

Scottish Heritage Center – St. Andrews University

Year End Newsletter and Appeal



Greetings from St. Andrews University and The Scottish Heritage Center,

You are receiving this message this year via electronic mail versus snail-mail. I hope that you may share this with any other interested parties, as we move from an old and obsolete mailing list to electronic mail to connect with those who have been interested in and supported the Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrews University. I look forward to connecting with perhaps more supporters and interested parties through this method in the coming year and the future.

An Overview Of The Past Year

As much of the past year saw us still restrained by the COVID pandemic, many of the activities and engagements of the Scottish Heritage Center were still limited. Nonetheless, by the end of the year as restrictions relaxed and confidence was gained in the public, we saw a return of visitors to the Center as well as a resumption of activities – particularly some which saw some exciting developments for the future of the Center. We hope that 2022 will bring further opening and confidence as well as an ability to return to normality.

Exciting Developments in 2021

We were delighted to finally complete and have a dedication of the James A. and Hester R. MacDonald Reading Room for the Clan Donald, USA Foundation in October. Spearheaded by former Clan Donald USA High Commissioner Bill McDaniel, this room which is filled with a tremendous library of resources related to Clan Donald and Highland history was dedicated in a gala ceremony hosted by Mr. McDaniel and attended by several former High Commissioners and executives of Clan Donald, USA and the Clan Donald Foundation in October in conjunction with the local Scotland County Highland Games. This resource is now available for use in the Center and will continue to grow with the addition of additional materials which are destined for this collection. We are very sad to report that Mr. McDaniel passed away after a valiant battle with cancer just a couple of weeks following his visit and hosting of this ribbon cutting ceremony, though very happy that he was able to see this lovely resource – which he and his

committee worked on for a period of over two years, and during the pandemic be opened to the public before his passing.

Shortly before the Scotland County Highland Games weekend and the dedication of the Clan Donald Foundation Archive, we received a major gift of further resources dealing with Highland history and genealogy from Mr. Robert Morrison, of Raleigh NC. Many will know “Bob” as a presence at Highland Games in the Southeast and an officer in Clan Morrison. 38 boxes of books and materials donated by Mr. Morrison will begin being sorted and prepared for cataloguing early in the new year.

The completion of new shelving in the Center to house a backlog of donated materials allowed us to provide access to around 1000 additional volumes of materials within the Center. Many of these items came from a donation made just before the outbreak of the pandemic by Dr. Reynolds McLeod, who with his late wife Vicki formerly operated “The Unicorn Limited” – a vendor of Scottish antiquarian and rare books and reprints of our-of-print editions. We are grateful to Dr. McLeod for remembering The Scottish Heritage Center in the disposal of many of the business’ original and reprinted volumes.

Annual Scottish Heritage Symposium

Due to the pandemic, the “live” annual Scottish Heritage Weekend and Charles Bascombe Shaw Memorial Scottish Heritage Symposium could not be held. Instead, and to make up in some way for the complete absence of the event in 2020, we hosted an “online” symposium which featured Dr. Rob Dunbar, Chair of the University of Edinburgh’s Department of Scottish Studies as well as Dr. Bruce Durie, renown Scottish genealogist. They were joined by Dr. Tiber Falzett of the Irish Folklore Commission (formerly visiting instructor of Scottish Gaelic Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill), Dr. Rae Fleming of Ontario and Nancy Fields of the Museum of the Southeastern American Indian at nearby UNC-Pembroke. The symposium was held over a ZOOM format, and though there were some small technical glitches both on the part of a couple of the speakers and some attendees, the event was well received. We had around 145 online for the event, which was offered for a very modest expense to attendees who received a link to all the presentations and proceedings after the event. Attendees were from throughout North America as well as some who were with us from Scotland! Though it was not “ideal” by our standards, we were able to move forward with an excellent event and look forward to keeping up the wonderful scholarship and entertainment which has become a tradition for this event which will celebrate 32 years of existence in 2022.

Plans ARE underway for a hybrid “live AND online” Symposium for spring of 2022. Due to lingering pandemic uncertainties and travel restrictions, our live speakers will all be domestic, however our newly refurbished Avinger Auditorium (which now has full high-speed online capabilities and connections, a new sound system, and new large video screens for online presentations) will allow us to livestream speakers from Scotland and further afield. More on that event in the early new year – but it will be another top-flight opportunity to learn from

some of the world's top scholars of Scottish and Scottish-American history, genealogy, and culture.

