

THE KENNEDY GAZETTE

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2008



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Ft Lauderdale Games & Southeast Report

The games season was off to an early start with the Scottish American Society of South Florida hosting the 25th games in Fort Lauderdale on January 12. It was good that it is in January because the afternoon temperatures were in the 80's.

This was a new game for the Kennedy Society and a lot of fun. Reverend David Kennedy convened the tent, and Sue and Chris Kennedy were there for support, although he needed very little.

Festivities started Friday night with an exciting Ceilidh with Hunting McLeod, The Brigadoons, and Mark Saul and Alex Beaton. The culmination was the auctioning off of two bottles of Oban that had been autographed by Sir Sean Connery. The proceeds went to charity and to the surprise of everyone, the winners were also given a trip to the Bahamas by the donor. The games themselves were well-attended with about 6000 people in attendance.

The athletic competition was vigorous, and a new world record in the hammer throw was established. The Kennedy Society received a new member – Roger Reguera – congratula-

tions! Roger will fit right in, as he is a fireman like quite a few of our members.

The Southeast is gearing up for a very active year. The Keys will be attending over 20 games this year, and as always represent the KSNA wherever they are. We will celebrate our first are "Kilt Night" on April 26th, 8:00 P.M. at the Harp Irish Pub in Roswell, GA (www.harp-pub.com.) We are expecting most of our SE members, plus the Irwins, Moncriefs, Gunns, and Donalds. All are planning to come "dressed out" in their kilts. It will be an entertaining evening with our own Jordan Cannady from Rhode Island flying in to perform ballads and Scottish tunes, with piping from our own Bobbie Harwell of Snellville, GA. If you are in our area, put this date on your calendar!

Please keep us informed of the places you go, events in your lives) and send pictures. There are *sixteen* games between now and early summer in the Southeast. The next game we will attend is Loch Norman in Charlotte, NC the weekend of April 18. We look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Kennedy, Southeast Chieftain

David Kennedy, new member Roger Reguera from Miami FL, and Chris Kennedy; at the sunny Ft. Lauderdale Games, January 2008.

See p. 5 for more Florida pictures to inspire you to start planning your Spring and Summer!



From the Chief



My Fellow Clansmen,

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year. The year ahead looks to be a very busy one for the Kennedy Society. This is only the second month, and I've heard of a lot of goings-on in various parts of the Kennedy world; New games in new locations, Kennedy activities all over the place.

We are looking forward to the mid-term board meeting in Atlanta. If you have suggestions or comments either pro or con let your regional chieftain know ASAP. KSNA is about you and we (the Board) need your input to make things better.

Make your reservations now for the 2008 AGM. I can't wait to visit with our Canadian cousins in August. The lower '48 need to show up for this. If you haven't seen this part of the world, you need to. It is beautiful!

We have some beautiful Kennedy tartan with crest ink pens for sale. These are quality pens. Your chieftain should have some for sale, or contact membership chair Sue Kennedy.

The winter has brought Nan & I more than the cold this year. Our sweet great-grandson was diagnosed with epilepsy. He was in Children's Hospital for almost a month. The doctors say it is possible that he may outgrow it, but if he has not by the time he is a year old, they plan on "brain surgery". So please join with us in prayer that he will not need an operation.

Nan is marching right along through good and bad days; her health is always changing. She does maintain a great attitude with all her health issues, and stays busy with our 10 (or is it 12?) grandkids, plus our great-grandson.

I have been in contact with some folks from the 2/32 Heavy Artillery, my unit from Vietnam. I have found "it's been a long time ago" and am enjoying renewing those long-ago fellowships. The VA has been developing a log to follow the

health of those that may have been exposed to Agent Orange, as well as other health issues that may originate from that era. If you are a Vet, request that you be tested for Agent Orange.

To all that are working for KSNA, "Thank you and Please Keep It Up". To the rest of our membership please assist by hosting a tent, or helping someone else at their tent. I would like to install a Society Chaplain, so we need someone of Faith to step up; or if you know someone please give me their name.

