

Official Newsletter -
October 2021

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The fall season is here. We know that there are still changes happening out in the world. The society is pushing through in doing what we can at this stage to keep the group going and hopefully keeping everyone's best interests in mind. This year again has been one of changes and uncertainties. We ask that you read all of the newsletter and check out what has been happening each month. There are updates to keep an eye out for the remainder of the year, even going into next year as the fall season, winter seasons comes around the bend. If you have something you are interested in seeing in the newsletter, please let a Board member know - having new ideas brought to the table is a good thing. This is the society newsletter and we want to add whatever information will be helpful to you as an organization.

Reminder: The SSI online meetings via Zoom are in session each month - if you have access to a electronic device. The meetings take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month will be starting at 7:30 PM EST for social hour, announcements and other items that need to be addressed. The monthly presentation will begin at 8:00 PM EST. Please make sure to keep an eye out for any changes or updates via the newsletter and our social media sites. Our attendance has been steady and the viewing of the recorded meetings have been growing as well.

Many of the members have asked when in-person events will happen again - especially with the vaccinations in place along with changes of the mandates in different forms. This subject of in-person meetings is an on-going discussion that the

**Learn How to Speak
Scottish Gaelic:**

an fhómhair

Autumn



MEETING DETAILS: Due to the current pandemic of COVID-19, the SSI Board of Trustees advised that there are NO IN-PERSON meetings and/or gatherings until further notice unless noted. Any updates will be announced in a timely manner through our official newsletter as well as on social media. We want to keep our members safe and healthy until it is the right time to gather together once again. Thank you.
[Click Here to Check Out Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA:

For more articles, updates on events and more - Like and follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/indyscot.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/771893283583992>

board is currently reviewing. We do not have a unanimous answer at this time. The games/festival this month has been announced to be cancelled and the St. Andrews Dinner in November has also been cancelled. Hoping to return to in-person meetings in 2021.

Thank you for the support and staying with this organization during these hard times. Stay healthy, stay safe.

~ Sarah Rae, 2021 SSI Trustee
Member/Presidential Assistant &
Newsletter Editor

PLEASE WELCOME NEW SSI MEMBERS:

- Kristin Seminano
- David Campbell
- Adam Donaldson

NOTICES FROM THE BOARD

****MEMBERSHIP REVIEW****

To those who do not know or were not aware from updates listed near the end of last year, anyone who had a membership in good standings with SSI - your membership crossed over to 2021. No additional payment is needed at this time. If you are needing to pay for fees or are a new member joining, please make sure to pay for your dues. We are having a PANDEMIC SPECIAL for anyone wishing to join the SSI at this time. The fees currently are the following - \$10.00 single/individual membership OR \$20.00 for family membership. This will be good until further notice. Note: We are checking and updating our membership records each month. Reach out to the board if you have any questions. Thanks!

****INDY ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING****

Get ready because the Indy RSCD will be back in having their Scottish Country dancing sessions starting on Monday, July



19th. They will be happening at the Latvian Center. Per request of their leadership and fellow dancers, they are requesting that all dancers who attend must be fully vaccinated and must have their vaccine card for proof. There will be hand sanitizer available for all attendees. If you are sick or possibly under the weather, please do not come and stay at home. Masks are optional if you wish to wear them but they are not required.

****INVITATION FOR EVENT IN OHIO****

The Cincinnati Caledonia Society has extended their invitation to the Society of Indianapolis to join them for a St. Andrew's Dinner celebration. This event will be taking place on 11/27/2021 - keep in mind this event is the weekend of Thanksgiving. If you are possibly interested in going, please notify the board so we can forward the invitation to you for review.

****IRISH FEST 2021 - RECAP****

This year's Indy Irish Fest has come and gone. Here is a recap of the SSI state of affairs when it came to the festival --- The IrishFest booth was busy until about 9PM both nights, sometimes with 6 or more guests in the booth, asking questions and looking things up. The weather was perfect for the festival and the SSI sold 1 new family and 2 new individual memberships. The new venue/location for this festival is more intimate than at Military Park. The board would like to say thank you to the volunteers who helped out at the SSI booth during the event on Friday and Saturday: Matt Douglass, Armand Hayes, Sue Cecil, Karen Couch, Linda Cassady, Carter Keith, Alan and Susan Cloe.



****PLEASE NOTE: ANNOUNCEMENT
- CANCELLATION ON THE
SCOTTISH HEAVY ATHLETICS**

EVENT**

As previously announced, the SSI had to cancel the festival portion of the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival.

We were looking into continuing to support our athletes in a way to move forward in doing a games only event this year. However, we have a new announcement to make about the games event.

It is with deep disappointment that we must share with you the decision of the Board of the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis. At this time, we will not be moving forward with hosting and funding the Indianapolis Scottish Heavy Athletics Invitational this October. There will be no festival, no athletics - just no event at all this year. This was not an easy decision for the Board to make - the discussion was long and emotional. Members expressed many concerns prompted by the increasing spread of COVID-19 and possible new restrictions.

When the Board voted to support the event earlier this year, COVID was on the decline and restrictions were being lifted. We had hope we could still hold a scaled-back event. This has changed, with cases rapidly on the rise and with increasing breakthrough cases among the vaccinated. The risk to health and life is increasing - many of our SSI volunteers are in the higher risk categories.

We have concerns about our ability to adequately host this event. Many of our regular volunteers are reluctant to volunteer amid increasing COVID concerns.

Also of concern is that one of our food vendors has withdrawn and another may be questionable. The vendors are concerned it does not make financial sense for them. It is not likely that we will be able to replace them with similar vendors. That would leave us with limited food options for the athletes and attendees.

