

THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue IV

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Autumn 1999

Guelph fall workshop to focus on Scottish immigrant/emigrant experience

The dispersion of Scots throughout the world will be the topic of this year's Fall Colloquium at the University of Guelph.

The conference, hosted by the Scottish Studies Program, will be held on Saturday, October 16, and will feature many aspects of the Scottish immigrant/emigrant experience, with special emphasis on North America.

The main speaker will be the renowned Prof. Ned Landsman of the State University of New York and author of *Scotland and its First American Colony* as well as numerous articles on Scottish emigration to Canada and the U.S.

The conference will be held in the Lifelong Learning Centre at the University of Guelph. This is a much better site than we



Oh, why hae I left my hame? by Thomas Faed © Tyne & Wear Museums

have had in the past and is ideal for lectures. Prices will include a catered lunch and a reception to follow.

SSF members will receive a booking package by the end of August, along with a full program of speakers.

Space is limited for this most worthwhile and interesting event so you are encouraged to book early.

For further information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Ewan at the School for Scottish Studies, Room 235, MacKinnon Building, College of Arts, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1; or phone at (519) 824-4120, ext. 3209; or e-mail her at "eewan@uoguelph.ca"

St. Andrews Professor to visit Toronto and Guelph

Prof. T.C. Smout, Historiographer Royal for Scotland and Director of the Institute for Environmental History at the University of St. Andrews will be the main speaker at the "Our Club" luncheon on Friday, October 15.

Prof. Smout will speak on *The History of the Caledonian Forest -- Myth and Reality*. He also is scheduled to lecture at the Scottish Studies Colloquium at the University of Guelph on October 16.

The twice-monthly "Our Club" lunches are currently being held at Toronto's Bow

and Arrow Pub, 1954 Yonge St., just a few buildings north of Davisville on the west side of Yonge. The noon-hour luncheons are held on alternate Fridays.

If you have never attended an "Our Club" function, drop by and you'll enjoy a lot of fun and well worth the \$15 tab.

The conversation and good food are well worth it. And the lunches are for a good cause -- profits go to the Scottish Studies Foundation.

For further information and to get the dates of upcoming luncheons, contact Gina Mackenzie Erichsen at (416) 928-0760.

Those of you who are familiar with the "Our Club" will no doubt remember Phil Reid, the former owner of the "Jack Russell" pub -- the original "Our Club" venue. Phil is a good friend of the Foundation and in the past the "Jack Russell" contributed thousands of dollars to the Scottish Studies Foundation.

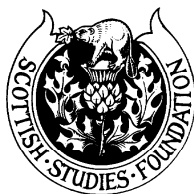
We have learned that Phil has now started a new travel business under the name of Interface International.

While his company will be able to assist in arranging travel to any destination, travel to and within Scotland will receive particular attention.

Phil Reid can be contacted at 20 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1A9 (416) 485-6972

Scots Wha Hae

*a desire to nurture and preserve
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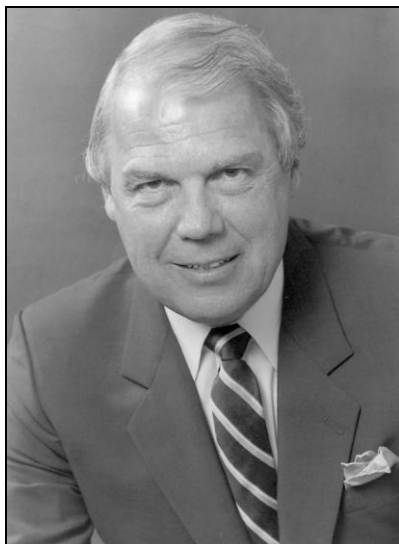
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Letter from the Chair



Dear Fellow Members,

I have, in previous letters to our membership, given some emphasis to the fact that this foundation has been organized by and operates through the efforts of volunteers.

With the exception of small stipends paid to graduate students staffing the University of Guelph's Scottish Studies Office and our recently appointed membership secretary, everything else is the result of contributions of individuals, chiefly members of the Board of Governors, who give freely of their time and effort. This includes the careful maintenance of our finances, publication of our newsletters as well as the organization and execution of events such as the annual Sailpast and Tartan Day Dinner.

