

# The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIII, Number 2*  
*November / December 2014*



**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch**  
**c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England**  
**10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-1862**

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH**

**Executive Committee** *President:* Jeremy Thorpe; *Vice President:* Betty Allen;  
*Secretary:* Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Bob Littlehale; *Members at Large:* Dale Birdsall, John Crabtree,  
Kat Dutton, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet

**Teaching & Music Committee** *Chair:* Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

**Nominating Committee** *Chair:*

**Highland Ball 2015** *Co-Chairs:* Ed & Sara Pokrass • **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2014** Hannah McArdle

**Fall Concert 2015** *Artistic Director:* Jen Schoonover; *Producer:* John Crabtree

**Pinewoods Scottish 2015** *Co-Chairs:* Beth Birdsall & Linda McJannet

**Pinewoods ESS 2014** *Contact:* Jerome Fung • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

**Demonstration Team** *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Karen Sollins

**Bookstore** Dawn & Mike Little • **Equipment** Peter Tandy • **Archives** Susan Haines

**Membership** MaryEllen & John Scannell • **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy

**Directory** John Scannell • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

**TAC Representative** Patti Tillotson

**Webmasters** Laura and Meyer Billmers • **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers

**The Boston Branch Website is** [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

**Exec Committee Class Liaisons: Brookline, Cambridge:** Kat Dutton

**Brunswick ME, Kennebunk ME, Belfast ME, Greenland NH:** Merrill Henderson

**Montpelier VT, Fairlee VT, Salem MA:** Dale Birdsall • **Nashua NH:** Linda McJannet

**Great Barrington MA, Northampton MA, Albany NY:** Alex Hall

**Stow, Chelmsford, Newton:** Betty Allen

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**THE TARTAN TIMES** is published by the Boston Branch for its members. A free copy is sent to every North American Branch and to nearby Affiliated groups. Annual subscriptions are available for \$10. Checks should be made payable to RSCDS Boston Branch (Canadians, please send a money order in U.S. Funds). Mail to Bob Littlehale, Boston Branch Subscriptions, 12 Wigglesworth St., Malden, MA 02148-7422.

**The Tartan Times Editor, Evelyn Murray**, may be reached at 617-864-8945, by email at [athollbrose@verizon.net](mailto:athollbrose@verizon.net) or by snail mail at 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010

**Layout Editor** Barbara McOwen; **Mailing Coordinators** Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham

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### **IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTERS - Laura and Meyer Billmers**

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website very carefully. The webmasters are happy to post event fliers and minicrabs. However, it is considerably more work for us to have to do it more than once! If you have multiple documents to post, please try to submit them all at once, rather than piecemeal. Thank you in advance.

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### **EXEC NOTES – Susan Haines, Secretary**

There is a correction to the Executive Committee notes from the last edition of the Tartan Times. There were 23 empty beds at ESS Pinewoods, not 43. We are charged for a minimum of 115, and ESS did not make that minimum.

Due to the large deficit incurred from ESS (an issue that has been occurring for several years), Branch President Jeremy Thorpe has been talking with Judy Erickson of CDS Boston and Judy Savage from Pinewoods Camp Inc. to discuss the future of ESS. There will be more information coming soon.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual Concert of Scottish Music and Dance

# A Parcel of Rogues

**Calum Pasqua, Susie Petrov, & Dan Houghton**

**with Kieran Jordan, Jen Schoonover, and**

**the Demonstration Dancers of the RSCDS, Boston Branch**



Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 3:00 and 7:30 PM

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library

33 Marrett Road, Lexington MA 02421

Info or to volunteer, e-mail [jcrabmail@gmail.com](mailto:jcrabmail@gmail.com), call 781 862 3540, Mail Order: see below. Purchase online (\$4.50 service fee): visit [www.MKtix.com/rscd](http://www.MKtix.com/rscd). At the door: adults/RSCDS members \$2 extra

Mail orders filled as received. Sorry, no refunds. Which show? Circle *one*: 3:00 PM *or* 7:30 PM

(Please use separate forms if ordering for both shows.)

