



The
Kennedy Gazette
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

WINTER 2017



**Merry
Christmas**

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SCOTLAND TOUR 2018

Here are the basics of the tour:

DATES:

June 26 - July 6, 2018

Arrive in Glasgow - Depart from Edinburgh

PLACES AND SIGHTS:

- Islands of Islay, Jura, Iona, Mull
- Cawdor Castle, Scone Palace, Culloden Battlefield
- Filming sites of OUTLANDER, Highland gardens
- Cruise on Loch Ness
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Cities of Oban, Inverness and Edinburgh

We are still fine tuning the itinerary and if anyone has a site or city they would LOVE to visit, tell us while details are being firmed and we will do our best to include it. Contact: wmbillkennedy@aol.com.

Dinner, bed and breakfast are included along with ground transport, admissions to castles, distilleries and museums.

Full time tour guides: Our tours are comfortable but not luxurious and include unscheduled and interesting side trips as well as the printed itinerary. We have a balance of structured and free time for your convenience.

Meals are generous and include choices of starters, entrees and desserts each evening and an abundant breakfast.



COST:

Exact cost will be forthcoming once all details have been firmed.

Approximate Cost per person = under \$2,100 per person payable by credit card or three installments in US Dollars which will be converted to British Pounds Sterling. A small non-refundable deposit will be required in January.

Advance mailings and local meetings will keep travelers advised about currency, highlights of the tour, airline suggestions and ideas about how to get the most enjoyment from your tour.

If you wish to be on the information contact list, reply to Anne Korff using email address: AKorff@Verizon.net or call 757-596-6063

Air fare is extra depending on where you live. You may use your frequent flier points or other incentives if you like.

FOR SALE SCOTTISH TAMS

For all you Highlander fans out there, Isabell Carter has been hard at work knitting Scottish Tams. They are made of 100% wool and are adjustable. If interested, you can contact Bill Kennedy: wmbillkennedy@aol.com.

We can make arrangements to get it shipped to you.

Price per Tam is \$30.00 plus shipping.

We even have tams for your pets for \$15.00.

Colors available are red, gray, light green, blue and dark green.





A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

Oh boy does it rain in Ayrshire. We are well into our sixth month of wet weather, very little cattle fodder has been made and there are still fields of barley to harvest throughout the county. Luckily we managed to cut our beans and get them dried with the help of a neighbour. Only our maize is left to harvest, all we can do is wait for a dryer spell to allow us to travel on the field with the forage harvester without it sinking into the mud.

Anne and I attended a splendid reels party in late September, it was a joint party given by two friends of ours to celebrate their sixtieth birthdays. We hosted a dinner party here at Morriston prior to going on to the reeling. It was a welcome change from the wet weather to see everyone enjoying a bit of Scottish Country Dancing. Anne and I managed to catch up with each other towards the end of the evening to do The Reel of the 51st together.

In October we hosted a meeting at the farm to discuss anti-social behaviour in the countryside. As landowners we suffer a lot from rubbish and builders waste being dumped on our forestry tracks. The meeting was attended by the local Police, our local council and our local Westminster Member of Parliament along with many of my neighbours and the owners of nearby estates. The police and the council were very helpful giving us detailed information on how to deal with the rubbish and how they will make a determined effort to identify the culprits. We also discussed the problem of uncontrolled dogs that disturb ground nesting birds and more importantly at this time of year, disrupt our commercial pheasant shooting operation. Our Westminster M.P. took notes and said that she would bring up some of our concerns at Government meetings.

Archie managed to come home for a long weekend bringing with him Dorothea his girlfriend. He was in great form and thoroughly enjoying his internship at the David Swirner Gallery on Grafton Street in London which ended in late October. Currently he is doing an internship at Sothebys' London office.

Tommy Johnston our Head Gamekeeper has been with us for forty years this year. To mark this milestone and to thank him for his valued service I presented him with an inscribed silver Quaich made by Hamilton and Inches of Edinburgh. This took place on my first shoot of the season here on Cassillis and Culzean Estates, the presentation



being witnessed by my shooting guests. Tommy joined us for lunch where my sister Lady Elizabeth paid tribute to his loyalty and good service, this was followed by a lovely speech extolling Tommy's virtues as an exemplar of good humour and good shoot management by my dear friend Lord Strathclyde, who has been a regular guest of mine over many years and knows Tommy very well.

