



President's Newsletter Volume 47 #1 (February 10, 2026)

Greetings members! Happy Hogmanay tae aw! Let's mak it brow!

This newsletter commemorates a very active and successful past year for the St. Andrews Society of the City of Albany (the Society) in terms of program events, new memberships, and the election of a new slate of Officers. I look forward to another event-filled year buoyed by Member participation and enthusiasm! Last summer's and fall's events enjoyed by Members of the Society are highlighted within, as well as our Schedule of events for the next few months of 2026.

Remembrances:

We were saddened by the passing of Frank D. Alguire on December 13, 2025. Frank, a former Member and Secretary of our Society was a frequent attendee of our events and meetings as well the former Economic Developer of Greene County. Frank helped to design the Environmental Science program at Plattsburgh State College and was its first graduate. In addition to our Society and all things Scottish, Frank had great enthusiasm for rock 'n' roll, camping, boating, hot rods, and anything that "went fast." I had many conversations with Frank about the progress of his 1923 Ford T-bucket hot rod, a labor of love he proudly worked on for more than 25 years. Surviving are his loving wife Gail, three sons, Gregg, Max, and William, five grandchildren, sister, niece, nephew and many cousins. We have offered our deepest condolences to Frank's family and are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.



Figure 1: Frank D. Alguire



Figure 2: Priscilla Suprise

We were also sad to hear of the passing of Priscilla Suprise, Mother of Society Member Timothy Suprise and Grandmother of Society Member Gabriel Suprise on November 21, 2025 at the age of 95. I know the family finds comfort in the knowledge that Mrs. Suprise was able to live all her days at home due to the loving care provided by her son Timothy and daughter-in-law Mardy and other family members, and that she will be reunited with her husband of 72 years Cordy, who passed almost two years ago. Mrs. Suprise had a career at the Post Star and Times of Glens Falls and the Accounting Department of Glens Falls National Bank. Faith and Family were her center of gravity, as her life became a testimonial of her devotion to both. A devout Roman Catholic, she volunteered for her long-standing parish St. Michael the Archangel in South Glens Falls twice in her life; the first being 1960's assisting the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Michael's School, and again in the late '90s in working with parish Bereavement Committee. Left to cherish those many memories are her son Timothy and daughter-in-law Mardy Suprise, grandson Gabriel Suprise, granddaughter Sarah Suprise and her husband Kade Gianinetti, and great-granddaughter Sunny Jane Gianinetti, sister Nancy Monsour and her husband Theodore "Ted" Monsour, brother Edward "Eddie" Reese,

sister-in-law Maryellen Reese, and a handful of nieces and nephews. We have extended our condolences to the family and are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. Mrs Surprise's service was held on December 9th and was attended by four Members of the Society, including of course her son and grandson.

Stated Meetings:

The third of the previous year's stated meetings of the Society took place on **May 8th, 2025** at the Society's premises at 150 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY (i.e. "the Rooms"). This meeting was our annual Ladies Night and was very well attended with Members present and remote, and several guests!



Figure 3: The Meeting Room, Members and Guests, May 8th 2025

President Christopher Thornton gavelled the business meeting to order at 7:28 PM. The Society's Chaplain, the Very Rev'd. Gary Kriss, then opened the formal proceedings and delivered the invocation. After brief reports delivered by the Officers of the Society, the Credentials Committee presented an application for Non-Resident Membership In the Society received from Eric Benson, a former member who has since moved to Washington state, which the Credentials Committee recommended to the Members of the Society for approval this evening. Past President Brian McCandless, MD conducted the ballot procedure for the Credentials Committee, resulting in the unanimous approval of Eric's reinstatement as a non-resident member. Welcome back Eric! No other applications for membership or resignations were reported this evening.

First Vice President Jay Higle and First Lady Gretchen Meyer introduced our speaker for the evening's program, Kayla Carlsen, recently selected by the Albany Institute of History & Art (AIHA) to be its next executive director following a national search that attracted more than 70 candidates. Ms. Carlsen, by way of introduction, described her significant background in the arts and antiquities, having grown up in a family of auctioneers in Freehold, NY often visited by Norman Rice, and whose resume includes high-level stints at Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonham's auction houses. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in art history from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., completed the Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program in American History and Material Culture and attended a master's program at Hunter College in New York. She highlighted AIHA's unique position and history as a cultural repository in the region, gave a brief description of some of the Institutes holdings, and outlined recent efforts to strengthen its foundation. Including the hiring of key staff members, such as a new director of education, to enhance community engagement and develop programming intended to attract families and younger participants to ensure the Institute's long-term sustainability.

