

The Virginia Highlander

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

SPRING 1974

Editor: Howard S. Topp

PRESIDENT: Paul J. Ritchie
SECRETARY: G. Alan Morledge

VICE PRESIDENT: Howard S. Topp
TREASURER: William G. Fleming

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PRESIDENT PAUL J. RITCHIE

PRESIDENT RITCHIE RE-ELECTED

President Paul J. Ritchie and his slate of officers were returned to office at the February Board of Directors meeting. Despite Paul's allegation that there was a "railroad" in progress, he was re-elected in a unanimous vote by board members. Officers re-elected with President Ritchie were, Vice President Howard S. Topp, Secretary G. Alan Morledge, and Treasurer William G. Fleming.

New Directors elected at the General meeting in January also joined the Board at the February meeting. New members of the Board are Edward T. Campbell, James R. Armstrong, and James C. Anthony.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my opinion, 1973 has been the best year our Society has had. We have shown improvements in every activity, surpassing previous years in every event.

Our excellent pipe band under the direction of Mr. William Pittman has given an outstanding performance at the Occasion for the Arts, the dedication of the Williamsburg Public Library, as a featured unit in the William and Mary Homecoming Parade, at the Ceilidhs, the Tartan Ball, the Kirkin' O' the Tartan, and Burn's Night. Individual pipers have performed at NATO meetings in Virginia Beach and Rob Roy MacGregor piped at a funeral service in Richmond, Virginia. We certainly may be proud of this splendid dedicated band.

The Society was well represented at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games of which we are a sponsor and award the trophy for the mile race.

Every event we scheduled was most successful and had a great increase in participation over events held in prior years, examples of which are Ceilidhs increased from 70 to over 100, Tartan Ball 50 to over 100, Kirkin' O' the Tartan 25 to over 80, Burn's Night 90 to 120, and membership rose from 90 to 105. Yet with this increase in activities, your Board of Directors held expenditures in balance with receipts. The only disheartening factor is there are a few members who have never participated in the fun we have. Why this is so is beyond me, because we have the finest people one would ever hope to socialize with. Our programs must be good or the rise in participation would not have occurred. If you are one of those "shy shrinking types," come to our next fun event, find me, and explain the mystery.

Your Board has decided that we are on a firm footing and should put into practice the first of our Society's objectives: the dispensing of charitable and educational assistance to Scotsmen or their widows. To accomplish this, the Society at the Burn's Night Annual meeting voted unanimously to increase the dues \$2.00 per year.

Procedures are now being developed by Major MacGillivray to provide a piper at the funeral of a member or of his family should the request be made.

We plan to initiate a Scottish section in the Williamsburg Public Library and negotiations have been initiated by Mr. Graham.

Your Society is moving forward, 1974 could be our best year and it will be if all join in and have fun.

YOURS AYE,



BURN'S NIGHT

The lads of the Society were unanimous in their praise of the Burn's Night dinner. The 1974 gathering was held in the James, York, and Warwick Rooms of the Fort Eustis Officer's Open Mess on the night of February 2nd. As has been the practice in the past, this activity was the best attended gathering of the year.

Following the sumptuous feast, President Ritchie gave his State of the Society message, outlining the successes and growth of the organization during the past year. The program for the evening was presented by Jim Whyte who functioned as the Master of Ceremonies. The evening program included an exhibition of Scottish dancing by Mrs. Bryon Adams, "Brigadoon" selections by William and Mary students under the direction of Professor Howard Scammon, and a performance by our own pipe band. Many members commented that this was perhaps our most exciting entertainment program of the year. Jim Whyte and Bill Fleming richly deserve the credit for creating an evening that would have pleased the Bard of Ayr.



THE PIPES
SKIRL AS MEMBERS
AND THEIR LADIES ENJOY
THE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE
1974 BURN'S NIGHT GATHERING

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN...1973

December 2 was one of those beautifully crisp Williamsburg fall days. Worshippers were piped into St. Bede's Catholic Church by the Society's pipe band promptly at 10:30 a.m. Mass was celebrated by Father Warner with an assist from the Rev. Dr. McLeod of the Presbyterian Church. The tartans of the Society were offered by President Ritchie and Vice President Topp.

