



# SAINT ANDREW'S NOBLE ORDER OF ROYAL SCOTS



GUILD NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2017



## IN THIS ISSUE

Event Calendar	Page 1
Progress Pointers, Pleasanton	Page 2
Pierre de Ronsard, the prince of poets	Page 3
Monthly Missive, the Shirrone Gown & Kertch article by member Mistress Brittah Sutherland	Pages 4/5
New Members	Page 6
Member Recognition	Page 6

Below is the calendar from August 31st through October 2nd. For events beyond October 2nd, please refer to our web calendar at...

<http://www.saintandrewsguild.org/calendar/>

Date	Event	Location	Time
August 31	<b>Load Up</b>	Palace of Holyroodhouse Escalon, CA	6:30 pm
September 1	Set-up	Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA	Approximately 11:00 am*
September 2/3	152nd Pleasanton Scottish Highland Gathering & Games	Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA	9:30 am to 6:00 pm
September 4	<b>Unload</b>	Palace of Holyroodhouse Escalon, CA	12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
September 16	Visit to the Leland Stanford House <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/163259540535362/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/163259540535362/</a>	800 N St, Sacramento, CA 95814-4808	11:00 am to...
September 23	St. Anne's Fall Festival Arrive 11:30 am to 12:00 noon for set-up	2800 Camino Diablo (Camino Diablo & McCabe Rds) Byron, CA	2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
September 28	<b>Load Up</b>	Palace of Holyroodhouse Escalon, CA	6:30 pm
September 29	Set-up	Nevada County Fairgrounds Grass Valley, CA	2:00 pm
September 30	KVMR Celtic Festival & Marketplace	Nevada County Fairgrounds Grass Valley, CA	9:30 am to 7:00 pm
October 1	KVMR Celtic Festival & Marketplace	Nevada County Fairgrounds Grass Valley, CA	9:30 am to 6:30 pm
October 2	<b>Unload</b>	Palace of Holyroodhouse Escalon, CA	6:00 pm

\* "Stay tuned for the final verdict."



# PROGRESS POINTERS

152ND SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GATHERING AND GAMES, PLEASANTON, CA 2017

Check weather at: [https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/pleasanton-ca/94566/weather-forecast/337204?utm\\_source=www-thescottishgames-](https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/pleasanton-ca/94566/weather-forecast/337204?utm_source=www-thescottishgames-)



Sponsored by: *The Caledonian Club of San Francisco*

A word from Tanaiste Isabella McDonald Campbell:



Good my Lords and Ladies,

Everyone knows the wonderful fare the tavern provides and are always welcome to provide what you can. As always please make sure you check for freshness and have all that need be cut and ready for the tavern to present.

We do not have the capability to accept your viands at set up, as we don't yet have ice and the tavern is only partially set up. Please bring your viands with you to Faire on Saturday and Sunday.

## HYDRATION

Please remember to start hydrating from now for the faire. A good basic rule of thumb is to take your body weight (in pounds) and divide it by 2. This is the number of ounces of water that you should be drinking each day. For example, if you weigh 150 pounds, you will need 75 ounces of water per day. Divide this by 8 to get the number of 8-ounce glasses you should be drinking.



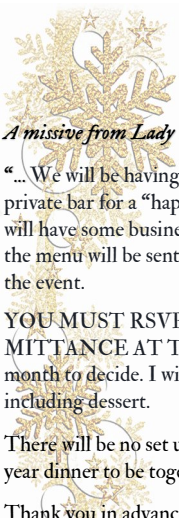
### ATTENTION ST. ANDREW'S!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ONE RUGGED SCOTTISH WAR CHIEFTAIN IN THE PERSON OF GRAHAM MCTAVISH, AKA DOUGAL MACKENZIE, OF OUTLANDER FAME.

HIS SCHEDULE DOES APPEAR TO BE A WEE BIT BUSY THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, BUT FIERCE LOYALTY TO THE STUART CROWN COULD BRING HIM TO HIS QUEEN!

ALL MEMBERS OF ST. ANDREW'S SHOULD BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE MR. MCTAVISH, AND/OR HIS HANDLERS AWARE OF THE STONES THAT COULD BRING HIM TO 1562 AND MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS. DOUBTLESS, HE WOULD NOT NEGLECT HIS DUTY TO BEND THE KNEE TO HER GRACE IF HE KNEW OF HER PROXIMITY.

