



The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

ESTABLISHED IN 1863

Volume 146, No. 2

October 2009

Calendar

10/19

*Society Monthly Meeting
- Making Haggis,*

*SUN, 8 NOV, Remem-
brance Day Service at
Grace Cathedral, SF*

*MON. 16 NOV. Society
Monthly Meeting
Program: the British
Consulate in San
Francisco*

*SAT, 28 NOV St. An-
drew's Day, Banquet
and Ball, Marine's
Memorial, SF*

*MON, 30 November, St.
Andrew's Day*

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Samhain

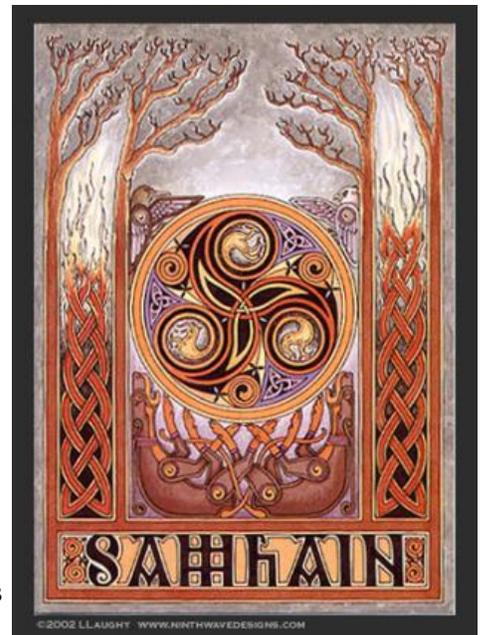
The Celtic festival Samhain is one of the four quarter festivals. In Gaelic it is Samhuinn which means hallow tide or season, the feast of all-souls. The souls of all the dead are said to be free on that day, 1 November. The 1st of November was the beginning of the Celtic new year and the transition between old and new year was believed to set free evil spirits which would visit your house.

Halloween is actually the night before where lanterns (Gaelic: samhag), Halloween fires and such are supposed to scare the souls that will emerge at midnight, away from your house. Samhuinn is also used in Gaelic for the entire month of November. The name "Samhain" entered Canadian folklore as "Sam Hain", the name of the guy doll which children would wheel round.

Halloween customs in Scotland these days consist chiefly of children going door to door "guising" (or "Galoshin" on the south bank of the lower Clyde) dressing up and offering entertainment of various sorts in return for gifts. The Witchcraft Act of 1735 contained a clause preventing the consumption of pork and pastry comestibles on Halloween although these days sausage rolls seem to be a popular treat for children - the act was repealed in the 1950s.

The children are invariably dressed up as something supernatural or spooky and the entertainment usually consists of singing, telling a poem or joke etc. They don't 'trick' you if you do not give, as in America. However, after the showing of

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A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Editor: William Jagers
Email: wjagers@hotmail.com

Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments served after the meeting.

Officers of the Society

Fred Rutledge, President
Gene McCracken, First VP
John Allison, Second VP
Russ Wallace, Treasurer
Tom Kasinger, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
James Beatty, Chaplain
Bruce McCubbrey, Bard
Ozzie Reid, Piper

Trustees—

Bruce McMillan, Chairman
Tom McLaughlin,
John McCorkindale
Bruce Reeves
James M. Robertson, AIA-E

Board of Relief,

James Beatty

Board of Student Assistance—

Robert Logan,
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Loren Obley



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

Members and Friends:

A Happy Autumn to one and all. Samhain is soon upon us! Time to dust off the odd costume and get the candy trays ready for visiting goblins and the like. In this newsletter edition is an article on the history of Samhain for your enjoyment.

The September Members' Dinner was just super. John Allison is to be commended once again of a fine evening. Some important items were covered during the meeting/dinner. A resolution was passed unanimously to welcome British Consul, Julian Evans into our ranks as an Honorary Member! Young Kristian Mullins was also voted in as an honorary member for his devoted service. Iain Macdonald was presented with his past-president's medal.

