



Volume 48 Issue 1: January & February 2026

A Message From Our President

Beannachdan,

As I am sure many of our members are settling into a season of tradition and fellowship with cherished friends and family, so does our Society move into a season of celebration. Rabbie Burns will soon be rapping at the door for his birthday.

Years ago, I attended my first Burns Supper with a small group of individuals who asked what I knew about Robert Burns. Apart from all the usual answers, ones that you'd think would be on a school test; did he like the ladies? Was he poor? What did his Father do? I was challenged to present The Immortal Memory. The thought encouraged me to delve into his life and to learn more about Scotland's Bard.

A good friend of mine encouraged me to pick up a book of his works and to familiarize myself with what he actually wrote. In this process, I came across his work titled Frae The Friends and Land I Love. In this stanza, ...Till the Fates, nae mair severe, Friendship, love and peace restore..., the work goes on to speak of a return of the individual to something pure and mindful of home.

That is my hope for us all this season. I look forward to seeing many of you in the new year to return to a place where many are one. Sharing in a tradition that honors an individual who so passionately described life and its many virtues and wonders in a land known as Alba!



Cheers to you all!

Jonathan D. Wilson
President,
St. Andrew Society of Colorado



Come Celebrate Scotland's Greatest Gift to the World

"The voice of Nature
loudly cries,
And many a message
from the skies,
That something in
us never dies."

- Robert Burns



On January 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM, we're gathering at the Denver Marriott South to honor Robert Burns: the ploughman poet who gave his voice to every one of us.

This isn't just dinner. It's a night to remember why Burns still matters 229 years after his death. We'll raise a dram to "The Immortal Memory." We'll recite his words; those radical, beautiful lines that said a poor man has as much worth as any lord, that love matters more than money, and that all of us, "Man to Man the world o'er, Shall brithers be for a' that."

Burns wrote for common people in the language they spoke. He celebrated farmers, lovers, rebels, and dreamers. He made Scottish culture something to be proud of when Scotland needed that most. And every January 25th, Scots everywhere, from Edinburgh to Colorado, gather to say: we remember. We celebrate. We carry this forward.

What to Expect:

- Performances by the Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers
- Denver & District Pipe Band
- Traditional Address to a Haggis
- Recitations of Burns's poetry
- Whisky ceremony and Toast to The Immortal Memory
- Three-course meal
- Dancing
- A night that connects us to something bigger than ourselves

Denver Marriott South
at Park Meadows
10345 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree, CO 80124

[Learn more & get tickets](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Burns Supper: January 24th at 5 PM- Register HERE](#)
- [Lecture: Jacobite Scotland](#) - February 7th at 2 PM

Our website now takes RSVPs to events, to be sure to check out the events page often and sign up for events you plan to attend. This helps us to plan the best events we can for you!

Coming Soon:

- Colorado Tartan Day
- St. Patrick's Day events
- Kirkin' o' the Tartan
- Highland Happy Hour

Know of other Scottish or Celtic events that we should include here? Email us the details at info@coloradoscots.com

From Our Members

- [A Scottish Night in Colorado: My First Ceilidh](#): Ever wondered what happens at a ceilidh if you don't know the dances? Braeden Goggans walked into the St Andrew's Day celebration nervous and left with a story worth sharing. His first-timer's perspective on Scottish country dancing is exactly the kind of welcome our community offers.

- **Bringing Scotland's New Year Spirit to Colorado: A Guide to Hogmanay and Beyond:** Scots don't just celebrate New Year's, we throw ourselves into it like we've discovered a new whisky distillery. From first-footing to coal and shortbread, here's why Hogmanay is more than just another party, and how you can bring those traditions to Colorado.

Be Part of This

Volunteer. We need hands for events, ideas for outreach, and people who just want to help. Any capacity, any skill level. We'll find the right spot for you.

Write. Got a Scotland story? Clan history? A recipe? Book review? Reflection on what Scottish heritage means to you? We want your voice, whether it's 200 words or 2,000. Send us anything, and we'll figure out if it's newsletter material, blog content, or something in between. No experience required, just enthusiasm.

Share Your Experiences. Spotted Scottish history in Colorado? Had a heritage moment? Tried making tablet for the first time? Send it our way. Your stories strengthen this community.

Reach out:

Volunteer → volunteer@coloradoscots.com

Writing & Stories → editor@coloradoscots.com

Help us shape 2025's Highland Herald. What content brings you closer to your heritage?

The newsletter is great as is

Deeper clan features & history

Member perspectives & heritage stories

Scottish history deep-dives

Modern Scottish culture & influence

Get Ready for the Games

Celebrate your Scottish roots with clothing & accessories for the whole family available in over 500 tartans.

DRESS YOUR CLAN TODAY



Use code "SASC10" at Scotland Shop

Receive 5% off your order and another 5% will be donated to our society

Scotland Shop

Ceud Mile Failte

(Key-ut Meeluh Fawl-chuh)

"100,000 Welcomes"

We extend a hearty welcome to all new members when they join the St. Andrew Society of Colorado.

Please welcome our new members:

- Wesley & Claudia Jones, Denver



The council meets monthly to review and plan society business.

Elected Members

President - [Jonathan Wilson](#)

Vice-President - [Gillian Faith](#)

Secretary - [Peter Manfredo](#)

Treasurer - OPEN

Director of Marketing - [Samantha Hurst](#)

Member-at-Large: [Mike Saunders](#)

Member-at-Large: [Alison Kelman](#)

Member-at-Large: [Shellie Brinkley](#)

Member-at-Large: [Harold Roberts](#)

Associate Members

Immediate Past Chieftain: [Janet Carroll](#)

Membership - [Trainee in progress](#)

Editor - [Trainee in progress](#)

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

All SASC members are welcome and encouraged to attend council meetings.

