

The History of the Highland Charge

By Zac Arnold

Note: This article was first published in the Winter 2014 edition of The Patriot.

Charging the enemy is not exactly a new tactic, and it is not in any way indigenous or exclusive to Scottish Highlanders. However, in the annals of military history there is a certain pattern for Celtic warriors generally, and more specifically for Scottish Highlanders, at least up through the mid 18th century.

The ancient Greeks and Romans noted that most of the Celtic peoples had an intense ferocity in their offensives, whether successful or not. In their own way these were just psychologi-



cally hyped up human wave attacks, but the pattern does show a disparity between the traditional stoicism of a Roman legion or a Greek phalanx versus a charging horde of woad-dyed Celts. Defensive warfare was hardly unknown to them (e.g. the Roman siege of Alesia) but offensive was certainly much more their style.



The Dukedom of Hamilton

By Irene Lebeter

Note: This article was first published in the Jan/Feb 2015 edition of The Highlander.



Chatelherault Hunting Lodge on the grounds of the former Hamilton Palace estate now houses a museum and art gallery.

The Hamilton family name has always been synonymous with wealth and power in the Lowlands of Scotland, a family with strong ties to the monarchy. Until 1579 their seat was Cadzow Castle in Hamilton. Destroyed by a siege that year, the castle was replaced by Hamilton Palace. This impressive building was demolished in the 1920s when mining subsidence rendered it unsafe, although a section of parkland in Hamilton is still known today as the Palace Grounds. The present Duke, Alexander Douglas-Hamilton (the 16th Duke of Hamilton) has his seat at Lennoxlove House in East Lothian.

continued on page 3

JANUARY 2015 ~ Vol. 152, NO. 1

History of the Highland Charge 1	A letter of Thanks 2
An effective and devastating tactical maneuver	Gratitude from the British Benevolent Society
The Dukedom of Hamilton 1	Burns Supper 2015 6
Wealth and power in the Scottish Lowlands	Impressions by guest Peter Robinson
President's Letter 2	Upcoming Events 8



President's Letter – January 2015

A hundred thousand welcomes to you if you are new to our Society.

A hundred thousand welcomes if you are a seasoned member who has not come around recently.

A hundred thousand welcomes to those regulars who keep things humming.

We are an all volunteer group and if you look on our web page at our list of officers you will see a dozen people who all generously contribute their time and talent to keep our Society going. Most notably is our 2nd VP Who shoulders a lot of the burden. Also our webmaster, newsletter editor, Treasurer, Secretary and the list goes on and on.

Why do they do it? Why do I do it? Of course we share a love of our Scottish traditions but also in my case I have come to view our group as a second home, as a second extended family.

I hope that you also feel that way or can grow to feel that way.

How can we improve? Let us know! And then pitch in to make it happen.

I have several ideas that I think will improve our Society and I will try to pace their introduction so as not introduce too much of a shock all at once.

Sadly, I had to miss our January meeting due to required training with the Military Reserve - State Active Duty.

In our February meeting I will bring up the idea of hiring a part time paid Executive Secretary to make sure we don't drop too many balls.

It was good to see so many of you at our recent annual Burns Supper on January 24th at the usual lovely venue: The Family.

Kind regards and Alba Gu Brath (Scotland Forever)!

Jaeame I. Koyil

Incoming President

A Letter Expressing Gratitude

January 22, 2015

Mr. Jaeame I. Koyil
President, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco
3053 Fillmore, #118
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Jaeame:

I would like to thank you and the St. Andrew's Society for so generously hosting my husband Kozo and me at last evening's Burns' Supper. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening and all of the company we were with. It was the first Burns' Supper we have attended in a long time.

As I mentioned last evening, the BBS has had a long-time connection with the St.

Andrew's Society by virtue of some of your past presidents and members who have also served as prominent directors on our board. Our website is fairly new. I look forward to being able to link the St. Andrew's Society to our website and also to have your website link to the BBS website. BBS also has a Facebook page. This way we can promote each other's events, and also provide respective members helpful information.

I have copied the BBS Executive Administrator, Susan Goodier, on this email. Susan currently works part time for BBS and has worked very closely with our web site

developers to update and add information to the site.

