

SPRING 2018



The Pine Tree Highlander

A Publication of the St. Andrews Society of Maine

Scots from Around the World to Gather in Brunswick

Brunswick will become home of the Scots for five days in August when men, women and children of Scottish heritage gather to learn more about their ethnic history and to share their common heritage.

The international gathering beginning on Tuesday, August 14 is the 1718/2018 Scots-Irish Reunion and Conference, an event 300 years in the making! Bowdoin College is where it's happening, where presentations of history and the diaspora of our ancestors from the Ulster region of Ireland, who made their way to the shores of Maine and New England, will be shared. The conference will continue through Friday, August 17.

Tuesday will feature a self driving tour of Maine Scots-Irish sites and a guided bus tour of historic Portland where the immigrant ship "Robert" was frozen into the harbor during the cruel winter of 1718. A visit to the 1730 Means and Tate houses will be included. A keynote dinner at 6:00 pm will welcome everyone and set the tone of the the three-day conference.

Wednesday will kick off a two-day schedule of roundtable discussions, speakers and presentations. Speakers have been invited from Northern Ireland, North America, New England and Maine. A roundtable discussion at 9:00 am will welcome guests and discuss immigration. Following a buffet lunch, a roundtable discussion will explore folkways and the Ulster diaspora in Maine. Wednesday evening at

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Scottish Obituary

Woman goes to the local newspaper to see that the obit for her recently deceased husband is published.

The editor informs her that there is a charge of \$1 per word. She pauses, reflects, and then says, "Well, let it read; "Fred Brown died."

Amused at the woman's thrift, the editor tells her that there's a seven-word minimum for all obits. She thinks it over and in a few seconds says, In that case let it read: "Fred Brown died...golf clubs for sale."

A Message from President Patti Tillotson

It is Spring already and so it is time to mark upcoming Society events on your calendar.

A Tartan Day Festival will be held at the Boothbay Railway Museum on Saturday, April 14 from 10 'til two. After that is the anticipation of our Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival to be held Saturday, August 18. The evening before will be the Clan Gathering and ceilidh. I hope to see you there.

We've just had our very successful Burns Luncheon and thanks go to Sherry Smith for chairing her committee for the event.

We have such a wonderful active organization, but we always need more people to step up and help. There will be several offices and committees needing to be filled. It is always healthy for any group to have new people in with their ideas.

And finally, it is with regret that I find I will no longer be able to continue as your President. Increasing challenges in my life have made this the best decision. I will continue helping and working as much as I can as "Past President." I will still be around.

Saint Andrews Society of Maine

Complete Schedule of Upcoming Events

Saturday April 14-	Tartan Days Boothbay Railway Museum, Boothbay, Maine (10:00-2:00)
Saturday July 7-	Ft. Knox Tattoo Ft. Knox, Maine
Friday August 17-	Gathering of the Clans Ceilidh Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, Maine (6:00 pm)
Saturday August 18-	Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, Maine (Gates open 8:00 am) (Opening ceremony 11:30 am). (Closing ceremony 4:30 pm)
Sunday November 11-	Kirkin 'O' the Tartan Mid Coast Presbyterian Church 84 Main Street, Topsham, Main (10:10 am)

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Scots to Gather in Brunswick *Continued from Page 1*

7:00 pm there will be a “meet & greet” gathering at the nearby Daniel Hotel. The Daniel is well known locally for its delightful selection of whiskeys.

Thursday morning there will be a church service at the First Parish Church presented in original 1718 style followed by related speakers and presentations. Throughout the day there will be more speakers, presentations and a buffet lunch. Following lunch there will be a roundtable discussion on the McFadden Somersett archeological dig. The day will be capped off by a Celtic Concert featuring noted fiddler Frank Ferrel and the Maine Highland Fiddlers. The concert will be open to the public.

Friday morning will highlight a tour of Brunswick and local area historic sites. Friday afternoon a tour will be available to the 1718 McFadden

cabin site on Merrymeeting Bay where an archeology dig has been active for the last 5 years. This tour will be limited to space available.

Friday night everyone is invited to a 6:00 pm Celtic Ceilidh at the Topsham Fairgrounds that will kick off the 40th annual Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival. The gates will open at 8:00 am for a long day of music, dance, Scottish food and athletic competition.

Some of these plans may change between now and then, but this will give you an idea of what to expect. Set these dates aside and attend as many as possible. Registration details and rates will be announced soon and can be found at www.maineulsterscots.com and www.mainehighlandgames.org websites.

Those Tough Ulster-Scots and The Winter of 1781

The winter of 1718!

As we contemplate the challenges brought on by our winter of 2018, we think back to a winter nearly 300 years ago and what our Ulster-Scots ancestors must have experienced.

