



# St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks



March 2019

## 2019 Calendar

**April 6th:** New York City Tartan Day Parade. It is a wonderfully lively, noisy, and fun day with pipe bands and societies including quite a few from Scotland. The Parade starts at 2 pm at W. 45th St near 6th Ave. and goes up 6th Ave to 55th St. Cliff Parker has registered SASA but will not attend this year. Ali Parker and Kerry Lawton will meet our members at Bryant Park Fountain Terrace between 12 and 12:30 pm. There is free parking at Poughkeepsie R.R. Station as well as at other train stations. Trains run to and from Poughkeepsie every hour. Contact Cliff at [sfcparker@yahoo.com](mailto:sfcparker@yahoo.com) or **518-331-6439** with questions before Parade Day. Ali Parker can be contacted on the day of the parade at **914-602-9164**.

**April 6th:** Those not going to NYC for the parade can join Marjory and Don Moeller for a hike in the Lake George area followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Let Marjory know if you are interested: [marjory398@yahoo.com](mailto:marjory398@yahoo.com) or **518-793-9271**.

**April 28th:** West Point Pipes and Drums hosts a Military Tattoo at US Military Academy Buffalo Soldier Field. This is a day of Scottish music, Celtic and Irish dancing, with groups performing every 15 minutes all afternoon. No cost to attend but an ID (e.g. driver's license) must be presented to enter the Military Academy's grounds. Bring lawn chairs or blanket, picnic lunch (some food is available for sale).

**May:** Proposed time for celebration of Hogmanay or HogmanMAY, It was decided that our usual New Year's celebration would be postponed until warmer weather. Jeff is looking into dates and locations.

## Mission Statement:

The Perpetuation of Scottish Heritage, Traditions, Culture, Education and Genealogy.

## To Contact Us:

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**July 4th:** mini-golf tournament at Pirate's Cove in Lake Placid, followed by the July 4th parade down Main Street, a picnic supper at Bookstore Plus, and fireworks over the lake. Al Hood will register SASA for the parade and confirm the mini-golf. For details: [a-al-hood-1@att.net](mailto:a-al-hood-1@att.net) or **518-523-1466**.

**Aug 31st:** Capital District Highland Games at Altamont Fairgrounds,(between Albany and Schenectady). SASA has a table for information about the Society. It is a full day of music and dance competitions, as well as athletic games. There are many vendors, food, and lots of people. The Games are also on **Sun. Sept. 1st** although SASA usually does not have a table on Sunday.

**Other Highland Games and Festivals:**

**May 18th:** Finger Lakes Celtic Festival, Shortville, NY [www.flceltic.org](http://www.flceltic.org)

**June 1st:** Alleghany County Celtic Festival, Cuba, NY [www.countyceltic.org](http://www.countyceltic.org)

**July 20th:** Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, Northampton, MA

**Aug 2-3:** Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario

**Aug. 4th:** Montreal Scottish Festival, Montreal, Quebec

**Aug. 10th:** Hammond Scottish Festival, Hammond, NY

**Aug. 10th:** Central NY Scottish Games, Liverpool, NY

## **Pickin' and Piping**

"Adirondack Pickin' and Piping" is the title of a new CD just released by Cameron Anderson and his "jam group" (a non-established group). Cameron tells us that there are 14 different instruments featuring Adirondack musicians and including some guests from Vermont. The program includes everything from traditional and non-traditional moments played on Highland pipes with the Bodhran and Whistles to bluegrass orchestral sounds. It is described as Folk Celt Grass Fusion.

The album is available in Saranac Lake at Ampersound Music Store and the Village Mercantile (Community Store), and the Main Street Exchange. It is also available at Lake Placid Music (The Music Box), and in Tupper Lake at the Wild Center. You can contact Cameron by phone at **518-637-2707** or email [adkpiiper46@yahoo.com](mailto:adkpiiper46@yahoo.com).

## **American Harp Society**

The North Eastern Chapter of the American Harp Society will celebrate the musical traditions of Scotland on Sunday, March 31st. William Jackson, an internationally renowned Celtic harper, composer, and teacher, will present a concert at Calvary Methodist Church in Latham at 4:30 pm. The cost of the concert is \$20.00.

Mr. Jackson has been a major influence on the popularization of Celtic harp and also on Scottish traditional music. Anyone with an interest in the Scottish strand of Celtic musical tradition will enjoy the concert.

For further information contact Judi Gross, AHS Chapter President at **518-810-8722** or [grossj920@gmail.com](mailto:grossj920@gmail.com).

