

Dear Friends and Members of the Ulster-Scots Society of America,

What About Ye? I am writing to share a couple of pieces of good news!

First, the Ulster-Scots Society of America has achieved another milestone. As you may recall from a previous letter in May or have seen posted on our website, the Ulster-Scots Society of America announced that we were tentatively setting the date and place for our Annual General Membership Meeting to be held in conjunction with the 35th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games at Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of October 19 -21, 2007.

In another first for the Society, the U-SSA has been invited to be a Sponsoring Society at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. This prestigious festival is one of the largest Scottish cultural events in the United States with thousands in attendance and showcases the leading Scots heritage organizations in the country. With only limited Clan and Society participation offered, this is a unique environment to unveil the Society to a wider audience. The U-SSA will have a Society tent both Saturday and Sunday the 20th and 21st, educational materials, and historical re-enactors in 1780's frontier period attire to help spread the story of the Ulster-Scots and their impact on America. Your help is appreciated as volunteers will be needed.

As a special treat, during our annual general membership meeting on Saturday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m., we will sponsor a lecture, *"The Lasting Legacy of the Scots-Irish in America"*, conducted by our good friend, journalist and author Billy Kennedy from Northern Ireland, who has written nine books on the Ulster-Scots/Scots-Irish in America. Many of you may know Billy Kennedy, have read some of his books, or heard him in the past. Our time together Saturday will give you a chance to make or renew an acquaintance with one of the leading chroniclers of the Ulster-Scots story. The lecture will be followed by a book signing, buffet dinner, opportunity to interact with Revolutionary-era frontier re-enactors, and participation in Society discussions. The lecture will be open and free to the public to garner increased awareness in the Ulster-Scots Society and story and to fulfill our Society's mission of educating the public. Buffet dinner tickets, however, must be purchased and seating and availability is limited.

The Society sponsorship invitation, the opportunity to have a Society tent on the festival grounds, ads in the festival program, and Scots-Irish lecture will greatly add to our organization's visibility as we make our first appearance at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. These promotional and educational activities will help us aid many of Scots ancestry who may not be aware of or perhaps do not understand the Ulster chapter of what may be their family's history.

And there are few better ways to share the Ulster-Scots story, and your own stories, than one-on-one in the fall air among the pine trees at the foot of beautiful Stone Mountain or at the post-lecture dinner Saturday evening. We hope to see you there. Please contact me and let me know if you may be available to volunteer that weekend, attend the games, help with the Ulster-Scots Society booth, and attend the membership meeting with Northern Ireland Ulster-Scots author Billy Kennedy. Stone Mountain is shaping up to be a great event for the Society. Be sure and be a part of it!

The second piece of good news is that *The History Channel* has produced a documentary film featuring the Scots-Irish. It has aired Sunday, September 23 and is currently scheduled to air again Thursday, September 27. Entitled "*Hillbilly: The Real Story*", the documentary largely tells the story of the Ulster-Scots and follows them across three centuries from Scotland to America and deals with the cultural elements they brought as well as tackles the hillbilly/redneck stereotype. Of special note, our friend, author Billy Kennedy, will be among the notables interviewed for the documentary. He is the only figure from Northern Ireland interviewed for the program. Check you local listings for broadcast times and tell your friends.

The Stone Mountain Highland Games weekend is a great opportunity to gather with family, friends, and others interested in learning more about their heritage, see the Ulster -Scots story unfold, and garner interest and new members in the Ulster-Scots Society of America. And with the documentary airing not long before the Stone Mountain Games, interest in and awareness of the Scots-Irish should be increasing which makes the educational and promotional opportunity we have before us at Stone Mountain even more important. It will be an exciting weekend. Please be part of the weekend and tell your friends – better yet, bring'em!

Please send in your registration form in the enclosed envelope or e-mail or call your information in by Wednesday, October 10. Enclosed you will find Stone Mountain Games information including area hotels and activities, a registration form, a copy of the ad announcing the lecture and a current U-SSA membership form you can copy and pass on to interested parties. Whether or not you are able to attend Stone Mountain, you may use the registration form to go ahead and send in annual membership dues. Please update your contact information. Contact me with questions or comments. (Note -- I will be traveling over the next several days so I may not be able to get back to you immediately). I look forward to seeing you at Stone Mountain!

Sincerely,

Glen Pratt

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4th ANNUAL ULSTER-SCOTS SOCIETY of AMERICA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, October 19, 2007

Optional attendance at Stone Mountain Highland Games genealogy and whisky tasting seminars and piping competition at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel Northeast or the Scottish Country Dance Gala. See enclosed SMHG handouts and www.smhg.org or call (770) 521-0228 for all SMHG activities and ticketing information. If coming from outside the Atlanta area, note list of SMHG recommended accommodations. Mention the Stone Mountain Games to see if they offer special rates. The Hilton Atlanta Hotel Northeast is the Games Headquarters Hotel and is located about 25 minutes from Stone Mountain at 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092 (770) 447-4747.

Saturday, October 20, 2007

7:00-9:00 a.m. Ulster-Scots Society tent materials set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field. *Volunteers needed.*

9:00-5:00 p.m. Manning of the **Ulster-Scots Society tent** set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field. 1780's era frontier historical re-enactors will be in attendance at the tent. *Volunteers needed.*

Ulster-Scots Society of America Annual Meeting:

Cobb and DeKalb Rooms at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel Northeast 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092 (770) 447-4747. (about 19 miles or 25 minutes from Stone Mountain depending on traffic)

6:00 p.m. Cobb and DeKalb Rooms open. *Volunteers needed*

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. *“The Lasting Legacy of the Scots-Irish in America”*

Lecture and book signing by Northern Ireland journalist Billy Kennedy, author of the Scots-Irish Chronicles.

7:30 p.m. Buffet dinner, fellowship, and Society discussion. Meet historical re-enactors.

Sunday, October 21, 2007

9:00-5:00 p.m. Manning of the **Ulster-Scots Society tent** set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field. *Volunteers needed.*

5:00 p.m. Pack up Ulster-Scots Society materials from tent and depart.

REGISTRATION/FEEDBACK FORM

Ulster-Scots Society of America Annual Meeting
Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21, 2007
during the Stone Mountain Highland Games near Atlanta, GA!

Please have this form or your information returned by Wednesday, October 10

- YES, I will be attending all or part of the weekend events
- Society tent on the games grounds Saturday and/or Sunday (circle please)
 - Billy Kennedy lecture only Saturday @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Kennedy lecture and dinner buffet following lecture
 - Other _____
 - Yes, I will be bringing others. Number in party _____
- NO, I will be unable to attend
- Yes, I will be available to *volunteer*
- Society tent set up/staffing on the games grounds Saturday and/or Sunday
 - Assisting with the Billy Kennedy lecture and dinner Saturday @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Handing out flyers or contacting potential new members or lecture attendees
 - Other _____
- Enclosed is my registration fee
- \$20 per person for lecture and buffet (Make checks payable to the
Ulster-Scots Society of America)
 - (\$15 if renewing membership dues now)
- Yes, I would like to continue receiving "The Ulster-Scot"
paper. Enclosed is my Ulster-Scots Society dues renewal.
- \$20 family \$15 individual

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please fill out and return this form in the enclosed envelope or send your information via e-mail to ulsterscotgp@yahoo.com or leave a message at (806) 372-2039 by Wednesday, October 10, 2007. Make checks payable to the Ulster-Scots Society of America. Note if bringing cash to the event. Also, note that tickets to Stone Mountain Highland Games events must be made through them. See www.smhg.org or call (770) 521-0228.