Recent fundraising efforts have been unsuccessful. At the earlier votes, the

estimated financial exposure was about \$5000. That exposure has now increased to an estimated \$9000 with the possibility of additional expenses. With less than two months before the Games and limited PR value, it is unlikely that we will be able to secure significant sponsors or other underwriters for the event. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the Foundation that cannot be ignored.

Let us stress that the Board did not come to this decision lightly and without concern about the future of the even. We are very aware that this will be a great disappointment to you, the athletes and many others. It definitely is a disappointment to us. We wanted to make this work. However, given the combined risks of increasing of COVID spread, fiduciary responsibility, and our inability to guarantee adequate volunteers and amenities to host a quality event, the Board felt it was necessary to cancel the event. Thank you.

- The Board of Trustees of the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis Inc. and the Scottish Society of Indianapolis Inc.

2021 ELECTIONS FOR SSI BOARD OF TRUSTEES



With the fall season already here, it is time for nominations as well as elections for the 2021 SSI Board of Trustees. We are looking for new blood to lead the society. At this time, here is the current slate of nominees and what they are running for:

Sarah Rae - SSI President, Newsletter Editor

Matt Douglass - Trustee, Assistant for New President Elect

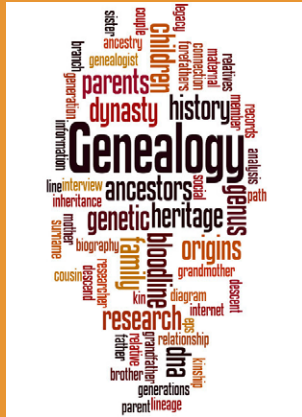
Kathy Hohman - Trustee, Outreach Programming

Karen Couch - Trustee, SSI Secretary

Barbara Rush - Trustee

Potential Nominees: Tom Wallace, Dan Patton

Please let the current board know if you are interested - we will be taking in-person nominations up to the time of voting. Voting for the 2021 board will be in November and it will be done in an online fashion - more on this matter to come soon.



SEPTEMBER '21 MEETING RECAP: Genealogy 201 - Advanced Studies

Earlier this year, we had a presentation with Genealogy 101 which discussed the basics on how

to start researching your history as well as family lineage. After a great reception and request from the membership, SSI member Barry Levitt returned to present Genealogy 201.

Here are some highlights from the presentation. There are a few reasons on why emigration happened: economics, crop issues, religion, being exiled, seeking the "American Dream". There were some main focus on the Scotland emigration waves - Ulster / 1707 Act of Union / 1746 Battle of Culloden / 1880-1920 Scots Went to America. A few locations that you can check to dive into the family lineage or history to find specific individuals or connections can be: Scottish record categories, prerequisites, US records, family members and stories. Always check on dates of history that could be in relation to the family or even the specific individual. Find digital index records - there are some free records you can check through and there are some where you will have to pay.

The Board would like to thank Barry Levitt again for his time and information to help those looking to continue their review of their genealogy, history of the family. This additional information will help out many

getting past more road blocks.

COMING UP - OCTOBER '21 VIRTUAL MEETING

In September 1396, 30 representatives of the Clan Chattan and 30 from the Clan Kay fought in an attempt to settle a feud. This was one of the last judicial combats, or trials by combat, to be fought in Scotland. In the next monthly meeting, our SSI historian Carson S. Smith will be presenting "Clan Chattan and the Battle of North Inch - Resolution of a Dispute Between Clan MacPherson and Clan Davidson in 1396". This will be a great presentation with much history and good storytelling.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 13th at 7:30pm for social hour and the presentation will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Please click [here](#) or [here](#) for the Zoom meeting.

HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING - PLEASE READ ALL NOTED!

****Option 1: ZOOM ~** You do not have to a Zoom account to participate/attend a meeting. You will be prompted to download the software after you click on the meeting link. To fully participate, you will need a computer with a camera and a microphone. You can also join by using a smartphone app or calling in to the telephone number in the invitation. If you are needing more information about joining a meeting of any kind on Zoom, [click here](#).

****Option 2: SOCIAL MEDIA / FACEBOOK ~** The meeting will be live in broadcast on the new Facebook group just for members of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. You can watch it while the meeting is going on or watch it after the meeting is over. [Click Here](#) to join the new Facebook group and/or watch the meeting from there.



NOTE: ALL CURRENT MEMBERS in the SSI that have a membership, you will receive a link for the upcoming meeting. The link will be in an email with the invitation that will sent 24 hours before the Zoom meeting. Please note: You will not be allowed to share this link to others as we will be keeping record of how many members we have attending the meeting. If you have any questions about this, please let us know. If you are not a current member or would like to invite a guest to join, please reply to the email with the newsletter so the link can be forwarded to you directly. Thank you.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS - COMING IN 2021

- October 2021: Carson S. Smith presents "Clan Chattan and the Battle of North Inch - Resolution of a Dispute Between Clan MacPherson and Clan Davidson in 1396"
- November 2021: TBA, looking for presentation topic & presenter
- December 2021: TBA, looking for presentation topic & presenter

NOTE: The November in-person gathering of the St. Andrews Dinner has been CANCELLED this year. Per the Board, the reasons behind the cancellation of the dinner is due of the continuous changes regarding the pandemic, no set venue location and the monitoring of the health/safety of our membership. Another announcement will be made in the next newsletter.

We are looking for topics or presentations for the last months of the year. If you are interested in giving a 10-15 minute presentation for the society via Zoom, please notify a board member so the topic can be discussed. Please reach out to the board if you have any suggestions or would like to present something. If there are any changes with the meeting topics and/or if the meetings change from virtual to in-person, we will update this information.