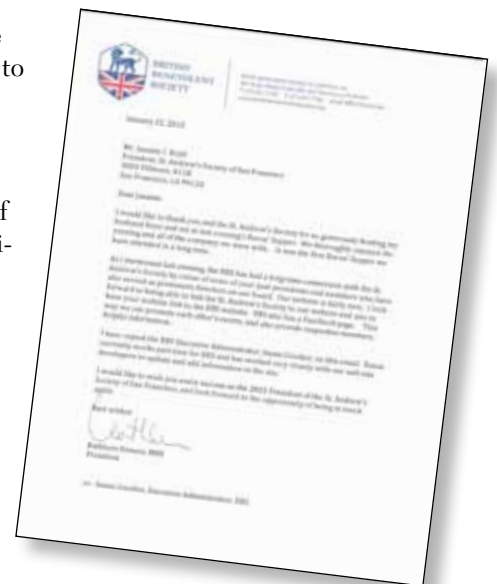
I would like to wish you every success as the 2015 President of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, and look forward to the opportunity of being in touch again.

Best wishes

Kathleen Kimura,
MBE

President

cc: Susan Goodier,
Executive Administrator, BBS



Dukedom of Hamilton

The Dukedom of Hamilton stretches back over many centuries to the time of King Robert the Bruce (Robert I). It is recorded that in 1315 King Robert gave Sir Walter de Hamilton (Walter Fitzgilbert), the ancestor of the Dukes of Hamilton, the barony of Machanshire as a reward for his Royalist support.

In time, one of Walter's successors, Anne, 3rd Duchess of Hamilton, inherited the family title. Born in 1632, Anne was the second child of James, 3rd Marquis (later 1st Duke) of Hamilton and the goddaughter of King Charles I. When her father was executed in 1649 for his support of the Royalist cause, the title of 2nd Duke passed to his younger brother, William, as it was felt in those trying days that the dukedom needed a man at its head.

Two-and-a-half years later, however, William was killed at the Battle of Worcester fighting on the side of Charles II and, at the age of 19, Anne became Duchess in her own right. On paper her estates were vast, said to stretch from the Isle of Arran in the west of Scotland to Kinneil Castle in the east. Most of them, however, had been confiscated by Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary government.

According to the records, Duchess Anne was betrothed to her neighbour's son, William, Earl of Selkirk, and they married in

1656. It is reported that the couple were married for 40 years and raised 13 children. On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Anne regained her inheritance and her husband was created Duke of Hamilton in addition to his previous title.

In the 1690s the couple rebuilt Hamilton Palace and extended Kinneil Castle. In the 1700s the architect William Adam was enlisted to redesign the north front of the palace and about a hundred years later, another architect, David Hamilton, brought Adam's vision into being.

Credence was given to the myth when a portion of the walls fell down in the middle of the 19th century and human bones were discovered inside them.

During her time as Duchess, Anne is reported to have been a kind and generous benefactor to her tenants, allowing them on occasion to pay their rent to her in kind rather than cash. Items such as meal, barley, oats, wheat, meat, butter and eggs were given in lieu of cash and this produce was used in the Duchess' kitchen and the surplus sold. At the turn of the 17th-to-18th centuries, bad weather caused a severe famine in the area. In 1702 it is recorded that the Duchess gave back to the tenants around £3,500 "in consideration of the bygone calamitous years."

A staunch Presbyterian, Duchess Anne is said to have taken a *continued on page 4*



Hamilton Palace, shown here circa 1880, was tom down in 1927 when subsidence from coal mining operations made it structurally unstable.

Dukedom of Hamilton

great interest in church matters and frequently made charitable donations to the poor on her estates. Because of her kindness, she has become known to subsequent generations as "Good Duchess Anne."

Although Hamilton Palace itself is gone, the hunting lodge still exists. The building comprises two pavilions linked by a gateway. Built in 1734 for James, 5th Duke of Hamilton, the lodge was named Chatelherault. The name derives from a dukedom in France ("Duc de Châtelleraut," in the original spelling) given in 1548 to his ancestor, James, 2nd Earl of Arran, who had been Regent for the child queen, Mary, Queen of Scots.

