

Great SCOT!

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

Look what's
going on...

June 2011

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our SCOT Scholarship winners! SCOT's mission is to encourage and promote the culture of Scotland. We especially want to encourage these young people who are continuing Scottish tradition through music and dance. This year we were happy to award eight scholarships to North Carolina residents to attend camps located in the state. This year SCOT awarded scholarships to the following:

Dancers to attend the School of Scottish Arts in Minneapolis, NC:

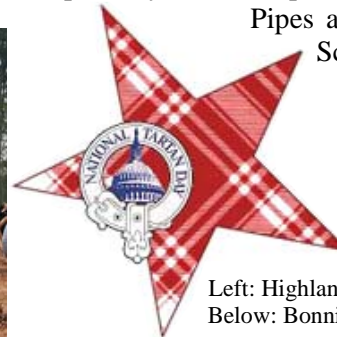
Ingrid Findlay, Cary, NC
Jane Odom-Williford, Chapel Hill, NC
Sally Johnson, Cary, NC
Waverly Noble, Raleigh, NC

Pipers and Drummers to attend the North American Academy of Piping & Drumming in Valle Crucis, NC:

Ally McKinnis, Pittsboro, NC
Connor McKinnis, Pittsboro, NC
Gabriel Nierman, Raleigh, NC
Richard Monroe, Cornelius, NC

Both of these schools occur in July just before and after the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

All of our winners showed outstanding dedication to their field and presented very convincing papers. It gets harder each year to choose from the excellent field of applicants. Evaluation criteria included dedication to the applicant's Scottish art, a desire to learn, accomplishments and a willingness to share their Scottish art with other students and the public. The teacher's recommendation was an important part of each choice. Each applicant was evaluated by the SCOT Board, several of whom commented on the excellent quality of the applications.



Left: Highland & German Pipes
Below: Bonnie Knees Champion



Tartan Day Recap

For several years the NC Renaissance Faire has donated space for a Tartan Day setup to get the word out about the date to celebrate your Scottish heritage. Though this year due to prior year issues the Faire was smaller, the Tartan Day weekend was still quite popular. They have had Scottish professional and amateur athletics for two years now with competition on Saturday and the amateurs holding a free clinic for Faire goers to learn the art of Scottish athletics on the Sunday of the weekend. This year they had two young women participating in the clinic as well as several men.

The booth at the Faire promotes April 6, Tartan Day, as well as local games and the SCOT organization. We also look up names of Faire attendees to find their possible Scottish connection and give them information on what tartan they could wear, as well as what clan or association they would be part of.

SCOT sponsors the Bonnie Knees contest which is always a hit. The medals purchased through SCOT's donations are a coveted prize. Part of SCOT's donation is also used to partially fund the participation of the NC State

Pipes and Drums in a Parade of
Scots each afternoon.

The band is always
a big hit and high
light of the weekend.

- Judith Lloyd

Burns Supper Recap

When we started out on this journey 10 years ago, I never expected that we would be stronger than ever all these years later. This year was another great success thanks to all our performers and speakers, who do such a wonderful job keeping us entertained. These past few years, we have been fortunate to have the Port City Pipes and Drums help to entertain us, and after speaking with Andy Simpson, it looks as if they will be with us for a long time to come.

Of course, it is our wonderful audience that makes my job so worthwhile! When they come up to me afterwards and tell me how much they enjoyed their evening and are looking forward to next year, then all the hours of frustration and worry about the evening coming together just fade away into a distant memory.



For the SCOT members who have never been able to attend our Burns Supper, I hope you will make the effort to come along and see for yourselves what a great night you have been missing! Until next year...

- Donald Ross

Ceud Mil Sailte!