The fourth of 2025's stated meetings of the Society was held on **September 11th, 2025** at the Rooms. There was a good turnout for this meeting, the event being our annual Officers Barbecue, organized by Second Vice President Andrew Patterson and providing enjoyable sustenance, liquid refreshment, and fellowship to our Members and Guests from 6:00 to 7:00 PM this evening! President Thornton gavelled the business meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Rev. Kriss then opened the formal proceedings and delivered the invocation. Brief reports were delivered by the Officers of the Society, President Thornton thanking Andy Patterson for organizing the BBQ and all who had participated in the Society's enjoyable summer events. The Credentials Committee reported that there were no propositions for Membership in the Society this evening. President Thornton reported for the Nominating Committee the names of the Officers of the Society proposed for 2026.

Under Reports of Standing and Special Committees, a discussion ensued on improving the building's condition for the Society's 225th Anniversary celebration, upcoming in 2028. Special projects considered for completion prior to this milestone included restoring the front portal and completing the renovation of the third floor lounge (i.e. the "Heritage Room" as a comfortable space to display some of the Society's artifacts as well as to enjoy various printed and digital media consistent with the Society's purpose. A motion to create a committee for the Anniversary Celebration was passed. Andy Patterson was suggested as its chair.

The fifth stated meeting for 2025 of the Society (i.e. the “Annual Meeting”) was held **November 13th, 2025** at the Rooms. There was a good turnout of Resident and Non-Resident Members in physical and remote attendance at the Meeting. A quorum of members being present, and this being the Annual Meeting and having a very full agenda, the meeting was called to order promptly at 7:07 PM by First Vice President Higle, presiding at the request of President Thornton who was unable to attend due to another commitment. Rev. Kriss then opened the formal proceedings and delivered the invocation. Vice President Higle delivered a brief report for the President who commented on two prospective members he has met that may be submitting applications in the near future. The President also cited and committed to supporting the many activities being carried on by the Society in anticipation of its 225th Anniversary Celebration.

Among the Officer’s Reports, Treasurer Thomas Goodfellow stated that the Society had completed its charitable distribution for the fiscal year, and that the Member Directed Benevolence (MDB) Program had worked well. Tom provided a list of the charities that had received benevolences over the past three years to the Members, which the Members appreciated receiving. Member comments on the Report questioned whether the MDB process should begin earlier in the year to avoid being compressed into October, and whether the beneficiary list should be reviewed by the members every few years to determine if a charitable need remains.

Matthew Thornton, Chairman of the Board of Managers, described the program areas the Board has been involved in for the past few months:

- MDB’s: The Board worked with the Treasurer to establish the target number for this fiscal year’s endowment distribution as required under the tax laws.
- Evaluating additional charitable benevolences to qualifying 501.C.3 organizations: The Board will continue to review and evaluate requests for MDB’s to organizations not already included on the Society’s list of charities that have received benevolences, with the goal of increasing Member contributions as the Society’s Endowment continues to grow.
- The Board monitors the results of outstanding dues collection and Matt thanked the Past Presidents for shepherding outreach to achieve that objective.
- The Board is working with the Treasurer on an operating budget, and will soon have the ability to look back at two years of categorized expenses and be able to present that information at each stated meeting.
- The Board worked with Special Committees (i.e. the Scottish Events Committee and House Committee) to understand and support their needs for funding of capital and operating expenses.
- The Board approved internment requests at the Society’s plot at Albany Rural Cemetery.
- The Board has secured an effective Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy.

Matt commended the good work and wisdom provided by Board Members Gordon Peters and Andy Patterson, who are retiring from the Board on the festival of St. Andrew next ensuing.

