To test for the correct heat on the griddle sprinkle it with a little flour. If the flour browns at once it is too hot; it should take a few seconds to turn color. Grease a griddle or heavy frying-pan. Mash the potatoes with the butter and a little milk. Mix with a spoon. Add the salt and a little of the flour. Use the fingers until it is all taken up and the dough is fairly stiff. Turn out on to a floured surface. Roll out to 1/4 inch thick and cut into rounds using a breakfast cup as a cutter. Place on the hot greased griddle or frying-pan. Cook for 2 minutes until the underside is brown. Turn and repeat on the other side. Serve piping hot, spread with butter.

Green Rice

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cup evaporated milk
1/3 cup cooking oil
3 eggs
1/4 small onion, minced
1/2 small carrot, grated
1 10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
2 tsp salt,
dash of pepper
1 cup shredded sharp cheese
3 cups cooked long grain rice
Method: In large bowl beat milk, oil and eggs together until well combined. Add all remaining ingredients mix well. Pour into a greased crock pot, cover and cook on high for 1 hour. Then turn to low for 4-6 hours. stir during the first hour of cooking.
Serves 5-8. Double recipe for 4 1/2 quart crock pot.

Tattie Scones

Ingredients:

1 cup warm mashed potatoes
1/3 cup melted butter
1 tsp salt
1/2 cup plain flour

Method: Preheat a frying pan or griddle over moderate heat. Mix together all ingredients until thoroughly blended. Turn the dough onto a floured board and divide into three. Roll into a circle about 1/4 inch thick. Cut each circle into 6 wedges. Sprinkle the griddle with flour and bake each circle for about 5 minutes, until edges begin to brown, turning once to cook both sides. Delicious served with bacon and eggs!

Sweet Potato Dessert

Ingredients:

8 Sweet Potatoes
 Pure Maple Syrup
 Soft Margarine
 4 Bananas
 3 handfuls raw almonds organically grown

Method: Boil sweet potatoes. Allow to cool enough for you to handle them. Peel and put into a large serving bowl. Mash these well. In a small press top electric grinder grind the almonds. Put 3/4's of these into the mashed sweet potatoes and mix well. Add 12 Tbsps Pure Maple Syrup into the potatoes and mash again.

Divide the mixture into four parts and dollop this onto the very middle of a plate. With a spoon, swirl around the outsides of the dollop pulling it up until you have shaped it into a pyramid like swirl. Make a well in the middle of this. Pour the well full of Maple syrup plus a teaspoon of soft margarine. Peel a banana, cut it longways in half. Place each half on both sides of the sweet potato pyramid. Sprinkle some of the ground almonds you have saved, over this. Drizzle Maple syrup in dots over the pyramid, banana and onto the plate.

Obscene Chocolate Cake for Valentine's Day

Ingredients:

Cooking spray for greasing a Bundt pan
 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
 1 pkg. butter recipe golden or yellow cake mix
 1 cup sour cream
 1/3 cup granulated sugar
 2/3 cup vegetable oil
 4 large eggs

A 12 oz. bag mini semisweet chocolate chips

Method: Do not preheat oven. Spray a 12-cup Bundt pan with vegetable cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, cocoa, sugar, sour cream and oil. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed just to blend. Add the eggs and blend well. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat for 4 minutes. Fold the chocolate chips into the batter with a spatula and stir gently until they are well distributed. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and set the oven to 325 degrees. Bake until a cake tester inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Let the cake cool in the pan at least 1 hour before slicing. Makes 18-20 slices. You may drizzle chocolate icing over the cake to make it even more chocolatey, but it is wonderful without it too.

Pumpkin Spice Coffee

Ingredients:

SYRUP:

3/4 cup Water
 3/4 cup Brown Sugar
 1/4 cup Pumpkin Purée
 2 Tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice

Method: Add everything to a small pot, whisk together and bring to a simmer for about 3 minutes. Pour the syrup through a fine mesh strainer, or a nut milk bag. (You may want to let it cool first if using a nut milk bag). This strains out the pulpiness and leaves you with

perfect syrup.

Editor's Note: To make a pumpkin spice latte or coffee, simply stir 1 Tbsp of syrup, or to taste, into your latte or coffee. Stores in the fridge for about a week.

Het Pint

Ingredients:

4 pt. mild ale
 1 tsp. grated nutmeg
 4 oz. sugar
 3 eggs
 1/2 pt. Scotch whisky

Method: Put mild ale into a thick saucepan. Add nutmeg, bring to just below boiling-point. Do not boil! Stir in sugar, let it dissolve. Beat eggs very well, add gradually to beer, stir all the time to avoid curdling. Add whisky, heat up. Do not boil! Pour liquid from saucepan into heated tankards, back and forth. Serve. When pouring drink back and forth enough makes it clear and sparkling. Het Pint can also be made with white wine and brandy instead of ale and whisky.

Egg Nog

The recipe makes 2-3 servings; to serve a crowd you can multiply it, make it through the chilling stage, and then quickly finish it by adding the extract (or rum), whipped cream, and nutmeg.

Ingredients:

2 eggs
 1/4 cup sugar
 Dash salt
 2 cups milk
 1 tsp rum extract
 1/2 cup whipping cream, beaten until stiff
 Nutmeg

Method: Beat eggs, sugar, and salt in top of double boiler or heavy pan. Add milk; mix and cook, stirring frequently, until mixture barely coats a metal spoon. Chill. Stir in extract. Fold in stiffly beaten whipping cream. Pour immediately into glasses and add a dash of nutmeg..



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