



The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

January 1, 2025 Edition

Dec 2024- 2025
SSI BOARD & STAFF

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keith@proton.me

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armand.hayes53@proton.me

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Committee Chair Persons:

*Games Chairman- Greg
Bowers*

Newsletter - Armand C

Greetings Fellow Scots,

First, I want to say that it is indeed an honor to continue as President of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis and the Scottish Society Foundation of Indianapolis.

Last month we had a wonderful St. Andrews Dinner and Election of officers for 2025. This took place at the Riviera Club here in Indianapolis. And in October we created an exciting and successful Highland Games and Festival.

Many thanks to all who helped make these events possible.

Our Board of Trustees for 2025 are Armand Hayes, Greg Bowers, Risa Stockton, Paula Hardisty, Steven Johnson and Linda Cassiday.

My goals for the SSI is to continue updating and improving our website at www.Indyscot.org., to audit and update our membership records, create a new database for our membership, solicit new members and involve more young families. To that end, I have begun meeting with Alison Whitlow who is a national champion Scottish Highland Dancer to establish a mutually beneficial arrangement with her and the Ashworth Academy of Highland Dance.

I also have renewed or membership in the Nationalities Council of Indiana which will provide assistance to various undertakings of ours.

Anyway, please be sure to renew you membership dues for 2025 and to all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours - Aye,

Carter C. Keith

Bulletins

KILT NIGHTS - Looking for suggestions on how to revamp Kilt Nights and a venue to hold them at. Kilt Nights are necessary to increase membership and to promote our games. A Kilt Night is where several of our membership- if not all – show up at the scheduled time and place, wearing their Clan's attire and hand out/answer question in referencing the Scottish Society. Also prizes are given out and Scottish music is played to make it more lively. The hope is that at each Kilt Night we can add at least 4 or five new members.

GAMES : **The Fourteenth Annual Scottish Highland Games and Festival** will be held at the German on October 11th, 2025, from 8:30am to 9:00pm. The games will include Scottish heavy athletic competition, bagpipes, Celtic bands, authentic food, drink, and appropriate vendors and bands. See our very own Greg Bowers.

Articles Needed for the Thistle : The editor wishes to thank to everyone who is contributing articles for the SSI Newsletter. The Feature Article, Clan Spotlight, and most of the short articles and notices are contributed each quarter by our members. The Editor wishes to thank Matt Douglass for all his contributions.

Anyone attending Scottish, Clan or related events is encouraged to write a brief article describing the event and to enclose a photo or two. Feature Articles are also needed, 3/4 page (600 to 700 words) plus a graphic or photo. These can be about any Scottish social, historic or cultural topic. We are also happy to include favorite Scottish recipes! Send articles to mrgoodnews53@gmail.com

Clan Spotlight

HOUSE OF GORDON



Gordon Ancient

MOTTO : Abiding or Steadfast: meaning Stand and Fight

PLANT BADGE : Rock Ivy

WAR CRY : 'A Gordon, A Gordon!'

CLAN GORDON – continued-

CLAN CHIEF : The Most Honorable, The Earl of Huntly and later the Marquis of Huntly

Richard of Gordon was the first known Gordon of record. During the reign of King Malcolm in Scotland, legend has it that supposedly Richard slew a great beast, thought to be by some to be a dragon. Gordon is not originally known to be of a Scottish Gaelic origin, but was of Normandy origin. As the need for knights and soldiers grew, King David I of Scotland welcomed knightly classes with their families and were granted lands in northeastern Scotland, near Aberdeen in Aberdeenshire in the 11th Century, as well in the border (lowlands), near Kelso in what used to be Berwickshire, in southeast Scotland.

History shares that Clan Chief, Sir John Gordon, supported Sir Robert the Bruce, fighting at the Battle for Scottish Independence, of Halidon Hill in 1333, and at Otterburn in 1388, when the English were defeated. The Gordons fought at the Battle of Arbroath in 1445 where Patrick Gordon of Methlic was slain.

Huntly Castle 1449; The Gordons defeat the Clan Douglas who had invaded their lands. The Douglas' were enemies of the King. The Gordons stood on the king's side, and with their men involved in the south of the country, the Earl of Moray, a relation and ally of the Douglas', took the opportunity to sack the Gordon lands, setting Huntly Castle ablaze. The Gordons returned and quickly destroyed their enemies.

