

## CHARLESTON SCOTTISH GAMES & HIGHLAND GATHERING SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

A warm (but not excessively hot) and mostly sunny day was in store for the Charleston games at Boone Hall Plantation and the Kennedy Society AGM. We were fortunate to have 2 tents in the shade – as well as an adjacent empty tent which was utilized for our meeting. Attending were: Leo and Sandy Kennedy; Chris and Sue Kennedy; John and Eleanor Flowers; Paul and Ann Key; Dave, Amy, and Megan Carrick; David and Irene Phelps; Sean and Tammy Carrick; Ken and Sue Freshley; Colleen and Dan Caldwell; Samantha Dodson, and; Marcus and Jo Engelhardt. Several others stopped by the tent and a new member joined: John Kennedy from Charleston. Sean brought a couple of bottles of Lowland scotch, and others helped out with water, toffee, animal crackers, soft drinks, and other items. The parade of tartans/clans was done differently than in the past and went much more smoothly and quickly. Leo and Chris conducted the AGM, news of which is likely in another article in the newsletter. After the games, everyone went to the Liberty Tap Room for dinner and to unwind. All in all, the Charleston games were successful for the Kennedy Society and for all those that attended the games.



New member John F Kennedy  
with several of his Chiefs

David and Amy Carrick



Charleston Games 2016 Parade of Tartans



Charleston Games 2016



David Phelps enjoys the Kennedy Puppets



Members toast their new kilts and sashes



Leo and John discuss Chief business



Sean and Tammy Carrick



## KSNA 2016 AGM MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

The AGM was held on Sept. 17 th at the Charleston, SC Games. President Leo Kennedy called the meeting to order and asked all present to give name and home state and town. He then asked for any additions to the agenda. Having none, the agenda was approved as presented by voice vote. In the absence of the Secretary, Chris Kennedy was appointed to serve for the meeting. Reports followed: all committee reports will be placed on the member section of the web site for reading.

Chief Leo reported that he and Sandy attended several games this last year and he planned on continuing to do as many as possible. He also reported on very active correspondence with committee chair and other officers of the Society. He thanked all those who have been active in working within the Society. He is planning a trip in May to visit Scotland and Lord Ailsa. He will arrange this based on Lord Ailsa's availability.

Deputy Chief Lynn Grant was unable to attend and submitted her report which Leo summarized. She too has been active in attending games and conversing with members. Treasurer, Amy Carrick, reported a decrease in dues but an increase in product sales. Overall we are down somewhat but still in fine financial shape. The Newsletter, Sue Kennedy, reported that we continue to publish 4 a year and discussed the type of articles appearing in it. We send out approximately 60 hard copy and the rest are email She recognized Christine Robinson and Joanne

Engelhardt who have assisted her. Scholarship, Sue Kennedy, reported on the success of the new method of providing applications through direct contact with dancing teachers and band directors. We will be revamping the application and also asking the BOG to consider some revisions in what is offered. Membership, Colleen Caldwell, reported a decrease in new members (16) and removal of 35 members for non-dues payment. Lists of non-renewal members were sent to Regional/State Chiefs. Tent conveners are going to be given lists of local members who are active and those who are not. We are going to seek a Regional/District person for the Midwest. Several items were sent to the BOG for clarification. Web Master, Ken Freshley, gave a list of all the sites that are secured for the Society. He further reported that a KSNA merchandise web page and the guest book is on line and operational. Newsletters are also available on the web site. He also noted that web costs are being donated at this time. South Carolina District Director, David Carrick, reported on the games and events in his area including the AGM and noted that there are a lot more that would be good to have a presence at if we could find more interested conveners. The Rocky Mountain Chieftain, Ed Kennedy, stated that although doing many festivals this year, new membership has been poor. He went on to thank existing members for their help and support. Florida District Representative, Neil Brussard, gave a report on existing activity and stated that several games seem to be struggling and suggested that we



examine our participation this next year. He noted that Lady Rosemary came to Central FL. this year. Unfortunately, Neil has submitted his resignation as District Director. He has been ground breaking in getting the regional concept started. A new representative will be sought. Mid Atlantic Chieftain, Bill Kennedy, wrote that he and Terri have been to several games and will be doing Richmond in October. He also reported on merchandising projects in the works for BOG consideration. Bill stated that there has not been as much interest in a "Kennedy" Scotland trip as hoped and that it will continue to be announced but could be open to anyone if numbers don't justify.

Nominations, Chris Kennedy reported that although terms are for 4 years, elections are to be held every year for the 4 main offices. Re-elected by unanimous vote were Chief Leo Kennedy, Deputy Chief Lynn Grant, Secretary Frank Kennedy, and Treasurer Amy Grant.



## KSNA 2016 AGM MINUTES

(continued)

There was no old business. New business consisted of the following. The Challenge Coin program was successful and will be continued with a new issue for 2017. There are some of the 16's available at \$12. The 2017 AGM will be in Rhode Island June 10, 2017. Hotel rates

are very reasonable at \$80 for early registration. If enough members are present on Friday, Leo will sponsor a BBQ. There are lots of things to do in the area; it is a great vacation destination. A new member password will be put in the Gazette. Leo and Past President, John Flowers,

recognized all those who had purchased new Kennedy regalia in a short ceremony.  
Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Kennedy

## GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN GAMES

JULY 7-10, 2016



Samantha in Parade of Tartans

This year's games at Grandfather Mountain started with rain during the calling of the clan. Samantha Dodson performed the calling this year, doing a fantastic job.

Karen Kennedy was also in attendance and was a great help at the tent this year. She was offering to sell pictures of the Kennedy clan lands, with the proceeds being used for Scottish education and the arts. Unfortunately, Friday afternoon there was another shower, which ruined a few of her pictures. That evening, we were fortunate enough to escape the small tornado which wiped out a couple of the vendors.

The rest of the weekend was wonderful with sunny skies and wonderful games. We signed up 2 new members. They were Amanda Hursey

of Marietta, GA and Juanita Paull of Morehead City NC. Unfortunately, we did not obtain pictures of the new members. However, we do send out a great big welcome to them and hope to see them at future games.

We were also blessed with one of the cast members from Outlander being at the games. A couple of us Kennedy gals were able to wade through the crowds and get our picture with him. Thanks to Graham McTavish.

All in all we had a good weekend with great company. Thanks to Samantha and Karen for all your help!