Roger Weed discussed activities at the John Muir House in Martinez and Elly Sturm and James Beatty provided a wee sing-a-long. John Allison donated a presentation box of Grants wine which, at auction raised \$175 for the single malts used at our Burns Supper in January. Elly had produced a dozen membership certificates which were passed along to those who purchased said certificates.

I would like to remind members that you too may provide articles for publication. I am working on a William Keith piece and one on the Balclutha, but would be happy to let other members do some writing. Muir, MacLeran, the Blairs of Piedmont and stories on other local Scots are welcome. Also pieces on culture, music art and other topics. Please step up to the computer and draft an article!

This month's meeting is on Monday, 19 October. Our 2nd VP John Allison promises a fun evening with Alex Henderson, past-chief of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco and an expert Haggis-chef, to tell us about "the making of Haggis". Mr. Allison will be bringing "neeps and tatties" for 50 to round out the meal!

During September the Nominating Committee was organized to develop a slate of officers to serve the society next year. The Committee will present its recommendations at the October meeting. In November nominations from the floor may be proposed, and in December the elections are held. Installation of Officers will be conducted at the January meeting.

I am looking for persons interested in volunteering for the Firehouse Committee. Among the committee's tasking will be ways to better utilize the facility (i.e. a monthly open house, our own Pub Night, the parking situation, et al).



- Saint Andrew's Society Banquet and Ball, Saturday, 28 November, at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel, San Francisco.
Point of Contact: Gene McCracken.
- Robert Burns Supper, Saturday, 23 January, at the Family, San Francisco.
Point of Contact: John Allison.



St. Andrew's Society of SF & Related Calendar of Events for 2009

OCTOBER

Society Monthly Meeting
– 19 OCT. Program: Making Haggis, presenter Alex Henderson (Aye, we shall have some to try!)

Nominating Committee reports findings

Theme: Samhain (Scottish New Year & Halloween)

NOVEMBER

SUN, 8 NOV, Remembrance Day Service at Grace Cathedral, SF

SAT, 28 NOV St. Andrew's Day, Banquet and Ball, Marine's Memorial, SF

MON, 30 November, St. Andrew's Day

Society Monthly Meeting
– 16 NOV. Program: the British Consulate in San

Francisco, presenters Consul General Julian Evans & Deputy Mary Gilbert

Add candidates from floor.

DECEMBER

Society Monthly Meeting
– 14 DEC (note date change). Program: John Paul Jones, presenter Admiral Judd Scott USN (Retired).



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This is an agenda item at the October meeting. I will ask for folks to come forward and serve for this duty as well.

John Allison has organized a presentation of the Robert Louis Stevenson photo to St. Helena's Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School. The event has been moved to the 19 November. We Currently have Dorothy MacKay-Collins, Jim Marsh , James Beatty, Elly Sturm, the Mayor of St Helena , British Consul-General Julian Evans, Deputy Consul Mary Gilbert and 2nd VP Allison will be representing us that day. The local newspaper, the St Helena Star, should be on hand to take pictures. John will take the group to lunch in Napa afterwards. A great day indeed! Thanks go out to John for getting this organized.



The Robert Louis Stevenson Museum has agreed to take on the task of helping sell the Bank of Scotland/RLS One Pound notes. The RLS Museum will split the proceeds with our society. A win-win for both organizations.

The St. Andrews Banquet and Ball is next month! It will be held at the Marines' Memorial Club on Saturday, 28 November. Please support this event with your attendance and bring guests along! First VP Gen McCracken is the point of contact.

For those interested, a small block of rooms in the club are available for the evening of the event. A copy of the notice and registration is on the website.

See you on Monday, 19 October.