These members volunteer to help because they believe in the cause for which the Foundation stands and in what we are trying to accomplish. All too often, I'm afraid, we come to take such contribution for granted. If such has been the case in our organization, I would like to take a small step in correcting this situation by using this newsletter to extend a word of thanks to a number of individuals who have done a great deal to put our organization in the relatively strong position we find ourselves in today.

Let me start with a word of appreciation to two retiring governors -- Alastair Gillespie and Bill Somerville.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Alastair has been primarily responsible for the large grant the Scottish Studies Foundation has received from the Ballard Foundation. Further, through his

considerable experience in both government and business, he has given us access to leaders in both areas when we required it. And, I am happy to say, he has volunteered to continue to do so as we gear up to participate in University of Guelph's fund raising campaign.

Bill Somerville is a past Chairman of the Foundation and is responsible for initiating several of our major fundraising efforts. It was Bill who gained us access to both Bingo and Nevada revenues and it was also through his imaginative efforts that the Tartan Day Dinner and the Sailpast were organized. His several contributions will have a lasting and positive impact on the Foundation.

Another governor -- Paul Thomson -- we might say has taken semi-retirement. While he remains on the Board, he has stepped down from his duties as Membership Chairman. This assignment, which Paul carried out for a number of years, had several onerous aspects as it involved not only keeping track of our roster of members, but the responsibility for packaging and mailing of the various items through which we try and communicate with each of you. And, of course, as our membership has grown, the task has become even more demanding. It is good news, however, that he remains in our ranks and his commitment to continue to develop our website is most encouraging.

There are two assignments that are at the centre of any organization and undoubtedly key to its success. Those are the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. We have been blessed in having these assignments over a number of years, occupied by two extremely competent and dedicated individuals -- Alan McKenzie and David Hunter. Despite carrying, over the years, important and demanding full-time jobs, both have provided the proverbial yeoman's service to the Foundation. There is great comfort for the rest of us in know that our finances are being kept in good order and our records and correspondence are being well maintained. Nobody, it is said is indispensable, but Allan and David come close to it.

Let me know return to our major fundraising events -- the Tartan Day Dinner and the Annual Sailpast. Occasions of this kind demand careful planning and execution which in turn requires hours of time and effort. In the last few years, all of these ingredients have been forthcoming from our Treasurer working along side John MacDonald, President of the Scottish Studies Society and Neil Fraser, a governor of long standing. Any member who has attended

either event will know the effective manner in which the dinner and the Sailpast have been run and that is entirely due to the dedicated efforts that these gentlemen have put forward.

Finally, I would like to say a word of appreciation and pass on my best wishes to Scott Moir. Scott has staffed the SSF office over the last three years while completing his PHD studies at Guelph. He graduates this fall, as all students hope to do, and we know from his successful efforts on our behalf that he will accomplish much in his future endeavors.

If asked, I know that each of these individuals would say that their reward comes from the satisfaction in being able to contribute to a cause in which they sincerely believe. Nevertheless, I think it is appropriate, on behalf of all of us who benefit from their efforts, to offer this simple, sincere vote of thanks.

This letter marks the beginning of my third and last year as Chairman of the Foundation. With the assistance of people such as those I have identified as well as the support of all of you, our members, I hope that it will be a most successful year.

Sincerely,
Ed Stewart

Major Gift to the Foundation

Thanks to the efforts of Alastair Gillespie, a recently retired governor of our organization, the Foundation was introduced to the Hon. Willard Estey in his capacity as Chairman of the Harold E. Ballard Foundation. Subsequently, Alastair, Allan McKenzie and Ed Stewart, made a presentation to the Ballard Board of Directors.

Shortly afterwards we received a response which read in part as follows:

"The Directors of the Foundation were very impressed with your description of the activities of the Scottish Studies Foundation and they consider it to be a very worthwhile project. However, the objectives of your organization do not fit with the three areas in which this Foundation is primarily involved. Those areas are, of course, cancer, the wellbeing of children, and the homeless. Having said this, however, the Directors were of the view that the Ballard Foundation should make a worthwhile contribution to the Scottish Studies Foundation ... and I am pleased to advise you that the Foundation will be forwarding to you, in due course, a cheque in the amount of \$100,000."