Email info@coloradoscots.com to learn how to attend.

Web Master - OPEN

Historian - [Kira Johnson](#)

Archivist - OPEN

Heritage Fund/Comptroller - [Larry Hay](#) - **looking for comptroller trainee**

Colorado Tartan Day - [Matthew Buchanan](#)

RM Highland Dancers - [EJ Bennet](#)

Scottish Country Dance - [Jamie MacKinnon](#)

Games Marshal - [Heather Miller](#)



Seolta Gael
Rodger Hara
Wednesdays
7:00pm - 8:00pm
A weekly exploration of
Celtic music & the
Colorado Celtic
community.

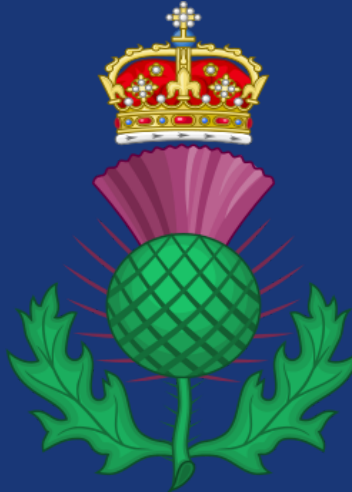


Jean Finnie Casson 1930-2025

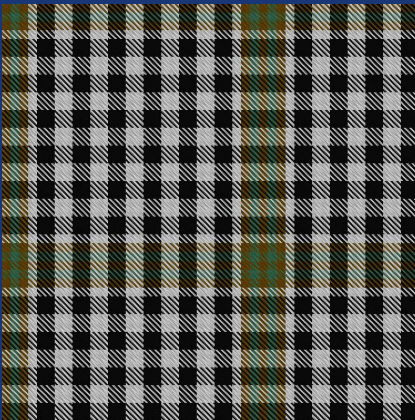
We're thinking of Jean Finnie Casson this Burns season. A lifetime SASC member who passed away in October, Jean asked that memorial gifts support the St. Andrew Society of Colorado Heritage Fund and the other causes she championed. We're grateful she was part of our community.

[Read Jean's Obituary](#)

Clan Feature



Burns's True Affection: The Common People



Crest: Royal Badge of Scotland

Motto: A Man's a Man for A' That

Region: The heart of working Scotland: Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire, and the Scottish Borders.

Clan Chief: As it no longer has a clan chief, it is an armigerous clan.

A tartan for everyone: Baron Marchand of George Harrison & Co. in Edinburgh created the tartan in 1959 for the bicentenary of Robert Burns's birth, basing it on the Shepherd's Check with the "hodden grey and a' that" overcheck and green for the fields.

Burns didn't claim kinship with powerful clans or ancient chiefs—he claimed kinship with something far more radical: every person. Born in Ayrshire to a tenant farmer, he spent his life among ploughmen, shepherds, milkmaids, and those who worked the land. And through his poetry, he elevated these "common" people to heroes.

He loved the Lowlands: not the glamorous Highlands of clan chiefs and castles, but the working farmlands of Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire. The fields where ordinary Scots labored. The streams (burns) that gave so many their names. The parishes where people gathered, danced, drank, and lived.

His famous lines say it all: "The rank is but the guinea's stamp, The Man's the gowd for a' that."

Burns didn't write for aristocrats. He wrote in Scots rather than English so that shepherds and farmers could see themselves in poetry. He made cottage life, rural

traditions, and working-class dignity the subjects worthy of art.

This is why the Burns name transcends clan politics: It belongs to the people Burns championed: the farmers, workers, dreamers, rebels, and anyone who believes that worth comes from character, not title.

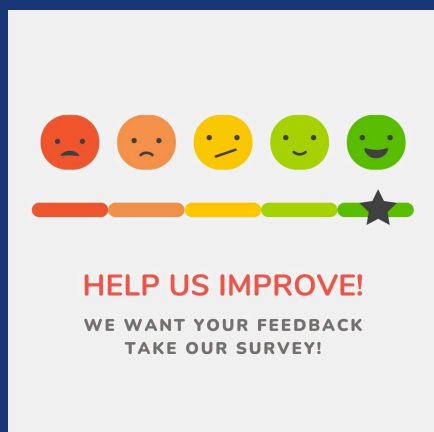


Weekly Classes!

Every Sunday, 4:30-6:30 pm
Sodal Hall, The Avalon Ballroom
6185 Arapahoe Rd, Boulder
Contact Sandra Somr, 303-524-9487

Every Monday, 7:15-9 PM
St. Peter & St. Mary Episcopal Church
126 W 2nd Ave, Denver, CO 80223
Contact Jamie MacKinnon, 303-451-7466

[Learn More](#)



[Take the Survey!](#)



Want a fancy name tag to wear to events? Purchase one today using the link below.

Scroll down to the bottom of the page.

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Donate to the Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund is a perpetual endowment that will one day support the activities of the Society. All donations are tax-deductible.

[Donate Now](#)

Sponsors



Highland Game Sponsors





The Highland Herald

The Highland Herald is published for members of the St. Andrew Society of Colorado six times per year in:
January, March, May, July, September and November.

(Deadline is on the 15th of the month before the issue, by Noon MST) ~ 12/15, 2/15, 4/15, 6/15, 8/15, 10/15 ~

For Advertising, article submission, or other information contact the editor at editor@coloradoscots.com

Membership

For membership questions email us at membership@coloradoscots.com



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