



THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Ulster Museum

A highlight of any trip to Northern Ireland would be a visit to the Ulster Museum. The museum is a treasure house of past and present. There is an excellent fine and applied art collection. The extensive natural history collection includes an archive of books and manuscripts relating to Irish natural history. There is also a collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Check out the museum's natural history website *Habitas*. Of particular interest, is the history collection including the social, economic, and political history of Ireland, with particular emphasis on Ulster from 1600 and Northern Ireland from 1921.

The Museum is located in Belfast's Botanic Gardens, in the heart of the University area of South Belfast, a leisurely 20-30 minute walk from Belfast City Centre. It is the largest museum in Northern Ireland. Closed for nearly three years, the Museum re-opened to the public on October 22, 2009. The Edmontosaurus skeleton is one of several thousand objects that made their way back to the Museum for the reopening.

The famous Egyptian mummy, Takabuti, is also back and is the centerpiece of a new display exploring life and death in ancient Egypt.



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Letter from the President

As 2010 draws to a close, we can look back on another successful year for the Scotch-Irish Society of the USA. Your Council has been considering possible new initiatives for the Society as we continue to celebrate our heritage. Our newly designed Newsletter goes from strength to strength, and we are particularly happy to see the contributions from our Members. A team has been working on our new website, and we plan to launch it by the end of the year.

As always, our Members were represented among the presenters and attendees at the Ulster American Heritage Symposium (UAHS) in Cullowhee, North Carolina, in June: their enthusiasm for their heritage is a joy to see. I have given a brief account of the symposium on page 4.

I must thank those of you who have included donations to the Society with your dues. I should also like to express my thanks for the donations that you have sent to the Center for Scotch-Irish Studies. Both organizations operate on limited budgets, with volunteer help, and we appreciate your support.

A number of you have expressed curiosity about the Center for Scotch-Irish Studies and its relationship with the Scotch-Irish Society. They are separate organizations, but work closely together. The Center publishes the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies* and sponsors and organizes the Scotch-Irish Identity Symposia. The *Journal* has acquired an international reputation for original research on Scotch-Irish history and culture, and the Society shares in this acclaim. Each Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium has provided not only a forum for presentation of new work on the Scotch-Irish but also an occasion for those interested in the Scotch-Irish to meet together at a welcoming reception and dinner and at breaks during the symposium itself. The relationship between the Society and the Center is truly symbiotic.

The Directors of the Center and the members of the Editorial Board of the *Journal* do not receive any financial remuneration; in fact, the Directors have always subsidized the finances of the Center. Also, as with other scholarly journals, the authors do not receive payment; publication of their research is sufficient reward.

In previous years, the Society provided a financial subsidy for the *Journal*, since the publication of a scholarly journal fulfills the core objective of the Society, which is to preserve the history and to promote the culture of the Scotch-Irish people. This has helped the Center to make copies of the *Journal* available at a greatly reduced rate to Members of the

Letter from the President continued.

Society in good standing.

This year, the Directors of the Center have decided that they should not accept this subsidy, in order to leave these funds available for fresh initiatives by the Society. We will, however, continue for as long as possible to make copies of the *Journal* available at the preferential rate to Members of the Society.

The 2010 issue of the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies* is now being edited and should be published early in 2011. The Center will sponsor the Sixth Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium in June 2011 in York, South Carolina: you can read the Call for Papers on page 11 and a brief piece about the symposium on this page. (The Society will continue to provide a subsidy for the symposium as it settles into its new home in South Carolina.)

This will be my last message to you as President of the Scotch-Irish Society. I am stepping down in December after serving for two years as President and for eleven years as Secretary of the Society. It has become obvious to me that I need to devote more of my time to my work as a Director of the Center for Scotch-Irish Studies and as the Publisher and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies*.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve you and to see a number of projects come to fruition. I must pay tribute to the team of Executive Officers and to the remainder of the Council who have served with me: all have been committed to the wellbeing of the Society. I know that they will continue to work for the advancement of our Society.

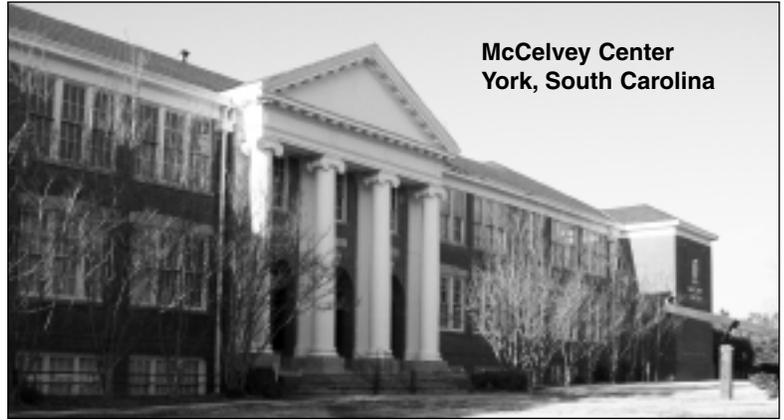
It remains for me to wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas, and all that you hope for in the New Year.

Joyce M. Alexander

Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies

Members in good standing can still obtain any issue of the Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies at the discounted price of \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Send your check to:
Center for Scotch-Irish Studies,
PO Box 71, Glenolden, PA 19036-0071



CENTER FOR SCOTCH-IRISH STUDIES Sixth Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium June 3 – 4, 2011

The Scotch-Irish and Their Culture

The Sixth Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium will be held in York, South Carolina, June 3 – 4, 2011. The theme of the symposium will be *The Scotch-Irish and Their Culture*, with culture interpreted in its broadest sense. You can read the Call for Papers on page 11.

