

OUR TARTAN

Scottish Society of Charleston, Inc. Winter 2011

President's Place

Max Mahaffee



As your president, I would like to let you know that most decisions are made by the Board and that, as they say, is a good thing! Here is our new newsletter, I am not presiding, so let me say it is my opinion that things are running along quite well for the Scottish Society of Charleston, Inc. Way too many people to thank for things going well, but let me thank just a few, to include your hard working Board. Maureen McDaniel as chair of the Past Presidents' Committee sought and received a lot of donations from past presidents to feed the many volunteers that helped to set up and take down the Games. Jay White as Games Chair—

well, what can you say other than it ran about as flawlessly as possible and indeed it was profitable. The funds generated are great news for our charity projects. This year we tried something new: Aerial photos of the Games! A great idea from Jay White! Charlie Stewart did a wonderful job as our Membership Chair, New members are joining! Keep up the good work! Rhonda Stewart works as Social Chair and has been doing some great things. If you missed the AGM, she had it quite well organized, with lots of folks bringing delicious foods accompanied by a viewing of the 2010 Edinburgh Military Tattoo that Charleston's very own sons from The Citadel Marching Band and Pipes and Drums Band made us proud! For current happenings, check in on our Facebook page at: "Scottish Society of Charleston, Inc."

Our Games

Jay White

The Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering is a gift of Scottish culture from the Scottish Society of Charleston to our community, and it's a tribute to our shared heritage. So large a gift requires many hands to wrap it as beautifully as it was in 2010. As I've said



before, I'm proud and pleased to be associated with the quality of volunteers this Society is blessed with. Those of you who've given so much of your time & talents to this event have my sincere thanks. Be assured, I'll be in touch for 2011. The Games are a big event for an organization our size; that's a point we can be proud of. This big event, though, can sometimes overshadow some of the other fun we have. I recall how the history of the Games and of the Society are related. Read Mr. Ed

Holcombe's "A History of the Scottish Society and Its Highland Games" on page 4. Both started small, but my, how they've grown. But just as it was in the beginning, the Games

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aren't all about the Scottish Society of Charleston, just as our Society isn't solely about the Games. I mention this to emphasize that your participation in the Society should follow your own interests in our shared heritage, be they our athletics, our arts, our dress, or our whisky. At times, I've found myself in conversation with fellow Society members who admit, "I'd love to volunteer for the SSOC, but I think the games are overwhelming! I don't think I have the time it takes for *that*." That's no problem! Whatever your time and talents. Ask to get involved in what you're most interested in, and have no fear if your interests lie outside the Games. This may be surprising to hear from the games chairman, but I believe that only a strong and vibrant Society will lead the Charleston Games into the next forty years. A few things the games committee will focus on for 2011: We have a committee hard at work at expanding our corporate sponsorship. We've got a few new volunteers who'll be a great asset to increasing our media presence. And I've got some structural changes in mind that should sharpen the focus of each of our games committee meetings. We may finally be able to keep games meetings to sixty minutes or less! Finally, please mark your calendars for our 40th Games, on September 17th, 2011. President Max Mahaffee's clan, Macfie, will be our honored clan, and they're sure to have a big showing. Be prepared!

Ceilidh Corner

Rhonda Stewart

Hi Society! I would like to thank everyone who helped with the AGM in November. There was wonderful food and it was so nice spending time with old friends and meeting new ones. Big thanks to Bill Tyler, a.k.a. Mr. Curmudgeon, for securing the club house and helping with set up. Thanks to Steve Carnie for his great idea and use of his equipment for viewing of The 2010 Edinburgh Tattoo. We held a casual Hogmanay celebration at our house. I hope everyone had a great time! The Burn's Supper is approaching fast. Please mark your calendars with the date - Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 6:00-10:00 at The Charleston Marriott on Lockwood Blvd. The speaker is booked and there will be special guest attending along with entertainment. Our webmaster and President, Max Mahaffee, has sent out emails with information and postcards will mail soon. Space is limited so please respond early. Max has posted the Social Calendar on the website. I will try to keep everyone notified of any changes in dates or venues. I am also looking for members who would like to help with social events. I always need help planning, preparing, setting up and cleaning up. Please let me know if you are interested.



Our Culture

Six GREAT THINGS about SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

1. Great physical exercise!
2. Great mental exercise, Researchers found mental stimulus like that provided by Scottish country dancing helps stave off Alzheimer's disease!
1. It is done to great Scottish music!
2. You meet great people!
3. Great value. It is FREE!
4. Most importantly it is GREAT FUN!

Want to dance? No partner required to attend the Charleston Scottish Country Dance Group. They meet Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Felix Davis Community Center 4800 Park Circle, North Charleston, SC.



