

the

thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

So Now I have a Kilt

July 2011

But how do I wear it?

There is so much tradition and controversy associated with Highland dress that it is no wonder that many people are confused and anxious to seek advice on the subject.

The Kilt:

In southern California it's difficult to find an experienced kilt maker. My recommendation is to go to a tailor you trust and have him take the various measurements your kilt maker will require. There are several good highland dress suppliers online that will tailor your kilt from the measurements you send them, Kinloch Anderson in Edinburgh are the suppliers to Prince Charles, there are others. Do spend the extra money to get a good kilt in heavyweight material — the pleats hang better. The kilt sits at the waist and when kneeling the hem should touch the floor.

Hose:

The long woolen blend socks should sit an inch below the knee. They should be secured with flashes (kilt tartan material or a color to compliment your kilt). Flashes are traditionally tied but elastic bands are more usual these days. Hose color is up to

See **Now I have a Kilt**, page 2

a message from John E. Lowry, FSA Scot President.



Dear Members,
Your Society has sponsored a number of very successful events in 2011 and it is not yet July! If you were privileged to join us at one or more, you know what I mean. The year was hardly

started when we hosted a fine Robert Burns Supper at The Thursday Club in La Canada/Flintridge. I personally attended only three such dinners and ours was by far the best of all. Haggis and Scotch tasting, music and dance—what more could one ask? OK, there was a very fine dinner, as well! The Society Annual General Meeting is a business meeting to which all are invited and which turns out to be an extremely enjoyable social occasion. This year the AGM was at the lovely La Cañada home of Jack and Barbara Dawson on February 12. Moving right along from that was our Society booth at the Queen Mary Scottish Festival on February 19 & 20 where we signed on several new members and had even more fun!

April brought us to Tartan Day USA—April 6 of each year—and our combined St. Andrew's Society of LA and Seaside Highland Games Tartan Day Dinner at the very Scottish Tam O'Shanter Inn in Los Angeles where you would have sworn you were at a full tartan festival on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh! There were enough tartan garments present to sail a ship if we had one. A fine dinner with no haggis, sadly, and remembrances of why we honor our family colors and wear them so proudly. We packed out the Bonny Prince Charlie Room as we always do. The Las Vegas

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Annual Garden Party 2011

The annual garden party is a highlight of our scottish calendar. Each year we look forward to a celebration of summer that only our southern California climate allows.

This year over sixty tartan clad members and guests were treated to a breathtaking occasion at the equally breathtaking home of members Frances and Terry Buchanan. Whether seated by the pool enjoying a Pimms Cup and bacon wrapped scallops or sheltering in the shade nursing a single malt the experience was one which will remain in our memories. The idyllic atmosphere was further enhanced by the

Please see **Garden Party**, page 6

In Gear

Ron Flockhart

Ron Flockhart (16 June 1923, Edinburgh — 12 April 1962, Dandenong Ranges, Victoria, Australia) was a Scottish racing driver.

Ron started competing in 1951 in a Joe Potts Formula 3 car. He participated in 14 World Championship Formula One

Grands Prix, debuting on 17 July 1954. He achieved 1 podium, and scored a total of 5 championship points. He also participated in numerous non-Championship Formula One races.

He was a double Le Mans winner. In 1956, driving an ex-



Ron with his J.P. at his home in Edinburgh, July 1951.

works Jaguar D-type for the small Scottish team Ecurie Ecosse, he won the Le Mans 24 hours race

Please see **Ron Flockhart**, page 4



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Letter from the editor

Ian Skone-Rees

The Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles is evolving, as we must if we are to remain a viable and meaningful influence in our community.

Our presence at various Scottish Games and festivals over the past few years has increased our visibility and helped broadcast the message that we take the preservation and development of our Scottish culture seriously. As a result we have attracted new members who wish to belong to a society where they can meet like minded people who also wish to maintain and strengthen the bond they have with their Scottish ancestry. This process must continue. We must all continue to reach out and welcome new members into our midst, particularly those individuals who will be able to lead the society into the future and build on the foundation established by those who have come before them. Many of you have introduced your friends and brought along guests to our events and many of them have become members as a result. This new blood swells our membership and enables us to continue our support of Scottish dance, piping, and athletics.

The Society Board meetings are published in this newsletter and on our website. The Board encourages you to attend. Your input is needed if we are to continue to reflect the needs and

meet the expectations of the full membership. You can also contact any of the Board members directly with your ideas or suggestions.