This is a new venue for this symposium, in an area rich in Scotch-Irish history. Those of us in the Center for Scotch-Irish Studies who have made the arrangements, both academic and practical, for the previous five symposia are now ready to pass the torch to a new generation. We have found the ideal organizer in Michael Scoggins, Historian, Culture and Heritage Museums, and Research Director, Southern Revolutionary War Institute, whom we know will respect the underlying philosophy of the symposia, and will continue the traditions established by Harry Alexander, a former Director of the Center and President of the Society from 2001 through 2007.

The McCelvey Center in York is an ideal setting for the symposium. Those of you who were at the Ulster American Heritage Symposium in 2002 will remember the outstandingly good arrangements and the wonderful Southern hospitality. It is an excellent modern venue, with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. There are also first-rate catering facilities, and Michael is making some exciting arrangements for entertainment at the symposium dinner. We will have details about registration, hotels, etc., in the near future.

York can be reached easily from Charlotte Airport, North Carolina, and provides an excellent setting for a family vacation. Please mark the dates for the symposium on your calendar: you will have a memorable experience. *J.M.A.*

Mercersburg, PA
Save the Smith House

Acquisition of historic home for Folk Park in trouble

Richard K. MacMaster

From its beginning in 1976, the Ulster-American Folk Park has told the story of emigration from Ulster to the United States through historic buildings. Many of them were rescued from demolition at sites in Northern Ireland, but others crossed the Atlantic in container ships to be painstakingly reconstructed at the County Tyrone museum. I had a part in successfully moving two American buildings and we're working now on securing a third for the Folk Park.

The late Eric Montgomery, who had the original vision for the Folk Park, and John Gilmour, then the director, spoke at Donegal Presbyterian Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1996. Mary Karnes, the congregational historian, took them to a nearby farm so they could see a stone building that had been the home of Samuel Fulton, an early Scotch-Irish settler. The fieldstone cabin probably dated from the 1730s. The farmer had tried without success to interest historical societies in stabilizing the building and it was unlikely to survive another winter intact. Working with preservation architect Carol Hickey and contractor Ken Kreider, both of Lancaster, curator Phil Mowat brought the materials of the cabin to the Folk Park, where rebuilt and furnished it is now the oldest original structure in the American section.

Reconstruction of the Francis Rogan house from near Gallatin, Tennessee, began this summer. This is a small plantation house, built about 1820, and originally attached to a typical County Donegal stone cabin that Hugh Rogan built for his wife and son when they came from Ireland in 1798. That building was moved to a state park and the newer brick house left to the elements in an inaccessible farm pasture. Tennessee State Historian Walter Durham told me about it and Phil Mowat took it from there. Dr. Focian Beasley of Franklin, Kentucky and his family generously gave the building to the Folk Park.

Acquisition of the latest American building for the Folk Park may have hit a snag. Eighteen months ago the Mercersburg Pennsylvania Fire Department bought the



house next door to allow them to expand the fire house and provide adequate parking. No one seems to have paid any attention to its place in American history before they bought it. At that point a local preservation committee, headed by Karen Ramsburg, sprang into action. The building was known to be the home of Ulster-born Justice William Smith and to date from between 1759 and 1775. Smith was the leader of a movement to prevent weapons and ammunition reaching the native tribes through fur traders. His brother-in-law James Smith led the militant "Black Boys" who destroyed Indian trade goods and who met at William Smith's tavern and house to plan their actions.

The original structure was a long low stone cabin, looking much like a typical Irish cabin, with a full basement for storage. It was considerably altered around 1910, with the addition of a second story, a new roof, and a porch. Over the years the interior was also modernized. The stone walls, oak beams, and a huge fireplace remained.

The Save the Smith House Committee assembled an impressive body of research and sought the help of state and national agencies and historic preservation groups. By July of this year it was clear they had exhausted every possible source. At this point Phil Mowat, Carol Hickey, and I set to work to secure the house for the Folk Park. Everyone agreed that this was the only alternative to reducing the Smith house to rubble. Recent developments in Mercersburg suggest demolition of the house may proceed without any provision for the Folk Park to rescue the historic part of the building. We're still working with the fire department and the demolition contractor to salvage those parts.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Member Dave Borland who visited the Smith House and took pictures for this article. For more information visit <http://smithrebellion1765.com/> and www.savesmithhouse.com

The Great Smoky Mountains were the backdrop for presentations focused on the Scotch-Irish Experience

The Eighteenth Ulster American Heritage Symposium was held June 25 – June 27, 2010 at the Mountain Heritage Center of Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. It was good to spend time with a number of old friends there among the presenters and attendees and to enjoy the beautiful setting of the Great Smoky Mountains, site of so much Scotch-Irish settlement.

The presentations were excellent, and were well focused on the Scotch-Irish experience. Topics ranged from *Ulster Quakers on the Move to Ulster-American Migration and its Twentieth-Century Historians* to *The Theme of Migration in the New Ulster Museum History Gallery* to *The Scotch-Irish in America Today: Numbers, Distribution and Identity*, to name just a few.

Peter Gilmore, a Member of the Society, presented a particularly lively paper entitled 'Said to Have Left His Wife in Ireland': *Adultery, Bigamy and Desertion in Ulster Presbyterian Migration to Pennsylvania*. Even though he was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, we were all there waiting to hear his presentation which was, as always, also scholarly.

