

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com



November 2024 — Alba Gu Brath — Scotland Forever

The Highland Society of Harford County was incorporated for the preservation of the spirit, lore, poetry, art, dress, welfare, and history of the Scottish people dedicated to the promotion of these traditions among those of Scottish ancestry within Harford County and its environs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maryland Irish Festival: This will take place 8–10 November at Timonium Fairgrounds as follows: Friday 6:00-10:00; Sat 12:00-10:00 PM; Sun 12:00 –5:00. John Polk will set up a HSHC booth and remain there Friday. If you would like to help out on Saturday or Sunday please let me know when you could be available.

Holiday Celebration (December gathering): Kallie Lyons has very kindly volunteered to take the lead on this. You probably saw her message asking for ideas for games, caroling or whatever. Please get in touch with her with your suggestions.

HOGMANY? Jim and Betsy Wasson have kindly offered to host a Hogmanay at their home on New Year's Eve. Our officers will discuss and decide whether to do this in lieu of, or in addition to, our Holiday Celebration planned for 17 December. Decision to be announced at our November meeting. (19 Nov).



HSHC Election Slate

Our current board has volunteered to stay on for another year!

If you would like to run for an office, please let John Polk know. Otherwise, come out on November 19 and vote for these fabulous guys.

Laird - John Polk
Aide de Laird - David Ray
2nd Aide de Laird - Susan Wheeler
Secretary - Andrea Bowden
Treasurer - John Polk

November 19

NOVEMBER GATHERING

6:30 to 8:30-ish pm

MacGregor's Restaurant in Harve de Grace

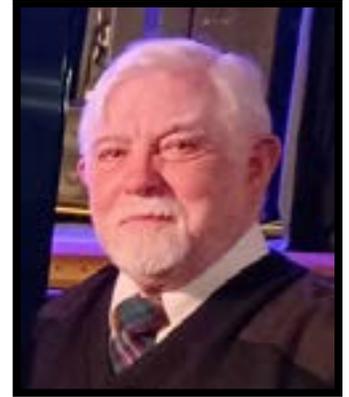
Theme:

**HSHC Elections &
Honoring Our Veterans**



Dave & John at the Covenanters - the tent is slanted to prevent the wind from making it fly.

Laird's Letter



Fellow Highlanders –

We are nearing the end of the year. Holiday season is fast approaching. A couple of topics for your consideration:

November Meeting: We will be meeting at MacGregor's in Havre de Grace on Tuesday, 19 May. Social gathering starts at 6:30; formal meeting at 7:00. We will be voting on officers and having ceremonial recognition of our veterans. Please book it on your calendar.

Officers: Per my earlier note our HSHC officers election is held at the November meeting. Our current officers who have served only part of the year are willing to continue into the new year. I think we are lucky to have a great group in place right now, and it would make eminent sense to continue as we are into 2025. This is of course subject to your approval which I will ask for at the meeting. If you think otherwise please contact me, or other officers directly.

Hogmanay: This is an ancient Scottish custom for welcoming in the New Year with appropriate festivities. Our esteemed society used to hold one every year on New Years Eve but has not done so in recent times, probably not for a dozen years. It is time for a renewal? Betsy and Jim Wasson have kindly volunteered to host a Hogmanay this year. Their lovely house in Bulle Rock which overlooks Havre de Grace is a great place for watching the New Years Eve fireworks.

The issue for us is whether doing both a regular meeting (17 December), i.e. our Holiday Celebration, and a Hogmanay on New Years Eve, with Christmas in between, would be too much. Your officers will be holding a meeting next week and will consider the issue and make a recommendation at our November meeting. If you have any thoughts or preferences on this, please let me or the other officers know.

