

The Syria Highlanders

50th Anniversary

1956 – 2006



DEDICATION

This historical booklet, written on the occasion of the 50 Anniversary of Syria Highlanders Band, is dedicated to the 153 members who have strapped on the Royal Stewart tartan kilt and performed with this unique group of Shriners. These men have played the beloved pipes and drums, cognizant of the under girding of rich Scottish traditions, while enjoying fellowship, brotherhood and donating money to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. It doesn't get much better than that!

"TOAST TO THE TARTAN"

*By
Murdoch Maclean*

*Here's to it!
The fighting sheen of it,
The yellow, the green of it,
The white, the blue of it,
The swing, the hue of it,
The dark, the red of it,
Every thread of it!*

*The fair have sighed for it,
The brave died for it,
Foemen sought for it,
Heroes fought for it,
Honor the name of it,
Drink to the name of it—
The Tartan!*



PREFACE

In 1996 I volunteered to write the first-ever history of the Syria Highlands Band. Now, 10 years later, I have been requested to prepare an update as part of the 50 year anniversary celebration.

The same title, “By the Right Quick March”, is being used. The text of the 40 anniversary booklet has been reproduced. At the end of most topics material has been inserted covering the ten year period, 1996-2006. The major change in format is the addition of photographs and greater length.

The prime target for readers of this historical booklet are the members of the Syria Highlanders Band – past, present and future. Portions of the material may be of interest to some family members. Because of this limited target audience, much detail has been included.

Basically, this is a factual history. When member’s names are mentioned, I have attempted to keep the accompanying text free of my value judgments. Furthermore, names are used only in all-inclusive categories, thus avoiding the question, “Why did you mention so and so, but not me?” On the other hand, I have provided my interpretation of events. In most instances, I believe my opinions would reflect those of the majority who are participants or observers.

Since the approach is not anecdotal, humorous stories about incidents have been kept to a minimum. The reason for this decision is that the individuals involved usually exhibited less than heroic behavior. Indeed many things have happened that are hilarious and are fun both to listen to and to relate. Nevertheless, I would not want to embarrass anyone by mentioning, or even inferring, his name. No doubt these stories will continue to be handed down through time by word-of-mouth, thus resulting in a continuing oral history. Finally, telling the stories would require many additional pages of text.

I am grateful that Kent Kretzler volunteered to handle the editing, photography and layout segments. Thank you Charlie Gledich for once again is designing the cover and thank you, Frank Sims for formatting the text for the computer.

James Henderson, Jr.
October 2006

ROOTS

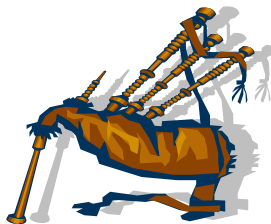
IN THE BEGINNING

Noble Samuel Brown of Turtle Creek was the initiator. Having played the pipes informally at a Shrine picnic in 1952, he was asked by Potentate Joseph C. Burwell to submit an estimate of the cost to start a Band. Due to a Temple building improvement program and economic conditions at the time, however, the idea of a pipe band was dropped.

In February 1955, at the request of Potentate Kenneth T. Paxton, Brown presented a proposal that included the cost of forming a pipe band to consist of six pipers, four snare drummers, two tenor drummers, one bass drummer, and one drum major. Unfortunately, Potentate Paxton was unable to obtain approval from the Executive Committee. They reversed their decision in November 1955, however, and along with incoming Potentate Willard C. Cutler, gave authorization to begin organizing the band.

CHARTERED

By-Laws were prepared. Nevertheless, the four known Syria Temple members who played the pipes and drums (Noble's Sam Brown, pipes, Guy Jardine, bass drum, William Bell, tenor drum and James Thompson, drum major) prevailed upon their Masonic brothers with similar talents to become Nobles of Syria Temple. One Noble piper was unknown to the founders, and joined shortly after they were chartered. At the Fall Ceremonial, December 12, 1956, 15 charter members were present when the "Syria Highlanders" were properly constituted as a Unit of Syria Temple by Potentate Cutler.





CHARTER MEMBERS. Front Row: David Jones, Thomas Morrison (Drum Corporal), Guy Jardine (Drum Sergeant), William Bell, James Thompson, Jr., James Thompson, Sr. (Drum Major). Second Row: Samuel Brown (Pipe Major), James Wardrope (Pipe Sergeant). Third Row: Andrew Whitelaw, James Izatt, Thomas Purdie, Harry Croft. Missing - Adolphus Erskine, David Hamilton, Richard Paton (Pipe Corporal).

EARLY MILITARY OFFICERS

Sam Brown, a member of bands in Scotland and the Pittsburgh area, served as Pipe Major. At the end of 1959, having reached the age of 65, he retired from the position. He remained an active member of the Band and continued to serve as Secretary until health problems prevailed several years later. He passed away in 1965. Pipe Sergeant James Wardrope exchanged positions with Brown. James Niccum followed as Pipe Major for eight years and the position has been held by Jerry Corrie since 1985.

James H. Thompson, Sr., a drummer who had served as Drum Major of the Westinghouse Kiltie Band, was the first Drum Major of the Highlanders. He resigned in 1965 due to declining health. George Mossman, a bass-tenor drummer, was elected to fill the position. Thompson died in 1964. Bill Kindle stepped into the roll and led the band for many years. Next was Stew Boyle and the most recent drum major has been Ken Langlands until his retirement. Each having a style and swagger that has led the band in grand tradition.



The Highlanders, 1961

Front Row: Jim Wardrope, Harry Croft, William Forsyth Jr., Adolphus Erskine, Jim Henderson, William Sands, Sam Brown, James Thompson . Second Row: Jim Agnew, Ralph Angus, Tom Morrison, Joe Lewis, Bill Bell, Walter Sarraf, Brad Magill, Andrew Whitelaw. Third Row: George Mossman, Larry Scott, Andy McCulloch

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

By the end of the first decade of existence, membership had grown from 15 to 40. This rapid increase was recognized in early 1966 when the Highlanders were authorized to increase their membership to 40.





MEMBERS

FRAE BONNIE SCOTLAND

Attendees at a meeting of charter members would have noticed that one distinguishing characteristic was that many spoke with a Scottish dialect. About half of the men were reared in Scotland. Most of the remainder were first or second generation Scots. For most of the group from the “old country”, the pipe band was perceived as a place for men only. Through osmosis, many early members learned from these gentlemen much about the customs and traditions of Scotland. Sadly, this source of culture enrichment diminished. None of the current members were born in Scotland, yet the love of Scottish traditions and customs endure.

WHO PLAYS WHERE?

Another commonality was that most of the Highlanders were also members of other pipe bands. To be a member of three bands simultaneously was not rare. This multi-membership issue created monumental attendance problems from day one that

continued into the 1980s. On holidays the situation was usually chaotic. An unwritten duty of the pipe major was to divide the Highlanders members among other area bands. As a result, it was common for the Highlanders to parade with five to six pipers and three to four drummers. Fortunately this has stopped.



The Syria Highlanders, 1980

Front row: Kent Kretzler, Walter Sarraf, Dave Parry, Bill Ackley, Stew Boyle, Joe Easha

Back row: Jerry Corrie, Charles Gledich, Jeff Ingersoll, Alan Brodsky, Frank Sims, Bob Grabb, Scott Erskine, Jim Nash, Jim Henderson, John McIssac, Bill Kindle

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

The Highlanders are currently a very tight group. One can almost feel the esprit de corps. Because all Shriners are Mason first, this becomes an important bond that would be hard to understate. In recent years, with rare exceptions, the members have been willing to compromise their individuality for the good of the group.

