

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com

October 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.



October 15 -

OUR OCTOBER GATHERING

6:30 to 8:30-ish pm

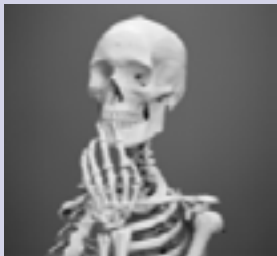
State Theater, Havre de Grace, MD

Theme:

Scottish Halloween Trivia

Scots in Australia by Dave Ray

We're sure you can figure out a costume for the HSHC October 15 Gathering to celebrate Halloween!!



"There is something about a kilt that just makes you feel like a warrior." - Gerard Butler

"The kilt is not just a piece of clothing, it is a symbol of Scottish pride and heritage." - David Tennant

"The kilt is not just a fashion statement, it's a way of life." - Rod Stewart

About Our Members

HSHC Chaplain Anne and her piper husband Joe Garrett are moving to South Carolina where Anne has accepted a full-time pastorate to the Union Methodist Church in McBee, South Carolina. Dinner at Schaefer's Canal House was their last time with us. We wish them well in this new ministry and we'll miss them!!



Dave Ray took many inches off his beard and won 3rd Place at the the 2024 Great American Beard and Moustache Championship. Congratulations, Dave!



Happy anniversary, Betsy & Jim Wasson October 16
It's not every bride who gets to ride a tank!



UPCOMING HSHC GATHERINGS

October 25, 2024 — State Theater, Harve de Grace — Scottish Halloween Trivia & Scots in Australia

November 19, 2024 — MacGregors, Harve de Grace — Honoring Veterans & Election of Officers

December 17, 2024 State Theater, Harve de Grace — Holiday Happening & Potluck Dinner

Laird's Letter

Fellow Highlanders -

Summer has gone, our regular schedule has resumed, and it began with a bang. The September meeting at the Susky River Brewery was a fun event at a lovely location, and all in attendance had a special evening. The owners, Dave and Linda Robertson, were especially hospitable to us, opening their new brewery just for us, and personally served as our hosts and attendants for the evening. Dave Ray provided us some special Scottish cultural enlightenment with a fascinating demonstration of the multiple functions and use of the full-length Scottish kilt. See photos of the evening's activities in following pages of The Sporrán.



We will return to the State Theater for our October meeting. This will feature Dave Ray once again, this time with his special perspective of the Scots in Australia. We will have a specially catered meal. Please make every effort to come – I hope to induct a couple new members. It was great to see the good attendance at the last event.

As mentioned at our meeting, I ask all of you to think of ways that you might personally participate in proposing and organizing activities for our esteemed Society. It should not be left to just us officers. Activities should usually be oriented towards Scottish traditions and culture but we are always open to new ideas. Please also consider stepping forward to serve as an officer. Our annual election of officers will take place in November, so nominations should be made in October.

Alba gu bràth

John Polk,
Laird, Highland Society of Harford County

Treasurer's Report Dr. John Polk

Period: 1-30 September 2024

OLD BALANCE	\$3739.31
Expenses:	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Hardware	\$11.86
Venue fee	\$100.00
Catering	\$704.35
Food item, for meeting	\$19.00
Income:	
Collected, meals at meeting	\$775.00
Dues	\$30.00
NEW BALANCE	\$3706.10

Our Last Gathering



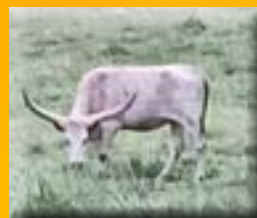
6 yards for a Great Kilt



how to don a Great Kilt



wearing the Great Kilt as a cloak



wearing Great Kilt



HIGHLAND SOCIETY SETS SAIL

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

On a Sunday, August 25, 2024, eighteen members and guests braved the elements (sunny, 85 degrees, slight breeze) and boarded the pontoon boat of Chesapeake City Water Tours at 4:00 PM for a relaxing cruise on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The spacious pontoon boat afforded shaded seating in the cabin area and open seating in the bow. The captain gave a running commentary about the history of the area, significant landmarks, and points of interest. People chatted with each other and took in all the views.

Chesapeake City was founded in 1620. It grew slowly until the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal was hand-dug in 1829 to connect the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware River. The town grew steadily, and its population peaked in 1849. In 1927, the 14-mile canal was dredged to accommodate large vessels, so ships could then bypass the city's locks. In 1942 a ship destroyed the bridge connecting the south and north parts of the town and citizens had to depend on a ferry for seven years until a modern bridge was built in 1949. In the 1960s, 39 historic homes were razed to widen the C & D canal. The town then began to protect its historic structures and all of the south bank was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today Chesapeake City is a destination for tourists, boutique shoppers, historians, pleasure boaters, and people looking to enjoy the delicious seafood in local restaurants.

