



The Tartan Times

Vol. LXII, No5

May/June, 2014

*The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England
10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-185*

RSCDS

Boston Highland Ball Saturday, May 10, 2014
Memorial Hall 590 Main St., Melrose, MA

The Boston Highland Ball 2014

EH3 7AF	8 x 32J 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 40: 6
The Sheltered Cove	8 x 32S 2 cpls.	Zadworny: Aye Afloat:6
Maxwell's Rant	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 18: 10
The Waratah Weaver	4 x 32J 4 cpls.	RSCDS 2 nd Graded Book: 4
Gang the Same Gate	8 x 32S 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 36: 4
General Stuart's Reel	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 10: 3

Best Set in the Hall	8 x 32J 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 46: 7
Culla Bay	4 x 32S 4 cpls. Sq. Set	RSCDS Book 41: 2
Flights of Fancy	8 x 32J 3 cpls.	Boston 50 th : 3
Catch the Wind	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 45: 5
The Spirit of the Dance	8 x 32S 3 cpls.	TAC, 50 th Anniversary: 2
John of Bon Accord	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 33: 5

Yan, Tan, Tethera	8 x 32J 3 cpls.	Haynes, Carnforth 2: 9
Moment of Truth	8 x 32S 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 37: 2
The Irish Rover	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	Cosh, 22 SCD + 2: 22
Jubilee Jig	8 x 32J 3 cpls.	RSCDS Leaflet: 19
Linnea's Strathspey	8 x 32S 3 cpls.	RSCDS Book 47: 2
Da Rain Dancin'	8 x 32R 3 cpls.	Wallace: From the Redwood Forest: 3

Music by

Hanneke Cassel-fiddle, Mike Block-cello,
Neil Pearlman-piano

MCs

Donna Griffith, Mel Briscoe, Martha Kent

Reception 5:30	Admission includes \$1 for the Memorial Hall
Dinner 6:30	Restoration Fund
Grand March 8:00	\$ 75 branch members \$80 nonmembers
Ball 8:15	\$50 full time students/non dancers

See www.rscdsboston.org for cribs, applications ,directions, Welcome Dance, and Brunch information as they become available

New Hampshire Highlands

Scottish Country Dance Weekend

August 22-24, 2014

Contoocook, NH

Teachers:

Susan Eisley, Pittsfield, MA
Jennifer Schoonover, Rockland, MA
Janet Walker, Pittsburgh, PA

Musicians:

Terry Traub, *music director*, with
Howard Lasnik, Barbara McOwen,
Robert McOwen, Emerald Rae,
& Stephen Thomforde

Cost for the weekend is only \$195*

Includes five meals, accommodations in
dormitories**, all classes and parties!

*\$10 discount for full payment by July 1.

**Limited private and semi-private accommodations available for an additional fee.

Application & more information:

<http://rscdsboston.org/events-NHHighlands.html>

Contact:

Roberta Lasnik, (781)-643-3977, rlasnik@verizon.net

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont 13th Annual SPRING FLING

MUSIC BY VIVEKA FOX, PETER MACFARLANE & SUSIE PETROV

Saturday, May 17, 2013 Walk Through at 2:30 p.m., Potluck at 5:30

p.m., Dance at 7:00 p.m Fairlee Town Hall 75 Town Common Road,

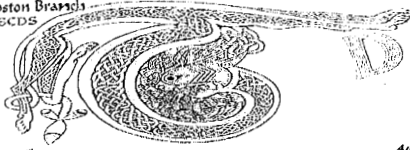
Just Off Route 5 – Fairlee, Vermont Admission: Boston Branch

Members - \$11.00, Non-BranchMembers - \$13.00, Under 18 - \$5.00

*For more information, dance instructions or to arrange hospitality, contact Gary Apfel -
802-439-3459 or FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org*

*Driving instructions - from Eastern VT, take I-91 north or south to exit 15, Travel east 200 yds on Lake
Morey road. Turn left onto US Rte 5 north. Travel 1/2 mile to center of torn. Fairlee Town Hall is on the left
behind the bandstand. From southern NH take I-93 to I-89, to I-91 Follow directions above.*

