

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com

April 2025 — 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.



Our April 15 Gathering

Mount Felix Vineyard and Winery

1904 Level Road
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Dinner will be catered by Olive Tree of Aberdeen

Only \$35/person.

6:30 Social gathering
7:00 Toasts, dinner, dessert
8:00 Business items
8:15 Relax, final tastings
8:30 Adjourn

Welcome Our Newest Member



Pam Pippin, Clan St. Andrews

Staying Connected

Check us Out. Tell a Friend.

by Keith Reagan

For those who might not be aware of our web and social media presence...

The Society has a web page which can be found at the link, highlandsocietyofharfordcounty.com. Keith Reagan is the webmaster and this page explains the history of the Society, lists upcoming Society events and Celtic events at which the Society hopes to have a presence, has a photo section, and a documents section containing copies of the Sporrán newsletter.

The Society has a public Facebook page and if you have a Facebook account, you can reach the page by going to this link, www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068977556501 (and if you are not logged in to your Facebook account, you will be prompted to log in). Keith Reagan and Susan Wheeler are administrators of this Facebook page.

The Society has a public Instagram profile and if you have an Instagram account it can be found by searching for the Society's handle, [highlandsocietyofharfordcounty](https://www.instagram.com/highlandsocietyofharfordcounty), from the search tool after you have logged in. Susan Wheeler is the administrator for the Society's Instagram account.

Anyone wishing to contribute an article, news, a joke or humorous anecdote or other contributions, news, suggestions for articles send them to:

sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com or abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

Our March Gathering



Remember to share your pictures with us!
Send them to sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com and ABowden@bcps.k12.md.us

Laird's Letter



Greetings Fellow Highlanders –

Spring is in the air. I am happy to confirm that our April meeting will be al fresco at the lovely Mount Felix Winery outside Havre de Grace, overlooking Chesapeake Bay. We will be hosted by Peter and Mary Ianniello, the owners. Our meal will be catered by the Olive Tree of Aberdeen which specializes in Italian foods. We will not have an after dinner program on this occasion but can simply relax, enjoy the Mount Felix's ambiance at leisure, and sip some of their excellent offerings.

Date: Tuesday, 15 April

Location: Mount Felix Vineyard and Winery
1904 Level Road (MD 155), Havre de Grace

Time:

- 6:30 Social gathering
- 7:00 Toasts, dinner, dessert
- 8:00 Business items
- 8:15 Relax, final tastings
- 8:30 Adjourn

Meal: Catered, Olive Tree of Aberdeen

Cost: \$35/ person

Please RSVP me, Yea or Nay. We need to know how many will attend.

Also let me know if you need a gluten free entrée.

Yours aye,

John Polk, Laird, HSHC





**We aim to have a variety of venues and presentations.
Your ideas are welcome!**

GATHERINGS

APRIL 15th Gathering 6:30 PM Tuesday - Mount Felix Vineyard and Winery at 1904 Level Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. Dinner from Olive Tree \$35/person No program

MAY 20th Gathering 6:30 PM – State Theater. Taco Bar. \$20 Members bring sides, desserts and beverages. Program: Scots in Panama

JUNE 14th PICNIC on Flag Day 12:00 Noon-4:00 PM Saturday – At the lovely home of Lee Ann and Steve Anderson 1104 Fox Den Road, Bel Air MD 21014. \$10/person Members bring picnic potluck.

EVENTS

HSHC always needs volunteers to “person” the tables/booths at events and festivals. The usual commitment is two hours. Please e-mail John Polk, Laird at least two weeks before the event to offer your services. jfpolk@comcast.net

FIRST FRIDAYS IN HAVRE DE GRACE on Washington Street 4:00-8:00 PM May 2, June 6, August 1 and October 3, 2025

May 16th Fair Hill Scottish Night in Elkton (Friday 6:00-9:00 PM)

May 17th Fair Hill Scottish Games at Fair Hill Fairgrounds (Saturday 8:00 AM-6:00 PM)

July 5th Havre de Grace Independence Day Parade (Saturday 2:00-5:00 PM)

July 20th Charlie Zahm at Jerusalem Mills (Saturday 6:00 PM))

July ? Baseball Game? Boat Ride? Bainbridge Museum Visit?