The shooting season is in full swing and the Estate shoot is fully booked, many days have been taken by returning customers, including three groups of Americans. I have been shooting a lot which pleases Jenna our dog. She just needs to see me come down for breakfast wearing my shooting breeches and she is beside herself with excitement hoping that she will be allowed to come. I mostly take her as she retrieves very well, but on the odd occasion that I leave her at home Anne maintains that she is huffy all day and sits at the French window watching for me.

Anne and I are off to Warwick next week to visit her mother and shortly after we come back we will set off to London to attend a function and will have time to see Kitty and Archie. They will then come home on the 22nd of December for Christmas and New Year returning to London in early January. It is always lovely to have them here at Morriston. I will finish by hoping you all had a very pleasant Thanksgiving.

Best wishes to you all,
Ailsa





MOAB CELTIC FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017

Ann and Paul Key sharing their visit out to the Moab Games...

This is definitely NOT your average Scottish Game! Scots on the Rocks games are situated below massive red rock cliffs, a short distance from Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The games are only 4 years old, but have grown from the original 6 or 7 to 43 clans. It is one big party among folks who consider themselves family. From the drones of the pipes and rock of Wicked Tinkers, the fun starts on Friday evening and doesn't end until Sunday evening. This year high winds added a challenge for those manning the tents.



Although Moab has had a wedding each year, this wedding was the biggest secret in the history of the Moab games, and Ed Kennedy, our Rocky Mountain chieftain was right in the middle of it. All were sworn to secrecy, at the wishes of the bride, Shirley Chambers, and the groom, Ian Hughes, knew nothing until Dan switched his boutonniere to Ian's Charlie. The unsuspecting groom,



asked who was getting married, Dan said "you are," The look was precious and the remark even more astonishing. Then the bride and her party approached the "arch" while tears of joy streamed from Ian's eyes. Ed, who asked the clan members to come closer, officiated for the ceremony with hand crafted original words of love, devotion and steadfastness meant especially for bride and groom.



The sun came out, the winds died down and the ceremony proceeded. Shirley's bridesmaids sprinkled lavender around the wedding couple. And luckily, electricians in the crowd got the malfunctioning sound system working.

Piper and drummer were drafted into service with only minutes to spare. Everything fell right into place with only 2 weeks planning, and with the secret perfectly kept. After exchange of vows, and placement of wedding rings designed by Shirley, who is a jewelry designer, Dan Lamont, who organized the games 4 years ago, joined the couple together in the ancient Celtic handfasting, (the origin of the phrase tying the knot) in which the couple clasp hands and a braided cord or ribbon is wrapped and tied around their hands. It is symbolic of the couple binding their lives together and the union of their hopes and desires. Ed explained that Ian and Shirley, in participating in the handfasting, were entering their marriage of their own free will.



Other news of note at the Moab Games were Ed and Paul proudly display the trophy for Best Clan in Parade.



Submitted by Ann Key



CENTRAL VIRGINIA CELTIC FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES OCTOBER 28-29, 2017

Once again the Mighty Kennedys marched on Richmond and enjoyed the one nice day we had. This year we were fortunate to have a double tent do the generosity of Barbara Olds. Terry Kennedy made sure we were fed with another hot dog cookout at the tent, there were plenty of snacks and drinks thanks to Wendy Schoffstall and Bob Davis. Three members were recognized by Chieftain Bill Kennedy and were given certificates of appreciation, they were Isabelle Carter and Bob Davis, Barbara Olds will receive hers at a later date. Isabelle Carter did great selling her tams and Terry Kennedy sold lighted bottles made from empty scotch bottles. We had 13 visitors sign in at the tent and I am sure there are a few who

will become members. The Central Virginia Festival has become very popular and grows bigger each year. It has become our flagship festival in the Mid-Atlantic Region.



Virginia Scottish Games and Festival - Sept 1 & 2 2018
The Kennedy Society of North America will be back at the Virginia Scottish Games and Festival, Mark Frinks and Niall Kennedy will be the tent conveners for these games held just outside of Warrenton, VA There will be more information to follow.



Bob Davis, Isabelle Carter, and Bill Kennedy



Bill and Terry Kennedy, Tent Conveners



The Kennedy Clan

IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE....