Boston Branch
RSCDS



Welcome to our
Dance Program

Saturday, June 14, 2014
Kennebunk Town Hall 7:30 pm

Admission \$12.00 for RSCDS Members
\$14.00 for non members

Music by Ed Pearlman, Tom Picton, and Lilly Pearlman

PROGRAM

Waltz							
St. Andrew's Fair	32J	3C	RSCDS Five for 1982	Maine Medley	32M	2C	Celebrate Fifty (Boston Branch)
Unsung Hero	32R	3C	H. Lasnik leaflet	Bob Campbell	32S	3C	Drewry : Canadian Book
Linna's Strathspey	32S	3C	RSCDS Book 47	Blue Bonnets	32J	2C	RSCDS Book 3
Rodney's Rant	32J	3C	Diamnod Jubilee Collection	Cadgers in the Canongate	48R	3C	RSCDS Book 9

Intermission

Gay Gordons							
Jubilee Jig	32J	3C	RSCDS Leaflet	Duff's House	32J	3C	RSCDS Graded Book
The Trysting Place	32S	2C	RSCDS Book 35	Neidpath Castle	32S	3Cset	RSCDS Book 22
The Barnkin	88R sq.	4C	Goldring:24 Graded and Social	The Falls of Rogie	32R	3C	Alexander Book 1

Directions to Kennebunk Town Hall-Take exit 25 on the Maine Turnpike (Rt. 95) Turn Left on to Rt. 35 , east to Kennebunk.
When Rt. 35 crosses Rt. 1, go left on Rt. 1 for one more block. Turn right on to a narrow street immediately before Town Hall. Parking is on right.
For more information please call Morven before Saturday at (207)-3813 or modatro@roadrunner.com

Pot luck supper at 5:30 pm at 20 Cottagewood Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043, the home of Joanne Hulsey and Peter Sentner.
Directions to Cottage Lane are on the branch website or call Morven



Memorial Day Weekend Party

May 24, 2014 American Legion Hall, Belfast, Maine

Potluck supper at 6:30
\$1.00 plus a Pot
Dancing at 8:00 \$11.00
RSCDS Members \$9.00



MUSIC BY

ELKE BAKER



☘ Welcome to Belfast

It's All Right	32J 3C	2nd Book Graded SCDs	Blooms of Bon Accord	32R 4C, 4C set	Deeside Bk 2
Kangaroo Paw	32R 3C	Kangaroo Paw	Castle Douglas	32S 3C	12 Soc Dances
Bonnie Ina Campbell	32S 3C	RSCDS Bk 37	Jennifer's Jig	32J 3C	Silver City Bk
Bill Clement MBE	32J 3C	RSCDS Bk 47	Mrs MacLeod	32R 3C	RSCDS Bk 6

Desserts at Intermission

☘ Gay Gordons

Roaring Jelly	32J 3C	Glendarroch SD Sheets	Delvine Side	32S 3C	RSCDS Bk 2
The Kenora Reel	32R 3C	Bankhead Bk 2	Ellie's Jig	32J 3C	Slip Knot Collection
Minister on the Loch	32S 3C, 3C set	24 G&S Dances	The Chequered Hall	32S 2C 3C-Set	Wells House
The College Hornpipe	32R 3C	RSCDS Bk 20	Mairi's Wedding	40R 3C	22 SCDs

☘ Waltz

Sunday Ceilidh and Potluck Brunch

Hosted by Ruth Shaw

6 Cottage Street,
Belfast

May 25, 10 am-2 pm



For Party Information
David Thompson 207-469-3293 or
davidt26@myfairpoint.net

For Hospitality Contact
Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139 or
belfastclass@rscdsboston.org

Boston Ball,
May 16, 1964,
Hotel Continental
at Cambridge,
Massachusetts



Photo:
Brenda Isham (now
Janssen) and Wayne Johnson
had their picture taken at the
Ball. It appeared next day on
the Society page of *t*The
Boston Globe.

Brenda writes:

The occasion was the Annual Highland Ball of the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Many of "The Bedford Bairns" attended this event which was mostly adults from Glasgow, Scotland; Ontario, Canada; New England and everywhere from Virginia to Washington State.