August 23rd -24th Harford County Celtic Festival (Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM)

September 6th Covenanter Festival (Saturday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM)

November 7th-9th – Maryland Irish Festival (Friday 6:00-11:00 PM, Saturday 12:00 noon – 11:00 PM and Sunday 12:00 noon-6:00 PM)) MD State Fairgrounds Cow Palace, Timonium

ACTIONS FOR SCOTTISH FAMILIES TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

from WORLD WILDLIFE FUND



World Earth Day is on Saturday, 22nd April. Make a planet positive impact with these Earth Day tips! We're encouraging the good people of Scotland to do something small to make a big difference to our planet. Here are some entertaining and easy-to-implement ideas:

Shop local, be a hero Sure, supermarkets are handy, but imagine the joy of exploring farmers' markets and discovering gems in our neighborhood. In addition, you'll be slashing air miles, keeping fit, and avoiding those nasty mega-greenhouses (no offence, Spain).

Big (and Bulky) Is Beautiful

Why buy small when you can go big? Buying in bulk cuts plastic waste and lets you reuse containers, especially for cleaning products and food. So not only will you be giving Mother Earth a high five, but you'll also save money.

Garden party, anyone?

Bring out the green thumb and transform your garden with native plants or short grasses. Better yet, grow some veggies for a fresher, tastier treat. Embrace your inner eco-warrior by making compost from kitchen waste or getting a worm composter.

Start them early

Let's teach the future generation how to be eco-superheroes. Encourage refillable pens, bulk-bought paperclips, and staple-free staplers. Join your local library for endless book and magazine adventures. Inspire kids to draw or cut near paper edges for more reuse opportunities. And always recycle after both sides are filled. Planet Friendly Tip: For extra fun, create a bug hotel in the garden to attract pollinators and learn about our incredible planet's connections. Together, we can make every day feel like Earth Day. Let's all do our bit to protect this beautiful planet we call home.

Seasons In Nature

Scotland is home to some of the most incredible wildlife and habitats in the world. But nature is in trouble and needs our help. The good news is, there's lots that we can do to help bring our world back to life! Discover year-round fun with our family-friendly activities while helping nature thrive in your local area.

Restoration Forth

RESTORATION FORTH is a major marine restoration programme working with communities to restore seagrass habitats and native oyster populations in the Firth

of Forth. The project aims to restore 4 hectares of seagrass and 30,000 native oysters in the Firth of Forth. Together they will provide new habitats for marine life, improve water quality and support thriving local communities program working with communities to restore seagrass habitats and native oyster populations in the Firth of Forth.

FARMS FOR SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

Scotland's farmers and crofters are key to restoring nature, fighting climate change, and supporting rural communities, while working to produce food and other goods. Although some land managers have taken steps to manage their land in climate-and nature-friendly ways, many farming practices are damaging to our natural environment. We now have a once in a generation chance to ensure public money is used to fund farming so it works for nature, climate, and people.

THE FUTURE OF HEATING OUR HOMES

We're calling for more help to be available so homeowners can make the switch away from traditional fossil fuel heating to renewable, low-carbon alternatives, such as electric heat pumps.

Our work in Scotland Nature is vital. It provides our life-support system. However, it's under threat like never before! So, at WWF, we're fighting to restore habitats and species and to build a Scotland where people and nature can thrive – a cleaner, fairer, flourishing environment. To do that, we're tackling the main causes of nature's decline – land use and climate change. And we're inspiring a movement of people who'll help make sure restoring nature and fighting for a liveable climate are put at the heart of all the decisions we make in our everyday lives – so it becomes politically, socially and economically unacceptable to degrade our planet's precious natural resources.