It's been four years now that I have been coordinating the articles and pictures for the Gazette. I have really enjoyed organizing all the articles and pictures that are turned in every quarter and working on my own articles. However, after four years it is time to pass the "pen" or the "mouse" to someone younger and more capable than I am. That person is Samantha Dodson. Samantha is enthusiastic about her new responsibility and eager to "click that mouse" to make the Gazette even better than it is today. Nathan will remain as the Society's graphic artist so the key players are still in place.

Samantha will begin her term with the Spring Gazette. Please, please continue to send her your articles and pictures as you have done with me. Our newsletter depends on good input in order to accomplish good output. I'll hope to see many of you at future highland games.

Sue Kennedy





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Well, winter is soon arriving and here in Rhode Island, I look forward to the cooler weather, the occasional snow and the great Holiday Season. In a few days from my writing this, we will be on the village green, illuminating an 80 foot tall pine tree with festive lights and singing carols. A few hot chocolates will be consumed and friends will be all around!

I have put away my motorcycles and winterizing and covering my camper as well as cleaning and inventorying all my games items. However, this offers me a chance to work on getting the 2018 games schedule done and order more t-shirt and coins (all great Holiday gifts as well as any day gifts!) and plan my travels for next year. We hope to have Kennedy tents at even more locations next year. If anyone is interested in doing a game in Canada in 2018, please let us know and we can get you all set with a kit for the games.

One point of travel will be the 2018 Kennedy AGM in Alma, Michigan. I ask that if you have not attended an AGM that you please come and join us. It is so much fun and so many great friends will be there for not only the games, but dinner and relaxing with the Kennedys. Please try to place this date of May 25-27, 2018 on your calendar – you will have a great time. More information will be coming out for registration and host hotel for the KSNA.

I want to thank the new tent conveners for going through the training and for representing the Kennedy Society at games. We all appreciate your efforts. If we can help in any way, please let any district director, chieftain or society officer know. I also want to thank Lynn and Sue for running the training and setting a great example to be followed by not only our organization, but other clans as well.



Remember to support your local Burns Dinners and show the Kennedy tartan there. The same goes for any St Patrick Day events – wear our tartan and try to be involved with the events. While we are getting out games list ready now, we know Kennedy tents will be at Winter Springs FL, Jan 13-14; and Green Cove Springs FL, Feb 24. In early March (the 3rd) we will be setting up for the first time at Panama City FL. Please try to support this new Kennedy tent! I am certain more dates will come up, so please look for updates on the KennedySociety.com site.

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Leo Kennedy

LOOKING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS?

I am K. D. Kennedy Jr, a lifetime member of the Kennedy Society. I have written a genealogy called "Progenitors" about my Kennedy heritage which goes back a very long way. It shows our connection with the Stewart Kings and far before. It is free on Kindle and might be interesting and helpful to other Kennedys who connect to our lines. Most do, in fact. I worked on it for several decades in Scotland and North Carolina.

I have copies. Just for your interest.

K.DIBUC@aol.com





SCOTLAND'S TRADITIONAL AND PECULIAR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Christmas was not traditionally celebrated in Scotland until the 1950's. Hogmanay, or the New Year observance, was the traditional celebration. The reason Christmas was not celebrated until fairly recently goes back to the time of John Knox in the 1580's and was seen to be papist in origin and the ban against celebrating it was strictly enforced. There are records in the past of charges being brought against people who were "keeping yule". Christmas Eve was celebrated in some parts of Scotland as "Sowans Nicht" from "sowans" a dish made from oat husks and fine meal that were then steeped in water. Branches of the rowan tree were burned on Christmas Eve to signify that any bad feelings between friends or family had been put aside for Yuletide.

According to legend, it is bad luck to let the fire go out in the fireplace on Christmas Eve as that is the time the elves are about and they like to slip down the chimney to perform all kinds of mischief.

"Boxing Day" is a holiday that originated in Great Britain. It is also called St Stephens Day. In the Republic of Ireland it is one of nine official public holidays. Boxing Day is

celebrated on December 26. In Britain it was the custom for trades people and servants to collect "Christmas Boxes" of money or presents as thanks for giving good service throughout the year. Boxing Day is a secular holiday as the banks are closed and people enjoy shopping, football games and perhaps a traditional "hunt" with a fox and hounds.