MEMBERS

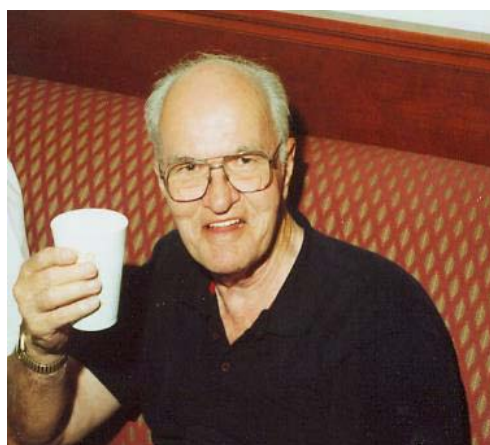
In 1996 and 2006, there were 31 and 30 members, respectively active. There was a small change in the instrument mix; it appears on the surface that it is close to a status quo situation. Not so! It appears only nine pipers and two drummers remain Active members. Four men were not here in 1996 and they left before 2006. During the ten year period, 25 men left the Band; however, 24 joined. Today, 20 of them are active members.



Front row: Frank Watson, Ed Schatz, Harold Gregg, Jack Moucheron, Bob Gourdie, Don McCulloch, Ralph Chaffey, Kent Kretzler, Walter Sarraf. Middle row: Jerry Corrie, Ken Langeland, Scott Herrle, Don Carbaugh, Jim Henderson, Matt Perry, Joe Easha, Bill Gourdie, Charles Gledich, Stew Boyle. Last row: Bill Kindle, Jim Staff, Wink Laird, Skip Green, Frank Sims, Dick Lashley, Crawford Wilson, Tom Murray.,

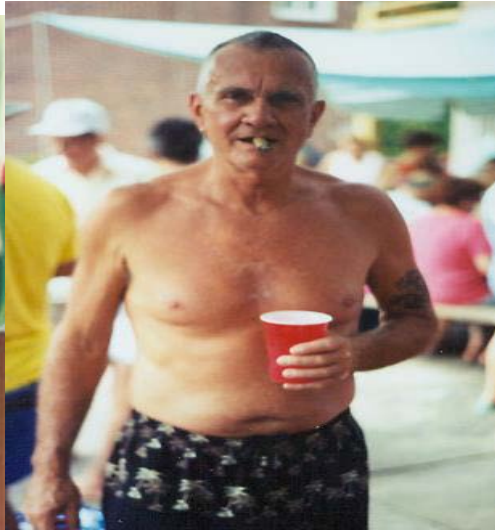
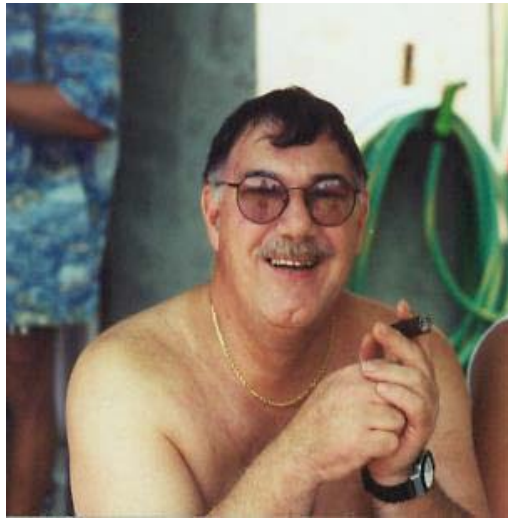
LONGEVITY (Or....The Old Timers)

At the end of 2003 Jim Henderson received permission to transfer to Veteran status after 46 years of service. He followed the path of recent Veterans Joe Easha, 32 years, and Don McCulloch, 28 years. These three men continue to perform with the Highlanders. Active members with long service include: Jerry Corrie (32, Pipe Major for 21 years), Frank Sims (32), Charlie Gledich (28), Kent Kretzler, (27) and Crawford Wilson (20). In June, 2006 Jim Sands became a Veteran after 25 years. He will continue to perform. You'll note that they all have a little gray on top, but the music and fun continue.



Jim Henderson (46 Years)

Joe Easha (32 Years)



Don McCulloch (28 Years)

Jerry Corrie (32 Years)



Frank Sims (32 Years)

Charles Gledich (28 Years)



Kent Kretzler (27 Years)

Crawford Wilson (20 Years)



Jim Sands (25 Years)

GOVERNMENT

BY-LAWS

Like all Shrine Units, the Highlanders are governed by the By-Laws that must be approved by Syria Temple. The original By-Laws were not revised until 1973. Subsequently, complete revisions were made in 1986 and 1992.

The By-Laws remain an important working tool. During the past ten years, there was one complete revision. A major change was to eliminate the “voluntary call.” Now, when the Band accepts an invitation to perform, all members who attend receive an attendance credit. Prior to the change a member who attended all the duty and volunteer calls would have an attendance of over 100%. Now perfect attendance for a year would result in 100% attendance. Because of this action, the attendance standards were altered. Active members must maintain a 60% attendance in a calendar year rather than 65%. The standard for Veteran members dropped from 35% to 25%, calculated on performances only.

Eligibility for Veteran status has changed. An Active member with 15 or more years active service may apply provided he has attained his 60th birthday or the sum of his years of active service plus his age equals 80.

ADMINISTRATION

Regretfully, band records are incomplete. No minutes are on file from the beginning in 1956 until 1960. Nevertheless, in reading through all of the minutes of meetings for both the Board of Control and general membership, one can see a pattern. Many arguments, involving exchanges between angry men, revolved around how the Band was governed. For example, the minutes of June 26, 1966, conclude with this statement, “heated discussion lead by (name omitted), regarding spending money in the

treasury for the Potentate's Dinner developed and after getting out of control, the meeting was adjourned."

While it would be easy to blame outbreaks on personalities, and their lack of tolerance for opposing points of view, one could cite the By-Laws as a culprit. Foremost among the disagreements are the issues of attendance, and perhaps surprisingly, dues.

During the last decade the advent of the computer age has enabled the Band records to be streamlined. E-mail has speeded communication. The current web site is www.shriners.us. Jim Park was involved early on and now Tony Gennaccaro is the Webmaster.

ATTENDANCE

The original By-Laws mandated 75% attendance at practices and performances in a calendar year. Furthermore, missing three consecutive practices could lead to suspension. In 1973, the percentage was lowered to 65%. Later the consecutive meeting requirement was dropped entirely. While the 65% requirement exists today, in reality it is less. This is true because "voluntary calls" have been substituted for a few of the duty calls. Such a call means that if an individual does not attend, he is not marked absent: if he does attend, however, he receives additional credit. Masonic Lodge programs are a prime example of the need for a voluntary call. On those occasions, bigger is not better. A large Band, playing in a small lodge room with a low ceiling, would result in such a high decibel level that it could cause mild discomfort for some of the audience.

Attempts to enforce attendance standards met with much opposition, often in the forms of requests for leaves of absence. One man turned it into an art form. During his several years of membership, his record shows attendance at 8 out of 57 practices, and 15 of 72 performances, for an overall attendance percentage of 18%. One member was present 11% of the time during his one year of membership. At a Board of Control meeting on February 10, 1974, action was taken involving 18 members who had received letters in July of 1973 categorizing their attendance as unsatisfactory beginning in 1970. This crackdown was precipitated by Syria Temple officials refusing additional funding for uniforms. They said that the Highlanders wanted to equip 36 members, yet they observed that the usual turnout at Shrine functions was 12-16 men.

In 1982 action was taken against 12 members who had unsatisfactory attendance. This was a major turning point. Since that time the By-Laws have been enforced, and attendance has been very good.

Attendance remains high for both the practices and performances. During the past decade there has been a leveling off to the point that there is approximately 50 times the Band comes together: practices = 1/3; performances=2/3. This in sharp contrast to

1970 when the ratios were about the same (9 practices, 16 performances), but the total was 50% less.

While the overall attendance has been good, there have always been a few members who have had work commitments and/or personal problems that cause them to be unable to meet the attendance standards. By applying for a leave of absence, in increments of six or twelve months, they have been able to maintain their membership. There is a limit of three in a life time with one exception. Members who serve on the Divan automatically receive leaves of absence.