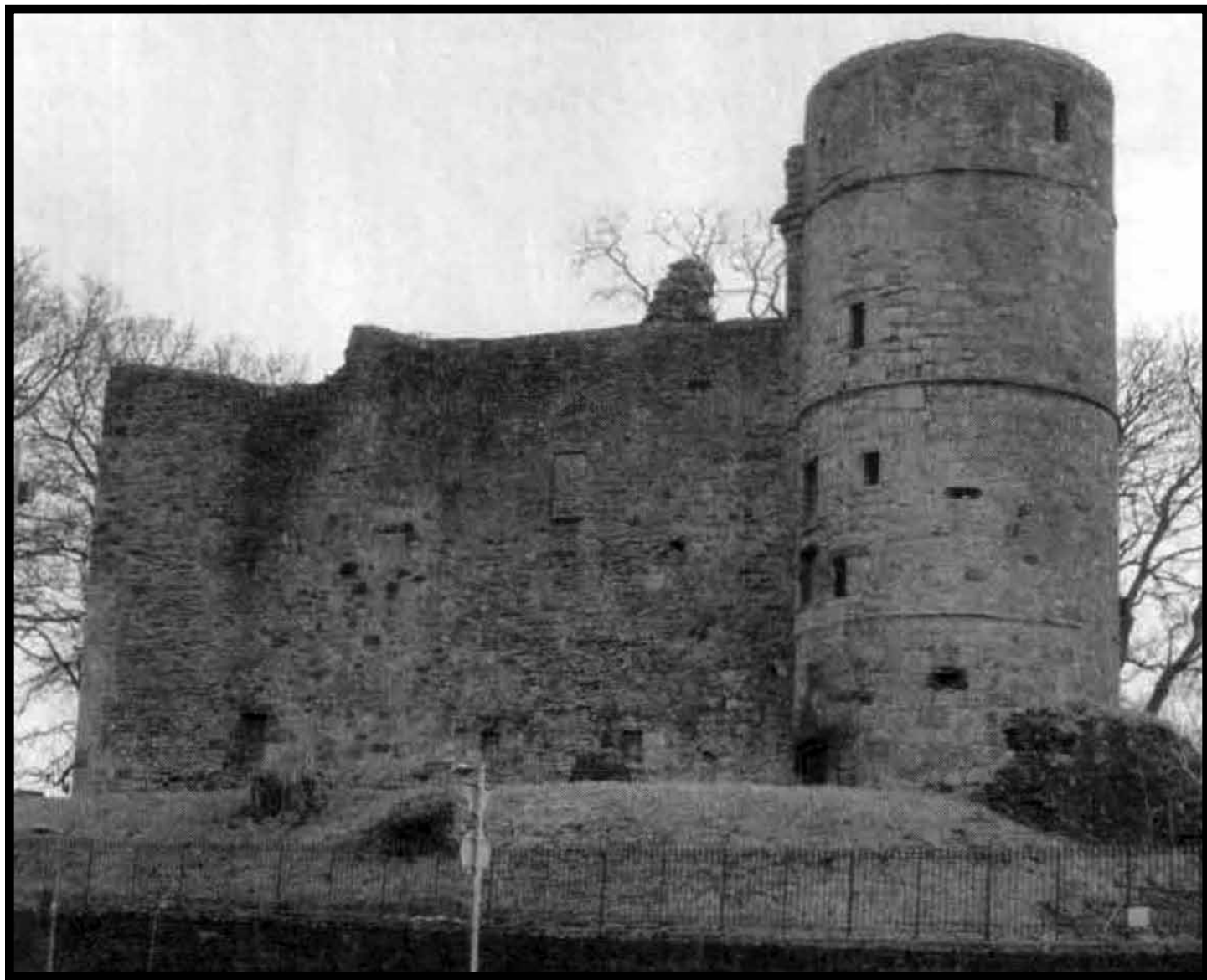
Chatelherault Lodge was gutted by fire in the 1940s and in subsequent years suffered from vandalism. The building was given to the nation in the 1970s in lieu of taxes on the death of the 14th Duke of Hamilton. The lodge is now managed by South Lanarkshire Council.

The building, which was restored to its former glory by Historic

Scotland, contains a cafe, a shop, a museum and an art gallery in the courtyard area. Many groups, such as art or writing groups, hire the facilities to exhibit their work. The lodge itself is open to the public free of charge, although it can be hired for functions such as weddings and parties.

At one point after Hamilton Palace had been demolished, the ground in front of the hunting lodge was excavated for sand quarrying. This resulted in subsidence, giving a lopsided feel to anyone walking around inside. Although the building has been passed by Health and Safety, coins will roll across the floor and visitors often feel unbalanced and ill when crossing the banqueting room floor. To assist any visitor who ventures up to the upper floor, a handrail has been fitted on the stairway.

The banqueting room downstairs and the Duke and Duchess's apartments upstairs all feature fine Georgian plasterwork and woodcarving. A parterre is planted at the rear of the lodge and Cadzow cattle graze in the fields surrounding the building. This unique breed of cattle has a white coat and long horns.



