

# The Whistlin' Thistle

Newsletter of the Scottish Society of Wilmington, NC Founded in 1993



**June 2018**

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Bob McLeod

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Ron McCord

Kathleen McLeod

Nel Nichols

Forest Lee Piver

Otis White

Be sure to check out our  
Website at

[www.wilmingtonscots.org](http://www.wilmingtonscots.org)

for event updates and  
membership information.

**Follow us on**

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## *Co-President's Message*

2018 has gotten off to a great start for our society with many exciting events to come. As we marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our society and look forward to the future, we have changed our leadership structure to adapt. For the last several years our past president, Ron McCord, has done a fantastic job of shepherding our growth and community exposure. He has worked tirelessly in representing us in Highland Games in the area, commemorating the Highland Scots at the annual event at Moores's Creek Battlefield. He also was instrumental in organizing the annual Robert Burns Supper and St. Andrews dinner / Annual meeting, not to mention his personal "float" in the St. Patrick's Day parade downtown. We are where we are today in large part due to Ron's selfless dedication. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

As you can see, Ron has left us with some very big shoes to fill. As a result my title, Co-President. Joyce Elliott, a long time member and board member, and I now share the presidency and will share the organizational responsibilities.

In addition to our very active officers and board, we will be encouraging members to participate in committees and events as your time allows. As our numbers grow so does our impact in the community so please encourage your friends and family to join our group.

I would like to see this newsletter grow, so if you have any stories, ideas, or articles that you think others would find interesting, please pass them along. The following pages will list some of our current and upcoming events and projects.

As for this summer, I am packing for Scotland and will report back upon my return!

Aye!

Bob McLeod

## 2018 EVENTS SO FAR:

We started off the year with our 25<sup>th</sup> **Annual Burns Supper** at the Country Club of Landfall. As usual this was a very successful event and the best chance for our membership and guests to become immersed in traditional Scottish culture. From a performance by a pipe band to a taste of haggis following a reciting of Robert Burns "Address to a Haggis" with all the flourishes, Scottish accents, kilts and other attire, it is an event not to be missed. If you don't have a kilt, don't despair, a suit or sport coat is fine. Be on the lookout for a reservation form to be sent out at the end of December for the next supper to be held on Feb. 2, 2019

**Moore's Creek:** I find it amazing how many people in the lower Cape Fear are not familiar with the significance of the Revolutionary War Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge! This National Park is located just a little over 20 miles from downtown Wilmington yet many people have never been there.

Why is this battle so significant to us Scots? Did you know that this was the last recorded battle in the world with Highland Scots mounting a charge carrying broadswords and speaking Gaelic?

It was due to this battle that the North Carolina Assembly became the first colony to authorize its representatives to vote for independence at the Continental Congress. Thus the phrase "First in Freedom" on our license plates.

Did you know that there is a large monument to these Scots at Moore's Creek? Late February during the large battle anniversary event your society lays a wreath at this monument. Won't you join us next year? It is quite a moving experience.



**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Don't tell your Irish friends, but rumor has it that St. Patrick was actually born in Scotland. But true or not, it is a lot of fun to celebrate and party with our fellow Gaelic kin. Early spring is a great time for a parade and it is fun to bring out the kids and dogs and march along with our Scottish flags.

**Spring Ceilidh (pronounced Ka-Lee) and Tartan Day event.** This is our official spring get-together and a time to enjoy some good Celtic music, sip some specially brewed Scottish ale and celebrate Tartan Day. This year it was at the Waterline Brewery under the Memorial Bridge. We even had some haggis to pass around. We took some time to talk about the 1320 Declaration of Arbroth , a Scottish declaration that the US Declaration of Independence is based upon. We also listened to the Celtic band from Raleigh, Barrowburn



**Saltwater Highland Games:** Your Society has an information tent along “clan row” at highland games and Scottish Festivals in the area. One of those games is in Myrtle Beach. For 2018 they moved the games from south of the Myrtle Beach airport to Little River, half the distance from Wilmington. Even though the weather was a little more Scottish than we like, we had a pretty good attendance from the Wilmington area. We give out pamphlets and educate people about our society and encourage membership. It is really fun talking to the visitors to the tent and educating the public about the Scottish influence and history of this part of the country. Please consider spending some time at the tent with us. I think you will find it enjoyable.

