

Great SCOT!

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

June 2018

History of “Scotland The Brave”

By Catherine McKinley

While Scotland has no official national anthem, many people, both in and outside of the country, think of “Scotland The Brave” as its unofficial anthem. The sentiment of the tune seems to date from the 1820's and was, originally, a flute solo. Then, somewhere between 1891 - 1895, a form of the song, then called “Scotland For Ever” was published in Norman MacDonald's Gesto Collection of Highland Music. Due to the mystery of the identity of the actual music composer, the word “Traditional” is listed on song sheets and recordings.

Scotland the Brave

March

Traditional





However, what is well documented is that the lyrics to “Scotland The Brave” were written, in 1951, by Cliff Hanley (1923 - 1999). Mr. Hanley (pictured) was a multi-talented man of words being a journalist, writer, author, songwriter, storyteller, public speaker, historian and broadcaster. He was commissioned to write the song by performer, producer and music shop owner Robert Wilson, who was seeking a closing number for his Christmas Scottish Musical Review Show at the Glasgow Empire Theater. Robert Wilson paid Cliff Hanley 25 pounds for the song. “Scotland The Brave” quickly became a sensation and was adopted, by the Scottish people, as an unofficial national anthem.

It has been speculated that its popularity is due to the fact that it is meant to be a tribute to the pure loyalty of the soldiers forced to leave their homeland to settle foreign conflicts; “far off in sunlit places, sad are the Scottish faces yearning to feel the kiss of sweet Scottish rain . . . longing and dreaming for the homeland again.”

By the end of the 19th century, the sound of the bagpipes was universally recognized as announcing the arrival of Scottish regiments. Their strength and military might was so well known that the sound of the ever closer pipes often caused enemies to flee the battlefield. It was, therefore, a welcome sound for the clansmen already at the site. Overall, it’s about Scotland standing united and strong:

Hark when the night is falling
Hear! Hear the pipes are calling
Loudly and proudly calling,
Down thro’ the glen.
There where the hills are sleeping,
Now feel the blood a-leaping,
High as the spirits of the old Highland men.

REFRAIN

Towering in gallant fame,
Scotland my mountain hame,
High may your proud standards gloriously wave,
Land of my high endeavor,
Land of the shining river,
Land of my heart for ever,
Scotland The Brave

High in the misty Highlands,
Out by the purple islands,
Brave are the hearts that beat
beneath Scottish skies.
Wild are the winds to meet you,
Staunch are the friends that greet you,
Kind as the love that shines from faire maiden’s eyes.



Repeat refrain

Far off in sunlit places,
Sad are the Scottish faces,
Yearning to feel the kiss
Of sweet Scottish rain.
Where tropic skies are beaming,
Love sets the heart a-dreaming,
Longing and dreaming for the homeland again.

Repeat refrain . . . “Scotland the brave.”



Scottish High Tea

All SCOT members are cordially invited to an elegant Scottish High Tea on **Saturday, June 2 from 4 to 6 PM** in the **West Raleigh Presbyterian Church Tea Room**. A beautiful buffet table will offer Scotch Eggs, Meat Pies, assorted tea sandwiches, and a crudité tray of cheeses and relishes. There will be scones and shortbread, gingerbread and tarts, and seasonal fruit. And of course, bottomless tea pots with freshly brewed tea. You will be surrounded by tartans, hear a bagpiper and see men in kilts. This intergenerational event will include a short program on Scottish Folklore with a challenge for children to find symbols in the room.

Cost is \$15 for SCOT members, \$20 for non-members.

RSVP now to Emily Sprague at esprague@nc.rr.com by May 28.

Glorious Spring Day at Spring Daze

By Diane Hill

A beautiful spring day provided the setting for Cary's Spring Daze Arts and Crafts Festival on April 28th. SCOT had its usual tent at the Children's Playground where we offered a couple of mini-golf games, Scottish-themed coloring and paper dolls, and a wood castle for kids to play with. The Annandale Center dancers put on a well-attended show at the Sertoma Stage as well. Thanks to everyone who helped provide the entertainment and held down the tent for the day, including Pat Johnston, Amy Mooney and the Annandale Center dancers, Lara Seltmann, President Donald Ross, Warren Hinson (who helped in the morning and came back in the afternoon to help break down the tent!), Catherine McKinley our stalwart provider of golf mini-games and butterscotch candy, and Kerry Rose, for help with the children's activities.