The Scotch-Irish Society had a table in the entrance hall of the Mountain Heritage Center, with copies of the newsletters of the Society, application materials, copies of each issue of the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies*, etc. This created a great deal of interest, and many



(left to right)
Dr. Nina Ray, Joyce Alexander, President, and
Bill McGimpsey, Vice-President, at the Society table.

people stopped by to talk, to pick up material, and to buy copies of the *Journal*.

Unfortunately, the attendance was much lower than at previous symposia; some regular attendees were unable to be present due to illness, and others had to cancel their arrangements at the last minute. I was also told that the economy had cast a shadow over enrollments.

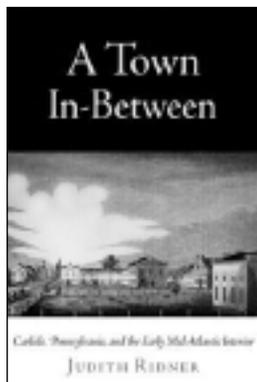
I hope that we see a larger group at the next UAHS, which is to be held in Northern Ireland in June 2012. Please consider putting this on your schedule. The costs of the symposium are low, and deeply discounted rates are usually available at the conference hotels. Following the symposium, a wonderful Ulster vacation awaits you. *J.M.A.*

A Town In-Between

Carlisle, Pennsylvania,
and the Early
Mid-Atlantic Interior

by Judith Ridner

Penn Press, 2010



In the eighteenth century, Carlisle and its residents stood not only at a geographical crossroads but also at the middle of early American controversies. Carlisle was a migration gateway to the southern and western interiors, a commercial center for colonial fur trade, a military staging and supply ground during the Seven Years' War, American Revolution, and Whiskey Rebellion. It was also home to one of the first colleges in the United States, Dickinson College.

The book focuses on the lives of the ambitious group of Scotch-Irish colonists who built Carlisle. Founded by proprietor Thomas Penn, the rapidly growing town was the site of repeated uprisings, jailbreaks, and one of the most publicized Anti-Federalist riots during constitutional ratification. These conflicts had dramatic consequences for many Scotch-Irish Presbyterian residents who found themselves a people in-between, mediating among the competing ethnoreligious, cultural, class, and political interests of Quaker and Anglican colonists of the Delaware Valley and myriad Native American trading partners of the Ohio country.

Judith Ridner, Associate Professor of History at Muhlenberg College, argues that interior towns were not so much spearheads of westward movement but volatile places situated in the middle of a culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and politically evolving early America.

www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14745.html

What will we do with Smyth?

Thomas Campbell

What's to be done with this one-hundred-nine year old, fourteen page publication found in some crevasse of the little Narberth (Pennsylvania) Community Library!?!

Thankfully, the librarian opened the paper-covered document *Scotch-Irish Pioneers of the Schuylkill Valley* and, reading the title page, saw that author Samuel Gordon Smyth was a member of the Scotch-Irish Society of America. Did this society still exist? A quick Google search located our own Carole Smith, Secretary to the Scotch-Irish Society of the USA. Would the librarian find a home for this piece of history? Yes, and this wonderful little document came under the Society's care.

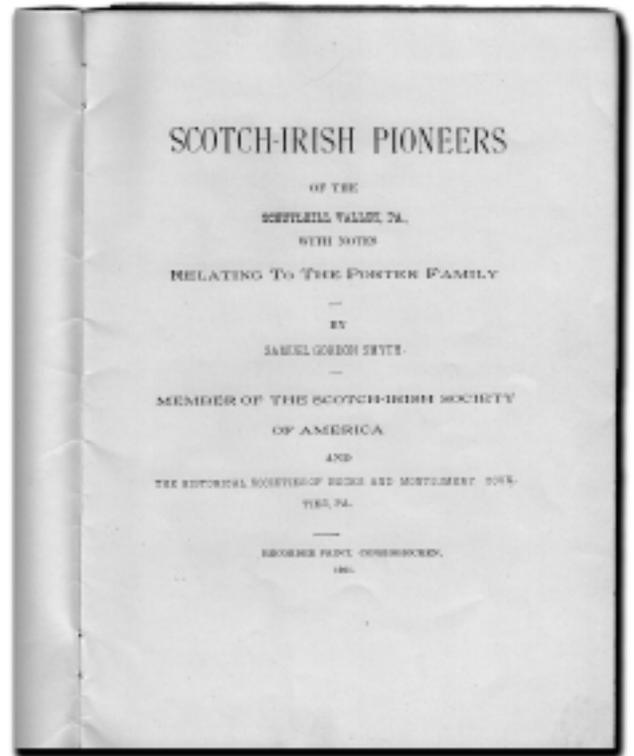
We call your attention to this small event for three reasons. First, the necessary attention required to preserve historical documents. Second, the need to find an institutional home that preserves and makes accessible historical documents. And third, our mention is to illustrate how this gem of a historical paper will be preserved.

The librarian's experience and dedication to what is expected of libraries saved this document from discard. Curiosity and diligence found Carole. Busy, acquisitive life finds each of us and others we know clearing attics, files, and shelves.

What will we do with Smyth? *Scotch-Irish Pioneers of the Schuylkill Valley* will be scanned. It will be considered as a candidate for posting on the Scotch-Irish Society website currently in development. The document itself will be transferred to the Scotch-Irish Foundation collection housed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), located at 1300 Locust Street in Philadelphia.

While *Pioneers* warrants HSP accession, other documents might best be located in other archival institutions. Members of the Society may be aware of recognized archival institutions in their locale with a mission of preserving Scotch-Irish documents. Sharing this information in the Society Newsletter can assist our Members in valuable document preservation.