Sherry with Graham McTavish



Graham and Karen



## A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

Here we are moving into autumn. The leaves on the trees surrounding the farm are beginning to turn their lovely shade of reddish brown. The wet weather has arrived but so far the temperatures have stayed reasonably mild.

All our cereal crops are harvested and some of the beans, this leaves only the maize and the remainder of the beans to harvest in the short term. The fodder beet we bring in during the winter as the orders come in.

For our winter crops we have for the first time sown hybrid rye for use in our local anaerobic digester at William Grant & Sons Distillery near Girvan. At the distillery they intend to mix our rye with the by products from the distilling process in the digester to produce gas for the main gas pipeline supplying the town of Girvan.

My year as President of the Royal Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland is now over. We had a very successful Royal Highland Show with record numbers attending. The weather was kind and stayed almost completely dry for the full four days of the Show. Anne and I hosted the Presidents Lunch which my sister Lady Elizabeth attended among two hundred and fifty other guests. There were a great many receptions, prize giving's and award ceremonies for us to be part of. We also were honoured guests at the Royal Bank of Scotland dinner at Gogarburn hosted by their chief executive Ross McKewan.

The Finale of the show is on the Sunday afternoon and takes place in the Main Ring where first all the heavy horses do a parade, mostly Clydesdales, followed by the glorious six in hand teams, again mostly Clydesdales and one team of Canadian Belgians. When I see six in hand teams I am always reminded of my time in Texas and the wonderful Budweiser Team. This display was followed by a parade of all the other animals through the Main Ring after which the pipe band marched in. At this point the rain started and I took the salute from the Pipe Major in front of the stands in the Main Ring from the shelter of an umbrella.

Anne and I were very fortunate to be invited by a friend of mine to a flight around the Estate in a light aircraft. It was fascinating to see the land that I know so well from the air. We were also able to see the massive amount of work

going on at the Turnberry Golf Course which is now owned by Donald Trump.

Throughout the year I have been overseeing the development of one of our disused farm steadings on the outskirts of the village of Kirkoswald. The tenant farmer had given up the tenancy of Kirklands Farm some years ago and I have been farming the land but the buildings were no use for modern farm systems and had become redundant. We are now well through the process of converting them into a Garden and Gift Centre. The new tenants are a mother and daughter team, Vivian and Rebecca who will trade as Kirklands House and Garden. Their new web site [www.kirklandskirkoswald.co.uk](http://www.kirklandskirkoswald.co.uk) will soon be online. They hope to open to the public in late October.

We had both Kitty and Archie home for a spell in July and once again managed to get a wonderful day for a family trip to Ailsa Craig. This was Kitty's first trip to the island. We all went up as far as the old castle where we had a glass of champagne and some focaccia then Kitty and Archie made their way to the top while Anne and I went down and prepared a picnic of lobster and rice salad for us all. While we were on the island the crew of the boat went fishing and came back with bucketsful of mackerel. After the picnic we all boarded the boat and went round the island past the lovely Puffin colony to the cliffs where the Gannets nest. Here we stopped the boat and started throwing the mackerel out over the stern and watched the Gannets dive from a great height deep into the water to retrieve them. It was quite a spectacular sight!





## A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA (continued)

Archie and I decided to visit The House of Dun near Montrose where the first Marquess and Marchioness are entombed. The tomb is in a beautiful ruined church near the big house. The coffins of my great great great great grandparents are side by side sitting on a raised dais with coronets befitting their station resting on the lids within the vaulted tomb. It was a very moving moment for us (at the same time, entering the tomb and seeing the coffins and coronets in the gloom made us both feel like Indiana Jones). There were further coffins in a crypt to one side of the main tomb, these hold the remains of members of the Erskine family who built the House of Dun. The first Marquess married Margaret Erskine of Dun and they left the house and estate to their second son who took the name Kennedy –Erskine. That branch of the family eventually died out.

Anne and I attended the Kirkmichael Church Fete which was well supported by all the locals. We were lucky again with the weather and the Manse garden was looking lovely. Everyone got involved and the stands of home baking,

teas, bric a brac and second hand books all did well and made just short of £2000 for the church funds.

On the 28th of August I took the salute at the Forces in the Field day at Culzean. This is the sixth such event to be held at Culzean and is proving to be very popular. The Maybole branch of The Royal British Legion are heavily involved along with a chap called Peter Scally and some other local ex-servicemen and they organise re-enactment displays from the time of the Napoleonic Wars right up to the Second World War. It is very impressive.

Tommy our gamekeeper has released all the pheasants to the woods and is feeding them on wheat grown on the Estate. We are fully booked this season and our first shoot is on the 25th of October, it has been taken by the Patrons for The National Trust for Scotland so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a good day.

Anne joins me in sending best wishes to you all.  
Ailsa

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

We have just returned from the AGM in Charleston SC. I want to thank David and Amy, as well as anyone else involved in the setup for the AGM –Well done. We were blessed that the tropical storm took off out to sea and left us with great weather. On Friday evening, we visited the Liberty Pub for dinner and had a great evening, culminating around a fire pit at the hotel. Saturday morning we were at the games and had a shady spot to visit with everyone.

After the opening ceremony, we set up for the annual meeting. There was an empty tent next to ours, so we took it over and had the hour long meeting. All reports were read from the officers, chieftains, and the district directors. After unopposed reelections of all current officers, we were closing when Mr. John F Kennedy showed up and joined as a new member – great timing! Welcome John.

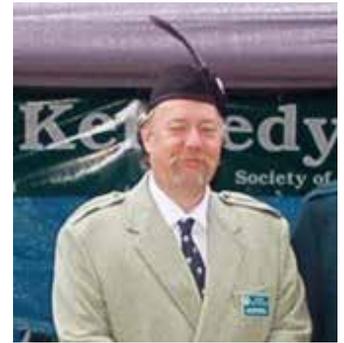
Florida District Director, Neil Brussard, has tendered his resignation from that position, but will still remain active with the Kennedy Society. I accepted his resignation after talking to him and understand his position. I want to thank Neil for all his hard and faithful work for us. Job well done!

To help keep Florida working as well as it does, I have appointed Lorraine Kennedy VanFossan as the new District Director there. Her biography is included in this issue of the Gazette and I am confident that she will be able to be a leader that is expected for the Kennedys.

We will be reviewing the Bylaws of the KSNA. Chris Kennedy, Dave Carrick and Ken Freshley are the appointed committee. Please go on to our website and review the Bylaws. If you see something that you have questions on, or deem that it needs to be changed, let one of the committee know. They will offer a proposal early next year, to be voted on at the 2017 AGM.

