Seaside Games 12th – 14th October

‘The Friendly Games’ will take place for the sixteenth time at Seaside Park, Ventura and St. Andrews will be well in evidence hosting for the first time Harp Glen on Clan Row. At the entrance to Harp Glen you will find our hospitality tent and all are welcome to stop and visit, take the weight off your feet and sit in the shade of the tent with, who knows, something to rehydrate your weary body.

The Society’s official tartan registered with The Scottish Register of Tartans, has been woven and is now available for purchase as made-up products. Please go to the online Society Shop: http://saintandrewsla.org/merchandise/ A limited number of ladies sashes and gentlemen’s ties are in stock and will be available for purchase at the Society tent at Seaside Highland Games.

In Gear

If there has been a speed record to break, a race to be won or a challenge to meet, Scotland has been at the vanguard throughout the sport’s history. Despite the country’s size, it is the fifth most successful nation in the world for producing Formula One World Champions.

When I first started this newsletter ten years ago in 2008 I promised it would be published on wet Saturday afternoons. That promise is why there has been such a delay in producing this latest edition!

The hot weather we have been experiencing continues and shows little sign of let up, I hope you all have ways to cool off and that you are not impacted by the terrible fires that plague so many in California.

Our Tartan Day celebration seems so far away now but that was the last key event in our calendar and thanks to all our volunteers and guests was another memorable success. Following Tartan Day several new members attended our traditional ‘New Member’s Reception’ again held at the home of Jack and Barbara Dawson. The summer is when we normally look forward to our annual Garden Party. Last year as you will recall we were privileged to hold it at the official residence of the British Consulate General and again thanks to great efforts by many volunteers was a huge success. This year time caught up with us all and planning for this event sadly faltered. However our sister organization, The British United Services Club (BUSC), invited us to jointly promote a ‘Tiki Party’. This gathering complete with Hawaiian dancers, rum cocktails and music from the islands occurred 11th August at the Rainforest Flora Nursery in Torrance. St. Andrew’s members turned out in force and although not our traditional Garden Party was a great hit with all who attended. Our thanks go to Stuart Bird Wilson, President of the BUSC and long time St. Andrew’s member and his volunteers, who did most of the heavy lifting to make this such a success.

St. Andrew’s Societies exist throughout the world and their traditions as well as their charitable, educational, and community activities are well known. Our Society continues these traditions and as well as actively supporting worthy institutions continues to provide assistance to individuals who are pursuing Scottish crafts and disciplines and exhibit the high standards of social conduct consistent with the high purposes of Saint Andrew’s societies everywhere. The St. Andrew’s Society of Los Angeles was established in 1930 and is now in its 88th year. Since its earliest beginnings the Society has been recognized as an important member of the community and never more so than today. It is a testament to all of you who remain steadfast members, putting aside individual profit to support the Society that has made this possible. Thank you.

Please visit our website to keep up on the latest Society news and events.

Contact Ian Skone-Rees via email at: rees1@mac.com or iskonerees@saintandrewsla.org

a message from Ian J, Skone-Rees, FSA Scot, President.

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Two ‘D’ type Jaguars lead the pack. Does anyone recognize this race circuit?
With the establishment of the new Society official tartan and the development of our online shop with new items the coordination of order fulfillment and shipping has increased in complexity. To take care of this a Quartermaster position has been established. Scott Graham, who many of you know, has volunteered to take on this new role. Scott has a wide range of experience with sourcing items and coordinating fulfillment of orders both for his clan and the Seaside Highland Games. All items may be ordered online, but if you have any questions about your order please contact Scott hohan@comcast.net.

In addition to the lapel pin and blazer badge there is a lady’s sash, gentleman’s tie, and a rosette, all in pure new lightweight wool woven and manufactured in Scotland by our exclusive supplier, House of Tartan. You may also place your order for a full 8yd. kilt in 16oz pure new wool that will be delivered complete with hose flashes. All items may be paid for online with your credit card or PayPal.

There are other items in the pipeline, including a polo shirt with embroidered Society crest and a lady’s ‘V’ neck Tee.

Visit this page on the website often to keep up-to-date with new offerings.