A real treat was passing several active osprey nests made of sticks and vegetation that can weigh 300 pounds. Nests are usually built in dead trees or on a channel marker. Ospreys are not sexually dimorphic, so they look similar. An adult osprey is 2 feet long and has a wingspan of over 6 feet. It swoops down, snatches fish, clutches them in its talons and flies to the nest to eat or feed hungry chicks. Ospreys begin to breed when about five years old and mate for life. The female lays two-four eggs and both parents incubate the eggs for six weeks and care for the chicks for at least eight weeks. Osprey migrate to South America and return to the same nest each year. Osprey typically live 10-15 years. Osprey were seriously threatened by the use of DDT which caused shells to crack. After DDT was banned in 1972, they rebounded amazingly and now dominate Chesapeake Bay.

After the cruise, people headed to Sheaffer's Canal House for a scrumptious outdoor meal. Tables were situated on a covered patio in sight of the towering Chesapeake City bridge. Several of us enjoyed flounder stuffed with Imperial crab and seasonal vegetables. Many attendees sampled the array of beers. Everyone enjoyed their meals and were awed by a colorful balloon ascension, V formations of Canada geese and a spectacular sunset.



A random hot air balloon flew over our dinner crowd.



See the osprey??!!
aka sea eagles.



SCOTTISH HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

by Dr. Andrea Bowden adapted from the National Trust for Scotland



In Scotland, Halloween has a few different names. The name 'Halloween' comes from a Scottish shortening of 'All-Hallows Eve', the evening before November 1st which is All Saints Day. The origins of Halloween can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (summer's end). The Celtic year was determined by the growing seasons and Samhain marked the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark cold winter. The festival symbolized the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead. It was believed by the Celts that on the night of 31st October, ghosts of the dead would walk again amongst them, and large bonfires were lit in each village in order to ward off any evil spirits. All house fires were put out and new fires lit from these great bonfires. Today, many ancient customs are still followed – with modern twists.

NEEP LATERNS

Root crops, such as turnips, grow well in Scotland thanks to the cool, damp climate. Being roughly the size and shape of a human head, turnips were traditionally hollowed out and the outer skin carved into a scary face. Lit from the inside, these ghostly lanterns – also known as 'tumshie lanterns' – were believed to ward off malevolent spirits. This tradition was also followed in Ireland. Eating the turnip mashed with salt and pepper and lots of butter called "champit neeps" and is a treat. In North America, the 'Jack O' Lantern' is carved from a pumpkin, which are considerably easier to carve than turnips. Despite their preference for a warm and sunny climate, pumpkins are now grown commercially in Scotland too, including at Geilston Garden.

APPLE DOOKIN'

An ancient Celtic tradition, this game remains a firm favorite at Halloween parties. Without using their hands, players have to grab an apple floating in a basin of water. Also known as 'apple bobbing', why this game is played at Halloween is unclear – some sources claim the medieval pastime of ducking alleged 'witches' in water to test their innocence, while others claim connections to worshipping Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit trees and orchards. Today, you'll find hundreds of apples to fall in love with at our properties as the National Trust for Scotland boasts several significant collections of historic cultivars. The garden at Fyvie Castle, dating back to the early 18th century and created by General William Gordon, has one of the most complete collections of Scottish apple, pear and plum trees in the country, while Priorwood Garden is home to the National Collection of Scottish Apples with over 70 heritage varieties, all grown organically.

TREACLE SCONES

Another activity that sees players banned from using their hands, this messy game challenges participants to take bites out of sticky treacle-covered scones dangling from string. Messy but tasty!

NUT BURNING

Scotland's native trees and shrubs are the harbingers of all sorts of wonderful histories. Thousands of years ago in Scotland, Druids lit bonfires of Scots pine during winter solstice to mark the passing of the seasons, while it's said that holly bushes were left uncut on Scottish estates to deter witches from running across the tops of hedges. The rowan tree was believed to protect against witches and evil spirits – even today, it's deemed very bad luck to cut one down. Finally, it was widely believed that the fruit from hazel trees provided knowledge and wisdom, so another Scottish Halloween tradition was for a couple to throw hazelnuts on the fire – if the nuts burned quietly, the union would be a happy one. However, if they hissed and crackled, a turbulent future lay ahead.

GUISING

Scottish children traditionally donned costumes and pretended to be malicious spirits as they went 'guising' around the local streets. It was believed that, by disguising themselves, they would blend in with any wandering spirits and remain safe from harm. After performing tricks or songs, "guisers" were given gifts to help ward off evil – a far cry from some of today's trick-or-treaters, who get 'treats' for simply showing up in costume.

KALE PULLING

This hearty green vegetable is now a fashionable menu item but, once upon a time, kale stalks were used to predict your romantic future. In Robert Burns's poem 'Halloween', young men and women pull stalks from the ground after dark with their eyes closed or blindfolded. According to Scottish folklore, the length and shape of the stalk was said to represent your future lover's height and figure. Even the amount of soil left clinging to the roots was symbolic – a generous coating indicated future wealth and a clean stalk suggested lean days ahead. Once deemed suitable only for cattle fodder, kale has undergone its own change in fortune; among some nutritionists, it holds 'superfood' status. A member of the cabbage (brassica) family, kale is hardy and easy to grow. Not only will it thrive in even the coldest months, but the more leaves you pick, the more will grow. Sow kale seeds from March to June and plant seedlings out from April to July, harvesting from September right through to March.