Dr. Richard (Dick) MacDowell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, proposed the following Officer Candidates for the year 2025 – 2026, as announced at the September Meeting:

Christopher Thornton	President
Jay Higle	First Vice President
Andrew Patterson	Second Vice President
Thomas Goodfellow	Treasurer
Rev. Gary Kriss	Chaplain
Willard Bruce	Librarian/Historian
Richard MacDowell MD.	Physician
Richard Hixon	Secretary
Peter McLetchie	Armorer
Gordon Peters	Piper

The Board of Managers Candidates proposed are Matthew Thornton, Timothy Thornton, William Burke, Richard Mazzaferro, and William Storrs. The proposed slate of officer candidates was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Members.

Dr. MacDowell also reported as Chairman of the Credentials Committee that there were no applications for Membership in the Society to be presented by the Committee this evening.

Vice President Higle asked for reports from the Special Committees.

The House Committee reported that meetings were being held to develop work scopes, schedules, and budgets for select projects to be completed prior to the 225th Anniversary at the Request of the Board. Dan Graves spoke on the work ongoing to transform the third floor Heritage Room, and presented a drawing for shelving units to be recessed into the wall on the south end of the Room, with space for a 40 inch TV.

Richard Mazzaferro, reporting for the Program Committee spoke on several events which are upcoming for the fall and winter 2025 and spring of 2026. These events are listed in the Upcoming Events section of this report.

Events, Summer and Fall 2025:

Members of the Society enjoyed an extremely busy summer and fall, providing the numerous opportunities to experience the magnificent natural environment of Upstate New York described below.

Past Presidents Dinner, June 6th, 2025

Our Annual Dinner at the Albany Country Club honoring the Past Presidents featured spectacular views from atop the Helderberg Escarpment.



Figure 4: Stunning natural beauty all around!

Figure 5: Burn's Address to a Haggis!

The evening's Invocation was delivered by the Very Rev'd. Gary Kriss, Chaplain. The Recitation of Burn's "Address to a Haggis" featured Timothy Suprise, Poet, Matt Farrigan, Piper, William Storrs, Bearer, Richard MacDowell MD, Henchman, and Richard Mazzaferro, Boozer!



Figure 6: The Higles Celebrate their 55th Anniversary!



Figure 7: Chris Uhl and Harpist Elizabeth Meriwether Huntley

The Higles celebrated a special day, and Harpist Elizabeth Meriwether Huntley provided elegant ambiance!

The Society's Summer Picnic at the Lake George Battlefield Park, Sunday June 29th, 2025

As a summer follow up to the Symposium on the siege of Fort William Henry which the Society sponsored at the Albany Institute of History and Art last November, the Society reserved the spacious pavilion in the Lake George Battlefield Park, exactly where much of the battle took place. The Society provided hot dogs; hamburgers, paper plates; a cooler with ice; utensils and condiments. Members brought appetizers; salads and beverages to share. Timothy Suprise was the grille master; St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany family members and guests were welcome and abundantly present, including members of the St. Andrew's Society of Schenectady.



Figure 8: Lake George Battlefield Park Pavilion flying the Saltire and Lion Rampant



Figure 9: Two Society Members enjoy the rustic setting.



Figure 10: St Andrew's Societies of Albany and Schenectady Members and guests contemplating tables of victuals



Figure 11: A Society Member and a Guest prepare for John DiNuzzo's remarks.

Just prior to our picnic and following a year of careful restoration, a collection of historic statues in Lake George's Battlefield Park was unveiled to the public on Friday, June 27th, marking a renewed chapter in the park's efforts to preserve its pre-Revolutionary War history. We were delighted to receive a personalized presentation on the history and historical context of the statues from none other than the President of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance Board of Trustees, John DiNuzzo. The event was conceived and largely planned and executed by our Librarian/Historian, Willard Bruce.

The President's Tea, July 13th, 2025.

President Christopher and First Lady Gretchen Thornton revived this summertime tradition in fine style in their lovely back yard on Turnberry Lane in Albany (Loudonville). The weather cooperated perfectly and all who attended were well nourished and suitably refreshed!



Figure 12: The Thornton family hosted St. Andrew's Members for a splendid afternoon on Turnberry Lane!



Figure 13: A Mellow Day to be Sure!

The Capital District Scottish Games, August 30th, 2025.

Dan and Eric Graves once again put up a splendid and well decorated tent that provided a hospitable vantage point for our observation of, and participation in the Games!



Figure 14: Eric Graves admires Dan's work on the history of the Haggis



Figure 15: As the final touch, Dave Munroe secures the Saltire.