St. Andrews University Pipe Band

Fortunately, the pandemic had abated enough so that the St. Andrews University Pipe Band was able to begin resuming activities early in the year which culminated in a performance for the St. Andrews University graduation ceremonies in May. This "new" group made its first performance successfully and held another performance in the fall of 2021 for the local "St. Andrews Sunday" at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. We were fortunate to have two new incoming students to join the group who had previous experience in piping and drumming and are looking to continue building this group back to its pre-pandemic strengths despite what has been an almost two-year delay in starting classes for new beginners. Several of the band members were able to compete virtually in online solo competitions during the year with some very good successes, and the band was present to play for the opening ceremonies of the Scotland County Highland Games in October. We continue to reach out in search of college-bound students who have previous experience in piping and drumming, as well as those who may be interested in learning (of most any age) as we continue this 30-year-old tradition here at St. Andrews. Any inquiries are welcome at: bagpipe@sa.edu

Significant Donations

We have been very fortunate to have received a number of donations of funds to support the work of the Center despite the pandemic, and these donations are always much appreciated. We would especially like to thank the Clan Campbell Charitable and Educational Foundation for a significant scholarship gift for a student of the SAU Pipe Band, and are happy that a continuing agreement with that organization was made in the late summer of this year. We also appreciate another continuing scholarship donation from the Dunvegan Foundation of Clan MacLeod Society, USA which also assists two student pipers or drummers to attend St. Andrews and participate in the SAU Pipe Band. At the time of this newsletter we have already gotten news of a very significant donation once again from the St. Andrews Society of North Carolina. From \$50 to \$5000, every donation helps make the continuing work and projects of the Scottish Heritage Center possible.

Community Outreach Activities

As there was some relaxation of pandemic concerns and restrictions by the end of the year, some community outreach programs of the Center were able to resume. A number of visitors began returning to do work and research in the Center, including visitors who came from as far away as Texas and Louisiana to do extended research work related to local Scottish families. The Spring was especially busy with day-trippers and more casual visitors as well who viewed the collections and exhibits of the Center. The Director of the Center has been involved with a major project in preservation work for the local Stewartsville Cemetery, as well as returning to a growing number of musical performances for small groups and churches which is now

approaching a pre-pandemic level. The Highland Dance classes being held at the Center for local youth have not resumed due primarily to the instructor having a new baby which arrived in the late summer. Nonetheless, local students of piping and drumming are coming in once again with several being added and getting started this fall with the Director. We look to a return to normalcy, hopefully, in the coming months.

Scotland County Highland Games a HUGE Success!

The Scottish Heritage Center serves as the headquarters for the local Scotland County Highland Games, and its Board of Directors began meeting in late winter of 2021 with hopes of being able to hold a “live” event in October. Fortunately, conditions had improved to the point where large outdoor gatherings were permitted, and a RECORD CROWD was in attendance at the 2021 event which only had minor pandemic-related adjustments to be made. The Scottish Heritage Center saw a number of out-of-town visitors, including a crowd of over 50 individuals from Clan Donald USA, nationwide which were here for the dedication of their Foundation Archives. Many were excited to know that such a facility existed in this region, and there were many compliments on the facility and its exhibits and collections. We hope that all will be completely back to normal for 2022, though 2021 will be a hard year to beat! The attendance was double our former record attendance, with outside surveys showing that over 80 percent intended to return. The economic impact for our community was tremendously significant due to this first ability to fill ALL of our local hotels and motels since the last Games in 2019! “Things Scottish” truly have an impact on our community.

As Always WE NEED YOU!

In conclusion, despite the setbacks of the pandemic, the Scottish Heritage Center remains a vital link between St. Andrews University and the greater community. Our offerings provide resources and assistance which are unequalled and unavailable in other places. All that we have done in the past 33 years has been made possible by YOU – our friends, patrons, and donors. Our mission of highlighting the Scottish and Presbyterian heritage of our institution and our region and beyond continues to be met thanks to the support of folks like YOU who make it possible. Your remembrance of The Scottish Heritage Center in your year-end giving (or at any time of the year) helps make all of this possible. If you are so inclined, we will appreciate your support as we conclude yet another “unusual” year with our eyes upon a pandemic-free future where we can serve and assist more people interested in the preservation and growth of interest in all things Scottish. All donations can be sent to:

Scottish Heritage Center
St. Andrews University
1700 Dogwood Mile
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

* please make sure all donation checks are either made to Scottish Heritage Center or to St. Andrews University with the notation "for Scottish Heritage Center" in the for line of checks. Online donations can also be made through the options located at: <https://www.sa.edu/alumni-2/give/> however to be credited for the Scottish Heritage Center you must note that in comments. A new portal specifically for Scottish Heritage Center giving should be available shortly.

As always, I deeply appreciate your support and interest. I wish you all a wonderful remainder of the Holiday Season and the best of New Years to come!

All the best,

Bill Caudill

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