Scottish Tales for Halloween, A Book Report

from Nancy Plummer/ Clan Forsyth

It is October and the Halloween season, so I thought it appropriate to pull out a book I have had for years. *Strange Tales of Scotland* by Jack Strange, 2017. This is kind of a book report, but I hope it sparks your interest for the October Season.

This is what the author has to say about Scotland.

“... Scotland is a unique nation where legends jostle and overlap each other, where place names and street names can hide a mystery, where castles glower. From hillsides and remote lochs. It is. Nation where nothing can ever be taken at face value and where the seemingly innocuous can hide anything from a murder to a piece of amazing innovation.”

So, this will be summery of ghosts, strange creatures that infest the hills, monsters, the shapeless darkness, the living dead, mermaids, fin-men, and armies that refuse to fade into the past.

Intrigued, a little scared? Good! Here are a few strange tales.

Ghost

At King Alexander III second wedding (1280) a seer, True Thomas saw a skeleton dancing among the guests. Others saw it as well and all thought it a bad omen. The king slipped and fell off a cliff. It was the end of Alexander the God and the Scottish Golden age.

Creature's

Ben Macdhui (the second highest mountain in Scotland) In 1890 mountaineering was a popular sport. Professor John Norman Collie who taught chemistry at the University of London (he was educated and rational) climbed this mountain and reached the cairn at the summit, a heavy mist covered the mountain. His biggest concern was losing his way down the mountain. As he began his solitary trek down the mountain, he realized he was not alone. He could hear the sound of his own footsteps; but he thought he could hear the crunch of someone else's footsteps. They had longer spaces than his own. He ran down the hill. Another learned man Dr Kellas and his brother Henry were climbing the mountain when the mist came and they heard and saw a giant figure striding toward them, they felt very uneasy and ran down the mountain. Alexander Tewnton an experienced mountaineer in 1943, carried a revolver with him. He shot three times at the beast, and it kept coming so he ran down to Glen Derry. Many more educated people have shared their accounts This beast is known as the



Big Grey Man. Some believe it is the big foot of Scotland. It always caused fear and dread in all who encounter it.

Murderer

Alexander Stewart was the fourth son of King Robert II,” history has remembered him as the Wolf of Badenoch, one of the baldest men ever to stalk the blood- stained plaid of Scottish history. Murder, rape, rebellion and fire raising were some of his crimes, while myth and legend would add child sacrifice, witchcraft and devil worship to the unholy list. He died when tall man dressed in black and wearing a black came to the castle and they started playing chess. When Checkmate was called a terrible storm with lightning and thunder killed everyone at the castle. This ghostly tale is revisited every time there is a severe storm comes over this grim island where Lochindorb Castle sits.

Creatures of the Water

We are all familiar with the Loch Ness Monster, but there are many other creatures. A creature known as Morag may inhabit Loch Morar in Lochaber. There have been thirty sightings of a 30-foot brown snakelike creature with three humps.

The island of Arran, only two hours from Glasgow has Loch Iorsa, no monster but a darkness that causes the surface never to ruffle even in a storm. Avoid this area.

There is Bean Nighe, a female webbed footed beast. She is a sign of eminent death or if approached properly she can grant you three wishes. There is the Boobrie, a huge black bird that swoops down to eat cattle. The Blue Men who were said to live in underwater caves and can cause shipwrecks. There are many more watery creatures to learn about.

The Phantom Aries of Scotland

“During the last three hundred years, ghostly armies have been witnessed in many locations throughout the nation, sometimes by reputable observers and some by women and men unsure quite what they saw.” In 1719 Alexander Jaffray, Laird of Kingswells, was riding with a friend and saw an entire army marching and later battling, there was no sound. The day was crisp and clear and sunny. They watched for two hours.

Looking for a good book for Halloween full of Scottish tales? I recommend *Strange Tales of Scotland*, by Jack Strange.

Happy Halloween



WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

RARE 'AMERICAN BIRD' SIGHTED IN SCOTLAND from The Scotsman

According to birdwatchers, an American Cliff Swallow has been spotted on St Kilda. They said it is only the second time the bird has been seen in Scotland, but a first for this group of islands. Later, up to a dozen people saw the visiting bird, which has a short square-ended tail, rusty orange rump, pale reddish orange collar and throat, and orange patch on the forehead. Now the bird watching community is trying to figure out why the American visitor is there. Climate change, shifting wind patterns, and possible alteration in migration routes are possibilities. Cliff swallows are found over most of North America and feed on a variety of insects. Living in colonies, cliff swallows, as their name suggests, build mud nest in cliffs and cliff-like manmade structures. Pairs mate for life and females lay 3-4 eggs, which both parents incubate and feed after hatching. Cliff swallows on the east coast migrate to Florida in the winter and those on the west coast migrate to Mexico and Central America. The famous cliff swallows of San Juan Capistrano in California return around March 19th