We danced to the music of Stan Hamilton's Band. Nancy Isham says she remembers that the Demo team was asked to walk through a dance to show everyone how it was done. who always looked for an occasion to show the group off. *[more info on the NH Bairns on page 13]*

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2013-14 {CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS}

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
MAY			
9-11	Highland Ball Weekend	Melrose and Weston, Massachusetts	Ed and Sara Pokrass, 508-362-5861 spokrass230@comcast.net
17	Fairlie Spring Fling	Town Hall, Fairlie, VT.	Gary Apfel, garyapfel@gmail.com
24	Belfast Memorial Day Weekend party	American Legion Hall, Belfast, Maine	Dave Thompson, 207-469-3293 davidt26@myfairpoint.net
JUNE			
7	Northampton Class End of Season Party	First Churches, Northampton	Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
7	White Mountain Scottish Country Dancers Spring Frolic	Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster, New Hampshire	Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671 billtobinharp@gmail.com
14	Kennebunk Class Down East Fling	Town Hall, Kennebunk, ME	Morven Troost, modatro@roadrunner.com
30	Cambridge Class Party	Canadian-American Club, Watertown, MA	cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org
JULY			
7-11	English Scottish Session at Pinewoods	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Jerome Fung, jerome.fung@gmail.com esspinewoods@rscdsboston.org
11-14 14-19	Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Jeremy Thorpe and Kendra Eshleman scdpinewoods@rscdsboston.org
AUGUST			
22-24	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Center, Contoocook, NH	lonwright@comcast.net
OCTOBER			
11	Fairlie Autumn Social	Town Hall, Fairlie VT	garyapfel@gmail.com
18	Brunswick Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329 pstillotson@gmail.com

[PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO NANCY RAWSON, 781-894-7754,
nrawson@earthlink.net]

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- ☉ Brookline: Sept-May, Sundays 6:30 pm, new location beginning January 12, 2014: Brookline Academy of Dance, 136 Westbourne Terrace, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- Great Barrington: Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, 39 Railroad St., Great Barrington (above Crystal Essence). Contact Jean Campbell, 518-672-4243 or Ted, 413-698-2944
- ☉ Cambridge Class at the Canadian American Club: Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club (www.canadianamericanclub.com) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org
- Chelmsford: First Fridays year-round, 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Live music. Contact Rebecca Gore at rjgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
- ☉ Newton: Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. MOVED through May to the Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton Lower Falls. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- ☉ Northampton: Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, First Churches, 129 Main St. (Rt. 9), Northampton (enter on Center St. across from the Iron Horse). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
- ☉ Salem (Wee Bluets): Year-round, Thursdays 8 pm, beginners at 7:30, First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, WeeBluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
- ☉ Stow: Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. New: childrens class 7:00, adult beginners 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net
- Yarmouth: Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Menzies, 508-432-3711

MAINE

- ☉ Belfast: Year-round, Mondays 7:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact BelfastClass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; David Thompson, 207-469-3293
- ☉ Brunswick: Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
- ☉ Kennebunk: Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-839-8637, mhenderl@maine.rr.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ☉ Greenland (Seacoast Dancers): Oct-June, Fridays 7:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Laurie Stevens, 603-380-2144, SeacoastDancers@rscdsboston.org
- Lancaster: Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall. downtown Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671
- ☉ Nashua: Year-round, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- ☉ Fairlee: Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
- Manchester Center: Tuesdays 7-9 pm, First Congregational Church (on Route 7A, across from the Equinox Hotel). Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hollyvalentine530@yahoo.com
- ☉ Montpelier: Sept-May, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Union Elementary School, 1 Park Ave., Montpelier. Contact Martha Kent, 802-879-7618; Art and Sandy Farnum, 802-223-7483

NEW YORK

- * Albany: Sundays, 6:30 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New or Cecil Lubitz, 518-383-6580; loisnew@nycap.rr.com; clubitz@nycap.rr.com

☉ Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch, www.rscdsboston.org. Because of occasional weather and hall variabilities, etc, it's always advisable to get in touch in advance if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email Classes@rscdsboston.org rev.bmco.2/1/14

MUSIC PAGE

From the Toronto Branch Set and Link for March 2014 this poem was devised as a result of a plea from musician Don Wood in the February issue.

The Clapper's Ball by Donald Holmes

The dance is briefed; the chord is struck
A lively reel are we in luck!
We hope we'll not be led astray
By those who clap along the way.

When a clap or two rings in our ear
We're suddenly startled, and wish not to hear
The clappers think they've joined the band-
If only they had but just one hand!