In addition to the Graves, Society Members Richard MacDowell MD, Jay Higle, David Munroe, Adam Gildea, Timothy Surprise, Richard Hixon, William Storrs, and Brian McCandless MD were present throughout the day.



Figure 16: Dr McCandless and Adam Gildea Defend Our Turf!



Figure 17: Members Hixon, MacDowell, Surprise, McCandless, Storrs, Graves, Graves, and Gildea march in the Parade of Tartans

Remembrance Day Service, October 11th, 2025.

Members and friends of the Society participated in an annual Remembrance Service on Saturday, October 11th, at the Albany Rural Cemetery. The Service commemorated all departed members of the Society and remembered by name those who have died recently. The service took place at the Society's plot. The Society's Chaplain, the Very Rev'd. Gary Kriss, officiated. Bill Munro was the Piper for the service. Following the service, light refreshments were provided in a nearby pavilion that the Society's Librarian/Historian and Cemetery liaison, Willard Bruce had reserved for the event. The day was clear and bright and the event was a lovely way to enjoy the bucolic beauty of the Albany Rural Cemetery.



Figure 18: The Very Rev'd. Gary Kriss and Bill Munro, Piper



Figure 19: Members and Friends of the St Andrew's Society of the City of Albany

St Andrews Nicht Dinner, December 1st, 2025.

The Officers elected at the Annual Meeting were installed on December 1st at the St. Andrews Nicht Dinner, held annually at the Fort Orange Club in Albany NY. The Dinner was exceptionally well attended this year and a delight for all as we celebrated with traditional toasts and presentation of the haggis. The evening's Invocation was delivered by the Society's Chaplain, the Very Rev'd. Gary Kriss, The "Address to a Haggis" featured Andrew Patterson, Poet, Richard MacDowell, Henchman; Daniel Graves, Bearer; Richard Mazzaferro, boozier; and Gordie Peters, piper.



Figure 20: First Vice President Jay Hagle Toasting the Society.



Figure 21: Members of the Society and Guests await the commencement of the festivities.



Figure 22: Norman Thibodeau

The evening's entertainment featured the music of Norman Thibodeau, a noted local flutist, and Member of the Musicians of Ma'alwyck since 2005.

Society Christmas Party, December 21st, 2025.

Our final event at the Rooms this year was a joyous combination of Members and Guests in a festive mood, children delighted to be with their cousins inside a world of Scottish baronial wonder and antiquity, and bountiful tables of foods prepared by Members and Guests with an enormous turkey roasted by Dan Graves as the main course!



Figure 23: Our Christmas Party was well attended by our Members and guests including the St Andrews Society of Schenectady.



Figure 24: With two tables of food to choose from, nobody went home hungry!



Figure 25: Arthur Bruce managed a suitably martial stance upon request.



Figure 26: Mona Bruce elicited wonderful Holiday sounds from the electric piano.

As I reflect on the events of the past year, I am satisfied that we are on a good course to continue the quality and frequency of our social events and charitable outreach. We continued to build relationships with organizations with similar interests and endeavors, most recently the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, the Lake George Battlefield Alliance, and the Capital City Rescue Mission.

In other news, if you have not already done so, please forward your dues payments to Secretary Hixon for collection and submittal to our Treasurer as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events:

I hope to see you all soon at one of our events planned for the next few months:

Date,Time:

Sat, Feb 28 12:00 PM,
 Thu Mar 12: 7:00 PM
 Sat, Mar 14 1:00 PM
 Fri. Apr 10 5: 00 PM
 Thu May 14: 7:00 PM

Event

Distillery Tour and Tasting
 March Stated meeting
 St. Patrick's Day
 Tartan Day
 May Stated meeting

Venue

Albany Distilling Co, 75 Livingston Ave, Albany
 St Andrews Society of the City of Albany Rooms
 Parade Watch Party at the Rooms
 Tartan Day Celebration at the Rooms
 St Andrews Society of Albany, Rooms

Our Members Travel to Celtic Nations:

Last summer and fall several of our Society Members traveled to the British Isles to visit the lands of their ancestors. Enjoy their notes and photos, attached below!