The Hammons abandoned Strathaven Castle in the early 1700s.



A portrait of Anne Hamilton, 3rd Duchess of Hamilton.

The hunting lodge sits on a hill overlooking the estate's parkland, with picnic tables dotted across it. From the upstairs windows, the Hamilton Mausoleum is visible through the trees in the distance. The mausoleum was built to house the tombs of the Dukes of Hamilton, but only the earliest dukes lie there. The use of the mausoleum as a resting place had to be discontinued due to subsidence and the risk of flooding from previous mining that took place in the area.

Between the 1500s and the 1700s the Hamilton family also owned Strathaven Castle, situated on a bend of the Powmillon Bum, which runs through the town. The origins of Strathaven Castle are obscure, but it is thought to have been built about 1350 by the Baird family.

Thereafter, the castle passed into the hands of, first, the Sinclairs and then the powerful Douglas Clan. History records that in 1455 King James II, in an attempt to suppress the Earls of Douglas, murdered William Douglas, 8th Earl of Douglas, and confiscated his lands.

In 1457 King James presented Strathaven Castle to one of his own Stewart clansmen, Sir Andrew Stewart, who later became Lord Avondale. It is recorded that the castle was sold to the Hamilton family in 1534, and they later extended the building. In the 17th century it was used as a prison for Covenanters.

A letter from 1559 mentions that it was here at "Straverin" that Master Patrick Buchanan taught the children of James Hamilton, a Scottish nobleman known as the Regent Arran. This is the James (previously mentioned) who was Regent for Mary, Queen of Scots.

One legend connected to Strathaven Castle tells of the wife of one of the lords who did something to greatly displease her husband. Whatever her misdemeanor, it was felt great enough that, on her husband's orders, she was led into a small niche. After a blessing by a priest, she was supplied with a little food and drink and walled up forever. Credence was given to the myth when a portion of the walls fell down in the middle of the 19th century and human bones were discovered inside them.

The last occupant of Strathaven castle was Anne, Duchess of Hamilton, who died in 1716, and the castle was abandoned in 1717. The remaining ruins of the castle are linked to the town

of Strathaven by the Boo Backit Brig (bow-backed bridge), a small arched bridge that crosses the Powmillon Burn. This burn flows into the Avon Water about a mile downstream.

Strathaven was ruled by the Romans and the Celts before becoming part of the Kingdom of Scotland. Originally known as the Barony of Strathaven, the town became a Burgh of Barony in 1450. This differed from a Royal Burgh because the charter was not granted to the burgh but to an individual landowner who held his estates directly from the Crown. The landowner had the right to organize weekly markets, although he was not allowed to participate in foreign trade.

Strathaven mill was built in 1650 by William, 2nd Duke of Hamilton (later killed at the Battle of Worcester), who was resident in the castle at the time. The mill played a large part in the working life of Strathaven for over three centuries. When production ceased in 1966, the building quickly fell into disrepair, finally being consumed by fire in 1972. The Arts Council converted what was left of the mill into an Arts Centre in 1974.

Buried In Strathaven Old Graveyard is one James Wilson, who worked as a weaver in the mill and lived at Piper Row, now renamed Castle Street. This man is credited with inventing the purl stitch and this earned him the nickname "purlie." During the political unrest of the 19th century, Wilson was a radical, a supporter of the people's cause. When a radical rising took place in 1820, Wilson and his fellow radicals were tricked by government agents into marching to Cathkin Braes, midway between Strathaven and Glasgow, in the belief that they would join a large gathering to march on Glasgow in support of radical reform. They received word of the true situation—the government merely wanted to flush out the radicals—before reaching Cathkin Braes and fled.

Later, however, Wilson was arrested as the ringleader, tried for high treason and publicly hanged on Glasgow Green. His body was brought home to Strathaven under cover of darkness and he received a Christian burial behind his house. A memorial stone now stands where his house used to be and his remains were moved the short distance to a marked grave in Strathaven's Old Graveyard.

Dungavel House, near Strathaven Castle, was another property owned by the Hamilton family as a shooting lodge. Records tell that on May 10, 1941, the German Deputy Führer, Rudolf Hess, tried to land at Dungavel in a misguided attempt to seek a peace pact with the Duke of Hamilton. Bad weather and poor navigation resulted in Hess landing instead at Floors Farm in nearby Eaglesham.