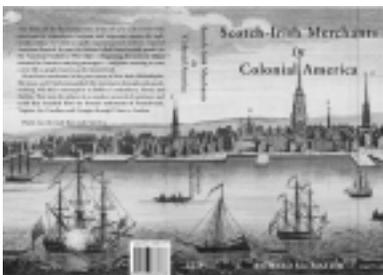
As for Smyth's paper, it is a story detailed with names, genealogy, relationships, places, and events written in turn of the twentieth century historic prose. The narrative connects Ulster immigrant experience in New England (they "soon found the



Frontispiece: *Scotch-Irish Pioneers of the Schuylkill Valley, PA with notes relating to the Porter Family by Samuel Gordon Smith, Member of the Scotch-Irish Society of America and the Historical Societies of Bucks and Montgomery Counties, PA, Recorder Print, Conshohocken, 1901.*

Congregational community [there] breaking upon them in stormy and bitter animosity...”), migration in 1738 to Pennsylvania, the rise of several generations of Porters to prominence through frontier land acquisition, and the crisscrossing of Porters with other early American families of influence.

We will hear more about the Porter family and the Scotch-Irish experience. For the moment, that Smyth's paper has surfaced, serves to remind us of preservation and inquiry. Before examining the contents, one finds the expanded title intriguing. As you can see from the title page, Smyth's memberships included two historical societies of counties adjacent to Philadelphia. Has Smyth published historical pamphlets of other Scotch-Irish pioneers? Did he choose locales other than the Schuylkill Valley? Does anyone know?



Now Available

Scotch-Irish Merchants in Colonial America by Council Member Richard MacMaster as well as the classic *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America* by R. J. Dickson and William Roulston's *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors (The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600-1800)* are now available to individuals and bookstores in the United States through the University of Tennessee Press. See their catalogue at <http://utpress.org/catalogs/>

Barbecue

and the Scotch-Irish

Sam Thomas

In their book, *Barbecue America: A Pilgrimage in Search of America's Best Barbecue*, Rick Browne and Jack Bettridge write, "Spanish conquistadors, bored with or hungry from a steady regimen of conquering, pillaging, and religious converting, one day paused long enough to sniff the sweet aroma of spicy meat and burning wood wafting through the air on some unknown Caribbean island." Probably Vasco turned to Francisco and said, "What's that sweet smell, man?" And Francisco replied, "It's coming from one of those green-stick grills. The natives call it a babracot." "Barbracoa?" Vasco asked. Francisco agreed that the pronunciation was close enough. Caucasian tongues kept bending the term around until today we have barbecue: a noun, a verb, a food, a party, a restaurant, a way of life. That's how one story goes about how barbecue was first discovered. But, why do we associate barbecue with the Scotch-Irish?

Pork was the meat most available to the newly arriving emigrants, particularly those from Ulster. It was frequently preserved as bacon or ham. As they did in Ulster, Scotch-Irish cooks liked to season vegetables with small amounts of pork, or to serve slices of ham and bacon with vegetables and corn cakes for a meal. Charles Woodmason, an Anglican Missionary traveling the Carolina backcountry in 1776-1778, commented that the Scotch-Irish "[eat] fat rusty Bacon, and fair Water, with Indian Corn Bread."

Several years ago, I set out to research the transference of some aspects of Ulster Scots culture to the southern Piedmont, and while conducting some research in Northern Ireland, I happened upon some surprising "evidence" that it was the Scotch-Irish who re-discovered this southern delicacy and gave it to the many generations that followed.

In 2000 I received an invitation to visit with Sir Arthur Dobbs at Dobbs' Castle in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. When I arrived, Lady Dobbs very graciously escorted me into Sir Arthur's study where we conversed on a number of topics ranging from his early schooling to his ancestor, Arthur Dobbs, the last Royal Governor of North Carolina. After stimulating conversation and, of course, tea, I bid him goodbye and was again escorted down the stairs and out into the courtyard by Lady Dobbs. Once outside, I noticed the formal gardens and asked Lady Dobbs about her plants. Noting my interest she asked if I would enjoy a walk around the gardens. As we walked, she talked and pointed out various varieties of this plant and that.



The Flemish artist Theodor DeBry created interesting, if not a hundred-percent accurate, renditions of Caribbean Indian life in a series of copper engravings. This one illustrated barbecuing or grilling.

Besides roasting and boiling, [Native Americans] barbecue most of the flesh of the larger animals, such as buffalo's, bear, and deer; this is performed very gradually, over a slow clear fire, upon a large wooden gridiron, raised two feet above the fire. By this method of curing venison it will keep good five or six weeks, and by its being divested of the bone, and cut into portable pieces, adapts it to their use, for the more easy conveyance of it from their hunting quarters to their habitants.

Mark Catesby in his *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*, 1731

Our conversation eventually came around to old records. I knew that many of Governor Dobbs' record books were held at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and made mention that I had seen a few of them. At this point Lady Dobbs stopped and said, "Oh, not all of the record books are at PRONI. Would you like to see one of them?" I couldn't believe my good fortune and, trying to contain my enthusiasm, replied that I would love to see one. She disappeared inside and a few minutes later re-emerged carrying a couple of small, old leather books. After she handed one to me, I gingerly began to turn a few pages. The book I was holding was Governor Dobbs' record book of items that he was sending back to Britain in the 1740s; venison, fish, timber, tobacco, and lots of hides – deer hides, thousands of them. But that wasn't what caught my attention. It was the references to barrels of "pickled meat."