ANYONE WHO SECURES HIS PERSON INTO COURT, SHALL BE REWARDED WITH HER GRACE'S UNDYING GRATITUDE.



*Available at Pleasanton!*

**Winter's Feast Tickets**

*A missive from Lady Fleming...*

"... We will be having WF at Cattleman's in Livermore on November 4th. We have a private bar for a "happy hour" before dinner, you pay for your own drinks. Then we will have some business before dinner and then dinner and socializing. Invitations with the menu will be sent out sometime in September. You will order your actual meal at the event.

**YOU MUST RSVP and PAY IN ADVANCE!!! THERE WILL BE NO ADMITTANCE AT THE DOOR AS IN PAST YEARS.** You will have about a month to decide. I will have tickets for sale at Pleasanton. The meal is \$37 per person including dessert.

There will be no set up, no cooking, no clean up, no load or unload. Just an end of the year dinner to be together. You still wear your garb but please arrive dressed.

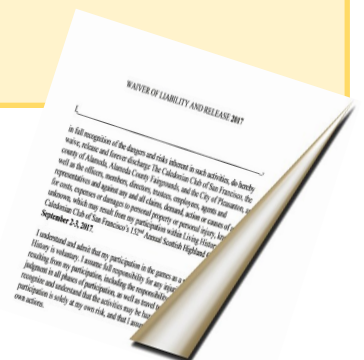
Thank you in advance."

## Reminder...

Have you completed your waiver for P-Town?

The form is available via email from our GM or linked to his post on St. A's [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/163259540573762/): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/163259540573762/>

Submit your waiver to Lord Argyll or pay to play!





# Pierre de Ronsard

## *a prince & a queen*

**K**nown by his own generation as the prince of

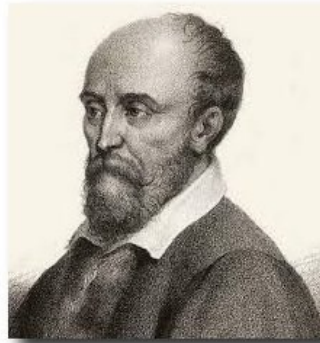
poets, Pierre de Ronsard was

Mary Stuart's favorite French

poet. Their paths crossed in France when Mary was the young Queen of Francis II. He came to her attention because he knew Scotland, having first served there as a page in the household of Madeleine, James V's first wife, staying on more than two years. But beyond their connection to Scotland, Mary was impressed by his style of poetry.

Ronsard and six fellow poets were members of a French renaissance group known as La Pléiade. Regarded as the leader of the group, he guided their break with earlier traditions of French poetry by revolutionizing the style of literature. The group attempted to ennoble the French language by imitating the Ancients but in a fresh and accessible style. They maintained that French was a language worthy for literary expression even in the vernacular. This new approach appealed to the young queen.

When the sad events of Mary's life took her back to Scotland, Ronsard penned the accompanying poem. It is said that she was seen to have read it many times "with tears in her eyes and sighs in her heart".



September 11, 1524 - December 27, 1585

In spring amidst the lilies she was born,  
And purer tints her peerless face adorn;  
And though Adonis' blood the rose may paint,  
Beside her bloom the rose's hues are faint:

With all his richest store Love decked her eyes;  
The Graces each, those daughters of the skies,  
Strove which should make her to the world most dear,  
And, to attend her, left their native sphere.

The day that was to bear her far away,—  
Why was I mortal to behold that day?  
O, had I senseless grown, nor heard, nor seen!  
Or that my eyes a ceaseless fount had been,  
That I might weep, as weep amidst their bowers  
The nymphs, when winter winds have cropped their flowers,  
Or when rude torrents the clear streams deform,  
Or when the trees are riven by the storm!  
Or rather, would that I some bird had been  
Still to be near her in each changing scene,  
Still on the highest mast to watch all day,  
And like a star to mark her vessel's way:  
The dangerous billows past, on shore, on sea,  
Near that dear face it still were mine to be!

