

# The Society of Scottish Armigers

SSA Newsletter, Vol. 1, No 2.  
December 2008  
Dwyer Quentin Wedvick, Editor



**1. Tent hosted for HSS and SSA at the Highland Games of the 25th Anniversary Scottish Festival:** Held at The Fairgrounds, Goshen, Connecticut (CT) ( about 40 Miles NE of Danbury, CT, USA ) on Saturday, 4 October 2008.

T'was chilly but with the promise of a sunny day when we met at my house in New Milford, CT at 7:00 AM with John Logan, HSS and SSA Member, and again with Paul Campbell, HSS Member, and his son, Ian ( age 13 ), who came up from Dumont, New Jersey, ( 75 miles away) to help host, the tent for the HSS and SSA in Goshen.

*Right - Dwyer Wedvick trying a new Balmoral cap knit by HSS Member Maeghan MacDougal, the cap sports the follower's cap badge of the family and friends of John Glynn of Glynstewart*



On our way at 7:15, we arrived in Goshen at 8 to set up. We were early and were almost ready to open for business at 9 as our neighbours were arriving and doing the same. It began to warm and the sun to shine as it did day long,



*Left - Put the travelling flagpole up with our new pennon and the SSA Banner, it stood proud at 19 feet high.*

We got one party interested in the possibility of applying for a grant of arms and allowed that he might buy a copy of the enjoyable "Scottish Heraldry" by Mark Dennis, Chairman of the HSS...

Visitors were few unfortunately, as the crowds were thin, we estimate something around one thousand people attended...

**Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick**

## **2. SSA Midyear Meeting, October 18, 2008, of the SSA, Stone Mountain, GA**

A Midyear Meeting of the Members of the Society of Scottish Armigers, Inc. was held at the Stone Mountain Highland Games on October 18, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. Present were John Glynn of Glynstewart, Jeffrey M. Johnstone, Col William P. Boswell of Toberchurn, Ian Greig, Maj. Randal Massey of Dunham, and Lord Montgomerie.

Chairman Boswell presided and Vice Chairman Johnstone recorded the minutes. The chairman declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Right** - *The banners of Johnstone and The Lord Montgomerie flying, SSA members L to R are; Bill Boswell of Toberchurn, John Glyn of Glynstewart, Randal Massey of Dunham and The Lord Montgomerie*



Gathering 2009. Lord Montgomerie brought the members up to date on the status of the 2009 Gathering. At present, it is contemplated that the SSA's AGM will be a meeting during the day on Saturday, probably a luncheon meeting at noon. Other possibilities are Saturday morning meeting or a Sunday meeting.



**Left** - *In front of the tent and the banner of The Lord Montgomerie we have L to R John Glynn of Glynstewart, Jeff Johnstone, Bill Boswell of Toberchurn, Ian Greig Randal Massey of Dunham and The Lord Montgomerie.*

Larger Images can be viewed at the SSA's Online Gallery;

<http://www.scotarmigers.net>

Proposed locations are the Beehive Restaurant or the Arts Club. A cocktail party for attending members, perhaps on Thursday, is also a possibility. More information will follow after the chairman's visit to Lyon in December. It is necessary for members who plan to attend to get their room reservations and passports to the Gathering as soon as possible.

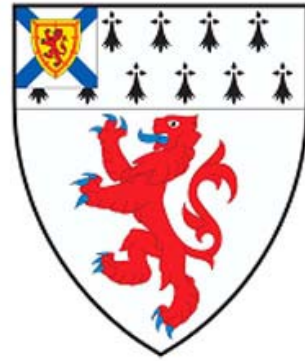
SSA intends to begin attending games in Florida. The Jacksonville, Florida, Games are in January and the Orlando, Florida, Games are held in March. Also, SSA is planning to attend the following other Games: Greenville, South Carolina; Glasgow, Kentucky; Charleston, South Carolina; Edinburgh, Scotland; Loch Norman, North Carolina; Ligonier, Pennsylvania; and Stone Mountain, Georgia. reservations and passports to the Gathering as soon as possible.