## **Simon Fraser**

Submitted by Jackie Ramsay

Each week as I drive my girls to Highland dance lessons, we pass through the town of St. Andrews West, Ontario. On the edge of town a sign declares it to be the burial place of Simon Fraser, an explorer (charted much of what is now British Columbia). I often wondered who he was and my curiosity was finally satisfied upon reading the book How the Scots Invented Canada by Ken McGoogan.

Simon Fraser's parents emigrated from the area near Inverness in 1773, settling on a farm near Bennington, VT. They had 9 children of whom Simon was the youngest. He was born in 1776 just as the American Revolution erupted. His father joined the Loyalists in 1777 fighting a losing battle at Bennington, VT. He was taken prisoner to Albany, NY, and died soon after.

In 1784 the family moved to Montreal to join relatives, including the influential Simon McTavish who was the controlling partner in the recently established North West Company. At age 16 Simon Fraser joined the company as an apprentice. He rose through the ranks, and in 1801 became a partner. At age 29 he was chosen to lead their westward expansion, find a usable canoe route, build trading posts and settlements, and take control of the territory west of the Rockies. In 1805 he ascended the Peace River and named the area New Caledonia. Continuing down the river to Trout Lake he built a post (now Fort McLeod), the first European settlement west of the Rockies.

His explorations continued over the next several years with his lieutenant John Stuart, covering James Creek, Stuart Lake, and Fort George (now Prince George), leaving the former in May 1808 with a party of four canoes. Though warned of many waterfalls and rapids, they pressed on until the river became impassable. They proceeded on foot, returning to the river whenever possible. They encountered many native villages until the Cowichans forced him to turn back near the mouth of the river at present day Vancouver. Fraser put down a mutiny and returned to Fort George. After covering 520 miles he felt he had failed to find a practical trade route. The mouth of the river was at 49° latitude; he noted, "This river is not the Columbia."

From another perspective he was successful in establishing the British North West Company and being in charge of all company's operations west of the Rocky Mountains. In 1808 he explored what is now known as Fraser River. His exploratory efforts were partly responsible for Canada's boundary being established at the 49th parallel after the War of 1812.

## **Scots In South Carolina**

In 1684 the leaders of the area known as Carolina wished to establish a settlement as a buffer zone between the British in Charleston and the Spanish who were moving up from Florida. Scottish Presbyterians who were under persecution from the Church of England were recruited to form a settlement. These newcomers built Stuart's Town and Beaufort, and allied with the Yamasee Indians.

In 1686 the Yamasee braves raided a Spanish mission and carried off Indians who were slaves to the Spanish and sold them to the Scots. In retaliation the Spanish burned Stuart's Town.

## **Wee Bits**

On the game show "Jeopardy", January 7, 2019, the final question referred to a quotation: "He loved Samoa more than any other place on earth except Scotland." None of the three contestants were able to get the correct answer which was, of course, Robert Louis Stevenson, who lived for a short time in Saranac Lake.

BrewDog Brewery, located in Ellon, north of Aberdeen, claims to be the most technologically advanced in the world. On their website they advertise "We strive constantly to challenge people's preconceptions about what beer is and how it can taste".

They have plans to open the first beer hotel in 2019 at the brewery's headquarters. The 26 rooms will overlook the brewers working, and will feature beer taps in each room. Guests will have access to cold beer straight from the comfort of their rooms.

In the USA the Brewer in Columbus, Ohio, boasts "A new home in a new home state and the epicenter of BrewDog in America". [BrewDog.com](http://BrewDog.com)

In the February 2019 issue of Reader's Digest there is an article titled " Strange but Impossibly True". One myth is that Eskimos have more words to describe "snow" than any other culture. They do have more than 50 words but the Scots have the biggest snow vocabulary with 421 words. See accompanying article below.

In the January 11th issue of The Week , Alan Cochrane writes about the "sad decline of Scotland's dearest holiday" referring to Hogmanay. While some towns still have ceremonies in which "fiery torches are used to clear out all evil before the new year is welcomed in", and every town rings bells at midnight, and cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow throw massive jamborees with fireworks and live bands, no one practices "first-footing" and visiting neighbors. Cochrane calls Hogmanay just another excuse to get drunk.

### **Snow in Scottish and Gaelic**

snaw (Scottish), sneachd (Gaelic), feefle (snow swirling around a corner), flindrikin (a light snow shower, skelf (a large snowflake), sneesl (to begin to rain or snow), blin-drift (drifting snow), snow-smoor (suffocation by snow), snaw-broo (melted snow), glush (melting snow), ground-gou (half-liquid snow).

On the web "LanguageLog/Scottish words for snow" has several references on the subject.