JUNE 2020

**Summer/Fall 2020 Calendar**

Events are all tentative and subject to cancellation/postponement due to conditions. Please follow current requirements/recommendations for social distancing/masks etc. recommend checking for current status of events before traveling on event webpage and SASA’s

**Jun 24th 7PM** The Battle of Bannockburn concluded with the defeat of the English on June 24th 1314. Our friends at the Saint Andrew's Society of Albany have invited us to join them in a virtual toast (your choice, Scotch, Tea or something else) at 7pm Eastern to celebrate. Please feel free to send us a picture of your toast.

**Jul 4th**: Mini golf at Pirates Cove at 2 PM in Lake Placid, followed at 4:30 by the parade, picnic supper follows, and fireworks over the lake. **Cancelled**

**Aug (tentative -date to be determined)** Mini golf at Lake George area, Check webpage and email for details to follow.


**Aug 29: (Sat) Almanzo Wilder Homestead, Malone, NY** [https://almanzowilderfarm.com/](https://almanzowilderfarm.com/) Annual Cultural Festival- Scottish Fling. **Tenative**

**Sep 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Capital-District Scottish Games, Altamont, NY** [https://scotgames.com/](https://scotgames.com/) **CANCELLED**

**President’s Note**

I just looked over the March Newsletter and it was brought home how much this year has changed. Our spring/summer events have been wiped out, except for the 4th of July festivities in Lake Placid and the mini golf in Lake George, and these may also be gone. The upcoming Scottish Festivals websites now read, “we’ll see everyone in 2021”; the September and October games are making the decision in the next couple of weeks whether they will postpone until next year. (cont.)

**Mission Statement:**

The Perpetuation of Scottish Heritage, Traditions, Culture, Education and Genealogy

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The Borrowed Wedding Dress (submitted by Suzanne Mackey)

(I found this article in Scotland’s People when I was in Scotland last fall and thought it would be appropriate for now, since 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Even amid the horrors of war, there was a happy time.)

1940 saw an increase in marriages in Scotland, following the outbreak of war in September 1939. By 1943 the War was in its fourth year. Rationing had limited the availability of everyday items including petrol, introduced in 1939, food in 1940, and clothing in 1941. The pressure to create an unprecedented quantity of military uniforms led the British government to try to protect the amount of fabric being used in civilian dress and limit the labour being used to create it. By 1945 the ration points had been reduced from 66 to 24 (as an example, a pair of stockings was around 2 coupons, a man’s shirt around 8 and a dress around 11) plus a monetary value to be paid.

While fashion became more economical in design, men and women were both still encouraged to take pride in their appearance. For many couples this was never more important than on their wedding day. Despite a shortage of fabric, many women still wanted to wear a traditional wedding dress. Even Princess Elizabeth, on her marriage to Philip Mountbatten in 1947, conserved her rationing coupons and received a gift of 200 coupons from the British Government to purchase the material required for her gown.

Most brides, however, had to be creative. Some dressed in two-piece outfits or borrowed a family dress. Due to the cost of fabric, a great number of women couldn’t afford the material for a wedding dress. Some women improvised and used parachute silk and later in the war, nylon parachute fabric.

Influential women also tried to help the cause. Barbara Cartland placed an advertisement in “The Lady” to buy 2 wedding gowns to lend out to brides for the day; over time she collected over 1,000 of them. In America, the President’s wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, was instrumental in gathering wedding dresses from American women to create a ‘pool’ of dresses donated for service women’s use. One of these American women was Mrs. George Shaw Green who lived in Dayton, Ohio. She gifted 5 wedding dresses to the WAAF specifically for the use of airwomen because she wanted the service women of Britain to have the “romance of a white wedding in...”
The Battle of Bannockburn took place on 23 and 24 June. Despite being vastly outnumbered, Robert chose his ground well and masterminded a tremendous victory over the English army. Over the two days of battle, Edward’s army was repeatedly thwarted by the Scots’ stubborn resistance, before finally finding themselves trapped by the surrounding terrain, with no room to manoeuvre their huge force. The result was an unprecedented rout of Edward’s army.

However, the victory at Bannockburn did not secure peace and Edward II refused to recognise Robert as king of an independent Scotland. In 1320 Bruce organised for the Scottish nobles to write a letter to the Pope, now known as the Declaration of Arbroath, which made the case for Scottish independence. But it was ignored by the church and Bruce accepted a long-lasting truce with the English.

In 1328, after Edward II was deposed, his son Edward III became king of England and his government finally recognised Robert as Robert I, King of Scots, and agreed to treat Scotland as an independent nation. [https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn/robert-the-bruce](https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn/robert-the-bruce)

**Cranachan**

A Scottish summer time favorite

[https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cranachan](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cranachan)

**Method**

To toast the oatmeal, spread it out on a baking sheet and grill until it smells rich and nutty. It will not darken quickly, so use your sense of smell to tell you when it is nutty enough. Cool the oatmeal.

Make a raspberry purée by crushing half the fruit and sieving. Sweeten this to taste with a little caster sugar. Whisk the double cream until just set, and stir in the honey and whisky, trying not to over-whip the cream. Taste the mix and add more of either if you feel the need.

Stir in the oatmeal and whisk lightly until the mixture is just firm. Alternate layers of the cream with the remaining whole raspberries and purée in 4 serving dishes. Allow to chill slightly before eating.

**Ingredients**

- 2 tbsp medium oatmeal
- 300g fresh British raspberries
- a little caster sugar
- 350ml double cream (we used Jersey double cream)
- 2 tbsp heather honey
- 2-3 tbsp whisky to taste

**Editor’s Notes:** Members contributions are welcome to include Scottish related stories, recopies, photos and news stories. Please provide sources and links if not your own writing or photos. They should be sent to me at sfcparker@yahoo.com, please add SASA Newsletter into subject.