

St. Margaret's Journal

Newsletter of The National Guild of St. Margaret of Scotland

Spring 2014

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Officers 2013-2015

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Greetings from the President General

The year has passed quickly, and plans are falling into place for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Looking back, we can be proud of the relationships we're building with the Guild of St. Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh and with those in the medieval studies programs at the University of Chicago, both recipients of GSM's generosity. Articles from these two entities can be found in this newsletter.

We have gained few members since the fall newsletter was issued so new membership is an area that needs our attention. Don't hesitate to ask your qualified friends if you can propose them for membership in St. Margaret. Growth is healthy!

This year's annual meeting will still be held on Tuesday at the Army and Navy Club, but to allow members to attend other functions that day, we're having a breakfast rather than a luncheon meeting. The reservation form is page 7 of this publication.

Plan to attend the meeting and wear your plaid - a tie, a scarf, a vest, a kilt - whatever you might have. Learn something about your clan and be prepared to share it with others at the breakfast. We want to honor St. Margaret by celebrating our Scottish heritage. Guests are welcome and encouraged to participate.

I'm looking forward to seeing and visiting with each of you.

Warmly,

Karen E. McClendon

New Members

520	Linda Lea Alcott Maples	Anne Lloyd, CT (Matilda)
521	Larry Roberts	Mary Gye Maverick, MA (Matilda)
522	James Francis Hall	William Goddard, MA (Matilda)
523	Robert Allan Hurrie	Oliver Manwaring, CT (Matilda)

In Memoriam

420	Mrs. Betty Jane James Bernstorf	31 Oct 2013
410	Mrs. Dorothy Joyce Hudson Gallion	29 May 2013
361	Mattie Epes Jolly	01 Feb 2013
229	Forrest Fraser MacDonald	14 Nov 2013
400	William Benjamin Neal	15 Apr 2013

Help Needed

Please refer to the 2013-2015 Membership Directory, page 38, for listings of those for whom we need death dates and for those members who appear to be “lost.”

Several directories were returned without forwarding addresses. These members are in addition to those who are listed as LOST in the directory.

- 181 Howard Storm Browne, MD
- 500 Constance Louise Rood Fisher (Mrs. Ralph J. Fisher)
- 369 Mary M. Marty Middleman (Mrs. Irving H. Middleman)

Any information sent to either me or to John Harman will be most appreciated. It's a group effort to keep society rolls up to date.

An Oversight

Apologies to GSM friend Karen Avery Miller who sent a donation last year honoring Shari Worrell for her work in the organization. We are very appreciative of her recognition of this well-deserved honor and regret that this was not mentioned in the last publication.

The Guild of St. Margaret added several new faces to the Board for the 2013-2015 term. Each will be featured in an issue of the *Journal*.



Melissa Harrison Fischer
Historian General

Melissa Fischer, a native of Nashville, TN, is the daughter of Anne and Steven Harrison. She is married to Jeffrey H. Fischer, PhD, and they reside in Germantown, MD. She holds a BS from Penn State and an MS from Towson State. Melissa works for SunTrust Bank as a Vice President of Business Banking. Melissa and Jeffrey enjoy travel, spending two weeks in England in 2012 and two weeks in the Baltics in 2013.

Melissa currently serves as Historian for the National Society Southern Dames of America and the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches as well as Recording Secretary for the Dutch Colonial Society, Founding Treasurer for the National Society of Saints and Sinners, and Corresponding Secretary for the Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Previously, Melissa served as National Chairman of Buildings for both NSDAR and USD1812. She has served as Editor of the NSCDXVIIC's *Review*, the OFFNH's *Hampshire Heirs*, and the Southern Dames of America's *Journal*. She also served as State President for CDXVIIC and Southern Dames as well as State Treasurer for DAR, USD1812, and DCH.

A busy lady indeed! We are happy she agreed to be the Historian General of St. Margaret.

GSM 2013 Scholarship Recipient

Last April, The Guild of St. Margaret presented Alice Blackwood with a \$250.00 check to help further her studies of Medieval History. Alice will be graduating this year with a dual degree in English and history. Her academic interests include medieval troubadour and jongleur culture, 15th century England, and medieval law and understandings of criminality. She is a founding member and the senior editor of the *Chicago Journal of History*. In addition to reading French, Spanish, Italian, Latin, and Old French, Alice enjoys music, ballroom dance, and film. What a talented young lady!

Her research paper, “Robyn hoode and his meyne,” discusses the possibility of “Robin Hood as a Festive Figurehead for Local Autonomy.” By the late 1400s, “Robin Hood had claimed a leading role in parish church ales [festivals] and May games, to the point where some parishes renamed their May celebration the ‘Robynhode Ale.’”

Alice’s work includes nearly 60 pages of scholarly research with the purpose of proving that the “conflict between the Crown’s push toward centralization of power and the desire of rural towns and villages to retain their traditions is at the heart of understanding the nature of festive misrule and how it, in the figure of Robin Hood, managed to shape actual rebellion and criminal activity in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.”