O France! Where are thy ancient champions gone,—  
Roland, Rinaldo? —is there living none  
Her steps to follow and her safety guard,  
And deem her lovely looks their best reward,—  
Which might subdue the pride of mighty Jove  
To leave his heaven, and languish for her love?  
No fault is hers, but in her royal state,—  
For simple Love dreads to approach the great;  
He flies from regal pomp, that treacherous snare,  
Where truth unmarked may wither in despair.

Wherever destiny her path may lead,  
Fresh-springing flowers will bloom beneath her tread,  
All nature will rejoice, the waves be bright,  
The tempest check its fury at her sight,  
The sea be calm: her beauty to behold,  
The sun shall crown her with his rays of gold,—  
Unless he fears, should he approach her throne  
Her majesty should quite eclipse his own.

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*Do you have the poetic gift or a favorite sonnet by another you would like to present in court? Her Grace would be most pleased to be inspired by your reading.*

*Poem submitted by Guyonne du Breuil*





# Monthly Missive

## The Shinrone Gown & Kertch



by Mistress Brittab Sutherland  
aka Tina Anderson

**When** we first joined St Andrew's about 18 years ago I joined the Highland Household. Our standard garb as a Highland woman was two skirts (the top skirt bunched up around your tummy and tucked into your belt, a chemise, and bodice. On our heads we either wore tams or snoods. I don't recall how it came about, but at some point I became aware of the "bog dress", the Shinrone Gown, which is a 16<sup>th</sup> century dress found in a bog in Ireland.

The dress is described as "made of coarse dark brown woolen homespun, and consists of a bodice and skirt joined together. The bodice has a square opening in front, and the skirt, which measures more than 22.5 feet round at the bottom is made of 23 pieces of cloth or gores seamed together, each about one foot wide at the bottom and narrower at the top. At the top the skirt is drawn by a multitude of small gathers, each held in place by a back-stitch on the inside of the garment, and is there sewn on to a separate bodice. ...The sleeves are unfortunately too much tattered to afford any useful information as to their original form." (sic)



Here's a reproduction where the creator endeavored to follow the museum piece, although many of us use a Simplicity pattern that is similar. This pattern has darts, which are not historically accurate, so I avoid including them. In reality the skirt portion of the gown should be closed as shown in the reproduction as opposed to open with an underskirt as in the Simplicity pattern.



*A brèid is a simple, inexpensive way to look historically accurate if your character is from the highlands, and look different from the run of the mill working/peasant class Scottish woman who walks through the gate.*

What I like most about highland garb is the kertch or brèid (pronounced Bray'ch). Several years ago in my effort to do more research about the bog dress and what women from the highlands of Scotland would wear in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century I met a woman named Veronica Chavez who was pretty much obsessed with faire garb versus historically accurate garb for working/peasant class highland women. A brèid is a simple, inexpensive way to look historically accurate if your character is from the highlands, and look different from the run of the mill working/peasant class Scottish woman who walks through the gate. It also is an excellent way to hide modern haircuts and colors. My brèid is made of the lightest weight 100% cotton I could find. The light weight of the fabric allows it to wrap easily around my head and it breathes in the heat of California faires. I have decorated mine with an embroidered celtic knot and at one time I had a couple of beads hanging from the two points in the back, both for decoration and to get it to drape the way I want.





Veronica's article says it all about the brèid, so rather than plagiarize I will quote her here. Her article talks about being Catholic, I extend the wearing of a brèid to all married women of the highlands, and of course as the Shinrone Gown was found in Ireland, all of this extends to working/peasant class Irish women as well.

**"The Kertch, or Am Brèid** (pronounced Bray'ch)

by: Victoria Chavez aka Alison inghean Coinneach mhec Iain of the Clan Guinne

Many misconceptions I often see at faire come from most people playing a Scottish female character. I am aware that we do not know much about Scots women of the time, however there is one thing that is an historical certainty. A married Scots woman, who was Catholic, would always wear a kertch known in Gaelic as *brèid*. Never would a married woman be seen wearing a *Bonaid* (the man's little round flat knitted thing, mistakenly called a tam).

It is simply a piece of white cotton muslin or fine linen cut into a PERFECT 1yd by 1yd square.

- Fold it over into a triangle and tie on like a kerchief so your hair is inside of it.
- You will have two VERY long loose ends, pull these up on top of your head where your kertch meets your hair line and twist.
- Tie the two ends together in a square knot and tuck the two short loose "rabbit ears" under the band you have just created.