For the St Andrew's Society of the City of Albany,
Christopher Thornton, President

In June, Rev. Gary Kriss traveled to the Isle of Lewis where he visited the Callanish stone circle. This neolithic stone circle is older than both Stonehenge and the pyramids in Egypt. The museum in Lews Castle in Stornoway has several of the so-called Lewis chessmen on exhibit. Discovered on the island in 1831, these game pieces date to Viking times.



Figure 27: Callanish Stone Circle



Figure 28: Lewis Chessman

In September, William and Victoria Storrs visited Iona and Castle Tioram, on the tidal island Eilean Tioram in Loch Moidar, ancient seat of Clanranald. Attached are their photos of Tioram and St Oran's Chapel, a historic medieval chapel built by the MacDonalds which is the oldest intact structure on Iona, dating back to the 12th century.



Figure 29: Castle Tioram



Figure 30: St Oran's Chapel, the oldest intact structure on Iona



Figure 31: Dunadd Hill-fort was the capital of Dal Riata, first kingdom of the Scots.

St Oran's Chapel, the oldest intact structure on Iona

Thomas and Beverly Goodfellow went to Wales in September. Some of the highlights of their trip included a stop at Plas Dinas, the historic country childhood home of Anthony Armstrong-Jones, the 1st Earl of Snowdon where they celebrated Beverly's birthday with a high tea. [Plas Dinas](#) They visited an ancient burial ground at Din Llugwy with a stone monument dating back to 2500 bc adjacent to a Roman Campsite (from a later period) with stone foundation remains.



Figure 32: Plas Dinas



Figure 33: High Tea

Ancient burial ground at Din Llugwy dating back to 2500 bc adjacent to a Roman Campsite (from a later period).



Figure 34: Sign for DinLlugwy site and later Roman foundation

A total of eight Society and family Members (Dr. Richard and Barbara MacDowell, their daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Thomas Finley, R. Paul and Kathleen McCarty, and Richard Hixon and Antoinette LeBron) arrived in Glasgow on September 6th beginning a 14 day journey that circumnavigated the country and included many of its most iconic destinations: Culloden, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glenfinnan, the Highlands, Inverness, Isle of Mull, Isle of Skye, Kirkwall, Loch Lomond, Oban, Orkney Islands, Pitlochry, Portree, Thurso, and Ullapool. Attached below are the group's itinerary and Rich Hixon's notes on some of the stops.

