

The St. Andrew's Society

Est. 1863



St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Banquet & Ball 2015

By David Campbell, Ball Chair & 1st VP

On Saturday evening, November 28th our St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco enjoyed a moderately well-attended annual Banquet & Ball in our 153rd year. President Koyil and his wife Tsering were joined at the President's table by the Heads of several sister societies: Chief Geoffrey Craighead (The Caledonian Club of San Francisco); Linda Morrison (Pleasanton Blairgowrie Fergus Sister Cities Organization—PBFSCO); and Kathleen Kimura, MBE (The British Benevolent Society). Also joining the head table was Guest of Honor Donald E. Wilson, who spoke to St. Andrew's back in June of last year.



Piper Jek Cunningham and the color guard got the evening off to a good start.

DNA Study, continued on page 2



December 2015

President's Letter

Seasons Greeting (and Merry Christmas!).

We have had a busy November. The Ball was a great success well managed by David Campbell. The new section of Scottish Country Dancing with a little instruction was a pleasure.

As President I am charged with attending the functions of our sister organizations in the Bay area. So I get a chance to see how all the other groups put on their events. All have their strength but I feel that we put on an event which is truly unique in the Bay Area.

The next event on the horizon will be our Hogmanay celebration on Dec. 31. It is an afternoon event which will



Jaeame I. Koyil, President

give you time to also attend a later function if you are younger than I am. Details above on the Events TAB.

Of course Burns looms large and this year will be very special in that we have Chief Suhr of the San Francisco Police Department attending and the Police Pipe Band will be performing as well.

I hope to see each of you soon and if I don't please have a warm and blessed Holiday Season.

Alba gu brath

Jaeame I. Koyil

President

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November 2015 Member Meeting

Society members and guests were delighted to hear once again from The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers at our November 16, 2015 meeting. Scottish country dancing was also in order, led by our own Fred Macondray who gave an expert tutorial—in preparation for the upcoming annual ball



Shauna Picket-Gordon directs the Peninsula Fiddlers in a first time rendition of her original composition called, *What Jean I Forget*.



Study reveals ‘extraordinary’ DNA of people in Scotland

The DNA of people living in Scotland has “extraordinary” and “unexpected” diversity, according to a new study.

The Scotland’s DNA project, led by Edinburgh University’s Dr. Jim Wilson, has tested almost 1,000 Scots in the last four months to determine the genetic roots of people in the country.

The project discovered four new male lineages, which account for one in 10 Scottish men.

It also found that actor Tom Conti is related to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Scotland’s DNA was set up by Dr. Wilson along with historian Alistair Moffat, the



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current rector of St. Andrews University.

Using new technology, scientists were able to pinpoint a participant’s DNA marker, from which they tracked the person’s history and lineage.

Conti and Napoleon both share the M34 marker, which is Saracen in origin.

The project found that Scotland has almost 100 different groups of male ancestry from

across Europe and further afield.

More than 150 different types of female DNA from Europe, Asia and Africa were discovered.

Royal line

Researchers believe that Scotland’s location could be a factor in the “astonishing and unique” origins of people from the country.

In a statement, Dr. Wilson and Mr. Moffat said: “Perhaps geography, Scotland’s place at the farthest north-western end of the European peninsula, is the reason for great diversity.

“For many thousands of years, migrants could move no further west. Scotland was the end of many journeys.”

Scotland’s DNA also found that more than 1% of all Scotsmen are direct descendants of the Berber and Tuareg tribesmen of the Sahara, a lineage which is around 5600 years old.

Royal Stewart DNA was confirmed in 15% of male participants with the Stewart surname. They are directly descended from the royal line of kings.

Scientists believe comedian and presenter Fred MacAuley’s ancestors were slaves, sold at the great slave market in Dublin in the 9th Century, despite his name suggesting a Viking heritage.

They said MacAuley’s slave ancestor was taken by ship to the Hebrides and had an affair with his owner’s wife, thereby intruding DNA into the MacAulay line.

Scotland’s DNA will soon be renamed Britain’s DNA as the project aims to widen its genetic study to include the English, Welsh and Irish.