Hope to see you at a game this year!

Nomon Kennedy
President/Chief KSNA

Don't forget: renew your membership!

Visit the Kennedy Society web site,

<http://www.kennedysociety.org>

To find a membership form, news, pictures, calendar, and more.

Kennedy Society Yahoo! Group

Join the [kennedy_society group](http://kennedy_society_group.groups.yahoo.com) at groups.yahoo.com to keep up with the latest Kennedy news and activities.

The Kennedy Gazette is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Circulation: 300

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Please send your news and pictures.

Word, TXT, RTF, JPEG preferred.

Please provide submissions by dates below.

Winter: January 31

Spring: April 30

Summer: July 31

Autumn: October 31

2008 AGM at Fergus, Ontario Games: Plan Now

Hello all;

The Fergus Scottish Festival will be held over the weekend of August 8th-10th in Fergus, Ontario, which is just west of Toronto.

The Kennedy Society AGM will be held on site in a room in the Community Centre. There is a camping on site from Thursday through Monday.

The web site for the Fergus games is
<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>

Purchase tickets online, or contact
info@fergusscottishfestival.com
 or call 1-519-0019, toll free 866-871-9442.

There are no motels or hotels in Fergus, but there are many B&Bs in very nice old homes (see web site list.)

Guelph is a university town approximately 15 minutes away with all national chains including Staybridge, Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn, Super 8, Days Inn, Ramada, Travelodge, and Hampton Inn.

Also make your reservation ASAP for the **AGM Party** in Fergus, Ontario! The biggest Kennedy Society shindig of the year will be held on Saturday, August 9, at 6 pm. Location and ticket cost to be determined. We need a head count to determine cost, so to reserve your seat today, contact Faith Kennedy Jost, 3505 Kariya Drive Suite 1106 - The Towne, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada - L5B 3J4.

Cheers;

John A. Kennedy, KSNA Chieftain, Canada



John A. Kennedy and Nomon Kennedy at 2007 AGM in NH.

PASSPORT REMINDER

Keep abreast of the passport requirements for U.S. citizens traveling to Canada at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

As of early 2008, passports are required for travel by air to Canada. A passport may be required by next summer for travel by land or sea to Canada.

New York City Tartan Day Parade, Saturday April 5, 2008

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, New York City will celebrate the Tenth Annual New York City Tartan Day Parade. Thousands of pipers, drummers, clans and Scottish organizations will march up Sixth Avenue in recognition of the Declaration of Arbroath and National Tartan Day. The 2008 Grand Marshal is Lawrence Tynes, NY Giants Kicker.

Online registration for the parade is free and easy at:

www.tartanweek.com

In keeping with tradition, the committee has been busy planning Tartan

Week activities, including the famous pre-parade ceilidh on Friday evening, a Tartan Week cocktail party, the parade morning Kirkin' of the Tartan, and the post-parade party that will again be held at Stout, NYC. Visit the parade web site for more information.

The New York City Tartan Day Parade is organized by the all-volunteer National Tartan Day New York Committee. The Committee was founded by three New York-based Scottish organizations: the Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York, 1756; the New York Caledonian

Club, 1856; and the American Scottish Foundation, 1956. Three additional organizations, Clan Campbell Society; the New York Police Pipes and Drums; and the New York Tartan Army later joined the Committee.



Get “Happy Feet”, Scottish Country Dance-Style

By Tom Dillon

“They're a' in noo for the Sargeant Dashin' with
the elbows high and the partners clashin'
And the blood is up and the eyes are flashin' and
there's room for us all in the dance.”

—From “*There's Room for Us All in the Dance*,” by Jim Davison

Yes, I know some people, mainly men, are supposed to be scared of dance and dancing. I know a number of those reading this will protest that they have two left feet, whatever that means, and no sense of rhythm.

But hear me out, because I was once in your shoes. When I started dancing with a contra dance group more than 25 years ago, I hadn't done anything like that since high school. I was a hopeless morass of confusion for about six weeks, until suddenly, one Tuesday night, it all started falling into place. I've been dancing and learning ever since, and it's brought a new direction -- not to mention a wife and links to my family's Scottish roots -- into my life.

