



Scottish News

***From the Clan of the
Georgia Highland Association
Royal Order of Scotland***



News from the Clan Chief

Let me thank you for allowing me to serve as Clan Chief of the Georgia Highlands Association of the Royal Order of Scotland for 2012. I thank you my Sir Knights for going beyond and above the call of duty. This is an honor that I will treasure and enjoy the memory.

The Order is one which is, from its historical associations, peculiarly interesting to Scotsmen, and each year on the 4th of July (old style), the anniversary of the day on which the Battle of Bannockburn was fought, the Grand Lodge of the Order, as well as some of the Provincial Grand Lodges, continue the ancient custom of the Order by holding a festival, at which the Toast to the Immortal Memory of King Robert the Bruce, the hero of Bannockburn and Restorer of the Order is proposed in an oration by one of the Brethren, and honored in silence. The Degrees of the Order are most beautiful and impressive, and inculcate the three principles of Freemasonry - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

There is evidence of an early Provincial Grand Lodge in the United States of America at Norfolk, Virginia, but there are no records available. Sir Albert Pike was the first Provincial Grand Master and was appointed in 1877 and served until 1891.

I look forward to working with the new officers and seeing each of you at our first meeting on January 28th, 1:30 pm, at the Atlanta Masonic Center.

Yours Aye,
Newton "Skeets" Copelan
Clan Chief

Chaplains Corner

It's a Wonderful Life.

I'm sure that when we consider all things, this is probably true for most of us. However, since this is being written in late December, I am referring to the Christmas Season classic with Jimmy Stewart. This movie reminds us of our inner struggle to accomplish great things when all along the great things that we were meant to accomplish are right in front of us in the form of many smaller things. It has always been my belief that we should, in our own way, make an effort to influence our world in a positive way, and in doing so, leave a legacy that reflects our purpose for being here. George Bailey did just that, but during a temporary crisis, he began to think that he had been wasting his time and had accomplished nothing. In believing that the world would have been a better place had he not been born, he was given an opportunity to see the difference that he made in the lives of the people around him.

While many of us may never know the true impact of our actions, we can be sure that by living a righteous life according to God's plan for us, we will make a difference in the lives of those we interact with. For many years I thought that this was the whole point of the film. Then I began to think about Clarence. As you will recall, Clarence was the Guardian Angel sent to help George understand the true value of his life. Clarence was not always welcomed by George, nor was he understood, but his purpose remained clear to him. In his own clumsy way Clarence showed George Bailey how his community had been affected by his living a selfless life even when it would have been easy for him to give in to his own ambitions and follow his own dreams.

Although George and Clarence were worlds apart

in many ways, they both made a difference by fulfilling their purpose. We know what happened to Clarence at the end of the film, but I've often wondered what George's life was like after that Christmas Eve. Either way, Clarence earned his wings and George may have begun to look at his own life in a changed way.

My prayer is that each of us examine our own actions and ask the question. Am I George or am I Clarence? No matter the answer, I'm sure that you are fulfilling God's purpose for you.

In His Service,
Mark A. Bradley
Chaplain

Screening Committee

Sir Knights, the closing of the 2011 year we saw two good Brothers join the ROS at the class in Louisville, Kentucky, and one good Brother who gave it up and retired on us.

Sir Knights Richard Brogden and James Tate of Columbus has joined the ROS and our Clan. Welcome to them and I hope to see them at our Banquet in December.

Sir Knight Carl Hyde has retired on us and is no longer our Screening Chairman for the Provincial Grand Lodge for the ROS of the USA. Sir Carl is to be commended on his job well done not only in this capacity but also as the "Founding Father" of our Clan. With his support, and yours, I will do my best to fill his shoes.

We should all be receiving our letters in January, 2012 of the locations for the meetings. I am in hopes that some of you out there in our Clan will know of someone that is deserving of this Honor and send me an application to approve. Then hopefully they will help our Clan to grow and become an active member. I have one member already waiting for the class in 2012. I am looking forward to him joining the Clan and being at our Banquet with us.

For those of you that do not know, the Screening Committee for Georgia consist of:

Sir Knight Rick Conn, Chairman
Sir Knight Allen Bruce.

Thank you so much Sir Knights for your support.

Fraternally, Rick Conn
Screening Committee Chairman

Scottish Trivia

Sir Knights, we all know that Golf is of Scottish origin, but let me relate to you this month a few facts that you may not know.

King James II, in 1457, banned golf and soccer in Scotland because he thought it distracted military personnel from pursuing archery. Something more suited to their profession. But this all changed when King James IV came along. For according to Scottish Golf History records, King James IV as the first recorded monarch to have purchased some golf clubs. We have all heard about St Andrew's in Scotland. But did you know that St. Andrew's is not the oldest golf course in the world. The Guinness Book of Records records Musselburgh Links course as being played as early as 2 March 1672. However, some evidence exists that Mary Queen of Scots may have played there as early as 1567.

