

THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The Christmas card address book had not been opened since Mom passed. The yellowed slip of paper fell out of a fold: "William Steele, 3 Shell Row, Bushmills. Let's make note. Maybe we can drive up there when we're in Belfast."

It was 1997 and my wife and I were to travel eight weeks to parts of England, Ireland and Northern Ireland visiting schools to explore how citizenship ideals were taught in communities under economic, social or political stress. While the experience produced much insight, the serendipity resulting from that paper slip is most memorable as it became a family story.

My grandmother emigrated from Bushmills; my grandfather from Plumbridge. Both were the only ones in their families to emigrate. They met in Philadelphia and married. My father, born in 1910, was their first child.

Dad served in World War II and was stationed for a time outside of Belfast. On a weekend pass he took the train to Portrush and the rickety electric tram that ran along the County Antrim coast to the Giant's Causeway. Family he never met lived across fields adjacent to the Causeway.

Arriving unannounced, he knocked on the back kitchen door. Inside, the young woman Elizabeth, having observed the approaching uniformed American soldier and remembering a warning about giving entry to unknown soldiers, refused to open the door. Dad persisted, but the door remained closed. In frustration he proclaimed "I'm Hester's son." At that, the door opened and a warm welcome ensued.

Fifty-four years later, on an early March weekend, we deviated from our itinerary

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Letter from the President

St. Patrick and the Scotch-Irish

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and the Irish celebrate him the world over. Protestants (the Episcopalian group) known in Ireland as the Church of Ireland, tend to commemorate the Saint with a religious expression rather than a carnival type celebration. Dissenters on the other hand, with whom many of the Scotch-Irish are linked, have often kept the whole thing at arm's length. Their faith has traditionally placed saints in less lofty standing.

In the latter half of the twentieth century a certain line of scholarship looked at the whole Irish identity story in a new light. It was first initiated through the studies of Thomas F. O'Rahilly of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, then carried forward by Liam de Paor and Ian Adamson. In brief, it stated that Gaels invaded Ireland around the second century B.C. from the Iberian Peninsula (recently confirmed by DNA studies). These relatively sophisticated Celtic immigrants encountered a savage indigenous people, who spoke a more archaic form of Gaelic and were named the Cruithin. Gradually, as the arrivals increased, these unwelcoming natives were pushed further north and eventually many of them crossed the North Channel into Lowland Scotland.

It has been further resolved that St. Patrick was not the first Christian missionary to come to Ireland. Others preceded him and carried the ministry to the more civilized Gaelic people. St. Patrick, on the other hand, had been captured and enslaved in his youth by the Cruithin in Ulster and he planned to return and bring them the Good News. In his own hand he writes "I travelled amongst you and everywhere for your sake, beset by many dangers, even to remote districts where no one had ever penetrated..."

Muirchu, who wrote the earliest and most reliable biography of St. Patrick in the seventh century, states that he sailed up the Brene (Enler River) in County Down and after he left his ship he "proceeded to make his way on land to the country of the Cruithin until he reached Mount Slemish. It was from this mountain long before, when he had been in slavery as a captive there, that he saw an angel..."

In addition to this narrative, there was a fresh realization that St. Patrick in his writings expresses a problem with the Church leadership of his day and



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William and Elizabeth Steele

and drove to Bushmills in search of 3 Shell Row. It was not to be found. Needing petrol, I asked the attendant about the address. Bushmills is small and he knew of no such location. "Who was I seeking?" I replied: "William Steele, but I don't expect he'd be alive." "William Steele lives in the cottage row next to here" came the rejoinder.

We approached the third in a line of attached single story cottages. Seashell laced stucco facade wrapped around each cottage door centered between two windows. Nineteenth century developers knew how to spin even the humblest of abodes.

A knock and the door opened, only to be filled with a tall, elder, bulk of a man. My introduction left him pondering in silence until I uttered. "I'm Hester's grandson," was all I could muster to break awkward silence. Immediately, with a broad grin and words of welcome and surprise we were invited to enter. After decades, grandmother's name still opened doors.

Now retired, William had been a plowman for fifty-two years. On a table in the simply furnished room, a large silver trophy silently spoke pride in winning the 1947 County Antrim Plowing Contest. William estimated he walked 300,000 miles behind the three teams of Clydesdales that powered his livelihood.

I came to Northern Ireland in search of an academic question. Opening William's door made Northern Ireland personal. Memories are long in Northern Ireland. As I met more family over the years, I was most often introduced as "This is the grandson of Tommy, the one who left."

From that discovered address grew personal understanding. While I relate to my Northern Ireland relatives, Tommy, "the one who left," made the Atlantic crossing. No longer from Ulster, he grew in the American experience. He became Scotch-Irish.

Tom Campbell

XX Ulster-American Heritage Symposium

**Part 1: Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut
June 18 – 21, 2014**

**Part 2: Athens, Georgia
June 25 – 28, 2014**

Since 1976 the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium has met every two years, alternating between co-sponsoring universities and museums in Ulster and North America. Its purpose is to encourage scholarly study and public awareness of the historical connections between Ulster and North America through what is commonly called the Scotch-Irish or Ulster-Scots heritage.

