

Varsity Autonomy Questioned

Edinburgh University has urged thousands of graduates to lobby Holyrood [the Scottish Parliament] opposing controversial plans which many university people fear will hand to government ministries very wide powers over governance. The University General Council wrote to alumni detailing concern over measures proposed in the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill which are seen to “damage the autonomy” of Scottish universities.

The move by Edinburgh follows closely on a similar appeal by St. Andrews, and has prompted the Conservative opposition to request that the bill be scrapped. Universities fear that the Scottish measure would conflict with provisions of UK public charities regulation and result in Scottish universities being denied charitable tax exemption under existing laws. Testimony presented in September to the Finance Committee at Holyrood by representatives of principals, chairs, and universities in Scotland was unequivocal in its condemnation of the probable effect on university finances. [From Daily Scotsman 2015/09/22.]

Additional Island Sailings Announced

Scottish Transport Minister announced a substantial increase in sailings by ferry boats on 6 routes among the Western Islands. New direct sailings between Oban & Barra are scheduled, and there will be daily return sailings between Lochboisdale in South Uist and Mallaig. 50 more trips weekly are scheduled between Oban and Craignure in Mull, and 10% increase in trips between Mallaig and Skye.

Additionally, more capacious ferry ships will be deployed starting next year. These and other enhancements follow from a two year traffic study. The increases announced are on lines served by the CalMac shipping line, which is owned by the Scottish government. Fare reductions have been introduced under the Road Equivalent Tariff plan, by which ferry fares are designed to approximate the cost that would be incurred by drivers if highways were available for those routes.

Our National Poets: Edwin Muir

Muir was not very well known in the US. Born to a desperately poor cottar in Orkney in 1887, he became a writer and public intellectual about the period of World War I. Following the war, he moved to Germany and Czechoslovakia, where he met many people such as the playwright Karel Capek. He earned his living writing novels, and doing translations of German writers. He came late to the profession of poetry, publishing very little until his collected poems in 1953. His poetry enjoyed considerable popularity at that time. He was a committed anti-Communist, though his poetry explored many issues of class struggle and deprivation. His literary criticism is still quoted on occasion.

Scots Names: Menzies

From the Anglo-Norman family, Des Mesniers, attested in Scotland from about 1200. The “z” in modern spelling replaces the Old Scots letter called “yogh,” the name in Scotland being pronounced as if “mingie.” The family has a long and distinguished history in Scotland, with several well known branches. Robert Bruce granted to Alexander Menzies the branny of Glendochart and other lands at Finlarig. Robert de Minges renewed the grant of his lands as the Barony of Menzies. A branch of that family became prominent in Aberdeen. During the the great migrations, the Menzies family became prominent in Australia, with Sir Robert Menzies serving as Prime Minister two terms in the 1940’s.

Scots Tongue

- cassie (n) a braided straw basket
- cast (n) a twist, turn, chance in a game; a landscape.
- cast (v) to propose; to bring a proposal to action..
- castle wart (n) the keeper (warden) of a castle.
- cast out (v) to fall out, quarrel.
- cast up (v) to reproach a person with all past faults.
- cat and clay (n) material to build a mud & wattle wall.
- cat-and dog (n) a traditional children’s game.
- caw (v) to drive.
- cawk (v) to mark with a chalk; (n) chalk.



SCOTS CASTLES: Tower of Lethendy [north of Perth]

News reports in August of 2015 have pop music superstar Taylor Swift and her fiancé, Dumfries born DJ Calvin Harris, negotiating to buy a 16th century Scottish castle. Dating from 1570, the estate 14 miles from Perth is set on 40 acres of land including an 18 hole golf course, a heated outdoor swimming pool, and other amenities. The grounds include both formal and informal gardens, along with a wild garden, and Monkey Puzzle Trees.

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Restored Scots Wartime Steam Locomotive Returns Home

A classic steam locomotive built in Scotland just before World War II, which was shipped to Turkey for service during the war, will be returned to Scotland. Rail enthusiasts rescued the locomotive from being scrapped in Turkey, and are trying to raise £120,000 for a complete restoration to working condition such that it could be used for rail excursions. Several other vintage locomotives have been restored for display in museums. This would be a unique working restoration, joining a fleet of some 17 workable locomotives operated by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society [SRPS].

The 73 year old Stanier class 8F freight engine, #45170, was in excellent condition because of the very arid climate where it had been in service. The boiler had been extensively rebuilt and retubed just before being retired to storage by the Turkish rail service in 1986. Five years ago, the engine was returned to the UK, and displayed at the National Railway Museum near Darlington. Despite some external deterioration, the fact that the engine had been completely serviced before retirement means that the problems and cost over-runs plaguing other restoration projects should be avoidable.

The ScotRail company spokesman was enthusiastic. With a number of other restored locomotives, ScotRail contractor Abellio hopes to expand a steam rail service in Scotland and the Borders. The plan is to have at least 17 scheduled routes available for tourists and rail buffs to enjoy throughout the Border country. The locomotive is presently on display at Bo'ness near Falkirk, site of Scotland's largest railway collection.

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.

40TH ANNUAL TARTAN BALL ST ANDREWS SOCIETY OF VERMONT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

5:00 PM at Doubletree Hotel

1117 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT

• **Socializing Begins at 5:00 P.M. - Seating at 5:30 P.M.**

• **Choice of three dinners (circle choices below)**

A) Baked stuffed pork loin with diced apples and served with a demi-glaze sauce

B) Chicken a la Florentine-lightly breaded breast of chicken, sautéed and layered between mozzarella, fresh spinach, shallots and served with garlic cream sauce.

C) Vegetable wellington-mushroom duxelles with asparagus and sweet red pepper wrapped in a puff pastry and served with a pesto cream sauce

All with warm rolls & butter, Oven roasted red bliss potatoes, roasted carrot, parsnips, and sweet onion medley, tossed garden salad, home-made fruit cobbler dessert, with coffee or tea

• **Tartan Ball and Dinner Tickets \$59.50 each for Adults**

D) Children age 12 or younger Chicken w/ french fries and vegetable.— **\$20** **Chicken Fingers**

[Gluten-free options by special request.]

-----**(cut here)**-----

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Name Attending	Clan (optional)	Meal Choice	\$
		(circle one per person)	
_____	_____	A B C D	_____
_____	_____	A B C D	_____
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Total Enclosed _____

Seating will be by assigned tables. Indicate below preference with whom you would like to sit..

MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS November 2, 2015

Make checks payable to St. Andrew's Society of Vermont mail with form to

Cedric Farrow, 92 Tracy Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482 <cfarrow@ieee.org> or (802) 985-3832

• For event information contact Pres Tom Johnston (802)770-2234 or <t4jovt@vermontel.net>

Room Reservations (\$109 in SAS block) direct with Doubletree

(802) 658-0250 or FAX (802) 660-6533.

2015 Contacts for St Andrews Society:

President - Thomas Johnston IV 802-293-5386
Vice Pres - Allison M. Norton (603)863-0907
Secretary - [vacant]
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
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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

Correct your address promptly to
<<t4jovt@vermontel.net>>

SCHEDULE OF 2015 EVENTS

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- *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.

In This Issue:

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Insert: Tartan Ball Flyer
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*Thomas Johnston, President
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