

**HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH DANCE SOCIETY
NOW THE CINCINNATI BRANCH, RSCDS**

SEPTEMBER 1978 AUGUST 1979

We started the year off with a 20th Anniversary Ball, held at the Daniel Drake Auditorium. We had the White Cockade Scottish Dance Band from the New England area. From all reports it was a very good ball and a fine time was had by everyone. Our first honorary member Retta Atherton came from Warrington, England. John Middleton and his daughter Rhonda represented The Hamilton (Ont.) Branch. Two couples from the White Cockade Group in Windsor, Canada were also in attendance Betty Russell, our first Vice President was there and sang. The first Secretary, Mrs. Adaline Druck read the minutes of the first meeting to organize the dance group. Ron Beecher, who taught the group its first dance, The Cumberland Reel, was there with his wife Elaine. Some of the earlier members present were Nora Kindness, Ness Kindness, Leo Langen, Doris Adams, Lois von Preissig, and Ian Scott. After the Anniversary Ball we plunged into work on the International Folk Festival in November. The Caledonian Society had the Cultural Booth on Ancient Wood-working Tools. The Combined team of Country Dancers and the Braemar Highland Dancers won one of the four Awards of Merit for dancing. The annual Christmas Party was held on December 16 and a good time was had by all. Vicky Goodloe of Lexington and Doreen Bernstein of Dayton received their first certificates toward becoming Scottish Country Dance Teachers. This will help relieve the shortage of teachers in the area. In February Evelyn Meredith was installed as minister of the Presbyterian Church in Hartwell. In May we held our annual Weekend Workshop. We had hoped to have John Middleton and June Shore as teachers but June was unable to teach because she was in Scotland so J'ini Middleton filled in for her. Doris Adams hosted several pot luck suppers and dancing in her apartment party room. They were enjoyable especially the food. Over the summer the group will be working on the Bill Hamilton Workshop in September 1979. Bill Hamilton is a fine teacher from England.

Demonstrations: International Folk Festival in November, Zion Church in Lawrenceburg, Ind on Nov. 26, Caledonian Dinner Dance in Dec.. Burns Night on Jan. 26, Hartwell Church, Tartan Ball.

SEPTEMBER 1979 AUGUST 1980

We >started the fall off with a bang! We hosted a weekend with help from the Lexington dance group, with Bill Hamilton from England, as teacher. Everyone enjoyed the fine teaching of Bill. the International Folk Festival with the dance group responsible for the Cultural Booth. It was St. Andrews - The Town, the Flag and The Man. The Country Dancers and the Highland Dancers again joined forces for the dance competition and won a ribbon for second place. The booth did not win. We had an all women's team for the first time along with the usual couple set. George and Ness Kindness were made honorary members for all the work and support through

the years of the dance group. Ness is a founding member. We invited the Dayton and Lexington Dance groups to our Christmas Party held December 15, Doris Adams and John Smith hosted pot luck suppers and dances at their party rooms. George and Ness Kindness celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on February 25th. We held Sunday Dances on March 9, May 18 and June 27th. Two classes were started as an experiment on Wednesdays. Pam and Ian Murdoch went back to Scotland. The group will miss them, especially the Demonstration team will miss Ian's ability to provide 'music' while practicing. June Shore and her Mother visited and a pot luck supper was given for them.

Demonstrations: International Folk Festival in November, Caledonian Dinner Dance, Eastern Star Home April 19th., Hamilton County OES Home May 1st, Hartwell Church, Riverfest on July 4th.

SEPTEMBER 1980 AUGUST 1981

One of our early members Sissy Wilson died in October and a donation to the Heart Fund was made in her memory. Don Corson and Joyce Martin were married on December 14th in Louisville. Ellie Kneisel was married to Robert Hickling of Detroit on February 21, 1981 at the Hartwell Presbyterian Church with Rev. Evelyn Meredith officiating. The dance group joined the Arts Council of Cincinnati. In March Ness Kindness died. She was a founding member and also an honorary member. She was Hora's mother and mother to every one in the dance group. She will be sorely missed. Babs Egbert received her first teaching certificate in April. A thank you note was received from Miss Gibson at headquarters in Edinburgh for a copy of the Brief History of the Cincinnati group. Margaret Callander of Cleveland and the Ohio Games Committee asked for dance groups to send teams to the Ohio Games but we could not get a group together.

Demonstrations: Caledonian Dinner Dance in November, Girl Scouts February 25, Nutritional council March 28th, Union Terminal Shopping Mall's first Anniversary, Three Rivers Nursing Home August 27th.