What was the pickled meat? In looking through the record books venison is mentioned quite often, so I didn't think it was venison. Beef was not popular with those from Ulster at that time; mutton was widely popular and readily available throughout Ulster, so what could this meat be?

The southern Piedmont was a great region for keeping pigs, and pigs were often herded north to markets in Virginia. So, my best guess was that the meat being pickled was pork.

What it was being pickled in was the next question? The record book mentioned items packed in salt and items packed in brine, so this "pickling" process sounded as though it was something entirely different.

As I gently turned one page after another I noticed that occasionally Governor Dobbs made a notation about goods

Continued on next page.

Walkabout *Joyce M. Alexander*

This summer I went on my customary annual walkabout in Northern Ireland. For me, these vacations are a mix of visiting family and old friends, following up on work for the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies* and the Scotch-Irish Identity Symposia, attending conferences, renewing my acquaintance with Ulster scholars, and looking into ongoing research projects, but also just assuming the role of a tourist and simply enjoying the Ulster landscape and people.

I will not attempt to give you a complete account of my visit. You will create your own memories when you go, and you will find the Tourist Board and the Welcome Centers very helpful. I will just pass on one or two of my memories to you.

One task that I had set for myself was to buy some books about Ulster that would be appropriate for my five-year-old granddaughter. (I did not want shamrocks and leprechauns.) Last year I had found *Finn's Causeway Adventure*, a beautifully written and illustrated book about a baby shark at the Giant's Causeway. I went to the publisher's website to obtain more information and found a number of similar books, which you can buy online at www.odonnellpress.com. The publisher told me of a number of stores in Belfast where I could see them, and I decided to check them out. I was glad that I did, since I found some additional titles which were not on the website, and came home with a stack of wonderful books.

When I was at the Ulster American Heritage Symposium in Cullowhee, North Carolina, in June this year, I came across a book about a farmhouse in County Antrim known as Sentry Hill. This contained a number of interesting old photographs and an account of the family who lived there. I realized that I would be within easy reach of this house when I was

in Ulster in July and August, and decided to pay a visit. This was a highlight of my vacation. The house has been maintained as it had been when the family lived there, and excellent guides help one to gain a clear picture of the life of a prosperous farming family from the mid-nineteenth century through the later part of the twentieth century. This complements all the tours of stately homes.

You will have heard of the awards garnered by the newly reopened Ulster Museum in Belfast. You should not miss the new History Gallery. The Keeper of History at the Museum gave me a tour of the exhibits: it gives a wonderful overview of Ulster history, right up to the present. I am happy to tell you that we will publish his paper on the theme of migration in the new gallery in the 2011 issue of the *Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies*.

People often pose one major question to me: what about food? Is good food available only in private homes? Many of them have long-ago memories of flavorless food in restaurants (other than the wonderful breads). This is no longer true. The raw materials have always been there: fresh seafood and meat, freshly harvested vegetables, etc. Now there are many excellent restaurants not only in Belfast but also in some of the smaller towns around Ulster. I spent some memorable evenings in a small restaurant and pub known as Billy Andy's in the hills above both Carrickfergus and Larne. The meals are of Michelin star quality, and you do need to reserve a table. If you possibly can, go there on a Saturday. A group of musicians gathers in the early afternoon in the pub section of the building, and the music continues throughout the day. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, you will make new friends, and you will hear outstanding traditional music.

Now go and meet your long-lost cousins and make some memories.

Barbecue continued.

he was either bringing in or was buying. In one of these notations Dobbs listed "vinegar," barrels of vinegar. As all good cooks know, vinegar is what you use to pickle something.

So here we had in a record book from the 1740s of a Scotch-Irishman: the ingredients for producing GOOD barbecue. Add a little red pepper flakes and there you have it. In the eastern part of both Carolinas today you will find this original form of barbecue still being produced.

Whether slow cooked in the pit or on the spit, pork basted, smothered, soaked, and slow cooked in vinegar is a true delicacy. (And by the way, for those who truly know their barbecue, the drippings from the cooking process is not called grease, it's gravy.) All brought to you, possibly, by the Scotch-Irish.

Nine Hundred Years of History off to Belfast Docks

Archivists, conservators, and curators at the Public Records of Northern Ireland (PRONI) are bringing in the bubble wrap as they transfer some three million documents from their Balmoral Avenue headquarters to their new premises in the Titanic Quarter. Although the Titanic Quarter project will cost £29.5m, it would be more expensive to carry out the required upgrades needed to stay at the Balmoral Avenue headquarters. In addition, it would still be too small for the volume of records it holds. On September 3, 2010 the office closed. It will take about eight months for staff to complete the move. Last year, nearly 18,000 people visited the Balmoral premises. PRONI is the mother-lode for anyone intent on tracing their roots in Northern Ireland.

NEW MEMBERS

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South Carolina

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Delaware

April Irvine Ricklefs
South Carolina

Paul Summers
Pennsylvania

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**Scotch-Irish Society of the
United States of America**

President

Joyce Alexander
JoyceMAlexander@aol.com
610.532.8061

Vice-Presidents

William McGimpsey
Geoffrey Alexander

Secretary/Membership Secretary

Carole Smith
scotchirish@verizon.net

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carole Smith
scotchirish@verizon.net

MEMBERS' CORNER

Eric Newell, a New Jersey member and a former president of the Society, attended the very successful 83rd Biennial Session of the Loyal Orange Institution of the USA in Wilmington, DE, in August. Attendees from across the country viewed a new DVD and a new Power Point presentation, both of which will be available for lodges to use; they also decided to produce a new issue of their newsletter. The Institution has formed two new lodges recently, one in Chicago and one in Charleston, SC. The next meeting will be held in Williamsburg, VA (named after King William III, Prince of Orange).