Help us bring our world back to life Scotland is famous for its iconic nature and scenery but is among the most nature depleted countries in the world, ranking 28th from the bottom out of 240. With nature in freefall and many of our most loved species under threat, we need your help like never before.

MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

Dr. Andrea Bowden



for March 18, 2025

HSHC convened at the Vandiver Inn in Harve de Grace. Laird John Polk, Clan Pollock, called the Gathering to order at 7:10 pm. The Pledge to the Flag was led by Past Laird Keith Reagan, Clan Keith. Laird Emeritus SJ Anderson, Clan Anderson, gave the toast to King Charles, everyone toasted the office of the President of the United States. Kallie Lyons, Clan Stewart, gave the toast to Scotland by reading a traditional verse.

Susan and Ray Buchanan, Clan Buchanan, were recognized for their 54th wedding anniversary and Sarah Autry, Clan McKay, was congratulated on the birth of her second grandson.

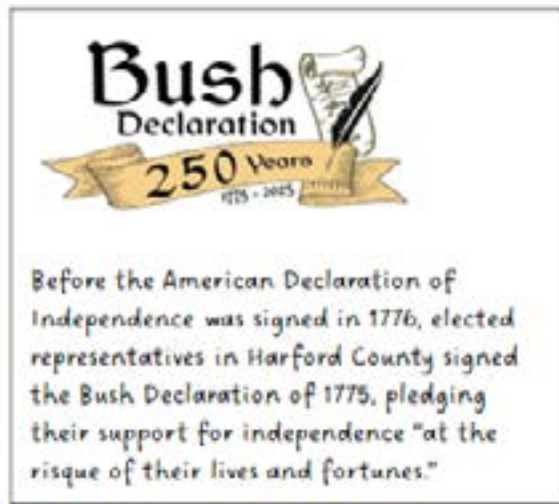
John Polk reminded members that the April 15th Gathering will be held at 6:30 PM at Mount Felix Vineyard and Winery at 1904 Level Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. Dinner will be catered by Olive Tree of Aberdeen. Cost will be \$35/person. There will be no formal program. The May 20th Gathering will be held at 6:30 PM at the State Theater. Dinner will be a Taco Bar prepared by the Executive Board with members bringing sides, desserts, and beverages. The cost will be \$20.. The program will be Scots in Panama presented by David Ray, Clan McRay.

Members were served a delicious Moroccan dinner. Thereafter, Pam Pippin, Clan St. Andrews, was inducted into the Highland Society of Harford County by John Polk, Laird. Pam was warmly welcomed by members. Pam also won \$50 in the 50/50 drawing!

Andrea Bowden, Clan McMillan, introduced the speakers for the evening from the Irish Railroad Workers Museum in Baltimore. Megan "Sammie" Samuels, Director of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum, a position she has held for nearly three years - since June of 2022 - holds a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University, as well as degrees in biology and anthropology, which provide a unique perspective on the intersection of culture, science, and history. She is deeply dedicated to uncovering and sharing the stories of Irish immigrants in Baltimore, and is particularly passionate about highlighting the experiences of Irish immigrant women. Cecilia Wright holds a Master's Degree in Leadership in Teaching/ teaching English as a second language. She has taught pre-school at St. Casimir's Catholic School for the last 20 years. Her interests in history and her family genealogy led her to visit the Irish Railroad Workers Museum. She has been volunteering with the Irish Railroad Workers Museum for over ten years. She has also served on the board of directors for several years and as President of the Board the last two years. They gave a very interesting presentation with a PowerPoint on the "Grit and Grace of Irish Immigrant Women". (See summary of presentation in SPORRAN.) At the conclusion of the presentation, there were a number of excellent questions from the members.