The Symposium has as its general theme the process of transatlantic emigration and settlement, and links between England, Scotland, Ireland and North America. Its approach is inter-disciplinary, encouraging dialogue between those working in the differing fields of history, language and literature, geography, archaeology, anthropology, folklife, religion, music, family history and museum studies.

The twentieth meeting of the symposium in June 2014 will have two different legs with different themes and hosted at two different venues in the United States. The first program will be held in Hamden, Connecticut and hosted by Quinnipiac University, Wednesday, June 18 to Saturday, June 21. The theme in Hamden will be "Hunger, Poverty and Migration: A Transatlantic Perspective." Keynote speakers will be Dr. Piaras Mac Einri, Cork University; Dr. Maureen Murphy, Hofstra University and Professor Christine Kinealy, Quinnipiac University.

The second program will be held in Athens, Georgia and hosted by the T.R.R. Cobb House and the University of Georgia, Wednesday, June 25 to Saturday, June 28, with the theme being "Contacts, Contests, and Contributions: Ulster-Americans in War and Society." The keynote will be delivered by Dr David T. Gleeson, Northumbria University and author of the recent publication, *The Green and The Gray: The Irish in the Confederate States of America*.

**For more information about the Hamden venue
go to: www.quinnipiac.edu**

**For further information about the Athens venue
go to: www.trrcobhouse.org**



“Danger and Duty” Winfield Scott Schley (1833 – 1911)

William John Shepherd

Winfield Scott Schley was an energetic, colorful, and accomplished naval officer who was a genuine hero of the Spanish-American War. Like renowned Civil War Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, whom he served under, he also had maternal Scotch-Irish ancestry that is not widely known. Unfortunately, Schley’s final years found him embroiled in a contentious public conflict regarding his character with fellow officer and Scotch-Irishman William T. Sampson.

Schley was born at Richfields near Frederick, Maryland, on October 9, 1839. His father, John Thomas Schley, was German and French Huguenot while his mother, Georgianna Virginia McClure, was Scotch-Irish. Her parents, John and Mary Ann McClure, were Ulster immigrants who settled in Baltimore before the American Revolution. John McClure served as Captain of a rifle company defending the city from the British during the War of 1812. Though named for his father’s friend, General Winfield Scott, young Schley was instead influenced by the novels of Frederick Marryat to seek a life at sea and thus sought and won appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1860.

Schley’s first mission was serving as a midshipman on the frigate *Niagara* bound for China and Japan. En route, the ship stopped in the East Indies where a member of the traveling Japanese diplomatic party obtained a monkey. This troublesome creature constantly littered the deck and irritated the crew while hanging by its tail out of reach in the sail rigging. Somebody allegedly greased the monkey’s tail, causing it to slip from the rigging and fall overboard to its death. Both the ship’s captain and the Japanese owner required an explanation, and suspected Schley’s involvement as he was officer of the watch. He amazingly convinced them the monkey was unhappy and committed suicide! From that point forward the monkey story spread throughout the navy, earning Schley a reputation as a resourceful officer.

Returning home, he was active in the Civil War, serving on the frigate *Potomac* of the Western Gulf Squadron in 1861-1862. Promoted Lieutenant in July 1862, he subsequently served on the gunboat *Winona* and the sloops *Monongahela* and *Richmond*, participating in engagements resulting in the capture of Port Hudson, Louisiana, in 1863. That same year he married Annie Rebecca Franklin in Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1864, he transferred to the Pacific, serving on the *Wateree* as executive officer until 1866, when he was

promoted Lieutenant Commander. He suppressed an insurrection of Chinese workers on the Middle Chincha Islands of Peru in 1865 and also landed troops at La Union, San Salvador, to protect American interests during a revolution.

He returned to Annapolis for shore duty as an instructor at the Naval Academy in 1867-1869. He was part of Rear Admiral John Rodgers’s expedition to Korea in 1871, serving as adjutant of the American land forces, and earning distinction in assaults against several Korean forts on Ganghwa Island. He again served at the academy, 1872-1875, as head of the Department of Modern Languages, while being promoted Commander in June 1874.

After serving in Europe and on the west coast of Africa, he commanded the *Essex*, on the Brazil station, 1876-1879. During this time he sailed near South Shetland Islands and rescued a shipwrecked crew on the islands of Tristan de Cunha. He then served until October 1883 as a lighthouse inspector.

In February 1884, after the failure of two previous expeditions for the relief of an Arctic expedition commanded by Lieutenant A. W. Greely, Schley was appointed to command the third Greely relief expedition. He was successful, rescuing Greely and six other survivors near Cape Sabine on June 22, 1884 after passing through 1,400 miles of ice during the voyage.



Schley, 4th from right, with men who rescued Greely Expedition survivors

Schley was promoted to Captain in 1888 while serving as Chief of the Bureau of Recruiting and Equipment. That same year he was one of the thirty-three founding members of the National Geographic Society. From 1889 to 1891 he was back at sea, in the south Pacific as commander of the cruiser, *Baltimore*, and in the latter year intervened at Valparaiso, Chile, when American sailors were assaulted in the streets. He returned to serving as a lighthouse inspector in 1892.