Following the ceremony, the band piped the Society out of the church and onto the grounds. A selection of appropriate tunes were presented, including the popular "Amazing Grace."

Upon completion of the services, members attended a brunch at the Hilton 1776. Indeed the whole day was a laudable experience . . . due in great measure to the able direction of Mac MacGillivray, chairman for the activity.

SCOTTISH WORLD FESTIVAL

A SUCCESS FOR SECOND TIME IN NEW WORLD

The pipes skirled and colors of many tartans flashed in Toronto for the second Scottish world festival on "this side of the water." Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition hosted the festival, creating four days of exhilarating Highland pageantry and excitement.

The finest pipe bands from Scotland, England, Ulster, France, Australia, New Zealand as well as the United States and Canada participated in the festival parade through downtown Toronto and the four nighttime "tatoos." The parade of bands drew an enthusiastic crowd of 400,000, while the tatoos packed 120,000 people into the CNE football stadium.

Two non-Scottish organizations were received enthusiastically . . . the RCMP and their "musical ride" and the renowned Gurka Brigade's Pipes and Drums. Each provided an unforgettable experience.

Jack and Jeanne McPherson and Howard and Carolyn Topp from the Williamsburg Society attended the activities.



THE NEW BAIRNS!

LISA ANN FLEMING was born on the 6th of December, 1973. Her proud parents are Berdie and Bill Fleming of Fort Eustis.



HEATHER LYNN TOPP arrived on the scene the 20th of March, 1974. She claims Carolyn and Howard Topp as parents and future member Eric Topp as brother.

18th ANNUAL GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

The roads to the Linville, N.C., area were crowded with happy travelers last July. Scots . . . and "Scots for a day" journeyed to the mountain for one of the most exciting activities in the United States. The rich green mountainous terrain provided an excellent background for the two day spectacular.

Once again the attendance at the games exceeded expectations. "Conservative estimates" for both days were set at 75,000. Representatives of more than 150 clans or septs signed in at the registration table, representing forty-three states and six foreign countries.

Activities included Highland and AAU sponsored athletic events; piping, drumming, and dancing contests; the parade of tartans; the Friday night ceilidh; the annual Tartan Ball; and the Sunday morning worship service.

Williamsburg was well represented once more. Those attending from the local Society were: Ritchies, Topps, Morledges, Harkness, and former member Scott Hester.

The only way to really appreciate the splendor of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games is to attend! For further information on the '74 games and "handy hints," contact members who have attended . . . then stand back, for they are bound to provide you with an enthusiastic comment on this splendid experience!

"GILL AND MCGILL IN SCOTLAND"

(Excerpt from "Grandfather Mountain Highland Games" July 13, 14, 1968)

The origin of Gill and McGill families in Scotland is lost in legend, but both are ancient names and both claim Cumberland and Galloway as their source. Pictish Gaels, Northumbrian Angles and Norse invaders were the strains in the population, but the Dalraid Scots called them Gall-Gaels (foreign Gaels) because they spoke a different Celtic language, when Gille, son of Bueth, inherited Bewcastle and the barony of Gillsland from his father, Bueth macGille, Lord of Galloway. Gille held the castle for several years by force of arms, but was finally murdered and expelled by a Norman in about 1150 A.D. He is said to "stand on a pedestal unique, perhaps in Scottish history, as the last Scotie chieftain to hold sway in England against the power of the Norman." His grandfather, Gille Brighte, who married Sverland, sister of Sigurd II, King of the Hebrides, was also the ancestor of Gille Brigid, the father of Somerled, Lord of the Isles, and progenitor of Clan Donald.

Gillsland was one of the three original baronies of Cumberland, then a part of Scotland. Bewcastle is near Hadrian's Wall and is marked by a Celtic cross, originally 21 ft. high and erected in 670 A.D. It is assumed that leading families of clan McGill are descended from a son of Gille mac-Bueth, and the del Gills are also descendents of this family who assumed a territorial name from the barony. Patric del Gyle, a gentleman of Peebleshire, signed the Ragman Roll which carried the names of the chief families of Scotland, including Robert Bruce, in 1296. There were del Gyle families in Cumberland, Lancashire and Yorkshire in the 13th and 14th centuries. In 1328, John Gill, probably a son of Patric del Gyle, became Collector of Customs in Perth, then the capital of Scotland. His son, John Gill, Laird of Haultown, represented Perth in several Parliaments and was Provost (Lord Mayor) of Perth shortly before the famous battle between Clan Chattan and Clan Kay in 1396,