The Gathering ended at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Bowden. Secretary



The Bush Declaration and the United States Semiquincentennial

Semiquincentennial will be a term you will hear a lot in the next 15 months! There will be celebrations and anniversary observations of the semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) events related to the adoption of the United States Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Several semiquincentennial events have already been observed and there will be many more to come. Probably the most notable event already observed was the Boston Tea Party (December 1773). In less than a month (April 19), the first Battle of the American Revolutionary War will be commemorated at Lexington and Concord.

Closer to home, this past March 22, Harford County celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Bush Declaration (resolutions).



The Bush Declaration and the United States Semiquincentennial

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The Bush Declaration Anniversary Events included a reading of the declaration and access to nine colonial era sites related to the Bush Declaration. Steve and Lee Ann Anderson participated in the weekend events at the Hays House in Bel Air. In colonial attire they greeted visitors and shared information on British rule in the American colonies,

Patriots in Colonies, the Bush Declaration, and events that led to the American Revolution.

For more information about the Bush Declaration see the Harford Historic Society Website.

How did Scottish Colonists react to pre-revolution events? Patriots or Loyalists? More to come ...



SACRED HARES AND THE ORIGIN OF THE EASTER BUNNY

from Newsbreak

Easter is a celebration of spring and new life. Eggs and flowers are rather obvious symbols of female fertility, but in European traditions, the bunny, with its amazing reproduction potential, is not far behind. In European traditions, the Easter Bunny is known as the Easter Hare. The symbolism of the hare has had many tantalizing ritual and religious roles down through the years. Hares were given ritual burials alongside humans during the Neolithic age in Europe. Archaeologists have interpreted this as a religious ritual, with hares representing rebirth.

Over a thousand years later, during the Iron Age, ritual burials for hares were common, and in 51 B.C., Julius Caesar mentions that in Britain, hares were not eaten, due to their religious significance. Caesar would likely have known that in the Classical Greek tradition, hares were sacred to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Meanwhile, Aphrodite's son Eros was often depicted carrying a hare, as a symbol of unquenchable desire. From the Greek world through the Renaissance, hares often appear as symbols of sexuality in literature and art. For example, the Virgin Mary is often shown with a white hare or rabbit, symbolizing that she overcame sexual temptation.

In the folk traditions of England and Germany that the figure of the hare is specifically connected to Easter. Accounts from the 1600s in Germany describe children hunting for Easter eggs hidden by the Easter Hare, much as in the contemporary United States today. Written accounts from England around the same time also mention the Easter Hare, particularly in terms of traditional Easter hare hunts, and the eating of hare meat at Easter.

The eating of the hare may have been associated with various longstanding folk traditions of scaring away witches at Easter. Throughout Northern Europe, folk traditions record a strong belief that witches would often take the form of the hare, usually for causing mischief such as stealing milk from neighbors' cows. Witches in medieval Europe were often believed to be able to suck out the life energy of others, making them ill, and suffer.

The idea that the witches of winter should be banished at Easter is a common European folk motif, appearing in several festivities and rituals. The spring equinox, with its promise of new life, was held symbolically in opposition to the life-draining activities of witches and winter.

This idea provides the underlying rationale behind various festivities and rituals, such as the "Osterfeuer," or the Easter Fire, a celebration in Germany involving large outdoor bonfires meant to scare away witches. In Sweden, the popular folklore states that at Easter, the witches all fly away on their broomsticks to feast and dance with the Devil on the legendary island of Blåkulla, in the Baltic Sea.

In 1835, the folklorist Jacob Grimm, one of the famous team of the fairy tale "Brothers Grimm", argued that the Easter Hare was connected with a goddess, whom he imagined would have been called "Ostara" in ancient German. He derived this name from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, that Bede, an Anglo-Saxon monk considered to be the father of English history, mentioned in 731.

Description automatically generated 'Ostara' by Johannes Gehrts, created in 1884. The goddess Eostre flies through the heavens surrounded by Roman-inspired putti, beams of light, and animals. Felix Dahn, Therese Dahn, Therese (von Droste-Hülshoff) Dahn, Frau, Therese von Droste-Hülshoff Dahn (1901) via Wikimedia Commons.