Alice Blackwood accepts the GSM certificate and check as presented by Daisy Delogu, Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, French Department of Romance Languages and Literatures Director, Undergraduate Program in Medieval Studies

What Is a Clan?

From the Gaelic *clann*, meaning children, comes the name of the system which once regulated life throughout the Scottish Highlands. The clan was indeed like an extended family occupying a specific territory and with a common name and particular tartan.

Each clan was under a chieftain, who was chosen by the clan based on his leadership qualities, strength and endurance as well as his diplomatic ability during “times of adversity.” The clan’s survival depended on a strong chief. It was imperative that he kept the respect of all of his clansmen. Upon a chieftain’s death, a son might succeed him IF he had the attributes of his father. If not, the clan would elect another leader. Outsiders could place themselves under the protection of a powerful chief, but in return they had to swear to obey and serve him as their master. In this rugged land, being under the protection of a great chieftain was almost a necessity.

Men in the clans were either warriors or tenders of crops or the animals - herds of cattle or flocks of sheep. Of course, it was an honor to be a warrior. The primary privilege of this class was the exemption from physical toil. However, some of those who worked the land and cared for the animals could rent small plots from the chief and gain some respectability as “crofters.” Below the crofters in the social order came the “cottars,” farmers who had no land of their own unless they sub-leased a small strip from a crofter who was often a relative.

Although women spun the yarn, the men wove it into lengths of cloth in their clan’s colors that they would wrap around them, folding it over their left shoulders and securing it with clasps. At night, these cloths could serve as blankets.

The death of Queen Elizabeth I and the ascension of the Scottish King James VI to the English throne as King James I spelled the beginning of the end of the clan system, especially as James chose England as his home. The system faded away, but the romance of the clan, the tartans, the bagpipes, the highlands continues to live in the hearts of those of us with Scottish heritage.

Source: Fraser, Elizabeth. *An Illustrated History of Scotland*, pp. 108-113 (Jarrold Pub, 1997).



excerpts from the St. Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter
January, 2014
Edinburgh, Scotland

St. Margaret's Day is a bit in the past, but I do hope that many of you have happy memories of our Patron's visit. It was indeed special to have HRH The Princess Royal with us for part of the day and that so many of us had the opportunity to talk with her.

Margaret Lindsell Convenor



We were delighted that our Patron was able to join us for the AGM on St Margaret's Day and that she made a point of speaking to so many of us.

We were also very pleased with the number of Margarets attending, (98).

These numbers, however, combined with the demands of the Princess's schedule, meant that the lunch had to be a buffet rather than the usual sit down meal.

Kathy M Fairweather Secretary

St. Margaret's Chapel Altar Frontal

As many of you will be aware a second Altar Frontal is being commissioned to alternate with the existing one that was designed and sewn in 1993 by Hannah Frew Paterson MBE to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of St Margaret. This should ensure that the Chapel is never without an Altar Frontal during cleaning or damage repair from our rodent friends! The project is still in its infancy, but the latest news is that contact was established with Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh towards to the end of 2013. Their intention is to put together a design brief for third and fourth year students as a potential project to fit in with their required modular work. It is expected that a small team of two or three students will choose to work on the project. The project is being led by Margaret Ann Crawford and Margaret Butler. Funding and donations towards the project are currently being sought.

Margaret Ann Crawford and Margaret Butler

St Margaret of Scotland Guild, USA

I would also like to thank the National Guild of St. Margaret of Scotland in the USA and one of their members for their generous donations to our Altar Frontal Fund.

Hazel Dunn Fellowship Secretary



Annual Meeting and Breakfast Buffet

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

9:00 AM (Board will meet at 8:30)

John Paul Jones Room

The Army and Navy Club, Dianne A. Robinson, sponsor

901 17th Street NW, Washington, DC

Breakfast will consist of scrambled eggs, sausage links, bacon and Belgian waffles with coffee, a selection of teas and assorted juices

\$35.00 per person

Wear your tartan and tell us about your clan.

For those of you who might want to order a Caledonia Modern item, our website has a downloadable form on the Members Only link.

www.guildofstmargaret.com

We hope you and your guests will join us.

Please detach and return this form with your **check payable to GSM to be received by March 28, 2014.** Mail to Mrs. Sue Smith, 10805 Eberhardt Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-3110

Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I will attend the April 8, 2014 Annual Meeting and will have _____ guest(s) at \$35.00 per person. I have enclosed \$_____ to cover the cost of the Breakfast Buffet. The names of my guests are listed here or on the reverse side of this form. _____

I wish to make a contribution in the amount of _____ in honor of / memory of _____
_____. (Please specify if you want your donation applied to a specific use.)

Stained Glass Images of St. Margaret

As a testament to the love and esteem in which Sr. Margaret is still held, dozens of stained glass windows in Scotland and throughout the Christian world feature images of the beloved Queen.

Church of the Holy Cross,
Swainby, North Yorkshire



St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh



St. Mungo's Cathedral, Glasgow