Name _____	# Adults non-members _____	@ \$27
Address _____	# RSCDS members _____	@ \$25
City/State/Zip _____	# Children (<12) _____	@ \$15
Telephone _____	# in Group (≥8) _____	@ \$22
Seat preference ___ Orchestra ___ Mezzanine	Total: _____	
Wheelchair? ___yes	Email address (for future concert notices): _____	

Make checks payable to RSCDS, BOSTON, and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to: RSCDS Concert, c/o Laura Billmers, 66 Lowell St., Lexington, MA 02420-2810. Orders received after Nov. 1 or without a SASE will be held at the door in your name. Thanks!

*The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
18<sup>th</sup> Century Night  
Saturday, November 20, 2014*

*Scottish Country Dances from the 1700s,  
Danced to the musick of R.P. Hale, harpsichord,  
and Vince O'Donnell, violin.*

*Greenland Community Parish House, Greenland, NH  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dancing at 7:30 p.m.  
Branch Members \$12.00, Non-Members \$15.00*

*Program to be available on the Branch website.  
For hospitality and questions please contact  
Laurie Stevens at [seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org](mailto:seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org)  
or 603-380-2144.*



## New Year's Day Dance & Potluck Dinner

3:00 p.m., Thursday, January 1, 2015  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
214 Main St., Nashua, NH

Music by "Sprig of Ivy":

Howard Lasnik, percussion	Robert McOwen, bass
Barbara McOwen, fiddle	Matt Petriz, pipes & fiddle
Terry Traub, leader & piano	

\$12 (\$10 Boston Branch members), plus a main dish, salad, or vegetable to share.  
More info? Contact Loren Wright, 603-891-2331 [NashuaSCD@comcast.net](mailto:NashuaSCD@comcast.net)



# Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Saturday, December 6, 2014, at 8:00 p.m.

Salem Old Town Hall

32 Derby Square, Salem, Massachusetts

Music by

**Anne Hooper, Cam Webster and Terry Traub**

M.C.s:

**Karen Sollins, Charles Liu and Lance Ramshaw**

Hooper's Jig	32J	MMM I
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S	RSCDS leaflet
Summer Wooing	32R	RSCDS Bk 38
Burns Night	32J	Celebrate 50
Balquidder Strathspey	32S	RSCDS Bk 24
The Buchan Eightsome	40R	RSCDS Bk 21 (Sq. set)
Fair Jenny's Jig	32J	From Redwood Forest
Adieu Mon Ami	32S	RSCDS Bk 24
Pinewoods Reel	32R	Yankee Sampler

### Gay Gordons

Duke of Atholl's Reel	32J	RSCDS Bk 16
Gypsy Weaver	32S	Between the Rivers
The Fireside Reel	32R	18 <sup>th</sup> Century BK
Spiffin'	32J	Chicago's 25th Anniversary BK (Sq. set)
Sauchie Haugh	32S	RSCDS Leaflet
Reel of the Royal Scots	32R	RSCDS Leaflet

### Waltz

~Please bring goodies for the refreshment table to share~

More information is available at [PinewoodsBenefitBall@rscdsboston.org](mailto:PinewoodsBenefitBall@rscdsboston.org), or contact;  
Hannah McArdle, 617-777-2943 or MaryEllen Scannell 617-462-1925

Reservation Form (space is limited)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total (\$25 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "RSCDS Boston Branch" and mail to:

Hannah McArdle 90 Park St. #32 Brookline MA 02446

**All attendees will automatically be entered into a drawing for a  
guaranteed space for Scottish PW 2015!!**

Sponsored by the Boston Branch RSCDS:

## CHALLENGE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

(formerly ADVANCED CLASSES)

**November 21, 2014**

**Teacher: Robert McOwen**

**Musician: TBA**

Based upon the responses from the survey, Robert will be including all three of the proposed focus items in roughly equal amounts:

- i) improving dance technique,
- ii) working on complicated figures, and
- iii) learning challenging dances

Location: The Calvary Church, 300 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA  
(Big white church facility, between the cinema and Arlington Centre)

Cost \$10.00 (\$5.00 students)

Time 7:30-9:30 pm

Info call Evelyn at 617-864-8945, or Roberta at 781-643-3977

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## ALBANY CLASS FALL FROLIC

Friday night contra in Albany at 8:00 PM

Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen St, Albany, NY

Band: Party of 3

[www.dance.flurry.org](http://www.dance.flurry.org)