The 2017 AGM will be held at the Rhode Island Games on June 10th. The host hotel will be the Best Western Hotel at 99 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI. We have been able to set rates up at the cost of \$80.10. Please let

me know as soon as you can if you wish to have a room. Camping is also in the area, with the Mystic KOA being close. These are one day games; however, I will have listings of many events occurring nearby for days before and after the games. Sandy and I hope you can make this a little vacation. Join us, and visit Rhode Island.



I do have to mention something important about representing the Kennedy Society of North America. When you are hosting Kennedy tents, please try to stay near, if not in, the tents to greet visitors and perhaps new members or have a schedule of Kennedy members to staff the tent. Secondly, remember that your attire and the manner in which you present yourselves is important. You are representing us, the Kennedy Society. First impressions are key – and no one will join an organization that displays poor judgment or does not seem worthy. Lastly – when manning a Kennedy tent, please refrain from drinking in excess and leaving a bad impression of all of us. These items are very important for the future of the KSNA.

I would ask all tent conveners to please review the updated Tent Sales Record. It is located online at the [KennedySociety.org](http://KennedySociety.org) site and in the Dropbox for those that have access. Please use the new form for all financial transactions at events.

There are many games coming up – please try to attend one and visit the Kennedy tents. Sandy and I will be set up in Scotland Connecticut on Oct 9th. We hope to see you there! Also, Richmond Virginia is coming up on Oct 22 and 23rd.

*slàinte mhòr,*  
Leo Kennedy, Chief



## 2017 AGM in RHODE ISLAND

The 2017 AGM will be held in Rhode Island on June 10th. The host hotel will be the Best Western in West Greenwich. Contact info is 401-397-5494 or WGI5494@gmail.com. Hotel costs will be \$80.10 per room with two queens or a king. Please book your rooms early to ensure that you will be staying where many of us will be and close be to the games.

These are one day games, held at the Washington County Fairgrounds, about 15 minutes from the hotel. The meetings will be at the Fairgrounds on Saturday for the AGM and officers meetings on Sunday at the hotel. Also, camping is nearby the games at the Mystic KOA in Stonington, CT. More information will be coming out soon and posted on the Kennedy website and here in future Gazettes.

## 41<sup>ST</sup> NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 16–18, 2016

The 41st New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival (www.nhscot.org) took place from September 16–18, 2016. The weather on Friday and Saturday was perfect: Sunny, low humidity, and comfortably warm (low 70s). On Saturday evening, clouds and humidity rolled in, and it was raining by Sunday morning. Thankfully, however, the major portion of the rain stopped by the time the Games got under way. It was damp for a while in the morning, but the temperature was warm, and the sun did come out during the afternoon. (We desperately needed the rain because the summer was exceedingly dry in New England, but we preferred that it not rain during the Games hours!)

Staffing the Kennedy Society tent for the 25th year (our first year was 1992!) was Northeast Chieftain Nina Eppes (center in the photo below) and her sisters Jackie Davis (right) and Geneva nì Seobhàn (left). Because the KSNA AGM was the same weekend in Charleston, SC, KSNA Chief/President Leo Kennedy, who lives in Rhode Island, was not present in New Hampshire this year. Better scheduling next time, Leo! ☺



KSNA member Mary Jo LaFreniere of Hopkinton, Massachusetts attended the games on Saturday and marched with Nina, Jackie, and Geneva in the Clan Parade. Here is a picture of Mary Jo, Jackie, and Nina getting ready to March. Seated in the tent behind the table is Kennedy Society Chef (so appointed by Lord Charles) Sarah Bishop, and barely visible in the tent is Geneva.



During the weekend, we signed up three new Kennedy Society members! Pictures of two of them are included below; the third new member, Mary Maddox, was signed up by her adult son, Bill; she did not come to the tent herself.



New member Charles ("Chuck") Preston of Salem, Massachusetts (far left) with his father, Andrew, and Northeast Chieftain Nina Eppes



New member Jason Kennedy of Billerica, Massachusetts, with his wife, Karen, and daughter, Brooke, and Northeast Chieftain Nina Eppes



## 41<sup>ST</sup> NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL (continued)

Because of the drought that affected New England during the summer (and that continues at this writing), the Pemigewasset River, which one must cross to get to Loon Mountain (the site of the NH Highland Games), was distressingly low.

The new bridge that was built to replace the bridge damaged by Hurricane Irene in 2011 was complete, and the old bridge was in the process of being dismantled.



It was another successful New Hampshire Highland Games weekend for the Kennedy Society of North America. And take note: Next year marks the 25th anniversary (1992–2017) of a Kennedy Society tent at the NH Highland Games—which, not uncoincidentally ☺, is also the 25th anniversary of Nina and her family hosting a Kennedy Society tent at the NH Highland Games. We hope lots of Kennedys will come help us celebrate! Mark your calendars for September 15–17, 2017, at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, NH!



– Nina Eppes

## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED



Will Allen, son of Laurie Allen and grandson of Paul Key, Chief First Class Retired of the Kennedy Society of North America, and his wife, Ann, received the rank of Eagle Scout on June 13, 2016. Actual presentation of the award was held on Saturday August 13, 2016.

Will completed a variety of 29 merit badges. He also completed an Eagle Scout Project where he planned and carried out the construction and clearing of a nature trail and outdoor classroom to benefit the Shadybrook Elementary School community in High Point, NC. This project included rebuilding a foot bridge and trail steps, placing identification signs for local trees and bushes, and building benches and instructional chalk board, thus providing a place for instructional classes.

In addition to completing the Eagle project, Will attended Philmont Scout Ranch, the Scout's high adventure training center in New Mexico and worked as a camp counselor during the summer at a Scout camp near Asheboro, NC.

Will and Laurie are family members of KSNA.  
All of us are very proud of his accomplishments.





## KSNA DISTRICT DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

When our President, Leo Kennedy, called and asked me to write a Bio for the Gazette, I'm pretty certain that he had no idea of just how much of a wee bleather I can be! So, I'm extending my apologies to everyone in advance, because although this bio is quite lengthy, my intention is for you to find some, if not all, of the facts in my story to be somewhat relatable!