In 1898, he was commissioned as a Commodore and took command of the Flying Squadron for service in the war with Spain. Sailing from Hampton Roads in May, he located and blockaded the Spanish fleet at Santiago, Cuba where he was soon superseded in command by Rear Admiral William T. Sampson. The decisive naval battle occurred on July 3, 1898 when the Spanish fleet of six warships, attempting to leave the harbor, was destroyed by American ships commanded by Schley as Sampson was temporarily absent. The Spanish had six hundred men killed and fifteen hundred captured while the Americans casualties were very few.



Schley was promoted to Rear Admiral for his conspicuous conduct during the battle and thereafter a heated controversy erupted between partisans of Schley and Sampson over their respective claims of credit for the great victory. Neither officer had taken public notice until after the appearance of E. S. Maclay's *History of the United States Navy*, depicting Schley as a coward. Schley requested, and Secretary of the Navy John D. Long approved, a court of inquiry consisting of Admiral George Dewey and Rear Admirals Andrew Benham and Francis Ramsey.

A split verdict was issued on December 14, 1901. Admiral Dewey refused to censure Schley while the other two members found him guilty of vacillation and disobedience while grudgingly admitting his personal courage. Admiral Dewey, however, praised Schley for promptness and efficiency, giving him credit for the destruction of the enemy fleet. Though the court recommended that no action be taken, Schley filed a protest against its findings, which, however, were approved by the Secretary of the Navy and confirmed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Following retirement, Schley worked on his autobiography, published as *Forty-five Years under the Flag* in 1904. He died in New York on October 3, 1911, was survived by his wife and several children, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Unlike Farragut, who is still widely celebrated, Schley is now largely and undeservedly forgotten.

Society member John Shepherd has worked as an archivist in both Annapolis and Washington, D.C. For further reading he recommends Schley's memoirs and Harry Langley's chapter on Schley in "Admirals of the New Steel Navy," James Bradford (ed.), Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1990.

Thank you

for your 2013 contribution
to the Society. It helped!

Byron Adams
David Armstrong
David Borland
Wesley Robert Boyd
Colin Brooks
Robert Lowry Elder*
Louis Falcone
Ronald Franke
Henry Gustavensen
George Green
Alex Greer
Elwood, Jones
Margaret Kelly
Donald Kiddoo*
Carol Kinsley
Margaret Long*
Charles Lyon
Stephen McCartney*
James McCord
Ed Magee
Robert Montgomery
Doug Orr
Thomas Patterson*
Ronald Plunkett
Michael D. Roe
Carl Jennings Smith*
John Via
David Walker
Jack Weaver
Daniel Wilson*

* denotes special thanks for two
contributions in 2013

A Scotch-Irish Devil at Fredericksburg

Sam Thomas

Robert McMillan was somewhat old compared to his fellow soldiers in the 24th Georgia Infantry. Born in 1805 in County Antrim, McMillan emigrated through the port of Belfast in 1832, landing in Charleston, South Carolina, later that year. He immediately struck out for the interior of Georgia, becoming a naturalized citizen at Augusta in 1833, then moving up the Savannah River to Elberton where he established a mercantile business. McMillan abandoned his business in 1839 and entered the practice of law. Twelve years later, he and his wife and six children, moved to Clarkesville, Georgia.

When the Civil War broke out, McMillan raised a company in Habersham County. The "McMillan Guards," were quickly accepted into Confederate service as Company K, 24th Georgia Infantry and McMillan was elected Colonel of the regiment. "We go," McMillan wrote, "a thousand true men from Northeast Georgia, to reason with them [the North] through the mouths of our muskets, and impress our arguments with the point of our bayonets." The 24th Georgia became part of Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb's newly created Georgia Brigade in 1862.

Fifty-six years old at the time, twenty-one years over the upper age of men required for service in the Confederate army at that point, McMillan worked to bring order to the 24th. General Cobb was unimpressed at first with the regiment: "...the 24th Ga. (McMillan's) is just behind. [It] is the most undisciplined set of rowdies that I have seen in the service." Undisciplined or not, they proved to be good fighters.

Positioned behind the stone wall below Marye's Heights in December 1862, McMillan and his men watched as Ambrose Burnside's Federals began crossing the Rappahannock into the city of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The 24th held the Confederate center as the Federals launched two major attacks against the stone wall. When General Cobb was mortally wounded, McMillan stepped forward and took command of the Brigade.

Determined to take the stone wall, Burnside ordered a third attack by Edwin Sumner's Division which included the famous "Irish Brigade" commanded by Thomas Meagher. Shouting *Erin go bragh* Private William McCarter, a twenty-one year old member of the 116th Pennsylvania quickly moved forward towards the stone



wall. Born in 1841 in County Londonderry, McCarter left us one of the best descriptions of the battle:

When a large part of the distance had been gained and we were within 50 paces of this wall, Cobb's solid brigade of Rebel infantry ... suddenly sprang up from behind it. They had been entirely concealed from our view until that moment. The Rebs poured volley after volley into our faces, at once stopping our further progress... The sudden flashing fire of their muskets... so illuminated the faces and uniforms of this part of the Confederate army that the men looked strangely red and savage – more like devils than human beings... Brigade after brigade and division after division were hurled against him time and again, but like my own, were blown back as if by the breath of hell's door suddenly opened.