This article was first published 12 April 2012 on bbc.com.



The Noble Instrument

The Highland Bagpipe

By Gary West

Go to any international sporting occasion involving Scotland, and you will see the kilts out in force. And as sure as thunder follows lightning, bagpipes follow kilts! I've had the great honour and pleasure myself—in my younger days—of tramping over the hallowed turf of one or the other of our national stadiums with pipes on shoulder as part of a massed pipe band at a football or rugby match. After the opening ceremonials, we usually got to then sit in the stands to watch the sporting proceedings, where we were inevitably goaded to “gie us a tune” as the game went on. I don't think I've ever been at a Scotland football or rugby match that didn't have the strains of the pipes (I outright refuse to ever use the word “skirl”) as part of the rich and vibrant soundscape of the occasion.

You can perhaps imagine the nation's indignation, then, when the organizers of this year's Rugby World Cup, held in England, apparently banned the bagpipes from every match. Now... talk of a red rag to a bull! (Or a tartan rag to a Scotsman!) We suspected a conspiracy. One with ancient roots and precedent. We went to war!

Thankfully, the war was largely one of words, and carried out in newspapers, online and, indeed, within the UK parliament, where a motion was raised by 17 MPs. It read: “This House condemns the banning of bagpipes from the upcoming Rugby World Cup; calls on World Rugby Union to allow bagpipes to be played at the World Cup; recognises that bagpipes are not danger-

ous; stresses the importance of cultural identity associated with bagpipes for Scots, in the UK and around the world; and acknowledges that bagpipes are often played in formal ceremonies.”

When the dust settled a little, it seemed that we weren't actually being singled out for



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special persecution: all instruments were banned along with what seems an entirely random selection of items, including large flags, banners and flag poles, oversized hats, large umbrellas and “noise-makers.” The general suspicion that our national instrument was specifically included under that final category did not help the nation's mood, however.

As it turned out, of course, the inevitable happened. The

challenge was set, and the smuggling of bags, drones and chanters became a delightful game of hide and seek. I can only guess that teams of “carriers” were formed, each with a small piece of bagpipe down socks and up sweaters, meeting up once safely inside for the reassembly ceremony and the victorious rendition of “Scotland the Brave”! I can't be sure that is the way they did it, but however it

was achieved, bagpipe silence there was not! Pipes could be heard wafting from every corner of the stadiums—my favourite moment was when one brave young lad took it upon himself to serenade the very officials who had served the ban, right beside their VIP box!

The whole affair had us Scots contemplating the other times in our history when our national instrument became so abhorrent to the authorities that it was apparently silenced by the law. In recent times it tends to have been piping street buskers who have found themselves at the sharp end of banning orders. The current Lord Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, caused an uproar earlier this year when he introduced new rules for the regulation of street entertainment, citing bagpipes as an example of “repetitive loud sounds” he was keen to banish from the streets of the capital. While we cannot really argue with that description, his qualification that they were also “annoying” did little to endear him to the hundreds of thousands of Scots living in London.

Yet the “repetitive loud sound” has not always been welcome on our own streets here in Scotland either. In

continued from front cover

Banquet & Ball 2015

We were also well represented by our Trustees table of 12 (Norman & Dianne MacLeod, Steward & Jane Hume, and John & Dorothy McCorkindale). Trustee James Robertson and Judith Kell (United Irish Cultural Center) were also in attendance. Ruth McCracken and newlyweds Lisa McCracken & Russ Hattig joined us this year as special guests—in tribute for Gene & Ruth's countless years of devoted membership and service to the Society. The Caledonians and Daughters of the British Empire honored us by buying full tables of ten and eight; led by 1st Chieftain Charles McKinven and President Edith Caponigro, respectively. We were also happy to have American Friends of Erskine Hospital Board President Davie Scott and his wife Jean join us.