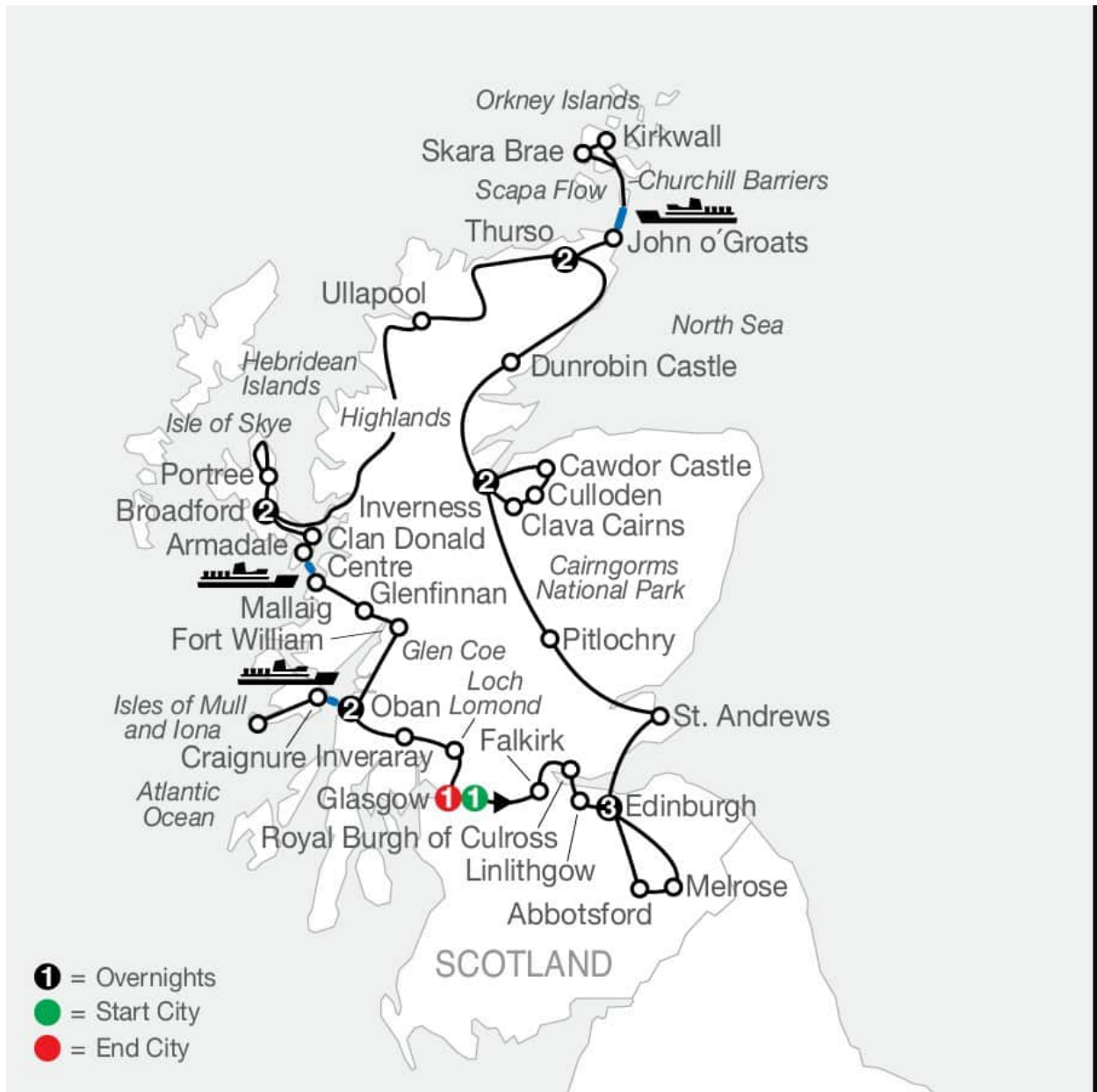


Figure 35: Our 14 day Itinerary

On our third day in country, our visit to Edinburgh Castle coincided with the third Anniversary of King Charles III's Accession to the Throne. At the Ceremony, the 105th Regiment Royal Artillery, alongside the 160th US Army National Guard, came together in a display of international camaraderie and military precision. The highlight? A thunderous 21-gun salute over the Firth of Forth that echoed through the ancient stones of the castle, paying tribute to the King.



Figure 36: Our Society visits Edinburgh Castle



Figure 37: The Accession Day 21 Gun Salute

Day 4, the baronial fireplace and artifacts at Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford House.



Figure 38: Esteemed for his collector's eye, Scott maintained an armory boasting an array of nearly four hundred items.



Figure 39: The Entrance Hall at Abbotsford; paneling of oak and cedar and carved ceilings

On day 5 we traveled northeast from Edinburgh to St. Andrews, crossing the Firth of Tay via Dundee to Pitlochry. From Pitlochry, a scenic drive through the Grampian Mountains and Cairngorms National Park en route to Inverness, for 200 miles on the day.



Figure 40: The Old Course



Figure 41: Blair Athol Distillery, Pitlochry



Figure 42: Two stills at Blair Athol



Figure 43: The Sow of Atholl (Meall an Dobharchain) is a glacially carved land-form visible while traveling north on the A9 and is part of the Grampians range.

With quite a few sites to see around Inverness, we didn't have to travel far on Day 6 to see the Bronze-Age chamber tomb site at Clava Cairns, the Culloden battlefield site and visitor center, and Cawdor Castle.



Figure 44: Clava cairns, Bronze Age circular chamber tomb cairn



Figure 45: Our St Andrew's Society memorialized at the Culloden visitors center on a local Caithness pathway stone.



Figure 46: The Jacobite Memorial Cairn at the Culloden Battlefield.



Figure 47: Cawdor Castle, in Nairnshire, Scotland was built around a 15th-century tower by the Calder family, it passed to the Campbells in the 16th century.

On Day 7 we ventured north to Dunrobin Castle, the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands. One of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses, Dunrobin dates back to the early 1300s, home to the Earls and later, the Dukes of Sutherland.



Figure 48: Dunrobin Castle



Figure 49: Demonstration at Dunrobin featuring birds of prey like Harris hawks and peregrine falcons.

