



Volume 27
February 2024 Issue 01

Statement of ownership: Published by the Scottish American Society of the Quad Cities. A Chapter of the Scottish Heritage Society of Iowa, Inc.

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THANKS TO MINUTEMAN PRESS

Minuteman Press is the official printer for our newsletter, Burns Dinner material, and a number of other events. This year SAS was included in the annual calendar of non-profit organizations that is printed by Minuteman and distributed throughout the community. The Board wishes to thank this great business for all they do to support our group!



hurray for haggis!

HAGGIS - AN INVENTED TRADITION

Haggis' burgeoning association with Scotland was consolidated in the 19th century – albeit through rapprochement rather than rivalry. Once again, it was the English who provided the spur. After so many years' animosity between the two nations, George IV decided to try to heal the wounds by making a grant visit to Scotland in 1822. His stay in Edinburgh was choreographed by Walter Scott, who was so anxious to make Scotland attractive that he effectively invented a new 'tradition' of Scottishness. At the banquet thrown in the king's honour, everyone was decked out in tartan (previously the preserve of the Highlands and Islands); and care was taken to select foods that reflected 'Scottish' identity – including haggis.

George IV's visit ignited a craze for all things Scottish. Tartan became the height of fashion; a memorial to William Wallace was erected in Stirling; Robert Burns was honoured with a national festival in Ayr; Burns suppers became major events; and

haggis was eaten in ever-growing quantities. Scots living abroad played the biggest role. Perhaps out of nostalgia, they were determined to make haggis the culinary centrepiece of Scottish identity. In 1845, for example, a public dinner held in the Port Phillip District of New South Wales featured tables laden with 'orthodox Scottish feed'. Haggis was the star attraction. But Scotland itself was not far behind. By the late 19th century, haggis was widely recognised as the 'national' dish – and the rest, as they say, is history.

Haggis' origins will always be controversial. As long as there are Burns suppers, there will be people arguing over whether the 'great chieftain' is 'really' Scottish. And unless some dazzlingly new evidence comes to light, I don't expect the question will ever be settled. But in a way, I hope it never is. Haggis' journey from mysterious beginnings to Scottish classic is as nourishing as haggis itself. Debating its origins shows us that 'national' dishes are always a slightly artificial construction; and that food tastes better when prejudice is left aside. *By Alexander Lee, a fellow in the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at the University of Warwick.*

HAGGIS PREP FEBRUARY 17

9:30 A.M. AT THE HAWTHORNE HOME
4404 ROYAL OAKS DR, DAVENPORT

As is our usual tradition, the week before the Burns Dinner SAS members gather to make our very own haggis which will be served at both the February 24th dinner and the July Celtic Night Out. We receive many compliments on our particular haggis recipe especially since so many have a preconceived opinion of what haggis will taste like! Feel free to stop by to enjoy a cup of coffee/tea and a donut and to maybe even be a haggis taste tester!

ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION & DINNER FEBRUARY 24 THE ISLE, BETTENDORF

Informational/reservation letters have been mailed and the information is also posted on the website SASQC.com, so be sure to make your reservation as soon as possible. If you have friends or family you think might enjoy the pageantry and fun, please let them know. Entertainment will include our Blackhawk Pipes & Drums and the well known local Barley House Band. Kait Meeker will teach attendees a Scottish dance or two. The vendors will include Dragonfly Pottery-Linda Hardin and Daydream Art-Carri Williams. There will be many great choices at the raffle. We will again have all the usual pageantry and this is an opportunity to admire everyone's Scottish finery! If you have any questions, check out the website or contact Judy Hawthorne - 563-370-4078 thornebj67@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OVERDUE

If it slipped your mind to send in your membership renewal, here is your opportunity to do so. This will be the last Porridge Pot sent to members if you have not renewed. The cost has increased only slightly and is still one of the best deals in town!



Details for how you can donate to this wonderful cause in the name of SAS will be included in the May Porridge Pot.



GRAND PARADE XXXVIII MARCH 16

The Board has not yet been able to determine if we will be able to have an entry in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. There will be

an informational postcard sent out closer to the date if the decision is made to participate.

TARTAN DAY APRIL 6

This uniquely American celebration of our Scottish heritage is on a Saturday this year and we will join together for an off-the-menu dinner at Front Street Pub & Eatery, 421 W. River Dr, Davenport. There will be a short history lesson given and cake will be provided for dessert. Wear your favorite tartan and plan to have some fun (although you won't be turned away if you don't wear a tartan)!



Save the Date! Saturday, July 20 Celtic Night Out

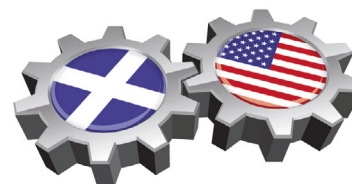
Black Hawk Pipes & Drums & Blame Not the Bard!



www.sasqc.com

6 pm,
Riverfront
Grille,
Rock
Island

Plans are well underway for our 2024 Celtic Night Out are well underway! You'll want to set aside Saturday, July 20, at the Riverfront Grille in Rock Island. The fun starts at 6 pm, and includes haggis, food, and Scottish/Irish entertainment. We're thrilled to say that the Quad Cities' own Black Hawk Pipes & Drums and the rollicking Blame Not the Bard band will be joining us again. Watch your email, and the SASQC Facebook page and website for more details to come later. The reservation form will be included in the May Porridge Pot.



**BELTANE POTLUCK
MAY 28, 5:30 P.M.
PAVILION 1
DUCK CREEK PARK
MEAL WILL BEGIN AT 6:15**



CELEBRATION OF THE SAINTS/ ANNUAL MEETING AT THE OUTING CLUB, DAVENPORT

Thanks to Gale Hoff and Henry Marquard for organizing a very enjoyable holiday celebration for our members and a few guests. SAS president, Lisa Lockheart, conducted a short business meeting where we elected Brian Tuck as our new vice president and she announced what upcoming events to expect for the year. All the remaining officers will continue in their positions for 2024.





SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY

P.O. Box 132
Moline, IL 61266

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Burns Celebration & Dinner February 24
St. Patrick's Day Parade March 16
Tartan Day April 6
Beltane May 28
Birdies for Charity details in May
Celtic Night Out July 20
Samhain October 12
Celebration of the Saints/Christmas Party December TBA

2024 SAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Preferred Phone Number_____Email_____

Clan(s)_____

Membership: Single \$15_____ Family \$25_____

Send to: SASQC, P.O. Box 132, Moline, IL. 61266
c/o Mary Gloeckner-Bouljon. Checks should be made out to SASQC.

