Scots Independence

Though close, Scottish independence was defeated by a solid margin. In the process, the Scottish Nationalist Party gained a great deal of exposure. As chance would have it, very soon after the vote on independence the leaders of the UK parliament announced elections. David Cameron’s Tory coalition was a relatively fragile one with the Liberal party (contrary to American usage, a center-right party). Labour, the Left party, had dominated the opposition with about 48% of the seats in Parliament.

The Tories favor free trade, moderate taxes, private ownership, and allowing individuals free choice economically. Labour includes both Center-Left (vaguely analogous to American “Blue Dog Democrats”) and Left, i.e. Socialist, elements. The general election possibly results in an obstacle to normal Parliamentary functioning. Scotland holds about 10% of the total seats in Whitehall, the seat of Parliament. Before March, most Scottish seats in Whitehall were held by Labour party members.

The 2015 election saw the Tories, to the astonishment of pre-election poll takers, increase their number of seats to an absolute majority. Scotland turned out Labour Party members wholesale: 56 of 59 constituencies elected Scottish Nationalist Party members. Labour in Whitehall could not have formed a coalition government except with SNP, which went from 3 members in Whitehall to 56. In any case, Prime Minister David Cameron will form a government, though with a slim majority. Labour is crippled. SNP can not initiate legislation, but can on some issues cooperate with Labour to create gridlock.

David Cameron has stated that there will be no new vote on independence for Scotland. Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the SNP, has announced that the vote absolutely demonstrates that Scotland will become an independent country. So with SNP claiming a mandate for independence, and the Tory majority government assuring the rest of the country that there will be no new action on independence, the next few years may prove to be an elaborate jousting match.

Our National Poets: Burns

A group of educators, local enthusiasts, and tourist promoters have put together a remarkable museum in the old mill on the water Nith dedicated to Robert Burns heritage. This award winning visitor centre tells the story of the connections between Robert Burns and the town of Dumfries. The well-researched exhibition is illuminated by many original documents and relics of the poet. There is a fascinating scale model of Dumfries in the 1790s and a haunting audio-visual presentation, as well as a bookshop, cafe-gallery with lively exhibition programme and facilities for disabled visitors.<http://www.dumfriesmuseum.demon.co.uk/burnscent.html>

Scots Names: MacLachlan

Reputedly the oldest of Scots clans, by tradition descended from the UiNeill kings of ancient Ireland, through Niall of the Nine Hostages from end of the 4th century. Documents are lacking until Gilpatrick witnessed a land grant by his cousin Laumon [originator of Clan Lamont] to Paisley Abbey in 1238. Gilpatrick had a son Lachlan, from whom Castle Lachlan in the barony of Strathlachlan and other related places were named. The family MacLachlan were enthusiastic backers of The Bruce, and prospered with the Bruce line of kings. In the great division of 1745, the MacLachlans supported Charles — but since the chief died at Culloden, the family was not attainted as was Robert Boyd, and retained their lands and honors, with help from Argyll.

Scots Tongue

- yaird (n) the kitchen garden
- yair-net (n) fish or eel net staked across a river
- yakee (n) molar or double tooth
- yald (v) to yield; (adj) sprightly, active
- yalloch (n) a shout
- yamer (v) to complain continuously or peevishly
- yamerin’ (adj) whining, peevish
- yamerin’ (n) a continuous grating whining
- yap (v) cry for food, like little birds; (a) hungry
- yaply (adv) keenly

GML Editor Bruce Shields (802) 888-5165 -- <bshields@pwshift.com> St. Andrews Society of VT website use <www.SASVT.org> or <www.standrewssocietyofvermont.org>
**SCOTS CASTLES: Craigie (by Symington, Ayrshire, south of Kilmarnock).**

Craigie was first built by Walter Hose or possibly his father in the early 12th century. On a low ridge, it was rebuilt about 1250 by the Lindsay family to incorporate the earlier fort into a hall house. Two hundred years later, the Wallaces vaulted the hall with added stories to make a tower house. Two massive ditches partition the hill-top, creating defensive zones. Only the north and south walls remain standing, and the courtyard is filled with rubble. There may have been a bridge across the moat. About 1600 the castle was abandoned and partially dilapidated.

http://www.castleuk.net/castle_lists_scotland/70/craigie.html

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**Book: “The Oath and The Covenant”**


By the same author as the Scottish Covenanter Genealogical Index is worth a read if you do not know much about the “killing times” in Scotland. The book’s introduction provides a very nice chronological explanation of the different Presbyterian Covenants, when and why they were signed.