Drum Major Bill Kindle leads the way at a Syria Shrine Circus parade

DUES

Initially dues were 50 cents a month, payable monthly. In 1963, it was increased to \$1.00 a month. For the next decade, most every year a motion was made to lower the dues. Each attempt was voted down. One year the rebels were creative. They were successful in passing a motion to suspend dues for the last six months of 1966. Today the \$1.00 dues per month are no problem. But is worth noting that the value of the dollar today is much less than it was 44 years ago. A change has been to have the entire amount payable in February, thereby reducing the volume of bookkeeping. There was no change of dues from 1996-2006.

OFFICERS OF TODAY

There are two types of officers, civilian and military. Each has elected and appointed members. The nomenclature has changed little. In 1994 the top civilian officers were changed to Clan Chief and Assistant Clan Chief from President and Vice-President. These were changed to conform to other pipe bands in MAASH (Mid-Atlantic Association of Scottish Highlanders). Some time ago, the title Lance Corporal was dropped.

Civilian Elected. Until the 1980s it was not uncommon for the Clan Chief to serve two or more terms. One of the strengths of the Highlanders has been the number of past Clan Chiefs who have remained involved in the organization. Currently they account for 18 of the 36 members. The amount of responsibility has increased for the Assistant Clan Chief. The annual Band Dinner is now an event he chairs, as well as the hospitality suites for the Potentate's Banquet and MASA (Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association). Duties of the Secretary have changed little: the volume of work, however, has skyrocketed because the number of bookings has more than doubled over the past decade. The Secretary, as well as the Quartermaster, has been added to the Board of Control. The current Treasurer has computerized our records, thereby providing for quick and easy preparation of reports. Data now can be generated that enables an analysis of income and expenses. And as true Scotsman, we always want to know where the money is!



The Wall of Past Presidents / Clan Chiefs, The Syria Highlanders

Top Row: Gene Coon, Bill Kindle, Bob Grabb, Jim Niccum, Joe Easha, Frank Sims, Ralph Chaffey

2nd Row: Dick Lashley, Dave parry, Kent Kretzler, Charles Gledich, Jim Sands, Harold Gregg, Crawford Wilson

3rd Row: Frank Watson, Bill Gourdie, Wink Laird, Ed Schatz, Ralph Chaffey, Don McCullouch, Ken Eastgate

Bottom Row: Don McMillan, Harry Pease, Rich Levine, Matt Parry, Bill Kable, Mark Goss, Mike Mammay

Military Elected. The duties of the Pipe Major and Drum Major are timeless. The Pipe Major also serves as musical director. In reviewing the records, one important fact stood out about every man who has been elected to these two key positions. Their attendance was so phenomenal that they rarely missed a practice or a performance. One exception was Pipe Major Jim Niccum during a strike at the Koppers plant at Petrolia

when he was locked in the facility for four months! Throughout history all of these military officers have been committed to excellence. Although whether to become a competition band is no longer an issue, everyone would like the Unit to be a good “street band” without sacrificing the fun part of it. Maintaining this delicate balance is at the core of the current success and the linchpin on which depends the future of the organization.

As an outgrowth of the By-Laws revision of 2002, detailed job descriptions were developed for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Also, four forms were designed for use by the Quartermaster to control the ordering, issuing, lending and retrieving uniforms and equipment.

Several years ago steps were taken to provide aid to the Assistant Clan Chief while performing duties as Chairman of the Hospitality Suite at MASA.



The Highlanders at Three Rivers Stadium

PARTICIPATIVE DECISION MAKING

Unlike many Syria Units, all decisions are made by the entire membership body. For example, all invitations to perform are brought directly to the general membership for decisions. The Board of Control meets regularly and makes recommendations to members. These actions have been accepted with few exceptions. Equally important, valuable meeting time is saved. Even though behavior becomes a bit raucous at times, the membership meetings move along at an acceptable pace because of good control exercised by the Clan Chiefs. Most members seem comfortable when speaking to the issues, even when their views are minority ones. When votes are called following open discussions, the decisions result in solid consensus. This leads to commitment to support the outcomes.

In 2006, participative decision making continues to be the norm.

The Board of Control remains an integral part of the decision making process. Members include: Civilian Officers – Clan Chief, Assistant Clan Chief, Secretary, and Treasurer: Military Officers – Drum Major, Pipe Major: Representative from the drum,

pipe and veterans sections and the Quartermaster. This small group is a good cross-section and small enough to provide for in-depth discussion of important issues. The vast majority of their recommendations are adopted.



Another First Place MASA Trophy

Front row: Dave Parry, Ron McKay, Wally Sarraf, Ralph Chaffey, Bim Lucas, Stew Boyle, Kent Kretzler.
2nd row: Don Carbaugh, Jim Sands, Jim Niccum, Charles Gledich.
Back row: Jerry Corrie, Dick Lashley, Joe Easha, Jim Henderson, John Vogel.

WILL YE NO COME BACK AGAIN?

Another indicator of the participative approach is the “Good of the Order” agenda item that precedes adjournment. It is a time for remarks about non-agenda items. Some of the verbiage is “venting:” most of it however, is constructive criticism. Often there will be an item that is not Band business per se, but is of general interest.

The attacking of personalities rather than issues had declined dramatically in recent years. Now most meetings are concluded with an hour; the average time years ago were at least twice as long. Previously, discussions were often rancorous. Many items were tabled. Members left feeling weary at best and angry at worst. Some left early. The Temple cleared quickly after the meetings. This isn’t the case any longer.....

A WEE-DOECH AND AN-DORUS

In the 1990s, when meetings concluded, many men linger for fellowship, good times and “conversation”. The noise level is high and anyone walking by would know that warmth and fun are to be found in the Highlander Unit Room. Laughter can be heard. Adversaries’ only minutes ago often end up having congenial conversation.



UNIT ASSOCIATION

Cooperation and communication among Syria Units has been enhanced since the formation of the Unit Association in 1989. The Unit Representative from the Highlanders from 1989-95 was Frank Sims. He served as President in 1992-1993 and as Secretary for three years. Bill Gourdie was the Representative in 1996 - 99 and also served as the Secretary of the Association. In 2000, Matt Perry became the Rep, followed by Ken Langlands who served 2001- 04. Mike Mammy, the incumbent, started in 2005 and is the current Vice President.

During the past ten years, the Highlanders have been a strong supporter of the Unit Association.

MUSIC

BOOK OF TUNES

It wasn't until 1994 that the Highlanders had their own book of tunes. Pipe Corporal Bill Fife, using a computer program, compiled and published “Pipe Section Settings” that contained 28 tunes. Pipe Sergeant Charlie Gledich was the editor. This was a major step forward and long overdue.

When the Highlanders were formed in 1956, different members learned from different books because they had different instructors. As a result, arrangements were not always standardized. New tunes were added and pipe majors changed. Through

time the collection grew like topsy. Pipers would have single sheets of music, often outdated. Some files contained two arrangements.

The Highlanders book of tunes adopted in 1994 is still in use. In 2005 the Highlanders put their pipe music on a CD and currently putting the drummer sets on a CD with pipe music.

THE TUNES

The Band receives many requests to play “Amazing Grace.” Many forget that the popularity of this well-known hymn arranged for the pipes goes back only to the early 1970s when a recording by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards became famous around the world. When played at worship services it has been customary for the final verse to be played as an echo by a solo piper located in the rear of the church. This is the only tune that the Band plays without drums.

“Scotland the Brave” is an overwhelming favorite of audiences. Crowd response is magical. Many people, although not familiar with pipe music, can often whistle or hum a few bars. The sett includes “Rowan Tree.” This sett, and a few others, evolved from those used by the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Long-time Syria Pipe Major Jimmy Wardrope was a friend of their pipe major.

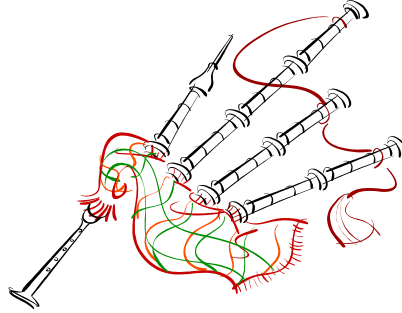
During the past few years at MASA, the Band has played “Mari’s Wedding” while passing through the judging area with wonderful results. This is a little surprising because it did not become a Highlanders tune until 1989. It was undertaken because it was on the massed band list for the Imperial Convention in Toronto. Alas, the Band was unable to attend. At this time, “Wings” also became an additional Band tune.