Several ships left the north of Ireland bound for New England in the summer of 1718. Arriving in Boston, the weary families were not exactly welcome by the Puritan leadership. Instead, it was strongly “suggested” they find other places to settle. Some found refuge in towns surrounding Boston; others made the 40-mile trek out to Worcester, Mass, and two ships headed to the coast of Maine. Researchers say one ship – the “MacCallum,” discharged its passengers along the Kennebec River & into Merrymeeting Bay in September / October. Families hurried to build their new homes. It’s told the second ship – the “Robert,” investigated the Maine coast that fall and got caught in early winter ice in Casco Bay, on what is currently the South Portland side of the Fore River. Here some settlers built crude shelters, while others stayed aboard ship for the winter. When spring arrived, a few of these families left for New Hampshire, but many more fami-

lies stayed in Maine.

2018 marks an important time to reflect upon the hardships these folks endured. When we think about the challenge of saying goodbye to their homeland, it is as important to reflect on the communities they left behind. Encouraged by land agents who needed settlers, and after suffering months at sea, they were not welcomed on arrival as expected.

Unprepared for the early and bitter winter in Maine, they struggled to quickly build shelter catching most off guard and freezing one ship in the ice. In Falmouth (now Portland), there was such a scarcity of food that Massachusetts had to supply 100 bushels of Indian corn so they wouldn’t starve to death.

We invite you to learn more about this early migration from the northern parts of Ireland to Maine and New England by participating in the 2018 Scots-Irish Reunion and Conference to be held August 14-16 on the beautiful Bowdoin College campus. For more information, please visit our website: www.MaineUlsterScots.com and Like/Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/maineulsterscots/>

Burns Luncheon Another Successful Event

By Sherry Smith

After last year's highly successful Burns Luncheon, Sherry was wondering how we could top our Burns Luncheon, BUT WE DID!!!!!! We had an amazing program this year with such a wide variety of entertainment. Events Chair, Sherry Smith, would like to express her gratitude to everyone on the Committee [George Pulkkinen, Patti Tillotson, Melanie Lee and Ruth Shaw] and the guests who contributed to our program — it takes a very dedicated committee to put on a luncheon of this quality.

To start the day off, the Maine Harp Circle consisting of Melanie Lee, Rosemary Mason and Mary Ann Kotros provided beautiful pre-dinner music which is always such a nice touch. Patti Tillotson, emceed beautifully, keeping things flowing along in a timely manner. The blessing was given by Holly Morrison. Vera Maheu piped in the flags and Bill McKeen offered the Toast to the Scottish Nation after which Mike Mowles sang Flower of Scotland. George Pulkkinen addressed the Haggis for the 18th consecutive year after Logan Andrick piped in the Scottish delicacy carried by Chef David Pendexter. Master Whisky Bearer Chuck Bridges performed his duties in a most commendable manner.

After a delicious buffet lunch, our program proceeded with A Bit o' Burns by Ruth Shaw done beautifully in her brogue. Mike Mowles sang Salute to the Blue Ribbon which is always an audience favorite and Jeff Hopper delivered a wonderful Immortal Memory. A nice addition this year was a dancing program provided by The Brunswick Scottish Country Dancers. Next came the Toast to the Lasses by John Mann and the Toast to the Laddies by Ruth Shaw.

We had the honor and pleasure of hearing Rebecca McConnaughey sing several selections in her beautiful Gaelic voice. Another special guest with her lovely music was Kate LeRoyer who is a member of the fiddle orchestra Fiddleiscious, playing several fiddle selections and a cello tune. John Mann then spoke about the Diaspora Project upcoming in August that is coinciding with the Maine Highland Games, a very exciting project bringing in people from all over the world. At the end of the program, George Pulkkinen, Vera Maheu, Logan Andrick, Tom Martineau and Chris Ficker, all members of the Dunlap Band, piped a rousing selection of tunes

that brought the roof down, as they always do. Corey Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Maine Highland Games, was awarded the *Traveling Knights Award*, an award that is given to a SASME member each year who has exhibited an extraordinary commitment throughout the year. As you may know, our scholarships are such an important commitment of our Society, and this year's Burns Luncheon had scholarship recipients Vera Maheu and Melanie Lee perform for you.

Sherry would also like to thank Ruth Shaw for selling the raffle tickets, to Val Mann for manning the name tags table and to Glenda MacLachlan who assisted with the raffle, and again to Val Mann, who provided her famous, always requested oat cakes. And a special THANK YOU to all of you who brought in such beautiful raffle items. This is always a very popular part of the afternoon and the proceeds from the raffle go to our scholarship fund.