This historical novel is fiction. No explanation is given of how much is based on fact and how much is conjecture. It is the story told through the eyes of Lizzie Whitelaw, the daughter of John Whitelaw, the Martyr of Monkland. It describes the hunting of the Covenanters by the Royalists, the burning of property and torturing of the people who hid those on the run. It tells of the defeat at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge and the slaughter that followed. It gives the reader a sense of what the times were like, what happened when a Covenanter was caught and what life on the run was like. It tells of what banishment meant, what a journey across the Atlantic might have been like. This particular group avoided time as ‘slaves’ on the East New Jersey plantations, were befriended and hunted by Indians, eventually settling near Quebec. As fiction it has a nice ending with all the loose ends neatly wrapped up and is a good story to give you a flavor of the times. [Reviewed by Paul Milner on Amazon, 2008]


This is index to 25 volumes of biographical information on thousands of people killed, transported, or named in proceedings against Scottish Covenanters.

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**Note: The St. Andrews web site now has a short URL, <www.SASVT.org> which still takes you to the same website you are familiar with.**

The custom of wearing tartan costume to church blends highland pageantry and conviviality with the caution observed by clans who by turns were sometimes friends and sometimes rivals. Our event is opportunity for people from all over Vermont to appear in Scottish attire in a magnificent country setting, with Scottish piping before and after the service. The service is conducted much as the Reformed Presbyterian Church would have done, although our once a year congregation is not able to generate the haunting unaccompanied harmonies which our better trained ancestors could achieve in the traditional Scottish psalter melodies.

Following the service, we spread a fine pot luck picnic on the lawns. Bring your own folding chairs, umbrellas, eating utensils, and one dish (salad, main course, side dish, dessert) to serve 6. Punch or water will be available.

Mosquitoville is at the town line of Barnet and Ryegate, on the historic Bayley Hazen Military Road. Here are 3 approaches. Park in Ted Faris’s hayfield opposite the church.

**Directions:**
1) From the north via Rte 2 or from Rte 15. At Danville Green, take Peacham/Groton Rd. S through Peacham village. At South Peacham, turn east (left). At Harvey’s lake, turn south (right) to follow shore line. At second right hand road, a kind of wye, turn up the hill. Church is in about 1 1/2 miles.

2) From Barre/ Montpelier area, take 302 to Groton Village. At the east edge of the village, take steep north [left] on Minard Rd, signed for Peacham. In about 6 miles find Mosquitoville Rd [gravel] on right. Follow Mosquitoville Rd. east for 3 miles, turn left at cemetery to church. If coming I-91 at Wells River exit, the steep turn for Minard Hill is on your right at edge of Groton village.

3) Alternative from I-91, use Barnet exit and follow West Barnet Rd. to West Barnet village, just past Presbyterian Church (about 4 1/2 miles). After village at shore of Harvey’s lake, pick up directions from #1 above.

**Service begins at 11:00 AM sharp; potluck luncheon will be afterward. Rain or Shine.**

Contact: Richard Downer  (802) 985 3464 <richard.downer@myfairpoint.net>

**THUMBNAIL COVENANTER HISTORY**

Who were the Covenanters? Scotland’s Kirk led by John Knox reformed more thoroughly than did the English church in the 16th Century. After the Union of Crowns in 1603, King James VI of Scotland in the year Queen Elizabeth I died, became King James I of England. James determined to make the Kirk of Scotland subservient to the Archbishop of York, and to follow English church rules. James’s son, Charles, so arrogantly pushed those ideas that the English civil wars commenced in 1645. Seeking military support of Scotland, Charles assented to keep the Scots Kirk independent, and signed the Scottish Solemn League & Covenant, at that time. Scots who adhered to the principles of the Covenant formed a church separate from the English created National Kirk, and called it the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The church at Mosquitoville was organized by Scots who resolutely adhered to the Covenant Kirk, who settled in Barnet and Ryegate some 200 years ago. Covenanter worship is a very simple Biblically based and meditative worship in which no musical instrument other than the human voice is to be heard, and all texts used are from Scripture.
ADVANCE TICKETS
Quechee Scottish Festival and Celtic Fair — Saturday, August 22, 2015
Advance tickets are available provided this form is received prior to Aug 15th. Tickets will be mailed on or before August 15th.