**Contributor: Col. Wm. P. Boswell of Toberchurn**

### 3. From the Wedvick Armorial:

[ 035 ]

**Moncrieffe**



**ARMS:** *Moncrieffe*

**ARMIGER:** Sir Rupert Iain Kay Moncrieffe of that Ilk, Bt., CVO, DL, QC, FSA Scot., FSA, PhD.

**BLAZON:** Argent, a lion rampant Gules armed and langued Azure, a chief Ermine thereon a canton of Nova Scotia.

#### **SOURCE/NOTES & CREDITS:**

The blazon to the armiger's arms was taken from "An Ordinary of Arms", Volume II, Edinburgh, 1977, page 264, ordinary no. 03956 from the matriculation dated 5 December 1966. The 11th Baronet and 24th Laird of Moncrieffe, born 19 April 1919, was Albany Herald at the Court of the Lord Lyon and one of Scotland's most famous and knowledgeable heraldists and genealogists of the 20th century. Although he was the author of a number of books and many, many articles, we remember him best from his "Simple Heraldry" illustrated by the late Don Pottinger. Sir Iain died on 27 February 1985, age 65. The artwork is a rendering by John Hamilton Gaylor.

**Contributor:** *Dwyer Wedvick*

#### **4. Meeting with Lord Lyon:**

On 1 December 2008 the Chair and past chairs Captain Cook of Kingerly and Major Massey of Dunham met with the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh to discuss how the Society could best serve him in the portion of our mission involving the dissemination of information as to Lyon Court policy on the granting and matriculation of Arms. Lyon Sellar was quite welcoming and appreciative of our continuing efforts to work with those who contact us at Scottish Games.

He promised to keep us apprised of any changes in policy from prior practice and indicated that he was still settling into the office. We assured him that we viewed a substantial portion of our role as communication and also encouraged him to follow Lyon Blair's practice of travel to Scottish events in the Diaspora, which he seemed interested in doing. We also advised him that there was great interest in the Scottish community abroad as to the peculiar aspects of the Scots Law of Arms and he was frankly surprised at the size of the attendance at Scottish Games, especially in the United States. Contributor: Col. Wm. P. Boswell of Toberchurn

#### **6. Office of the Lord Lyon:**

3 December 2008, The Lord Lyon, William David Hamilton Sellar, has posted a modification to the approached the pervious Lord Lyon, Robin Orr Blair, had taken

to the granting of arms of holders of the dignity of baron.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms wishes to advise as follows regarding Petitions for the Grant of Arms:

*"In respect of future Petitions for Grants of Arms by persons owning a dignity of baron which has been acquired post the appointed day (that is, 28 November 2004), provided that the Lord Lyon determines that the dignity of baron exists, that the petitioner is a virtuous and well deserving person and determines to exercise his discretion in their favour to grant arms the Lord Lyon will, (1) if so required, officially recognise the petitioner as "Baron of [the barony]" and (2) grant them ensigns armorial with a helmet befitting their degree, namely the helmet assigned to the barons.*

*When a petitioner has no connection with Scotland that otherwise brings the petitioner within the jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon, Lyon accepts that subject to other relevant considerations he will accept the ownership of a dignity of a barony as sufficient to bring the petitioner within his discretionary jurisdiction to grant arms to that person as a person who will require to bear arms in Scotland by reason of his ownership of the dignity."*

Source: [www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/536.html](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/536.html),

**Contributor : Donald Draper Campbell**

### **7. More of Roddy Young:**

I too had a cap badge made by this Scots artist and master jeweller.

I highly recommend him if you must have the verra best!

**Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick**



### **8. Proceedings of the 27th Congress in St Andrews:**

The Proceedings of the 27th Congress in St Andrews have now been printed (43 papers amounting to almost 800 pages in 2 volumes) and will be sent out shortly to Congress Delegates. Full colour is used throughout the volumes as appropriate.