While Christmas celebrations are prominent now days, it is the New Year celebration or Hogmanay that stands out in Scottish traditions. The word Hogmanay is derived from an oatcake that was traditionally given to children on New Years Eve. Legend has it that the first person to cross one's door will profoundly affect the fortunes of the house's inhabitants. This tradition is widely known as "first footing".

We can barely touch the surface of the many Scottish traditions we could explore here, but perhaps while we celebrate our own family Christmas traditions we can reflect on what activities our Scottish cousins might be celebrating this Christmas season. Nollaig chridheil huibh or Merry Christmas to all!



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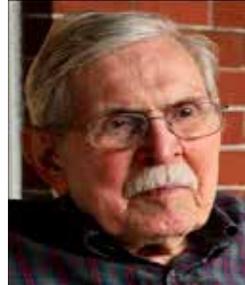
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FLOWERS OF THE FOREST CHARLES CARRICK

NOVEMBER 11, 1931 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Charles Carrick was born outside of Punxsutawney PA in the village of Harmony. His grandfather and grandmother had moved from the east end of Glasgow to this area in the 1880s, where he operated several coalmines and a general store. As a boy, Charles was intrigued by the fact that many residents in Harmony still spoke with a brogue and practiced Scottish customs such as “first footing”. His Aunt Jean was an accomplished scratch baker who could make the best shortbread this side of the Atlantic, and his mother would exclaim that she was going to scud the behookies of anyone that was getting out of line. Thus, it is no coincidence that after having children of his own he started to look at his origins and heritage, and that is when he came into contact with the Kennedy Society at the Ligonier games. He also began to research his genealogy at a time when one had to use microfiche since there was not yet an internet. It also didn't hurt that his grandparents and a great grandparent were buried in a cemetery only a few miles from the house in which he was born. His parents and Aunt Jean had saved many things of his grandfather's, including his naturalization papers, his passport, and documents and other miscellany from his trips back to Scotland. One such document was an invitation to a reception with the Lord Provost of Glasgow! All of this made Charles very keen towards things Scottish, and he was particularly fond of bagpipes. Unfortunately, he never was able to make it to Scotland himself as my mother's health deteriorated shortly after they retired – but he was always interested in hearing of my trips to Scotland. Fortunately, two of his brothers did make it to Scotland and made a pilgrimage to Glasgow. I will have to say that I had a very strange and strong



David Carrick standing with his Uncle Bud (piper in background) at his great-grandfather's grave.

sensation of déjà vu in my first visit to Glasgow, and I had yet to learn of my namesake great-grandfather's history there. On subsequent trips, I stumbled onto places and streets that were referenced in some of his documents. Be assured that Charles' funeral service was decidedly Scottish, with both a piper and readings of Burns' poems. For good measure, I went with my Uncle Bud (David), several other family members, and the piper to the graves of his paternal grandparents and our respective namesake. The circle was completed.

David Carrick

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST DALLAS

For those of you who have attended the Richmond Games in the past, you might remember Bill and Terry Kennedy's yellow Lab Dallas, with a heavy heart Bill reports that they recently lost him as he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. He loved the clan parade with a bottle of scotch hung around his neck.





KSNA RECOGNIZED AS HONORED CLAN NOVEMBER 17, 2017

The Fifth Annual Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival kicked off at 7pm on Friday, November 17th with a Tartan Parade featuring the Chief of the Games, several Pipes and Drums, Clans, Societies and Athletes marching together in unison down the hilly streets that surround Elizabeth Evans Park in Mount Dora, and leading visitors to the “Night for the Tartan” Ceilidh in the Park, where the pipes and fiddles of the “Tartan Terrors” got everyone dancing, or at the very least, toe tapping. On Saturday, November 18th, the beautiful Gilbert Park in Mount Dora continued to bustle with Lads and Lassies of all ages, who enjoyed an entire day filled with even more live Pipe Band music, Celtic musicians and dancers, Highland Athletic and Border Collie Sheep Herding Demonstrations, Scottish Military Camp Reenactors, Axe Throwing Competitions, and a fine Gathering of Clans and Whiskey Tastings, held inside of the Heritage Village.