described by Sir Walter Scott in "The Fair Maid of Perth." In 1406 he was one of four witnesses for Scotland at the renewal of the "Auld Alliance" in Paris. Of this Perthshire family were: John Gill, "domains" (Laird) of Torsopy; John Gill, M.A. (Paris), one of the first lecturers at St. Andrews University in Fife, 1412; Alexander Gill, born 1550, who established the family in Aberdeenshire; and John Gill a Covenanter in Fife, 1666. Aberdeenshire Gills fought at Culloden for Bonnie Prince Charlie. The most famous member of this branch was Sir David Gill of Blairythan, Royal Astronomer. A descendant of the old del Gill family in Cumberland was Alexander Gill, M.A., Headmaster of St. Paul's School in London, and the tutor of John Milton.

Macgill of Rankeillor, Makgill of that Ilk, Lord Makgill of Cousland, Viscount Oxenfoord in East Lothian, and James McGill from Glasgow, who established McGill University in Montreal, all are assumed to be descendants of Gille mac-Bueth, Lord of the barony of Gillsland.

The ancient arms of McGill are a red shield charged with silver martlets. The crest of Makgill of Rankeillor was a martlet, but Lord Makgill was granted a phoenix for a crest. Gill of Blairythan had three silver martlets on a red field for the upper part of their shield, and a hawk for a crest. Another Gill coat-of-arms includes silver martlets on a red field as part of the shield and a seagull for a crest.

The registered McGill Tartan may be worn by several Scots families: McGill, Gill, Cargill, Gillen, Glen and Cairnes. These are not septs but they bear the silver martlets and have some ancient connection with McGill.

In 1707, John McGill composed the "Johnnie McGill Air" for fiddlers. It was also known as "Come under my Plaidie." The tune has been arranged for bag pipes under the name: "McGill March," dedicated to McGill University, and used by some Gill and McGill families as their pipe music.

Gill of Blairythan and Mitchell-Gill of Auchinroath are extinct in the male line. The head of the only armigerous Scottish Gill family recorded by Lyon Court today is Col. Harrison Williams Gill, of Lookout Mountain, Tenn. The nominal chief of McGill is Sir Donald Makgill of the Ilk and Kembach (Fife). A descendant of a daughter of the extinct Viscount Makgill family is Sir Duncan Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Monzie Castle, Perthshire.

North Hermitage
Lookout Mountain
Tennessee, 1967

AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION:

A Scotsman was asked his opinion of the miniskirts worn by the younger ladies in his town. He thought about it a while, then responded, "Aye, 'tis a functional thing. It'll enable the lassies tae run faster . . . Aye, an' because of it they may ha' to!"

SCOTTISH CEREMONIES AT FUNERALS

In response to several inquiries from members, President Ritchie directed Director Ray MacGillivray to conduct a study on funeral ceremonial procedures. Mac has prepared a standard operating procedure for those members of the Society who desire a piper at their funeral. Although none of us likes the thought, we should make such arrangements known to both our families and the St. Andrew's Society.

Information on this service and the ceremonies available may be obtained by contacting Mac or Paul Ritchie.

ROB ROY PIPES AT FUNERAL IN RICHMOND

On November 24, 1973, Society member and piper Rob Roy MacGregor played "Flowers O' the Forest" and a selection of retreat tunes at the graveside of Mrs. Buford of Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Buford's son, who is a Californian, contacted President Ritchie and sought the Society's assistance in locating a piper for the funeral service. At Rob Roy's request, the Buford family sent the piper's fee to the School of Scottish Arts, Bonner Elk, N.C. to assist some promising but needy student to study piping, dancing, or drumming.