We'll keep the beat with both our feet
And trust the band to set the pace.
We shall not hurry: it is no race.
And in strict time, we're back in place.

Enjoy the dance with smile and poise
But spare us that unwelcome noise.
Restrain you clap; respect for all,
But use it freely at the Clappers' Ball

Coming Musical Events:

Somerset Folk Harp Festival, July 31-Aug 3 at the Hilton Parsippany, New Jersey
SRSNH upcoming concert schedule;

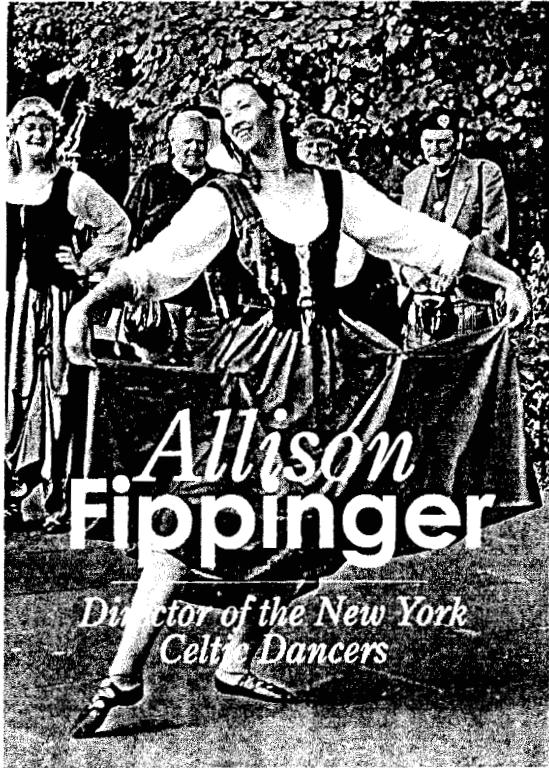
April 26th	NEFFA led by Sylvia Miskoe, 3:00 pm
May 22nd	Concert at Portsmouth NH led by Dave Wasilew, 7 pm
June 20th	Concert or Freemont NH's 250th Celebration, led by Mike Vose. 7:00 pm

From the Clan Donnachaidh Northeast Doings for fall 2013:

Music Bridging Cultures and Continents: Transatlantic Sessions

This is a concert series that has brought together a changing cast of about 25 of the best folk musicians from Scotland, Ireland, and America for TV programs. CDs and live concerts. This year's (the 6th) was recorded at a hunting lodge on the (bonnie, bonnie) banks of Loch Lomond, and is expected to be aired in the fall of 2013, with DVDs and CDs available for the holidays. This year's performers include fiddler Aly Bain, MBE; Jerry Douglas on the dobro; Scottish fiddler John McCusker; young Scottish multi-instrumentalist Matheu Watson; American guitarist Russ Baronberg; virtuoso Irish flutist Michael McGoldrick; Capercaillie pianist and director of the Celtic Connections Festival, Donald Shaw; English bassist Danny Thompson, a founding member of Pentangle; and Scottish percussionist James MacIntosh. Scottish soloists this year are Julie Fowles, Karen Matheson, Phil Cunningham, Ewan McLennan and Allan MacDonald. The Americans are Mary Chapin Carpenter, Aofie O'Donovan, Tim O'Brien, Teddy Thompson and John Doyle.

Visit <http://youtube.com> and search 'transatlantic sessions' for more details.



When Allison Fippinger, the director of the New York Celtic Dancers, couldn't sleep at night, she'd write country dances in her head. It's one way in which she learned to find her own voice in the dance genre. She poured through books and online videos in the National Library of Scotland archives, expanding her vocabulary. "The more I learned, the more I had to say with dance," Fippinger says. "The more I had to say, the more presenters wanted us to perform. And so what started as a community class became a dance company with a new name and a mission."

This year the New York Celtic Dancers celebrates its 10th anniversary as a troupe. They've performed at Carnegie Hall, at the Central Park Bandshell, at the Gotham Girls Roller Derby, and at Jacob's Pillow Festival for Dance. As Fippinger puts it, "I've performed for thousands of people and I've performed for just a few." But ask her about her own personal performance highlight and she'll tell you it was the time she put on a show for her parents and the "Scottish dancing folks," in Boston one Hogmanay.