Alba gu bràth

John Polk
Laird
Highland Society of Harford County

Treasurer's Report Dr. John Polk

Period: 1-31 October 2024

OLD BALANCE	\$3706.10
Expenses:	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Registration Fee, HdG First Friday	\$20.00
Whiskey, for toasting	\$63.21
Venue fee	\$250.00
Catering, Abbey Burgers	\$270.00
Desserts for meeting	\$17.75
Income:	
Collected, meals at meeting	\$505.00
Dues	\$75.00
NEW BALANCE	\$3662.14

Our October Gathering



MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

October 15, 2024

HSHC gathered at the State Theater in Harve de Grace MD on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. There were 17 members and guests present. Fellowship began at 6:30 PM. Laird John Polk, Clan Pollock, called the gathering to order at 7:10 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Keith Regan, Clan Keith. The toast to King Charles III was given by David Ray, Clan McRay. The toast to President Biden was given by Nancy Plummer, Clan Forsythe. The toast to Scotland was given by Jim Wasson, Clan Buchanan. SJ Anderson, Clan Anderson, offered grace. Birthdays were recognized. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal from Chesapeake Grille.

Laird, John Polk, Clan Pollack thanked people for their presence. He then inducted and dubbed new member Sarah Autry, Clan McKay into the Society. Everyone welcomed her into HSHC.

John announced that the November 19th gathering would be devoted to election of officers and honoring veterans. It will be held at MacGregor's Restaurant in Harve de Grace.

John told us of upcoming events by encouraging members to volunteer to person the HSHC table at the Irish Festival November 8, 9, and 10 at the Timonium Fair Grounds. The Holiday Celebration with potluck meal will be held December 17th at State Theater. Katie Lyons and Andrea Bowden will coordinate the festivities. Jim and Betsy Wasson volunteered to host our Society for a Hogmanay at their home in Bullie Rock on New Year's Eve, they have a good view of the Havre de Grace fireworks.

In honor of Halloween, many people came in costume. We had a black widower spider, wicked witches of the north, east, south and west, pirate, Swiss Miss, space man, Day of the Dead lady and an Irish kilted person.

Andrea Bowden, Clan MacMillan, dressed as Prof. Minerva McGonagall from Harry Potter in honor of the late Maggie Smith, presented a short Power Point on Scottish Halloween Trivia. People with correct answers won Halloween candy, apples or a turnip – for the answer about Scottish custom of carving them at Halloween. Mary Jean Fisher, Clan MacLachlan, distributed the goodies.



David Ray, Clan Ray, presented an interesting PowerPoint on Scots in Australia. He traced the origins of ancient people who populated Australia from 65,000 years ago through European exploration in the 17th Century. The Dutch were the first colonizers in the 1600s. Cpt. James Cook, British explorer, landed in Botany Bay in April 1770. Among his crew were Scots. In 1788, the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove. Among the British immigrants were sailors, civil officers, free persons, and convicts. The first sizeable settlement was a penal colony. By the late 18th Century most Scottish immigrants were "lowlanders" and wealthy merchants. Scottish regiments were sent to Australia and set up permanent barracks. By the 19th Century, Scots comprised 25% of colonizers- 50% in some areas such as Western Victoria and Adeline. They came for available land to establish sheep ranches and to escape crop failure in Scotland. A major gold rush in the 1850 increased the population. Three of the first six governors were Scots. Australia got its name from the Latin phrase terra australis incognita, which means unknown southern land. During the 1900s, Scottish immigration increased and Scots could be found all over Australia. The "White Australia" policy favored white Europeans and discriminated against those of other races and ethnicities. Australia gained its independence from Great Britain in 1986. However, it remains part of the British Commonwealth. Today, there is a strong Scottish identity in Australia with Tartan Day and other celebrations. Fine woolen kilts, shawls, and other items are produced in Australia. Famous modern Scottish-Australians are Mary Elizabeth, Queen of Denmark, Elle Macpherson, Simon Abney Hastings, 15th Earl of Loudoun. Today over 2 million Australians claim Scottish Ancestry.

After a round of applause for Dave, the gathering concluded at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Andrea Bowden, Secretary

VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2024

This federal holiday honors all people who have served in the United States military in any branch. Formerly called Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I in 1918 on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. It was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.



GRAVE STONES for VETS



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran. Options are available for markers and medallions for graves with privately purchased stones. Go to [va.gov headstone](https://www.va.gov/headstone) for details or call 1-800-679-6947.