A BONNIE WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

A great period of time has passed since our last issue "hit the streets," so we feel that we should bring you all up to date on our new members. The following have joined the Society since the last edition of "The Virginia Highlander":

Bryon A. Adams	Guy H. Nelson
James R. Armstrong	John Offley
Donald F. Campbell	Henry H. Osborne, Jr.
Duncan D. Chaplin III	Henry H. Osborne III
William G. Coutts	Colin Park
Craig L. Hanson	Joel M. Ridgell
Andrew J. Jurchenko	James W. Roy
Thomas C. Kennedy	Thomas B. Shiflett
Alastair Mac Donald	Henry S. Wann
Roderick Mac Donald	James F. Williamson

A complete Society roster will be issued as a part of the Summer 1974 edition of "The Virginia Highlander."

HIGHLAND DRESS

For Gentlemen

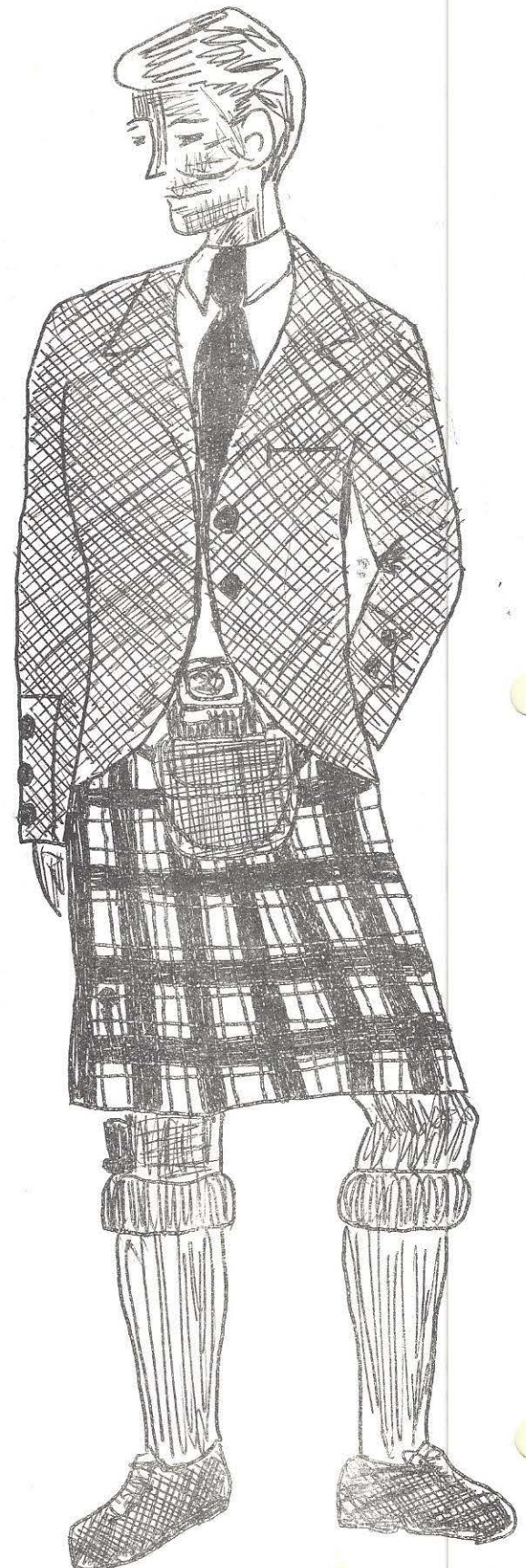
The foundation of all Scottish dress is the wearing of Tartan, a colorful type of weaving, native to Scotland and hundreds of years old. How many tartan designs are there? How old? Nobody knows. Between 1831 and 1850, the first books were published on tartan patterns and by then one authority listed only 55 "genuine" old tartans. In 1938, Robert Bain's new book listed 118. Today there are over 400 named tartans, and many others only to be found in private and museum collections and old portraits which are not named or woven at all today. Some are very recent, like the Royal Canadian Air Force Tartan, or the four contemporary designs registered by Clan Gayre. Today, any Scot can find a tartan which he may wear without criticism, including several District tartans and four general tartans which are not affiliated with any clan, family or area.

The traditional costume of the Scottish Highlander is perhaps the most colorful and distinctive in the world.