We are, of course, most grateful to the Hon. Mr. Estey and his two fellow Directors, -Ms. Leslie MacLeod and Richard Campbell Meech for this most generous support.

The Stone of Scone *—the true story*

by Dr. Paul Thomson, with
acknowledgements to Reg Keith, Pat Gerber
and Captain E. Raymond.



The Stone of Destiny

On St. Andrew's Day, 30th November 1996, amid great ceremony and fanfare, Lia-Fail or The Stone of Scone, was returned to Scotland – or was it? For years rumours have abounded regarding the authenticity and whereabouts of the Coronation Stone of Irish, Scottish and British monarchs.

The Stone's history stretches far back into biblical times when Jacob is said to have used it as a pillow at Bethel. The legend goes that Jacob then set up the Stone as a pillar, anointing it with oil. According to Jewish tradition, it was used as the pedestal for the Ark, in the Temple. The Stone was brought to Egypt by Gathelus, the ancestor of the Scots, who, on the advice of Moses, later fled to Spain in advance of the plague, and subsequently travelled to Ireland.

For centuries the Stone was revered as a religious artifact. Dalriadic Monarchs were crowned on it, then around A.D. 498 it was transported by Fergus the Great, to Scotland. Around 575 A.D., Aidan, son of Gabran, King of Dalriada, secured independence from Irish Dalriada, and was crowned King of Scotland atop the Stone. The Stone had been transported to Iona, for the occasion, by St. Columba, who had also brought Christianity to Scotland.

In 843 A.D., Kenneth MacAlpin was crowned as the first King of the United Kingdom of the Picts and the Scots. One of his first acts was to found a church at Scone, near Perth, and establish the Stone there. King Kenneth II later placed the Stone on a pedestal on the high altar of the Abbey of Scone. In 1296 Edward I removed the Stone

of Destiny to London. It was housed in St. Edward's Chair – the Coronation Chair – in Westminster Abbey, where it has been used in coronation ceremonies for British monarchs ever since.

A rather unremarkable piece of sandstone about 26" long, 16" wide and just over 10" tall, weighing about 300lbs, it has a large crack, chisel marks evident on two sides, a Celtic symbol carved into one side and a rusty iron ring attached to each end.

It is interesting to note that, during World War II, contingency plans were made to spirit the Stone away to safety, whilst the Crown Jewels were not accorded the same respect. Only a select group of 10 men (including the Prime Minister of Canada) knew where the Stone was to be hidden.

In this century, two attempts were made to return the Stone to its rightful place. The most notable was on Christmas Day in 1950. Four members of the Scottish Covenant, a moderate movement, seeking reform and self-government, were warmed by Ian Hamilton's notion that bringing the Stone back to Scotland might undermine the Conservative Party's recent return to power. They hatched their plan to free the Stone; the location was reconnoitered, a car was volunteered, money was donated and tools obtained.

Accompanied by Kay Matheson, Gavin Vernon and Alan Stuart, Ian Hamilton made his way to Westminster Abbey. On the evening of the 23rd December, Ian was found by nightwatchmen and ejected. His second attempt, in the wee hours of Christmas morning, was more successful. While they were freeing the Stone, it separated into two parts, making it easier to carry it to the waiting car. Safely away, the team stashed the Stone near Rochester, collecting it a few days later, and returned to Scotland with it. The Stone was "found" about four months later in Arbroath Abbey, and was returned to Westminster.

In March of 1978 under the most unlikely of circumstances I came to know a little more of the story of the Stone of Destiny. As a postgraduate student at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, I, and a friend, enrolled in a parachuting course. The University Parachuting Club duly trained us and off we went to Strathallan Airfield, halfway between Glasgow and Stirling for our first "jump".