You can request any of these:

- Upright headstones, in granite or marble
- Flat markers, in granite, marble, or bronze
- Niche markers, in bronze

SOME FAMOUS VETERANS WITH SCOTTISH ANCESTRY

- *John McCain*: United States Senator, Candidate for President, Vietnam War Hero
- *General George S. Patton*: A five-star general in the United States Army, Patton was a descendant of General Hugh Mercer, a Revolutionary War patriot.
- *General Douglas MacArthur*: The commander of American forces in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II.
- *Sergeant Alvin York*: WWI marksman from Tennessee who was of Ulster Scot ancestry.
- *George Armstrong Custer*: Had maternal ancestors of English and Ulster Scots descent
- *General Joseph Johnston*: The commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee.
- *General John Brown Gordon*: A famous Confederate general and governor of Georgia.
- *John Paul Jones*: A notable naval captain born in Scotland.
- *Hugh Mercer*: A military officer born in Scotland who fought in the American Revolution.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS IN SCOTLAND

compiled by Dr. Andrea Bowden

November 1st — *All Saints Day* — all Christian saints are honored. It is also *Samhain*, a Gaelic festival that marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.



November 2nd — *All Souls Day* — Prayers are said for the souls of the dead and alms given to the poor.

November 5th — *Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night* — Commemorates the attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament with 20 barrels of gunpowder in 1605. Bonfires, fireworks and “penny for the guy” (an effigy of Guy Fawkes, providing an excuse for children to plead for money from passers-by). This is not a specifically Scottish festivity - it is UK wide but it took place shortly after the Union of the Crowns when King James VI of Scotland became king of England and Wales also.

November 11th — *Martinmas* — The last Scottish legal “Quarter Day” when rents and contracts fell due. Since fodder was becoming scarce by this time of the year, cattle were killed at this time. As a by-product of this, the offal was mixed with oatmeal to make haggis and the blood used to make black puddings.

November 30th — *St Andrew's Day* — Although St Andrew has been the patron saint of Scotland since a Pictish victory in a battle in 747AD, for many years 30 November was not a recognized public holiday in Scotland. Indeed, St Andrew's night is celebrated more by expatriate Scots around the world. However, in 2006, the Scottish Parliament passed the St. Andrew's Day Bank Holiday (Scotland) Act 2007, which designated the Day as an official bank holiday. Even so, it was left to individual businesses to negotiate whether to give up another holiday in favor of St Andrew's Day.



It is believed St. Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, according to John 6:8. When Philip wanted to speak to Jesus about Greeks seeking him, he spoke to Andrew first. Andrew was also present at the last supper. Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as “crux decussata,” which is an X-shaped cross or a “saltire.” Today this is commonly referred to as “St. Andrew's Cross.” It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself “unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus.” The Saltire is depicted as a white cross on blue background on the Scottish flag.

CARNEIGE MELLON UNIVERSITY USES TARTAN AS COLORS

by Dr. Andrea Bowden



Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh has unique colors- a distinctive tartan. In 2007 CMU decided to adopt the Scotty Dog as the official mascot, The official CMU tartan remains a major part of the university identity. The CMU Kiltie band (affectionately referred to as the band without pants) wears tartan kilts and the CMU doctoral robes and hoods are adorned with wool tartan trim. You can even buy wool tartan fabric at the bookstore along with matching tartan flannel pajamas.

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), was born in Scotland. He was a noted industrialist and philanthropist who led the expansion of the steel industry. Andrew W. Mellon (1855-1937) born in Pittsburgh, was a businessman, served as a judge and US Secretary of the Treasury. A noted philanthropist, he established a charitable foundation. His ancestors were Scots Irish from Northern Ireland.

FILMING OF OUTLANDER HAS CONCLUDED

contributed by Dr. Andrea Bowden

Another lengthy Droughtlander is nearly at its end! Claire (Caitriona Balfe) and Jamie Fraser (Sam Heughan) will continue their journey as the Frasers return for Season 7 Part 2 of Outlander, which premieres on Starz on November 22, 2024. Lallybroch and Bonnie Scotland will be their destination when the show returns. When these episodes are over, it means audiences will have one more season of Claire and Jamie bliss to look forward to, as the series ends with an eighth season. The STARZ's historical drama series is based on Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling books. With filming on the final season already wrapped, consisting of 10 episodes, Gabaldon

has been able to consume what the creators of the series ultimately came up with. "We are ending [the show] the way we are, we just wanted to be respectful of not ending it the way maybe the way she [Gabaldon] would," executive producer Maril Davis said during the recent New York Comic-Con. What does the best-selling author think? "It was interesting... I was not upset by it," she said. "It was not something I wrote, so I'm very objective about it. It was well done. I think it will work very nicely." Gabaldon does go on to tease the 10th book's ending, saying it will have "a very much more complicated end than the show will."