I got into Scottish dance about 10 years ago, led by dance friends, and today dance weekly with our local Scottish country dance society, not to mention at formal balls and at highland games all around the Southeast and beyond. It's great music and great exercise.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is the organization overseeing the traditional social dance of Scotland, and if you're interested, you can find branches almost anywhere in the world. (Indeed, the largest of the current branches is in Tokyo, Japan.) See the Web site, www.rscds.org.

Our new Carolinas Branch has a dozen or so groups scattered around the two Carolinas, and there are others in Atlanta, Washington, San Francisco and many North American cities. The Boston Branch, the oldest in North America, recently marked its 50th year. So have branches in Hamilton and Toronto, Ontario.

Our dances reflect the breadth of Scottish history and folklore. There are dances named for places -- “Eilean Donan Castle,” “Neidpath Castle” and “Saint John

River” (in Canada), to name three. Others reflect industry, like “Shiftin' Bobbins,” from textile mills, and “Machine Without Horses,” possibly describing a steam engine.

Some dances are to familiar Scottish melodies, like “Mairi's Wedding,” “The Dashing White Sergeant,” “De'il Among the Tailors,” “The Lea Rig” and “Flowers of Edinburgh.”

Others may well bring a tear to the eye, like “The Reel of the 51st Division,” composed and first performed in a prisoner of war camp in Germany during World War II. At demonstrations, it's often performed by men only, as was necessarily the case in 1940.

Altogether, there are thousands and thousands of these dances, new ones are being written every day, and you could dance for many years without learning them all.

Yes, there are steps and figures to Scottish country dance. Such things as poussettes, pas de basques and allemandes give it the beauty for which it is known. The waltz-like strathspey is a dance and a music type unique to Scotland (and probably Scotland's greatest contribution to country dance).

But don't think that Scottish country dance is what those athletic young women do on the stages at highland games. That's highland dance, and it's a much more energetic kind of dancing than what we're talking about here. Indeed, ages in a Scottish country dance set will likely range from the 20s to 70-plus. It's exercise, yes, but it's doable exercise.

You dance with a partner in a Scottish country dance, but you also dance with all the other people in your set, or line. In that respect, it has similarities to American contra dance or square dance, and that's appropriate. Scottish and English dances are the ancestors of our American square and contra dances.

Both English and Scottish dances are old. Many of the English dances can be traced to a 1651 book by John Playford called “The English Dancing Master.”

New dances have been added through the centuries. Many of the compositions of the English composer Henry Purcell became country dances, for instance.



Best Games to Host in the Middle of Winter? *Florida*



KSNA members from the Southern US region enjoy sun and fun at the Fort Lauderdale, FL Highland Games when the rest of us are shoveling snow. Left, Father David Kennedy and Sue and Chris Kennedy, right, first-time clan tent host David Kennedy relaxing. Outstanding job, David!

Continued from previous page

But the modern era began after World War I with a revival of interest in folk dancing. The English Folk Dance Society had been formed in 1911, and the Scottish Country Dance Society came along in 1923. (It didn't get the "Royal" title until 1951.)

The two most famous people in the history of Scottish country dancing are Jean Milligan and Ysobel Stewart, who collaborated in 1923 on the first book of Scottish country dances. Stories about Miss Milligan are legend.

The two helped form the society and create the standardization that enables a Scottish country dancer to participate in a dance anywhere in the world. But they also emphasized that above all, it's a social occasion.

Miss Milligan is quoted in the guidebook "Scottish County Dancing" to this effect: "Dancing is a joyous thing and must never become so drilled and detailed as to lose the natural social spirit." That's evident at almost any dance you may attend today.

We still have our challenges, of course. It was only on Jan. 1, 2006, that *Scotland on Sunday* reported that "traditional Scottish country dancing is being replaced by lessons in hip-hop and street dance." The dances

were described as one of "the most feared aspects of physical education in Scottish schools." It was – *sigh* – old-fashioned.