Although McMillan did not leave any substantive account of his fight against the Irish Brigade, one Confederate veteran remembered that McMillan certainly recognized who he was up against, crying out at the beginning of the fight, "That's Meagher's Brigade! Give it to them now, boys! Now's the time! Give it to them!" Destroyed in all but name, the Irish Brigade retreated. That evening, they could rally only 280 men of the 1,200 that started the charge.

To hear more on the story of Robert McMillan and his fellow clansmen plan to attend the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium in Athens, Georgia this June. For an update on the Symposium, go to page 2.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Visitor to our website emailed... "I have just been reading your newsletter and am writing to let you know that the Lambeg drum in the article is owned by my brother Lindsay Graham. He would be grateful if you would pass this on to the descendants of Samuel McQuiston. He takes the drum to drumming matches around Northern Ireland where we live and has had some success in winning these. He is only learning to play himself but has someone who plays it for him."

Editor's note: I received this email in September 2013. The article on the Lambeg drum was published in the Fall 2009 edition of the newsletter and can be read on the Society website.

From an email sent by Alfred C. Young III... "I enjoyed the article by Dan Orr regarding his ancestral/genealogical research in the summer issue of the Society's newsletter. Although I find the study and pursuit of the intellectual aspects of this/our ethnic group to be a worthy endeavor, I am stimulated more by personal stories such as that related by Mr. Orr. The decision to include highlights of genealogical studies in future issues of the newsletter may prove to be a popular choice among the members of the society. Anyone who has attempted to trace personal ancestral Scotch-Irish lines in eighteenth century colonial or early America knows the difficulties they will encounter. I have spent countless hours researching my Scotch-Irish ancestral lines. This ethnic group tended to avoid authority and deliberately left very few records and tracking them back to Ireland has proved to be equally or even more difficult."

Editor's note: Thanks to Alfred Young for providing us with an article on his personal experiences in researching his ancestors. You will find his story on page 10.



Society Medal

Inquiry has been received from members about a medal that could be worn as a pin or decoration. **Lane Redwine**, a new member this year, kindly

offered to research this project. Would you email the Society and let us know if this is of interest? New members receive the Society rosette in their membership package. Additional rosettes can be purchased by contacting Carole Smith.

Looking for help with Social Media...

The Society would like to have a presence on Facebook, Twitter etc. but we need someone to set it up and follow it. If you enjoy Social Media and have an interest in getting the word out about the Scotch-Irish, please contact Carole.



Society Tie

The Society offers its members a distinctive, custom-made tie designed expressly for us by the Ben Silver Corporation. The tie is entirely hand-sewn and made of the finest pure English silk. The design is recurring diagonal stripes of saffron bordered with stripes of green against a purple background. These colors are symbolic of Ulster and Scotland. To order, please send a check for \$43 (includes S&H) to: The Scotch-Irish Society, PO Box 53, Media, PA 19063.

Now available on Youtube as a video slideshow is Arthur Sullivan's lecture **Breakfast time back home: Media representations of Irish Emigration** given at this year's Literature of Irish Exile Autumn School. Go to: http://www.qub.ac.uk/cms/events/14th_LIE_2013/LIE_Oct_2013_SlideShow.htm

Check out placenamesni.org for information on the origins and meanings of over 30,000 current or historical place-names in Northern Ireland.

July through December 2013

NEW MEMBERS

Colorado

Beverly J. Nelson

Florida

Dr. Doraine Dorman
Kenneth Frank Dorman
Charles Owen Johnson

Kansas

Richard James Keeney

Missouri

Lawrence Cannon Kasten

North Carolina

Robert E. Alexander

Texas

Sonja Yvonne Alexander Hoffman
Lane Carroll Redwine
Carroll Shaddock
Ky W. White

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Class of 2014 — Joyce M. Alexander, PhD, David Borland, Thomas N. Campbell, Michael Scoggins, Charles Snoddy

Class of 2015 — Charles Blair, PhD, Richard K. MacMaster, PhD, E. Wayne Newell, Esq., Frederick E. Stewart, Jr., Samuel Thomas

Class of 2016 — Geoffrey J. Alexander, Esq., William J. McGimpsey, Nina M. Ray, PhD, Carole Smith, John W. Via III, PhD



Event held in Philadelphia

Carole Smith represented the Society at the Commonwealth 2013 Festival held September 29 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, Chestnut Hill,

Pennsylvania. A number of people attending the event stopped at the Society table to chat and pick up information. (Could this have anything to do with our table being right next to Scotch tasting :-)? The Society donated a basket for the raffle. Over \$5,000 was raised for St. James School of Philadelphia, which is committed to educating traditionally undersourced students in the inner city.

Events

March 2014

Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF)
North American Lecture Tour

The Ulster Historical Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote interest in Irish ancestry, history and genealogy. The UHF is currently making plans for a lecture tour in USA and Canada. Some dates have already been confirmed and others are yet to be finalized. For more information: www.ancestryireland.com.