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Banquet & Ball ~ continued from page 4

Piper Jek Cunningham got the evening off to a good start by piping in all dinner guests, the President's table, the Color Guard, and The Haggis, respectively. The Haggis was then in good hands as Fred Macondray offered his spirited and informative rendering of Ode to a Haggis. As dinner was served—we heard the keynote speech from Donald Wilson on the theme of St. Andrew's American Revolution. Past President Fred Rutledge made sure to have Snuffie make the rounds, escorting him after dinner from table to table. Thanks to key contacts Bill McKown and Shauna Pickett-Gordon (who are both also St. Andrew's members) the after dinner program was highlighted by performances from The MacIntosh Pipe Band (Pipe Major Janice Richey) and The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers. Two young dancing lasses from the San Jose School of Highland Dance joined in then—expertly accompanied by MacIntosh pipers and drummers. At this year's ball Scottish country dancing was reintroduced to strong appeal: called by Fred Macondray and played by the fiddlers—Strip the Willow, The Gay Gordons, and St. Bernard's Waltz were brought to life! On a final note—musically, we danced to the strains of Randy Handley and the U.S. Express before singing ourselves out to a round of Auld Lang Syne. Thanks to all concerned and in attendance for helping make this year's banquet and ball a success!

To see additional photos of the evening visit drewaltizer.com

The Noble Instrument

2008, the residents and businesses of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh became so fed up with the bagpipe as the enforced main soundtrack to their daily lives that more than one hundred of them complained to the police, and the piping buskers were threatened with arrest. I have to say I have plenty of sympathy with the locals on this one—like fine wine or good malt whisky, piping is best sampled in relatively modest quantities.

A similar “stooshie” erupted in Vancouver in 2012, a city that actually has one of the highest concentrations of world-class pipers anywhere in the world, including Scotland. The apparent ban on busking bagpipers there was quickly reversed by the mayor, as one might have expected from someone by the name of Gregor Robertson.

There is no denying that ours is, indeed, a loud and penetrating instrument, so why do we get so upset when authorities try to regulate its public performance? I suspect that the answer lies deep in our history, for we have all been told growing up that the bagpipes were banned following the Jacobite** defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746... that along with the kilt and the right to bear arms, the bagpipes, as an “instrument of war,” were silenced under the pain of imprisonment, banishment or even death. Generations of pipers and historians right down to the present day have insisted that piping all but disappeared through the second half of the 18th century because of this ban, and that the art form had to be rescued and revived a generation later.

In actual fact, this is an enduring myth. The bagpipes were never banned, and were not mentioned at all in the Disarming Act of 1746, nor in any of its later amendments. That the wearing of Highland dress was prohibited is not in doubt, but the myth of the bagpipe ban seems to have been linked to the idea that it was an “instrument of war” and was, therefore, a weapon.

This assertion was made by the judge at the trial in York in November 1747 of James Reid, a piper who had formed part of the Jacobite garrison of Carlisle during the rebellion. The charge against him was high treason, but his defense was that as a piper he did not actually carry weapons and so was innocent of bearing arms against the king. The judge was not impressed, retorting

that “a Highland regiment never marched without a piper” and, therefore, his bagpipe, in the eyes of the law, was an instrument of war. Reid was found guilty and hanged. However, his crime was not playing bagpipes, but rebelling against the crown, and he was the only piper to be executed for treason. Piping did carry on through that whole period, although probably rarely in public.

Compared to those tales of the 18th century, the bagpipe ban at rugby matches today perhaps seems a trifle trivial. What is not trivial is that Scotland lost in the quarter-finals to Australia. By a single point. Bagpipes were heard throughout the game, so we can’t blame that. So we’re blaming the referee instead!

***The Jacobite uprisings were aimed at restoring the Stuarts to the throne after James VII of Scotland (James II of England) was deposed by Parliament in 1688.*

Gary West, the Head of Celtic and Scottish Studies at The University of Edinburgh and host of the weekly Radio Scotland program Pipeline, learned his piping with the much acclaimed Vale of Atholl Pipe Band with whom he played for 18 years, winning both the Scottish and European Championships.

This article was first published in the Winter 2015 edition of Scottish Life.