Our Blood

Family History Conference

Charleston Area Convention Center, 5001 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418, 11-14 May 2011

Participants will have an opportunity to tour Charleston's historic buildings, churches and homes as well as its many museums and research facilities. The National Genealogical Society anticipates 2,000 genealogists from around the country will attend. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and eighty lectures on a variety of topics including research in South Carolina and the surrounding states, migration patterns, religious records, research methodology, and problem solving. The program will also include lectures about researching various ethnic groups including Germans, Cherokee, African Americans, Huguenots, Irish, Scots, and Scots-Irish.

Special Saturday workshops include an all day beginner's workshop, "Genealogy 101": Getting Started with Family History" and a "Kids' Kamp" for children and young adults ages eight through sixteen. An exhibit area with more than one hundred exhibitors will be open and free to the public Wednesday through Saturday including the latest in genealogical software, online research providers and DNA testing.

Member Spotlight

Edwin Franklin Holcombe, Sr.

Edwin Franklin Holcombe, Sr. was born in 1921 on a small farm in Conn's Creek settlement near Ball Ground, Georgia. His family had come to settle amongst the Cherokee Indians after his ancestors immigrated to the States generations before. His English name "Holcombe" was misleading since his family always affirmed their "Scotch and Irish" roots.

Ed, as he is affectionately known, is married to Leila Morrison of McClellanville, South Carolina. They have three children, Edwin Jr., Genie, and John. They have six grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Ed graduated from North Georgia College in 1941. He immediately joined the U.S. Navy and served his country in Naval Aviation for four years. He spent most of his tour in the Pacific campaign of World War II.

Ed has spent 23 years as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 11. He has received multiple awards for his outstanding achievements and service. He is a member of the Sewee Association and Charleston Boys Council. He co-founded the Swamp Fox Hiking Trail which is now part of the Palmetto Trail that stretches across South Carolina from the sea to the mountains.

Ed has spent 39 years manufacturing and selling Scottish Heavy Event equipment like hammers and weights. He was the only source for regulation implements in the Western Hemisphere for years! Ed has judged over 300 Games including the U.S. and World Championship Games, as well as Games in Scotland. Along with Ross Morrison, Ed conducted the first Scottish Athletics Judging School for the North American Scottish Games Association. He has edited and published the official North American Scottish Games Association Rules Book.

Ed has been very involved in the community as a leader in various arenas and organizations. He was a member of the founding Board of Directors for the Loch Norman Scottish Games. He served as member of the Athletic Committee for the Stone Mountain Games and Games Chairman of Scottish Athletic Events for Grandfather Mountain Games. Ed was Honored Guest at the 1991 Savannah Scottish Games. He has also received an Alabama Games Award of Merit. He has served for years as Convener of Athletics at our own Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering. He served as our society president from 1976-77 and again in 1985. Over the years, Ed has dedicated his time to various projects in the society. Ed was a Distinguished Guest at our games in 1998 and is currently Athletic Director Emeritus of our Charleston games.

Ed wrote a history of our society . We have included it in this issue for your enjoyment. Thanks for your service Ed!



A HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY AND ITS HIGHLAND GAMES

By E. F. Holcombe

In July of 1971, after several years of unsuccessful efforts to plan so that the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and the family vacations of the Charles A. Oliver and Edwin F. Holcombe families fell on the same week, these events did coincide. The two families camped at Foscoe, near Linville, N.C., the week of the Grandfather Mountain Games.

The Oliver's had attended these Games for a number of years, but this was the first exposure of the Holcombe's to the Scottish atmosphere of a Highland Gathering. The Oliver's' fifteen-year-old son, Jamie, was already involved in piping competition at the Games and was a student of Ludovic Grant-Alexander of The Citadel. The Holcombe's' fifteen-year-old son, John, was so enchanted by the Scottish heritage motif (his great-grandfather Mackintosh came here from Scotland and his mother was a Morrison) that, after wearing Jamie Oliver's outgrown kilt at the Ceilidh and Games, he came away from Grandfather Mountain with a practice chanter, a College of Piping instruction book, and a determination to become a piper. He also became a student of Grant-Alexander.

In about September of 1971, GA, as he was fondly called, suggested that these two students, along with a third, Furman Reynolds, form a pipe band with him. Bruce, the Oliver's' oldest son, became the snare drummer, and Charlie Oliver, the bass drummer. They were soon joined by Malcolm Swan's daughter Jennifer, Royce McNeill's daughter, Terry, Nancy Bynum, Tina Causey, and Len Wood, an accomplished piper stationed here with the Navy. Royce became the Drum Major of the band. After several months of practice, it was decided to hold a covered dish supper and invite all the parents for a night of fellowship and to hear the band play. This first ceilidh of record was held at St. Mark's Methodist Church. The band was named the Midlothian Pipes and Drums, after Edinburgh's county; they wore the Edinburgh District Tartan.