There on a sunny but quite windy day we met our Cessna pilot, a fellow from Oban who flew over as often as he could "to help out the students", and also because he loved flying, and the Club would pay for his fuel. He was none other than Ian Hamilton Q.C., one of the very students who wrestled the Stone of Destiny from the throne at Westminster Abbey back in 1950! That day, we had to wait until the wind dropped



*The Stone in position in the throne at
Westminster Abbey*

sufficiently so that we could parachute safely. As luck would have it, we had to wait many hours, which gave Mr. Hamilton an excellent excuse to regale us with the REAL story of the Stone and how it was brought back to Scotland.

He did make a point of mentioning that two copies of the Stone were made after it was liberated, and alluded to the fact that the Stone that was eventually returned to England, was not the same one that was taken! Where the Stone of Scone is today is known only to a few, and they are not telling.

It turns out that Mr. Hamilton may have been long beaten to the mark. All his gallant efforts may have been in vain, as some say that in 1296 Edward I was slipped a stone that was actually used to hold down a cesspit cover, and that the REAL Stone to this day is safely hidden! What the truth is will likely never be known. ■

Product discount for members

This is a reminder that there are financial benefits to being a member of the Scottish Studies Foundation --- you get a 10 per cent discount at two Scottish shops in Toronto and one in Guelph.

When you show your SSF membership card, you will get a bargain when shopping at the Scottish Company, 4687 Yonge St., and MacNeil's Scottish Imports, 1825 Avenue Rd. In Guelph, try Celtic Favorites, 31 Paisley St.

These discounts are nothing new --- they are listed on the back of your membership card. However, you need sharp eyes to read the small print!

Elsie Ingles M.D.

NATO, Belgrade and the Scottish Connection

by
David Hunter

One of the many tragic events to occur during the recent Kosovo crisis was NATO's accidental bombing of a civilian hospital in Belgrade -- the Dr. Dragisa Misovic Hospital Centre.

It consists of several buildings and pavilions and dates back to 1922 when it was called the Elsie Ingles Memorial Hospital in memory of its founder, the famous Scottish women doctor -- Dr. Ingles.

Ingles was a pioneer in a number of ways - most of them associated with the study and practice of medicine.

She was born to Scottish parents in India in 1864 and when her father retired in 1878 the Ingles family returned to Scotland and settled in Edinburgh.

Later, Ingles studied medicine at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women. The story goes that when the founder of the school, Sophia Jex-Blake, dismissed two students for what Ingles considered to be a trivial offence, she obtained funds from her father and some of his wealthy friends, and established her own medical college in Edinburgh!

As well as studying medicine in Edinburgh, Elsie was also trained at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. After qualifying as a doctor, Ingles was appointed to a teaching post at London's New Hospital for Women by its founder, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson -- the first British female physician.

Ingles returned to Scotland and in 1901 inaugurated a maternity hospice, staffed entirely by women, at Edinburgh's Bruntsfield Hospital.

In 1906 Ingles founded the Scottish Women's Suffrage Federation, from which sprang, at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the Organisation of Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Rumour has it that when Dr. Ingles went to the War Office in 1914 with the idea of running a field hospital, she was told by an official to go home and sit still! Not content with this, she successfully approached the French and by 1915 the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit had established an Auxiliary Hospital with 200 beds in the 13th century Royaumont Abbey.



The Dr. Dragisa Misovic Hospital Centre in Belgrade after the bombing

Later, the Serbian government was delighted to have Elsie establish a hospital system and it was in April 1915 that Ingles first took a women's medical unit to work in the war-torn Balkans. In a particularly famous episode, she and her colleagues remained at their posts at Krushevac in the face of a German invasion of the area.

During the Austrian offensive in the summer of 1915, she was captured but eventually, with the help of American diplomats, the British authorities were able to negotiate the release of Ingles and her medical staff.

While in Serbia, the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit was involved in the great Serbian retreat through Albania to Corfu where it was instrumental in saving the lives of hundreds of civilians and soldiers from the deadly typhus epidemic ravaging the region.

The Scottish Women's Hospital Unit stayed with the Serbs until the end of the war but, by then, hospitals were being run in France, Greece, Corsica and Russia - all funded by public subscription.