Bede noted that in eighth-century England the month of April was called Eosturmonath, or Eostre Month, named after the goddess Eostre. He wrote that a pagan festival of spring in the name of the goddess had become assimilated into the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

It's interesting that while most European languages refer to the Christian holiday with names that come from the Jewish holiday of Passover, such as Pâques in French, or Påsk in Swedish, German and English languages retain this older, non-biblical word, Easter.

Recent archaeological research appears to confirm the worship of Eostre in parts of England, Scotland, and in Germany, with the hare as her main symbol. The Easter Bunny therefore seems to recall these pre-Christian celebrations of spring, heralded by the vernal equinox and personified by the Goddess Eostre.

After a long, cold, northern winter, it seems natural enough for people to celebrate themes of resurrection and rebirth. The flowers are blooming, birds are laying eggs, and baby bunnies are hopping about. As new life emerges in spring, the Easter Bunny hops back once again, providing a longstanding cultural symbol to remind us of the cycles and stages of our own lives.

Scotland's Best Bluebell Walks

from the Daily Record



Scotland's best bluebell and wildflower walks this spring have been named. New data from AllTrails has revealed that Scotland's beauty spots are set to be hit with an unprecedented surge of visitors. The flowers typically bloom between late March and early May.

The number one bluebell walk in Scotland, according to the experts, is the Kinclaven (Ballathie) Bluebell Woods Circular near Blairgowrie and Rattray. At 2.7 kilometres in length, the walk takes around 40 minutes to complete. Dundee is a city nearby.

The peaceful forest trail through the Kinclaven Bluebell Wood is famed for the vibrant carpet of bluebells that appear there each spring. According to AllTrails, the route is also great for birdwatching, hiking, and mountain biking.

However, visitors are encouraged to take care on the rougher sections of the Kinclaven Bluebell Woods Circular in wetter conditions. Additionally, the area can become very busy in sunny weather.

Following behind in second place on AllTrails' list is the Inchcailloch Island Circular. Situated in Loch Lomond, the walk is approximately 3.1 kilometres and takes just over an hour on average.

Meanwhile, the third best bluebell walk in Scotland according to the experts is the Dry Dam Path to Saint Anthony's Chapel and Arthur's Seat. Situated in Edinburgh, the 3.2-kilometre trail was described as being "beautiful to visit anytime".

Rounding out the top five are the St Cyrus Beach & Cliffs Circular in Angus and Loch Ore, Harran Hill, & Benarty Hill in Fife, respectively.

The former is 6.4 kilometres in length and is set within the coastal St Cyrus Nature Reserve, while the latter has a length of 10.5 kilometres and was praised for its "lovely views over the surrounding hills and countryside on a clear day".

Campanula rotundifolia, the bluebell of Scotland or common harebell is a species of bellflower found throughout temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Shape Bluebells of Scotland | ALASKA.ORG *Campanula rotundifolia* Bluebells of Scotlandd Shape Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) plants for cottage garden



Kinclaven (Ballathie) Bluebell Woods Circular



Kinclaven (Ballathie) Bluebell Woods Circular



St John's Church in Ballachulish

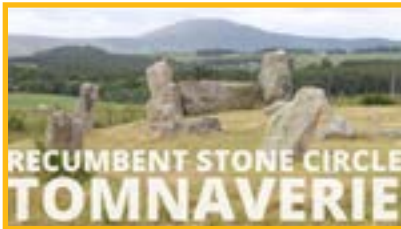
FIVE BEST STONE CIRCLES IN SCOTLAND

from the Scottish Times and YouTube



Callanais Standing Stones, Lewis

Made with local Lewisian gneiss, the structure at Calanais is roughly cruciform in shape, with a circle towards the centre enclosing a 4.75m-high monolith. Approaching 5,000 years in age, it remains one of the most famous prehistoric sites in Britain, its mighty stones the foundation of many a folk tale. The Gaelic name for the stones is Fir Bhreig, "The False Men", and various tales tell of them being men, or giants, turned to stone. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or-nUHRh9Z2s>