SCOTTISH ISLE OF SKYE A HAPPY PLACE from The National

Research by InsureandGo has revealed the 10 “happiest” places for a holiday in the world, with the Isle of Skye making the list. The travel experts used facial recognition software to reveal which holiday hotspots make visitors smile the most, assigning each one a “smile score” out of 100. Skye is the only Scottish destination to feature on the list and received a smile score of 79 which makes it come in at number seven. With picturesque scenery, great heritage sites, and plenty of outdoor activities to do on the island it is no wonder Skye has been featured on the “happiest” places list. Iconic beauty spots on the island include The Quiraing, the largest landslide in Scotland, the Fairy Pools, and the Point of Sleet. Skye is also home to popular tourist attractions like the Talisker whisky distillery, Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, and the Skye Museum of Island Life. With more than 650,000 visitors annually Skye is world-renowned for its natural beauty and InsureandGo said it is no wonder it made the list with its incredible landscapes.



NEW STATUE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRINCE PHILLIP DRAWS MIXED REACTION BBC

A new statue unveiled at Antrim Castle Gardens in Northern Ireland on Sept. 6, 2024. The life-sized bronze statue by local artist, Anto Brennan, depicts the Queen and Prince Phillip with their corgis on a walk. Some visitors loved the “informal” view of the Queen, while others felt that it does not resemble her facial features at all. The reaction to the likeness of Prince Phillip fared better, but the corgis were the overall favorite.



MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

September 17, 2024

HSHC gathered at the Susky Farm Brewery in Perryville, MD, on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. There were 27 members and guests present. Fellowship began at 5:30 PM. Laird John Polk, Clan Pollack, called the meeting to order at 6:45 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 Jim (Ski) Schiaffino, Clan Nelson. The toast to Scotland was given by Katie Lyons, Clan Stewart. SJ Anderson, Clan Anderson offered grace. The birthdays of John Polk, Glen Schmiesing, and Ray Buchanan were recognized. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, cole slaw, corn bread, and dessert from Mission Barbeque.

After dinner John Polk conducted the business meeting. He announced that Jeanie Nesbit, Clan Nesbit, has resigned as Secretary and that the Executive Board has appointed Andrea Bowden, Clan McMillian, to fill the vacancy until elections, which will occur in November.

A committee will be appointed to recommend new officers. Volunteers are welcome for the committee or a board position. Membership dues should be paid in the new year.

The Executive Board is exploring a variety of venues for meetings such as State Theater, McGregor's, Vandiver Inn. Each site has unique qualities. Food and drink at these venues will be different prices. HSHC potluck dinners are popular and will continue, the next one being the Holiday Happening December 17th. The October 15th Gathering will be held at the State

Theater in Harve de Grace. Doors open at 6:30 PM. David Ray will give a presentation on Scots in Australia.



John reminded people that we welcome articles for the SPORRAN. They can be on a topic of interest, travels, family history or an interesting article from the internet (citing the sources, of course). SJ invited anyone not receiving the SPORRAN to give her their email address.

John introduced new members: Sarah Autry and Melissa and Sean Halligan, who signed up at the Harford County Celtic Festival.

The presentation for the evening was the Wearing of the Great Kilt by David Ray, Clan McRay. Dave was dressed in his Black Watch Tartan Great Kilt and demonstrated how traditional highlanders wore it. He disrobed to non-traditional athletic shorts and laid the five-foot rectangle of wool on the floor. He knelt and folded the fabric then laid on the floor to wrap himself in it, securing it with a leather belt. The great kilt falls longer in the back and the extra fabric can be pulled over the shoulder and pinned or unpinned and worn over the head as a cloak for warmth or as protection from rain and snow. Most highlander men wore a long shirt, hanging almost to the knees under the great kilt. Women wore a blouse and bodice under their great kilts. After the battle of Culloden in 1746 in which Scottish Jacobite forces were decimated by the British all forms of highlander kilts and display of tartans were outlawed. In 1782 the Diskilting Act was repealed, and shorter, less voluminous, pleated kilts became the favored dress.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Bowden, Secretary

To Whom It May Concern

by Jim (Ski) Schiaffino

To whom it may concern,

The last edition had an article about “Chessie” and it got me to thinking about a day a long

time ago. I have never spoken about it publically (except for my family) and never put it in print. So here goes.

It was 1967, the place was southern Maryland, Lusby MD, to be exact along the Calvert cliffs. It was a warm summer day, I was standing on a hill about 100 feet above a beach. I noticed a disturbance in the water. Straight ahead of me I saw several “humps”. They were dark grey in color in contrast to the blue water. They were moving in a northerly direction. Each one appeared to be at least a foot in diameter above the water. I could only see the top half of the mysterious humps so that was my estimate based on the fact that they were about two feet apart. I watched them for about 50 yards until they were out of my vision.

I ran down the hill to the beach to try to catch another glimpse of the mysterious humps. Just before they disappeared around the bend I saw a head rise out of the water. To me it resembled a snake’s head. (I’ve caught a lot of eels on the Susquehanna.) I had never seen anything of that nature. So I assumed that it was an eel, an incredibly large one but an eel.