Throughout the First World War, Ingles arranged fourteen medical units to serve in France, Serbia, Corsica, Slaking, Romania, Russia and Malta. In August 1916, the London Suffrage Society financed Ingles and eighty women to support Serbian soldiers fighting in Russia. One government official who saw the doctors and nurses working in Russia remarked that... "No wonder Britain is a great country if the women are like that!"

Sadly, Ingles was taken ill while in Russia and was forced to travel back to Britain. She arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne on 25th November, 1917, but local doctors were unable to save her and she died the following day.

Her funeral in Edinburgh was a massive affair with representatives of many of the foreign governments that owed a great debt to the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit. On that occasion Sir Winston Churchill wrote... "The fame of Elsie Ingles will shine in history".

More information on Dr. Ingles can be found in *Shadow of Swords* by Margot Lawrence, published by Michael Joseph in 1971 or in *Elsie Ingles* by Leah Leneman, NMS Publishing Oct 98 ■



Dr. Elsie Ingles

Date set for Annual Golf Tournament

It's time to tee off and blast away in the Scottish Studies Society's annual golf tournament, in association with William Grant & Sons Ltd. of Dufftown in Scotland.

The event, known as the *Gordon Highlanders Charity Golf Tournament*, will be held on Friday, Sept. 24, at the Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club (highway 50, north of Bolton). All proceeds go to the Scottish Studies Foundation.

Tee-Off times are between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the hunt for oodles of prizes --- for team low gross and low net, longest drive, hole-in-one, closest-to-the-pin; plus a putting contest and raffle prizes.

For the tournament package: golf, cart and dinner, the tab is \$125. (Pay by Sept. 1, the Early Bird Special price is \$110.) For those who want only to golf, the price is \$70, while those coming just for the dinner, it's \$45. It's a fun event, to be enjoyed by all, for a great cause.

Send cheque, payable to the Scottish Studies Society, to: John B. Miller, 1944 Yonge St., Suite 303, Toronto, Ontario M4S 3E5; phone (416) 482-2142



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Dr. Edward E. Stewart, O.C.
8 Sunnylea Avenue West
Toronto, ON M8Y 2J7
Res:(416) 231-3706

Treasurer

Alan McKenzie, FSA(Scot)
580 Rebecca Street
Oakville, ON L6K 3N9
Res:(905) 842-2106
alanmck@cgocable.net

Secretary &

Newsletter Editor

David Hunter c/o SSF
P.O. Box 45069
2482 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON M4P 3E3
Bus: (416) 332-7353
dhunter@ctv.ca

Governors at large

W. Neil Fraser
71 Charles St.E., #1101
Toronto, ON M4Y 2T3
Res:(416) 920-6851
Fax:(416) 920-1275
cdnexplorer@msn.com

The Hon. Alastair W. Gillespie, PC, OC
175 Heath Street West
Toronto, ON M4V 1V1
Bus: (416) 968-9220
Fax:(416) 968-1624

John H. Macdonald, FSA (Scot)
2 Sandbourne Crescent
North York, ON M2J 3A6
Res:(416) 756-0345
Fax:(416) 756-0549
Bus: (416) 363-5562
Fax:(416) 363-7394
jhmac@ican.net

J. H. Iain MacMillan
36 Barbara, Crescent
Toronto, ON M4C 3B2
Res:(416) 421-6279
Fax:(416) 423-1313
macmillans@home.com

Bill Somerville
Director, Broadcast & Recording
Service
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
Bus: (416) 325-7365
Fax:(416) 325-7916
Res:(905) 737-0505
scoty@globalserve.com

Professor Elizabeth Ewan
41 Richardson Crescent
Guelph, ON N1E 3C9
Res:(519) 837-0175
Bus: (519) 824-4120
eewan@uoguelph.ca

Membership Chairman
Dr. Paul Thomson
1515 Skyline Drive
Mississauga, ON L5E 2W6
Res: (905) 278-5022
Fax:(905) 274-1817
Bus: (416) 467-3321
Fax: (416) 467-9631
ptom@mytec.com

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