Saturday Scottish Country Dance Workshops

Teacher: Dale Birdsall

Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd,

Clifton Park, NY 12065

10:00 AM to noon - social dances

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - party dance review

7:30 PM - Scottish Country Dance Party

YWCA, 44 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY

Band: Highland Soles

10:30 AM Sunday Brunch

1:00 PM House Concert

Newbitz House

Featuring: The Highland Soles



## CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS

### November 2014

- 1-2 \*\*\* NY Capital District (Albany) Fall Frolic - p.6
- 3 \*\*\* Boston Branch Semi-Annual General Meeting - p.11
- 7-9 RSCDS Annual Conference weekend and AGM
- 8 \*\*\* Boston Branch Fall Scottish Concert - p.3
- 21 \*\*\* Boston Branch Challenge Class with Robert McOwen, teacher - p.6
- 22 \*\*\* Greenland Class annual 18th Century night - p.4

### December 2014

- 6 \*\*\* Pinewoods Benefit Ball - p.5
- 13 Bologna, Italy Scottish Grand Ball - p.14
- 21 \*\*\* Brookline Class Christmas Dance Party, MC Heather Day, Live music
- 22 \*\*\* Cambridge Class Holiday Party

### January 2015

- 1 \*\*\* Nashua Class annual New Year's Day Dance and Potluck - p.4
- 1 \*\*\* Northampton Class New Year's Day party - p.14
- 4 \*\*\* Brookline Class annual twelfth Night Party - p.16

## SAVE THE DATES

### April 17-19 Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend

**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.....!**

### Battlefield Band Concert Tour

Go to [www.battlefieldband.co.uk/tourdates.htm](http://www.battlefieldband.co.uk/tourdates.htm) for the complete listing. Here are local highlights:

- 5 Nov. The Burren Backroom, Somerville, MA 7:30 pm
- 6 “ One Longfellow Square, Portland, ME
- 13 “ Parlor Room, Northampton, MA
- 15 “ Hiberian Cultural Centre, Worcester, MA 8:0 pm
- 16 “ Hiberian Cultural Centre - this is a benefit for the Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band.

On November 1st the Battlefield Band will be appearing on *A Prairie Home Companion*. This is broadcast on WGBH at 6 pm on November 1st and repeated at noon on November 2nd. One of the longest-running bands of Scottish and Irish music, the band was named as the “Vox Pop” winner in the World/Traditional Song category at the Independent Music Awards in August. In addition their most recent album *Room Enough for All* was awarded Album of the Year at the prestigious 2013 MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2014-15 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
NOVEMBER			
8	Annual Fall Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington MA	John Crabtree, jcrabmail@gmail.com
14	Stow Class Party	Old Town Hall, Stow MA	Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
22	18 <sup>th</sup> Century Night	Parish Hall, Greenland NH	Laurie Stevens, 603-380-2144, seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
DECEMBER			
6	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Old Town Hall, Salem MA	Hannah McArdle, hannahmcardle@yahoo.com
22	Cambridge Holiday Party	Canadian-American Club, Watertown MA	Alex Bowers, alex_bowers@meei.harvard.edu
JANUARY			
1	Northampton New Year's Day Party	TBA, Northampton MA	Karen, 413-527-3407
1	Nashua New Year's Day Party	Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua NH	Loren Wright, 603-891-2331, nashuascd@comcast.net
4	Brookline Class Twelfth Night Party	Church of Our Saviour, Brookline MA	Evelyn Murray, athollbrose@verizon.net
FEBRUARY			
7-8	Cardigan Weekend	Cardigan Mountain Lodge NH	Lance Ramshaw, lance.ramshaw@gmail.com
28	Montpelier Class Party	Montpelier VT	Martha Kent, mdkent@comcast.net
MARCH			
21	Scholarship Benefit Dance	First Parish, Weston MA	Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, 978-897-3997 <a href="mailto:trink68@uwalumni.com">trink68@uwalumni.com</a>
28	Salem Class Party	Bolles Hall, Salem MA	MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org
APRIL			
17-19	Boston Highland Ball Weekend	Various locations in Eastern MA	Ed and Sara Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net
MAY			
2	Fairlee Spring Fling	Town Hall, Fairlee, VT	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459

**PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO Jean Farrington [jffar@verizon.net](mailto:jffar@verizon.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, 617-864-8948; Heather Day: 617-244-6914
- Great Barrington:** Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, 39 Railroad St., Great Barrington (above Crystal Essence). Contact Jean Campbell, 808-672-4243 or Ted, 413-696-2944
- Cambridge:** Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club ([www.canadianamericanclub.com](http://www.canadianamericanclub.com)) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowen, 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 [rgore@gmail.com](mailto:rgore@gmail.com) or 508-374-1533
- Newton:** Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. Sept through mid-June at Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 945 Grove Street, Newton. July and Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 Hildislie St, Newton. Contact Heather Day: 617-244-6914, [hdshoes14@gmail.com](mailto:hdshoes14@gmail.com)
- 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 Lavalley-Tente, 413-927-3407
- Salem (Wine Blues):** Year-round, Thursdays 8 pm, beginners at 7:30. First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, WineBlues@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-7925
- 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, 378 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rosing, 978-897-2466, [marcia.roslating@verizon.net](mailto:marcia.roslating@verizon.net)
- Yarmouth:** Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Mendes, 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, 207-523-2329, [pattitiltozon@gmail.com](mailto:pattitiltozon@gmail.com)
- Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 9:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-539-0637, [mone4702@gmail.com](mailto:mone4702@gmail.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, 603-360-2144, [SeacoastDancers@rscdsboston.org](mailto:SeacoastDancers@rscdsboston.org)
- Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, downtown Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 603-751-3871
- Nashua:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, [nashuasod@comcast.net](mailto:nashuasod@comcast.net), 603-881-2538

## 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, 802-439-3499
- Manchester Center:** Tuesdays 7-9 pm, First Congregational Church (on Route 7A, across from the Equinox Hotel). Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, [hollyvalentines30@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyvalentines30@yahoo.com)
- Montpelier:** Sept-May; Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Union Elementary School, 1 Park Ave., Montpelier. Contact Martha Kere, 802-879-7635; Art and Sandy Farman, 802-223-7482

## NEW YORK

- Albany:** Sundays, 6-8 pm, Newbits House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New or Cecil Lubitz, 518-383-6886; [lotsanew@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lotsanew@nycap.rr.com); [clabitz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:clabitz@nycap.rr.com)

\* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch, [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org). Because of occasional weather and hall availability, etc. it's always advisable to get in touch in advance if you're not on a class contact list. To download this file as a pdf go to [www.rscdsboston.org/PdfFlyer.pdf](http://www.rscdsboston.org/PdfFlyer.pdf). For updates, please email [Classco@rscdsboston.org](mailto:Classco@rscdsboston.org)

## MUSIC PAGE

The following article was originally commissioned for the program book for the 5th annual New Hampshire Highland Games, September 1980. His comments about the relationship between Scottish dance music and how it affected American music is fascinating.

### **The Scottish Fiddle - in America & Northeast - by Paul Brockman**

“The graceful and lilting Strathspey is to the fiddle very like what the Piobaireachd is to the bagpipes: unique to Scotland as a musical form, and historically linked with the instrument in its Scottish usage. Among its descendants is the 19th-century American Schottische.”

The reel in Scottish tempo is the most firmly structured of the traditional reels of the British Isles. As music for Scottish Country Dancing, it requires adherence to a tempo of approximately 55 to 65 bars per minute, and a firm 4:4 tempo. Like the strathspey, it has an American offspring, at least in part: Kansas City Jazz. Count Basie once observed, “My boys and I have four heavy beats to the bar and no cheating.” If that sounds like a reference to a Scottish reel - well, there is a link. Scott Joplin, from whom the Kansas City jazz tradition stemmed, didn’t acquire his Christian name by accident. He grew up and gained his first performing fame in an area of the Missouri Valley settled in large part by Scottish families, along a river system where the boats were manned in part by Scottish boatmen. (The great Bingham painting, “The Jolly Flatboatman,” currently on loan from Senator Pell to the National Gallery of Art, portrays a Scottish dancer, arms raised and fingers curled in the unique “staghorns” of the Highlands, dancing, one must presume, to an equally Scottish fiddler. It dates from the 1830s, close to Joplin’s boyhood, and its setting is the Mississippi-Missouri waterway.) Echos of the Scottish heritage abound in Joplin’s *Maple Leaf Rag*, in Hunt’s *Twelfth Street Rag*, and in Bus Motem’s *South*, to name but three landmarks of the strong 4-beat Kansas City tradition.