There was, at the same time, an organization in Charleston named the Scottish Lassies Club. It was primarily made up of Scottish girls who had married and come to this country with their U.S. Navy husbands. The purpose of the club was to assist and orient these newcomers from Scotland. The members heard about the ceilidh and asked to attend the next one. As I remember, Thea Williams, Esther McLaughlin, Victoria Widmer and Enid Causey were among the first to do so. Victoria sang, Enid played the piano, Thea read Scottish poetry, Len Wood did the sword dance, and the band played. The Scottish Lassies also brought shortbread, scones and Scottish sweets.

They raffled them off, took in \$37.00, and donated the money toward the purchase of uniforms for the band. From this beginning, Charlie Oliver envisioned the formation of the Scottish Society of Charleston. The first officers were Charlie Oliver, President; Angus McBride, Vice President; Esther McLaughlin, Secretary, Furman Reynolds, Treasurer. The Board of Directors was composed of Ludovic Grant-Alexander, Pipe Major; Thea Williams, President of the Scottish Lassies Club. (At that time, one representative of the pipe band and the president of the Scottish Lassies Club, were automatically on the Board of the Scottish Society of Charleston.) The other members of the society Board of Directors were Royce McNeill, Enid Causey, Edwin F. Holcombe, Sr., and Malcolm Swan.

Soon thereafter, it was decided to hold a Scottish Fair to raise funds for the band. After Charles Oliver, Malcolm Swan, Ed Holcombe, Royce McNeill and K.C. Stier met with Charles Duell, Middleton Place was chosen as a Games site. The first Games Committee consisted of E. F. Holcombe, Director of Field Events; Malcolm Swan, Program; Royce McNeill, Clans, Tents and Booths; and Norma Oliver, Dancing. The Highland Dancing judge was Marguerite Reid, and the first Piping judge was Sandy Jones.

Charleston's first Scottish Games and Highland Gathering was off to a good start with an assist from Ross Morrison and Guy Soule, athletic judges from the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and the best wishes of Agnes MacRae Morton, co-founder of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. K.C. Stier furnished support to the Games with tents, storage, dance platforms, etc. On February 26, 1973, the Scottish Society of Charleston was incorporated to keep alive Scottish heritage and customs here in the Low Country of South Carolina with ceilidhs, Burns' Night Suppers, and Scottish Games, to sponsor a Scottish pipe band, and to give scholarships in piping, drumming, and dancing.

From this small beginning, the Scottish Society of Charleston has continued to support what is considered to be one of the best and friendliest Games in the United States, the result of constant dedication and work by the members of the society.



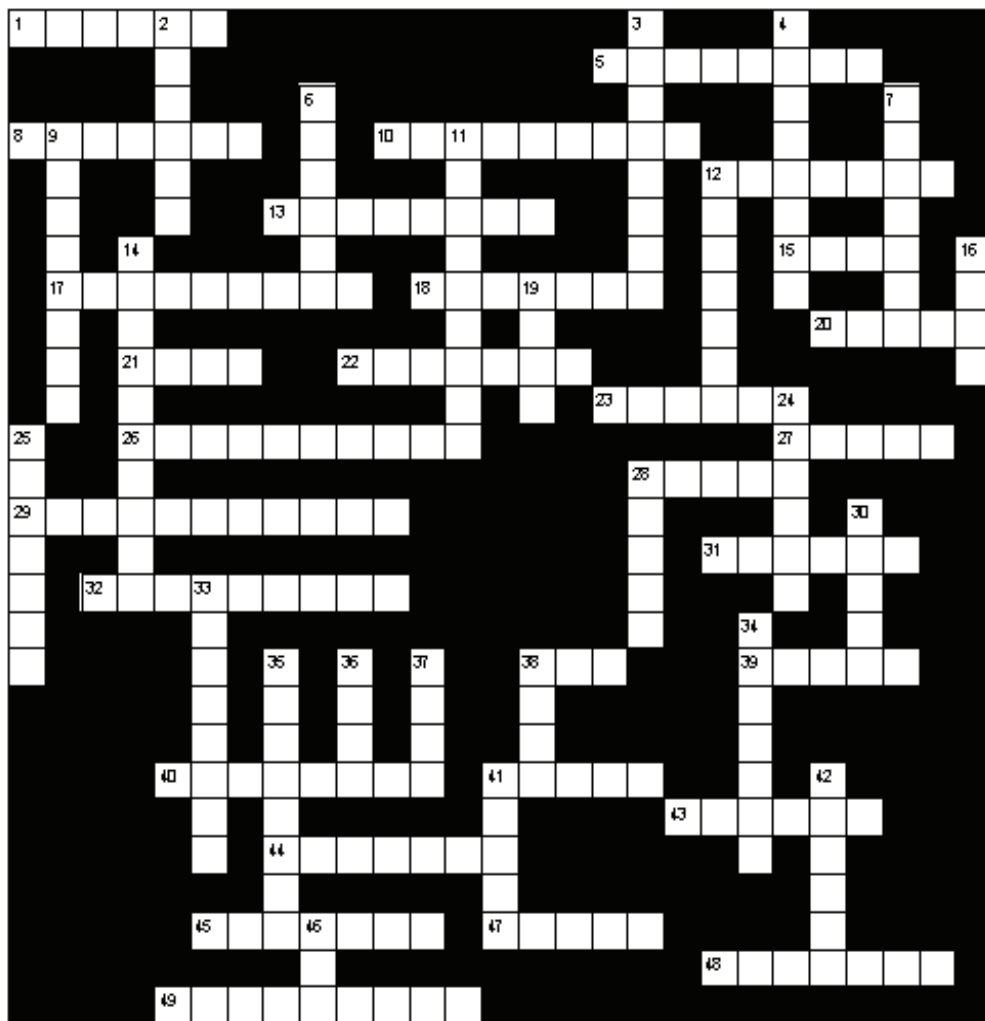
Wee Trivia!