Tomnaverie Stone Circle, Aberdeenshire

Dating to the late neolithic or early Bronze Age, Tomnaverie is an excellent example of a recumbent stone circle, a type of stone circle generally found only in Aberdeenshire and southwest Ireland. An early documenter in the late 1800s believed its name signified "hill of worship" and it's possible the monument was a type of observatory, built to track the movement of the moon. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_eFjzlbD0I



Fortingall Circles, Perth and Kinross

The odd positioning of the Fortingall Stones — a collection of large boulders — in three groups of three leads some to believe that they are the product of different belief systems in action, all of which are now forgotten. Close to the River Lyon, in the shadow of Schiehallion Mountain, the site is a beautiful place to visit. In the church yard close by stands the Fortingall Yew, one of the oldest trees in Europe.



Twelve Apostles, Dumfries and Galloway

The largest stone circle on the Scottish mainland, the Twelve Apostles is also one of its most discreet, a sprawling oval-shaped site that stretches across a diameter of almost 90m. Although there are now only 11 stones it's thought there were originally 19. There were certainly 12 in existence in the 19th century, after which point a local farmer is thought to have upcycled one for use as a building material. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJuFQjYewkg>



Fowlis Wester Stones, Perth and Kinross

On a clear day, when the gorse is in flower and the wind is calm, there is no better place to be. There are two circles here, both positioned with panoramic views over a large pastoral plain and moorland. Each one is paired with a great monolith; one of these is still standing while the other lies flat against the windswept moor. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZNUPGsgaNs&t=11s>

WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

compiled by
Dr. Andrea Bowden &
SJ Anderson

THE WORLD'S BEST SINGLE MALT WHISKIES

from Forbes

The GlenAllachie 12 YO was the World's Best Scotch Whisky. The whisky is a standout expression from GlenAllachie Distillery, located in the heart of Scotland's Speyside region. Under the guidance of industry veteran Billy Walker, the distillery has become a world-class Scotch whisky producer. The whisky is fruity and aromatic on the nose, featuring honey, butterscotch, and dried fruit notes of raisins and figs. A subtle hint of wood spices, particularly cinnamon and nutmeg, adds complexity. The Sherry influence is unmistakable, manifesting itself in candied orange zest and subtle roasted almond notes.



Importance of River Tweed to be highlighted at free festival

exerpts from Border Telegraph

The importance of the River Tweed and its annual migration of Atlantic salmon will be front and centre of a new event being staged in the Borders next weekend.

Fishermen and women from across the world will descend on the Schloss Roxburghe Hotel near Kelso for the first Tweed Salmon Festival on April 5-6.

The free event has been organised by local river ghillies and boatmen as a way of showcasing the river and building on the recent rise in fish stocks, and developing a new generation of anglers that will look after the Tweed.

...some of the world's top speycasters and fly fishers will take part, including Tommy Aarkvisla from Norway and Katka Švagrová from the Czech Republic.

KING CHARLES BRIEFLY HOSPITALIZED

from People

The 76-year-old King Charles, who publicly announced his cancer diagnosis in February 2024, was hospitalized at The London Clinic "following scheduled and ongoing medical treatment for cancer this morning," Buckingham Palace said in a statement shared with PEOPLE on Thursday, March 27. The King experienced temporary side effects that required a short period of observation in [the] hospital," the statement continued. He was back at work within two days. In February King Charles issued a message: "This World Cancer Day, we are sending love to all those navigating a cancer diagnosis – as well as the incredible doctors, nurses, charities and families who work tirelessly to support them,"

UNUSUAL FIND IN LOCH NESS

from BBC

An underwater camera set up 55 years ago to try and photograph the Loch Ness Monster has been found by accident by a robot submarine. The ocean-going yellow sub - called Boaty McBoatface - was being put through trials when its propeller snagged the mooring for the 1970s camera system.