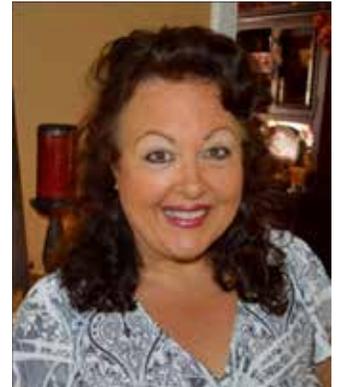
My name is Lorraine Kennedy VanFossan, and I was born in Renton, Dunbartonshire, Scotland in 1961. Just like the twenty-five million other Scots who have emigrated over to the United States, my entire family was also eager to venture across the pond and start a new life.

Despite the fact that we were now living more than 4000 miles from Scotland, it was still relatively easy for the clan to keep our Scottish customs alive. We traveled to the various Highland Games held each year throughout New York and New Jersey. In fact, one that stands out in particular, was back in 1983, when Mayor Koch introduced the actor, Charlton Heston, as the Honorary Chieftain of the Central Park Highland Games, and as he walked onto the stage, all the ex-pats in the crowd began booing him for wearing his kilt backwards (pleats in front!) What a numpty!

When the Nairn Linoleum Company of Kirkcaldy moved to Kearny, New Jersey, the growth of the Scottish-American population there had exploded. We frequently made the twenty minute drive over to the Argyle and Thistle Restaurants, for our fill of fish and chips, and meat pie suppers. While there, we were also able to stock up on bangers, black pudding, lorne sausage and HP sauce for our Sunday morning full Scottish breakfasts' from Cameron's and Stewart's butcher shops.

However, during the spring of 1986, while vacationing along the Gulf Coast beaches of Florida, my family had stumbled across the quaint and charming town of Dunedin (Gaelic name for Edinburgh) also known for being rich in Scottish culture, having a high Scottish-American population. Having grown tired of the snow and cold northern winters, it didn't take much convincing for us all to decide that migrating down to the Sunshine State, and starting another new chapter in our lives, was the right thing to do.

I had become a Registered Radiologic Technologist in 1983, and was able to finish out my thirty year long, career in the healthcare field down in Florida, working as a supervisor for a Women's Imaging Center. My husband Dale and I had met on the job in Florida, and two years later, we exchanged our wedding vows along the beautiful shores of Loch Lomond, where Dale proudly donned the Kennedy Tartan kilt during a romantic, traditional Scottish ceremony. As of this time, we have been blessed with four daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren.



Ancestry.com has provided me with the tools necessary to create a personal genealogy trail of six generations, which dates back to 1845 in Ireland. Researching, and validating members of our family tree with my relatives living in Scotland, has also been a huge benefit. In fact, I feel so fortunate to have organized a Jackson/Kennedy family reunion in Loch Lomond last summer, because, unbeknownst to us at the time, I managed to gather all of my surviving family members together again for one last time, before we lost our patriarch (my beloved dad) to cancer, just nine short months later.

Whenever my husband and I attend the Dunedin Scottish Society dances, the Tartan Ball, and Tartan receptions, which are sponsored by the Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation, we love to join in the jigs and reels, and give our best effort at Scottish country dancing. In fact, we try and take advantage of every opportunity we can, to keep the old Scottish traditions alive. So, as you can imagine, I was thrilled at the prospect of becoming a tent convener for the Kennedy Society of North America at the Dunedin Highland Games. Thanks to the help of my friends and mentors, Sue and Chris Kennedy, and Neil and Janet Brussard, I began hosting a tent in 2014. Dunedin has quite the accomplished Highland Games, having celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2016, with upwards of 150 tents inside their clan village!



## KSNA DISTRICT DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA (continued)

By this time, I know that you're all saying "haud yer wheesht lassie!" and I admit that I'm "fair pucked" at this point, so I'd like to end by announcing that I am very proud to have accepted Leo's offer to fill the position as the KSNA District Director for the State of Florida, beginning

in November of 2016. I look forward to stepping up my participation with the society, getting to know other tent conveners, and working to increase our KSNA presence at even more Highland Games throughout the state!



### New Username and Password for Access to KSNA Website Launching Nov 1, 2016

Username: Ayrshire  
Password: grandfather2016

## KSNA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Autumn Giacchina, a dancer with the Isle of Skye Highland Dance School in Dunedin, Florida, who is one of the lucky recipients of the KSNA's 2016 Celtic Arts Scholarship!

The generous award afforded Autumn the opportunity to attend the 2016 Ohio Scottish Arts School which was held June 25 - July 1, 2016. Autumn competed for the BATD Highland and National Medal Tests and Grade Examinations, and proudly earned herself a second place medal!

Autumn had the most wonderful time in Ohio. She won 3rd in her Sailor's Hornpipe and 2nd place in the Highland Fling at the Ohio Games! She earned Highly Commended on her medal test exams, worked very hard at dance camp and was quite sore at the end of the week. She is already fundraising to return next year!



*Dear Clan Kennedy,*

*Thank you so much for giving me the chance to go to camp this past summer. I feel as if I've improved a lot, and I can't wait to go back next summer. That week was the greatest learning experience of my life, as well as being so much fun. During OSAS I made many new friends! I'm so happy you helped me get there.*

*Thank you again,*

*Autumn Giacchina*





## PAUL AND ANN KEY VISIT THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

The Orkney Islands are special, as far as the eye can see – with high cliffs, colorful beaches, and pastoral scenes of cattle and sheep. Quite accurately no other place in the British Isles is quite like it. Across its 70 islands, which lie to the North of mainland Scotland, Orkney was spellbinding, invigorating and welcoming.

Long before Stonehenge or even the Egyptian pyramids were built, Skara Brae was a thriving village. During their trip to the Hebrides and Orkneys this past summer, Paul and Ann Key had a once in a lifetime chance to step back 5,000 years in time to explore the best-preserved Neolithic settlement in Western Europe.

First uncovered by a storm in 1850, Skara Brae remains a place of discovery today. There Paul and Ann visited a replica Neolithic house to see how its full interior might have looked. Then they followed the path that overlooks the ancient buildings. It was thrilling



## ONE OF THE “BEST OF TIMES”

People often ask us why we spend so much time doing Kennedy Society of North America activities? Well besides the obvious knowledge we gain about our Scottish clan and its history, the opportunity the games provide for our children and grandchildren to see and experience their Scottish roots, and the opportunity to travel with a tour group – all with like-minded interests. We have had the great pleasure of making some very good friends. These Kennedy friends are all over the U.S. and Canada. We each have friends who have held us up during the “worst of times” and celebrated with us in the “best of times”.