In the 1500's, Clan Gordon fought with the soldiers of Mary, Queen of Scots, choosing to remain Catholic and in support. For this, the Earl of Huntley died and his son, Sir John was beheaded before the Queen. At the Battle of Glenlivet in 1594 the Earl of Argyll's forces which consisted of Clan Campbell, Clan Stewart of Atholl, Clan Forbes and the Chattan Confederation of Clan MacKintosh were defeated by the Earl of Huntly's forces which consisted of Clan Gordon, Clan Comyn/Cumming and Clan Cameron.

The 1600's began with the typical feuds between clans; the neighboring Leasks and Gordons fought ferociously with seemingly, the Gordon's being blamed as the aggressors. The Gordons seemed to have internal feuding issues as well. It was from this and their Norman heritage that the Gordons became known as a warring clan. And it may have been of this that Robert Burns wrote in a 1791 poem, 'There's ne'er a coward o' Kenure's blude, Nor yet o' Gordon's line.' In the 1600's, the Gordon chief, by then elevated to become Marquis of Huntly, supported Charles I in the Civil War. He lost his head in Edinburgh in 1649. James VII raised the Marquis to a dukedom, the first clan chief to receive such an honour.

It was in 1715, that the 2nd Duke of Gordon, Alexander raised 2,300 men to join the Earl of Mar for the Jacobite Army at Perth. And again, they joined in the Battle of Culloden in 1746 with the men of Clan Hay, in the Army of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

There are many branches of the House of Gordon throughout Scotland including the Gordons of Haddo, which has for its head the Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair. The Chief of the Clan Gordon today is Granville Charles Gordon, 13th Marquis of Huntly.

FAMILY NAMES OF THE HOUSE OF GORDON:

(Clan Gordon continued-)

Adam	MacAdam	Adams	Adamson	Addie	Adie	Addison	Aikens
Aitken	Atkins	Aitchison	Atken	Atkinson	Badenoch	Barrie	Boyne
Brisbane	Connon	Cromb	Crombie	Cullen	Culane	Conner	Craig
Darg	Darge	Dorwald	Dorward	Duff	Durward	Eadie	Edison
Eddie	Edie	Garioch	Geddes	Gerrie	Gardiner	Gardner	Huntley
Huntly	Jessiman	Jopp	Jupp	Laing	Lang	Laurie	Lawrie
Leng	Ling	Mallett	Langteach	Mar	Marr	Marver	Marvor
Meldrum	Mill	Mills	Miline	Milnor	Morrice	Milles	Milne
Milnes	Moir	Moore	More	Morris	Muir	Mylne	Steel
Steele	Teal	Teall	Tod	Todd	Tough	Troup	

DID YOU KNOW? *-The Scottish Society of Indianapolis at one time had a pipe band?
Yes!*

-Pipe Major Roderick MacDonald and his Clan Nae Gael Pipe Band

Indianapolis – We mourn the passing of Roderick (Roddy) MacDonald, who entered into rest on Wednesday July 24, 2019. He was born November 21, 1938 to Helen and Henry MacDonald in Blue Island, Illinois. Roddy was a passionate scholar of Scottish music, poetry, and culture. This passion, which he shared with family and friends, led him to become Pipe Major of the Chicago Stockyard Kilty Band, a member of the Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band, and to form the City of Marshall, Michigan Pipe Band. After moving to Indianapolis, he was a member of the Carmel American Legion Post 155. He was also an early supporter of the Scottish American Club of Indiana (1984), the Founder and Pipe Major for the Clan Nae Gael Pipe Band (1980-85), which became the Scottish Society Pipe Band (1985-94), and later the Celtic Cross Pipe Band. An excellent bagpipe

player, Roddy played for numerous weddings and funerals, and taught many students, including his son Roderick D. MacDonald, who precedes him in death. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judith, as well as his daughters Mary (Richard) Woolington, Margaret (Robert) Fischer, Sarah (Weldon) Cox, Katherine (Chris) MacDonald, granddaughter Corrina Cox, grandsons Iain MacDonald and Rex Woolington, and sister Colleen (William) Sumey. He will be remembered at a Mass of Christian Burial with visitation at noon and service at 1 pm on Monday July 29, in St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 500 East 42nd Street, Indianapolis. (Due to restoration of the church. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to St. Joan of Arc Centennial Campaign for Church Restoration.

News from Scotland

- Scotland to follow UK under-18 puberty blocker ban.
- First Minister Swinney considers calls for child social media ban, before age 14 years.
- BBC to launch in Scotland, "Scotcast and News at Seven.
- Police Scotland ditches plan to ban beards.
- First Gaelic Poet appointed Scotland's Makar – Lewis born Peter Mackay.
- Whisky giant submits plans for distillery on Islay (Chivas Brothers).