The opening ceremony at noon featured yet a second Tartan Parade, with the Chief of the Games, Pipes and Drums, and the KSNA proudly leading their fellow Clansmen and all Festival goers down to the waterfront. This year’s parade even included our pooches, dressed up as Clan Mascots! A hilarious roll call allowed each Clan to utter their war cry, which was then followed by the The City of Mount Dora, together with the Celtic Norse Society, presenting the KSNA with a beautiful Plaque, and announcing that we were selected as the Honored Clan for 2018, based on our dedication and contribution toward keeping our Scottish Heritage alive.

It’s exciting to see how in such a short time, the Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival has grown not only in their entertainment lineup, event activities and food vendors, but also in unique Scottish treasures. This year as I was

making my rounds around the vendors, the most beautiful hand blown glass thistles had caught my eye, and when I inquired about the artist, I was told that it was “a husband and wife team who own a wee shop inside of a mall in Loch Lomond.” I sent my cousin an IM and pic (knowing she lives just a stone’s throw away from their shop) and it was no surprise that she knew them well and “had watched John work the hot glass, as Anne colors it using special metallic glass lusters.” Small world! I also picked up a beautiful hand carved plaque that was made by a father-son team of wood artisans, in addition to a decorative Swampfire bread basket, that was made by my very talented co-convener, Susan Kennedy!



This was Susan’s first time convening a KSNA Tent, and having her handcrafted pottery pieces that proudly display the Kennedy Crest and Celtic Knots on them, turned out to be the perfect complement to our T-Shirts, Coins and Bottle Openers merchandise table. In addition, Susan’s engaging personality was so well received by all of our guests that we are so fortunate to have her, and her sister Gwenn Kennedy, representing the KSNA by convening a tent at all of Mount Dora’s future Scottish Highland Festivals!

Submitted by Lorraine Van Fossan



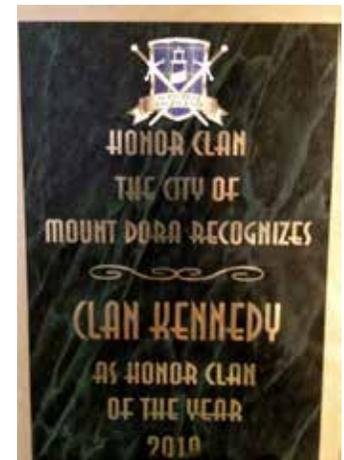
Basket



handblown glass thistle



Susan Kennedy



Plaque



STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES OCTOBER 21-22, 2017

The Stone Mountain games were held once again in the shadow of our magnificent Stone Mountain granite carving. It was a beautiful day. The weather was perfect and the crowds were beyond anyone's expectations.

In the Kennedy tent, the conversation was lively and concentrated on catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. We welcomed two new members – Janice and Lanny Lankford from Gadsden Alabama and John and Michelle Kennedy and their family from Gordon Georgia. We visited with over 50 individuals who signed the roster and stopped to learn more about their Kennedy family.

Our Kennedys came from as far away as Nashua New Hampshire. Nina Eppes, our Kennedy Northeastern Chieftain, was in attendance for her first visit to the Stone Mountain Games. Sure was good to see you Nina! Also, coming from a far distance were Bob and Claudette David from Williamsburg VA. Accounting for the rest of the tent visitors were members and guests from Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and South Carolina. We were especially pleased to celebrate Tammy Carrick's birthday and enjoyed her birthday cake immensely.

Special thanks to Samantha Dodson and Nick Payton for helping to set up the tent, and David and Irene Phelps for helping to take down the tent on Sunday afternoon. We sure did appreciate the help!

See you next year!

Chris and Sue Kennedy
Tent Conveners



John and Sarah Kennedy and family



The Clan



Tammy



Dinner with the gang



The Lankfords



THE FLOWER OF SCOTLAND AND THE BATTLE OF LARGS

The thistle is the national flower of Scotland, just as the rose is the national flower of England and the United States.



The legend that is told of how the thistle became Scotland's most recognized symbol centers around the Battle of Largs in 1263. We, as Kennedys, should have more than a casual interest in the Battle of Largs as it was held in Ayrshire and surely included many of our ancient kinsmen.