SEPTEMBER 1981 AUGUST 1982

The Dance group had the Cultural Booth at the Folk Festival in November. It was on Scottish Fishing, a very educational and lovely booth. On November 29th Bob and Evelyn Meredith hosted a party at Clifty Inn Clifty Falls State Park in Indiana. It was a combination anniversary party and an excuse for dancing. Dale Birdsall and Polly Martín were married on December 20th. They held their reception on January 2, at the Wyoming Community Center. Dale wrote a dance called 'A Dance for Polly's Wedding.' In December Chuck Knighton visited, he was one of our earlier members and a founding member of the Minneapolis Br. He travels widely and has danced in many places. A demonstration class was started, participation by invitation only, Nora Kindness was in charge. In February an "advanced" class was started on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Norwood Presbyterian Church. A Memorial Book of Royal Scottish Dances Books

was to be put together and, presented to the Cincinnati Public Library in honor of Ness Kindness. The Lexington-Midway dance Group became the Central Kentucky Branch. Demonstrations: International Folk Festival in November, Bear Branch Church October 28, Glendale Presbyterian Church in September, Cincinnati Historical Society December 1, Caledonian Dinner Dance December 5th, Tartan Ball March 27th, Springfest in May.

SEPTEMBER 1982 AUGUST 1983

The Dancers had to move from the YWCA downtown because they were remodeling the building into apartments. We found a new home at the Calvary Episcopal Church on Clifton Ave. We had danced at the Y for 24 years and were sorry to leave but Calvary has a fine wood floor. The demonstration team started rehearsing for the International Festival. The Cultural Booth was the responsibility of the Country Dancers. The theme was the Whisky Trail. It received many comments, especially our "Whisky Tree". The Demonstrations team received a plaque from the International Folk Festival, for our participation in the dance shows, showing the years we had danced. We held our Christmas Party at the Church of the Ascension and Holy Trinity in Wyoming. We also held a couple of Sunday afternoon dances. The Merediths again sponsored an afternoon and evening of dancing at Clifty Inn at the Clifty Falls State Park and dinner. We now have a second fully certificated teacher as Babs Egbert passed her exam in May. Dale Birdsall received his first certificate at the same time. The group have been busy making plans for the 25th Anniversary of the Scottish Dance Society of Cincinnati, and the 60th Anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh. Items of tartan were made by various members from scraps of tartan that Nora Kindness had collected over the years, to help with the expense of the Anniversary Weekend. We sent an application to headquarters to become a Branch. On June 20th, 1983 we were notified that we had become the newest Branch of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. We did not hold a spring workshop this year so that all of our energies could be put into the 25th Anniversary Workshop next fall. We had a visitor from England, Rev. Andrew Scott. A contest was held for a logo for the new branch, it was won by Dale Birdsall with a drawing of a steamboat.

Demonstrations: Three Rivers Convalescent Home, International Folk Festival in November, Caledonian Dinner Dance, Burns Night in January, Tri City Dance Festival, Tartan Ball, Germania Society, Summit Country Day Benefit.

SEPTEMBER 1983 AUGUST 1984

We started the year with the sad news of the death of our first honorary member, Mrs. Retta Atherton of Warrington England. We celebrated our 25th year with a gala weekend workshop as a dance group and on becoming a Branch of the RSCDS. The teachers were Jean Years and Isabelle MacPherson of the Toronto area and danced to the inspiring music of Bobby Brown's Scottish Accent Band also from the Toronto area. It was held at the Cincinnati Club. Some

of our earlier members were in attendance, Helen Fraser of Edinburgh, Chuck Knighton of St. Louis, and Gloria Gottenbush of Cincinnati, I. and John Middleton of Hamilton, Ont. Every one enjoyed the festivities. We presented Nora Kindness with a pen and pencil holder with a Country dancing couple on it in appreciation of her efforts over the past 25 years. Congratulations were received from the St Louis Dancers and the President Wes Clendining of the TAC. It was announced that Joyce Bartels and Jim Hamilton were married on August 26th. Evelyn and Bob Meredith celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary at the Clifty Inn in Indiana with an afternoon of dancing and a Dinner. They were married while attending Hanover College, nearby. The Christmas Party was held at the Church of the Ascension and Holy Trinity in Wyoming, the group gathered for dinner at the Grand Finale, a wonderful restaurant nearby. A Valentine party was held on Feb. 12th. We participated in country dancing at the Kentucky Fling at General Butler State Park in Carrolton, Ky. Mary Meredith, daughter of Bob and Evelyn Meredith was married to George Looney in August.

Demonstrations: New Richmond Masons on November 19, International Folk Festival in November, Burns Night January 27th, Lawrenceburg April 29, General Butler Games in May.