It was only years later that I read about “Chessie”. That is what led me to realise that I had probably seen Chessie. I was sort of relieved and satisfied that other people had seen a genuine mythical creature.



WHAT DO SCOTS WEAR UNDER THEIR KILTS?

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

According to historians, as kilts evolved over the ages, what was worn under them did too.

IRON AGE 500 BC Men wore braccæ, which were essentially $\frac{3}{4}$ trousers made from woven wool with tunics over them.

4th CENTURY- 300-300 AD and ROMAN TIMES The lèine was essentially a long shirt or tunic made from linen or wool, which was often worn with a belt at the waist. Cloaks, tunics or armor could be worn over them.

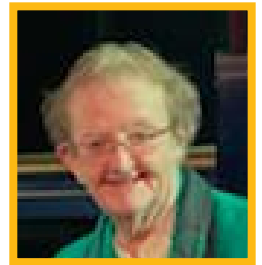
MEDIEVAL PERIOD 460-1400 AD The féileadh was a long piece of fabric, often woven from wool, which was draped over the body and belted at the waist. Likely nothing was worn under it.

16th CENTURY 1500-1600 AD The “féileadh mòr” or great kilt was essentially a large piece of fabric, often woven from tartan wool, that was draped over the body and belted at the waist. Most men wore a knee length linen shirt under it that served as underwear.

SMALL KILT in late 1700s AD Instead of being a simple piece of fabric draped over the body, the modern kilt was designed to be more fitted and structured, with tailored pleats that provided a more polished and sophisticated look. Most true highlanders wore nothing under the kilt. Underwear in general did not become common until the mid-1800s for men and women.



20th and 21st CENTURY As kilts began to be more widely worn, several traditions emerged. Kilts worn by Scottish military regiments were usually worn without underwear. The terms “going regimental or commando” derived from this custom. Military kilts were abandoned in WWII due to fear of chemical exposure. They continue to be worn for ceremonial occasions. As the wearing of kilts became more common, most men began to wear regular under shorts or athletic shorts. Men competing in Scottish games and dances are required to wear athletic shorts under kilts for modesty. Kilt rental companies require that underwear be worn under kilts. For those who own their kilts, underwear remains a personal decision. Etiquette dictates that you should NOT ask a gentleman what he wears under his kilt!



WHO WERE THE CELTS?

By Dr. Andrea Bowden from varied sources

The Celts were a group of tribes with shared cultural traits, languages, and beliefs. They lived across Europe, from Ireland to Turkey. Here are some fascinating facts about these ancient people. The Celts were not a single nation. They were a collection of tribes with similar languages and customs. Each tribe had its own leaders and territories. Celtic languages are still spoken today. Languages like Irish, Welsh, Scottish, and Breton are modern descendants of ancient Celtic languages. Celts arrived from Europe to what is now Britain, Scotland and Ireland about 2000-3000 BC.

They were skilled metalworkers. The Celts created beautiful jewelry, weapons, and tools from bronze and iron. Their craftsmanship was highly valued. They had a warrior culture. Celtic warriors were known for their bravery and skill in battle. They often fought naked, believing it would scare their enemies. Women had significant roles. Unlike many ancient societies, Celtic women could own property, choose their husbands, and even become warriors or leaders.

Archaeologists in Poland recently discovered a rare find — a 2,300-year-old bronze helmet and other artifacts that establish for the first time that Celtic peoples lived in the country's north. The helmet, made of thin bronze sheet-metal and originally lined with leather or fabric, is in the Celtic "Berru" style, with a conical top and a distinctive nape, that is known from several princely burials.

Enormous ancient burial mounds filled with luxurious artifacts may link elite members of an extended family in southern Germany along maternal lines, a new DNA analysis shows. Family connections among the burial mounds strongly suggest a pattern of hereditary leadership that was organized along the maternal line, the researchers concluded in their study. Although power was wielded primarily by men, rich burials of women in the region showcase their high status as well. Similar burials of high status Celtic women have also been found in Switzerland. Hundreds of valuable artifacts have also been unearthed.

Celts loved storytelling. Bards and poets were important in Celtic society. They preserved history and myths through oral storytelling. Religion played a central role in Celtic life. Their beliefs were deeply connected to nature and the supernatural. They worshipped many gods and goddesses. The Celts had a polytheistic religion with deities for various aspects of life, like war, fertility, and the harvest. Druids were their religious leaders. Druids acted as priests, teachers, and judges. They held significant

influence in Celtic society. They believed in the afterlife. The Celts thought that the soul lived on after death. They buried their dead with items they might need in the next life.

Celtic art is known for its intricate designs and symbolism. Their artwork often had deep meanings. They used knotwork designs.

Celtic knots are endless loops that symbolize eternity and interconnectedness. These designs are still popular today. The Triskelion was a common symbol. This three-spiraled symbol represented concepts like life, death, and rebirth or land, sea, and sky.