This “best of times” story revolves around our godson, Matthew McClelland. He is the son of our dear friends, Russ and Janice McClelland of Cumming GA. Matthew was accepted to the Naval Academy at Annapolis this fall. Each plebe must have a sponsor family where he/she can go for rest, meals, recreation, advice - whatever the plebes needs might be at the time. It is quite a commitment to volunteer

to be a sponsor family, as it commits one to your plebe for many weekends. Right away our thoughts turned to Frank and Bonnie Kennedy who live very close to Annapolis. Their immediate response was, “of course, we’ve been sponsors before”.

Thus on induction Day, June 30, 2016, it was Frank conducting the ceremonial induction of Matthew into the Navy and giving him the Oath of Office. Since then Matthew has extended his Annapolis Kennedy family to include Frank’s brother, Mike and his wife Coco Kennedy who are also Kennedy Society members and have become Matthew’s co-sponsors with Frank and Bonnie.

Chris and I know Matthew will be well cared for by these four Kennedys. Yes, one can never predict what the Kennedy Society might come to mean to an individual member. For us, KSNA continues to give us incredible friendships in “the best of times”.

Chris and Sue Kennedy



Matthew with Mike and Coco



Matthew and Frank



## PAUL AND ANN KEY VISIT THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

(continued)

to imagine what life was like for the farmers, hunters and fishermen who lived here. The prehistoric houses still contain stone 'dressers' and box-beds. Ann had some help in touring with the loan of a scooter (reminiscent of LC!)

Skara Brae sits on the southern shore of the Bay o' Skall. This Neolithic village, one of Orkney's most-visited ancient sites, is regarded by many as one of the most remarkable monuments in Europe.

In the winter of 1850, a great storm battered Orkney.

There was nothing particularly unusual about that, but on this occasion, the combination of wind and extremely high tides stripped the grass from a large mound, then known as "Skerrabra".



This revealed the outline of a number of stone buildings — something that intrigued the local laird, William Watt of Skall, who embarked on an excavation of the site.

In 1868, after the remains of four ancient houses had been unearthed, work at Skerrabra was abandoned. The settlement remained undisturbed until 1925, when another storm damaged some of the previously-excavated structures.

A sea-wall was built to preserve these remains, but during the construction work, yet more ancient buildings were discovered. Further excavations followed and, between 1928 and 1930, the dwellings we see today were released from their protective cocoons. At the time, the village was thought to be an Iron Age settlement, dating from around 500BC — but this was no Pictish village.

Radiocarbon dating in the early 1970s confirmed that the settlement dated from the late Neolithic — inhabited for around 600 years, between 3200BC and 2200BC.

Today, Skerrabra — or Skara Brae as it has become known — survives as eight dwellings, linked together by a series of low, covered passages. Paul's 6 foot 4" height

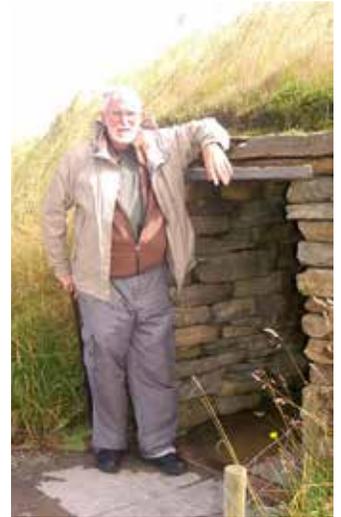
made it a challenge to go through the low passages to the replicas of the prehistoric houses, but it was ingenious how the folks of this time, a hunter, gatherer, farming society, constructed a sturdy dwelling of stone, covered in hides and having a grass sod roof.

As intriguing as the site is, Skara Brae could easily be a victim to increasing storms, and tidal action, the rise of sea level caused by global warming, and the impact of tourist traffic.

In addition to Skara Brae, Ann and Paul visited the enigmatic stones of one of the most spectacular prehistoric monuments in the British Isles -The Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle and Henge, an enormous ceremonial site dating back to the 3rd millennium BC. The site originally consisted of 60 stones, 36 survive and 13 burial mounds.

Also of historical interest was the Italian Chapel, a beautiful Roman Catholic chapel which was constructed by Italian POWs during the Second World War, and St. Magnus Cathedral, in Kirkwall, the capital of the Orkneys, which is Britain's most northerly cathedral, founded by the Vikings in 1137.

Of social interest on the tour of the Orkneys were visits to the Highland Park and Scapa Distilleries, where Paul and the others on the tour enjoyed a wee dram.





## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

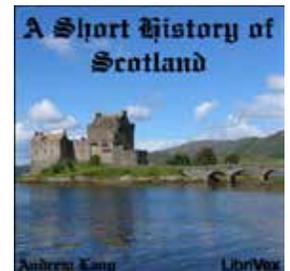
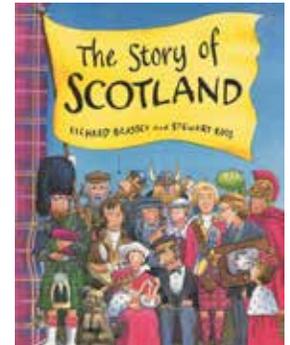
Dear Friends:

I had my annual eye check-up this past week, and I passed with flying colors. It's a good thing too, as most of the time I use my eyes for so much that I love to do...like reading. I've been reading all of Sir Walter Scott's writings, much of which has to do with Scottish history in the troubled times after the Reformation. I had no idea it was all so complicated! There were good and bad on all sides. Some of my preconditioned thoughts have suffered cruel blows! It helps to understand the present by knowing something about the past.

God loves the Scots, all sorts and conditions, just like the entire human family. He is in control of history, and He is working his purpose out.

The Scottish American Society of Palm Beach County, of which I serve as chaplain, meets in my parish facilities, saw a movie on Culloden this past month. The reactions were various. It was very realistic, and some cherished heroes didn't come off very well. You see what I mean. Why not do some reading of your own on things Scottish? Novels and history books are the best place to start. I would love to hear from any of you about what you are reading and your thoughts resulting from it.

Aye,  
Father David+  
Society Chaplain



## ALMA HIGHLAND FESTIVAL AND GAMES

MAY 28 - 29, 2016



My report on the Alma Michigan Highland Festival and Games comes a little late this year as my wife Heather and I have been preparing for the arrival of our baby son and we missed last issue's deadline.