"I will never forget how grateful I was to them for giving me this gift in the first place, and that I was able to gift it back to them, in small part, that evening," she recalls. The "gift" to which she refers is, of course, dancing. Her parents were

country dancing. From her earliest years,

hearing the instruments, smelling the wool of the kilts, and

The family loved dancing so much that they would go to a small island in the ocean. They'd canoe out to the island, with the boats weighed down with tents, and camping gear, but someone would always find room for a record player. In the evenings they'd have a ceilidh with the grown-ups dancing on the beach.

Growing up in Boston, Fippinger had ready availability to teachers; nonetheless, as a child she didn't have the time to

learn. It wasn't until she graduated from college that she found the Scotia Dancers in New York City. Studying with Mary Abdill, she learned not only the steps, but the history of the pieces. Along with acceptance into the Pinewoods dance camp in Massachusetts on a scholarship, so began her love affair with Scottish dance.

"It truly is that, a love affair, because no matter what other styles, teachers and performances I may be involved in or learn from, I always return to my Scottish roots," she declares. "The New York Celtic Dancers began when Abdill asked her if she could substitute-teach, ultimately turning the classes over to her.

"It took me some time to understand what I wanted to accomplish with the New York Celtic Dancers," Fippinger says. She notes that dance traditions can stagnate, existing more like an artifact in a museum than as a breathing, changeable piece of culture. "I wanted the Scottish dance tradition to live, to thrive and spread joy to everyone who sees it. The mission of the New York Celtic Dancers is to continually breathe life into this beautiful and ancient art form and to make it real, present and important right now."

For the troupe's 10th anniversary year, it plans to continue attending East Coast summer and festival as well as expanding classes at the school in New York City.

highlight dance and culture in general and so look forward to

they have a "top-secret" engagement in the summer, which will

"This last is particularly gratifying as it recognizes our efforts to cultivate and curate our presentation to reach beyond the Celtic genre and into the world."

www.facebook.com/newyorkcelticdancers



For those following The Bletchley Circle on WGBH, but not aware of more than the basic facts they give on the TV here is an article from [The Rant](#), March 2012; the Newsletter of the Hunter Valley Branch, Australia about a visit to the establishment and more details of the work.

Bletchley Park --- Barry Cant

During a visit to the UK in the latter half of last year Elsa and I were fortunate enough to visit the famous wartime home of the British code breakers and the site of the first operational computer called "Colossus" (which can still be seen operating each Saturday). There was a photographic display of the famous code breakers that worked at Bletchley Park during the dark days of WWII. Ian Fleming was one familiar name and another was Hugh Foss (of Scottish Country dance fame).

Before WWII, Polish crypto-analysts had already designed an electro-mechanical machine to test Enigma rotor settings, called 'Bomba'. However in 1938 the German military changed their system slightly, thus thwarting the Poles ability to decrypt Enigma messages. Before the war started the Poles passed all their information over to Britain and France and two mathematicians working at Bletchley Park, Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman, were able to build on their research to develop the 'Bombe' machine. Turing and Welchman exploited the fact that encrypted German messages often contained common words or phrases such as generals' names or weather reports and so were able to guess short parts of the original messages. These guesses were called 'cribs'. The fact that on an Enigma machine no letter can be enciphered as itself made guessing a small part of the text even easier. It also meant that the potential number of settings that the Enigma could be in on that day was greatly reduced.

Before running the 'Bombe' the wiring at the back of the machine was connected in accordance with a menu drawn up by the code breakers based on cribs. The 'Bombe' found potential Enigma settings not by proving a particular setting but by disproving every incorrect one in turn. Over 200 of the 'Bombes' were built by the British Tabulating Machine Company at Letchworth, all of which were destroyed after the war.

Colossus was the world's first semi-programmable computer (originally called 'Heath Robinson' after a cartoonist designer of fantastic machines). built at the PO Research Dep't at Dollis Hill, London. It worked well enough but was slow and unreliable. Tommy Flowers, a brilliant PO Electronics Engineer went on to design and build 'Colossus', a much faster and more reliable machine that used 1,400 thermionic valves (vacuum tubes). The first of these arrived at Bletchley Park in 1943.