By afternoon we had arrived in Thurso, the northernmost town on the British Isles and later that evening the iconic Old Smiddy Inn in Thrumster for entertainment by excellent young pipers at a Ceilidh hosted by Councillor Raymond Bremner, Leader of The Highland Council, for 109 miles on the day.



Figure 50: Statue in Helmsdale commemorating Scottish emigre's.



Figure 51: The Old Smiddy Inn, Thrumster Wick

Day 8 featured nautical travel to the Orkney Islands via the Scrabster to Stromness Ferry crossing, with views of the Old Man of Hoy, Skara Brae and Skail House, the Ring of Brodgar, and Kirkwall, Lunch was provided at the Orkney Brewery's Tasting Hall cafe.



Figure 52: Dramatic cliffs and the Old Man of Hoy as seen from the ferry Hamnavoe.



Figure 53: The Neolithic village of Skara Brae is older than the Egyptian pyramids



Figure 54: The Ring of Brodgar features 36 towering stones set in a near-perfect circle, another part of the Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, built around 2500–2000 BC.



Figure 55: St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall was founded in 1137 by the Viking Earl Rognvald in honor of his uncle who was martyred here in Orkney.



Figure 56: Skull Splitter Ale is fittingly named after Thorfinn Einarsson, the 7th Viking Earl of Orkney, around 950 AD.



Figure 57: Skaill House was originally built in 1620 by Bishop George Graham (Bishop of Orkney 1615-1638)

Day 9 traversed 219 miles of magnificent peat-land scenery from Thurso on the north coast to the dark cuillins of Skye, the most northernmost of the inner Hebrides Islands. For lunch we stopped at the very picturesque village of Ullapool on Loch Broom.



Figure 58: Crofting community in the Highland flow country near Lairg



Figure 59: The Caledonian Hotel in Ullapool for fish and chips



Figure 60: The village of Kyleakin on Skye as viewed on approach from the Skye Bridge



Figure 61: Dunollie Hotel in Broadford, Skye

Day 10's morning travel extended north across the magnificent Isle of Skye from Broadford at its southern end to Kilmuir near its northerly extent and the Museum of Island Life, on a hillside close to the tip of the Trotternish Peninsula. Afternoon stops included Portree and Eilean Donan to round out this 100 mile day.



Figure 62: Grave-site of Flora MacDonald at Kilmuir.



Figure 63: The smiddy shop in the Museum of Island Life



Figure 64: Portree, Capital of Skye



Figure 65: Striking Eilean Donan Castle is located at the intersection of Lochs Duich, Loch Long, and Loch Alsh.

Day 11's travel and visits included Armadale Castle, recently sold by the MacDonalads, and the Museum of the Isles in the morning, crossing the Sound of Sleat by ferry for an afternoon visit to Glenfinnan on route to Oban.



Figure 66: Armadale Castle faces south over the Sound of Sleat



Figure 67: The Glenfinnan viaduct, oft seen in Harry Potter movies



Figure 68: The Glenfinnan Monument commemorates the Highlanders who fought on the side of Charles Edward Stuart



Figure 69: Oban Harbor

For Day 12 we boarded a ferry to Mull followed by a 75 mile drive around the Isle. Stops included Duart Castle, for over 700 years the seat of Clan Maclean, dominating the view to the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe with its huge curtain walls and solid keep and Tobermory, widely considered the prettiest and most iconic village on the Isle, famed for its brightly painted, candy-colored buildings lining a scenic harbor.



Figure 70: Duart Castle, Mull



Figure 71: Tobermory

On Day 13 for our final day of coach travel, we traveled the 108 miles from Oban to Glasgow via the mountainous Pass of Bander and Inveraray, stopping at Loch Lomond for photos.



Figure 72: Kilchurn Castle, on the northeastern end of Loch Awe in Argyll and Bute



Figure 73: Inveraray Castle, ancestral home and seat of the Dukes of Argyll and the Chief of Clan Campbell.



Figure 74: Motoring along Loch Fyne, a sea loch off the Firth of Clyde that forms part of the coast of the Cowal Peninsula on the west coast of Argyll and Bute.



Figure 75: Serenading our tour with a marvelous repertoire of Scottish standards during our trip, Kathleen McCarty transfixed our group and another tour waiting to board a Loch cruise with her lovely version of “The Bonnie Banks o’ Loch Lomond”!