As far as Golf Clubs go, the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith (1744) is considered to be the first official golf club. It was later renamed the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. Ten Years later, the St Andrews Society of Golfers was formed following Leith's rules. It was King William who gave St Andrew's the title of the 'Royal & Ancient' in 1834. St Andrew's, however, has had the greatest effect on the origin of golf. It's course was initially built with 22 holes but these were later reduced to 18. New courses followed suit and it became the standard. After all, there is only 18 'shots' in a bottle of Scotch. And when the Scotch is gone, the game is over.

At St Andrews the size of the hole was set at 4.5 inches. This too was copied by other golf courses. Tom Morris, a successful Scottish professional golfer, was a pioneer in course design in the 19th Century. He is credited with inventing the first dogleg.

Golf is often considered related to the Belgian game Chole and the Dutch game Kolven. Both are stick and ball games but you do not have to get the ball into a hole in either - the real golf challenge.

Caddies, why caddies? The origin of golf term 'Caddie' comes from Mary Queen of Scots use of French cadets to help her play while she studied there.

The first International golf match is believed to have taken place near Edinburgh on the course of Leith in 1682 when two Scottish noblemen beat two English noblemen. But the first international Golf Club (the first golf club outside Britain) was built in the city of Bangalore in India in 1820. The second Golf Club outside Britain (built in Europe) was at the

Curragh in Ireland in 1856.

But once Golf hit the British Colonies in the new world (USA) , by 1900 there were more than 1000 golf clubs in existence and growing.

Golf clubs were very crude at first, but rapidly improved with the expansion of the game. The first golf club heads were made of beech or the wood of fruit trees such as apples. Golf club shafts were originally made of hazel or ash wood.

This is just a short review of the game of Golf, I hope you enjoyed it. And to throw a little Irish Celtic in the mix. Do you know what the longest place name in Ireland is?

“Muckanagherdauhaulia,” A port found in County Galway. What does it mean you ask ? Its translation is a “pig marsh between two seas.” Hey, great place to keep muslim away.....

From the Secretary's Desk

Sir Knights, with this issue I enclose your annual dues notices for 2012. Please remit to me as soon as possible. Rick Conn, 2683 Brocklin Drive, Grayson, GA. 30017-1432. Thank you in advance.

Our Banquet this past December was one of the best ever. Good fellowship, great food, and some great entertainment with the Bagpipes by Bob Rogers. He explained some facts on the Bagpipes that I did not know and was an interesting talk and some good pipping. For the first time, the Officers were ‘Piped’ in with a real Bagpiper. Hope you can make it to next years Banquet.

We retired our Clan Chief, MWB Sir Knight Gary Lemmons, but we added another good one. Sir Knight Newton “Skeets” Copelan was installed as our new Clan Chief for 2012. I look forward to another great year in our Clan with him at the helm.

Sir Knight David Watkins was installed as our new Vice Chief. With him and his lovely Lady Shirley I look forward to the next couple of years to be good ones.

With the retirement of MWB Danny Wofford as our Chaplain, we are honored to have WB Mark Bradley to step in and take his place. Mark is one our newest members and a dedicated Mason and hard worker. His message in this issue is a timely one. Just leaving the ‘Season’ of celebrating the birth of our Savior, we all need to reflect on what Sir Knight Mark said. Welcome Sir Knight Mark to our little Clan.

And lastly, looks like you are stuck with me again as your Secretary/Treasurer. I have enjoyed serving as your Secretary/Treasurer for the last 7 years. It has

been an honor to serve such a great Clan of Sir Knights as distinguished as you Sir Knights. Thank you for the privilege.

With this first newsletter, I hope to kick of another fantastic year with the ROS and the Ga. Highland Association. Especially with the sponsorship of the children’s event at the Stone Mountain Highland Games this year from our Clan. Thanks to all you Sir Knights for your support.

Our Annual meeting will be held on the 28th of January at 1:30 pm. It will be at the Atlanta Masonic Temple on Peachtree Street. This is the annual meeting for the planning of our annual Banquet in the fall. All Officers need to attend, members may attend if they desire. Their input would be of great service to our Clan. We also need nominations for Vice President for 2013. So if you want to serve in the line of our Clan, please let the Officers know so you can be considered.

Until next issue, as usual, I leave you with,

Lang may your lum reek.

Slainte mhor agus a h-uile beannachd duibh

(Long may your chimney smoke.)

(Good health and every good blessing to you)

May God Bless, Yours Aye
Rick Conn, Editor/Publisher