Our next event will be the Seaside Highland Games. This wonderful gathering kicks off with a whisky tasting and a fashion show at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel on October 7. The hotel offers special rates for Games attendees. The society hospitality tent will be open both days of the Games. If you would like to volunteer some time to staff the tent, please contact Stuart Bird Wilson and let him know your availability stuartbw@msn.com.

Now I have a Kilt, from page 1

you but should compliment your kilt. Custom woven hose in your tartan are nice, but costly. The Sgian Dhu (black knife) should be inserted between your leg calf and the hose in a scabbard, or you run the risk of getting blood on your hose!

Kilt Pin:

Fasten it to the right side of the front apron only. It is intended as a decorative weight to prevent the apron from blowing aside in wind.

Sporran:


You'll need two, a day sporran and one for formal events. Formal sporrans are worn with the chain belt. Day sporrans should use a leather belt. There's a reason for that, chain can quickly damage your expensive

kilt material, leather is more friendly.

Kilt Belt:

Yes you'll need one but don't wear it if you are wearing a waistcoat (vest).

As far as the rest of the clothing is concerned, almost anything goes. Do not wear a regular sportcoat with your kilt, try it and you'll see why! An Argyle tweed jacket is a good bet for day wear. The formal Prince Charlie jacket and waistcoat is standard for formal evening wear but the less formal black barathra Argyle and waistcoat is perfectly acceptable.

Treat yourself to the bible on highland dress, "So you're going to wear the kilt", by J. Charles Thompson. 

Calendar of Events

October 7, 8, 9, 2011

Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, CA

October 15, 2011

Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 23, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

Kirkin of The Tartans
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church


Jan 28, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Robert Burns Supper
La Cañada Thursday Club

For further details log on

www.saintandrewsla.org



The strength of our society is in our membership, so please make yourself known, get involved and to paraphrase Lord Kitchener's immortal words, "Your society needs YOU." 

Word Power

Which of these authors are not Scots?

A J. K. Rowling **B** Conan Doyle **C** R. L. Stevenson

Click here for answers.

Scotland's Influence in the United States

A series of articles prepared by David Cargill

The Scots were a valuable addition to a developing world. Their past experience of working in the harsh conditions of rural Scotland, combined with their hard-working Presbyterian upbringing, made them an ideal people to help build America in its formative years.

The Scottish emigrants of the 18th Century were an educated group due to the Scottish Reformation, which had stressed the need for education, so every Scot could read the Bible.

Education has always played an important part in Scottish

society, and these Scots played a crucial role in the early development of the New World. Most headmasters of the schools in the new colonies south of New York were Scottish or of Scottish ancestry. These establishments were fundamental in the education of America's future leaders; both Thomas Jefferson's and John Rutledge's tutors were Scottish immigrants.

In this continuing series of articles we will introduce Scots or persons of Scottish descent who have left their indelible mark on the American landscape – Ed.

David Jack 1822–1909



It's hard to believe that the 'Jack' in American cheese is ... Scottish!

The Monterey Jack cheese available in every supermarket is American created here in California, but owes a debt of gratitude to its Scottish creator, David Jack.

In 1841, nineteen-year-old David Jack emigrated from Crieff, Perthshire to join his two older brothers in America. The teenager left behind his mother Janet, his father William and six other siblings for the new world.

David initially settled in Long Island, NY with his brothers working as an army contractor, but was attracted to travel west as the Gold Rush took hold. Using his military experience, David invested in purchasing guns and reselling them at a high profit.

Now a rich man in his 20's David moved to Monterey and decided to purchase land and settle down with his new wife Maria. During the next few years, David settled many Mexican land claims and very quickly became the dominant land owner in Monterey County. In 1852, David was elected Treasurer of Monterey County, and with that job came a desire to accumulate more land – with incredible consequences.

Monterey City sued David regarding a land purchase and the case eventually reached the Supreme Court in 1903 ruling in favor of Jack.

During David's land acquisitions, he decided to purchase a dairy along the Salinas River producing cheese known as Queso Blanco. As the cheese was mass marketed, the name was changed to Jack's Cheese, then eventually Monterey Jack. The origins of the name remain shrouded in mystery, but many commentators associate David's surname with the cheese's brand name.