The Celts left a lasting impact on Europe. Their influence can still be seen in modern culture. Many European place names have Celtic origins. Cities like Paris and Vienna were originally Celtic settlements. Celtic festivals are still celebrated. Holidays like Samhain, which evolved into Halloween, and Beltane, a spring festival, have roots in ancient Celtic traditions.

The Celts left a mark on history that's still felt today.



...Their art, language, and traditions have influenced many cultures. From intricate Celtic knots to the Gaelic languages spoken in Ireland and Scotland, their impact is undeniable. They were fierce warriors, skilled craftsmen, and had a deep connection to nature and spirituality, showing how their customs have woven into modern life. Understanding the Celts gives us a glimpse into a rich, vibrant past that continues to shape our present. Their stories, symbols, and innovations remind us of a time when tribal societies thrived across Europe. The Celts' legacy is a testament to their resilience and creativity, ensuring they won't be forgotten.

THE HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH KILT

by Dr Nick Fiddes from CLAN <https://clan.com/help/kilt-ancient-origins/kilt-history-origins-development#>:

IRON AGE 500 BC

The earliest known examples of a garment similar to the kilt date back to the Iron Age, around 500 BC. The ancient Celts, who inhabited what is now modern-day Scotland and Ireland, were known for their distinctive dress, which included a type of garment known as the "braccae". The braccae were essentially trousers made from woven wool, which were belted at the waist and often decorated with intricate patterns and designs.

4th CENTURY- 300-300 AD and ROMAN TIMES

Over time, the dress of the Celts evolved, and by the 4th century AD, they were wearing a type of garment known as the "lèine". The lèine was essentially a long shirt or tunic made from linen or wool, which was often worn with a belt at the waist. The lèine was typically decorated with intricate embroidery or braiding and could be worn by both men and women.

One of the earliest examples of a garment similar to the kilt was discovered in the Scottish Highlands in the early 2000s. Archaeologists unearthed a well-preserved tunic made from woven wool, which is believed to date back to the 3rd or 4th century AD. The tunic was found in a peat bog, which had preserved the garment for hundreds of years. The tunic was made from a simple piece of wool fabric, which was folded and stitched at the shoulders to create sleeves. The garment was belted at the waist with a leather strap, and it is believed that it would have been worn with trousers or leggings.

Perhaps the most famous example of an ancient garment similar to the kilt is the "Falkirk Tartan", which is believed to date back to the 3rd or 4th century AD. The Falkirk Tartan was discovered in a Roman-era fort in Falkirk, Scotland, and is the earliest known example of tartan fabric. The tartan is made from wool and was dyed with natural plant-based dyes, and features a simple check pattern that is similar to many modern tartan patterns. It is believed that the Falkirk Tartan was used to make a variety of garments, including kilts and tunics.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD 460-1400 AD

In the centuries that followed, the dress of the Celts continued to evolve, and by the medieval period, they were wearing a type of garment known as the "féileadh". The féileadh was a long piece of fabric, often woven from wool, which was draped over the body and belted at the waist. The féileadh was often decorated with intricate patterns and designs, and could be worn by both men and women.

Another interesting discovery was made in the 1980s, when archaeologists excavated a burial site in the Scottish Highlands dating back to the 8th century AD. Among the items found in the burial site were fragments of tartan fabric, which were woven from wool and dyed with natural plant-based dyes. It is believed that these fragments may have been part of a larger garment, possibly a kilt-like garment, that was worn by the individual who was buried at the site.

It is believed that the féileadh evolved into the kilt that we know today during the 16th century. At this time, the Scottish Highlands were a hotbed of political and cultural activity, with clan rivalries and feuds being commonplace. The kilt, with its distinctive tartan patterns and associated with specific clans, became a symbol of Scottish identity and pride.

16th CENTURY 1500-1600 AD

Over time, the traditional dress of the Celts evolved into the Scottish kilt as we know it today. The earliest known example of a Scottish kilt dates back to the 16th century, when Highlanders began wearing a type of garment known as the "féileadh mòr". This garment was essentially a large piece of fabric, often woven from tartan wool, that was draped over the body and belted at the waist. The féileadh mòr was worn by both men and women, and was often accessorised with a variety of items, including a sporran, a sgian-dubh (a small knife), and a plaid or shawl.

The Great Kilt, or Féileadh Mòr, remains a distinctive garment that is closely associated with Scottish culture and tradition. The Féileadh Mòr is essentially a long piece of fabric, often woven from wool, which is draped over the body and belted at the waist. The Féileadh Mòr was typically made from a single piece of wool fabric, which could be up to 5 yards long and 2 yards wide. The fabric would be washed and fulled, which involved soaking it in hot water and then beating it to make it thicker and more durable. Once the fabric had been fulled, it would be draped over the body and belted at the waist, with the excess fabric falling down the back of the wearer.

One of the unique features of the Féileadh Mòr is the way that it can be worn in different styles, depending on the occasion and the weather. In warm weather, the wearer might simply drape the kilt over their body and belted it at the waist. In cooler weather, the excess fabric could be pulled up over the head and draped over the shoulders like a hood, providing additional warmth and protection from the elements.



