

St. Andrews Society of NW Michigan
“Northern Thistle”
February 2016



Sunday, April 10 – Spring potluck; Traverse Hills

Sunday, August 28 – Picnic & Family Highland Games

Sunday, October 9 – SASNM Annual Meeting

Editorial: Do you go to Florida in January? The Central Florida Games are worth attending! Don & I dance with the Orlando Scottish Country Dancers all day, and I must say dancing in shorts outdoors is an experience! This year it reached 80 °. The Games are *huge*, with loads of vendors. In 2017 they'll be on January 21. And Sarasota has Games the following weekend.

A Piper's Story:

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the back country.

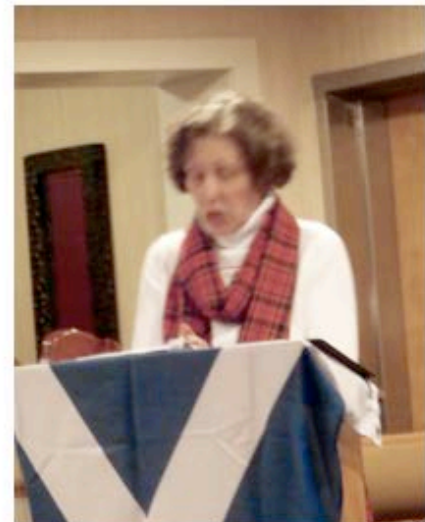
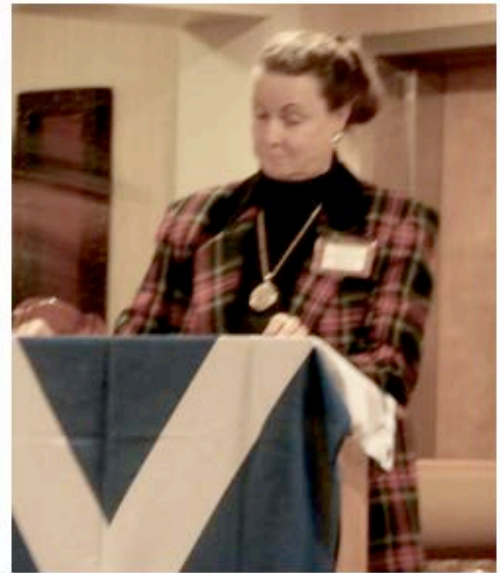
As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, didn't ask for directions.

I arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left, and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went by the grave and looked down. The vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends.

And as I played Amazing Grace, the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened my car door, I heard one of the workers say, "I never saw anything like it, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



Burns Night 2016 (See additional photos at the April potluck)



Wednesday, April 6 is the official International Tartan Day.
 Anyone care to arrange a kirkin' o' the tartan at their church?

2016 Officers & Committees:

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The SASNM is a non-profit organization. Membership is \$20 per household. Please send checks to PO Box 2303, Traverse City 49685.