



Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast

The Scotsman

MAY/JUN 2024

Kaye's Komments

It's exciting to see that we have more new members and I invite all members to please get involved - call us 772-783-6891 (office number). Our upcoming events for this season are listed on page two. We have moved the Annual Meeting to October 17, 2024, as Steve and I will be in the UK (5 weeks Scotland, 1 week England and 1 week transatlantic) for the majority of August and September. We may share a brief presentation at the Annual Meeting about our trip. We are excited to see the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. Appearing with the band from the Citadel Military Academy will be Liam Ritchie, a Society member and grandson of Dale Ritchie, a longtime member. We have had many successful events this year and I thank everyone who volunteered their help and I'm looking forward to our next season, including our St. Andrew's Day Celebration on November 21, 2024. I would also like to have our members give us suggestions as well as volunteering for events.

We will be meeting with Russell at Pointe West to finalize the arrangements for the Annual Meeting, St. Andrew's Day Celebration and Burns Supper 2025. I urge you to spread the good word about the Society as there is always room for more members as long as they like bagpipes!

Kaye Hicks, President

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our Society is growing, and we now have 91 members with several applications outstanding. As we grow, the Board would like to have our members join in and volunteer to help with our events and communications. This year we have added Scottish Country Dancing (free lessons) and Polo at the Pointe West polo field. We are looking to host a scholarship fundraising event and hope to be able to include the Vero Beach Pipes and Drums Band. Our last two events were the Afternoon Tea and the Kirkin'. These events were well attended, and reports will follow later in this newsletter. Every member is invited to attend our Board meetings on the first Friday of the month at Sean Ryans Pub on 14th Street in Vero @ 10:00 AM please call 772-783-6891 for additional information. Also check out our improved website where you can read all the Bio's of your Board members. Our Facebook page is in the process of a complete overhaul and in a few weeks, it will be a good source for Society information.

Steve Hicks

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

May 20, 2024	Scottish Family Genealogy Meeting, Main Library, VB
October 17, 2024	Annual Meeting, Pointe West, Vero Beach
November 21, 2024	St. Andrew's Day Celebration, Pointe West, VB
January 23, 2025	Burns Supper, Pointe West, Vero Beach

FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM

Our Scottish Family History Program will hold the last monthly meeting for this season on Monday, May 20th and will resume our monthly meetings next fall. The May 20th meeting will be at 10:30 A.M. in the Family History Room, 2nd Floor of the Vero Main Library. Please note our meetings are open not only to our Society members but others who are interested in studying Scottish Heritage, Clans, and Genealogy.

We launched this program last October with the goals of promoting Scottish Culture and History and enhancing our genealogical skills while having fun along the way. So far we are very excited with our progress. Our great appreciation goes to the Indian River Genealogy Society and Michelle Wagner, Vero Genealogical Librarian and her staff for their invaluable support of our program.

Thanks also to all of you who have participated in our monthly meetings and your important contributions to the success of our Family History Program.

Mason Russell & Roy Thompson
Program Co-Chairpersons

TEA FOR TWO (AND THEN SOME)

This year saw the annual Afternoon Scottish Tea in full swing. We had 85 attendees with several last minute attendees. With a majority being from the public rather than membership, it appears that it is a worthwhile event for the procurement of new members and the very real possibility of some who may consider joining later. We had nine new

applications which is a good return on investment of resources and the time spent putting the event together.

Looking forward, as mentioned in a letter to all, we are hoping some of the new members (some of whom may be a bit younger with more energy) will step forward and assist next year so that this productive, money-making and new member acquiring event can continue. The final tally netted approximately \$1,250 for the Society with \$600 being voted on by the Board to be earmarked and deposited into the SSOTC Scholarship fund account for future use. We try to find individuals who are advancing their studies in traditional Scottish Culture and Music. There are no age restriction!

Planning, executing and having successful fundraising activities to keep the wheels on the bus moving along smoothly with enough monies to grease the wheels --- is not last minute. Therefore, again, I am asking any and all members, male or female to get in touch with the Tea Committee Chair, Nancy, that would be me! Phoning is fine 772-538-1932 or emailing also fine to reallist1@comcast.net to offer suggestions, improvements, creative thinking on presentation, work you have skill at or a strong back, able to stand and bake some delicacies would be greatly appreciated! Next year's date has not been set yet, but in trying to avoid other events being held during "season" is not always perfect; at times our members will have to choose perhaps, but we do hope you continue to choose us.

Thank you for your kind attention and lets pull the strings TOGETHER for this event to continue and make it even more profitable and fun and attended by all. By the way, the Garden Club - assuming we continue to use that space, can hold up to 190 people. Although the fire marshall would allow it, I really wouldn't want to try and seat more than about 125; as it would be very crowded and have to be a different set up and presentation for sure; but wouldn't it be nice to have the problem?