BE A SPONSOR AND HELP SUPPORT THE GAMES

As you know, a lot of small lights together make for a big glow. You and/or your business can be that light that will help support the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

Sponsorship levels start at \$100 and go from there. If you are a business, you will get a link on our website for a year and an ad in our newspaper insert before the Games along with being highlighted on Games day - what more can you want!!! If you are an individual, just think how good you will feel helping the Games.

For more information on sponsoring, check mainehighlandgames.org and click on sponsorships to find the levels. Or contact Pat Tillotson (ptillotson@gmail.com) and information will be sent to you. Can't wait to include you in our Sponsorship list.

Is Nothing Sacred? Scotland's Irn-Bru Tampered With After 119 Years

By Jenny Gross in

The Wall Street Journal

GLASGOW -- Nothing says Scottish exceptionalism like a highly caffeinated, sugary drink that's bright orange and tastes a bit like bubble gum.

Irn-Bru, the beverage in question, doesn't have much iron in it, and it isn't brewed. That's why A.G. Barr PLC, which first marketed the drink in 1901, changed the name after World War II because of proposed U.K. labeling regulations.

This was only the first of the insults meted out on Scotland's national drink by distant British bureaucrats. The latest is a soda tax, imposed by London, which has prompted A.G. Barr to cut the sugar content from eight-and-a-half teaspoons to four -- per can.

Suffice it to say, this has gone down as well as a fried Mars bar at a Weight Watchers convention (frying confectionary is another local delicacy). Scots have been stockpiling the sugar-filled version, starting campaigns and expressing their outrage to just about anyone who asks. A petition, called "Hands off our Irn-Bru," has gathered more than 50,000 signatures.

Michael Kerrigan, a 25-year-old sales manager in Glasgow, who drinks four liters of Irn-Bru a day, says he was traveling in Spain when he developed an unquenchable thirst for the stuff. "Irn-Bru is the national drink for Scotland," he says, bitter at what he says is another unwelcome policy forced onto Scotland by London, and expressing the pride of a country that recently flirted with secession.

To make sure it will remain Scotland's national drink, Mr. Kerrigan has stockpiled 240 cans. Sandra McNally, a 59-year-old living in the town of Irvine outside Glasgow, complains that the new version is "just going to be like any other product on the shelf." In the short run, that won't be true in her local grocery store,

Bourtreehill Supermarket, which has stockpiled more than 3,700 cans of the original.

Business analyst Sean Fitzharris, 37, has 500 cans of Irn-Bru in the corner of his garage that he hopes to later sell for a profit. He used to drink it every day but had to switch to the sugar-free version after getting diabetes. Irn-Bru, he said, joins whisky, haggis and tartan as emblems of what makes Scotland Scottish, as opposed to British.



Scotland, which has a semiautonomous government, has hewed to culinary preferences distinct from the rest of Britain for centuries, including its national dish of haggis, which is made of sheep's heart, liver and lungs encased in a sheep's stomach.

Following moves in France, Mexico and Chile, and in municipalities in the U.S., Britain is introducing a tax on sugar drinks to fight obesity. Policy makers and health officials say the situation is dire. Scotland has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world and Glasgow is particularly bad, with one in four sixth-graders showing obvious signs of tooth decay...

...Stephen O'Connor, a 27-year-old from Port Glasgow, said he recently tried the new Irn-Bru and was disappointed. "It's upsetting," says Mr. O'Connor, who drinks about 1.5 liters a day. "It's a Scottish recipe and one that's been here for a long time." Mr. O'Connor, who is training to be a marine engineer, said he takes at least 10 bottles and cans with him when he travels on ships for months at a time.

Sean McLeavy, who repairs guitars, said he used to drink two liters a day, but recently cut back. "I've got hardly any teeth left, but ah, it was worth it," said Mr. McLeavy, 26. He said he didn't notice much of a difference with the new Irn-Bru. "I still love it."

--Diptl Kapadia contributed to the article.

Curling...*Sliding Smoothly into our Living rooms*

Following the U.S. Men's Olympic Championship, the sport of curling is enjoying interest and excitement in this country like never before. Because of the sport's Scottish origins, it seems to make sense that St. Andrews Society members would be more intrigued by those polished stones gliding over ice sheets than would many others.

For centuries curling has been a favourite game in Scotland. In fact, according to the Scottish Curling Association, during the first two thirds of the nineteenth century it can be said emphatically that it was *the* Scottish game.

It is fruitless to speculate whether the game is Scottish in origin. Suffice it to say that the only other part of the world for which any claim has been made, the Low Countries, is spectacularly deficient in that necessary raw material, hard igneous rock from which the curling stone is made. Curling has a long history in Scotland, and it is from Scotland that it has been taken to other colder parts of the world in which the game is now played.