## **2018 Events to Come:**

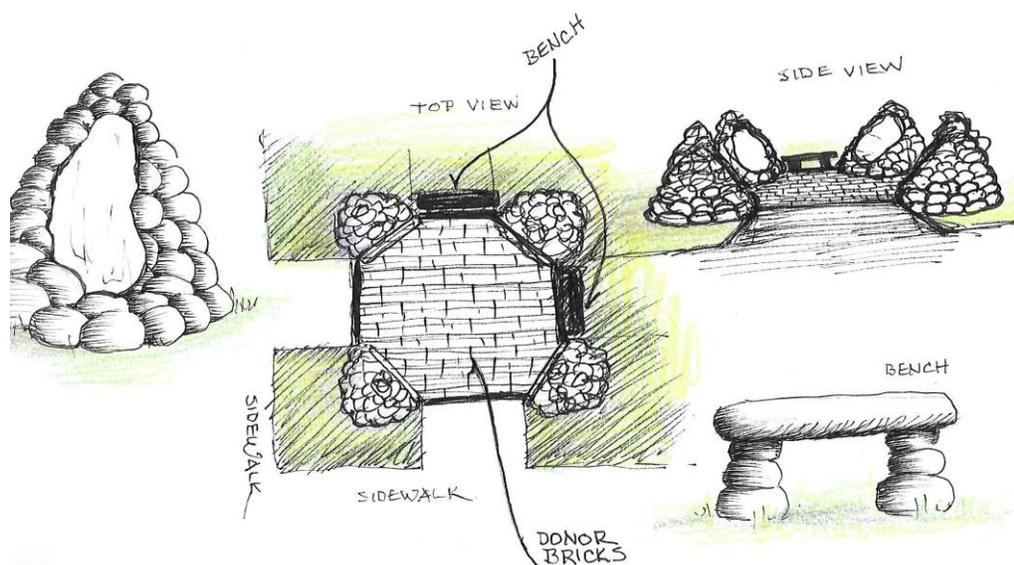
After our “summer break” our first event will be our informational tent **at the Cape Fear Highland Games** here in Wilmington on September 29. Please come by, sign our guest book and spend some time with us. We will have some chairs for members and will have a great viewing location for the athletics.

In November we have our **St. Andrews Dinner and General Meeting.** This is a pot luck dinner with the Society providing meats and beverages. It is a chance for socializing and the election of officers and board members for the upcoming year. We haven’t finalized a venue yet so if anyone lives in a place with a central party room for rent, please let me know.

## **OTHER PROJECTS:**

A **monument to Scottish Migration:** Anybody that has been in the Wilmington area for any length of time knows that this is a very historic city. I already mentioned our Revolutionary War connection with Moore’s Creek and of course it is well known that Lord Cornwallis was headquartered here for a brief time. We know that Wilmington was the last port of the

Confederacy to fall, and the WW-II shipyard is well documented. But, how many know that in the mid 1700's the largest migrations of Scots in the country came through the port of Wilmington? Between the battle of Culloden in Scotland in 1746 and the American Revolution in 1776 there were more Scots in Southeast North Carolina than any place in the world other than Scotland! Most went up the Cape Fear River and settled in Scotland County and Fayetteville (Cross Creek) as well as northeastern South Carolina but Wilmington was their gateway. We believe that this part of our history should be memorialized. Your society has started a 501 (c) 3 account to raise money for the design and construction of a fitting memorial. There is much work to be done to see this project to fruition. What will it look like? Where will it be located? How much will it cost? Can we get corporate or foundation sponsorship? We have formed a committee to look into these and other issues. A few concept designs have been submitted. Do you have any ideas? If so contact committee chair Leon Hicks at leonhicks365@gmail.com.



**Literary Prize:** We are exploring the possibility of establishing an annual monetary literary prize for scholarly works published by a recognized academic publication that would highlight the Scottish contributions to the Lower Cape Fear. This would help raise the profile of the historic as well as current contributions of persons of Scottish origin or decent.

Have a great summer and follow and like us on Facebook. Also check out our website, [www.wilmingtonscots.org](http://www.wilmingtonscots.org)

For those that have let their membership expire or have interested family or friends a membership application is included with this newsletter.

Scottish Society of Wilmington  
P.O. Box 4164 Wilmington NC 28406-4164

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (check one)

Individual / \$20.00

Family / \$30.00

Sustaining / \$50.00

(fees are pro-rated by whole month if less than 12 months for initial year)

Volunteers are needed for the following committees:

Newsletter / contributing writer or photographer

Robert Burns Supper & Celebration (Jan./Feb.)

Anniversary of Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (Feb.)

SSOW Ceilidh (Spring)

Scot's Heritage Day at Moore's Creek Battlefield Park (June)

Scotland County Highland Games (October)

SSOW Annual Meeting (Fall)

St. Andrews Day (November)

Please return this application with your check (payable to "Scottish Society of Wilmington) to...

Scottish Society of Wilmington

P.O. Box 4164

Wilmington NC 28406-4164

Questions?      Bob McLeod [holdfast4909@gmail.com](mailto:holdfast4909@gmail.com) (910) 769-2109

Joyce Elliot [whefrog@aol.com](mailto:whefrog@aol.com)