

The Virginia Highlander

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

FALL 1974

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GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES



Once again MacRae Meadows in Linville, N.C., was the scene of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Beneath the watchful eye of the legendary peak, Scots from all parts of the United States, Canada, and beyond the sea arrived for America's greatest gathering of the Clans on July 13th and 14th.

The games included AAU sanctioned events and purely traditional sports. Those people not familiar with "highland" events were surprised by the tossing of the caber, the sheaf toss, throwing the hammer or the "Clach Neart", and the flash or tartans in the "kilted mile" run.

Throughout both days, one was not far from the wail of the bagpipes. Individual pipers conducted impromptu concerts at the "drop of a bal-moral" while the bands present provided for frequent exhibitions of sight and sound.

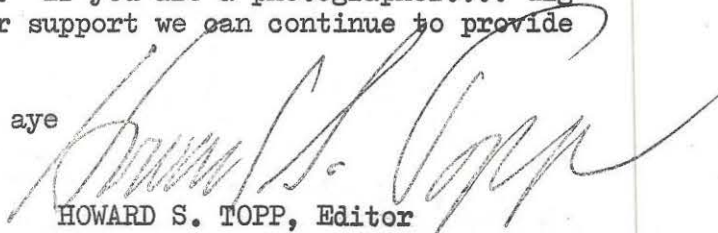
As in the past, a Scottish Chieftan was the guest of honor, strengthening the bond between Scots and Scottish-Americans. This year Lt. Col. George Malcolm of Pollalloch, Chief of the Clan Malcolm, was the honored guest. This famed soldier and author quickly established rapport with the American Clansmen.

Once again members of the Williamsburg Society were in attendance, manning the Society's tent on the perimeter of the activity field. This year Paul Ritchie, Howard Topp, J.T. Baxter, Rob Roy MacGregor, Guy Nelson, Henry Wann,

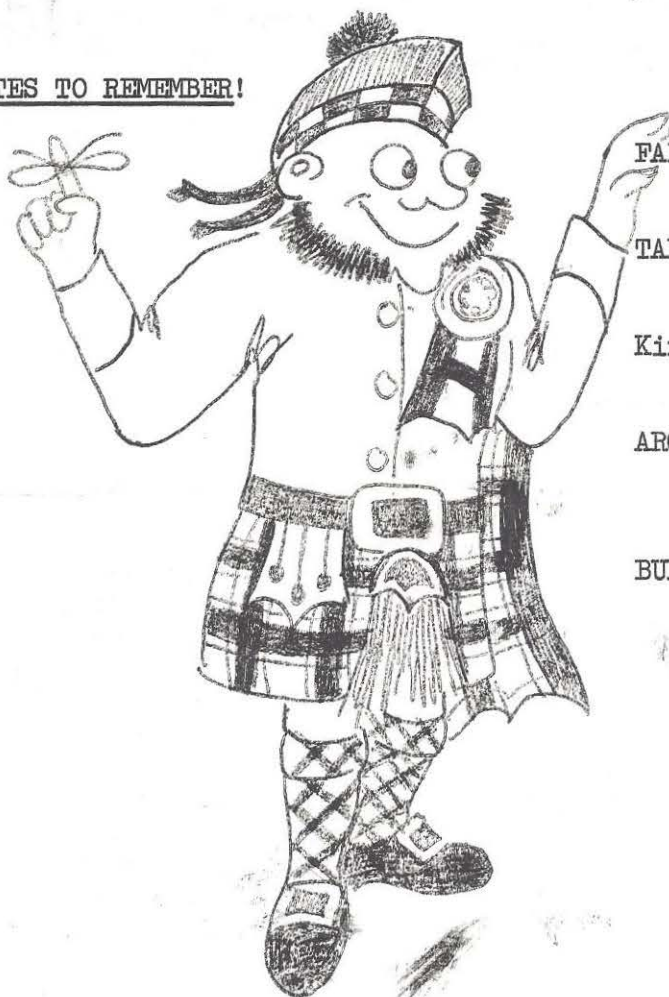
EDITOR'S LETTER

I would first like to thank all the members who expressed their pleasure at the content and format of the Spring Edition of the Virginia Highlander. It has been a start..... but now I am asking you for assistance. Search through your possessions for items of Scottish interest for inclusion in the newsletter. I'm looking for items of literature, humor, history.... virtually anything you would feel is of interest to the braw lads of the Society. If you are a photographer.... dig out those black and white photos! With your support we can continue to provide an informative and interesting Highlander.