NEW TUNES

New to the Band is the armed forces medley. “Wings.” A British military song is followed by the traditional song of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. During the Joint Concert, Don MacMillan plays a trumpet rendition of the Merchant Marines and Coast Guard at the beginning of the medley.

The newest set is “British Grenadiers” and “Gary Owens”.

At the Joint Concert a few years ago, the drummers salute was introduced. It involves all members of the drum section. The current salute was first played at the 2005 Joint Concert. Audience comments have been very favorable. In the future, this will be an excellent way to spotlight the drum section at various events.



“OLD TUNES NEVER DIE, THEY JUST –“

In days of yore there were other Band tunes. They fell into disuse. Who knows why? Other than the reel “Piper o’ Drummond” that was never mastered, tunes gradually disappeared from the repertoire without formal announcement because of preferences of pipe majors and members, as well as competence of the pipers. Some of the tunes were: “All the Blue Bonnets are Over the Border,” “Mallorca,” “Marquis of Huntley,” “My Lodgings on the Cold Ground,” “The Earl of Mansfield’s March,” “The 79th’s Farewell to Gibraltar.”

THE UNIFORMS

Scottish military kilted outfits change little. During the 40 year history of the Syria Highlanders the changes mostly have been gradual. The only major one, tunics, occurred almost 25 years ago. You can see the changes from the photos over the years. The Highlanders are the only pipes and drums band in this area who wears the military type of uniform.

TUNICS

In 1972 the original white whipcord tunics with green piping, were jettisoned in favor of the traditional black blathera cloth with whip piping. From that time on, the Drum Major ceased to wear a green tunic. Unfortunately 20 months elapsed between the placing of the order and members being outfitted satisfactorily. Simultaneously the black waist belts were replaced with white ones. Band founders chose white because they wanted tunics identical to those worn by a local Tall Cedars band. Some members held dual membership. Because the tunics were interchangeable, except for shoulder patches, the canny Scots believed that in the event the membership grew more rapidly than Temple funding, this scheme would provide some temporary relief.

SHIRTS

Shirts, rather than tunics, have always been worn with the summer uniform. The original ones were white, long sleeved, and 100% cotton. Ironing was a must. The saving grace was that there were only a handful of performances, even in the summertime. First, the long sleeves were eliminated, and then a switch was made to khaki. By the time that the white shirts reappeared, it was necessary to retain the khaki because of the several occasions when more than one performance is scheduled in a week. Both shirts are made from an easy-to-care-for cotton-polyester material.

Three years ago, khaki was designated as the primary shirt. The white shirt is the back-up that is used when two performances are scheduled with on week.

An additional type shirt has been added to the wardrobe. The black crew neck tee shirt with yellow printing is worn with khaki shorts. Printed on the shirt are the years that the Band won the first place trophy at the MASA parade from 1991-2002. This casual outfit has been worn at picnics.

KILTS AND PLAIDS

Founding fathers selected the Royal Stewart tartan to pay homage to the former ruling family of Scotland.

As additional kilts and plaids were ordered, problems of uniformity arose. The hues in the colors were not always identical, and the size of the pattern varied. Today the kilts are matched; the plaids are not. Also there is a weight variance. In the days before pleated plaids, the two person maneuver to put it on was more intricate. The plaid was stretched then folded twice. Care had to be taken not to let it unfurl while wrapping it around the body. Old timers still talk about a piper who was able to don the tunic with the plaid in place without help. Fortunately for the drummers, they wear the half plaid.



HEADGEAR

Early Band photographs show the Glengarry bonnets adorned with cock feathers. Since 1971 the much sturdier red hackles have been worn. Beginning in 1960, white pith helmets were part of the summer uniform. It was reported that the helmets were surplus items from the Boer War! They were regal looking, but cumbersome. By comparison, the Glengarry is easy to store under the belt when not in use. Pith helmets are gone but not forgotten, inasmuch as the Drum Major wears one in the summer. In the winter he dons a feather bonnet. Feather bonnets were considered for Bandsmen in 1960, and as recently as 1996. It has been the warmth, the size, the bulk, and the weight, rather than the cost that have prevented serious consideration for purchases.

ACCESSORIES

Getting dressed has become easier since the invention of Velcro. Early members will recall the tedium of fastening each button on the spats. Some found it necessary to use a button hook. In caring for the uniform, a time savings resulted from plating the silver on the brooch, buckle, cap crest, and sporran in 1965. Another plus in convenience was the addition of black leather pouches in 1983. Name tags were first used in 1972. Tags were easy to forget. Conformity was reached by disciplining the culprits who attended performances without them. Penalty: Bring a case of camel's milk to the next performance! Kilt pins and skean dhuis are optional. Individuals wear whatever their taste dictates. The hose tops and flashes are virtually unchanged. Finally, red ascots ("dickies") were worn for a brief period before being discontinued in 1982. In appearance they resembled those worn by the Legion of Honor. Although they provided uniformity at the top of the shirt, they were not traditional and brought unwelcome extra warmth.

In 1997, the Highlanders were unable to replace white waist belts. A switch was made to black waist belts were coupled with a new item, black cross belts. New cap badges were issued in 2004. At the time this book is written a search is in progress to locate a vendor to replace the woolen hose tops. Also a colored shirt is a being considered.



COSTS

Originally the Temple paid for the uniforms. In the 1980s members bought their shirts. Today the shirts are free to members, but glengarries must be purchased.

In 1996 to outfit a Bandsman would cost over \$1,300. Today to equip a member with a new uniform would be approximately \$1,700. The Band is fortunate to be able to cover purchase costs from the donations received from performances. Twice extra money was needed. Both times they were able to turn to Syria for assistance. Treasurer Frank Sims spearheaded the drive that resulted in the Highlanders receiving no-interest loans. Each time the payments were made on time over a two year period.

The “big ticket” items are: Kilt, \$395, tunics, \$350, sporran, \$250, plaids, \$250. In 1962, a complete uniform cost a total of \$200.

Syria Shrine owns the Bass Drum. Pipers and drummers pay for their own instruments.

BAND AIDES

Band Aides were added in 1963. They assisted the Quartermaster. Their unique uniforms consisted of a white dinner jacket with a Royal Stewart tartan shawl, tartan bow tie, white shirt, gray slacks and diced Glengarry. Since 1973 the Band Aides have worn regular Band uniforms. In the last decade two slots have been filled with potential members.

QUARTERMASTER

The Quartermaster is responsible for ordering, maintaining and storing the uniforms and equipment. Effective long range planning has enabled members, old and new to be well equipped. The Quartermaster is appointed each year by the Drum Major. Some of the past Quartermaster's have been Tom Morrison, Brad Magill, Pete Conway, Walter Stewart, Dick Paton, Tony Blasovich, Ronnie McKay, Frank Sims, 1986 -1999, Joe Easha, 2000-2003, and Don MacMillan, 2004-present. Don has arranged for the sale of unusable pieces, particularly kilts



FACILITIES

HARMAR TOWNSHIP

The beautiful new Syria Shrine Center in suburban Harmar Township was opened in October 1994 and included for the Highlanders a Unit Room, storage lockers, and ample free parking. Wow! Our building is considered one of the premier shrine center structures in the country. Numerous shrine centers, across North America, have copied many of the designs that our building provides.



OAKLAND

Space was scarce for the Units at the Syria Mosque in Oakland. For the Highlanders, a relatively young Unit, space was meager at best. Minutes of a meeting in 1960 reflect the continuing search for suitable space. Three wooden large cupboards were constructed in 1973 to house the spare uniforms and equipment. There were no chairs, coat racks, or other amenities. This room was shared with other Units. On the days of the Ceremonials, this space was needed as a dressing room by the women serving the dinners.