The Féileadh Mòr was also designed to be versatile and functional. The excess fabric could be used as a blanket or shelter, or even as a makeshift bag to carry belongings. The kilt could also be easily removed and used as a blanket or sleeping mat, making it a practical and essential item for Highlanders who spent much of their time outdoors.

In addition to its practical uses, the Féileadh Mòr was also an important symbol of Scottish identity and pride. The tartan patterns woven into the fabric were often associated with specific clans, and wearing the kilt was seen as a way of showing loyalty to one's clan and heritage. The Féileadh Mòr was also often worn during important social events, such as weddings and funerals, where it was considered a sign of respect and honour.

While the Féileadh Mòr fell out of use by the end of the 18th century, it remains an important symbol of Scottish culture and heritage. Today, it is the 'small kilt' that has become the norm that is often worn at special events such as weddings, graduations, and Highland games, and is considered a beloved and iconic symbol of Scotland. The Féileadh Mòr is mostly used and beloved by enthusiasts such as historical re-enactors.

EMERGENCE OF THE SMALL KILT in late 1700s AD

It was not until the 18th century that the Scottish kilt as we know it today began to emerge. This was due in part to the efforts of Englishman Thomas Rawlinson, who owned an ironworks in Scotland and was interested in promoting the local textile industry. Rawlinson commissioned a kilt to be made in the style of the féileadh mòr, but with a more tailored fit and a pleated back. This new style of kilt was known as the "small kilt", and it quickly gained popularity among Highlanders and Lowlanders alike.

The modern kilt as we know it today began to emerge in the 18th century. During this time after the Battle of Culloden in 1746, the British government banned Highland dress, including the kilt, in an attempt to suppress Highland culture and quell any potential rebellions. However, this ban was lifted in 1782, and Highlanders were once again free to wear their traditional dress.

It was during this time that the kilt began to evolve into its modern form. Instead of being a simple piece of fabric draped over the body, the modern kilt was designed to be more fitted and structured, with tailored pleats that provided a more polished and sophisticated look. The kilt was also made from a heavier, more durable wool fabric that was better suited to the cold and wet climate of the Highlands.

One of the key innovations of the modern kilt was

the use of the kilt pin. This small decorative pin was used to secure the overlapping fabric at the front of the kilt, preventing it from flying open in the wind. The kilt pin was often embellished with clan symbols or other decorative motifs, and became an important symbol of Scottish identity.

Another key feature of the modern kilt was the use of tartan patterns. While tartan had been used in the construction of kilts for centuries, it was in the 18th century that the use of tartan became more formalized and structured. Tartan patterns were associated with specific clans, and wearing a particular tartan was seen as a way of showing loyalty to one's clan and heritage.

The modern kilt quickly became a beloved and iconic symbol of Scotland. It was worn by Highlanders for all occasions, from everyday work to formal events such as weddings and funerals. The kilt was also embraced by the wider Scottish population, who saw it as a symbol of national pride and identity.

The popularity of the small kilt continued to grow throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, and it became a symbol of Scottish pride and identity. The tartan patterns used in the small kilt were often associated with specific Scottish clans and families, and wearing a kilt made from one's family tartan was seen as a mark of honor and tradition. Today, the modern kilt remains an important symbol of Scottish culture and tradition. While it has evolved over time, the basic design and structure of the kilt remains largely unchanged from its 18th century origins.

20THCENTURY KILTS

The 20th century saw significant changes in the way kilts were worn and perceived. Once strictly reserved for formal occasions and Highland games, the kilt began to be worn more casually and in a wider range of styles. One of the most significant developments in the 20th century was the rise of the casual kilt. While the traditional kilt had always been associated with formal events such as weddings and funerals, the casual kilt was designed to be worn in everyday situations. Made from lighter, more breathable fabrics such as cotton or linen, the casual kilt was more comfortable and practical for day-to-day wear.

The casual kilt was also designed to be more versatile and adaptable than its formal counterpart. While traditional kilts were typically made in a single tartan pattern, the casual kilt was often made in a variety of colors and patterns, allowing wearers to mix and match with different outfits. This made the kilt a more versatile and adaptable garment, suitable for a wider range of occasions.

Another significant development in the 20th century was the rise of the hybrid kilt-sometimes known as the sport kilt. These kilts combined elements of traditional

Highland dress with contemporary fashion, resulting in a garment that was both stylish and functional. Hybrid kilts often incorporated elements such as cargo pockets, zippers, and other modern features, while still retaining the pleated structure and tartan patterns of traditional kilts.

The hybrid kilt was embraced by a new generation of Scots who were looking for a way to incorporate their heritage and identity into their modern, urban lifestyles. These kilts were often worn in casual settings, such as music festivals and sporting events, as a way of showing pride in their Scottish heritage while still remaining fashionable and stylish.

Another kilt style that emerged in the 20th century was the military kilt. These kilts were originally designed for use by military regiments, and were typically made from heavy wool or canvas fabrics for durability and practicality. Military kilts often featured solid colors rather than tartan patterns, and were designed to be worn with military dress uniforms.