For day wear with the kilt, hose should be a solid color--not clan or diced, except with a band or piper's uniform. Wear wool garter flashes in any color, and the Sgian Dubh on the right leg. A modern, popular custom is to wear a Highland bone or horn handled sgian, rather than the traditional black one. A kilt pin for day wear should be the ancient Celtic "blanket" pin, which was invented thousands of years ago; but more ornamental pins are not out of order. The sporran should be plain leather or fur, without a metal frame. Occasionally, an evening type sporran is worn before dark, but only at semi-formal day-time gatherings.

The sporran, attached to a belt worn high on the highlander's hip, is his purse and his only pocket for his valuables.

The tartan from which the kilt is tailored is a precise plaid, woven into an exact pattern. Each clan had, and still has, its exclusive tartan. Many clans have several official tartans: ancient tartans, a dress tartan, and a hunting tartan, used for both enemy and game hunting.



For the kilt, this fabric is pleated as much for warmth against the highland elements as for appearance. Unlikely as it seems in this permanent press era, because of the depth of the pleats, there is much more fabric turned to the inside of the pleat than to the outside. A six-foot length of fabric is pleated to fit a 30" waist measurement! The waist and hipline have a belt-and-buckle closure.

The jacket should be tailored to the proper length (the line where the kilt pleating starts), NOT a sport coat, blazer or ordinary tweed coat.

A long piece, very wide, of the tartan, called the "plaid," is worn either wrapped closely around the chest and over the left shoulder where it is fastened with an ornamental pin bearing the crest of the clan. Or it may be a "belted plaid" fastened in the traditional manner on the left shoulder to be left hanging freely after having been fastened around the waist, under the jacket.

In the old days this plaid was most functional. It kept the warrior warm or was used as a poncho during pelting rains. At night it was used as a ground cover and blanket. After the battle it could be used as a stretcher for the wounded, or as a carry-all for the spoils of war.

The tie is preferably in a solid color. Tartan ties should only be worn with a tweed suit and not with kilts, and tartan bow ties never.

The bonnet may be either Glengarry type or Balmoral, with or without a diced band. Usually the color is dark blue, but the bonnet can be in any color or a tartan but tartan Balmorals are not considered to be in good taste.

Tartan for the Ladies

Before marriage, you wear your father's tartan. If neither your husband nor your father is of a tartan family, then your mother's, perhaps even your grandmother's is not out of place, or one of the general tartans, if you are of Scottish descent, without any clan affiliation.

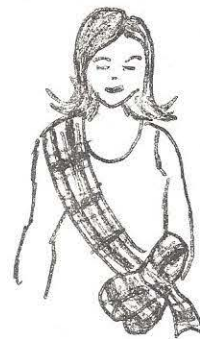
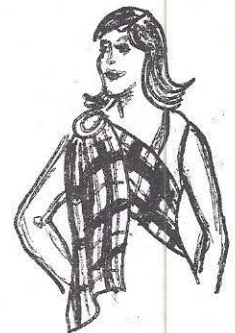
For day time wear, you have a wide choice of scarfs, stoles, shawls and skirts. With a tartan skirt, wear a wool sweater, a tweed or Scottish check jacket. Never, NEVER, wear a sporran; they are for men



only. If you wish to wear a bonnet, however, they can be the same as the men wear.

For the evening, there are some rules which should be observed when wearing a sash and brooch. The sash may be worn bandolier fashion with the ends crossing on the RIGHT shoulder and fastened with a brooch, or merely by fastening to the RIGHT shoulder with one end in front and the other behind without being carried across the chest and back. The brooch may be of any Scottish silver design, with or without semi-precious stones or pebbles. It may be a clan or personal crestbadge.

There are a few exceptions to these rules. The sash is fastened with a brooch to the LEFT shoulder ONLY by the wives of hereditary clan chiefs and chieftains, the wives of colonels of Highland regiments, and ladies who are chiefs themselves. Married women of Scottish descent, whose husbands have no clan affiliation, should wear a sash of their father's tartan, fastened with a brooch on the RIGHT shoulder, but with the ends knotted and hanging on the left hip, rather than straight down from the shoulder.



- SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TEXAS

LADDIE, THERE ARE 100 SNAKES
HERE IN THE JUNGLE BUT DINNA
YE WORRY... ONLY 99 ARE
POISONOUS



... AYE, AN' TH' OTHER ONE
SWALLOWS YE WHOLE!