Denver CO, Saturday, March 8
Des Moines IA, Monday, March 10
Lincoln NE, Tuesday, March 11
Memphis TN, Saturday, March 15
Boise ID, Sunday and Monday March 16-17
Philadelphia PA, (to be finalized)
Wednesday or Thursday March 19 or 20.

May 7 – 10
National Genealogical Society
2014 Family History Conference
Virginia: The First Frontier
Greater Richmond Convention Center
Richmond, Virginia
For more information:
<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>

The Scotch-Irish Society of the USA has no financial (or other) connection with the UHF or the National Genealogical Society. We are simply passing on information that might be of interest to our members.

New member Ky W. White shares his personal history.

My ancestor, James Campbell, was born in 1682 in Derry, Northern Ireland. He emigrated in 1726 and was among the first settlers in Beverly Manor, now Augusta County, Virginia, arriving there between 1732 and 1747. He obtained lands along the Roanoke River in 1748, was a constable in 1745 and member of Captain John McDowell's company in 1746. He was a road overseer on the South Branch of the Roanoke River in 1746.

Before 1750 there were more than a hundred tracts of land purchased and a great many of the original ones were subdivided. The foundation families of this settlement were mostly Scotch-Irish and the community became known as the "Irish tract." Beverley's Mill-place on Lewis Creek became the community center and later became the town of Staunton, the seat of Augusta County.

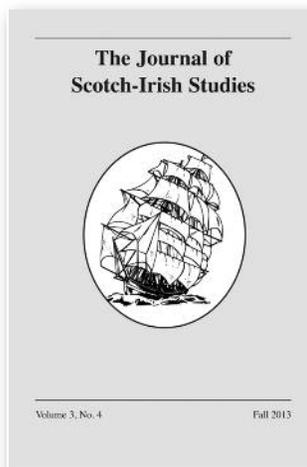
As you might expect, my ancestors were staunch Presbyterians. James Campbell's name can be found on the founding rolls of the Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church outside of Staunton. Today, the names James Campbell and Issac White, his son-in-law, can still be seen on a monument to the founders outside the church. James Kerr's name is also on the monument. Kerr's daughter, Leticia, was the wife of William Robertson.



Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church

James who served in the militia in Augusta County, eventually receiving a commission of "Captain of Foot." His will, dated Nov 5, 1753, is registered in the county. He was the son of Duncan Campbell and Mary McCoy. From what records I have been able to find it appears Duncan was born in Scotland and moved to Ulster about 1675. There are several spurious pedigrees that claim Duncan was the descendant of Dugald Campbell, youngest son of Archibald, the 2nd Earl of Argyll who died at Flodden in 1513. Alas, the only problem with this is that Earl Archibald had no son named Dugald.

Thanks Ky for sharing this personal history with us. Editor



Now Available
2013 Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies
information on ordering your copy can be found on page 11.

MEET OUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER



Dr. John W. Via III

John is the Associate Dean of Engineering, Department Head – Engineering Management and a Teaching Professor at Drexel University. He is a native of Virginia where his father's family settled in the early 1600s, and his heritage is a classical Virginia mixture of English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and French Huguenot immigrants on his father's side (Via is a Huguenot surname). His Scotch-Irish roots are primarily through the Stephensons on his mother's side (NJ, PA, OH and VA) which he started researching a few years ago. John moved to Glen Mills, Pennsylvania a little over a year ago following a twenty year stretch in Fort Worth, Texas where he was very involved in a variety of masonic and genealogical societies. John is a past Governor, Sons of Colonial Wars in the State of Texas and a past President, Sons of the Revolution in the State of Texas. John is very interested in continuing to learn more about the history of the Scotch-Irish, his own family heritage, and the development of the coal industry in western Pennsylvania and southwestern Virginia



Charleston's new park celebrates the contributions of the Irish throughout South Carolina

Editor's note: Bill McGimpsey replied to an email that we received questioning why the memorial at Charleston's new park failed to recognize the contributions of the Scotch-Irish.

At the street entrance, three poles displaying the flags of the city of Charleston, United States and Ireland greet visitors.

Bill's reply: *There is no way to mask the Scotch-Irish impact in South Carolina. In defense of the Charleston Irish community, they would likely take the view that the monument is a memorial to Irish immigration to the state in its totality; without any breakdown. As for the flag, it is problematic that it represents only the Irish Republic, which is not the flag of those living in Northern Ireland. However, here they would likely argue that their flag depicts both the orange and green traditions, each in equal size, with a white portion between indicating parity. They might also note that their constitution does not just address a 26 county republic, but aspires to a 32 county identity.*

As President of the Scotch-Irish Society of America, I would have much preferred that they had given credit to the Scotch-Irish in South Carolina and who have contributed so much to the state and the nation. The culture of the Scotch-Irish is sufficiently different, and has had sufficient impact, to warrant its own separate recognition. We want to take nothing away from our fellow Irish brothers and sisters, we just want some due respect as members of the larger family, but with a distinctly different trajectory.

Genealogy research

Family Roots confirmed through DNA

Randolph Henry

My name is Randolph Henry. I am 55 years old and live in Trumbull County, Ohio. This is the story of my journey to find clarification on my paternal ethnic heritage.