David died on 11th January 1909, father of seven children and a wealthy man. His last surviving heir Margaret Jack died in 1962, and his entire estate was passed to many charities and various colleges and universities in California. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

How well do you know Scotland

World's highest waterfall...	Niagara	Eas Coul Aulin	Angel Falls
The first official football match was between...	Scotland vs. England	Scotland vs. Wales	Scotland vs. Ireland
How many Clyde built sailing ships remain?	1	5	8
The first museum in Scotland was...	The Hunterian	The Albion	Armadae
The earliest known inhabitants of Scotland were...	Picts	Caledonii	Maetae
The phone country code for Scotland is...	39	44	011

[Click here for answers.](#)

New Member's Reception

May 14, 2011

www.saintandrewsla.org

CLAN CURRIE WWW.CLANCURRIE.COM



Extreme left, Dave Macpherson, V.P.; third from right John Lowry, FSA Scot, President.

New Members L-R:

Marian Fleming, Sharon MacDougall, Sandra Moffett, Darleen Weisz, Cathy Pattinson, Patrick Moffett, Colin Stead, William Wagon, Kathleen Dunham, John Massie, MBE.

Once again the reception for new members was held at the lovely home of Vickie Pushee.

Delectable comestibles, beverages and of course the ever present array of single malt scotch ensured a good time was had by all. Twenty-four new members were admitted to the society in 2010/2011 and close to half were able to attend the reception. Each new member

was presented with a certificate of membership by president John Lowry. Many of our new members visited the SASLA tent at the Costa Mesa Games, and despite the threat of Carmageddon also attended the annual garden party. This new crop seem to be an active crowd anxious to participate and contribute to and support the Society and we welcome them all with open arms. 🍷



Too much fun!

L-R: Pamela Marbel Lowry, Carol Auslander, Eileen Skone-Rees, and Cynthia Benton share a laugh, and a glass of wine.

Some of the usual suspects!

L-R: Rod Shreckengost, Chuck Robertson, John Lowry, Jack Dawson, Dave Moffett.



The Clan Currie, anciently Clan MacMhuirich, has a long and honorable history. They are one of the earliest constituted Clans of the Scottish Highlands. In his book "Scottish Clans and Tartans", Scottish author and historian Ian Grimble writes "The Herbridean name of Currie is the corrupt English form of MacMureach, one of the most ancient and distinguished names in Scotland's history. Through the MacMhuirichs, the Literary Torch in the Western Isles was preserved for generations. They were recognized as the most illustrious body of learned men who were

specialists in the heroic literature and genealogy of the ancient Gaelic world". To celebrate this pedigree and in recognition of the 600 anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw the Clan Currie Society will dedicate a stone July 22 in Makars Court, Edinburgh, inscribed with the opening lines of The Harlaw Brosnachadh, composed by Lachlan Mor MacMhuirich. 🍷



Ron Flockhart, from page 1

with co-driver Ninian Sanderson. The following year he won again for the same team, this time with Ivor Bueb, setting a distance record of 2,732.8 miles. Flockhart purchased the famous ERA R4D from Raymond Mays and in 1953 had a very successful season, beating one of the works BRMs at Goodwood. With podium finishes at Goodwood, Charterhall, Snetterton and Crystal Palace, as well as several hill climb successes. In the early 1960s the United Dominions Trust made plans to break the record for the time taken to fly from Sydney to London in order to gain publicity for its UDT Laystall racing team. A Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation-built Mustang World War Two fighter was purchased in

Australia and Flockhart was engaged to make the attempt. Flockhart departed Sydney in the Mustang, registered G-ARKD, on 28 February 1961 and after several delays due to bad weather finally ended the attempt at Athens due to engine problems. Flockhart subsequently entered the London-Cardiff Air Race to be held in June that year but withdrew because G-ARKD was still in Athens. G-ARKD was abandoned and another CAC Mustang, registered VH-UWB, was bought in Australia for Flockhart to make a second attempt at the Sydney-London record. On 12 April 1962, while on a test flight in preparation for the record attempt, Flockhart crashed VH-UWB in poor weather near Kallista, Victoria and was killed. 🍷

Garden Party, July 16, 2011



Poets' Corner

Poets' Corner is the name given to a section of the South Transept of Westminster Abbey due to the number of poets, playwrights, and writers now buried and commemorated there, including Scotland's own Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Campbell, and Robert Adam.

Please send your submissions of original compositions, or poems that have special meaning for you, to the Editor via email: rees1@mac.com

Culloden Moor
Alice Macdonell of Keppoch

Full of grief, the low winds sweep
O'er the sorrow-haunted ground;
Dark the woods where night rains weep,
Dark the hills that watch around.

Tell me, can the joys of spring
Ever make this sadness flee,
Make the woods with music ring,
And the streamlet laugh for glee?