We play Catholics and up until Vatican II, Rome dictated that impure women needed to cover their hair at Mass (ideally impure WAS married). It used to be they covered their hair all the time up until this century and then it was just at Mass until Vatican II in the 60's deemed it unnecessary. The *brèid* is your wedding band, marriage was the right of passage for women. "...the young bride wore it on the morning after her wedding."<sup>1</sup>

In Scottish clan society married women were allowed to hold property, participate in clan decision making and given respect as a "real" person. Before marriage, a woman was just a "girl", she knew nothing of the real world. This is why if you are old enough to be married, play married, your status is much higher. If you are young enough to get by playing unmarried, wear your hair down with nothing covering it. (Do NOT wear a snood, this is a Lowland and English fashion). "The ordinary girls wear nothing upon their heads until they are married or get a child...their hair hangs down over the forehead, like that of a wild colt."<sup>2</sup>

\* If your hair is too short to be seen you must wear a kertch and thus play a married women so that it is covered.

\* You would wear the kertch after being widowed (widow life is even better, you keep your status, probably some money and no husband to contend with) because you were still impure, you would want to wear it, again, to uphold your status.

The kertch, if worn correctly, will have about 3 points on the back, the religious symbolism being the holy trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) under whose guidance a wife was to walk...literally.

Feel free to decorate the ends of your *brèid* with knot work embroidery, this is a very important piece of your clothing that you would spend time on. "The indication of a women's marital status by the type of her head-covering is not uncommon in European folk costume. In the Highlands of Scotland this practice was taken seriously and in some cases the kertch or coif was the finest piece of attire in a poor woman's possession."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Tefler Dunbar, *History of Highland Dress*, p.100

<sup>2</sup> John Tefler Dunbar, *The Costume of Scotland*, p.125

<sup>3</sup> John Tefler Dunbar, *The Costume of Scotland*, p.125"



*Ahey me hearties! St. Andrew's has set its theme for All Hallow's Fantasy Faire, 2017. Aye, pirates it be! Exchange a word with yer Head o' House to fashien yer garb. Ye will want t' aveyde the nastie beastlyness of lockin' the part o' the common sand'subber by refinin' yer appearance. St. A's mighty sleep will be raisin' her sails for Sonora's harbor October 27th so ye plenty o' tyme to gather yer gear afore we set sail! Arrr and pass the Nelson's felly!*



## Hear ye, Hear ye Saint Andrew's!

A play has been written (and performed), a poem has been penned and recited to critical acclaim, and community service has been rendered. All that remains is the final step. Don't miss the Knighting ceremony of Squire Magnus MacRanald, September 2nd at the 152nd Pleasanton Scottish Highland Gathering & Games!



WELCOME NEW members!



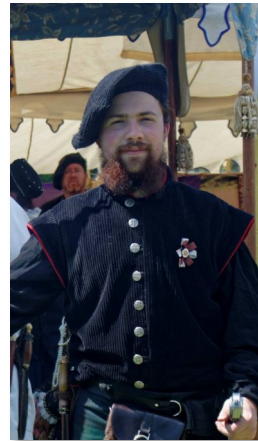
Seamus Crichton  
Royal Guard

Seamus was fascinated from a young age by old family stories of going up against the English in battle, particularly against their dreaded longbows. His fascination was such that a relative managed to procure a longbow and some arrows as a gift for the young Seamus. He spent his adolescent years training in its use and studying how to duplicate the weaponry. His uncle Robert, the Lord Advocate, witnessing Seamus's passion and skill with his weaponry of choice, was impressed enough to recommend his nephew for the Royal Guard.

St. A's, make welcome Seamus Crichton, aka David Ingalls.

WINNER OF THE THOR'S HAMMER  
MONTEREY SCOTTISH GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

DABHAIDH MACLEAN, AKA ADAM MILLSON



From load-up, set-up, faire and tear down, your hard work exemplified the high standard of the Thor's Hammer achievement award. Congratulations on a job well Done!



## DO ST. A'S A FAVOR!

Calling all guild members!  
We need a favor or two, or...  
Put your skills to work and help keep the favors basket full.



Helpful tips see:



[http://www.saintandrewsguild.org/PDFs/Favor\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.saintandrewsguild.org/PDFs/Favor_Guidelines.pdf)