As music for the dance, Scottish fiddling excels. As a part of “the traditional and national music of Scotland” it is part of the soul of all who are of Scottish ancestry. “Traditional and national” - to use Collinson’s title for his treatise on Scottish music - not folk, as that term is so widely used these days to describe the heavily rustic music of peasant origins in other cultures. Of the people, yes - but of all the people, in one of the most democratic cultures of human history. It is the music of kings and commoners, chiefs and crofters, lawmen and rogues, poets and ruffians. Jamie MacPherson took his fiddle to the gallows in 1727, playing his own lament; his friends the Brown brothers took theirs into hiding and lived to teach others their art; Niel Gow played for the Court of St. James, as have scores of fiddlers for every British monarch since; Robert Burns danced to it in the taverns and halls of Ayreshire; Robert Louis Stevenson’s poetry rings with its cadences; Scots of every rank and station and walk of life have claimed it for their own.

When the greatest Scottish fiddler of them all, Niel Gow, first competed at age 18, on the eve of the ’45, the judge, blind John McCraw, awarded Gow the prize and noted, “I would ken young Gow’s bow hand among a hunner’ fiddlers.” The bow hand: the loose bowing wrist and the snap on it on the upbeat that makes possible the contagious, lilting phraseology of Scottish fiddling. There is nothing quite like it - nothing, one might argue, so spirited - in all of the music of the world. Listen, enjoy and be thankful. We in America are richly blessed - for Scottish fiddling is back among us. You, in New England, share today in that musical revival.

## **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

As a marketing tool the study carried out in Scotland which clearly and emphatically showed that Scottish Country Dancing is the best way to keep fit and defer cognitive malfunction should be used to “sell” our dance classes. Some of the people used in the study are long time SCDancers and when you look around at a dance or class here, there are some amazingly fit people among us who by all expected activity should be resting in their rocking chairs. So, I suggest that we use this gift we can give others to increase numbers in classes and at dances. - EM

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*From a 1984 issue of the San Francisco Branch's newsletter Reel and Strathspey-per we have the following article:*

### **THE LEGACY OF MISS MILLIGAN (November 1978)**

She brought back respect for tradition and the things of grace and beauty that have made our Highland heritage the delightful mark of things Scottish. She has taught us that Scottish Country Dancing is not just music, steps and routines. She has reminded us that it is a way of life where the bow and curtsy, the “May I have the pleasure of a dance with you?,” the escorting of one’s partner to and from the dance, the genteel arts of being kind and considerate of others takes the place of the hurly-burly behaviour so characteristic of man’s behaviour at times.

She became an international figure through her talents as a teacher and organizer and has brought love and joy, and a sense of “belonging” to more people around the world than most political figures dare dream of.

Her teaching of the art of Scottish Country Dancing above all was genteel, joyous, but never boisterous. Leaping, bounding, or whirling-dervish techniques add nothing to the beauty or grace of Scottish Country Dancing. They do distract other dancers and may even result in injury. They, therefore, have no place in our R.S.C.D.S. repertoire. Let us keep alive the true spirit of Scottish Country Dancing - love, honor, and respect! Without them, the light would grow dim for all. With them, all mankind may yet see the dawn of a brighter, happier day.