In recent years, military kilts have become increasingly popular among civilians as well. Many kilt makers now offer military-style kilts in a range of colors and fabrics, making them a versatile and stylish option for those who want to incorporate the kilt into their everyday wardrobe.

Finally, the 20th century also saw a rise in the popularity of female kilts. While women had long been wearing kilts as part of Highland dress, the traditional kilt was not always practical or comfortable for modern women. In response, kilt makers began to create kilts specifically designed for women, with lighter fabrics and more flexible designs that were better suited to their needs. These female kilts often incorporated elements of contemporary fashion, such as shorter hemlines and more modern patterns, while still retaining the essential structure and style of traditional kilts. Today, female kilts are a popular and fashionable option for women who want to show their pride in their Scottish heritage.

21st CENTURY KILTS

One of the most significant changes in recent years has been the move towards using modern materials in kiltmaking. While traditional kilts were typically made from wool, modern kiltmakers have begun to experiment with a wide range of fabrics, including cotton, linen, silk, and even synthetic materials such as polyester. These materials offer a range of benefits, including increased comfort, breathability, and durability.

Another trend in 21st century kiltmaking has been the rise of bespoke kilts. While off-the-shelf kilts have always been available, many kiltmakers are now offering fully customized kilts that are tailored to the specific measurements and preferences of each individual customer. This level of personalization allows customers

to create a kilt that is truly unique and reflective of their personal style and identity.

In addition to bespoke kilts, many kiltmakers are now offering a wide range of accessories and complementary garments to go with their kilts. These may include items such as jackets, waistcoats, sporrans, and belts, all designed to complement and enhance the look of the kilt. This trend towards accessorizing and customization allows wearers to create a complete outfit that reflects their own unique style and personality.

In terms of styling, the 21st century has seen a continued move towards more casual and contemporary kilt styles. While traditional tartan patterns and pleated structures remain popular, many kiltmakers are now experimenting with different patterns, colors, and styles to create kilts that are more versatile and adaptable to modern lifestyles. For example, hybrid kilts that combine traditional features with modern design elements have become increasingly popular, as have casual kilts made from lighter, more breathable fabrics.

In conclusion, the 21st century has seen significant developments in kiltmaking and styling, reflecting the changing needs and tastes of a new generation of Scots. From the use of modern materials and digital technology to the rise of bespoke kilts and casual kilt styles, kiltmaking has continued to evolve and adapt to the changing times. As we move forward into the future, it will be interesting to see how the kilt continues to evolve and adapt, while still remaining an iconic symbol of Scottish culture and heritage.

Today, the Scottish kilt remains an important part of Scottish culture and tradition and is often worn at special events such as weddings, graduations, and Highland games. The tartan patterns used in modern kilts are often associated with specific Scottish clans and families, but many people also choose to wear kilts made from more generic tartan patterns.



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 John Polk's favorite OATMEAL RASIN COOKIES

OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

submitted by John Polk

Ingredients

1 ½ cup flour
1 T salt
½ T cinnamon
¼ T baking soda
½ cup butter
¾ cup raisins
1 egg (beaten)
1 cup brown sugar
½ t vanilla
¼ cup milk
1 cup oats (not instant)
½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans



Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees
Cream butter and sugar
Add beaten egg and vanilla
Add flour and milk a little at a time
Add oats, raisins, nuts and mix
Drop teaspoonfuls on ungreased cookie sheet
Bake 8-10 minutes at 375 degrees

CHICKEN BIG MAMOU

submitted by Susan Wheeler

This recipe for Chicken Big Mamou was included in Chef Paul Prudhomme's first Louisiana Kitchen cookbook.

Ingredients

3 T olive oil
3 large garlic cloves, peeled
1 cup finely chopped onions
¾ cup finely chopped green bell peppers
1 Bay leaf
3 ½ T Poultry Magic seasoning
1 ½ t minced garlic
¾ t red pepper (preferably cayenne)

Directions

Heat the olive oil in a 2-quart saucepan over high heat until hot. Add the garlic cloves and cook until well browned, about 2 minutes; remove garlic with a slotted spoon and discard.

In the same oil, sauté the onions over high heat until browned, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the bell peppers, bay leaf, 1 tablespoon plus 1½ teaspoons of the Poultry Magic®, the minced garlic and red pepper; stir well.

Add 2 tablespoons of the butter and the tomato sauce, stirring well. Cook about 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in 1-1/2 cups of the stock; bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and simmer 40 minutes, stirring fairly often.

Add the remaining 1/2 cup of stock; simmer and stir until sauce reduces to 2-3/4 cups, about 30 minutes more. Remove from heat and, if not being used immediately, allow to cool and refrigerate.

Melt the remaining 1 stick of butter in a large skillet over high heat. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons Poultry Magic® seasoning, stirring well. Add the green onions, parsley, and chicken; sauté about 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the reserved sauce and cook 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Discard bay leaf and serve immediately over rice, pasta or egg noodles.

Chef Paul Prudhomme's Poultry Magic is a blend of seasonings for Cajun Cooking that is available at GIANT and other large supermarkets as well as on-line through Amazon.