If you order a kilt by 17th August it will be delivered in time for you to wear it at Seaside Highland Games.

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There is also a comprehensive listing of Highland Games and Festivals, both in America and Scotland. Visit the merchandise page and pick up a lapel pin or embroidered blazer crest, featuring the Society shield. Pay for these online with your credit card or PayPal. Talking of payment you can also renew your membership online using the same credit card.

Information about how to apply for a Society Grant is also listed, including all the forms an applicant will need to complete. There’s more … please visit.

Available at: http://saintandrewsla.org/merchandise/

Kilt in the new St. Andrew's Society tartan.

Society Online Shop

Several new items have been added to the range of merchandise available in the Society tartan. All of which can be ordered and paid for online at the new Society Shop page on the website.

http://saintandrewsla.org/merchandise/

In addition to the lapel pin and blazer badge there is a lady’s sash, gentleman’s tie, and a rosette, all in pure new lightweight wool woven and manufactured in Scotland by our exclusive supplier, House of Tartan. You may also place your order for a full 8yd. kilt in 16oz pure new wool that will be delivered complete with hose flashes. All items may be paid for online with your credit card or PayPal.

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Kilt in the new St. Andrew's Society tartan.
Seaside Highland Games
12th – 14th October, 2018

The annual gathering at Seaside Park, Ventura never fails to impress. Dubbed the ‘friendly games’ by those of us who regularly attend, the gathering by the sea includes all the components of a traditional Highland Games.

If you’re looking for a new item to complement your highland dress the huge number of vendors will not fail to deliver. If it’s food — fish & chips, meat pies, or haggis there is a wide selection. To wash it all down there’s beer from well known British breweries and of single malt scotch from famous distilleries. Up to 80 clans are represented on clan row and of course the professional highland athletes will be throwing and lifting all kinds of things to illustrate their physical prowess, just as the ancient highland warriors did to hone their battle skills.

This year St. Andrews has embarked on a new level of financial support for the Games highlighting its bond and increasing its support for the promotion of this ancient highland culture.

HARP GLEN

For eight years the Clan Currie Society has presented the Harp Glen at Seaside. Clan Currie has a long history as a premier bardic family whose use of the harp to deliver news and to encourage warriors on the eve of battle is legendary.

This year Clan Currie is passing the baton to the St. Andrew’s Society. St. Andrew’s will present Harp Glen at the same location on Clan Row in collaboration with Carolyn Sykes of Pacific Harps. Carolyn has played a major role in producing Harp Glen for many years and last year took over the musical direction of the event in its entirety. This year Carolyn will present professional harpers and accomplished students performing on both days of the Games. In addition the Harp Petting Zoo will again offer the opportunity, under the guidance of an accomplished harper, to pluck the strings of a Celtic harp yourself. Harp CDs will be available for purchase and if you are interested in learning to play this ancient instrument you can sign up for lessons on the spot.

As well as live music the Glen is decorated with storyboards and banners explaining the history of the harp and its place in Scottish culture, with special prominence given to the ‘Lamont Harp’, the oldest surviving Celtic harp and the Queen Mary harp given as a gift by Mary Queen of Scots to Beatrix Gardyn of Banchory in the 16th century.

HOSPITALITY TENT

All along clan row you can visit with clan representatives and learn part of their history and contributions to the rich fabric of Scottish culture.

Our own Society tent is located at the entrance to Harp Glen. Members of the Board of Trustees will be on hand to answer any questions about the Society and its current activities. Some Society merchandise will be available for purchase and you will be assured of a welcome and an opportunity to take the weight off your feet under the shade of the tent.

Please come and visit and if you would like to help staff the tent during the Games please let our Games coordinator Patrick Benn know padraigbenn@gmail.com.
Meet Member
Jack Dawson

A conversation with Dr. Richard MacKenzie

Richard: Jack, thanks for taking the time to share a little of your Scottish roots. I know that you have played an integral role in nourishing the growth of the St Andrews Society, here in LA. Tell me a little about your family history and how your family ended up in the US.