Thanks for your attention. - “Pop” Gunn

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**THE SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date: Monday November 3rd, 2014.**

**Location: Canadian-American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown, Mass.**

**Time: 7:45 pm.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTEND, AS A QUORUM IS NECESSARY!**

**FREE DANCING FOLLOWING THE MEETING.**

*In going through some papers I found the following letter from Miss Nancy Arnott dated July 8, 1978. She had just completed an Exam tour and made these comments on what she found both in Boston and in general saw in both Canada and USA. Observations and comments by an outsider are often more valuable as she/he do not have a particular 'axe to grind.'* - EM

### **SOME TEACHING POINTERS - Nancy Arnott**

Casting Off -- the original way is simpler. The going in to start has developed over the years, but to cast off means to turn away from the middle of the dance, looking at partner at the start. Like the business of the Allemande -- it was always done by 1st man leading partner down the middle, right hand in right, and coming up, the preparation for the Allemande was done by 1st man lifting lady's right hand over her head and also joining left hand in left, ready for the first bar of the Allemande phrase. 2nd couple must be ready too. She also thought that more work should be done on Foot Positions, and then, more use made of Foot Positions when teaching the breaking-up of the steps. Emphasis to be made on "The better the Technique the better the enjoyment." It is like learning Golf, Tennis, etc!! Emphasis on the fact that if they (i.e. the candidates) are going to teach the class, the class will COPY the teacher; therefore a bouncy, jiggy step must not be done. Under my heading of "Observation & Correction" on my Teaching Step, I found little to record, even after actually telling this to the candidates before they started!! No standard is going to improve if the teacher does not observe and correct faults.

I noticed in lots of places good practice of pas de basques was given of moving forward and backward; but in others, not so. I maintain that NOBODY, NOT ANYBODY, can do a poussette or set to and turn corners, etc. until they have practiced pas de basque forward and backward. Those who do TOE, OFF, in turning have never been taught to move with the pas de basque, nor had sufficient practice!!

I hope these points are helpful. I tried to be constructive throughout the trip, and many letters confirm this. Also, it was a relief to have someone put the candidates at ease so that they had every opportunity to give of their best! Which they did, the standard was high throughout.

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### **ABOUT ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETIES....**

St. Andrew's Societies were originally organized during the period of Scottish immigration in the 19th century in order to assist needy Scots settling in their new country. The oldest of these Societies, established on November 19, 1756, is in New York City. Though the Societies are named after the Patron Saint of Scotland, St. Andrew's Societies are not religious organizations, not are they affiliated with any religion. November 30th is St. Andrew's feast day, and this is often celebrated by these Societies by having a special dinner or other event. In this area there is the St. Andrew's Society of Massachusetts, which has an active scholarship program to promote the Scottish Arts. This is primarily funded by individual donations and an annual raffle. Mailing address is P.O. box 204, North Weymouth, MA 02191. Individual membership is \$15, family \$25. The New Hampshire Society also has a scholarship program and an active events program. Their next event is a luncheon, at The Common Man, Concord on Sunday, 16 November starting at 1:00 pm. It is also the annual Membership meeting. The Massachusetts Society's next meeting is October 30th at 7:00 pm at the Quincy Historical Society with Dr. Julie P. Winch as speaker. Her topic is "Jesse Ewing Glasgow, Jr - a 19th-century African-American Expatriate in Scotland."

## DANCING IN BURNS' TIME

The following description of a dancing class at the time of Burns' youth is taken from James Barke's book *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. A lot of it is still applicable today, although I think that we can dispense with bare feet at classes (even if they are clean) and shoes do now cost rather more.

It was a pleasant and warm-hearted scene: groups of lads and lassies standing about the barn laughing and joking: the lads in their hoddingrey homespuns, course knitted jackets and cobbled shoon, the lassies in short kilted gowns of homespun - none with stockings .....

Anra was a small, wiry fellow in his middle forties. His reddish beard was beginning to show streaks of grey, and because he was almost totally bald, he never removed his blue bonnet; folks said he slept in it.

"Now, if you're ready we'll begin," said Anra. "First there are a few rules I'd like you to remember. And when I say rules I mean rules. There'll be no horseplay of any kind. Onybody the worse for drink will be putten out immediately. Now, that's a rule canna be broken. There's to be no quarrelling among each other. This is a dancing school and no a school for haughmagandie ..... You'll show what is called breeding. You'll show your partner at all times and under all circumstances a proper respect.

"Just another thing - you'll dance in your bare feet. That saves a lot of trouble - and it kicks up less stour. When it comes round to the ball, of course, it'll be different. You'll have your dancing pumps then. I'll take orders for them at any time - three shillings the pair, and cheap at the money.

"Now for the lessons. Take your partners, ladies and gentlemen .... You maun hold yourself erect - head up, shoulders square. Square, I said, no hunched up round your lugs ... And don't look at your feet - even though you washed them just before you came out .....