Colossus could read paper tape at 5,000 characters/sec. and the paper tape in its wheels travelled at 30 mph (50 km/hr). This meant that the huge amount of mathematical work that needed to be done could be carried out in hours, rather than weeks. A Mk2 machine arrived in 1944 in time for Generals Eisenhower and Montgomerie to be sure that Hitler had swallowed the deception campaigns prior to the D-day landings on 6 June 1944. There were eventually 10 working Colossus machines working at Bletchley Park.

The Enigma machine is perhaps the best known cipher machine of all time. A list of the various models used by the Axis Powers follows:

Abwer Enigma - G312 - used by the German Secret Service. Naval M4 Enigma - M15946 - used by the U-boat division. Naval Enigma - M1322. Italian Naval - A1214 - delivered to the Italian Navy in 1932.

Army and Air Force - A1691. Tirpitz Enigma - T244 - non standard specially designed for use between Germany and Japan. SG41- Last machine developed by Germany during WWII - operates on pinwheel and not a rotor basis. It was intended to replace the Enigma machine. Introduced in 1944 and this machine defeated the code breakers at Bletchley Park.

A Legend Lives on.....John Neil McKelvie....1903 to 1964 by Brenda Isham Janssen

There may not be many, who read this article, who will remember John (Jack) McKelvie. He left a lasting impression on the small town of Bedford, NH....its community and most of all the group of children known as "The Bedford Bairns".

I was a member of this group....along with all the children in town...from 1955 to 1964...the community of Bedford, NH was a time of scouting, home birthday parties, Church fairs, and Scottish Country Dancing. This was our childhood....and one that many of us will talk about for many years to come. Most of the children in town danced. The group started out with 8 or 10 and had grown to over 100 at the time of Mr. McKelvie's death in November of 1964.

Jack was a huge part of our lives. He, along with members of the community and Mr. John Wilson helped run "The Bedford Bairns". We were taught manners and Etiquette. The boys became young Gentlemen and the girls were treated like princesses. It was truly a Magical Time.

We worked hard...and those of us on the Demo Team...had regular class to attend once a week and demo rehearsal once a month. Our parents wouldn't let us attend class unless homework was done and Jack wouldn't let us attend a demo unless we had attended regular class and demo rehearsal.

One of the girls, once asked Jack why he yelled at us.....his answer was " I see potential in each of you". He made us reach for that potential and become who we are today.

Jack made it possible for this dance group to have teachers from Scotland and Canada teach us. Teachers like, Bobby Watson, Colin Green , Ian McFarlane and Jenny MacLauchlan.

We were also host to the founder of the RSCDS...Miss Jean Milliganon several occasions when she came to the states to conduct teacher exams.

Three of the boys from the group went to Scotland with Mr McKelvie and performed at an event there. Miss Milligan was amazed that they could hold their own in Scotland.

There was always a reason for Jack to arrange for a demo....he loved to "show the Group off".....he was very proud of us. No one knows what the group would have accomplished or how much more it would have grown....as it was cut short when Jack died in November of 1964. But he did leave behind a great legacy.

Two of us, from the "Bedford Bairns" became teachers. Myself, Brenda Isham Janssen, and Tina Van Loan Piejak. Tina teaches in Florida.

I had two groups...."The Mt Washington Scottish Country Dancers"....a children's group In Berlin, NH and class in Concord, NH of both children and adults...."The Merrimack Valley Scottish Country Dancers".

Billy Tobin from St Johnsbury, Vermont was from the Berlin children's group and he is teaching in Vermont.

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCEπ EVENTS

May, 2014

- 9 - 11 *** Boston Branch Annual Highland Ball - new location see p 3
16th *** Boston Branch Advanced Class - Kent Smith teaching with Terry Traub musician. p 14
16-18 New York Branch annual Pawling Weekend
17th *** Fairlee Class, VT Spring Fling p 4
24th *** Belfast Class annual Memorial Day Weekend of dancing and brunch, p 5

June

- 7th *** Northampton End of Season Party p 6
7th *** White Mtn SCDG Spring Frolic, Lancaster, NH
9th *** Boston Branch Annual General Meeting, 7:45 pm at Canadian-American Club
14th *** Kennebunkport Annual Down East Fling, p 5
20th *** Boston Br Advanced Class with guest teacher Stella Fogg music by Barbara & Robert McOwen