Jack: My paternal great grandfather “Old Dick” came from Scotland thru Northern Ireland. (ed: the early Ulster settlements of Northern Ireland were known as the “other” Scotland and often considered the first diaspora). He became a very successful builder in downtown Syracuse NY. With great pride, my father’s sister showed me many of these buildings. “Old Dick” also did some modification work on the Erie Canal. The Ulster Scots were known for their ingenuity and persistence!

My maternal great grandmother was a Davidson (Dawson is a Sept of Davidson). As near as I can find, she descended from the Davidson that, in the early 1740’s, was James Ogilthorpe’s engineer at Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island, Georgia. (ed: Ogilthorpe played a central role in establishing Georgia as a colony and repelling the Spanish). I can recall my great grandmother telling me about a graveyard in Fredericka, Delaware where many Davidsens are buried and that we visited maybe 30 years ago. My maternal grandmother, (née Davidson) was invited to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), but she never got involved. We use the modern Davidson tartan.

Richard: Fascinating! With such strong roots bridging Irish, Scottish and American cultures, how did you carve your personal path?

Jack: I decided to be a mechanical engineer when I was 12 years old! I earned my BSME at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1953 and my MS in 1979. I was employed at General Electric right after graduating and served about 2 years in the GE engineering training program. I then realized that my permanent assignment was a dead-end. I married my Illinois fiancé and we bought into a small business in Los Angeles that I had been managing. The business designs and sells mechanical equipment for commercial buildings used in cooling, heating, plumbing and refrigeration. I bought out the business and retired in 2006, selling the business to the employees.

Richard: Jack, I know that you have continued to be a strong supporter of the Society and its mission for many years. How did you originally get involved?

Jack: Clearly the Celtic culture is part of my genetics and heritage. We, who have been so privileged, are drawn to the music of the pipes, the fiddle and the harp, the tartans, the kilt and the uisge beatha (the ‘water of life’ - whisky). Somewhere I heard about St Andrews Society and was invited to join when Wes Cameron was President (1982–85). I have always enjoyed Scottish culture and have visited most of Scotland from Gretna Green to St. Kilda, a part of the Outer Hebrides and the Orkneys. I find that the St. Andrews Society nourishes this part of me and kindles not only the memories of my past but also those heroes of my heritage.

Richard: What are your key goals for the St. Andrews Society in the Los Angeles area?

Jack: My key goal is to maintain and build the membership. The Society has to be visible and relevant to the community. I believe in the importance of our culture and heritage and want to share this with others.

Richard: Thank you for sharing your experiences with us today. It has been a pleasure.

Jack: Thank you for having me. It has been a great honor to be a part of the St. Andrews Society.

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Bannockburn Monument

Set within the grounds of the Battle of Bannockburn historic site is the Rotunda, a circular, pre-cast concrete enclosure dating from 1964, which commemorates the 650th anniversary of the Battle; the Memorial Cairn; and the statue of King Robert I, designed by Charles d’Orville Pilkington Jackson using the actual measurements of Bruce’s skull and first unveiled by the Queen in 1964.

All of these monuments have tremendous cultural significance, commemorating one of Scotland’s most pivotal moments in history. These monuments were restored during the redevelopment of the site in 2014, but to ensure their survival for future generations, the Trust must undertake cyclic maintenance on the structures. At this time, the Rotunda walls must be cleaned and the careful restoration of the bronze statue of Robert I in situ, as well as waxing it to provide protection from the elements. It is hoped that all of this work can be completed in public view.
Tartan Day Celebration 2018

A look back at Tartan Day and the great people who made it happen! Thank you!
The Highlander
The Magazine of Scottish Heritage

The Highlander magazine is a quarterly publication dedicated to the promotion of Scottish culture. It is published by Neill Kennedy Ray who has included over the years many pieces devoted to the St. Andrew’s Society of Los Angeles for which we are in his debt. This exposure of Society events to the wider Scottish diaspora has helped us tremendously in attracting new membership and making Scots and people of Scottish inclination throughout the United States and beyond aware of us and our contributions to our community and individuals pursuing Scottish crafts and disciplines.

