



# The Porridge Pot



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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Manor Community Room in Bettendorf was the location of a festive group of Scots (or Scottish "wannabes") at the SAS Christmas Party on December 6th. Derek Grant provided some tunes on his "indoor" pipes and Bill Lee took a turn at the piano. The dinner was catered by HyVee.

## 2014 37TH ANNUAL ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION & DINNER

Despite some seriously cold weather and a change in our usual weekend date for this annual celebration, 147 hardy Midwesterners turned out on February 1st to share in the festivities. The Blackhawk Pipes & Drums provided their usual high quality program which included some duets and even a flute this year. Joe Nobling and his group, Fire in the Belly, entertained the attendees with Celtic music, and Bill Hawthorne increased the size of his Scottish art display since Rampant Lion wasn't able to join us this year due to other commitments. Derek Grant's rendition of "Address to the Haggis" was a popular addition to the evening and Roger Stancliff, our new co-president, served as Master of Ceremonies. Be sure to include January 24, 2015 on your calendar for next year's Burns Dinner. A great big thank you to all those who donated items for the Silent Auction! Anyone interested in being a part of the Burns Committee for 2015 is encouraged to contact a Board member. We are in need of some new members.

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Sadly, in 2013 we lost many members, or former members, of our organization. The following names were read at the Burns Dinner: Bill Gilles (an originator of our local Highland Games), Madge Conger, Ronda Staubach (mother of our Membership Chairperson Gale Hoff), Marvin McMorran, Jane Tennant (one of the founding members of SAS), Julie McDonald (published author & wife of former president Jack), and Elaine Lass. Chick Thomson, another one of the founding mem-

bers and a native Glaswegian, passed away this month. Our condolences to their families and friends.

## TARTAN DAY

**April 6 @ 5:00pm**

We will meet at 11th Street Precinct (party room in back), 1107 Mound Street in the Village of East Davenport at 5:00 p.m. on April 6th for dinner and fellowship. Derek Grant (322-2307) is the contact person if you have any questions about this day that is set aside in the U.S. to commemorate our Scottish heritage.

## ANNUAL BELTANE POTLUCK PICNIC

**May 20 @ 5:30 pm**

Pavilion 1, Duck Creek Park, Davenport will again be the location of the SAS annual Beltane picnic. A reminder postcard with more details will be sent for both Tartan Day and Beltane closer to the dates.

## 2014 KILTIED T - ANNUAL GOLF DAY

**June 21st @ 1pm**

Highland Springs, Rock Island  
Longest Drive, Hole in One, Longest Putt, Cash Prizes, raffles, 50/50

Early Bird Registration is now OPEN  
Early Bird Special = \$60 per player \$240 per team of 4 - Thursday, March 1st  
A \$100 DEPOSIT MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 1ST to secure this offer Cost after March 1st \$65 per player / \$260 per team of 4  
Registration ends June 7th, 2014

If your interested please mail your deposit to  
Darren Low  
KILTIED T  
1640 Marlo Ave  
Davenport, IA, 52803  
563-579-9224

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PAST DUE

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014, please do so right away. This will be your last newsletter if you do not renew. A renewal form is attached.



## CALEDONIATOPIA: DON'T CALL IT A SKIRT – THE HISTORY OF THE KILT

Mocked for centuries for dressing as women, real men know that the kilt is a clothing option of the mightiest (and some would say craziest) of men. It not only identifies one's Scottish heritage, but also the clan from which one hails. In the present, kilts abound and many varieties are available, from the "utilikilt" to those denoting places or organization membership.

The kilt began its legacy in the Scottish highlands in the late 16th century. Despite its national appeal in the present, at the time it was first worn, many lowlanders considered it a "barbarous" form of attire. The kilt also wasn't confined to just the waist, but was a full-length garment worn like a cloak. The word kilt was derived from the Norse word "kjilt", which meant pleated, referring to a clothing item that was tucked up and around the body. Within highland society, their cost made them a sign of affluence, even more so after tartan patterns were introduced.

Early kilts were typically a solid color, white, dull brown, green, or black. Contrary to popular belief, clan tartans (the plaid patterns we typically associate with kilts) didn't develop until an improvement in technology in the late 1800s. It

was about this time that the "phillabeg" or the "feileadh-beag" developed. Around the 1790s, the tailored kilt was developed, also known as the "little kilt" or "walking kilt", becoming what we think of as the modern kilt. The difference between the tailored kilt and the phillabeg is that the pleats are actually sewed down instead of being bunched together and belted.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the kilt became a form of protest. In 1746, King George II imposed the Dress Act as a means of repressing Highland culture. The act made it illegal to wear any form of Highland garment, including the kilt. George's reason for the act was that his opponents had threatened a Jacobite uprising and the ban would permit him to identify any disloyal Scottish armies. Penalties ranged from six months imprisonment to seven years transportation to a penal colony. Eventually, the ban was lifted in 1782 after Jacobitism ceased to be a threat and the kilt cemented itself as a symbol of Scottish independence and identity.

The repeal of the ban led to a revival of the kilt's popularity in the 19th century. However, kilts were regarded as a piece of formalwear and primarily worn for Highland games, sporting matches, weddings, and so on. Sir Walter Scott and the Celtic Society of Edinburgh began to encourage lowlanders to wear kilts as well (by this point 9 out of 10 Scots lived in the lowlands) and promoted its general use.

As mentioned, it was also in the 19th century that tartans were developed and ascribed to various clans. Prior to this, kilt colors typically were based on location. Scott's encouragement of kilts and a visit by King George IV in 1822 spurred a tartan explosion. Generally, clan chiefs determine what the tartan colors are and what surnames are considered clan members. One typically cannot wear a tartan belonging to a clan of which they are not a member, though some sellers may not be so inclined to observe this custom. Other than clan tartans, many tartans have been created for individuals, families, locations, events, or organizations.

Today, kilts and their tartans can be seen all over the United Kingdom and the United States. They're popular for Scottish games, weddings, and even comic book conventions, where the "utilikilt" is an oft-seen piece of attire. The utilikilt was developed by Steven Villegas in 2000 after he wanted an alternative to pants that was more comfortable for riding his motorcycle. The original utilikilts were made from old army pants and after being approached by a bouncer who wanted to purchase one, he founded The Utilikilts Company with Megan Haas. Since the company's founding, its popularity spread from word of mouth as the company does not advertise.

Numerous and diverse, kilts remain a popular form of attire for Scottish and non-Scottish persons, allowing a freedom of movement and uniqueness not seen in many other pieces of clothing.

By John Rabon at [anglotopia.net](http://anglotopia.net)





**SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY**

c/o Sue Grant  
2331 Belle Avenue  
Davenport, IA 52803

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

**SCHEDULE FOR 2014**

April 6 - Tartan Day  
May 20 - Beltane Picnic  
Sept. 19-20 - Celtic Festival/Highland Games  
Oct. 24 - Samhain Potluck  
Dec. TBA - Christmas Party

*Please return completed Membership Form and check to:  
Gale Hoff, 1104 Kimberly Rd., Unit 1103, Bettendorf, IA 52722. Check is to be made out to: SAS of QC*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$9 per person or \$18 per family  Renewal  New member