When the summer moor is lit
With the pale fire of the broom,
And through green the shadows flit,
Still shall mirth give place to gloom?

Sad shall it be, though sun be shed
Golden bright on field and flood;
E'en the heather's crimson red
Holds the memory of blood.

Here that broken, weary band
Met the ruthless foe's array,
Where those moss-grown boulders stand,
On that dark and fatal day.

Like a phantom hope had fled,
Love to death was all in vain,
Vain, though heroes' blood was shed,
And though hearts were broke in twain.

Many a voice has cursed the name
Time has into darkness thrust,
Cruelty his only fame
In forgetfulness and dust.

Noble dead that sleep below,
We your valour ne'er forget;
Soft the heroes' rest who know
Hearts like theirs are beating yet.


Message, from page 1

Highland Games April 16 & 17 did not command an "official" SAS presence but with the numbers of our members in attendance, we could have amassed as a force to be reckoned with!

A commemoration of Jack Dawson's milestone birthday was around May 1 but we won't mention that here! What we will mention is the lovely New Members Reception hosted by Victoria Pushee at her elegant Brentwood Estates home on the afternoon of May 14. About half of the twenty-four new members could attend together with other Board Members and guests to be properly welcomed! Each of you attended such an event when you joined SAS regardless of whether it was five or fifty years ago (and maybe some even longer)! You know, our venerable Society is an agile and supple 80 year old now so be good to her!!

Sunday, May 22, brought a sobering and very meaningful service to commemorate our Canadian brethren lost in war held by the Royal Canadian Legion at Inglewood Park Cemetery. Our Society has strong connections to Canada through many members and we are proud to be asked to place a wreath at the Canadian Veteran's Cenotaph. It was, again, gratifying to see the numbers of our members on hand for this occasion. Hard on the heels of that Memorial Day was our own USA Memorial Day weekend and the big USS Costa Mesa Scotsfest Scottish Games on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 & 29. We always host a busy Society tent there and this year was no exception. Stuart Bird-Wilson did yeoman work in hosting and coordinating together with a host of others who all worked diligently.

You may be saying, wow, and I missed all of those wonderful functions. Will I get a chance to attend a St. Andrew's event at all this year?? Well,

hopefully you didn't miss the Annual SASLA GARDEN PARTY just completed at the gorgeous Glendale hilltop home of Frances & Terry Buchanan where a good time was had by all. Dave & Corkie MacPherson and their Committee worked furiously at making this the wonderful social occasion it was. Thanks all! Looking ahead, we will once again sponsor the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans service at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church on October 23 and, hopefully, a celebration to remember our namesake Saint Andrew on or about his birthday November 30. If anyone has an idea or access to a special location to hold such an event, please come forth with your plan. Don't be bashful as we have been proven to be flexible. We have even celebrated in an Italian restaurant (wonderful)! 



Contact John Lowry via email
at: jemmettlowry@aol.com



Garden Party, from page 1

music of Annie and Rod Shrekengost which wafted over us ever so gently.



L-R: Dave Macpherson, (Garden Party committee chair), Norman Auslander, John Lowry, FSA Scot.

Word Power – The Thistle July 2011

Answers

J. K. Rowling was born in Yate, Gloucestershire, England. Following a checkered post university career she settled in Edinburgh to be near to her sister ... the rest is history.

Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh.

R. L. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh.

How well do you know Scotland

The Thistle July, 2011

Answers

The World's highest waterfall is Kerepakupai Merú or Parekupa Vena in the language of the indigenous Pemón, and are more commonly known as Salto Ángel or **Angel Falls**, is the tallest free-falling waterfall on earth. The Río Gauja flows from the sandstone plateau-mountain Auyan Tepui, the largest of many Tepuis in Canaima National Park in the southeastern part of Venezuela. As the river nears the edge of the mountain, it sinks into channels in the bedrock and disappears underground completely, emerging 50 feet below the top of the cliff and plunging a sheer 2,648 feet to the floor of the canyon below. The river flows all year long, but during the dry months it is severely reduced in volume and isn't anywhere near as impressive.

The first officially recorded football match was between **Scotland and England**, March 5, 1870.

There are **five** Clyde built sailing vessels still afloat: Balclutha (also known as Star of Alaska), Falls of Clyde, Glenlee, Moshulu and Pommern.

The first Scottish museum was **The Hunterian** in the University of Glasgow.

The earliest known inhabitants of present day Scotland were the **Picts**.

As Scotland is part of the United Kingdom the country code is the same, **44**.