This year's Alma Highland Festival was held on May 28th and 29th 2016. This was the first year that the Kennedy Society has had a tent at this Highland Festival. After successfully bringing our presence to The Kalamazoo Festival for the last two years we decided it was time to branch out to other parts of Michigan! Alma is the largest Highland Festival in Michigan and many people come from all over to attend. The festival takes place on the grounds of Alma College, the locals like to refer to Alma as "Scotland USA". It is a big event, but the clan area is just as inviting as our beloved Kalamazoo festival and we already knew many of the other clan representatives from there.



left to right: Heather Bishop, Nathan Bishop , Cindra Bishop née Kennedy, Kona Gant, Kathi Gant

Besides my wife Heather and my mother Cindra Bishop née Kennedy, we were joined at the Kennedy Society tent by our Great Lakes Chieftain Kona Gant and his wife Kathi. It was such a pleasure to be able to spend time with both of them. They have been so good to us and have made us feel like family.

We had some rain and some heat, and aside from accidently leaving my sporrán at home, we had a great time. We met many people, both Kennedy's and others that were interested in learning about the history of the Kennedy's. We had such a good experience we hope to return next year.



## **KENNEDY SCOTLAND TOUR** SEPTEMBER 12-23, 2017

Leave USA Sept 12 for Edinburgh Airport and depart from Glasgow airport on Sept 23

### **APPROXIMATE COST PER PERSON:**

Depending on the number of travelers (minimum of 20 and maximum of 25) Cost for ground transport in Scotland, tours and meals as outlined in itinerary will range from \$2400.00 to \$3000.00 in US dollars payable in installments. A \$250.00 non-refundable deposit is required in order to secure your reservation. This deposit will "lock in" the quoted rates. **NOTE:** If the pound sterling rate lowers, then your rate in dollars will be lower. If the Pound rate escalates, you will pay the same dollar rate quoted.

### **WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY:**

Round trip ground transport between airports and your hotels, full Scottish breakfast every morning, dinner every evening, welcome dinner and entertainment in Edinburgh, clean, comfortable (double occupancy) lodging in Scottish Hotels with private bathroom, comfortable coach transport to all events and cities, City tour of Glasgow, City tour of Edinburgh, admission to Culzean castle, distilleries and other castles on tour, occasional stops of interest along the way, balance of structured and leisure times, full time services of Scottish tour guides as well as the planning and guide service of Anne Korff.

Anne Korff starting in 2000, has frequently escorted tours to Scotland based on the travelers preferences including the lowlands, historic sites, highlands, islands and spring gardens. She is currently offering a tour to the Outer Hebrides in June of 2016.

Anne Korff will serve as coordinating agent between the travelers and the tour companies, restaurants and lodging facilities engaged for the tour and will keep William Kennedy advised of itinerary details and/or changes. Anne Korff is not acting as an employee of the above mentioned companies, restaurants or lodging establishments and will receive no compensation for them nor from the 2017 travelers. Anne Korff, therefore is not to be held liable for accidents which might occur on the tour or changes in airline schedules dictated by weather conditions. Each individual agrees to hold Anne Korff harmless of conditions beyond her control or purview. Anne Korff is responsible for securing group rates for lodging and meals for distributing funds previously collected from group members for tours and meals outlined in the guideline. She will represent the group in these negotiations and will inform group participants about each day's events including paid-for meals, tours and admission fees as well as optional tours and activities available. She will also recommend airline schedules for travelers although each traveler makes his/her own arrangements for said airline travel.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR SIGHTS:**

City of Edinburgh, City of Inverness (Culloden Battlefield and Museum), Glen Coe (McDonald Massacre site) Glenfinnan Monument (Site of standard raising for Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival), Largs (Former Viking Stronghold), Robert Burns Museum in Ayr (Bridge of River Doon, remember Brigadoon), Majestic Culzean Castle (Castle Tour) and Free time to explore surrounding grounds.

### **FURTHER TERMS:**

**PLAN A** – after paying your initial deposit, you may pay the balance in US dollars with equal installments or pay the entire amount due in US dollars on June 1, 2017

**PLAN B** – if you prefer to pay with credit cards, we will furnish the information for the professional tour company so you may send credit card info directly to them. You will pay us a small fee in US dollars for items not covered by the tour company program.

You will know the exact cost of the outlined tour by June 1, 2017.

**AIRFARE** – Airfare is extra as travelers will come from various US locations to arrive in Edinburgh airport and depart from Glasgow airport. You may use frequent flier points if you like. Rates will be firm on March 2017.

### **POINTS OF CONTACT:**

**ANNE KORFF**  
32 Elm Avenue  
Newport News, VA 23601  
(757) 596-6063  
akorff@verizon.ned  
acorff32@mycidco.com

### **WILLIAM OR TERRY KENNEDY**

202 School Lane  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
(757) 508-2080  
wmbillkennedy@aol.com



## SCOTTISH GAMES IN PLEASANTON SEPTEMBER 3-4, 2016



The 151st Highland games in Pleasanton were a bit smaller this year. About 80 clans were in attendance with several Scottish societies. We sure couldn't complain about the weather. It was in the low 80's with a nice breeze both days.

Society members Russell Kennedy and Mike and Liz Malinao helped us with all the setup and teardown. They come every year and we thank you, it is greatly appreciated! We missed our friends Ian Kennedy and David Holmes and hope all is well. We hope to see more of you next year!

Mike and Paula Kennedy,  
Tent Conveners



Michael welcomed Swenson, William, Jessica, Ezra, Theo and Vesper



Charles Kennedy from Wilton, CA

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Heather and Nathan Bishop would like to announce the birth of their first child, Robin Ellis Bishop, on October 1st 2016 at 11:06 am weighing 8 lbs 10 oz.

Robin is named after two people. His middle name, Ellis, was the middle name of Nathan's Grandfather, Bela Ellis Kennedy, who received his middle name from his Grandfather, Ellis Kennedy, Nathan's Great Great Grandfather. We named our son Robin after the late actor and comedian Robin Williams. Robin Williams is someone Nathan has admired since he was a very young boy. Robin Williams career, creativity and humor have been an inspiration to him. Robin Williams also loved his Scottish roots, he was very good friends with Scottish comedian Billy Connolly, who said Robin loved the country and found peace there when he visited which was very often.



Both Heather and Nathan are very excited for the new addition to their family and this next chapter of their lives.