Yours aye,

Fred Rutledge

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ET in the early 80s, the influence of American "trick or treating" seems to have become more prevalent at least in England. Hollowed out turnips with candles in them are sometimes displayed or carried. Note that many children in America do not 'trick' either.



Halloween parties often consisted of various games, for instance 'Dooking fur aipples' where the children had to bite apples floating in a basin of water, once they had one by the teeth they could retrieve and obtain it. Sometimes flour would be sprinkled on the surface of the water.

For younger children a more modern game is 'Forkin fur aipples', an easier task, where the children stood on a chair and held a fork handle in their teeth, taking aim, they would release it into the basin of apples and water and retrieve and keep any apple they so skewered. Another game was 'treacle scones' where children had to eat a scone covered in treacle hanging on a piece of string.

One custom associated with Halloween in the Western Isles was to put two large nuts in the fire. These were supposed to represent yourself and your intended spouse. If the nuts jumped together when they warmed up then this was deemed to be a good omen, but if they jumped apart then it was time to look for someone else!

Halloween customs - some of these migrated from the Celtic hogmanay of 31 October to the modern hogmanay of 31 December with the change from the Celtic calendar to the modern calendar. However, according to Brewster's Dictionary of Folklore which is on line, 'guiser' was



a Scottish Mummer at Christmas time, so this is one tradition that has gone in the other direction (i.e. from yuletide to Halloween). Happy Halloween and Happy New Year!



Report on John Muir Association by Roger Weed



The John Muir Association newsletter gave the Society a very nice recognition of

our contribution to the John Muir day camp. There is a photograph showing me presenting the check to JoAnne Dunec as well as a mention of us as contributors in an article on the day camp.

The latest activity of the Society was a free showing of excerpts from Ken Burns National Parks documentary on John Muir and Yosemite. Admission was free but it was not possible to get it in the newsletter on time. I represented the society at the showing at the Alhambra High School Performing Arts Center in Martinez.

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The Regiments: The 6th and 7th Battalions, Royal Regiment of Scotland

This is the final article on the battalions that make up the new super-Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The last two battalions are part of the Territorial Army (TA) and are composed of reservists. These individuals are what Winston Churchill acknowledged as being "Twice



On left: The new cap badge of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, here mounted on a Glengarry bonnet and worn by all the battalions of the Regiment.

the Citizen" for their double duty.

Lowland, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (52nd)

The 52nd Lowland (6 SCOTS) Battalion has a long and illustrious heritage as the descendant of Territorial units that fought in both World Wars. Nowadays it is a Light Role Infantry Battalion, which means it can specialize in anti-tank missile systems, mortars and machine guns as well as the normal infantry role of defeating the enemy. The Battalion



Above: On convoy duty riding shotgun.

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recruits from all over the Scottish lowlands with TA Centers in Ayr, Bathgate, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Galashiels, Glasgow and Motherwell. 6 SCOTS frequently deploys soldiers on operations with Regular Battalions to places such as Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans and has trained in recent years on exercises in the Ukraine, America, Belgium and Slovakia.

51st Highland, 7th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The 51st Highland (7 SCOTS) Battalion is the descendant of the famous 'Fighting 51st' Highland Division which fought on France's Western Front in World War One and in El Alamein and Normandy in World War Two. It is a "Light Role" Infantry Battalion, which means that it is highly skilled with the same weapons as its Regular counterparts and



Above: Territorial Army soldiers who served in Iraq in 2007 were honored by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall today in the grounds of Birkhall, Their Royal Highnesses home in Scotland. Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall are also known as The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay.

trained in the tactics of a modern infantry unit. The 7 SCOTS have also deployed soldiers on operations to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans and has trained in recent years on exercises in Romania, Canada, Kenya and Cyprus. The Battalion recruits from all over the Scottish Highlands and has TA Centers in Aberdeen, Dumbarton, Dunoon, Dundee, Inverness, Keith, Kirkcaldy, Lerwick, Peterhead, Perth, Stirling, Stornoway and Wick.