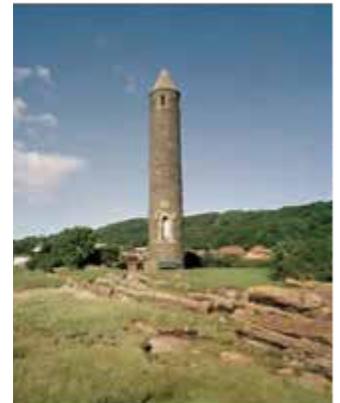
Dunure was one of the major Kennedy strongholds in Carrick, on the Ayrshire coast. Family tradition says that the Kennedys captured Dunure from the Norwegians following the Norse defeat at the Battle of Largs.

A short history lesson is necessary here ... At the beginning of the 13th century the Firth of Clyde was frontier territory. The mainland was Scottish but the islands of Bute and Cumbræ just across from Largs were

Norse. Most of the west coast islands were dominated by Norse culture and were important for maintaining Viking power and influence. Set on conquering the Scots all together in the summer of 1263, King Haakon of Norway sailed off with his fleet of long ships and landed on the beach at Largs in Ayrshire.

During the invasion, the Norsemen tried to surprise the sleeping Scots. In order to move with little noise, the Norsemen removed their footwear and crept barefoot across an area of ground covered in thistles. One of the Viking soldiers stepped on a thistle and cried out in pain and alerted the Scots to the presence of the Norwegian force. His shout warned the Scottish clansmen who defeated the Norsemen

at the Battle of Largs and saved Scotland from the invasion. The Pencil Monument was built to commemorate the 1263 Battle of Largs. The monument, built in 1912, is for the Scottish people to remember the resolve they had in repelling attacks by the Norwegians.



The important role that the thistle had played was recognized and so the thistle was chosen as Scotland's national emblem. The song, "O Flower of Scotland" is considered the unofficial national anthem of Scotland. The lyrics were written by Roy Williamson (1936-1990). There is also a Flower of Scotland tartan which honors the late Roy Williamson. The tartan uses Lichen Green and Lochan Blue as its main colors, and has no clan or family affiliation and therefore is available for all to wear. Often one can find the tartan among kilts available for purchase at highland games.



WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT JANUARY - MAY 2018

Jan 13-14: Central Florida Games
Winter Springs, FL

April 20-22: Loch Normon Games
Huntersville, NC

Feb 24: Northeast Florida Scottish Games
Green Cove Springs, FL

May 5: Savannah Scottish Games
Savannah, GA

March 4: Panama City Beach Scottish Festival
Panama City Beach, FL

May 19-20: Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games
Maryville, TN

March 23-25: Saltwater Highland Games
Little River, S Carolina (near Myrtle Beach)