L-R: John Bell, Diana Gabaldon, Maril Davis, Sophie Skelton, Caitriona Balfe, Sam Heughan, and Richard Rankin attend the Outlander press room during New York Comic Con 2024 at The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on October 17, 2024, in New York City.

TEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUTLANDER

1. The Outlander books were inspired by an episode of Dr. Who that was set in 1746 Scotland.
2. The character of Jamie was inspired by a man who actually fought at Culloden.
3. Sam Heughan made his name starring in advertisements for one of Scotland's best-loved brands-Tennent's Lager Beer.
4. Sam Heughan's blended Scotch, Sassenach, is an extremely popular brand around the world.
5. Caitriona Balfe, has released her own spirit, an exciting Scottish gin called Forget Me Not, with profits going to supporting the Arts.
6. There is an Outlander cookbook by Canadian author Theresa Carle-Sanders with recipes inspired by the show that include modern American recipes alongside traditional Scottish ones.
7. An organic chocolate Outlander costume has been made in celebration of the show by expert chocolatiers Alastair and Friederike Gower of Chocolate Tree.
8. Many of the male actors were 'true Scotsmen' when wearing kilts on set – without underwear.
9. The worldwide appeal of Outlander has led to a tourism boom in Scotland where sites have seen a 67% increase.
10. One of the first of those tourists was Diana Gabaldon herself, who had never visited Scotland before she wrote the books!

WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

contributed by
Dr. Andra Bowden

KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA VISIT AUSTRALIA AND SAMOA

from BBC

King Charles and Queen Camilla were warmly received in Sydney by the public and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during a tour of Australia. The trip was not without issues, Charles was sneezed on by an alpaca wearing a crown and a tux. At Parliament in Canberra a well-known activist for indigenous rights confronted the King and demanded reparations. There were scattered protests for Australia to exit the Commonwealth. In Samoa the King and Queen wore traditional Samoan dress, drank ethnic brew, watched traditional dancing and visited technology centers as well as historical sites.



MAJOR TREASURE TROVE DISCOVERED from BBC

A hoard of Bronze Age artifacts - including jewelry, swords, and a variety of other objects, unearthed by a metal detectorist in the Borders has been saved for the nation by National Museums Scotland. It has acquired the Peebles Hoard, which had lain undisturbed for 3,000 years before it was discovered in 2020. Efforts have now started to secure funding for continued research and conservation of the collection, which includes more than 500 pieces. National Museums Scotland (NMS) said the man who found it had received a five-figure sum.



The hoard has been described as one of the most significant ever found in the country. "This includes many unique artefacts, the use of which is yet to be discovered and could transform our understanding of life in Bronze Age Scotland," it added.

GIANT TAUROS HAVE BEEN BRED BY SCIENTISTS TO RESEMBLE ANCIENT EXTINCT AUROCHS - NOW THEY'RE HEADING FOR SCOTLAND

BBC Discover Wildlife

An ancient echo of Scotland's past may soon return to the Highlands as a new rewilding project looks to introduce the tauros, a species bred to resemble the extinct aurochs.

The project, led by the conservation charity Trees for Life, aims to restore these wild cattle to the land where their ancestors once thrived, bringing an important ecological player back to the Scottish landscape. Aurochs, the mighty forebears of modern cattle, roamed across Europe for thousands of years, shaping the ecosystems they inhabited. Their sheer size and powerful grazing patterns created diverse habitats for countless species. But aurochs disappeared from Britain around 1300 BC, then later became globally extinct. The last aurochs died in Poland in 1627, and with that Europe lost one of its key natural engineers.