About 40 troops from 7 Scots joined Their Royal Highnesses, at Birkhall on the Balmoral Estate, Royal Deeside two years ago. These part-

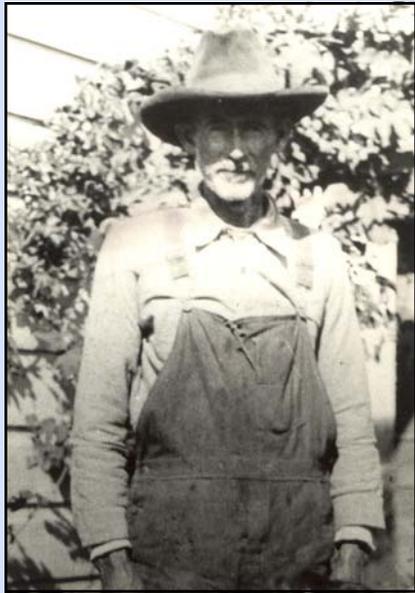
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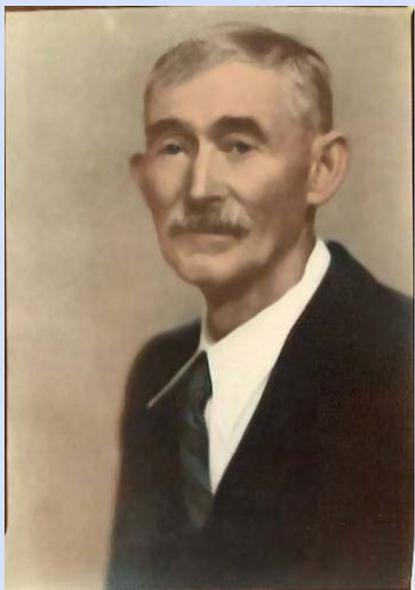
On November 7, 2009 the annual John Muir Association Conservation Awards presentation will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward Street at Estudillo in Martinez.



Tickets are \$45 and can be obtained by calling Nancy at (925) 370-7158. They will be held at the door. It should be a sellout as the program is Lee Stetson performing his "In the Spirit of John Muir". I plan on attending in the kilt as the Society liaison to the Association and it would be nice to have other members and officers present also.



Perhaps if I put the 2 photos of my grandfather before me I can draw inspiration for a write up on Scottish and Indian marriages in the society's newsletter. As you can easily see, his Cherokee [and a little Choctaw] come through. My father fully named me after him, as he, my grandfather, was fully named after his own father.



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time soldiers were specially invited by The Prince, who is Royal Colonel of the Battalion. He wanted to thank them personally for their efforts during a their tour of duty in Iraq. Surrounded by some beautiful Scottish scenery, the reservists marched uphill to the front of the 18th century house, led by the battalion's pipes and drums playing "Scotland the Brave".

Their Royal Highnesses stood in the building's porch as the troops, dressed in their desert combats, gave the salute. The Prince, wearing a Hunting Stewart tartan kilt, was then introduced to each soldier and presented them with their Iraq service medals.

The Duchess, wearing a dress with a Rothesay tartan trim and tartan scarf, remained on the porch with Major David Steele, second in command of the battalion.

Family and friends of the men and women looked on.

After the ceremony, the troops paraded to a nearby marquee for a more informal reception with Their Royal Highnesses, who were lead by two pipers.

Around 100 men and women from 7 Scots formed "Alamein Company", part of a Force Protection company deployed in Iraq from November 2006 to May 2007 to prevent Basra Air Station from attack.

During the tour some of the soldiers were involved in a daring operation to help rescue wounded American troops in southern Iraq. The company, known as Alamein Company, was the largest collective deployment of Scottish TA troops since the Second World War.

The company got its name as it is a direct descendant of the 51st Highland Division which took part in the Battle of El Alamein during the World War Two.