When my father passed away in 2011 on Christmas Day I realized how little I knew of my family history. This put me on a quest to research and find out about my family roots and paternal ancestry. What a journey it turned out to be!

I was able to trace my family back to the mid 1700s in New Jersey. My GGG-grandfather was Peter Henry who was born in 1760 in New Shannock, New Jersey. He served in the American Revolution in the New Jersey Militia. He later received a land grant and came to Bedford County, Pennsylvania in 1780. He lived and owned land in areas that were known to be Scotch-Irish settlements (McConnellsburg, Belfast Twp. and Ayr Twp.). He later settled in Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1801.

In my family research I could not find my earliest American ancestor. This is where the dilemma began. Many family members in my Henry line assumed that they were of German ancestry due to incorrect genealogy research on our early ancestors. I came across an old article at the Rockwood Historical Society in Pennsylvania that claimed that my GG-grandfather John Henry, who moved from Bedford County to Somerset County in 1808, was of Scotch-Irish descent.

I was so determined to confirm this and settle the family dilemma about our ancestral ethnicity that I had extensive DNA testing performed. My DNA tests were conducted on my male paternal line. I am descended from an unbroken male Henry lineage going back to before my GGG-grandfather.

I sent my DNA results off to DNA Consultants out of Phoenix, Arizona. They specialize in

Uncovering history, a tragic story discovered

Dan Orr

Not too long ago the Society received an inquiry regarding the Scotch-Irish heritage of Robert N. Bellah, an American sociologist internationally known for his work related to the sociology of religion. Bellah's brilliance, wisdom and accomplishments I cannot begin to describe in this article. What he was best known for was his concept of "civil religion." Certainly a concept his early Scotch-Irish ancestors would not have been comfortable with. Rather than discuss Bellah's biography or his works, what I would like to tell is a story and mention a genealogical tool that can help find such stories of our more modern ancestors. Sadly this story is tragic.

The request for help came in the form of an email from a sociology professor in Italy who was researching and writing a book about Bellah. He had interviewed Bellah and had personal knowledge that Bellah was of Scotch-Irish descent. Our inquirer had all the typical questions about validating someone's own heritage. I did a quick research of Bellah's paternal pedigree, as this line is always the easiest to research. Bellah's paternal line was relatively well-documented and sourced and his earliest proved ancestors met all the characteristics of Scotch-Irish to safely say Robert N. Bellah's claim of Scotch-Irish heritage was true. But a few more questions came in from the researcher, specific to Robert N. Bellah's father, L. Hutton Bellah, and his early death. I think our inquirer already knew that Hutton had committed suicide but was leaving me in the dark to validate.

Although the majority of genealogical resources do not exist online, Google is an invaluable tool not to overlook. Like any tool, there are techniques that can be learned for the best results: and to learn these, just google "how to search Google like a pro." Using a few of the techniques and trying a variety of keywords, a google search revealed the details of L. Hutton Bellah's suicide in two newspaper archives and, if the story were more contemporary, it would have been material for *NBC's Dateline*.



Robert N. Bellah

The story goes like this:

A 38 year old newspaper publisher in Yuma, under the assumed name of William A. Lee, killed himself in the presence of his second wife on April 6, 1931, when his real identity was about to be revealed. His second wife had married Lee without knowledge that he was ever married, let alone currently married.

L. Hutton Bellah, his real name, had moved with his family from Altus, Oklahoma to Los Angeles, California in October 1929. On December 28, 1929 he disappeared, leaving his pregnant wife, and his son Robert N. Bellah, not yet three years old. Hutton had lost heavily in the stock-market when it crashed and he had threatened his first wife with suicide. The threats were not taken seriously because he was not the type of man to do such a thing but then he suddenly disappeared.

While at the *Yuma Sentinel*, a newspaper Lee purchased on October 1, 1930, Lee's secret would be discovered. His undoing was his inimitable style of writing which was spotted by a colleague and the successor of the Oklahoma newspaper where they worked together. Lee made a quick plea to his oil-millionaire friend in Oklahoma, but the note he had mailed was received too late. With no apparent way out, Lee took a revolver in his home and shot himself in the brain.

The two widows did not attend the funeral. L. Hutton Bellah received veteran's honors for his service in World War I. The funeral was well-attended by his many friends and Reverend Nicholson of the Oklahoma State Legion expressed in fitting words the tragic loss of a young man.

In this edition of the newsletter we have a number of articles contributed by members who are researching their Scotch-Irish roots. We look forward to hearing from more of our members who would like to share their own genealogy story, techniques, tips, tricks and insights.

Dan Orr helps the Society with genealogy inquiries. Dan will not be doing individual research, but hopes to provide guidance and encouragement for newcomers to Scotch-Irish genealogy. Do you have a question for Dan? Please e-mail the Society.

Thanks to Dan for this valuable support to our members and thanks to all of you who have contributed articles for this edition of the newsletter.