Yours, aye


HOWARD S. TOPP, Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER!



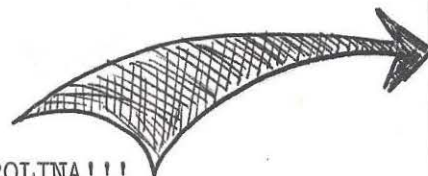
FALL CEILIDH..... 14 Sept 1974

TARTAN BALL..... October 1974

Kirkin' O' The Tartan. 24 Nov 1974

ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND
HIGHLANDERS..... 24 Nov 1974

BURN'S NICHT..... 1 Feb 1975



Facing page photos: WILLIAMSBURG IN THE HIGHLANDS OF CAROLINA!!!

Clockwise from upper left: Heather Topp enjoys the activities..... and attention! Leah Bounds, Jane Bennett, and Elizabeth McLeod, Mary Adams' students.... all trophy winners! Henry Wann and Guy Nelson swap tales and Scottish jokes. The Topp man and the "top man"....Veep Howard Topp and President Paul Ritchie. Lads do ye no hear the pipes?????..... Rob Roy MacGregor!



SPRING CEILIDH



Ed Campbell and Jim Armstrong created a "fun filled" evening for the members of the Society at the 1974 Spring Ceilidh on the first of June. The braw lads and their ladies munched on Jack O'Neal's fried shrimp and chicken, sipped Scotland's finest, enjoyed the sounds of the Society's Pipe Band, and the sights of Mary Adams and Traci and Wendy Teer dancing traditional Scottish dances. The next edition of the Highlander will feature an article about Mary Adams and her Dancers.

The evening included a short business meeting and the introduction of new members. Col. Paul Ritchie extended welcomes to Col. Henry Wann, Harold Teer, CPT Andy Jurchenko, Millard McKinsey, Guy Nelson, Tom Kennedy, and Clay Riley.

Whadaya mean you ordered chicken?!

VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES

Scottish games came to the Commonwealth of Virginia on the 20th of July. As an integral part of the Virginia Festival of Independence, the 1st Annual Virginia Scottish Games and Gathering of the Clans was held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Scots and "Scots for a day" enjoyed a wide range of sights and sounds close to the heart. Highland sporting activities were held in the field adjacent to the EHS football stadium, while piping and dancing competition took place within the bowl. Most of the Williamsburgers stated they felt that this activity was a rousing success. In future years many of the local faithful would be well served to attend this activity...a mere three hour drive away!

SCOTLAND'S REGIMENTS

This is the first of a continuing series on the Scottish Regiments of the British Army. Although the number of Scottish military organizations is great, the initial articles will deal only with those that are presently in active service. The selection of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is purely selfish...since the editor's grandfather, Andrew Sutherland, served more than thirty years with the regiment.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders: the regiment was formed by the amalgamation of the 91st Argylls and the 93rd Sutherlands in 1881. The two older regiments had long and glorious histories well before the joining of the banners. The Argylls had been formed in 1794 in response to the activities of Napoleon while the Sutherlands had been raised in 1799. The 93rd was the "thin red line" that withstood the onslaught of Russian cavalry in the Crimea. The order of the day had been "There is no retreat from here. You must die where you stand!"

The formation of the regiment is a story in itself...displaying the last large exercise of feudal power in the Highlands. The nephew of the Earl of Sutherland raised the regiment with a bounty of money, snuff, and whiskey!

The ASH has served loyally and well since 1881; the only real threat to its existence did not occur on the field of battle...rather in Parliament. Labor Prime Minister Wilson's government called for the disbandment of the regiment in 1969 as a means to reduce military spending. A successful campaign led by Colonel "Mad Mitch" Mitchell was able to "save the Argylls." It is interesting to note that during the campaign more than 2 million letters of protest were sent to Whitehall!

The tartan worn by the ASH is the Black Watch in slightly lighter colors, while the quick march is "The Campbells are coming".

WHY 18 HOLES?