It is believed it was lowered 180m (591ft) below the loch's surface by the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, a group set up in the 1960s to uncover the existence of Nessie in the waters.

No footage of Nessie has been found on the camera, but one of the submarine's engineers was able to develop a few images of the loch's murky waters.



GRIT AND GRACE OF IRISH IMMIGRANT WOMEN

by Dr. Andrea Bowden



presented by Sammie Samuels, Director and Cecelia Wright, President of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum

918-920 Lemmon Street, Baltimore, MD 21223 P.O. Box 20627

www.irishshrine.org

In Ireland before An Gorta Mor, 1845-1852, the great famine, most women held traditional roles of wife and mother. In rural areas, land was divided within families and most small homesteads were self-sufficient, growing potatoes, cabbage, turnips, and carrots. A milk cow or goat was a luxury. In cities, women worked in pubs, ran boarding houses. Some were milliners or drapers and some were prostitutes and pickpockets.

As the famine worsened, families starved, were driven out of their houses and off their small farms. Over one million people died of starvation and disease. The British government offered little assistance. Many tried to flee Ireland. An estimated 2.5 million Irish emigrated to North America by ship, landing in Canadian and United States ports. Thousands died enroute leading to the term “coffin ships” filled with severely ill and dead immigrants. The ports of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore received immigrants.

Many young women, often the only survivors of their families emigrated for a better life in America. They came with high hopes, but were met with scorn, discrimination, and hardship. They were lucky to get jobs as washerwomen, domestics, and shop “girls”. The Catholic Church was a refuge for the Irish immigrants. Catholic schools helped the women learn to speak and write English. Irish charitable organizations provided assistance in finding lodging and jobs. Women constantly fought bigotry and stereotypes as “Bridgits” -loud, ignorant, ill-mannered, Irish speaking women.

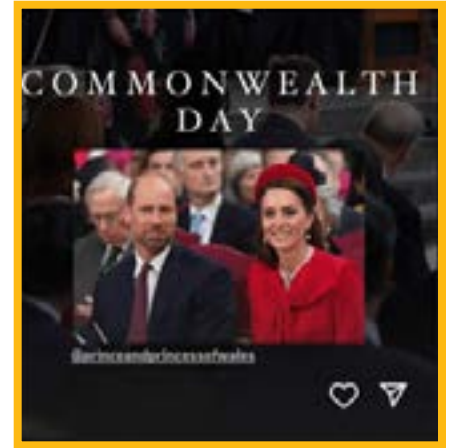
By the 1870s many women had married and established homes. In Baltimore, Irish men worked on the B & O railroad and predominantly Irish neighborhoods were established in southwest Baltimore near the B & O shops. Women in the cities banded together to help each other and gradually formed organizations to support the rights of women. As more Irish women and children worked in factories – especially in textiles mills and garment houses, they joined in strikes for better working conditions. The 1880-1900 saw a surge of female activists fighting for the rights of all workers. Significant Irish women emerged as leaders in cities across America. For example, Mother Jones became a spokesperson for miners striking for living wages and mine safety.

It was Irish women who pursued citizenship, realizing that this was necessary for long-term survival of their families. As Irish communities grew and citizenship increased, the Irish became an important voting block. Under the auspices of the Catholic Church, hospitals, schools, social work organizations and employment agencies grew and helped Irish women and men assimilate into American society. It was the women, however, who “held the community together.”



STUNNING PICTURES of the PRINCESS OF WALES

from Kensington Palace



Kate Middleton has shared a thoughtful message in honor of Mother's Day in the UK. Instead of centering her message around her three children, George, Charlotte, and Louis, the Princess of Wales took a more universal tone, turning her attention to "Mother Nature." "Over the past year, nature has been our sanctuary," wrote Middleton on Instagram. "This Mother's Day, let us celebrate Mother Nature and recognise how our bond with the natural world can help not only nurture our inner selves, but remind us too of the role we play within the rich tapestry of life."