Nancy Richards, Tea Chairperson

The Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast invites you to participate in

Scottish Country Dance Lessons

Every Monday 6:30-9:30 pm
Clubhouse at the Springs of Suntree
8300 Holiday Springs Road
Melbourne / Suntree
Contact for Melbourne is Catie Geist
Phone: 321-427-3587



Free Dance Instruction

No Partner Needed
Bring a bottle of water
Refreshments served at break
Bring a teacup or coffee mug if you want hot tea or coffee

Contact: Donna Sherrard

Chairman of the Country Dancing Committee for
The Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast

Phone: 863-221-7223



ARMY'S WARTIME BLOOMERS REVEALED

British troops were involved in a secret plan to go into battle wearing women's underwear, it has emerged. The declassified plan by the Public Records Office was set up to protect World War II troops from mustard gas attacks. Kilt-wearing soldiers in the Scots regiments were at risk because their legs were exposed to the poisonous gas. From the 1920s up until 1939, secret tests were carried out on volunteer soldiers dressed in long stockings and woolen bloomers. Wearing underwear, soaked in protective chemicals dissolved in white spirit, volunteers were exposed to the gas. The research and tests were carried out at Porton Down, the military research centre in Wiltshire. Porton Down historian, Gradon Carter, said: "A great deal of attention was paid in those days to the impregnation of battle dress and socks with substances called impregnities. These were chemicals which could actually combine with mustard gas vapour to render them harmless." Although the tests showed the bloomers did protect the volunteers, it was decided that the protective clothing was too costly to supply to all Scots regiments. As a result, the kilt was banned from the battlefield in 1940.

SCOTTISH JOKES

By Sarah Morley

You should be careful about stereotyping the Scots as mean. There was a recent letter to a newspaper from an Aberdonian which said "If you print any more jokes about mean Scotsmen, I shall stop borrowing your paper."

"Have you heard the rumor that the Grand Canyon was started by a Scotsman who lost a coin in a ditch?"

As a Christmas present one year, the Laird gave his gamekeeper, MacPhail, a deerstalker hat with ear-flaps. MacPhail was most appreciative and always wore it with the flaps tied under his chin to keep his ears warm in the winter winds. One cold, windy day the Laird noticed he was not wearing the hat. "Where's the hat?" asked the Laird. "I've given up wearing it since the accident," replied MacPhail. "Accident? I didn't know you'd had an accident." "Yes. A man offered me a nip of whisky and I had the earflaps down and never heard him."

A Scottish prayer - "Oh Lord, we do not ask you to give us wealth. But show us where it is!"

A Scotsman, an Englishman and an Australian were in a bar and had just started on a new round of drinks when a fly landed in each glass of beer. The Englishman took his out on the blade of his Swiss Army knife. The Australian blew his away in a cloud of froth. The Scotsman lifted his one up carefully by the wings and held it above his glass. "Go on, spit it oot, ye wee devil" he growled.

SOCIETY PHOTO GALLERY



Afternoon Tea Table Setting



Savory Delights at the Afternoon Tea



Afternoon Tea Entertainers, Sally & Jim



Kirkin' of the Tartan at Westminster Church



Kirkin' of the Tartan at Westminster Church



Polo Match Tents



Polo guests sipping champagne & stomping divots

Stevens Printing

950 Old Dixie Highway, Suite A-11
Vero Beach, FL 32960

E-mail: StevensPrinting9@aol.com

Phone: 772-563-0863

Owners: Philip & Carol Van Vynckt



scots-american travel advisors

Peter Dobson, President

825 13th Lane

Vero Beach, FL 32960

www.scotsamerican.com

Phone: 772-563-2856

THE MONTHLY TARTAN QUIZ

This month's tartan is the Royal Canadian Air Force. The tartan was created in the early 1940s by Group Captain Elmer Fullerton, based on the Anderson tartan and the RCAF colours. It was approved by the Air Council of RCAF on 21 May 1942. A sample of the tartan was submitted to Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Edinburgh, who wrote that he approved of the tartan. More of the tartan was woven for the pipers and drummers in the RCAF band.



RICHARDS REAL ESTATE

OVER 35 YEARS
helping friends find or sell
their home

Nancy L. Richards
677 Royal Palm Blvd.,
Vero Beach, FL 32960

772.538.1932
Reallist1@comcast.net
Richardsrealestate.com

2023 - 2024 SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President - Kaye Hicks

Vice President - Mason Russell

Secretary - Sarah Morley

Treasurer - Sylvia Gregory

Communications Director - Nancy Richards

Events Coordinator - Open Position

Membership Director - Steve Hicks

Director at Large - Helena Krasa

Director at Large - Donna Sherrard

Society Phone Number: 772-783-6891

E-mail: tcscotsmembership@gmail.com

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - The Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast

Society Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5263, Vero Beach, FL. 32961