SEPTEMBER 1984 - AUGUST 1985

On September 29th we held a one day workshop at the Calvary Episcopal Church, with Isabelle MacPherson from Toronto as teacher. In November we danced at the International Folk Festival. The Dance group did the Cultural Booth on Myths and Legends. We had Panels on which were depicted Tam O'Shanter, Robert the Bruce and the Spider, Ferla Mor and Nessie. An afternoon and evening of dancing was held at the Clifty Inn hosted by the Merediths in November. The Holiday Party on December 30 was again held at the Church of the Ascension and Holy Trinity in Wyoming. The Valentine Party was held on February 10th. Nora Kindness received a letter from Pam Byrne of the Ceili Dancers, an Irish Dance Group, to try combining the dancers from both groups but it fell by the wayside probably due to the flu epidemic. The month of April saw a second one day workshop with John Middleton as teacher at the Calvary Episcopal Church. In June Rev. Evelyn Meredith received her Doctorate. In July some of the Demonstration Team danced in the opening scene of Act II of the Opera 'Lucia de Lammermoor.' Dale Birdsall and Bob Meredith did a step or two from the Sword Dance and the Reel of Six with Evelyn Meredith, Babs Egbert, Nora Kindness and Polly Birdsall. Afterwards the team danced upstairs at a party.

Demonstrations: Trans Atlantic Brides and Parents in September, MidFest in Middletown October 7, Llanfair Terrace October 4, International Folk Festival November 16,17 &18, Sharon Woods Village December 3, Burns Night January 25th, WPAF Retired Officers in Dayton, March 15, Lockland Presbyterian Church March26, Crystalwood (Assisted Retirement) May, Woodland Mound Park June 26, Opera Lucia de Lammermoor July.

SEPTEMBER 1985 AUGUST: 1986

Nora Kindness retired. from Hilton-Davis Chemical Co. We danced at her Retirement Luncheon at the Maketewah Country Club. She was very surprised. In November we lost another honorary member, George Kindness. He was the father of Nora Kindness. Although he was never a member of the group, he transported many things to various affairs and also some of the group to our demonstrations. He was also very handy when the Cultural Booths were being put up. In March we held a one day workshop at the Sheraton Inn in Sharonville with Sandra Binns from Toronto. Sandra is also President of the Teachers Association of Canada. In May we danced at the Norwood Presbyterian Church's Centennial Celebration. On August 31, 1986 Evelyn and Bob Meredith's daughter Nancy married Kevin Clancy at St. James of the Valley Church In Wyoming. Evelyn was not only Mother of the Bride but also participated during the ceremony.

Demonstrations: Nora Kindness's Retirement Luncheon October 10th, A Promotion for the International Folk Festival at the Florence Mall, November 2, International Folk Festival in November, Burns Night January 24th, Lawrenceburg Arts and Crafts July 26, Hauck House July 27th Fund Raiser for the International Folk Festival July 10.

SEPTEMBER 1986 AUGUST 1987

On September 20th we held a one day workshop with Marianne Taylor of the Boston area. We had a trio from Louisville, called Scots Measure to provide live music for the dance in the evening. Dale Birdsall received his second certificate making him a fully certificated teacher. We now have three fully certificated teachers. We started having monthly dances on the 2nd Saturdays of the month. One was held at Presbyterian Church in West Carrollton. In the spring we started a class in west Carrollton with Nora Kindness as teacher.

Demonstrations: Mid-Fest in Middletown October 4, Ohio Bar Foundation in Columbus November 14, International Folk Festival November 21,22,23, Burns Night January 23, Woodward High School Brotherhood Luncheon April 4, Lawrenceburg Ind. Fellowship May 1, Butler Games May 7, Taste of Blue Ash June 6, Hauch House July 26, All About Kids July

SEPTEMBER 1987 AUGUST 1988

We held a one day workshop on September 19th with Geoffrey Selling of Philadelphia as teacher. The Scots Measure provided live music for classes and the evening dance, at the Church of Ascension and Holy Trinity in Wyoming. The Cultural Booth was sponsored by the Cincinnati Branch and it focused on Scotland's Inventors and Inventions, it was very educational and interesting. We held monthly dances again this year with two being held in West Carrollton. Christmas Party was held at the Calvary Church. Crocheted and hand made articles were sold for the scholarship fund. Lisa Garrett and Brian Kushner announced their engagement in

February with wedding plans in October 1989. Larry and Martha Buchanan celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in May with a Party. We were notified of the death of Mrs. Middleton, mother of John Middleton, who will be one of teachers at the 30th Anniversary Workshop in September. She was one of the founding members of the London (Ont) Branch.
Demonstrations: Mid-Fest October 3, International Folk Festival November 20,21, 22, English Speaking Union November 9, Burns Night January 29, Woodward High School Brotherhood Luncheon April 1, Larry Buchanan's Silver Anniversary April 30, Westwood Cheviot Business Association July 27. Oh yes last October was the Kettering Sister City Association in Kettering.

NOTE: These records were transcribed from copies of closely typed notes held in the Branch Archives - November 2014