Finding the origins of my ancestor John Beatty

Alfred Young

In 1985, during a visit with my paternal grandmother, I acquired my first interest in family history and genealogy. My grandmother, Elizabeth Beatty Young, then 95 years old, helped me create a rough ancestral tree for my father's side of the family. She readily shared interesting stories of each ancestor and furnished me with the full identities of her parents and grandparents as well as those of her deceased husband, Alfred C. Young, Sr. By the time she was finished, I had eight family surnames, collectively born between 1814 and 1828. Much to my surprise and delight, I learned that seven of the eight family names were Scotch-Irish.

Once I fully absorbed this information, I wanted to know more. I soon realized one major fact regarding the early Scotch-Irish in America. They were generally not interested in keeping records. Some historians point to their experience of religious, political and economic persecution in Scotland and Ireland at the hands of the British king and his agents. As a result, these people did not trust authority and often settled in the frontier areas of the American colonies where there was less influence and control from the respective colonial governments.

My research into my Scotch-Irish ancestral lines quickly encountered numerous brick walls. As Dan Orr, in his recent article for this newsletter, excellently describes, "A brick wall is simply when all trails, sources, records and documents are exhausted and a link is not yet established between two generations and little hope exists to prove the parentage." Chief among my so-called walls was my grandmother's Beatty line. We could trace back to her great-grandfather John Beatty, born about 1786 near Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Several years later, my father found information through my grandmother's youngest brother. The information appeared to have been copied from a family Bible and detailed John Beatty's birth year, the identity of his spouse as Mary A. Minnick/Minnich and the identities of their five sons and five daughters. Only three of these children lived beyond the age of thirty and only one son, my grandmother's grandfather, William L. Beatty, survived to marry and produce children.

Our genealogical quest then hit another wall. I made countless trips to Carlisle but could find nothing which linked our last known ancestor to an earlier Beatty generation. I did find a correspondence file for the surname

Beatty at the Cumberland County Historical Society. It contained an earlier dated letter from a person who had done extensive research in Carlisle and I found references to at least eight men with the name John Beatty in the county at that time. All that I was able to confirm was which families and lines were not connected to my Beatty line. I also found documents left by two siblings who turned out to be second cousins to my father. They had been researching the same ancestor unsuccessfully from an earlier date. After I had contacted them we joined forces and compared notes.

For fifteen years, we worked together but achieved no real success. We concluded that our John Beatty was likely a son of William Beatty, who was born about 1755 in Pennsylvania and lived mainly in Perry County (then part of Cumberland County). According to several documents and a record posted publicly on the internet, he was the eldest of eight sons and one daughter born to a John and Margaret Beatty. The elder John Beatty was born about 1730 in County Down, Ireland and had apparently immigrated to Cumberland County as a young man. As is often the case with early families, the maiden name of Margaret Beatty was not recorded.

We were able to easily eliminate the seven younger sons of John and Margaret Beatty from our search. They were either born chronologically too late or the names of their wives and descendants were clearly documented. We focused on the eldest son William but could not find a record regarding any children born to him. There was a record posted on a public internet site indicating that he died in 1790, leaving a widow named Jane (again, no maiden name). In my limited experience, when one encounters a brick wall in genealogical research, a possible reason may be that the father died early leaving a widow and orphaned children. The usual pattern of passing down family history is often arrested when the father dies relatively early, especially if the mother remarries. If this William was the father of our John Beatty, then the boy would have been age three or four when his father died. I will also mention that the eldest daughter born to our John and Mary Minnick Beatty was named Jane.

During the countless hours of paper trail research, we found two pertinent records from the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carlisle. The first was the marriage of a Jane Beatty and James Clark in 1792, nearly two years to

the day following the death of William Beatty. The second was a baptism of Ana, daughter of Johannes and Maria Beatty in 1817 (born 1815). Based upon the information from my grandmother's younger brother, coupled with later national census records, these appeared to be our ancestors. Perhaps it was a stroke of luck for us that this Jane Beatty married in a German Lutheran church that kept records. In any event, these documents offered several positive clues but we still needed solid proof. We then let the search rest for a while.

Several years later, DNA testing became available to the American public. After some deliberation, I enrolled in programs offered by two commercial companies. In addition to the standard form of testing on the Y-DNA (male) line, they have programs for all people, regardless of gender. These programs compare DNA segments from one's entire ancestral spectrum with those in their database. Last year, I accrued an excellent match in both programs with a woman who had a Beatty line. She had posted some ancestral information (an option featured in one program) and this indicated that she was descended from a Finlaw or Finley Beatty, born 1786 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. I recognized that this man was one of the sons of John Beatty and his wife Eleanor McCown. John Beatty would have been the second son, born about 1756 to John and Margaret Beatty and the brother of William Beatty. The proof I was seeking had finally been obtained.

I checked the Pennsylvania Archives and found some additional information on William Beatty. He is listed, along with several of his brothers, in township tax lists and on the rolls of a militia company commanded by Capt. Mathew McCoy during the Revolutionary War. Recently, I gained a second DNA match on Beatty from a man who currently resides in County Down, Northern Ireland. This match was considerably less in rank from the first match, indicating a more distant connection. The man from County Down could only trace his Beatty line back to about 1800 but he could furnish me with the locale where his respective ancestors lived in County Down at this time.