On the other hand, the ballroom was a perfect place for Band practice. The large open spaces were ideal for marching. Various aide rooms were always available for the Band meetings that followed practice. In later years, scheduling became more difficult due to increased use of the Mosque by outside groups. At times Units had to share use of the facility. Practice on the stage in the auditorium made marching virtually impossible. Attendance was poor on the few occasions when practices were held at other locations.



BAUM BOULEVARD

The best part of the move to the temporary quarters on Baum Boulevard, 1991-1994, was acquiring a Unit room for the first time. The room was small: nevertheless, it helped everyone envision what would be the requirements for a first class facility for the Highlanders. Sadly, there was a huge negative. In spite of security, cars were broken into. No tears were shed when the building was vacated.

HARMAR TOWNSHIP UNIT ROOM

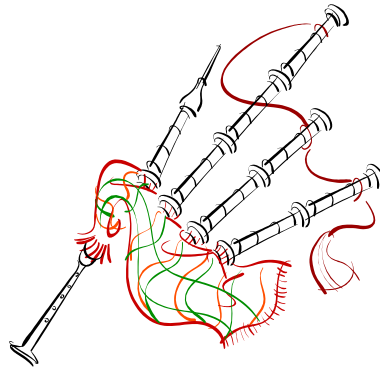
After the move, the Unit Room was furnished at a rapid pace. Getting membership approval for expenditures from the Band treasury was no problem. The Unit Room Committee had reached consensus and explained their plans thoroughly.

All members are proud of their Unit Room and are pleased to invite one and all through the door to enjoy the fellowship of the “#1 Highlander’s.” This designation is evidenced by the trophy case in the hallway in front of the room that showcases the first place trophies for 1991-1995 at the MASA parades. Our current problem is (and it’s a good one to have)...where to house our future trophies

The Highlanders Unit Room received a makeover in 2002. New bar chairs were purchased, the brewmeister was discarded, and clutter was removed from the walls. At the Band dinner in 1997, Past Potentate and Honorary Member Norm Arbes, donated a Scottish claymore for the room. The room is somewhat like an historical museum. The photographs and memorabilia bring to mind members and events from long ago. Many times all of the chairs are filled. That is not all bad. People standing and moving around in a small area encourages conversation. The Highlanders are proud of the way they have utilized the small space. The Highlanders Unit Room continues to be a place other Shriners like to visit.

OTHER ROOMS

The showcase outside the Unit Room is filled to capacity with trophies. Fortunately the Brass Band Music Room has always been available for meetings. Almost all of the time the ballroom has been available for the Wednesday evening practices. The storage rooms are close by and utilized.



PARADES

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

On the afternoon of June 10, 1996, the Highlanders participated in the North Irwin Centennial Parade. They were lined up on the street awaiting the call to move out when a heavy rain suddenly began to fall. Members scampered up the steps to an adjacent house. Fortunately all were able to fit on the large porch. Several minutes elapsed before the worst of the storm subsided. There was a light, but steady rain when a parade marshal asked if the Highlanders wanted to rejoin the parade. No thanks. The home owner's request for "Amazing Grace" was fulfilled. By then the rain was a light shower. The troops dashed through the backyard and down the alley to the Fire Station. About an hour passed, and the group was having a good time. The parade director entered and said that there was sunshine outdoors. Not many members had gone home so they agreed to reenter the parade. The end of the parade route was but a few blocks away. Happily it terminated near the Fire Station. Back inside, refreshments were supplied. The Band played for their hosts. One of the guests even offered money to play a few tunes.

Obviously this was not a typical parade. Neither was the unexpected a rare occurrence.



The Highlanders hit the street!

IDEAL PARADE INGREDIENTS

The ideal parade would occur in an Allegheny County community at mid-morning on a Saturday when no Band activity was scheduled within a week. A cloudy day with no treat of rain, temperature 60 degrees, with a gentle breeze would be about right. For accepting the invitation the sponsors would have guaranteed a generous donation. The parade director would slot the Highlanders near the front of the parade, away from ear shot of fire engine sounds. The Units would march off at the advertised starting time. No Unit would be allowed to stop to perform. Distance would be one mile, on level terrain, with a route that would be a circle with the same start and finish point. A large crowd would line the streets and applaud enthusiastically. Free parking would be nearby. At the conclusion of the parade, free refreshments would be available.

Many parade sponsors, commercial establishments and private clubs have been very kind in this respect. These are times for fellowship. It's a relaxed atmosphere in which to play the pipes and drums. Although it's informal, and on a voluntary basis, the music is usually of good quality. Many members fondly recall occasions when they have entertained the audience with the sett, "Highland Laddie," "The Black Bear," and "Caller Herrin'."

"BREAD WINNERS"

Parades have been the most common type of performance. They are also the most physically demanding. What follows are representative samples to highlight some of the parades: (1) Shrine and Masonic related, (2) All-time favorites, (3) Annual events for several years.



The highlight of every parade!

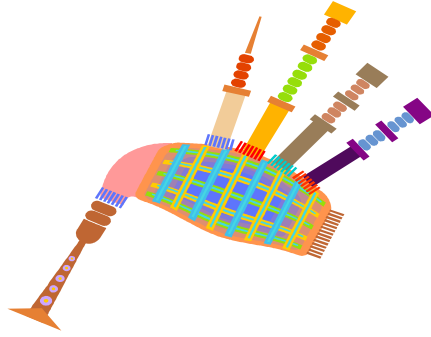
SHRINE PARADES

“Temple Duty Call.” Each year Syria Units are requested to participate in a few parades throughout the Oasis. Generally, the Potentate will schedule a parade in his hometown. Most parades are “one shot” appearances. The current exceptions are the California University of Pennsylvania Homecoming Parade, and the venerable Fort Ligonier Days Parade.

These are good showcases for the Shrine organization in the communities visited. When all of the Shrine Units are on the street, the sight is colorful, diversified, and awesome as the entire group extends for several blocks from beginning to end. These events have proven to be an excellent time for fraternization among Unit men, both before the parades and after at the feeds provided by the Temple.

Each year Syria Shrine Units have paraded at the Shrine Circus. It is mini parade in the sense that the parade route consists of one trip around the ground floor of the Mellon Arena. For a brief time, Three Rivers Stadium was the location. For many, many years circus week was a grind – performances for five nights plus a Saturday matinee. The grueling schedule necessitated that the Band be divided in half, with each group assigned to half of the events.

Some Units now ride rather than march. Contrast this with what happened on August 29, 1970, a day of endurance to be remembered. Buses left Syria Mosque very early on Saturday. After morning parade in New Castle, the troops piled back on the buses and headed to Butler. After a box lunch, it was necessary to parade there before heading home



The Syria Highlanders march as the Allegheny County Sherriff's Band on St Patrick's Day and lead the parade each year. Front row: Kent Kretzler, Ralph Chaffey, Rich Levine, Bob Gourdie, Doug Mahaven, Bill Kable, Mike Mammay, Lee Foster. Middle row: Jerry Corrie, Don MacMillan, Crawford Wilson, Matt Perry, Jim Sands, Charles Gledich, Tom Murray Ken Langland. Back row: Wink Laird, Ken Eastgate, Frank Sims, Harry Pease, Joe Easha, Mark Goss, Jim Parks

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

It starts early and continues through the afternoon. By evening there still are some individuals gung-ho to move on to yet another gathering to play the pipes and drums.

St. Patrick's Day is a big day for politicians, as well as the Irish. Since 1969, when Gene Coon was elected Allegheny County Sheriff, on St. Patrick's Day there has been a Sheriff's Band. a.k.a., Syria Highlanders. This core group has been augmented by anyone, piper or drummer, male or female, who showed up with their instrument, a kilt, and a highland cap. Deputy Sheriff's jackets are furnished, plus a green bow tie to wear with a white shirt. It's a happening rather than a parade. Perhaps this explains the extraordinary turnouts. On these special days, past and potential members have been welcomed. Some men will recall that this was their first performance with a pipe band.