One hundred thousand welcomes to our new members from all over the Triangle:

Jeffrey Edward - Robersonville
Brian Peck & Sherrie King - Raleigh

We are delighted that you have joined SCOT and look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming SCOT events. We hope all of you will remember to invite friends and acquaintances to join SCOT. Encourage them to check our SCOT website at www.scot.us for information on joining and upcoming events

We encourage all of our current members to continue to support the Scottish arts and culture by renewing their annual memberships. And we welcome contributions from Life members. All funds received from memberships are used to support programs and scholarships and qualify for a tax deduction. Please consult your tax professional to determine deductibility in your own situation.

Poem & Commentary *(Continued from page 4)*

Marian Craigie as he is about to go off to war, like so many Scottish men and women for centuries.

The pure Englishness of the poem's wording presents that such language and its preceding education existed at this advanced state even in the early 1600s in that far north of Scotland. Also suggested is a much more sophisticated mode of life and education than its image today. However, such life and language was supported by the very high Scottish literacy rate of that time, public schools in each town and village and two universities in Aberdeen and one in each of St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow in the 1500s.

That boats regularly traveled between the Orkneys, Shetlands, Aberdeen, Leith and many fishing ports on the North Sea and Moray Firth as well as to and from them with Baltic and Scandinavian ports supports the normality of contracting across Europe through multiple transnational communication links for military services employing Scottish soldiers of fortune. That all of these aspects of language and commerce were normal in Scotland at that time is more surprising when one considers they were taking place in the times of the Pilgrim Fathers!

Phrases in the poem such as "I'll come again, If 'twere ten thousand miles", "Till all the seas run dry, my dear", "the rocks melt with the sun" and its title "Till all the Floods run dry" and that the poem was published about 1630 raise the intriguing potential that here could be an earlier version of the theme of the poem "A Red Red Rose" written by Robert Burns in the late 1700s!

Burns traveled mainland Scotland looking for written, spoken and sung verses, choruses, phrases and themes of Scottish culture. If Burns came across a poem such as this by Traill it is highly probable that he would have considered its theme of a Scottish soldier's "au revoir" to his lady as something meaningful in the lives of many Scots lads and lassies and gone on to compose his version of this theme in his more humanly focused poetry enriching it with conversational Scottish words rather than written, pure English words and style used by Traill.

Of an evening after a day's hard graft in a foreign army, many a literate Scottish "sodger", could open a wee book of poems carrying memories of bonny lassies, an "au revoir", dreams of beautiful rivers and glens, farmyards, markets and their many inhabitants and regenerate his spirits by being home again for a wee while before girding to travel onwards in his life. Perhaps, even today, world travelling Scottish business executives and "brain drainers" do the same in an airport lounge, under a jungle tree by a tropical river or in a foreign, skyscraper city Starbucks!

- Dr. George S. Birrell

Tastes of Scotland



Caramel Tarts and Scottish Tablet

I asked Allison Birrell for her caramel tart recipe from the Spring Tea. Her reply reminded me of other recipes I've read that boil unopened cans of condensed milk. So I did a little research and tried it myself. Although it sounds very scary, as long as you keep the water level up, it works well.

Caramel Tarts

Allison Birrell

Bake small tartlets from shortcrust or other type of pastry and cool. (Or buy pre-baked tartlets from the freezer section.)

Boil a can of condensed milk (unopened) for two hours, turning over after one hour. Allow to cool. The condensed milk will have turned to caramel.

Open and spoon this caramel into the cooled tartlets.

Other recipes I found varied the boiling time from two to four hours. The most important thing is to keep the can covered in water at all times.

Sweetened, condensed milk is a staple of Scottish kitchens. Also sold in tubes, it is quite commonly added to coffee and tea, but what of its origins? The earliest mention I found was in 1804, when a Frenchman discovered that by boiling tinned milk, the shelf life was increased. In 1848, a recipe for condensed milk was patented in England, and in 1849 American industrialist Gail Borden invented the first machine for producing sweetened condensed milk. He later patented condensed

milk in America on August 19, 1856. It was accompanied with a publicity campaign under the slogan "The Milk from Contented Cows." The goal of all these inventors was to create a milk product that would last without being refrigerated.