**A staunch
Presbyterian, Duchess
Anne Is said to have taken
a great interest in church
matters and frequently made
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poor on her estates.**

Robbie Burns Supper 2015

An evening of feasting, music, poetry, and laughter is the best description of this year's Robbie Burns Dinner at the St. Andrew's Society. As Jaeame Koyil, the president of the San Francisco chapter explained: "Robert Burns, the 'heaven-taught ploughman', has become the National Bard of Scotland as well as for Diaspora Scots who gather to drink and make merry on his birthday. Burns was a great admirer of the egalitarian ethos behind the American and French Revolutions and expressed his own egalitarianism in poems such as 'Birthday Ode for George Washington' and 'A Man's a Man for a' that.' Singer songwriter Bob Dylan selected Burns's 1794 song 'A Red, Red Rose' as the lyric that had the biggest effect on his life. Across the entire world Burns's 'Auld Lang Syne' ushers in the New Year in a universal language."

The dinner opened when the haggis was piped in and I noticed the toast to the haggis actually preceded the toast to the President. Then Ian Baird proposed a toast to the Queen and the evening took on a festive life of its own with music from the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers, a poetic reading by David McCrossan and Burns songs by Shannon Warto. Professor Ian Duncan shared thoughts about the poet: "*Combining technical virtuosity and colloquial ease, Robert Burns was the first modern poet to express how ordinary people feel and speak. It's appropriate we celebrate Burns Night across the world on January 25th, since he is the great poet of social life and festive cheer.*"

With all this wonderful music I asked David Campbell, the Burns dinner MC, about the bagpipes, "That ancient instrument," he told me, "now associated strongly with Scottish history and culture, was generally thought to have been introduced to the British Isles by the Romans." Ironic, I thought, as Hadrian's Wall was built to keep the Scots out.

"Variations of the pipes are found in other countries including Ireland (Uilleann Pipes), Germany (Doodlesack), India, parts of the Middle East, and in the Commonwealth countries, and everywhere that the Scots and Irish have migrated. The English have a version known as the Northumbrian Pipes. The range of these instruments is great, from martial or military music to all forms of cultural expression from dances to funerals."

The future of Scotland

Last year could prove a turning point in Scottish history as a referendum was conducted to debate and vote on whether Scotland would remain in the United Kingdom of Great Britain. This was a highly emotional issue with younger Scottish voters leaning towards independence while the older segment of the population preferred to stay within the union. Historically King James I of England was also James VI of Scotland, but the official act of union did not happen until 1707 during the reign of Queen Ann. Scotland is represented in the House of Commons and House of Lords. This union is symbolized in the Union Jack flag—the red cross is that of St. George and the white on blue cross of St. Andrew.

At our table amongst the frivolity a serious note was struck as we turned to ways that Scottish entrepreneurship could be connected to bay area businesses. Consultant David McCrossan introduced a wide range of Scotland's interests to Phillip Huff, British Vice Consul of Corporate Services, from the latest in medical breakthroughs to the high tech industry.

In many ways the St. Andrew's Society at both the practical and social levels brings men and women together not only to share memories of Scotland but also to participate in educational and business development across the bay area.

Another highlight of Scottish activities in California is the Festival for Highland Games that draws about 45,000 participants to Pleasanton each September. This year marks the 150th consecutive gathering with everything from piping bands and caber tossing to whiskey tasting and highland reel dancing.

The camaraderie of the evening was palpable as festivities closed with 'My Luve is Like a Red, Red Rose,' then everybody holding hands and singing a joyful 'Auld Lang Syne.' And the lassies all left with a rose.

—Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson, editor of *San Francisco Books & Travel*, broadcasts on KALW 91.7 fm. He introduces the special Foyle's War Soiree at the Literary Society in March. For details call 415.381.6671



A Red, Red Rose

*O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O my Luve's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.*



Key facts about Robert Burns

Born 25 January 1759 to William Burnes and Agnes Broun in Ayr

In 1765 James Murdoch becomes Burns' tutor and following his father's death, Burns moved his family to Mauchline where he meets his future wife, Jean Armour

His first poems were written in Scottish Dialect, and in 1787 published in Edinburgh then later in Dublin. The first London edition appeared in 1788

He was inspired by his surroundings in Dumfries where they lived from 1791 until his death in 1796.