**21ST "COMMONWEALTH CEILIDH" RSCDS HQ COMMISSIONED BY
GET SCOTLAND DANCING TO CREATE NEW 'FUSION' DANCES TO BE
PERFORMED ALONG WITH FAMILIAR DANCES IN A WORLDWIDE
EVENT BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM LOCAL TIME.**

- 22nd *** Brookline Class end of season Party p 14
30th *** Cambridge Class Dance Party at the Canadian-American Club

July

- 7 - 11 *** English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods
11 - 19 *** Scottish Sessions I & II at Pinewoods

SAVE THE DATES

Aug 22-24 NH Highlands SCD Weekend p 4

**Aug 27-Aug 3 TAC Summer School and Music session; Candidate Class July 20-Aug 3.
TAC Weekend for Teachers July 25-27**

Code Breaker: "****" an event sponsored by the Boston Branch. "****" other SCD events within the Branch area. "*" of possible interest (often a Scottish Concert) within the Branch area.

Please support events; the class/branch/group members work hard to put together their event, the musicians spend a lot of time preparing the music and rehearsing, the teacher(s) spend anxious hours planning programs, class material, etc. They appreciate seeing that their labours are not in vain when they look at a hall full of dancers all ready to put their best right (?) foot forward.....!



Book 49 Dances and the winner is....

Way back in December a number of dancers stayed late after the Advanced Class to dance through submissions from members for the next RSCDS Book 49. Devisors were Gregor Trinkaus Randall, Kent Smith, Howard Lasnik and Jean Farrington. All dances were danceable and had interesting formations and approaches to 'what makes a great dance'. The winner was Howard Lasnik's "Left-Handed Fiddler", a 32 bar reel for 3 couples to be danced to J.S.Skinner's tune of the same name. The dance has been duly submitted to RSCDS HQ - now our fingers are crossed that it will be selected. It is a dance that is popular in this area, albeit never published. the dancers who voted for it thought it is a great dance and deserves greater exposure amongst dancers worldwide..

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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COPY DUE DATE FOR THE JULY/AUG 2014 ISSUE IS JUNE 1st. PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR YOUR SUMMER AND EARLY FALL EVENTS TO THE EDITOR BY 6/1/14. DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD ALSO GO TO NANCY RAWSON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR Note: Class Events flyers are limited to 1 half page: 8 1/2” wide by 5 1/2 “ deep.

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A dance frequently found on programs and possibly one of many people’s favourite Drewry dances is The Silver Tassie, but what is a “Tassie?” This article from the Orange County Ceilidh for March/April this year explains:

This Burns poem is not a title that comes to mind when thinking about the bard. In fact it is listed as “My Bony Mary” in the book *Burns: Poems and Songs*. Apparently it is also a song as five lines of music accompany the 16 lines of verse included in the chapter “Poems, 1788”. In addition the story is about bonnie Mary and not a silver tassie as such. According to the online source electricScotland.com, “My Bony Mary” is an old Jacobite ballad rewritten by Burns and, in his best Scots form, relates the story of a soldier leaving for war service. As he departs the port of Leith and slips by Queensferry and Berwick Law, the greatest pain is leaving his bonnie Mary. The wine-filled silver tassie toasts his lassie. Of course, the noun “tass” or “Tassie” is Scottish and refers to a goblet, cup or glass, especially for spirits. It originates from the Old French “tasse” (cup), from Arabic “tassah” (basin), and Persian “tasht”.

The word also can indicate the contents of a goblet, usually a small draught. It is anybody’s guess how the goblet and its contents came to be associated with the stately strathspey. However, the rondel figure suggests a roundness or circular image. Perhaps, with a little imagination, we can visualize a round vessel in the centre of the dance as we move around it. By the way, there is a reference to “The Silver Tassie” from outside Robert Burns and Scottish Country dancing. The Irish playwright Sean O’Casey wrote “a partly Expressionist antiwar drama” by that title. Produced in England in 1929, this 4-act drama was popular. ... In an attack on imperialist wars [World War I] and the suffering they caused, O’Casey couldn’t have been farther from the peaceful Scottish country dance. However, these sentiments do echo the feelings expressed in the poem: war causes pain.

Lets enjoy the Burns version and the dance with which we are familiar. Put controversy aside and glide into this splendid strathspey.

Karen Kerman