Editor's note: The Orange Order, a Protestant fraternal organization, has branches in a number of countries: while it was formed in Ulster in 1795 and many members trace their ancestry to Ulster, each branch is completely autonomous. It is important to note that the Scotch-Irish Society of the USA welcomes members of all religious backgrounds.

Jim McQuiston's family celebrate 275 years in America. About fifty members of the McQuiston family, from all across America, celebrated their ancestor Robert's landing, exactly 275 years later, with a ceremony on the New Castle docks and a march to a 1732 courthouse where Robert and his brothers would have most likely registered their arrival. Later, at an evening dinner, John Klingmeyer, mayor of New Castle, and Dr. Constance Cooper, chief curator for the Delaware Historical Society, spoke to the group.

The following day another reenactment was held at the Middle Octorara Church, where, in 1743, swords were raised by members of several local Presbyterian congregations, in a declaration of independence from King George, under the direction of the fiery revolutionary preacher, Rev. Alexander Craighead. The McQuistons attended this church and many of them fought on the Colonial side a generation later. Swords were again raised as the words of Craighead were repeated by the family chaplain, Robert Worden.



(left) Jim McQuiston, shown with wife, Beth, at left, and grandchildren (left to right) Kelsey, Dylan and Kate, all dressed for the celebration of the children's 8th great grandfather, Robert, arriving in America, August 6, 1735, from Ulster.

(right) Members of the McQuiston family, with a variety of spellings, celebrate their 275th anniversary of arrival in America with a march from the docks of New Castle, DE, to the courthouse, which predates their ancestors' arrival.

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Roots and Rhythms

James McQuiston

the PIANO

My earliest piano memory is of my father arriving home from work at a steel mill and heading straight to an old upright piano in the basement until Mom would call him to get ready for supper. He would leave and I'd sit down to copy what he had just played. I finally learned enough to play keyboards by ear and did that with dance bands over the next few decades. Another early memory is of a pleasantly plump woman – a regular at my Uncle Joe McGonnell's music sessions – who draped herself over the piano stool, smiled from ear to ear, and then accompanied anything being played.

Now, after a wonderful visit to Nova Scotia this past summer, I am even more enamored by those who can fill in every gap of a fiddler's tune with amazing left-hand bass lines, and right-hand riffs that range from a simple boom-chick or oom-pah rhythm chord to unison playing of the fiddle melody.

A visit to several Cape Breton ceilidhs exposed me to great piano players. Some of the top Cape Breton pianists are from the Chiasson family, of French Acadian blood. At the Antigonish [NS] Highland Games, Hilda Chiasson-Cormier, a world-touring Cape Breton pianist, amazed the crowd as she backed-up Mike Hall, a Newfoundland fiddler who now makes Cape Breton his home. Two days later, I listened to Joel Chiasson accompany the same fiddler at the Celtic Music Interpretive Center, in Judique, Cape Breton. There are many other Scots-blooded piano players in Nova Scotia and a very distinct Cape Breton style has developed over the last century, which seems to be a mix of Celtic, rag-time, and jazz all rolled into one.

Only a week or so later I listened to pianist Dan Perttu and his wife, Melinda Crawford, as they performed at the Edinboro [PA] Highland Games. Melinda is a Scottish National Fiddle Champion, and the national president of the Scottish Fiddling Association of North America.

Watching Dan and Melinda play was reminiscent of hearing Scotland's great fiddler, Alasdair Fraser, at the same event, a few years earlier, with only piano accompaniment for his backup music.

Phil Coulter, arguably one of Northern Ireland's greatest musical exports, recalls from his youth that his father played fiddle while his mother accompanied on an upright piano – a scene very common at my own Scotch-Irish family's gatherings. Coulter describes that piano as "the most important piece of furniture in the house!"

During a visit to the Gaelic College of Cape Breton I learned much about the history of the Cape Breton style of piano playing, which no doubt closely matches Scottish piano history around the world.

In early days, pianos were hard to come by in the backcountry, whereas fiddles were very common. However, churches would often go to the expense of bringing pump organs into the community. These organs were popular for Scottish music since they could, to some degree, mimic the sound of a bagpipe. Ultimately, however, they could not create the percussive beat that really livened up a fiddle tune, like a piano could. The piano also had the advantage of matching the volume of a fiddle, unlike guitar accompaniment. From Scotland to Ulster, to Cape Breton, to the United States, the piano slowly became the staple of those who accompanied fiddlers.

The first piano recording in Cape Breton, 1928, was not of a Scottish or Acadian accompanier, but rather an Irishman named Dan Sullivan, who arrived in Cape Breton from Boston, Massachusetts. However, the Cape Breton style is most often credited to early female players including Mary MacDonald, Marie MacLellan, Maybelle MacQueen, Beattie Wallace, Lila Hashem, Elizabeth Beaton, and

Continued on next page.



The fiddle, with piano accompaniment, has become the mainstay of Cape Breton music thanks principally to development by several female pianists of Scottish origin, over the last 100 years. Many "Scots" men and French Acadian men and women have since added their own contribution to this unique style of piano performance, which features very complex left hand rhythm patterns. This style has now made its way into Scottish music across the globe.