The 63rd Fair Hill Scottish Games

May 17, 2025

Gates Open 8am

Fair Hill Fairgrounds, Elkton, MD

<https://fairhillscottishgames.org/>

Please HELP people our booth!
2-hour shifts maybe??

New for 2025 – Tartan Parade of Clans and Bands!

**The massed bands will still perform during the closing ceremony;
The mid-day ceremony will be the parade!**

Don't miss the music and pageantry as the clans and competing pipe bands parade through the Main Arena!

Treasurer's Report

Dr. John Polk

Period: 1 – 31 March 2025

OLD BALANCE	\$4306.86
Expenses:	
Bank fee	\$3.00
Donation (Irish Railroad Workers Museum)	\$50.00
Income:	
Raffle proceeds	\$50.00
Dues collected	\$30.00
NEW BALANCE	\$4333.86

Music - Music - Music
Competitions
Cultural Events
Shopping
FUN!

“Scottish” Recipe of the Month

TENNESSEE ONIONS contributed by Dr. Andrea Bowden

Background: Although we don't know who created Tennessee onions, we do know it's one of the many iconic side dishes. The star of the recipe is the Vidalia onion, a type of onion that's sweet instead of pungent. The sweet onions are sliced, tossed with seasonings, and baked with shredded cheeses in the oven, the onions caramelize thanks to their natural sugars. These tender onions make a wonderful accompaniment to roasts like Thanksgiving turkey, roast beef or Easter ham. They're delicious with barbecued meats, or as a tasty topping for burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches.

Ingredients

3-4 large, sweet onions (Vidalia)
8 Tbs. butter-soft (1/4 pound)
1 t. salt
¼ t. black pepper
1 t. thyme
1 t. garlic powder
½ t. oregano
½ t. dry mustard
¼ t. Cajun seasoning
¼ t. Cayenne pepper (optional)
2 Tbs. brown sugar
¾ cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
¾ cup shredded Sharp Cheddar
¾ cup shredded Parmesan Cheese



Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Grease a 13" x 9" casserole.
Peel onions.
Cut them in ¼" thick rounds.
Keep 2-3 round attached.
Combine salt, pepper, thyme, garlic powder, oregano, dry mustard, Cajun seasoning, brown sugar and Cayenne pepper (if using) in a bowl-mix well.
Put one layer of onions on bottom of casserole.
Sprinkle with spices, add another layer and more spices.
Cut tablespoons of butter and dot evenly over onions.
Sprinkle cheeses over onions- alternating types.
Bake 30 minutes covered in foil and 15 minutes uncovered.

Another Scottish Recipe of the Month

RESURRECTION ROLLS from Southern Living

Background: These are perfect for Easter breakfast or dinner.

Why are these called Resurrection Rolls? According to Southern Living, before going in the oven each roll is stuffed with a large marshmallow. In the baking process it disappears. This symbolizes the way Jesus disappeared from the tomb. However, it leaves a sugar and cinnamon residue to remind us of its presence just as Jesus is always present.

Ingredients

- 16 large marshmallows
- ½ cup butter
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 Tbs. ground cinnamon
- 2 8 ounce can crescent roll dough

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease cookie sheet or line with parchment paper.
- Combine sugar and cinnamon in small bowl.
- Unroll crescent dough and separate along perforations.
- Melt butter and let cool.
- Dip marshmallows in melted butter.
- Roll marshmallows in cinnamon and sugar.
- Place one coated marshmallow in center of section of crescent roll.
- Push dough around the marshmallow and pinch to close.
- Evenly space rolls on cookie sheet.
- Bake rolls for 12 minutes at 350 degrees.
- Remove rolls from oven and brush with melted butter.
- Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
- Serve warm.