It needed great patience, and a flow of gentle sarcasm to be a successful teacher; but Anra MacAslan was successful.

*The above taken from March 1983 Montreal Dancer, and compiled by the editor, Maurice Whitby.*

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*From the Thistle and Lilac, the Newsletter of the St. Andrews Society of New Hampshire, the following:*

### DID YOU KNOW?

We all know that Robert Burns's work ensured the revival and survival of Scottish music, but did you know just how broad was his influence? J.D. Salinger's famous 1951 novel *Catcher in the Rye* based its title from a poem *Comin' Thro' the Rye*. The Soviet Union was the first country in the world to honour Burns with a commemorative stamp, marking the 160th anniversary of his death in 1956. A translation of *My Heart's in the Highlands* was adapted as the marching song of the Chinese resistance fighters in the Second World War. American music legend Bob Dylan selected Burns' 1794 song *A Red, Red Rose* when asked for the source of his greatest creative inspiration. John Steinbeck took the title of his 1937 novel *Of Mice and Men* from a line contained in *To a Mouse*: "The best laid schemes o' mice and men / Gang aft agley." American President Abraham Lincoln had a lifelong admiration for the work of Robert Burns, with some claiming that the poet's verse played a key role in helping Lincoln win the American Civil war and abolish slavery.

PEOPLE NEWS

**SAD NEWS**

**Don Miller**, husband of Ann Miller passed away on the 15th October after a long illness. Ann has been a member of the Boston Branch since the late sixties and over the years has taught at various Branch classes. A service for Donald will be held on Saturday, November 1 at 2 pm at All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. All who remember Ann and Donald are welcome.

**LOST AND FOUND FROM THE FAIRLEE FALL SOCIAL**

Paula Kramer lost a set of reading glasses at the Fairlee social this past Saturday - green frames in a soft green leather case. She thinks she might have put them in a gray backpack that she mistakenly thought belonged to Loren. If you don't mind, please check your own possessions to see if the glasses are there.

In the found category, we have a pair of ghillies with green insoles. If they are yours, let me know.

Thanks again to everyone who came to or otherwise supported our dance. We are much appreciative.

Gary

**From Italy we have the following invitation:**

Dear friends, it is with pleasure that we announce the next Scottish Grand Ball in Bologna, Italy. It will be on **December 13th, 2014**. As has become tradition, the Ball will be at the **Hotel I Portici**, in via Indipendenza, at **8 pm**. The hotel is just 500 meters from the train station and well connected to the Airport. The innovation of this year is the live music that will be provided by Jig-Rig, an Italian group of 6 instruments (Guitar, Harp, Bagpipes, Vocals, Accordion, Tin Whistle, Percussion). Do not hesitate to contact us for information and reservations. --  
Samuele, RSCDS - Northern Italy Branch

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**Evelyn's operation on her back has been delayed, the good part is that this issue could be completed more-or-less on time**

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**NORTHAMPTON SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS**

IS PLANNING TO HAVE A DANCE NEW YEARS DAY,

JANUARY 1ST, 2015

Location and Time TBA

So watch for more info in the next issue, Branch web page or contact

Tom and Karen [tom.and.karen@earthlink.net](mailto:tom.and.karen@earthlink.net)

Several years ago Evelyn Murray devised a dance called Colonel Anne, and it was published in *The New Atholl Collection*. This is a collection of music, stories and dances by Ron Gonnella and Evelyn. Here is the story behind the dance. This comes from an article published in *Voice of the Highlands*, Autumn 2000, as their review of the book *Damn' Rebel Bitches, Women of the '45*.

### **Lady Anne Mackintosh, aka Colonel Anne**

.....Probably the most colourful woman of the '45 was Anne Farquharson Mackintosh, the wife of Lord Hector Mackintosh. They belonged to Clan Chattan. Women played a critical role in the Jacobite cause, not only raising money but also recruiting men. Anne Mackintosh, Lady Lude, Jenny Cameron and the Duchess of Perth raised hundreds of men to fight in the Jacobite Rebellion. After her husband went off to join his government regiment in the Black Watch, in defiance, at age twenty-two, Anne spent more than a fortnight riding over the countryside, raising 300 men to fight for the Jacobite cause. Her riding habit was tartan cloth, trimmed with lace, reflecting that she was a Jacobite. Also, she wore the traditional blue bonnet, worn by Highland men. She carried a bag of money and a pair of pistols. As Lady Mackintosh, few men refused her requests, bribes or her threats. She gained great notoriety for her actions and became widely known as "Colonel Anne."