Evidence for the earliest periods of curling is scarce. But there is little doubt that when the notary John McQuhin recorded a challenge about throwing stones across the ice between a monk at Paisley Abbey and a relative of the abbot in February 1541, the written history of curling had begun.



Detail from a reproduction of *Winter Landscape with a Bird Trap* (Bruegel, 1565)

From then on there are references to the game with increasing frequency, and it is possible to say that by the end of the eighteenth century curling was played throughout the lowlands of Scotland. Poets celebrated the game in published poems and though there is no evidence to show that Robert Burns was a curler, he knew all about it, as the following two stanzas from his *Tam Samson's Elegy* clearly demonstrate.

When Winter muffles up his cloak.
And binds the mire like a rock;
When to the loughs the curlers flock
Wo' gleesome speed,
Wha will they station at the cock,
Tam Samson's dead?

He was a king of a' th Core.
To guard, or draw, or wick a bore,
Or up the rink like Jehu roar
In time o' need;
But now he lags on Death's hog-score,
Tam Samson's dead.

Several of the parish ministers who contributed to Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland* (1781-1799) wrote eloquently of the place in parish life that curling occupied. For example, the minister of Muirkirk in Ayrshire wrote:

"Their chief amusement in winter is curling, or playing stones on smooth ice. They eagerly vie with one another who shall come nearest the mark, and one part of the parish against another, one description of men against another, one trade or occupation against another, and often one whole parish against another, — earnestly contend for the palm, which is generally all the prize, except that perhaps the victors claim from the vanquished the dinner and bowl of toddy, which, to do them justice, both take together with great cordiality, and generally without any grudge at the fortune of the day; wise reflecting, no doubt, that defeat as well as victory is the fate of war. The amusement itself is healthful; it is innocent; it does

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Curling in the State of Maine

Pine Tree Curling Club

The Pine Tree Curling Club is an arena curling club that was established in 2015. Its goal is to promote the sport of curling throughout the Southern Maine area by offering opportunities to learn and enjoy the sport. The club has more than 50 active members and has provided instruction to more than 500 individuals at their Learn to Curl sessions or via private group events.

The regular season runs from September through March at the William B. Troubh Ice Arena (formerly known as the Portland Ice Arena) in Portland. The latest *Learn to Curl* session started on March 1st. The club also offers a spring curling session in May and June based on interest. For more information contact the club by email at: pinetreecurlingclub@gmail.com or visit their web site: www.pinetreecurlingclub.com/

Sliding Smoothly Continued

nobody harm; let them enjoy it.

Originally curlers played on natural lochs and specially constructed ponds. Some seasons were barren, for the ice never carried. Though there had been indoor ice rinks at Manchester and Southport in the latter part of the 1800s, it was not until 1907 that the first indoor rink in Scotland, Crossmyloof in Glasgow, was built. By 2014 Scotland could boast 22 rinks providing ice for the game.

All of sound mind have long thanked Scotland for the pipes, for tartan and for haggis but who really knew from whence came curling?

Another good reason, ye folk of good Scottish stock, another one of many, to thrust your chests out and be proud.

Belfast Curling Club

The Belfast Curling Club officially opened in February 1959 on the site which had previously been flooded for outdoor curling by a group of enthusiasts. Inspired by founder and first president, Dr. Norman E. Cobb and friends from the St. Stephen, N.B. Curling Club, volunteer masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and laborers built the club on donated land – even making their own 5,000 cinderblocks.

In 1962, the two-sheet icehouse was razed to make room for the current three-sheet clubhouse which now provides activities for more than 100 members ranging in age from 16 to 75. A banquet/dance hall was added in 1977.

More can be learned about the club at its website: belfastcurlingclub.org



A Few More Interesting Curling Facts

Scotland's Kilsyth Curling Club claims to be the first club in the world, having been formally constituted in 1716. It is still in existence today. Kilsyth also claims the oldest purpose-built curling pond in the world at Colzium, in the form of a low dam creating a shallow pond some 100 x 250 metres in size.

Today, curling is firmly established in Canada, having been taken there by Scottish immigrants. The Royal Montreal Curling Club, the oldest established sports club in North America, was established in 1807. The first curling club in the United States was established in 1830, and the sport was also introduced to Switzerland and Sweden before the end of the 19th century, also by Scots.

Clan MacMillan Gathering

There will be an international gathering of Clan MacMillan in Belfast, Maine from June 28-July 2 this year. Chief George MacMillan will be attending along with others from North America and Scotland. Anyone who is interested in participating, please contact Jane Strauss at macmillangathering@gmail.com or check the Clan website at www.clanmacmillan.org

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**2018 promises to be a fun-filled year for
the St. Andrews Society of Maine and
its members.**

Be Involved! Don't Miss Any of It!