



# THE MACHINE WITHOUT HORSES

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society—Detroit Branch

December, 2018

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Does

anyone know which Scottish lake this is? It is a tranquil but probably freezing spot. But it also lends itself to wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Dancers, are you aware that you can donate more than your annual branch dues of \$35.00? The RSCDS offers several scholarships to St Andrews Summer School, and the Teachers' Association of Canada (TAC) does likewise for their Summer School. Contributing to these funds is a good way to help young people serious about SCD get the training necessary to become teachers.

Addresses: RSCDS--12, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7AF;

TAC--c/o L. McGillivray, 8 – 10 Blackburn West SW, Edmonton AB Canada T6W 1C2.

If we dancers don't support the RSCDS, *who will?*

From Margaret Sarna

Here are the Sarnas with the teacher, David Tague, on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the London Workshop.



Our former member Heather Simmons sent us a picture of herself with her son, Derek, on his graduation from Marine Boot Camp in San Diego in February. We had hoped that he would stick around in the Detroit area and become an officer of the Detroit Branch, but Heather got a job at the University of Illinois in Urbana, which she likes a lot, except that there's no Scottish Country Dancing closer than Indianapolis or St Louis or Chicago.



I attended the annual end-of-season dance in Gloucester, Gloucestershire, in May, and was able to visit with friends from Cheltenham and Gloucester whom I have known since the '70's and some newer friends from Herefordshire whom I have met this century. Needless to say, the Gloucester people go to the Hereford dances, the Cheltenham people to the Bristol dances, the Hereford people to the Gloucester dances.

The Detroit St Andrew's Society Pipe Band played at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit at the Church's Freedom Festival on June 24--there's nothing like hearing pipes play 'Scotland the Brave' in a stone church with a high ceiling--partly to honor America's long friendship with our good neighbors to the north (or, in the case of Detroit, to the south).



### **Summer Beginners Class**

Due to the efforts of Ann Campbell and the St Andrews Society, we started a Beginners' Class in mid-August at the Society's Kilgour Center. The attendance, averaging between 13 to 16 new dancers, has exceeded our expectations.

The initial classes, taught by Grant Rutila and Glenna Washburn, were planned for 5 weeks and will end in September. However, we are now considering options for having our primary teacher Laurel Patterson meet with the beginners to teach some ceilidh dances, as well as ways to transition them to our Thursday night class.

We have been very appreciative of the support from the St Andrews Society as well as from our helpers Ann Campbell and Rhett Herberling. The enthusiasm of the beginners and their positive feedback has been rewarding. We are hopeful that this is the beginning of a closer relationship with the St Andrews Society and a viable source for new members.

Glenna Washburn and Grant Rutila



### **Renaissance Festival 2018**

From left to right, the participants at the Renaissance Festival were Sue Boczek, Griff Evans, Glenna Washburn, Grant Rutila, Sharon Horlick, Rhett Heberling, and Mary Wessell Walker

August and September are **Renaissance Festival** time in Michigan. Due to personnel availability conflicts, we were able to perform only one weekend at the Renaissance Festival this year. Special thanks to our friends from Windsor and Ann Arbor. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to complete a set. Our musicians, Tom and Marilyn, played well as always. The weather Saturday morning was not encouraging. Heavy rain and high winds threatened to make it a miserable day. Fortunately, the skies cleared as we arrived in Holly. We performed in a different location from last year's. Fewer people in the new location made audience participation more challenging, but Grant proved equal to the task. Whereas the numbers may have been lower, the enthusiasm of the audience participants was not. Rhett Heberling



Ann Arbor's Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers also had (from the beginning of October) a beginners' class. The youngest member, Nadia DeMaagd, shown left, has done highland dancing, as she very ably demonstrated for us; her mother, Diane, assisted with music from her cell phone, in class on October 8.

Another beginner was Jody Richmond from Maine, who was visiting family in Ann Arbor. She had done other folk dancing and left us just before Thanks-giving with the promise to look up Scottish Country Dance groups near her home.



### **Windsor Ball**

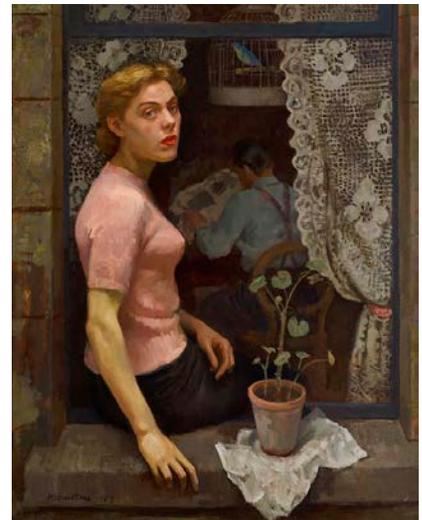
The Windsor Ball took place on October 27 and honored June Dey on her retirement from teaching. A good-sized contingent from Michigan helped her celebrate, while Sharon Horlick and Rhett Heberling had a picture with the lady herself. Isobel Hunter contributed the pictures.

The Michigan contingent, from left to right: Laurel Paterson, Linda Johnston, Robin Warner, Ellie Hayes, Linda Scheuerman, Bonnie Cook, Sarah Olechowski, Rhett Heberling, Sue Boczek, Glenna Washburn (almost hidden behind Sue), Grant Rutila, Teresa Madlo, Mollie Morgan (behind Helen Welford), and Mary Low





On November 4th, Mary Low hosted a friendly get-together for our dancers. This small party took place at Mary's home, after our workshop in Royal Oak with Scottish Country Dance teacher David Tague. I decided to surprise my dear friend Mary with an early birthday present at her party. Earlier this year, Mary's daughter Debbie had found a photo of a painting of her mother after a search on the internet. In 1953, Mary Low worked for Scottish artist Alberto Morrocco at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee, Scotland. While working there she was the model for one of Alberto's paintings entitled "Woman in the Window." Eventually, Mary and her family moved to Canada and then to the United States. Mary had never seen the finished painting. She remembered only the title. After Mary's daughter had found the photo of the painting, I decided that Mary needed a copy of it. I had this photo printed on a large canvas. At the party it was secretly brought into her house and placed on the wall. Her reaction was priceless. Mary spent the rest of the evening sharing stories of her past in Scotland. What a life! What a lady! Happy 88th Birthday, Mary Low! We love you!  
Sue Scott Boczek



We welcome corrections, additions, and suggestions and articles and photographs about Scottish Country Dancing and Scotland.

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