Now in its fourth decade, The Highlander is the Scottish American community’s oldest, largest, most widely read and respected magazine. Each 80-page issue contains colorful articles on personalities, places and events in Scottish history, plus reports on the activities of the Scottish American community today.

The Highlander’s regular features include:
• A Scottish genealogy column
• Highlander Scene photos of the people who keep our Scottish traditions alive
• News from St. Andrew’s Societies, Clans and Scottish societies
• Coming Events Calendar of Scottish games and gatherings throughout the year
• Listings of more than 170 Clans and Scottish societies
• Highland Services Directory
• Classified advertisements

Some of you reading this I know already subscribe to this magazine and for those who do not or maybe were not aware of it I encourage you to consider taking out a subscription. You will not regret the modest investment and who knows you may actually see your photograph published from one of our events.

Subscriptions details are below:
The Highlander
P.O. Box 291842
Kettering, OH 45429
1-800-607-4410
www.highlandermagazine.com

Does Meghan Markle Have Scottish Royal Blood?

By Anthony Adolph

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At the start of April, the press went into a storm of excitement over the revelation that Meghan Markle, the future bride of HRH Prince Harry of Wales, was a direct descendant of Robert the Bruce. "Meghan Markle a direct descendant of robert the Bruce" proclaimed The Scotsman — and virtually every newspaper in Britain and overseas repeated the story. The Times of Israel, for instance, announced on April 9 that “on her father’s side, she is a descendant of King Robert I of Scotland.”

So, how Scottish is Meghan Markle, and can Scotland really claim her for its own?

Each time there is a royal wedding, media savvy genealogists in Britain and America go into a frenzy of research to try to find as many interesting ancestors for the new member of the British royal family as possible. And all other genealogists then enjoy scouring the results to see if they can claim the new royal as a distant relative.

The latest diggings into Meghan’s ancestry have proved fascinating. Her ancestry falls into two very distinct halves. Her mother, Doria Loyce Ragland, a yoga teacher who was born in Los Angeles in 1956, is of African-American Ancestry. Doria’s father Alvin Azell Ragland (1930–2011), was born in Tennessee. His ancestry goes back to the time of slavery. One forebear, a plantation slave who was freed when slavery was abolished in 1865. chose the last name Wisdom.

Among Meghan’s ancestors on this side of the family were her mother’s grandparents. Claudia Ritchie, born in 1856 in Jonesboro, Georgia, and Jeremiah Ragland, born about 1881 in Jonesboro. Both were described in official records a “mulatto,” i.e. of mixed race.

Claudia’s mother rejoiced in her given name, Mattie Turnipseed. The earlier ancestry of the Ritchies is apparently untraced (or untraceable), but the line may well go back, perhaps via the relationship of a black slave woman with a white slave

Please see Royal Blood, p. 8
Dear St. Andrews Society of LA,

I have had an amazing summer so far, and I wanted to update you on some of my results from my recent competitions.

At the beginning of July I went to Calgary, Alberta for the 2018 ScotDance Canada Championship Series. This is one of the largest highland dancing competitions in the world, with over 900 dancers from Canada, the US, Scotland, Australia, and South Africa.

While I was there, I competed in 3 open competitions in a group with champion dancers from Canada and Scotland. I placed on all 3 days, and I am most excited about placing 4th overall in the 15 years Open Championship! Doing so well at this competition makes me very excited for Scotland, as these are many of the same dancers I will be competing against at the World Championships!

Last weekend I went to the United States Inter-Regional Championships in Gettysburg, PA. I was very excited not only for the dancing events but for the location as well! US history is one of my favorite school subjects and I’ll be taking it as a college course in the fall so I was looking forward to seeing the historical monuments in Gettysburg. I got to go to the Gettysburg Museum and Visitors Center, drive through part of the battlefield, and eat dinner at the Dobbin House restaurant (the oldest building in Gettysburg)! When I start my history course next month, I will have a better idea of location of these important battles and when we cover the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg address I will be able to tell my teacher and peers that I have been there and I have seen a chair that Lincoln might have sat in! This weekend also has many different social events for the dancers, including a movie night and banquet. I got to spend time with my friends, many of whom I haven’t seen since last year’s championship!