The St. Andrew's Society

meets on third Monday evenings (except July & August) at The Firehouse 1088 Green Street San Francisco

For membership: www.saintandrewssocietysf.org



BURNS SUPPER 2015



David McCrossan,
Jaame Koyil, President,
St. Andrew's Society,
Kathleen Kimura, MBE,
Vice Consul Phillip Huff,
David Campbell



Meena Kakani & David Campbell



Fred Macondary
Address to the Haggis



Professor Ian Duncan



Colyn Fischer



Ian Baird toasts the Queen



Piper Jek and the Color Guard

Highland Charge

The Scottish Highlanders of the 17th and 18th centuries were some of the best examples of this sort of intensive offensive action. The 'highland charge' as it was termed, was, in its day, a rather effective and at times devastating tactical maneuver, particularly in the age of gunpowder small arms.

The essence of human wave attacks is to break the enemy's line of battle, usually with large numbers of, well, humans. What the Scots often lacked in overwhelming numbers, they made up for with ferocity and elan, along with a dollop of proper posturing. Blending sword and musket, the pre-bayonet version of the highland charge was a headlong dash directly at the enemy. Once within range, the Scots would fire muskets and then drop them to draw blades. In the best possible scenario, the smoke from the black powder weapons would help to obscure them from the return volley from the enemy, and they tried to make themselves smaller targets by running lower to the ground after

they fired. They would carom into their opponent's line, all the while screaming out a cacophony of shouts, yells and war cries. These minor tactical modifications to a regular charge, coupled with the psychological aspect of the battle cries could have a devastating effect on the enemy line. If only a few were unnerved enough to break and run, or just edge backwards, that would open a chink in the armor that could be exploited by claymore-wielding highlanders.

The original design of bayonets complicated the defense against the highland charge, since bayonets were held in place by plugging the barrel with the bladed protrusion. That left defenders with a sad choice of musket or bayonet for defense, but not both. Of course, the invention of the ring-attachment changed things dramatically, but not before some early modern victories were notched in the win-column, such as at the Battle of Killiecrankie.

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2015		
Mon. Jan. 19	Member Meeting <i>Inauguration of 2015 Office Bearers</i>	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Jan. 24	Burns Supper (The Family)	545 Powell St., SF
Mon. Feb. 16	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 16	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 18	18th Annual Tartan Day Scottish Faire	Ardenwood, Fremont
Sat. April 18	John Muir Association / Earth Day celebration	Martinez
Mon. April 20	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 18	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 15	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. July 20	Summer Break – no meeting	
Mon. Aug. 17	Summer Break – no meeting	
Sept. 5–6	150th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton
Mon. Sept. 21	Member's Dinner	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Service	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Nov. 28	153rd Annual Banquet & Ball	Marine's Memorial
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 <i>Inauguration of 2016 Office Bearers</i>	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Jan. 23	Burns Supper (The Family)	545 Powell St., SF

The highland charge persisted after the ring bayonet was implemented, however, and was still effective, though primarily in the realm of psychological warfare. Not unlike Stonewall Jackson's troops using the dreaded 'rebel yell' to put fear in the hearts of Yankees in the 19th century, so Scottish war cries could still make their enemies cringe in 18th.

The last hurrah (huzzah?) for the highland charge was the Battle of Culloden. Unfortunately, Bonnie Prince Charlie's tactical skill was quite lacking, and when he ordered his Scots to fight at Culloden, they were on a flat spec of land that didn't allow his soldiers to make use of downhill momentum. That really didn't matter, though, since he insisted on fighting defensively, which effectively nullified the potential for a highland charge. Artillery fire devastated the highlanders, some of which died, some of which fled, and some of which reverted to form and charged. They actually did make it to the enemy's line and even

broke through in a few places, but it was too little and too late. The Young Pretender's fighting force was routed, and the Stuart claim to the throne of Scotland was quashed for the last time.

It's not that highlanders don't still charge. From time to time in modern warfare, that sort of tactic is still necessary and desirable. But weapon technology since the 19th century has increasingly favored the defensive. Just witness Pickett's Charge as the ultimate abortive example. Elan and ferocity certainly still have their place on the battlefield, but in modern warfare it must be channeled more specifically than Scottish highlanders have historically done.

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604

415-885-6644

www.saintandrews
societyof.org

Editor: Gary Ketchen
E-mail: ketchen.gary@
gmail.com

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

vacant – Physician

Trustees

vacant – Chairman

Norman McLeod, OBE

David McCrossan

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**The Saint Andrew's Society
of San Francisco**
1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94133-3604

Recipient