Editor's note: The following article was received from Colin Park, via Lloyd Young. I'm sure many of the lads will have a few chuckles over it.

Why couldn't golf courses have 10 or 13 or 21 holes? Well, it seems that back in 1858, the board of one of the oldest and most venerable courses in Scotland sat all day trying to decide this very question. There were then 7-hole courses, 13-hole courses, 15-hole courses. At one time the famous St. Andrews itself was made up of 22 holes and Montrose had 25. Finally, after a fruitless all-day discussion, it is said that one of the Scottish board members, and elder of very good standing, arose and spoke as follows:

"You good gentlemen have been considering this situation for many hours. I have been hoping you would decide along lines agreeable to me without any insistence on my part. I see, however, that I must now speak for myself.

"As you know, it has long been my custom to start out for a game with a full bottle of whisky in my bag, treating myself to a wee nip on each tee. Naturally I find it pleasant to play golf so long as there is a drink left in the bottle, and it makes no sense to continue the game when the bottle is exhausted. Now, gentlemen, I have here a small glass, which contains about an ounce and a half when not filled so full that a drop may escape. I have found that one bottle will fill this little glass just eighteen times, so it has been my custom to play 18 holes each afternoon, no more, no less. I see no way of deviating from this custom, unless the bottles are made larger, which I fear would be too marked a change in our manufacturing life."

That's how golf courses came to have 18 holes! If you don't believe it,

just take an ounce and a half jigger, fill it full, but not too full, and see if you don't get 18 drinks out of a "fifth" of Scotch!

BUT...remember this! The ordinary size bottle of whisky in Scotland holds 26-2/3 fluid ounces and there are six bottles to the gallon of 160 fluid ounces.

1 British quart=1.2009 U.S. liquid parts

1 U.S. liquid quart=0.8327 British quarts

Well, lads, figure it out over a nip! How many holes do you get? Anyway, it makes a good story.

From The Pibroch, April 1966 (Publication of the St. Andrew's Society of New York)

THE ENGLISHMAN'S NIGHTMARE

As the average Englishman moves about the home he calls his castle, watch him enjoy a typical English breakfast of toast and marmalade invented by Mrs. Keillier of Dundee, Scotland.

See him slipping into his National costume, a soiled raincoat, patented by Charles MacIntosh, a Glasgow druggist. Follow him over the linoleum on his kitchen floor invented in Kirkcaldy, Scotland--out he goes into the English lane surfaced by John MacAdam of Ayr, Scotland, better known as the MacAdamized road, smoking an English cigarette, first manufactured by Robert Gloag of Perth, Scotland. He looks forward to riding on the English bus, little does he know that the bus is running with the help of the tires invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dregthorn, Scotland. Arriving at his railroad station which takes him the rest of his journey to work only with the help of steam, invented by James Watt of Greenock, Scotland. Arriving at his officeto answer the mail, he begins to wet the adhesive stamps invented by John Chalmers of Dundee, Scotland. His next problem is to reach for the telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell, born of Scottish parents and no doubt, our English cousin is talking to a Scot on the other end of the wire. At home in the evening, his wife is preparing his National dish of roast beef of Old England Prime Aberdeen Angus, raised in Aberdeen, Scotland.

This sets the patriotic heart beating a little faster and he enters the dining room whistling Ye Mariners of England, written and composed by Thomas Campbell of Glasgow, Scotland. For roast beef is one of the revered institutions, like the Crown of England, which since 1603 has rested on a Scot's forehead.

After dinner there follows a scene typical of English domestic bliss. Young Albert is packed off to the boys' brigade, founded by Sir William Smith of Glasgow, Scotland. Ted goes to the scouts and the present chief is Sir Charles MacLean of Duart, Scotland. While little Ethel plays on her bicycle, invented by Kirkpatrick MacMillan, a blacksmith of Dumfries, Scotland, Mother is in the kitchen bleaching her washclothes with bleach invented by James MacGregor of Glasgow, Scotland. Dad listens to the news on television, invented by John Logie Baird, of Helensburgh, Scotland. On it he will hear about the National agricultural policy, the mechanical reaper being invented by the Rev. Patrick Bell of Arbroath, Scotland. He will also hear about the doings of the United States Navy, founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, Scotland, and wonder idly if the three-minute warning system will be much use to him as the Radar was invented by Sir Robert A. Watson Watt of Brechin, Scotland.