That means that all of us who love Scottish country dancing must continually employ ourselves in its promotion, both to young and old dancers, which is in part one of the reasons for this story. The dance may be old, but it's still fun. And there's no reason for it to be unfashionable.

As Jimmie Hill, former editor of the magazine *Scottish Country Dancing*, put it in a letter to *Scotland on Sunday*, "Our dance tradition is part of what defines us. ... Take the ceilidh out of Scotland, and we are diminished as a nation. Hip-hop has come and will go. 'The Dashing White Sergeant' will remain."

Head South for Sun and Highland Games!

Punta Gorda, FL	Mar. 9	Savannah, GA	May 6
Sarasota, FL.	Mar. 12	Triad, NC	May 4
Louisiana,	Apr. 5	Fair Hill, MD	May 17
Dunedin, FL	Apr. 12	Glasgow, KY	June 1
Loch Norman, NC	Apr. 18	Clover, SC	June 1
Tallahassee, FL	Apr. 19	McHenry, MD	June 9
Aiken, SC	Apr. 23	Blairsville, GA	June 9

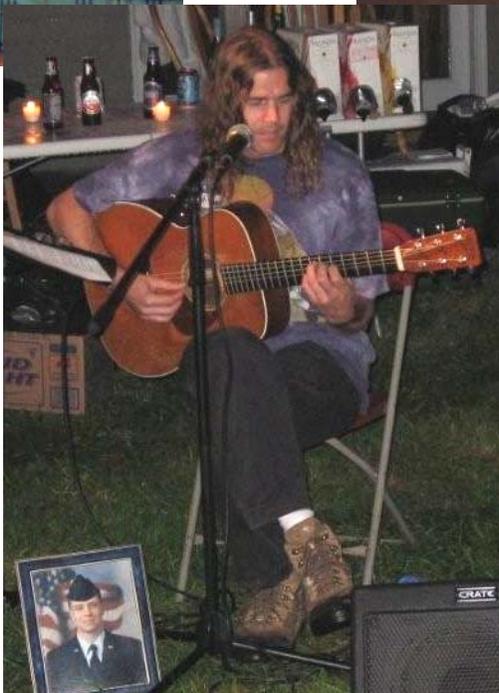


Loon Mt., NH Games & AGM 2007



More snaps from the Loon Mt. Games, September 2007:

Clockwise from upper left, Mike Frady and Lord Charles at the Games dinner dance; Joan Kennedy and Lord Charles at the KSNA dinner/ceilidh; Jordan Cannady and Richmond Cargill, aka The Dram Boys, serenade at the ceilidh; Mike Kennedy and Caitlyn Frady dance the night away at the Games dinner; Oen Kennedy presents his wonderful ballad in praise of Kennedys to Lord Charles and the Society; new members Tom, Betty Ann, Shannon, Petreya



and Sean Flanagan show the Kennedy tartan at the games. The Flanagans were one of **seven families** to join at Loon Mt. — Share your pictures, please?

Midwest Report

Hello again from the middle!

Once again, we're gearing up for the festival season! John Snodgrass and I, with the tremendous help from our wives Cynde Kennedy and Julie are scheduling out our season's festivals. Our list so far is the following: Brigadoon Beltane Festival, Hartville, OH. May 31st, Ohio Scottish Games, June, 28th Wellington, OH. Ligonier Highland Games in the first part of September (to be announced). Links to the websites and directions will be available on our Kennedy Society websites!

One of the highlights of our holiday season was the SAS'y Solstice Party, hosted by the Scottish American Society in Cuyahoga Falls, OH on Dec. 28. The event brought out some people of Scottish ancestry who had not known about the society, including one woman who shared a photograph of her grandfather with an impressive lineup of kilted gentlemen, who were the Burns Society of Akron at the turn of the century! A group which was unknown to us, save for the most senior Daughters of Scotia.