The weather is always a vital ingredient. Usually it's raw and cold. That's the bad news. The good news is the Sheriff's Band is among the first Units in the parade. On March 12, 1993, the news was all bad. Snow began falling early in the day and didn't stop until evening. The snowfall set an all-time record for accumulation in Pittsburgh within a 24 hour period. There was conjecture that the parade might be cancelled. After the parade began, the group gathered outside the Sheriff's office in the courtyard before joining the parade in progress as their assigned spot. Before doing so, they gathered for a memorable photograph that is ion display today in the Unit Room. A majority of the parade Units had failed to arrive or had dropped out. The Sheriff's Band sloshed along in the snow and slush and stayed the course. At that point some went home; some partied for awhile, a few remained until evening and provided music for the guests stranded at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel. And one member was insightful and/or lucky because his family had accompanied him to Pittsburgh. Staying overnight was the simple and safe thing to do.

Anyone who ever played in the Sheriff's Band on St. Patrick's Day will never forget it. For this, thanks are owed to the Shrine for permitting members to use their Band kilts. Most of all, homage is paid to piper Gene Coon, a Past Clan Chief, and an Honorary Member of the Syria Highlanders, for being gracious host and making it all possible.

Gene Coon passed away in 1997. The Band played at the church service. Perhaps it was a surprise to some when Sheriff Pete DeFazio decided to keep the Sheriff's Band in tact. The good times continue.



Another perfect (?) day for a St. Patrick's Day Parade

LIGONIER

This parade ranks high in enjoyment among all of the Syria Units. What a perfect, picture-card setting. The parade route is all level or downhill. Along the entire parade route, it is a sea of people. Marching around the town square is invigorating. Even though the increase in the size of crowds has necessitated an earlier arrival, it has let to a good turnout at the VFW Post near the parade starting point. A few Highlanders have convinced the hosts to open an hour earlier on this special day! Many festival events are in progress simultaneously, so most family members would also rate this day as “two thumbs up.”



An annual crowd favorite at The Ligonier Parade

CANONSBURG

The Fourth of July for most of the years 1966-81 began with a parade in Canonsburg. The festivities got underway at the White Eagles Club that was located next to the parking lot in the staging area. Kelly’s Pub was located in the last block of the parade route. Even though green shamrocks were everywhere, the owner was not Irish. Nevertheless, each year it was like a ritual that had been scripted. As the Band approached playing “Wearing of the Green” and “Minstrel Boy,” the Pub would empty. The inhabitants crowded the steps and filled the air with applause. The Drum Major saluted. Continuing to play as they reached the end of the block, the Band made a right turn, then another right turn down the alley. The final right was through a back yard. The door would be held open as the Band played inside before eventually retiring to the back room. “Kelly” always supplied an abundant spread of food and camel’s milk. Band members didn’t tarry long because many of them had commitments with other pipe bands for afternoon parades.



Ken Langlands leads the way as the Highlanders parade

GRAND MASTER PARADE

A very special parade was held in Ligonier June 26, 1976. The Syria Highlanders joined with the pipes and drums of Tall Cedars #160 and marched as one Unit as the Grand Masters Parade. Drum Major Bill Kindle from the Highlanders was out front. Drum Major Alec Lees from Tall Cedars followed and commanded a big band including 19 Syria members.

OTHER PARADES

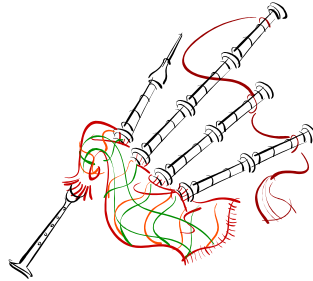
Here is a 2006 update of the 1996 information listed above. The Monroeville Fourth of July Parade remains in tact. When the Millvale VFD Parade returned it was as a Shrine duty call.

The Highlanders are pleased that Syria has eased the booking procedure. Many years ago the Band could not accept an invitation to perform until written permission was received from the Potentate. Through the years, the Band has established long-term relationships with officials of organizations that schedule community parades. This is a “win-win” situation for everyone.

Today the longest number of years (18) at the same location is at Monroeville for the Fourth of July Parade, and at Millvale for the VFD parade. The years are probably about the same for the Monroeville Memorial Day Parade. Other long-term communities that continue to host the Highlanders are: Crafton (15), Bellevue (14), Bloomfield (12), Munhall (8), Shaler (7), McKees Rocks (6), Prospect (6) and Sharpsburg (6).

The Prospect Community Parade of 2005 will be remembered for a long time. As the starting time for the parade approached, a light rain was falling. What to do? The decision was made not to march. The officials were informed. Similar situations have

occurred in the past. This time the ending was different. The Band members were in their cars riding along in the parade waving to the crowd.



CONCERTS

TARTAN BALLS

A watershed year for the Highlanders was 1991. The previous year, Norm Arbes, then Chief Rabban, attended a Band meeting and stated that he would like his Potentate's Ball to be a Tartan Ball. The Unit accepted the challenge, designed a format, and rehearsed diligently. This even resulted in the most publicity that had ever been bestowed upon the Highlanders. The program not only showcased the Band, but also provided well-rounded entertainment. The Gledich family performed the traditional highland dances. Pipe Sergeant Charlie Gledich accompanied the dancers: wife, Janet; daughter, Melissa; sisters, Joanne and Karen. The Pitt Alumni dance Band joined the Highlanders for several tunes. Many in the audience were introduced to the glorious meat dish as Piper and Master of Ceremonies, Bill Gourdie gave the Address to the Haggis. The fine quality of playing has been preserved on videotape. Extra satisfaction was derived from the presence of guests from other MASA pipe bands. Later in the year the Highlanders began the consecutive first place wins at MASA that continues today. Norm Arbes was made an honorary member of the Highlanders.

Allen Fowkes requested a Tartan Ball when he was Potentate in 1995. The venue changed from the old to New Shrine Center. Sight lines were not good for some of the audience. A plus, however, was having the dancers perform on the stage. For the first time in concert, a drummer's salute was included. It was well received by the large crowd.

The third Tartan Ball took place in 1997. Kent Kretzler was Potentate. He became the first Highlander to be Illustrious Sir, leader of the third largest Shrine in North America. During his term he designated the Highlanders to be his choice to be the lead Unit for Syria parades. It was a great honor to be highlighted all year long.

It was good to be marching at the front of all Syria units in 1997. It gave a reprise from marching behind the Horse Patrol (avoiding the "gifts" left behind from the

horses), or the Motor Corps who performed their drills, then sped away leaving gaps that were difficult to close.

SHRINE FAMILY PICNICS

Every year since the Band was formed, they have performed at Kennywood Park for the Shrine Family Picnic. The Band Shell, with dressing rooms under the stage, was an isolated assembly area. After the structure was demolished, the move was made to a congested area where “tune up” takes place amongst the picnickers. The turnout of members has been large. As the crowd gathers at the dining pavilion, the Band begins its approach led by the Drum Major and Scottish dancers. Unfortunately the dancers must perform on asphalt, a less-than-desirable surface. Nevertheless, they have always been warmly received by the audience. This long-run picnic, originally exclusively for Shriners and their families, remains a festive day for members, particularly those with children and grandchildren.

After several years’ absence, the Highlanders have been granted permission to return to the original format at the Shrine Family Picnic at Kennywod Park. The Band marches from the edge of the park past Noah’s Ark playing “Cock o’ North” en route to the front of the dining pavilion. Black shirts and tan shorts are the uniform of the day for the half-hour concert. The informal uniform is not only more comfortable, but much time is saved changing clothes. This too is good news to the many members who bring their families. Many picnickers have commented that they prefer to see and listen to the Highlanders at this venue rather than participating in the Units Parade through the Park.

SHRINE STAG PICNICS

The Shrine Stag Picnic has been a difficult event for the Highlanders. For many, many years it was held early in the MASA week. Some members had work schedule problems. And there have always been some individuals present who have preferred to enjoy the festivities without having to perform. A compromise was finally reached by designating the event as a voluntary rather than a duty call. Although the Band size has been small at times, there has been enough performing to fulfill the obligation to the Shine.