## JEANNE KENNEDY AND THE MISSING LINK

I am Jeanne Kennedy (Kennedy Society member from Owensville, MO) and I am... searching for a missing link!

I have a common problem many ancestry detectives experience, but with an unusually urgent need of a solution! I have traced my Kennedy line five generations down to James Henry Kennedy, born in 1834 in Manchester, England. He declares that he migrated to the United States in the year of his birth. He says on census records that his parents were born in Ireland. My Ancestry DNA results show no Irish ancestry, so I am thinking they were Scottish and lived in Northern Ireland. He was Protestant and a master shoemaker who taught shoemaking at Morgans, a trade school in Galveston, Texas. He married Justina Wirth in 1870 and they moved to Beaumont, Texas in 1880 where he died a year later.

According to some notes my grandmother left behind, he had 12 siblings and was the youngest. I have no idea where his parents and siblings lived or their names, but that leaves a lot of family unknown.

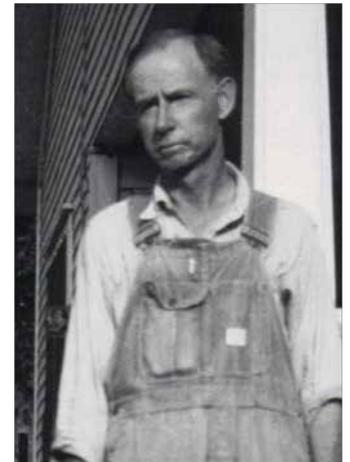
I have a granddaughter who has recently been orphaned and put with strangers as foster parents. I am trying to see if I am related in order to get custody and reunite her with her half sister, my son's daughter. Little Kasey's maternal grandmother was Beverly Kennedy Keuhner. Her father was Howard Kennedy, (1910-1974) who was a marine. His father was John B. Kennedy (1879-1969) who I think died in Neosho, Missouri.

It may be a long shot, but I am trying to see if there is a link between John B. Kennedy and my side of the Kennedys through one of the many siblings of James Henry. I have reached a wall at Ancestry.com on both men. I have searched several other sites and listed my DNA on several places to see if a match comes up.

Does anyone have a Kennedy ancestor who migrated to the U.S. in 1834? Does anyone know this John B. Kennedy from Neosho, MO? If so, PLEASE contact me at [jeannekennedy14@gmail.com](mailto:jeannekennedy14@gmail.com). Much appreciate your help!



James H. Kennedy



John B. Kennedy

## CONGRATULATIONS!

This year marks the year that Sherry Short graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with her Masters of Science in Nursing as a Clinical Nurse Leader/ with a Nurse Educator Certificate. Once she was granted her degree she began applying for jobs within Duke. She has recently been hired as a Research Coordinator with the LVAD – Left Ventricular Assist Device – Group. She will begin her new position once she returns from her trip from the Celtic Isles at the end of September.





## DNA TESTING FOR CLAN KENNEDY

If you are reading this, have bought a kilt, attended a Festival or a Highland Games Event there is a fairly good chance you are interested in your ancestors or ancestral home. Were your kin from Ireland or Scotland? Do you have a hankering for a dram of Macallans or Bush Mill? Are you Scottish or Irish? If you have not taken a DNA test to identify where your ancestors were from, you might want to participate. DNA testing is providing more information than simply your Haplotype, it is helping scientists to rewrite history.

There are several companies that specialize in DNA testing. The most popular companies for genealogical purposes are Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) and Ancestry. FTDNA results are provided in the form of YDNA (male testing of Y chromosome DNA to determine paternal lineage), mtDNA (female testing of the mitochondrial DNA to determine maternal lineage), and autosomal testing (testing of all 23 chromosomes to determine matches to any ancestral relatives). Acquiring your DNA, with FTDNA, is accomplished by cheek swabs. DNA acquisition for Ancestry is done by spitting into a tube.

Do you question yourself about the privacy of DNA testing? If so, you are not alone. It is possible to control your identity and access to your DNA results. You might be able to join a group related to your ancestor's geographical location, which is controlled by a Subgroup administrator. In this case your group administrator should receive your DNA results, if assigned by you, and help contact your matches. Privacy is up to you and who you want to share the information with. For example, there a subgroups



within the surname groups such as Cannadys within the Kennedy surname Group. The subgroup of Cannadys from early Georgia, along with other Georgia Pioneer Families is administrated by one individual who has access to all results, monitors matches, initiates match contacts and ensures privacy where requested.

Why test my DNA? This is a common question. The primary answer has been to help identify matches to my DNA to help fill in blanks or break down walls in your family tree. A more unknown reason to test is to help Historians and Scientists rewrite the Migrational Map of the human race. With new technologies in the genetic field, scientists have been able to identify additional snp (single nucleotide polymorphism) tests to more clearly pinpoint where breaks in a cultural or familial migrations occurred as humans spanned the globe. Of course we all hope the question of who came first, the Scots or the Irish Kennedys.

If you think you would like to help the cause or learn the identity of your Kennedy roots, please feel free to contact Jim Kennedy Administrator at [jamesekennedy369@gmail.com](mailto:jamesekennedy369@gmail.com) or Kim Cannady at [kk15098@gmail.com](mailto:kk15098@gmail.com). Both would be happy to discuss how Family Tree DNA or FTDNA tests and provides results.

## THE MOTHER LODGE GAMES JUNE 18-19, 2016

The Mother Lode Games took place in Amador County, California on June 18th- 19th. This was their first event with about 15 clans attending. A small venue but expected to increase next year. Typical for this area, the temps were in the 90's but our family was there to support us.

Michael and Paula Kennedy, Tent Conveners



Mr and Mrs Patrick Kennedy from Pioneer, CA



## KAREN KENNEDY RETURNS TO SCOTLAND

I finally made a long awaited return trip to Scotland. Granted this was my fourth trip to Scotland but it had been several years since my last trip. I had been feeling this overwhelming need to revisit a place I had immediately fallen in love with during my first visit.

I was there for 2 weeks and was blessed with beautiful, sunny weather for the majority of my days there. I spent my time visiting places in the northeastern highlands up around Inverness, one of my favorite towns in Scotland.



Inverness - Old High Church & Free Church of Scotland Viewed from across River Ness

South of Inverness I visited Urquhart Castle which sits on the north shore of Loch Ness. From the top level of Grant Tower, accessed via a very narrow spiral staircase, are stunning views south over the castle and east and north over Loch Ness.



Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness - View of Grant Tower and the surrounding ruins

The visit to Kyle of Lochalsh, on the west coast, was my only very cold and windy day. Even with the weather, it was still well worth the trip. Another harbor town, it is the gateway to the Isle of Skye over the Skye Bridge.



View of the Skye Bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh

In the heart of the Highlands is the CairnGorm Mountain which is home to Scotland's only funicular railway. You catch a bus from Aviemore up to the funicular railway station. It was quite the unique experience as the funicular railway operates

by 'hauling' up one carriage using electric motors to pull the haul rope as the other carriage descends at the same time. At the top were breathtaking panoramic vista views.



Couple taking in the View from the Summit

Rounding out the end of that day was a visit to Carrbridge. It is known for its arch shaped, packhorse bridge, over the River Dulnain, for which Carrbridge is named. It was built in 1717. It is the oldest stone bridge in the Highlands. I was told the story of how the bridge was built to allow funeral processions to cross over the river to access Duthil Church when the river was flooded due to heavy rains or melting snow. It was locally known as 'the coffin bridge'.



Carrbridge - the "Coffin Bridge"

The next day I visited the longest stretch of beach in Scotland, at Dornoch. It is miles of golden sand and dazzling blue water.



Dornoch Beach

This is just a summary of some of the places I was fortunate enough to visit during my trip. For the complete travel narrative, visit my website and download the PDF version as well as view photos that accompany this account:

[www.photocontemplations.com/Scotland/Scotland.html](http://www.photocontemplations.com/Scotland/Scotland.html).

Karen Kennedy

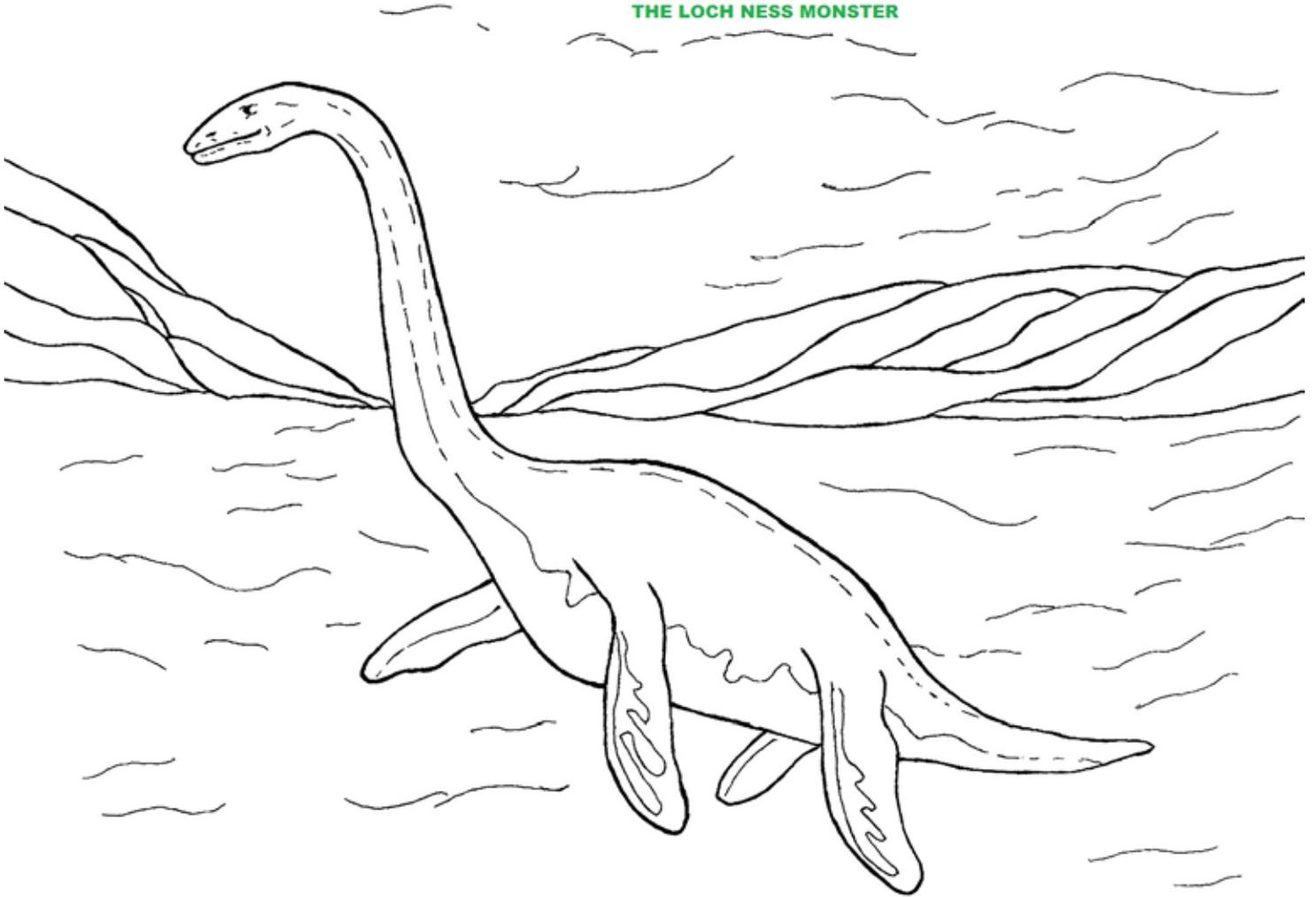
## HURRICANE THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

We would like our Kennedy Society members who have been affected by Hurricane Matthew to know our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time as you deal with the aftermath of this terrible storm.



## COLORING PAGE

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER



## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT OCTOBER - APRIL 2017

Oct 15-16 Stone Mountain Highland Games  
Stone Mtn. GA

Oct 22-23 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland  
Games Richmond Raceway Complex

Nov 4-6 Moab Celtic Festival  
Moab UT

Jan 14-15, 2017 Central Florida  
Winter Springs Park, FL

April 1, 2017 Dunedin  
Highland Park, Dunedin, FL

Apr 8-9 2017 Loch Norman  
Huntersville, NC.



The  
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 39 ISSUE 3

**DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE:**  
**DECEMBER 2**

Please submit copy and pictures for the winter issue no later than December 2nd.  
Submittals, comments and questions may be sent to:

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Newsletter Coordinator  
6415 Barberrry Hill Drive  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
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