H.A.R.P. is running an archaeological field school in the Scottish Highlands in June 2016. Participants will be involved in researching, surveying and recording a series of historical and archaeological sites associated with the Jacobite rebellions and Highland Clearances of 18th Century Scotland. For more information contact Ian Hill at harparchaeology@gmail.com and visit their website www.harparchaeology.co.uk.

COME JOIN THE
**SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY
OF SAN FRANCISCO**

WHAT
SCOTTISH HOGMANAY CELEBRATION

WHEN
THE NEW YEAR ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015
TO COINCIDE WITH MIDNIGHT IN SCOTLAND.
WE TOAST IN THE NEW YEAR AT 4:00 PM - OUR TIME.

POTLUCK
FESTIVITIES START AT 1PM WITH APPETIZERS & DRINKS.
THERE WILL BE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT (PENINSULA
SCOTTISH FIDDLERS). HAGGIS WILL BE ADDRESSED AND
ENJOYED, AND A DARK HAired STRANGER WILL BE
WELCOMED FOR FIRST FOOTING. THE FESTIVITIES WILL
TAKE PLACE AT THE SOCIETY'S FIRE HOUSE

WHERE
1088 GREEN ST, SAN FRANCISCO
VALET PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED.
FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS: DAVID CAMPBELL
DAVIDDONCAMPBELL@NETSCAPE.NET 415-225-9307

PLEASE RSVP YOUR POTLUCK ITEM TO:
SUSAN GOODIER SUSAN.GOODIER@GMAIL.COM

Save the Dates



Traditional Burns Night Supper

The Annual Commemoration of
Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet
Saturday, January 23, 2016

No host cocktails begin at 6:00 PM
Dinner begins at 7:00 PM

Located at The Family, San Francisco
545 Powell St. (at Bush)



The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco



Robert Burns
1759-1796

SAVE the DATE for the Annual commemoration
of
the Anniversary of the birth of Scotland's National
Poet, Robert Burns with
A Traditional Burns Night Supper
**Saturday, January 23th,
2016**

at
The Family
545 Powell Street (at Bush)

6:00 PM—No Host Cocktails
7:00PM — Dinner & Entertainment

Formal attire encouraged!

Enquiries: Francesca M. McCrossan, 2nd VP
email francescamccrossan@hotmail.com

Honored Guests include:
Greg Suhr, Chief, San Francisco Police Department
Joanna Storrar, Director of Development for North America, Edinburg

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2015		
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to Hogmanay Potluck on 12/31	
Thur. Dec. 31	Hogmanay Potluck	1088 Green St., SF
2016		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
	<i>Inauguration of 2016 Office Bearers</i>	
Sat. Jan. 23	Burns Supper (The Family)	545 Powell St., SF
Mon. Feb. 15	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 21	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 16	19th Annual Tartan Day Scottish Faire	Ardenwood, Fremont
Mon. April 18	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Thurs. April 21	Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday.....	N/A
Sat. April 23	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	Martinez, CA
Mon. May 16	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. June 18	HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration	Fairmont Hotel, SF
Mon. June 20	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. July 9	Summer Ceilidh	Encinal Yacht Club
Mon. July 18	Summer Break – no meeting	
Mon. Aug. 15	Summer Break – no meeting	
Sept. 3–4	Caledonian Club's 151st Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton, CA
Mon. Sept. 19	Member's Dinner.....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 17	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 13	Remembrance Day Service.....	Grace Cathedral, SF
Sat. Nov. 26	152nd Annual Banquet & Ball	Marine's Hotel, SF

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light supper served before the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

Officers of the Society

Jaeame I. Koyil,
President
David Campbell, First VP
Francesca McCrossan,
Second VP
Ian Baird, Treasurer
Jean Allen, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Marilyn Van Story,
Chaplain
Marjory Matic, Bard
Jack Cunningham, Piper
Thomas E. Kasinger,
Historian
Kent Walker,
Membership Secretary
Dr. Bill Blair, Physician

Trustees

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David McCrossan
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William Cummings, Jr.
Jean Allen
Kitty Lenhart





**The Saint Andrew's Society
of San Francisco**
1088 Green Street
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Recipient