Bridgeport, Conn. – Peter Michael McCoy, itinerant Scotch-Irish musician arraigned in city court on a charge of over imbibing, pulled a 10-cent flute from his pocket, played "The Irish Washerwoman" and won a suspended sentence. His audience was Judge Hugh Mavery, Prosecutor John Flanagan, Police Officers John Flynn and Joseph Coughlin, Court Officer Tom Gerrity and Probation Officers Joseph McConnell and Nellie Mulvihill.

Loose clipping found in Cobb Family papers. Dates to ca.1900.

Margaret MacPhee – mostly Scottish descendants of Highland clearance refugees.

Lila Hashem, born at Inverness, Cape Breton, learned her right hand techniques from a Skinner piano book. However, she recalled, "I had to make up my own left hand because the Skinner book had no bass, just melody lines, and that's how I started the Scottish music." Lila is considered one of the originators of what we know today as the Cape Breton piano style.

A Gaelic College museum display tells us, "A defining feature of Cape Breton style piano accompaniment is the simultaneous playing of partial or complete [fiddle] melodies. This has been carried along over the past 100 years." Another defining feature is the addition of complex left-hand bass lines that seem to defy the physics of the human hand.

Dan Perttu says, "I have enjoyed the active bass line of the Cape Breton pianists, and I have been trying to incorporate that more into my playing. Sometimes the harmonic structure allows for it, but other times it does not. Personality and other influences, of course, also impact our approach, and we have both sought to blend traditional Scottish approaches with some modern influences. In Melinda's fiddling, that results in more syncopated passages as well as mixed meter. In my playing, I include a lot of syncopated rhythms besides the traditional boom-chick. And if she's in mixed meter, I better be in it as well!"

At Scottish performances all across the world the piano has established itself as one of the best accompaniment instruments available, because of its volume, its versatility of providing both left hand base lines and right hand rhythms or melodies, and because of one hundred years of improvisation and experimentation. Many talented piano players have been willing to let fiddlers steal the limelight, while they provided a solid and equally complex accompaniment.

Moon Mullican (Aubrey Wilson Mullican), 1909 –1967, was an American country and western singer, songwriter, and pianist. He also sang and played jazz, rock 'n' roll, and the blues. He was associated with the hillbilly boogie style which greatly influenced rockabilly; Jerry Lee Lewis cited him as a major influence on his own singing and piano playing.

Moon was a descendant of the Mullikins of Maryland. His Scotch-Irish immigrant ancestor, James Mullikin, was born in Scotland, arriving in Maryland in 1630–1640 via Ulster.

The **2010 Annual Meeting** of the Scotch-Irish Society of the USA will be held on Friday, December 3, 2010 at the Borough Hall in Media, PA, starting at 10:00 A.M. All Members in good standing (2010 dues paid) are warmly invited to attend.

One of the main pieces of business will be to elect the 2013 Class of the Council; that is, those Members who will serve on the Council from December 2010 to December 2013. For continuity, Council Membership is divided into three classes, with the term of one class expiring each year.

In addition, each Officer of the Society will report on the activities in his or her area of responsibility during 2010. There will be an opportunity for Members to raise any issues regarding the Society that they wish to discuss.

A Meeting of the Council of the Society will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting. At this meeting, the Council will elect the Officers of the Society for the upcoming year. Members who attend the Annual Meeting are invited to remain for the Council Meeting as observers.

OFFICERS OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY

Elected at the Final Session of the Organization at Lexington, Va.

LEXINGTON, Va., June 21.—The Scotch-Irish Society's second day's session was opened at 11 o'clock with prayer by the Rev. John S. Finlay of Virginia. The Rev. Dr. Henry A. White delivered an address on "Presidents of Washington and Lee." In the absence of Dr. George W. Graham of Charlotte, N. C., his address on the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence" was read by the Rev. J. H. Bryson, D. D., of Huntsville, Ala. Dr. George MacClosky of Princeton spoke on "What Education Can Do for the Scotch-Irish."

A business meeting was held in the afternoon, and the following officers were elected: President—Robert Bonner, New-York City; Vice President—The Rev. John S. Macintosh, D. D., Philadelphia; First Vice President at Large—J. T. Wright, Nashville; Second Vice President at Large—The Rev. J. H. Bryson, D. D., Huntsville, Ala.; Secretary—A. C. Floyd, Chattanooga; Treasurer—John McIlhenny, Philadelphia.

Invitations were received to hold the next congress at Denver, Col., and Harrisburg, Penn. Addresses were made at the evening exercises by the Rev. J. H. Bryson, D. D., Alabama; the Rev. John Hall, D. D., New-York, and Dr. Henry McDowell, Kentucky.

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Call for Civil War and Chaplain photos, letters, diaries, and artifacts

The Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, South Carolina is developing an exhibit to recognize the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (opens May 2011). The exhibit will explore chaplains during the war, especially Presbyterians and how the conflict affected congregations both North and South, the religious revival during the war, and more.

For more information visit
<http://www.phcmontreat.org/>

EVENT

The **2011 Virginia Forum**, a three-day conference devoted to all aspects and time periods of Virginia history, will be held on the campuses of Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia on March 25-26, 2011.

The Virginia Forum brings together historians, teachers, writers, archivists, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences.

The Forum is an annual event and is hosted by different universities and historical organizations around the state. Additional information is available online at www.virginiaforum.org. Direct any further inquiries to Theodore C. DeLaney, program chair at delaneyt@wlu.edu.

Editor's Note of interest: from Dr. John Young at Strathclyde University in Scotland.

"I am off to Cody, Wyoming, to a conference on Buffalo Bill. Strathclyde University is now the European hub for Buffalo Bill studies by the Cody Institute and there has been recent US investment in European-based PhDs to be held at Strathclyde.... There may well be plans to put together a funding proposal for the establishment of a Scottish Centre for the Study of the American West. If so, Scotch-Irish studies would be part of this."