Other armorists who would like copies can purchase them as follows: HSS Members GBP 40, non-members GBP 50. Postage UK GBP 7, Europe (Air) GBP 11, Rest of World (Air) GBP 20.

Those with PayPal accounts can pay via e-mail at [info@heraldry-scotland.co.uk](mailto:info@heraldry-scotland.co.uk). North American members can pay via our North American Delegate Donald Draper Campbell, otherwise send a Sterling cheque to our Treasurer, Stuart Emerson, 25 Craigentiny Crescent, Edinburgh, EH7 6QA, UK, and also advise me of postal delivery address by e-mail asap ([J.D.Floyd@hw.ac.uk](mailto:J.D.Floyd@hw.ac.uk)) so that orders can be included with the Delegates posting. If sending cheques in non-Sterling currency, please add an additional GBP7 to allow for bank charges here, and

convert at current exchange rates.

Prof. James Floyd Managing Editor, Proceedings of 27th Congress, St Andrews 2006.

For those wishing to pay with a dollar check, please contact Donald Draper Campbell [cmpblidd@ix.netcoml.com](mailto:cmpblidd@ix.netcoml.com) for the conversion rate between dollars and pounds.

**Contributor : Donald Draper Campbell**

#### **9. James Cowen of Ross Hall, Nineteenth Century Romantic?**

Discovered whilst perusing through a copy of "Fac Simile of an Ancient Heraldic Manuscript" emblazoned by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, Lyon King of Arms 1542, ed. by David Laing, L.L.D., Edinburgh, pub. by William Patterson, MDCCCLXXVIII, that the inside front cover held two bookplates, the second of which is heraldic and we believe of interest. This plate states the name and motto of the owner as Jacobvs Cowan de Rosshall, Armiger and his motto: Vires et Fides. Looking him up in Sir James Balfour Paul's "Ordinary of Arms", second edition, of January 1903, an entry was found on page 350, under number 5183 to wit: Argent, a saltire and chief gules, the former charged with an escallop or. James Cowan of Ross Hall, co. Renfrew (1888). Curious that he had a bookplate made up with his name, territorial designation, additionally using the adjective, armiger, all in Latin. We think it's an example of romanticism of the period started by Sir Walter Scott, Bt.



**Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick**

**10. Regarding the "Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008"** See "Information Leaflet No. 19" under "Relevant Documents" elsewhere in the SSA website. **Contributor: John Duncan of Sketraw**

**11. News and other article submissions:** Please send articles as MS Word documents as attachments ) and pictures as jpeg images as attachments to the SSA Newsletter Editor, Dwyer Wedvick, at [dqwedvick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dqwedvick@sbcglobal.net) or to [Fatima@ageoffaith.org](mailto:Fatima@ageoffaith.org)

**Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick**

**12. SSA Member George Van Syckle:** of Branchville, Sussex County, NJ, USA, died suddenly on, Sunday 19 October 2008.

He was 83, not in great health and had just received his Letters Patent as a Scots armiger from Lyon Court. A widower whose wife died this spring, he had a keen interest in heraldry and all that pertained. A good friend and companion on a number of trips to Highland Games in the US, he also A few years ago traveled to

Edinburgh to attend an investiture of the Order of the Thistle at the invitation of the then Lord Lyon, Robin Blair, CVO. George's Dutch ancestors came to America to New Amsterdam ( later NYC ) in the 1650s and later in 1687 swore allegiance to the English Crown in order to keep their lands. He was also a Scots landowner whose lands run along side ours. He is survived by a son and two daughters and a flock of grandchildren.



Here is an informal shot of an Ad Hoc SSA Members meeting taken on 9 Feb 2008, in a steakhouse in Middletown, NY... I recall there was a nasty snow storm blowing.... L to R SSA Members John A. Logan, George Van Syckle and your editor. You can be verra sure the Table Banners (TBs) made the steaks taste better... The TBs L to R are of Wedvick, Van Syckle and Logan.

George will be sorely missed by this Mediaeval Misfit 'n Relic.

*Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick*

**Finis !**