After the kids come home, Dad will supervise the homework, the math jotters will be full of logarithms, invented by John Napier of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The English course is stuffed with books like Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson and Robinson Crusoe, based on the life of Alex Selkirk of Largo, Scotland. The English history book will dwell on political economy, created by Adam Smith of Glasgow, Scotland.

In desperation, Dad will pick up the Bible--here at last is one book where he will not be troubled or reminded of the Scots, but he is wrong--the first man mentioned in the Bible is a Scot, James the VI, who authorized its translation.

It's hopeless. There is nowhere an Englishman can turn to escape the

deadly efficiency of the Scots. Even desperate measures are in vain. He could take a drink, but we supply the best in the world. He could stick his head in the oven and end it all, but coal gas was discovered by William Murdoch of Ayr, Scotland.

It might be argued that in this case, he could always take a rifle and blow his brains out, but even here difficulty arises due to the breach loading rifle was invented by a Scot. Anyway, if he survived, they bang him on an operating table, pump him full of Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming of Darvel, Scotland, give him an anesthetic, discovered by Sir James Young Simpson of Bathgate, Scotland, and perform an operation, antiseptic surgery pioneered at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

The first thing our hero would hear would be the voice of a Scottish Surgeon, telling him he was safe as the Bank of England, founded by William Paterson of Dumfries, Scotland.

The one good hope the poor fellow would have is, if he was given a few pints of good Scots' blood, which of course really would entitle him to say, "Wha's like us?"

Compiled by: Clansman Robert M. Bowes

THE ARGYLL'S ARE COMING!!

For the first time in four years, musical elements of the British Army will be visiting Tidewater. Columbia Artists Festivals will be presenting the Pipes and Drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the Hampton Roads Coliseum. The date for this spectacular extravaganza is the evening of 24 November 1974. If this program is like those of the past, we can be assured of an evening of inspiring music, spine tingling ceremony, and thrilling highland dancing. The braw lads will be joined by the band of Her Majesty's own Welsh Guards to insure a most active evening.

The possibility of securing block seating and bus transportation to the Coliseum is being explored by the Board. Watch for a flyer on the activity to be issued within the next few weeks.



SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY

ROSTER _ AUGUST 1974

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Joseph D. Brown, III 102 Glenwood Drive	Raynor V. MacGillivray 166 "The Maine"	James W. Roy 376 Merrimac Trail, Barclay Sq.
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Dennis K. Cogle 207 Mill Neck Road	Philip B. Magruder 115 Ware Road	Robert W. Spurgeon 322 Indian Springs Road
John A. Curtis 102 North Sulgrove Court	Thomas G. Magruder Scotland House	Robert C. Stevick 216 Kingswood Drive
John E. Donaldson 112 Crown Point Road	Thomas B. McCaskey 332 Burns Lane	Howard S. Topp 141 West Semple Road
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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SOCIETY'S BY-LAWS

At the June membership meeting, two by-laws changes were referred to the members of the Society. The Virginia Highlander is printing these proposed by-laws changes. In this manner, Society members will be able to review the content of the changes prior to the vote at the 14 September 1974 general meeting.

The first proposed change is to add the following new section:

Article II, Section 1.

(C) Life Membership.

Life Membership may be conferred upon an active member as an honor in recognition of extraordinary and faithful service to the Society at the discretion of the Board. A Life Member shall receive all benefits and privileges of an active member but shall not be required to pay dues.

In order to facilitate the amending of by-laws, the following proposal was made:

Article VII - Amendments

These by-laws may be amended in whole or in part by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a business meeting of the Society providing a notice of the proposal setting forth the proposed amendments and reasons therefore shall be mailed by the secretary to each member at his address of record, at least fifteen days prior to the vote upon the said amendments. The secretary shall then receive any objections to or commentary in favor of the proposed amendments for announcement at the business meeting prior to voting.

At the August Board Meeting, a proposed by-laws change concerning dues abatement for military personnel was selected for referral to the membership. It is stated as follows:

Article II, Section 2. Add the following:

Active members who are military personnel, if transferred out of the area, may upon written request, have their regular dues suspended during this time; however, they shall continue to pay the charitable assessment.