Which Scottish American was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (1977), Country Music Hall of Fame (1980), and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (1992)?

Which Scottish American Actress was born in Gaffney, SC and starred in "Four Weddings and a Funeral"?

Answers on back page!

UNIVERSE OF BAGPIPES PUZZLE # 1



ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. also used on horse</p> <p>5. hot air goes in here</p> <p>8. one does this to hair</p> <p>10. hated substitute</p> <p>12. instead of lungs</p> <p>13. _____ of Bagpipes, largest bagpipe website</p> <p>15. perhaps piped, not fiddled</p> <p>17. preferred tropical wood for many pipes</p> <p>18. band around ends, usually metal</p> <p>20. Domingo is one</p> <p>21. what's underneath?</p> <p>22. he painted bagpipe scenes</p> <p>23. main parts of double reed</p> <p>26. digitally operated orifice</p> <p>27. some bores and some pants do this</p> <p>28. Spanish for "bagpipe"</p> <p>29. shape of most drone bores</p> | <p>31. term applied to many western pipes</p> <p>32. additional pipe on Irish instruments</p> <p>38. acronym for Scottish bagpipe</p> <p>39. used for trim; now illegal</p> <p>40. "Oh no, not _____!"</p> <p>41. also cattle</p> <p>43. found on Zukra, wards off evil eye</p> <p>44. a Spanish bagpipng province</p> <p>45. melody pipe</p> <p>47. "He's a boring _____."</p> <p>48. courtly French bagpipe</p> <p>49. synthetic used in bagpipe building</p> |
|---|---|

DOWN

2. _____ from hell
3. biting insect lives here
4. best-known pipe in English-speaking regions
6. genus of reed cane
7. forms an end of many eastern pipes
9. to reach next octave
11. French countryside bagpipe
12. European blond hardwood
14. German for "bagpipe"
16. "He's a droning _____."
19. causes much trouble
24. blades are tied onto it
25. Swedish bagpipe
28. Bulgarian bagpipe
30. "Pay the _____!"
33. Irish bagpipe
34. played with Zampogna
35. Italian bagpipe
36. used to seal; smoked elsewhere
37. also a fish
38. its carved head found on eastern pipes
41. affected term for "set"
42. vibrating part of a single reed
46. acronym for small English bagpipe

The Tartan

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From The Hearth

Scottish Shortbread

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Total Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

1 stick unsalted butter

¼ cup fine sugar , plus extra for sprinkling

1 ¼ cups all-purpose/plain flour, plus extra for dusting

1 oz cornstarch /corn flour

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 325°F/Gas Mark 3. In a large bowl cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix together the flour and cornstarch. Sieve into the bowl of butter and sugar and mix thoroughly until all the ingredients are incorporated. Lightly dust a work surface with flour and roll out the dough to ¼" thick. Prick the surface all over with a fork. Cut into desired shape or rounds using cookie cutters. Place the Scottish shortbreads on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake for 25 min. or until pale brown and crisp. Sprinkle the warm Scottish shortbreads with fine sugar and leave to cool on a wire cooling rack. Store in an airtight tin or box.

Sláinte!

Wee Trivia! Answers: 1) Johnny Cash 2) Rosalie Anderson "Andie" MacDowell