However, the DNA of the aurochs has survived in a number of ancient original cattle breeds, and, since the early 2000s, scientists in the Netherlands have sought to bring them back to life by interbreeding cattle breeds that are genetically and physically closest to the aurochs. In doing so, they developed the tauros. While classified as domestic cattle, tauros have no equivalent among other breeds. Bulls are huge, reaching up to 180cm at the shoulder (cows measure 150cm), similar in size to aurochs. Plans are underway to introduce up to 15 tauros from the Netherlands to the 4,000-hectare Dundreggan estate, near the south-west shores of Loch Ness.

UNIQUE TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR ROYALS

from People Magazine



When the Royal Family travels, they adhere to special rules. Here are some of them.

Ø They must always pack mourning clothes in case they have to use them. When Queen Elizabeth's father, King George VI died in 1952, while she was in Africa, she didn't have black clothing and she could not be photographed until she was wearing proper clothing.



- Royals usually change clothes on the plane before they arrive in a country to look appropriate. When King Charles and Queen Camilla left London, they were in fall clothing, but when they arrived in Australia, they were in light spring clothing.

- Royals always try to fly via British Airways. However, when Prince William and Princess Kate visited Pakistan, they flew in a Royal Air Force jet for security reasons.

- Heirs must fly separately. King Charles and Prince William cannot be on the same flight. Prince George will not be able to fly with his father, Prince William, after he turns 12 in July of 2025.

- Monarchs must travel with at least two bags of blood of his/her specific blood type because the supply may not be reliable in other countries. King Charles is also traveling with two doctors because of his ongoing cancer treatments.

- Royals take a crash course in the history, culture,

language, clothing and customs of the countries that they will visit. This prevents embarrassing moments and misinterpretations. For instance, a bow may be more appropriate than a handshake. Queen Camilla was careful to wear a yellow diamond brooch of Australia's national flower the yellow wattle that was given to Queen Elizabeth on her coronation in 1953.

- Royal trips abroad are usually three to twelve days long and packed with many events and ceremonies. Time for rest and change of clothes is built into the schedule. The current visit to Australia and Samoa by Charles and Camilla is 9 days long and has 36 engagements.

HSHC Officer Favs

OFFICER FAVES is a new feature for the SPORRAN in which we showcase foods that are favorites of the HSHC executive board. This month we highlight Secretary- Andrea Bowden's SLOPPY JOES and Past Laird- Keith Reagan's MUFFULETTA.

SLOPPY JOES

This is a quick alternative to plain hamburgers and was one of the first beef dishes I learned to cook as a child. The recipe can be doubled and tripled to feed a crowd.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 2 Tbs cooking oil
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 1 small green pepper (chopped)
- 3 ribs celery (chopped)
- ½ cup cider vinegar
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup white or brown sugar
- ½ cup ketchup
- ½ t salt
- ½ t pepper
- 1 t Worcestershire sauce



Directions

- Saute onion, celery and pepper until soft
- Brown beef, drain most of fat
- Dissolve sugar in water
- Mix in vinegar, Worcestershire sauce and ketchup
- Add to skillet with meat
- Simmer at least 20 minutes
- Serve on bread or hamburger roll



MUFFULETTA

Muffuletta or muffaletta is a type of round Sicilian sesame bread, as well as a popular sandwich, created by a Sicilian immigrant to the United States, that was popularized in the City of New Orleans.

Ingredients

- 1 10 inch round Italian bread
- 1 cup olive salad (purchased)
- ¼ pound Capicola or deli ham (4-6 slices)
- ¼ pound Genoa Salami (6-8 slices)
- ¼ pound Mortadella cold cut (4-6 slices)
- ¼ pound sliced Mozzarella (3-4 thin slices)
- 1/8 pound Provolone (3-4 thin slices)



Directions

- Slice the round bread in half horizontally and open it on a flat surface
- Brush both inner sides with extra virgin olive oil
- Layer the ham, salami, and mortadella on the bottom half and top with cheeses
- Add the olive salad in the center and spread it to the edges- leaving ½ inch
- Place the top half of the bread over the olive mixture and press down to let the bread absorb juices
- Using a bread knife, slice the round loaf into 4-6 wedges

Note – you can warm the sandwich on a sheet pan in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 5 -6 minutes
Olive Salad can be purchased in most grocery stores and Walmart. A popular brand is Merzzetta Italian Olive Salad. Some brands are called Muffuletta Olive Salad.