Tartan Day at the Museum

By Diane Hill



For the second year, SCOT members participated at Tartan Day at the State History Museum in downtown Raleigh on April 6th. This event, organized by Celtic Force Enterprises, invites several clans to set up booths in the museum lobby as well as bands and other entertainers with a Scottish or Celtic flavor. We have also enjoyed lectures on Scottish-American settlement, genealogy and other matters in

the museum's large auditorium. This year included a presentation on 1700's Scottish clothing. The SCOT booth and the clan booths (Clans Donald, Wallace and MacLean) were overwhelmed by curious visitors who wanted to look up their tartans and learn about Scotland. There is clearly a vast, largely unplumbed population of residents who are keen on learning more about their ancestors from Scotland or Ulster Province in Ireland. Holding down our booth this year were Warren Hinson, Margaret Klein and me who handled requests from hundreds of museum-goers. Pipers and drummers from *Piobadh na Triantan*, including Emily and John Sprague, took time from their workday to put on a very well-received stage performance. Students from the Annandale Center taught by Pat Johnston and Amy Mooney, and from Raleigh Scottish Dance taught by Erin Bartow danced a series of lively dances including some with North Carolina history at two stage performances and took many young people through basic sword dance steps in the lobby! These students have given generously of their time at several events so far this year, including a series of performances at several Wake County branch libraries and at Spring Daze in Cary on April 28th.

Many thanks to Carolyn and Doug Graf for setting up the SCOT booth,



providing the impressive tartan banners decorating the museum lobby, and bringing the Loch Ness ‘monster’, Nessie, who was a great draw for the hordes of children coming to the museum. *Our State Magazine* is a sponsor of Tartan Day, which celebrates the Declaration of Arbroath signed by 100 nobles on April 6th, 1320, petitioning the Pope to intercede with England and recognize Scotland as a sovereign nation. The U.S. Senate recognized April 6th as Tartan Day only in 1998, the House of Representatives in 2005 and President George W. Bush in 2008. Plans are in the works regarding Tartan Day 2019.

Members should be thinking about how we can make Tartan Day 2020 really special; it will be the 700th anniversary of the courageous signing of a document that had an influence on our Declaration of Independence. Put your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas! As that date falls on a Monday, the likelihood is that planned events will have to be on the previous weekend.

Scholarships Being Granted Soon

By Diane Hill

Traditionally, SCOT provides scholarships annually in two categories: The standard has been that only one senior scholarship is granted to a North Carolina high school senior who has demonstrated a high level of participation and interest in a Scottish art or cultural pursuit; several grants of \$150 each are made to NC students who attend or wish to attend any NC school teaching any Scottish art. The number of grants in this latter category is not fixed but depends on the quality of the applications and the funds available.

Every spring the board reviews a number of very detailed, strong applications from the senior scholars who typically plan to make their chosen Scottish art – dance, piping, music or other – an important part of their ongoing education or future career. These scholars have already been performing at quite advanced levels and many express a deep commitment to continuing their chosen art in college or at a noted specialist academy. Often they are engaged in training at junior levels in their art. It is always difficult to choose the “best” applicant from several outstanding ones. We require a 500-word essay in support of the application – it is so heartening to see how these 17 and 18-year-olds already demonstrate the kind of fervor and dedication that most of us were not doing until well into adulthood. The letters of support for each applicant show how their teachers and mentors hold each one of them in high regard, with many references to character and kindness as well

as to excellence in performance. I'm personally brought to tears when I realize we can only choose one!

If any SCOT member would care to make a separate donation that would help fund an additional senior scholarship winner, or provide extra money toward the second grant category, please make a check out to SCOT (note on the check which type of scholarship the donation is for) and send it to Pat Johnston, Treasurer, at the Annandale Center, 406 Faculty Ave., Cary, NC 27511.

Applications for the senior scholarship will be arriving in time for our June Board meeting. The requests for the smaller grants of \$150 were due May 15th and may already be under review as you read this.

Grandfather Mountain Games

By Carolyn Graf

Fellow SCOT members, this is your booth.



It is set up at games for two reasons. One is to let people know we exist, to give out information about our activities and to encourage people to join us. The

second reason is to create a base for you at the games, a place for you to leave your cooler and to rest for a spell before setting off again.

Grandfather Highland Games July 13, 14, and 15, is the premier venue for SCOT and we need volunteers to make this happen. Setting up and taking down the booth is not a problem. Staffing the booth is more difficult. The job itself is simple: talk to people about our purpose and activities. We will give you on the spot training. If you can help for a whole day we can arrange for a **FREE PASS** (quantity limited) into the games. Even if you can't help, please stop and say hello.

If you are willing to lend a hand contact Carolyn Graf at cmcdgraf@aol.com.

919-557-7237. Thanks and looking forward to seeing you there.

It would be really swell if a few of our retirees could show up in Scottish dress for at least part of the event, especially those who are native Scots or knowledgeable about Scotland. Please contact Diane Hill at 919-557-7237 if you think you can spare a few hours to assist. Program details are still being updated at this writing.