Clan Kennedy was well represented at the Burns Night in Cleveland Ohio hosted by the Scottish heritage Association of Northeast Ohio (SHANO). Under the gracious auspices of Clan Donald, once again we were seated

at the front of the room, right by the entertainment.

Pipe bands, Highland dancers, "To a Haggis" by Robert Burns and a wonderful meal rounded out a truly special evening. Vice-chieftain John Snodgrass and his lovely wife Cynde Kennedy watched as my wife Julie and I "Stripped the Willow", a Scottish Country dance that gets you movin' and a spinnin'!!—not only once, but for an encore dance too! We hope to have more Kennedy members join us at this event next year, and will put out an early notice.

Are there festivals in OH, WI, MN, MI, IL, IN, WV, VA, KY, or PA, at which you would like to see a Kennedy Tent, or host a tent yourself?

If so, please call or e-mail me or John to let us know as soon as possible. We can really use your help, and

we have tent kits available to get you started.

My e-mail is

wkennedyjr@yahoo.com
and my home number is
(330) 433-9323

John's e-mail is:

jsnodgrass@prorac.com.

The following are links to our Yahoo groups. Go to the site and select "Join". You will be brought to a page in which you can create a Yahoo ID. It is FREE.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kennedy_society/

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClankennedyMidwest/>

Bill Kennedy, Chieftain, Midwest



Enjoying the SHANEO Burns' Night in Cleveland, OH, January 2008, left, Cynde Kennedy Snodgrass and her husband John Snodgrass; right, Julie and Bill Kennedy.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES

The Kennedy Society awards annual scholarships for students of the Celtic arts such as dancing, piping, drumming. The deadline for application this year is **April 1, 2008**.

The qualifications for a student to receive a Kennedy Society scholarship are:

1. Plan to attend a certified workshop/class/camp of instruction.
2. Provide documentation of certification of the workshop/class/camp or instructor.
3. Submit a résumé and a letter of recommendation from the instructor.

Preference goes to relatives of Kennedy Society members, but others are eligible. To apply, print and fill out the scholarship application, available as a PDF file online at www.kennedysociety.org, and send it to the Scholarship Chair:

Joan Kennedy
255 North Rd., #172
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Tel. 978-256-8023
Email: jolouisek@comcast.net

The Society welcomes contributions to the Scholarship Fund! Please send to Joan at the address above.

The Kennedy Gazette
Newsletter of the
Kennedy Society of North America
www.kennedysociety.org

241 Everhard Rd SW
North Canton, OH 44709

Kennedy Dancer Achieves Bronze

Meet Olivia Creighton, one of two Kennedy Society arts scholarship winners for 2007 (Morgan Pell, our other awardee, was featured in the Fall 2007 Gazette.)



Olivia began dancing at the age of four at the Cicci School of Highland Dancing in Alliston, Ontario. She enjoys her dancing and has continued for the past 6 years.

She completed her Bronze Certificate of Merit in May 2007 and was highly commended as well.

—*Congratulations, Olivia!*

Olivia enjoys practicing her steps at home, attending highland games and has participated in dance outings at local events. Her grandfather, KSNA Chieftain John A. Kennedy, has been a great influence and a source of pride in continuing to develop her love and interest in her Scottish heritage.

Help us encourage interest in traditional Scottish arts by contributing to the scholarship fund, and reminding students to apply for an award. See page 7 for information.

- KENNEDY CRAFTERS -

CELTIC LEATHERWORK

Mike Frady crafts medieval Celtic/Pictish? style belts, pouches, and sporrans. He will donate a portion of sales to the KSNA Scholarship fund. Contact Mike at celticcherokee@msn.net

CANINE ACCESSORIES

Ann and Paul Keys' **The Heelan' Hound** has beautiful tartan dog collars, leads, and more at www.theheelanhound.com

MINSTRELSRY

Oen Kennedy's magical music is available for preview and purchase at his website www.oenkennedy.com

WEAPONS SMITH

New member Clint Knupp of Rector, PA crafts daggers, swords and custom jewelry to order. Contact him at eathdrap@gmail.com or 724-238-6926