In my wanderings, I was delighted to discover sweetened condensed milk is also an ingredient in Tablet, a lovely Scottish confection. Tablet is a caramel fudge-like candy that can be found in shops large and small all over Scotland. It is a bit more complicated to make than the recipe for caramel, but is well worth the effort. There are many recipes for Tablet, but here's one with which I had good luck.

Scottish Tablet

1 stick salted butter

5 cups sugar

1 cup milk (I used ½ % but higher cream content will result in an even richer tablet)

1 14-oz. can of sweetened condensed milk

In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the sugar and the milk. Stir continuously until the sugar dissolves completely. Add the condensed milk and bring the mixture to a slow boil. The mixture will foam and can boil over, so make sure that the saucepan is big enough and that you heat slowly. Simmer for 20 minutes or more (mine took twice that) until the mixture turns a very golden brown color. One recipe recommends spooning a few drops onto a white saucer once in a while, comparing the color as it changes. Another test is to dribble drops into cold water. It should hold its shape when done.

Remove the saucepan from the heat and beat with a wooden spoon for 5 minutes as it thickens. Pour into a buttered 9"x11" baking dish. Cool slightly and then cut into small squares while still warm.

- Carolyn McDonald Graf

SCOT

215 SE Maynard Road
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www.scot.us

The Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle (S.C.O.T.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing and educating the public about the history, culture, and heritage of Scotland and the Scottish people.

Board of Directors:

George Birrell
Carolyn Graf
D'Nise Hefner
Patricia Johnston
Cheryl Jones

Ginny Kent
Judith Lloyd
Donald Ross
John Sprague



SCOT Calendar of Events

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| June 4 | SCOT Golf Tournament & Family BBQ, The Crossings at Grove Park, BBQ follows at the home of Chuck & Cheryl McDougal |
| July 2-7 | School of Scottish Arts, Minneapolis, NC |
| July 3-8 | Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance, Banner Elk, NC |
| July 7-10 | Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC |
| Aug. 28 | SCOT Annual General Meeting, location TBD |

Till All the Floods Run Dry ~ Attr. to Thomas Traill

HE

Farewell, farewell, my dearest dear,
Now farewell for a while,
Tho' I must go, I'll come again,
If 'twere ten thousand mile.

Ten thousand mile, my dearest dear,
Through Flanders, France and Spain,
My heart can never be at ease
Till I see thee again.

SHE

What shall I do, my dearest dear,
When thou art from me gone ?
Who then will heed my sighs and tears,
Or mind my piteous moan ?

Who then will heed my sighs and tears,
And grief which ne'er shall cease,
Then stay at home, my dearest dear,
Till all our friends we please.

HE

Oh ! all our friends we ne'er shall please ,
They look with angry eye;
But I will love thee faithfullie
Till all the floods run dry.

Till all the seas run dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt with the sun,
I still will love thee faithfullie,
Till all these things be done.

Where before has the Scottish mind received the meanings behind some of these words? Is this a contemporary revision of a Scottish poem by a young person trying to impress their teacher with the fullness of their capability in the English language? Many, bigger surprises await the reader.

Thomas Traill came from a well known, landed family from the House of Holland in the Orkneys, those islands of Scotland so far to the north of the mainland that their nature and roots are more of the wild, windblown oceans, the "Northern Lights," arctic fisher folk and Norse adventurers than of clansmen, lowland farmers, the Canongate and Border reivers. Traill wrote this poem about the year 1630 as he was about to leave to fight as a colonel for the army of Gustaphus Adolphus on mainland Europe. Perhaps he went alone, perhaps leading a group of mercenary fighters from his family estates which had contracted their services to that European general. The poem is an "au revoir" conversation between Traill and his lady wife

(Continued on page 2)

We welcome your contributions to this quarterly newsletter! Please forward news of any achievements, births, marriages, or graduations to Amy Mooney (danceramy@aol.com) to be included. If you have an article, story, artwork, or bit of Scottish lore to share, please submit it to Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

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