The most important part of the weekend was the dancing, and I did very well in all 3 days of competition. I won the US Closed Championship in the 14-15 years group, my second time winning this title. I got 3 first places and a 3rd place, which is the best I’ve ever done at the US Championships! I was also 2nd runner up in the open premiership and won the North American Open Championship! Overall, this was my most successful weekend at the US Championships in my 6 years of attending them!

Next weekend I will be leaving for Scotland. I will be competing in the qualifiers for the World Championships, as well as 2 other open championships. I will also get to do some sightseeing and visit my family who still live over there! I will send another update when I return from Scotland to tell you about my results and experiences!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Beret Dernbach
owner, to Scotland. The surname denotes the son of someone whose personal name was Ritchie. Ritchie was a Scots diminutive of the personal name Richard. It is commonest in the Borders, but early references are scattered all over Scotland, as far back as Michael Rechy, who lived in Inverness in the 1300s.

Meanwhile, Meghan’s father, Thomas Wayne Markle, was born about 1944 in Pennsylvania and is of white ancestry. The Markles themselves were Pennsylvania coal miners and have been traced back to Isaac Markle (1819–1910) and his wife Leah Rosenberger. Ancestors of Thomas via female lines include Thomas Mangle (1846–1925), a trooper in the 162nd Regiment of the Union Army Cavalry and Thomas Sykes (1835–1878), whose ancestry must go back to the Sykes “clan” who cluster around Slaithwaite (pronounced “Slowat”) on the border between Lancashire and Yorkshire in England.

The line of most interest in terms of far-reaching genealogy goes back through Thomas Wayne Markle’s mother, Doris Mary Rita Sanders (1921–2011), to her great-grandmother, Mary Bessie Smith, born in 1822 in New Hampshire. Her parents were John Smith, born in 1792, a farmer, and his wife, Mary Mudgett, born in 1797.

Although “John Smith” is often one of the hardest names to trace, it’s through John’s parents, John Smith and Martha Drake, that the most intriguing connections come. It has been claimed that John Sr. was the great-great grandson of Captain John Smith and Abigail Shaw. Captain John’s mother was Huldah Hussey, whose father, Captain Christopher Hussey (1599–1686), a founder of Nantucket, Massachusetts, was the grandson of John Hussey of Dorking in the English county of Surrey and his wife, Bridget Bowes.

If this is correct, then Meghan is descended from Bridget’s father, Ralph Bowes (1480–1516) of Strathmore in County Durham, England. Bridget’s brother, Sir George Bowes, was an ancestor of Mary Eleanor Bowes who married John Lyon, 9th Earl of Strathmore, whose family seat was (and remains) Glamis Castle in Angus. Their descendants, the Bowes-Lyon family, produces Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, better known as the Queen Mother, the beloved great-grandmother of Meghan’s fiancé, Prince Harry.

Abigail Shaw’s ancestry is where the trouble lies. In his recent biography of Meghan, Andrew Morton, a highly respected royal biographer, claimed, “It is possible to trace a direct line through 25 generations,” via Abigail Shaw, “to Robert I of Scotland, perhaps the most colorful of all the Scottish kings.”

This would be true if the Shaw pedigree he was looking at was correct, but unfortunately, it seems that it wasn’t because a vital link in the chain has been disproved. It was thought that Meghan’s ancestor Roger Shaw, was baptised in 1594 in Cornhill, London, and that he was descended from the marriage of Sir James Shaw of Sauchie to Christina Bruce of Clackmannan, thus providing the link back to Robert the Bruce.

That, I understand, was always a rather shaky claim. But back in 2004 Edgar Joseph Shaw published “The English origin of Roger and Ann Shaw of Cambridge, Massachusetts and Hampton, New Hampshire” in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Vol. 158, October 2004, pp. 309–18). Here, he argued that Roger was actually from Gawsworth, Cheshire. If so, then Meghan is not descended from Robert the Bruce, despite virtually every newspaper in the world confidently proclaiming otherwise.