The soldiers were called up once again for service in Afghanistan the following year.

From: msscharosch@comcast.net
To: wjaggers@hotmail.com
Subject: Hodden Grey
Date: Wed, 7 Oct 2009 08:46:18 -0700

Hello,

I have been researching the London Scottish Regiment. In your September newsletter your president wrote a very interesting article on the regiment. In particular he mentioned he was going to wear his Hodden Grey kilt to an event. I saw a belt buckle in an antique store that I am attempting to purchase from that regiment. I do not know if it is a genuine buckle and the dealer is reluctant to sell at this point. However, I have been attempting to find some Hodden Grey tartan to purchase and have contacted kilt makers in Scotland and they do not have it. If I may I would like to direct a question to your President about how he came by the Hodden Grey tartan for his kilt. Does he know where I could obtain Hodden Grey yardage? I make tartan purses as a fund raiser for the Daughters of Scotia's scholarship fund and wanted to make a purse out of Hodden Grey as a tribute to this fine Scottish regiment. I often combine tartan with Harris Tweed for an interesting salute to Scotland's weavers. If this information from your president is a bit personal I would understand his reluctance to answer. Please thank him in advance for any information he can contribute.

As an aside, I would like to mention that around 1986 or so the St. Andrews Society of San Francisco provided a scholarship to my daughter Melissa Bever Travis, to assist in the pursuit of her Masters Degree in Speech Pathology. Today, Melissa lives in St. Louis, Mo., working with children in the school system who have speech related disabilities. She is highly regarded professional speech pathologist who loves working with the very young. I thought it might be interesting for your Society to know how your scholarship helped Melissa achieve her educational goal and in turn many children have benefited from Melissa's dedication to assisting young children.

Thank you.

Mary Connelly Scharosch
Folsom, California

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I have one more photo to share. It is a very favorite of mine, one of my father's sisters. Photographs don't lie! You'll see what I mean.

Rattlinghawk

[a.k.a. Thomas Kasinger]

Hattie Kasinger Bell
August 1915



As I mentioned this studio portrait from 1915, of one of my father's sisters, is an all time favorite of mine. I knew my aunt Hattie quite well. You can see what I meant when I said pictures don't lie. In this one and others, her Indian ancestry through the Kasinger line comes strongly through. One of my cousins, whom I shared this with, suggested I zoom in on her [our aunt's] eyes. I did just that and as my cousin said her eyes are mystic.

Tom



The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Cordially invites you to its
146th Annual Banquet and Ball



on Saturday,
November 28th, 2009
at the
Marines' Memorial Club
San Francisco

Reception

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Dinner and Dancing

7:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Dunvegan Pipe Band
Scottish Fiddlers
Scottish Dancers

Address to the Flag

Circulation of the
Raim's Head Snuff Box

Formal, Highland Dress
or Evening Attire



Parking available at the
Olympic Garage on Sutter St.

Prices per person:
\$110 each per member and member's guest
\$110 each per non-member and guest
For more information call Gene McCracken,
Society's VP, at: 650-573-1353

Reservations:

Ticket	Qty.	Price	Subtotal
Member/Guest	_____	\$110	_____
Non-Member/Guest	_____	\$110	_____
Order Total:	_____		_____

Number of Vegetarian Meals: _____

Checks Payable to:

Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Reservations due by November 23, 2009

Name: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Day Phone: _____
 Guests: _____

Send this Form and Payment to:

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco
Mr. Russell E. Wallace, Treasurer
100 Thonrdale Dr. Apt 350
San Rafael, CA 9403-4576

For information about Saint Andrew's Society:
<http://www.saintandrewssociety-sf.org>

Special overnight room rates of \$179.00, includes a Buffet Breakfast. Call 1-800-5Marine for reservations. Please mention The Saint Andrew's Society Scottish Banquet.



1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604



**Program for the
October 2009
Meeting—**

Making Haggis!