COST:

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Address: _______________________________________________

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Phone: _______________________________________________

(optional) E-Mail contact: _______________________________________________

Please mail with check made to “Quechee Scottish Festival”
TO: Quechee Scottish Festival
PO Box 729 Quechee, VT 05059

APPLICATION FOR PATRON’S TICKETS •
Patron’s tickets entitle holders to enhanced benefits:
• Unobstructed “ringside” seating beside the pipe band arena
• Coffee & doughnuts provided from 8:00 AM
• Luncheon voucher to nearby vendor
• Seating at tables under the ‘Patron’s Only’ tent
• Reserved parking nearby ‘Patrons Only’ area
• Souvenir ‘Patron’ ribbon
• Reserved portalet inside ‘Patrons Only’ gated area.

COST:
Scots Bargain at $45 each or $85 per couple.
This application must be received by August 15th (a small number may be available at the gate on the day of the Festival).

Name: (print) _______________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________

City _________________________ State ____________ ZIP ______________

Phone: _______________________________________________

(optional) E-Mail contact: _______________________________________________
ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS and FRIENDS - QUECHEE WORK CREW

The Saint Andrew’s Society of Vermont has for 43 years partnered with Scotland By The Yard to stage Vermont’s only annual Scottish field event, The Quechee Scottish Festival coming on Saturday, August 22nd 2015, on the Polo Field at Quechee. Dance and piping competitions, sheep dog trials, clan tents, Highland heavy sports, pipe band competitions — all depend on our volunteers to happen.

Net proceeds go to our Scholarship Foundation... well worth your assistance. The Foundation was able to award over $6000 to send worthy young people to college and promote Scottish heritage in Vermont.

We need your help! Ticket takers Saturday at the gate (at least 12 to cover the day) and willing workers on Friday afternoon (Aug. 21) to assist in setup. I plan on arriving at about 1:00 pm and would appreciate any help available. We need folks to setup fences, signs, tables and chairs, as well as many other duties. We also will have a potluck picnic and ceilidh at about 5:00 pm. We need your help and you will have a good time at the picnic.

Friday Setup volunteers contact
Donald C. Murray, Chairman Phone: (802) 476-4925

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QUECHEE TICKET TAKERS

Ticket taker volunteers MAIL TO: Russell Slora, 316 Farwell St., Barre, Vt, 05641
Phone : (802) 476-3580  email <rjslora@aol.com>

Yes!! I’ll help by taking tickets at Quechee on Saturday, August 22nd.
We need to open the gate about 7:30 AM to accommodate early arrivals, but the largest number of ticket takers is needed in the late morning/ early afternoon shifts. I would prefer a two hour period in:

___early morning ___late morning ___early afternoon ____late afternoon  Check one, please.

NAME-------------------------------------------------
ADDRESS-------------------------------------------------

Phone # -----------------------------------------------

[e-mail]
2015 Contacts for St Andrews Society:
President - Thomas Johnston IV 802-293-5386
Vice Pres - Allison M. Norton (603)863-0907
Secretary - Margaret Shields  802 584-4755
Treasurer - Cedric H. Farrow  802-985-3832
Historian - Bruce Shields  802-888-5165
Chaplain - Theodore Faris  802-592-3908
Newsletter Editor -Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
Archivist Pro Tem - Bruce Shields
Webmaster - David Campbell  802-878-8663
<<campbell@together.net>>

Others [managers and representatives]
Kirsten K. Gretkowski  Jonathan Park
Karen Fay (SAS Pipe)
Cass Wright  Nancy Chase
Iain McHarg (Catamount)
Kirsten Gretkowski, Dancers
Richard Downer, Foundation Chair
Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker
Meg Shields’s Address: 223 Crown Dr.
Groton, VT  05046  (802)584-4755

Correct your address promptly to
<<megshields@fairpoint.net>>

SCHEDULE OF 2015 EVENTS
• 19 July, 2015  Kirking of Tartan, Barnet.
• 22 Aug, 2015  Quechee
• Oct 30 Tartan Ball South Burlington
• 23 Jan, 2016  Burns Day, Barre

Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.

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