Upcoming Events Calendar

Join us on Wednesday, January 8 for a *Celebration of the Life of Robert Burns (Lightly, of course)*. We will start our evening with Jeff Kestin piping in the haggis and end it by singing Auld Lang Syne. In between, we'll enjoy traditional toasts, Robin and Deneice Jarrett will give the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply, Samuel Lawson will recite Tam O'Shanter. Steven Johnson will give the Immortal Memory and serve as the emcee. As always, guests are welcome to attend our monthly gatherings.

(FYI, I'm waiting for Jeff to confirm he can pipe for us. If he can't, I will let you know.)

Thank you,

Steven

Note that Scottish Society of Indianapolis (SSI) sponsored events are in **Bold**.

January 2025

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|---|---|
| Jan 4th Games Meeting | <i>MacAllisters 96th and Meridian Street</i> |
| 8th Burns Dinner | <i>Latvian Center</i> |
| 17th Board of Trustee's Meeting | and acceptance of New Trustees, MCL -Castleton |

Feb - March

- | | | |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| Feb 12 | SSI Meeting And Gathering "Tastin' O' The Mist" | Latvian Center |
| Feb 18 | Board of Trustee's Meeting | at MCL Castleton |

March 12 SSI Meeting And Gathering "Scottish Country Dancing" Latvian Center

March 14 St Patrick's Parade Downtown Indianapolis

March 18 Board of Trustee's Meeting MCL Castleton

April / May

April 9 SSI Meeting and Gathering Latvian Center

April 15 Board of Trustee's Meeting MCL Castleton

June / July

June 11 SSI Meeting and Gathering Latvian Center

June 17 Board of Trustee's Meeting MCL Castleton



SSI Meeting and Side Dish Schedule

	January	Feburary	March
Date:	Wednesday, Jan 8	Wednesday, Feb 12	Wednesday, March 12
Meat Dish:	Chicken	TBA	TBA
Program:	<i>a Celebration of the Life of Robert Burns (Lightly, of course).</i>	A Tastin' O' The Mist with Matt Douglass	Scottish Country Dancing with Barry Levitt
Youth Program:	Combined with adult program	Combined with adult program	Combined with adult program
Side Dish to Bring:	A-F—Veggie/Casserole	A-F— Salad	A-F—Dessert
	G-McC—Salad	G-McC— Dessert	G-McC —Veggie/Casserole
	McD-Z—Dessert	McD-Z— Veggie/Casserole	McD-Z—Salad
<p>Bring a side-dish based on the first letter of your last name. Please bring at least 3 large servings per attending family member. Example: a couple would bring at least 6 large servings.</p> <p>If you invite guests, please bring their portions as well.</p> <p>Meeting Costs: Members \$5, Returning Guests \$7, First-Time Guests are free.</p>			

6:30pm—Social Time

All meetings take place

Contact Carter Keith

7:00pm—Dinner

at the Latvian Center
1008 West 64th Street

(463) 249 4761, email:
keith035@protonmail.com



2025 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership in the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Inc. as indicated:

Life \$250 Family \$35.00/yr Individual \$25.00/yr Student \$10.00/yr

Senior Family \$29.75/yr Senior Individual \$21.25/yr

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail is used to send the SSI newsletter four times each year, as well as occasional announcements about SSI events. We do not sell or share e-mail with any party, and we prohibit any party from using this e-mail for any other purpose. __Do not send the newsletter via my e-mail. __Do not send SSI event information via my e-mail. __Please send my newsletter via US postal mail.

Facebook User Names: _____

Email Address(s): _____

Address information is used to send your membership renewal, will be used to send your newsletter to if you request it, but is not shared with any third party, sold, shared or rented.

Phone: _____ (home)

(cell) _____ (cell) _____

Note if you are a *new member*, your membership dues will be halved from June on, in the year. If you are a past member, you have the option of renewing your membership at the annual rate any time during the year or attending as a guest for \$7/person as often as you like.

Please make your check out to *The Scottish Society of Indianapolis* and mail it along with this form to: Armand Hayes, 11722 Allisonville Road, Suite 103, Box 234 Fishers, IN 46038 or bring it to the next meeting.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

11722 Allisonville Road, Suite 103, Box 234

Fishers, IN 46038-2331