

Squires Minutes 6/13/2024

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY SQUIRES

Minutes for the Meeting of June 13th 2024

New President, Art Scutro opened the meeting.

Art provided the Words of Inspiration: An old Gaelic Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon the fields and  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand

In keeping with the Scottish theme of the Meeting a Scottish themed luncheon was served. Sorry no Haggis though.

There were no introductions of Guests

Dave proceeded to introduce Bill McKinley our guest speaker on the subject of Scottish history, customs, dress, warfare and food.

Scotland's long history as recorded begins during Roman times when the Romans invaded lower and central Scotland in the first century AD. Gradually the Romans retreated South and built a series of fortifications known as Hadrian's Wall which spans the British Island East to West. The retreat of Roman influence in the early 5th Century was followed by various waves of immigration from Northern Europe and the invasion of the Vikings in the 9th century. This period saw the development of the clans which often feuded with each other and led to a tempestuous political environment. The 12th and 13th Centuries saw the consolidation of power around a king as well as invasions from England in the South. The 13th to the 16th Centuries saw the rule of Scotland under the Bruce family which eventually evolved into the rule of the Stewarts and eventually union with England under the rule of James 1st. The 18th Century saw a brief uprising supported by the deposed Stewarts and a period of Scottish cultural repression by the English. This ended with the Victorian period and to this day the Scots have been increasingly sought as favored subjects by the Royal family. Bill noted several important cultural aspects in his discussion: 1. The FDA does not allow the importation of Haggis into the U.S. 2. Kilts are a reasonably recent style of dress and were not worn in the time of William Wallace. 3. The most accurate portrayal of Scottish history in the movies was Rob Roy not Braveheart. 4. Bonnie Prince Charlie was not so bonnie.

Bill McKinley's presentation was very well received by the members and their guests. It was probably one of the best cultural presentations that we have enjoyed at the Country Squires!

The next meeting will have Steve Taylor, former Agricultural Commissioner for NH as featured speaker who will talk on the Grange movement in NH.

Submitted: Tom Flynn, Secretary