But all is not lost. The highly respected American researcher Gary Boyd Roberts, along with Christopher C. Child, both of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, published a line of descent for Meghan (www.americanancestors.org/Royal-Ancestry-of-Meghan-Markle.aspx) going back through John Smith’s wife, Martha Drake, to Martha’s 10x great-grandmother Elizabeth, Baroness Clifford, whose parents were Henry “Hotspur” Percy (Lord Percy) and Elizabeth Mortimer.

Elizabeth was a great-granddaughter of Edward III of England, who was in turn a 5x great-grandson of Henry I of England and his wife, Matilda, daughter of Malcolm III King of Scotland, who was killed in 1093.

Though more than 200 years earlier than Robert the Bruce, Malcolm was a saintly king who did much to modernize his country in the face of the Norman threat. In short, he was a definite and genuinely royal Scottish ancestor of whom Meghan can feel justly proud.

Anthony Adolph has been a professional genealogist in Britain for just over a quarter of a century, tracing family histories all over the world. His books include Tracing Your Scottish Family History; In Search of Our Ancient Ancestors: from the Big Bang to Modern Britain, in Science and Myth and Brutus of Troy, and the Quest for the Ancestry of the British. He can be contacted at www.anthonyadolph.co.uk
Historic Scottish Gardens and Scots Influences on the Early Gardens of New York

with Chris Wardle, Garden and Designed Landscape Manager, Aberdeen & Angus, NTS

Tuesday, September 25 6:00PM
The Arsenal at Central Park
830 5th Avenue, New York City

Talk will be followed by Arsenal Rooftop Garden reception

Tickets

We are excited to welcome Chris Wardle, National Trust for Scotland's Garden and Designed Landscape Manager for Aberdeenshire and Angus.

Chris has traveled to New York to provide updates on the Trust's work at the Burns Cottage garden and speak to the Scottish influence on American garden design. Based at Crathes Castle, Chris manages twelve gardens at twelve properties from Inverness to Dundee, from the very formal landscape of Pitmedden to productive fruit and vegetable gardens at Fyvie Castle. The American-Scottish Foundation will expand on the subject of Scottish influence on American gardens, specifically Alexander Hamilton's home, The Grange, and the heather gardens at Fort Totten.

The National Trust for Scotland

What is your connection to Scotland?

We are looking for individual stories of Americans’ experiences of Scotland, asking what attracts them to the country, who their favorite Scot is, and which places they return to again and again. But most importantly - we want to know why! In the upcoming months we will compile a mix of answers and share them on Instagram, Facebook and here in our newsletter. Look out for #MyScotland!

Do you have a story to share? Let us know at mail@ntsusa.org.
Kilt Measurement Guide

Please complete and mail to:

Scott Graham
SASLA Quartermaster
3441 Military Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034
310-839-5066 • h-ofan@sbcglobal.net

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Tel: ________________________________
Email: ____________________________

Date: ______________________________

1. Height
   Weight (lbs)

2. Waist
   (Measure tightly, not too tight)

3. Seat
   (Measure normally not tight)

4. Length
   (Length: measure from the top of the knee to the waistline at the knee cap)

St. Andrew’s Society
Los Angeles

Pleating
   Pleat to Sett [ ]
   Pleat to Stripe [ ]

Signature: __________________________
News From Around Town

St. Andrew’s members get around to attend events and gatherings supporting our common interests.

BAFTA member Alan von Kalkreuth and SASLA Trustee Patrick Benn at Tiki Party 11th August.

Dr. David Warburton, OBE, and Leslie Warburton at Highclere Castle as lunch guests of Lady Carnarvon.

L-R: Ian Skone-Rees, President SASLA, Leslie Warburton, Eileen Skone-Rees, Dr. David Warburton, OBE, Stuart Bird-Wilson, President BUSC. On the occasion of BUSC Dinner-Dance to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Lita Van Houten with her father at Tiki Party
The St. Andrew’s Society of Los Angeles wishes to thank all our supporters and sponsors who have contributed and continue to contribute to the goals of the Society.

**MISSION**

The purpose of the Society is to promote Scottish history, traditions, and culture by developing educational and charitable undertakings that nurture relations between the Society, the people of Los Angeles and the greater community.