The Band continues the many-year custom of playing at the Shrine Stag Picnic at the Shrine Pavilion. No uniform is worn. The change of location from Kenny wood, and the change of day from Friday to Saturday, has made it easier for more members to attend.

SHRINE CEREMONIALS

Once upon a time, Hot Sands Ceremonials were all-day affairs. Units on Parade were a mini concert rather than a brief walk though. The Highlanders were allocated six to seven minutes. Since 1962, the finale was always the highlight. “Scotland the Brave”, once in place, then march off stage, down the ramp, up the aisle, out of the auditorium, accompanied by the Syria Brass Band in the pit.

Even though music from the Units is no longer a major part of the Ceremonial, the Highlanders are pleased to perform for the candidates and interact with them at the Unit table and the Unit Room. This has proved to be a good recruiting tool. Certainly an offer of free instruction is an excellent lure.



The Highlanders enter the Syria Shrine Center

SHRINE JOINT CONCERTS

The first Joint Concert was a big fund raiser for the Shriners hospitals performed in 1993. Originally comprised of the Syria Brass Band and Chanters, the Highlanders were added a year later. Started at Baldwin High School, and now held at Syria Shrine Center, all proceeds go to the great Shrine philanthropy. All three groups and the audience participate during the rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

The program is the same, yet different. Our members have found ways of “spicing up” the program with different renditions of old favorites, introduction of new tunes and

new instrumentations, or creating a drummers salute which has become a crowd favorite. The “grand entrance” of the band always seems to draw interest from the patrons. Variations of the entrance occur during each performance, yet due to the size, the band performs on two tiers, pipers on stage and the drummers on the floor. Yet, as the pipes and drums sound, the audience turns to see the majestic site as the Highlanders enter. The sound fills the auditorium and the audience loves it. As a patron stated, “When the pipes and drums enter the room, it gives me goose bumps every year. It’s the highlight of the show”.

The 14th Annual Joint Concert with the Brass Band and Chanters was performed May 7 at the Shrine Center ballroom. The net proceeds of several thousands dollars each year continues to be an excellent fund raising event. Currently, the program closes with all three Units participating in the rendition of “Scotland the Brave.” The audience loves it !



The Highlanders perform at the annual Joint Concert



Ralph Chaffey, Jerry Corrie, Crawford Wilson , Frank Sims and Charles Gledich perform at the Joint Concert

SYRIA UNITS

In recent years the Band has been privileged to fulfill requests from Syria Units to provide entertainment for their functions, some of which are MASA gatherings in Pittsburgh. A by-product has been increased respect for the Highlanders.

For many years the Band has been invited by the Syria Motor Corps to entertain at the Shrine Pavilion during their annual Antique Car Show and Poker Run.

OTHER TEMPLES

Several times during the 70s and 80s, the Highlanders performed at Osiris Temple in Wheeling. Early on, transportation by school buses was furnished free of charge by Jim Houggy, Syria Potentate in 1970. En route in 1974, a business meeting was conducted that included the election of officers. Usually it was a time to enjoy fellowship while enduring a bumpy ride. At times ribald humor prevailed.

In the late 1950s, for reasons that are obscure, the Highlanders ventured all the way to Parkersburg, located in west-central West Virginia, to perform at a Ceremonial. The bus departed the Syria Mosque at 6:00a.m. And returned at 2:30 a.m. And in 1967 the Band was in Warren, Pennsylvania, to assist at a Zem Zem (Erie) Ceremonial.

MASONIC LODGES

Each year, as time permits, the Highlanders provide entertainment at Masonic Lodges. The typical program is 30-40 minutes of music interspersed with commentary about the instruments, music and uniforms.

The Highlanders accept invitations from Masonic Lodges to perform, usually three per year. It is an automatic acceptance when a member is serving as Worshipful Master. A number of our members have been honored to serve as Master of their Lodge.





First Row: Jack Moucheron, Greg Moran, Bill Kable, Mile Mammay Second Row: Dale Brown, Wink Laird, Doug Mahaven, Ed Ussack Back Row: Jerry Corrie, Jeff Gruber, Ken Eastgate, Charles Gledich, Frank Sims, Bob McCarthy

CHURCH SERVICES

At East Liberty Presbyterian Church, the Highlanders had performed an unbelievable 33 consecutive years, ending in 2004. A 15 minute concert in front of the church precedes the worship service. Leading the processional, the pipes and drums are heard before they are seen. The sound is not over-powering because the huge Gothic church is cavernous. Dr. Charles Robshaw, senior pastor, now retired, was always very complimentary. He explained that as a boy in Ireland, he owned a practice chanter, but gave up playing the pipes because of the level of difficulty.

The band has also performed 13 consecutive years at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Highland Park. Always well received by the congregation, it's a program that is anticipated each year by all.

For the third time the Band traveled to New Castle to participate in the worship service at the Croton Avenue Methodist Church. Skip Green, the minister, was a piper in the Highlanders for ten years.

SHRINERS HOSPITAL

A concert was given at the Shriners Hospital in Erie in 2002 as part of the visitation day activities. After a tour of the impressive facilities, members adjourned to nearby Presque Isle State Park for a family picnic.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BAR HOP

In 1998, Matt Perry, suggested a plan based on his own experience, to raise money for the Shrine Hospitals. After approval, he contacted several bars in Beaver and Butler counties. For a small donation, the Band plays for 20 minutes at their establishment. After the event they receive a suitable plaque. All money received flows through the Band treasury. Most of original group are still involved. Crowds have increased as have their enthusiastic responses. Although not solicited, many customers have given generous amounts of cash. The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pittsburgh is scheduled for the last Saturday morning before the holiday. The Bar Hop takes place in the evening of the actual holiday.



OTHER CONCERTS

Since 1989 the Highlanders have played a half-hour concert at the Beaver County Maple Syrup Festival. Part of the compensation is complimentary tickets for buckwheat pancakes and sausage. The weather for this late March event is usually inclement. One year the group adjourned to the home of a member who lived nearby. A garden hose had to be used to rinse the mud of the spats and shoes.

Another annual event, since 1991, has been the annual Rugby Exhibition Matches at Hartwood Acres sponsored by the Travelers Aid Society. In between the kickoff performance and the one at half time, members enjoy their own impromptu tailgate parties. During the second half the partying moves up a notch as visitations, by invitation, take place at the tents of the patrons.

A different type of concert experience was the annual Regatta Boat Parade held in early August. During the several years of participation, the Highlanders boarded a Syria Mariners boat owned by Jerry Leff. He and his wife treated the group well. Being a voluntary call, the turnouts were small, but the group was enthusiastic. A unique feature was that the Band played on deck as the boat passed thousands of spectators lining the shores of the three rivers. It beat marching!

For several years the Band played at the Annual Community Picnic at Peterwood Park in Peters Township. Over the course of a half hour they meandered through hilly picnic areas, stopping to play at several locations for five minutes or so before moving on.

Finally, away back in 1969, the Band performed at a “horse show” in Sewickley. The weather was clear; this, however, was another day for hosing down the spats and shoes. Only this time it wasn’t mud.



The Highlanders in Virginia Beach

MASA (Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association) CONVENTIONS

Ocean front, first class motels. Nice hospitality rooms. Large turnout of members, most accompanied by family. First place trophies. Who can recall MASA conventions differently? Often, before the 1990s, it was not the “good old days.”

The Band has attended conventions in Atlantic City, Baltimore, Ocean City (MD), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh (hosted twice), Richmond, Wildwood Crest, and of course, Virginia Beach. The gathering usually is scheduled the weekend following Labor Day.



MASA in Virginia Beach

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sometimes accommodations were so sub-standard that a move was necessitated. At Baltimore in 1972, The Highlanders and another Syria Unit were quartered at the New Motel where the rooms literally rented by the hour. Four Highlanders were to drive from Pittsburgh Friday evening. Only three were notified of the motel change. The unlucky one arrived at 11:00. What a surprise – no room and no message regarding the whereabouts of the new location of the Highlanders.