May 25 - 27: **AGM** Alma Highland Festival and Games
Alma, MI

April 7: Dunedin Highland Games
Dunedin, FL

May 26: Greenville Scottish Games
Greenville, SC

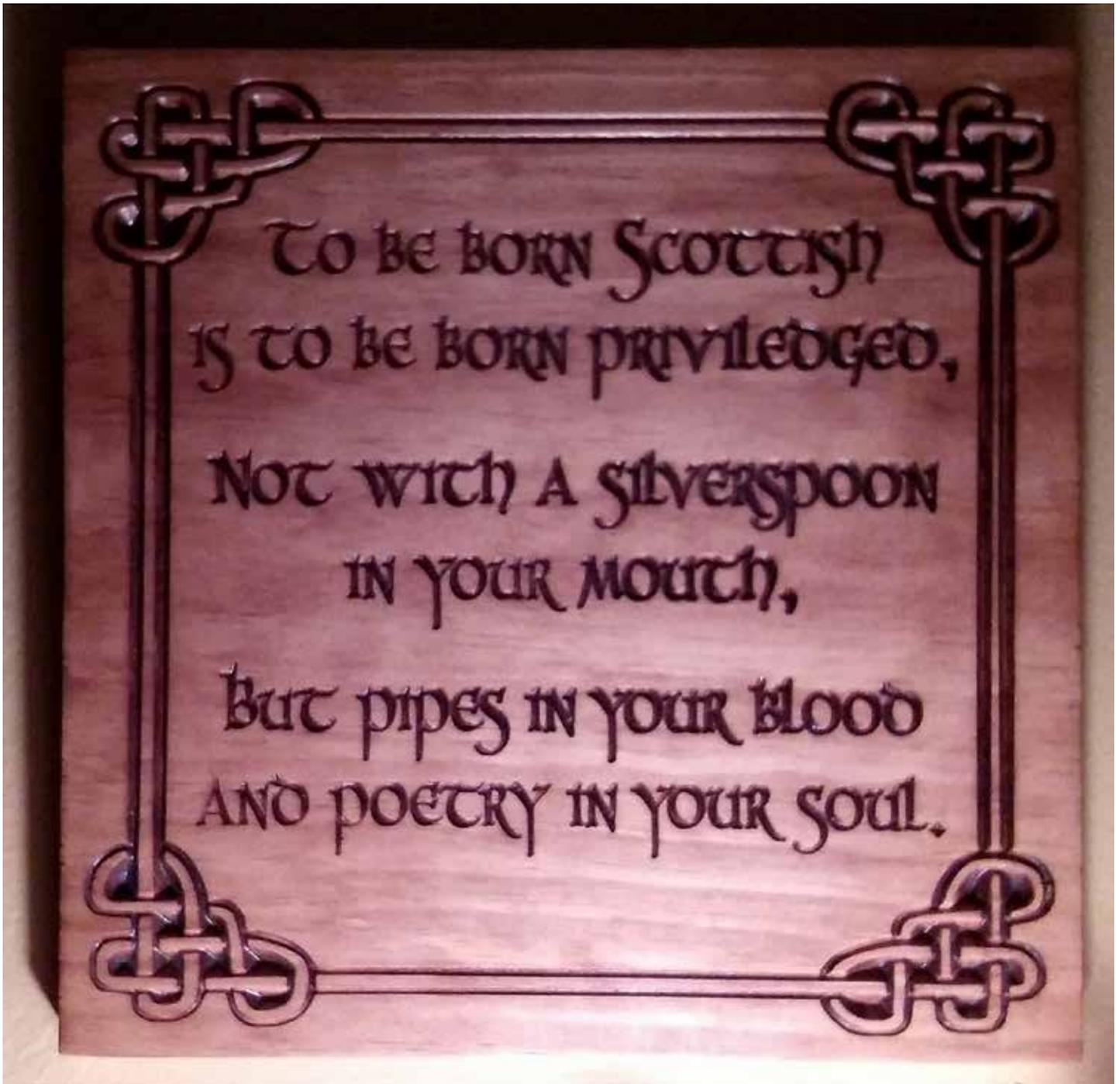
HOLIDAY GREETINGS....

I'd like to introduce myself, for those that don't know me, my name is Samantha Dodson. I'm thirty-one years old and live in Hendersonville NC. I am engaged to be married to my wonderful fiancé Nick Payton. I have been a member of the Kennedy Society of North America since 2006 and enjoying the games since 2005. I work at Kyocera International as a production specialist and coordinator, (AKA: a jack of all trades.) In 2015 I graduated with my Masters of Science and Technology from Western Carolina University and hold a bachelors and two associate's degrees. When I'm not working I enjoy going to various highland games around our area and exploring new areas. Nick and I enjoy traveling and seeing new places, meeting new people, and learning about the history of various areas. Another shared passion of ours is learning about our heritage and helping others to learn about theirs. I frequently indulge my love of genealogy by helping others seek out their own lineage. Nick is still trying to get the hang of it, but he's catching on. I cannot express enough gratitude for those in the Society that have welcomed Nick to our family, despite the fact that our wedding is still a little ways out, the official date is October 6th 2018. He's jumped in with both feet on this one and is ready to support the Society as a tent convener as well as by supporting me in my tasks within the Society.

As the New Year rolls in I'll be stepping up to take on the newsletter editor position, and I'm well aware that I have some big shoes to fill. My hopes are to be able to continue with interesting and educational articles that will appeal to all our members, while keeping us all connected as the extended family that we truly are. I am also hoping to be able to appeal to younger members and prospective members through our newsletter content and help our extended family grow in size and involvement. I look forward to working with everyone and learning from each of our members.

Warmest regards,
Samantha
samanthaKSNA@gmail.com







The
Kennedy Gazette
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 40 ISSUE 4

DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE:
MARCH 3

Please submit copy and pictures for the spring issue no later than March 3rd.
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