Ultimately, she was captured and held prisoner for a brief time in Inverness. On the day that she was captured, several officers and 200 men came to her home at Moy Hall. One of the officers banged on the front door, demanding "that bloody rebel, Lady Mackintosh." He and his other officers were stunned when a slim, young beautiful woman came to the door and politely invited them into her home. At first they couldn't believe that she was the notorious "Colonel Anne."

.....Colonel Anne knew of the atrocities committed by Cumberland's men following the Battle of Culloden, as she scolded the soldiers looting her home after her arrest. In retaliation, one of the soldiers hit her on the breast, but another soldier dragged him off and threatened violence if he was to touch the lady again." The next day she was escorted to Inverness to become a prisoner. During the trip, she sat silently but erect on her horse, in defiance - wearing her tartan riding habit and the blue battle bonnet. Near her home she saw a grim reminder of the stakes at hand - 14 bodies of dead men, women and children. It is known that Anne Mackintosh was eventually taken to see the Duke of Cumberland and then released to the custody of her husband.

The story of the boldness and defiance of Colonel Anne has one final chapter, which took place in London. A few years after Culloden, Lord and Lady Mackintosh were visiting in London and attended a ball, where the Duke of Cumberland asked Anne to dance. As they danced, the band struck up "Up and Waur them a' Willie." After the dance was over, Anne asked the Duke if - since she had danced to his tune - would he reciprocate and dance now to her tune. Gallantry dictated that he agree. She requested *Auld Stuart's Back Again* and they danced to her tune. This was indeed an improbable couple, the Duke of Cumberland, the arch enemy of the Jacobites, dancing with Colonel Anne, the woman who personified the 'damn' rebel bitches, the women of the '45.

*Note: Rob MacIntosh has visited Moy House, and seen the portrait of Anne, who was very beautiful, but clearly held opposing views from her husband. She had an ally in her mother-in law, who also supported the Jacobite cause. On Culloden battlefield you can see the stone marking where the Mackintosh clan fought and died on that last conflict on British soil on that cold day in April, 1746.*

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH  
The Folk Arts Center  
10 Franklin Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180-1862  
(781) 438-4387

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE JAN-FEB, 2015 ISSUE IS DECEMBER 1st.  
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR WINTER AND EARLY SPRING EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.  
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AND TO  
JEAN FARRINGTON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR**

**Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep**

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### **BROOKLINE CLASS**

By now most have heard the good news that we are returning to our original location as of **October 26th, with the annual Halloween Dance Party**. The location is the Parish House of the Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. The church is one block from Beacon Street at the intersection of Carlton Street. Subway stop is St. Mary's (first stop after Kenmore Sq. outbound) walk in the direction of the trolley cars about one block and turn left onto Carlton. Time remains the same, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Thus, the annual **Twelfth Night Dance and Supper** is being planned for the first Sunday in January, with snow date the following Sunday, January 11th. There will be live music, and a light supper will be served during the intermission. As the class's expenses for the evening will be higher than in the past we need all possible support from dancers in the Branch. So please mark your calendars now for January 4th, and plan on attending this special Twelfth Night Celebration.

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### **RSCDS PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The RSCDS motion to change the Society into a Company Limited by Guarantee (incorporation in North American parlance) has many implications for international members - 50% of the Society's membership. One of the reasons for the change is to protect the members of the Management Committee from liability. However, the changes have some serious implications, so much so that the Toronto Branch have submitted an amendment to delay this action until the Branches have had time to thoroughly study the proposed changes. For details contact Chris Ronald at [cjr878@gmail.com](mailto:cjr878@gmail.com) or Keith Bark of the Toronto Branch. Most members may not care, but the implications are serious and it looks that although we pay the same subscription as members in Scotland, we will have even more reduced say in the functions and activities of the RSCDS.