Tastes of Scotland

Scottish Rabbit (Rarebit)

By Carolyn McDonald Graf

The first day of May has long been a time of celebration, when the cold hand of winter is loosened and nature bursts forth. It is a time to honor life in its many forms. Ostara is the celebration of the vernal equinox. It is named after the Goddess of Springtime, Eostre. It is believed that this celebration was introduced to the Celts by the Saxons in 600 C.E. Since many animals give birth in the spring, it is celebrated with symbols of fertility-such as eggs. The Easter Bunny has its origins in this festival. The Celts did not see a man's face in the moon but the image of a rabbit. It was believed that the moon hare would lay eggs for children at Ostara.

Cheese rolling is also a tradition originating from the spring celebrations. A large cheese wheel is rolled down a hill and at a signal, runners go after it. The one who gets to the cheese first is the winner. A popular theory is that the cheese represents the sun. Winter was a dreaded time of darkness and cold, threatening food supplies as well as the lives of the frail. By rolling the yellow rounds down the hill the Celts and Saxons were perhaps representing the sun's path across the sky and urging summer on its way. The winner divided the cheese among the crowd and it was often saved as a symbol for a prosperous year.



This dish is very old and, as all very old recipes, has many variations including the name. The first mention in 1725 calls it *Rabbit*. Perhaps a joke on the fact that there is no rabbit in it. Or perhaps as wishful thinking, since rabbit poaching was unlawful. The term *Rarebit* came shortly after, maybe to avoid confusion with dishes that actually contain rabbit. It is often called *Welsh Rabbit*. The notion that toasted cheese was a favorite dish, irresistible to the Welsh, has existed since the Middle Ages. But the recipe is common to many places, as evidenced in that there are recipes for English Rabbit, Irish rabbit and Scottish Rabbit. Here is an

example of Scottish Rabbit, a good spring time supper that includes ancient symbols of spring.

Scottish Rabbit

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 pound Sharp Cheddar Cheese
coarsely grated
½ teaspoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Dash of cayenne pepper

Salt
Freshly ground pepper
2 large egg yolks, beaten
½ cup light beer or ale (some recipes
call for dark beer)
4 slices buttered toast

In a chafing dish or double boiler, melt the butter. Add cheese and melt, stirring often in one direction. Add mustard, Worcestershire and cayenne. Season with salt and pepper.

Continue stirring the same direction.

In a small dish combine egg yolks and beer or ale. Gradually add to cheese mixture, stirring constantly. Cook over low heat, never letting it boil, until the mixture is smooth. Serve over crispy buttered toast.

The Scottish-Irish Pub and Hearth Cookbook, Kay Shaw Nelson, 1999, Hippocerne Books, Inc. New York NY p.62.

Celtic Folklore Cooking, Joanne Asala, 2007, Llewellyn Publications, Woodbury, MN, USA. p.133.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_rarebit.

SCOT Golf Tournament

The 15th Annual Mark Johnston SCOT golf classic was played Sat 5/19 at the Crossings at Grove Park. True Scottish weather was present but did not slow down the brave souls that competed in the event. Stories of clubs flying into the par 3 pond and beers getting "watered down" gave pause for a chuckle.

Congratulations to the winner, Philip and Duncan Ross for a stellar -1 under round.

Thanks to all those who participated!





President's Corner

Dear Members,

Here we are almost half way through the year. It just seems as if we were celebrating Burns Night a few weeks ago and now we are planning our AGM at the end of August. It is important to enjoy each and every day!!

With a very successful Tartan Day, and Cary Spring Daze behind us, our Golf Tournament will also be over by the time you receive this newsletter. Our SCOT Tea will be upon us soon; I hope many of you will have been able to participate in some of these wonderful events. Should you have any suggestions for different events, or changes, please let us know; your input is very important to The Board.

Ceud mile failte – One hundred thousand welcomes to our new members, Randy Fraser, Robert Segraves, Chris Shrewsbury Family, Lisa Marks and Everett Coates.

My Sincere thanks to each of you for joining, and I look forward to getting to know all of you better as time goes on.

Keep an eye on your inbox for updates and other events which will be coming up soon. As always, please let us know what we can do to make SCOT the Organization you all want it to be! Come along and enjoy our events, they are for you, our members!!

God Bless, and enjoy each and every day!
Donald Ross

Calendar of Future SCOT Events and Other Activities

June 2018

SCOT Tea

June 2, 2018 – West Raleigh Presbyterian Church
Raleigh, NC

July 2018

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

July 13-15, 2018 – Linville, NC

August 2018

Annual General Meeting

August 26, 2018



406 Faculty Avenue
Cary, NC 27511
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:

Tiffany Cissel	Lara Seltmann	Warren Hinson
Catherine McKinley	Patricia Johnston	Diane Hill
Carolyn Graf	John Sprague	Donald Ross

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 the Editor (SCOT.triangle.news@gmail.com).