CENTER FOR SCOTCH-IRISH STUDIES

Sixth Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium June 3 - 4, 2011

The Scotch-Irish and Their Culture

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Center for Scotch-Irish Studies is pleased to announce that the Sixth Scotch-Irish Identity Symposium will be held on **Saturday, June 4, 2011** at the **McCelvey Center, York, South Carolina**. The symposium will be preceded by a reception and welcome dinner at the McCelvey Center on the evening of **Friday, June 3, 2011**.

The theme of the symposium is **The Scotch-Irish and Their Culture**. We hope to discuss the cultural identity of the Scotch-Irish in its widest sense and to look at variations over time and in different parts of the United States. Our approach is multi-disciplinary and we encourage contributions from scholars in a variety of disciplines.

We are particularly interested in presentations in the following areas:

- 1 Scotch-Irish customs and culture
- 2 Scotch-Irish music and dance
- 3 Scotch-Irish literature and drama
- 4 Scotch-Irish art and architecture
- 5 Scotch-Irish political culture
- 6 Scotch-Irish material culture
- 7 The Scotch-Irish in a multicultural society
- 8 Regional differences among the Scotch-Irish

However, we also welcome scholarly work on other Scotch-Irish topics, and we are particularly happy to receive abstracts from graduate students.

We ask that you read the requirements for Symposium presentations in the statement on Goals and Standards on the website
<www.Scotch-IrishCentral.org>

Please direct any questions to **Michael Scoggins** at the **McCelvey Center**, at micscoggins@chmuseums.org, to **Dr. Joyce M. Alexander** at the **Center for Scotch-Irish Studies**, at cntrsis@aol.com, or to **Dr. Richard K. MacMaster** at rmacmast@ufl.edu. Abstracts (approximately 250 - 300 words), together with a brief C.V., should be sent to the Center as file attachments (Microsoft Word preferred) as soon as possible, but no later than **December 31, 2010**. Authors will be informed by **January 15, 2011** if their abstracts have been accepted. Texts for accepted presentations will be due on or before **March 15, 2011**.

The museum started out as the Belfast Natural History Society in 1821 and began exhibiting a few years later. In 1890 an art gallery was added. The Museum moved to its present location in 1929 as the Belfast Municipal Museum and Art Gallery. It was renamed the Ulster Museum in 1962. In 1998 it joined other museums to form



the National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland. The Museum is open 9 to 5, closed on Monday. Admission is free. To find out more visit www.nmni.com/um

Ulster Museum wins the £100,000 Art Fund Prize

Thank you to those who voted in response to the eblast sent earlier this year. Your vote counted and the result is that for the first time, a Northern Ireland museum has won the Art Fund Prize. It beat three other shortlisted institutions, including the UK's oldest public museum, Oxford's Ashmolean.

Northern Ireland's Culture Minister, Nelson McCausland, commended the museum staff for "their commitment and creativity which has enabled the museum to win this superb award."

Chair of the judges, Kirsty Young, said the panel were "moved and invigorated" when they visited. She added, "Here is a museum that shows how much can be achieved, and one that is building a lasting legacy."

Editor's Note: The Art Fund is the UK national fundraising charity for works of art. It campaigns, fundraises, and gives money to museums and galleries to buy and show art, and promotes enjoyment of the Arts through events and membership.

The purpose of The Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries is to recognize and stimulate originality and excellence in museums and galleries in the UK, and increase public appreciation and enjoyment.

A single award of £100,000 (approximately \$160,000) is presented to a museum or gallery whose entry, in the opinion of the judges, best meets the Prize criteria through a project completed or mainly undertaken in the previous calendar year.

Scottish Television Network films Documentary on the Scotch-Irish

Michael C. Scoggins

In August 2010 I was contacted by representatives of the Scottish Television Network (STV) for assistance in filming a documentary on the Scotch-Irish. The film is entitled "Born Fighting" and was inspired by Senator James Webb's book of the same name. I was



recommended to STV because of my position as historian for the Culture & Heritage Museums of York County, SC and because of several books that I have written on the Revolutionary War in the Carolina backcountry. STV wanted to interview me regarding the important role played by the Scotch-Irish in the American Revolution, particularly in the Carolinas. They were also interested in filming a re-enactment of the Battle of Kings Mountain, the pivotal battle fought in York County, SC on October 7, 1780, that involved large numbers of Scotch-Irish militiamen from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee. I contacted the local re-enactment community and we arranged for a battle re-enactment at Historic Brattonsville, one of our Culture & Heritage Museum sites. A number of Confederate Army re-enactors were also recruited for some footage about the Scotch-Irish participation in the War Between the States.

The re-enactments took place on September 5 and the film crew was well pleased with the results. The crew also interviewed me at Brattonsville, and we discussed the Scotch-Irish and their vital contributions to the outcome of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. We also discussed some of the myths and misconceptions that have grown up over the years regarding the Scotch-Irish involvement in the Revolution. Additional footage for the documentary was shot in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Virginia, and Tennessee. The film is now in post-production and will air in the UK on STV and BBC in 2011. It will also be shown in the United States on the Smithsonian HD channel and will be available for retail purchase on DVD.

scotchirish@verizon.net

The Scotch-Irish Society of the USA
PO Box 53, Media, PA 19063

Literature and membership application forms may be obtained by writing to this address or download from www.Scotch-IrishCentral.org. A new website for the Society will be online in January 2011.