We went from knowing virtually nothing about our Beatty line to adding two generations and having a precise location in Northern Ireland. I have passed this information on to members of my family. My father and his cousins, who all passed away in 2005, would be very pleased.

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determining ethnic ancestry. My DNA results were put into a worldwide database in Berlin, Germany and compared with other ethnic origins over the centuries. The results came back very conclusive. I was informed that my paternal ancestry came from Scotland and was mixed with Norman ancestry. (The Normans were descendants of the Vikings who settled in Northern France, or Normandy as it was called. The Normans made incursions into the British Isles and mixed with some of the inhabitants).

From what I had learned and being a student of history, I realized that my family migrated from the Lowlands of Scotland during the time of the Ulster Plantation in Northern Ireland and then later immigrated to America, probably in the early to mid 1700s. Although I could not find my earliest American ancestor I am now convinced that I have found the correct family ethnicity on my paternal line and solved a long lasting family dilemma.

I am now in the process of entering my DNA results into the Henry DNA Project with the hope of finding ancestral ties back to Northern Ireland and Scotland. This is my story of how DNA has helped to confirm my family heritage. I can now say with certainty that I am very proud to be an American with a Scotch-Irish heritage.

New member from Ohio, Randolph Henry, sent the Society this article for publication in the newsletter. He thought it might be interesting and help members who have lost a paper trail on their early Scotch-Irish ancestors. Thank you Randolph!



The 2013 issue of *The Journal of Scotch-Irish Studies* is available. Cover price is \$22.00 per copy (plus shipping and handling) but, as always, members of the Society in good standing may obtain this issue for the discounted price of \$15.00, plus a shipping and handling charge in the continental United States of \$3.25 per copy (total \$18.25). To receive a copy please contact Joyce Alexander at the Center for Scotch-Irish Studies, PO Box 71, Glenolden, PA 19036-0071. Phone: 610-532-8061 E-mail: cntrsis@aol.com

makes it clear that he detested ecclesiastical politics. He also tells us that his appointment had faced considerable opposition. Many Ulster Scots then began to realize that St. Patrick was a Dissenter just like themselves and that the people who were a central part of his mission, were in fact their own ancestors.

Recently parades have begun to appear on St. Patrick's Day in new areas of Northern Ireland, and there has been much talk of community wide celebrations. St. Patrick is once again bringing his ministry of peace and reconciliation to the troubled Northern Ireland.

Of course these same links to St. Patrick equally apply to the Scotch-Irish. We have the same connections. So to all of you – have a happy St. Patrick's Day.

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THREE RIVERS *from a novel of early Pittsburgh*

by Dave Borland

Samuel Sloan and his wife lived on land in County Donegal which Samuel's great-grandfather had opened up in 1685, working for the English landowner. Samuel was talking one evening with two English merchants who had traveled in Western Pennsylvania after the war. They spoke of a beautiful land with three rushing rivers, great coal deposits, fertile ground and the flood of people who were heading further West, down the Ohio River. They told Samuel that there were great opportunities for tradesmen and farmers.

Later that year, Samuel met the Reverend David McDermott, a Presbyterian minister who was immigrating to the same area. He agreed with the merchant's description, adding that the town named for William Pitt, Pittsburgh, would become a great city. Samuel was excited. The land in Ireland was tired and the English landowner kept renegeing on his promise to turn the land over to the Scotch-Irish farmers. The Church of England was also trying to force the Presbyterians to follow their creeds. He dreamed of settling in the new country, America, where he would have a trade of his own and some day his sons could join him. His whole family would have a better life. He made up his mind in the summer of 1819, after a terribly difficult growing season, that he would go the next year. The next summer, he sold the rights of his land to his cousin, Mark.

In August of 1820 the Sloan family boarded a small schooner out of Londonderry Harbor and sailed to Philadelphia. Their first stop was at the First Presbyterian Church, which was the logical point of reference for most Scotch-Irish in any American town. It was here that ties from the old country crossed with the new western frontier of this new country. The Sloan family were in Philadelphia for about six weeks before they could arrange passage by wagon through the flat bush lowlands of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the mountainous terrain of Western Pennsylvania. The trip would take several months and the last portion would be the most difficult. They would be at the mercy of the weather and a possible early winter snow storm as they crossed the mountains.

Samuel scurried about the bustling port of Philadelphia. It was a marvelous seaport, at the top of a long and beautiful bay. People seemed to be always in a hurry. Goods flowed in all directions. He spent most of his time gathering information about the strange new land in the West, at the gateway to a whole new continent, basically unexplored. Fortunately his Irish-tinted English tongue was understandable and almost natural to the bulk of those he talked with day and night, either at the church or at the various taverns in Philadelphia that were frequented by his fellow Scotch-Irish. The talk was of the dangers of the West, and at the same time, the beauty and the wealth of this untamed land. His mind was supercharged. His hopes pumped his spirit as the day of their departure neared. By the coming Monday, they would be packed and on their way. It was a great challenge for this one man and his family, so far away from his homeland in Ulster. *(to be continued)*

Council member Dave Borland lives in Pittsburgh where he was born and raised. He has published a collection of short stories and poetry and is currently working on his novel, Three Rivers. Dave, thanks for sharing it with us!