The parade at Pittsburgh in 1963 was a nightmare. It began on the North Side, passed through downtown then up the hill to the Civic Arena for a march through in front of a crowd of Shriners. Furthermore, some Temples were assigned motels as far away as Monroeville.

But that was no worse than the Philadelphia convention in 1966. Syria had fine accommodations – in Valley Forge 20 miles from downtown Philadelphia. The only time they visited the city was for the parade. Immediately after the parade, the bus returned to the hotel.

Syria Temple joined MASA in 1959. Potentate Harry Montgomery asked the Highlanders and the Color Guard to represent him in 1961. The lodging was free and a bus was provided. Those were the days before interstate highways, and before buses were equipped with rest rooms. The long trip to Virginia Beach was extended because the back of the bus was well stocked with refreshments. Active roster members at that time numbered 30. The turnout included 14 pipers and 13 drummers.

MASA remains the biggest event of the year. Attendance is still good. A major reason is the fact that ocean front housing is virtually guaranteed. That is the good news. The bad news is a steady decline of Shriners attending the Convention. Old timers will recall that the guideline used to be ocean front accommodations every three years. One year Syria was assigned to a new Omni luxury hotel. The only problem was the location – - 20 miles away in downtown Norfolk!

RED-EYE

This history would not be complete without mentioning the many members through the years who made the long journey to MASA on Friday evening. Who can forget the “Red-Eye”? The bus would leave the Mosque at 10:00 p.m. and return very early Sunday morning. On the trip to Virginia Beach, the decibel level was high: coming home the bus was quiet before it reached Hampton Roads. The bus arrived Saturday at 6:00 a.m. The meal and transportation were free, thanks to the generosity of the sponsor, the Syria Brass Band. The group of Highlanders would head for the Unit Hospitality Suite, where they were greeted warmly. Members readily made their rooms available for changing clothes. Due to diminishing interest, the Red-Eye no

longer exists. But a salute is due to this group, as well as the hearty ones who continue to show great loyalty by driving to the convention site on Friday.



Singing talent (??) at MASA .The more they drank the better they thought they sounded!

HOSPITALITY SUITES

While several bad times have been mentioned, there were many good times too. And in the 90s bad things have been almost non-existent. The living accommodations have been consistently better. The hospitality suites have been managed more effectively. Long ago, for a brief period, the hospitality suite was shared with another Unit. It was unsatisfactory. No one's fault. Perhaps it was inevitable that there would be "Us" and "Them." Now the Highlanders Hospitality Suite is one of the most popular. It's well known as a place where many things happen. Famous, or is it infamous, the 11:00 p.m., Thursday "skinny dip" has become a Highlanders tradition.

We have decided to NOT publish a photo of this traditional evening swim. We trust that your imagination can envision this annual event of ("very") happy Highlanders (and a few additional brave souls) trekking toward the ocean, discarding their swim suits, taking the plunge and then cautiously backing out of the water to glorious applause from the crowd of onlookers situated on balconies and the boardwalk. It's an annual event that has become much anticipated by participants and audience alike.

The event has been ongoing for 15 years and is still lead by it's courageous originator, Jerry Corrie.

Recently higher percentages of members have attended MASA. The number of family members has increased at an even more rapid rate. Go to the beach from late morning to late afternoon and you will see a gaggle of Highlanders. Anyone who wants to join is welcomed. Go to the hospitality suite – same thing. Dining out has become an open activity. It's an ideal situation because there is no compulsion to “force” people into participating. On parade day many of the wives congregate along the parade route to cheer on Syria.

Ten years later the hospitality suite continues to be the hub. Unlike other Units, the suite is open from about 7:00 a.m. until the wee hours of the morning. The early risers can have coffee, juice, and pastries. A hot dish is available for lunch. There is a steady flow of people in and out during the day. By mid evening the diners return and the crowd increases. More often than not the suite is on the first floor and enables people to step out onto the patio and lawn.

On September 6, 2002, Tony and Gerilynn Gennaccaro were married for the second time. The location of the wedding ceremony was poolside at the Highlanders hotel. Rev. David Kinsey, an Episcopalian minister and member of the Divan, conducted the ceremony. Everyone wore beach wear. A reception followed at the Highlanders hospitality suite.

PARADE COMPETITION

The boredom of the long wait on parade day is abetted somewhat as other Shrine Units march past. The pipe bands are scrutinized closely. Final tuning, inspections of uniforms, and last minute instructions from the Pipe Major follow. On this special day, when the military officers speak, everyone listens in atypical silence. Then the word comes for the Syria Units to line-up. The “game faces” go on. Off the side street and onto the parade route comes the Syria Highlanders Band, prideful and serious, ready to compete for the first-place trophy again.

A few years back, a piper from another temple was standing beside Potentate, Kent Kretzler as the Syria Highlanders were preparing to parade at MASA. This piper looked very frustrated and a bit defeated as he stated, “Our band practices for months for this event, trying to beat these guys (The Syria Highlanders). Then, we come to Virginia Beach and we see Syria partying from dusk to dawn. We think that we may have a chance this year ? Yet, once Syria gets their game faces on and hits the street, no one can touch them. They're unbeatable.”

Potentate Kretzler, just smiled and the band went on to win another first place trophy!!



The Syria Highlanders First Place MASA Trophies

WHO WON?

The After Glow is a welcome activity. An afternoon of relaxing is a good change of pace. By mid-evening members begin to assemble in the hospitality suite. Tension mounts as Syria officials return from the awards banquet. The Potentate thanks all Units for their effort. Like the first time in 1984, winning the first-place trophy from 1991 to 1995 has given everyone a sense of accomplishment as individuals, as members of the Syria Highlanders, and as a unit of Syria Shrine. Even in the years when they did not do as well competitively, the MASA Convention was an occasion to play the beloved pipes and drums in an atmosphere of good fellowship.

At the MASA Parade, the Highlanders have extended their domination. They have won 13 first place trophies. During the period 1991-2005, the results were 12 out of 15 first place trophies.

Two former Highlanders are Pipe Majors: Scott Erskine, Zembo Temple (Harrisburg) and John McFadden, Jaffa Temple (Altoona).

In 2001, for the first time the Highlanders participated in the Friday morning Band competition. The group was formed at the request of Ken Eastgate who was serving as MAASH Clan Chief. After spirited discussion the Band voted to accept and participate on a voluntary basis. Several members choose not to play. Zembo edged Syria for first place. The judge in his critique provided helpful feedback. The was a one-time event.

MAASH (Mid-Atlantic Association of Scottish Highlanders)

When Syria joined MASA in 1959, the only Temple with a pipe band was Zem Zem from Erie. Gradually other Temples formed bands including Khedive (Norfolk) for whom the Highlanders provided encouragement while attending MASA at Virginia Beach. MAASH was formed in 1980. Members are: Ali Ghan (Cumberland), Boumi (Baltimore), Jaffa (Altoona), Khedive (Norfolk), Nur (Wilmington), Syria (Pittsburgh), Zembo (Harrisburg) and Kena (Alexandria). Beni Kedem (Charleston) and Zem Zem do not belong to the Association. From Syria, Frank Sims served as Clan Chief in 1992. The organization sponsors an annual spring meeting, a dinner at the convention site and a gathering at the Christmas Walk in Alexandria in early December. Massed bands on Friday nights have attracted large crowds.

The Highlanders provide leadership in MAASH. In the last ten years Clan Chiefs have included Frank Watson (1997) and Ken Eastgate (2001). Wink Laird is in line to become Clan Chief in 2008.



IMPERIAL SESSIONS

MAJOR LEAGUE CITIES

It's a by-gone era. The Highlanders were usually among the Units who made pilgrimage with Syria to the Imperial Sessions. The first parade was Chicago in 1958. Eleven members were present. The last one was in Cleveland in 1980. Other cities visited included: Denver, 1960; Miami Beach, 1961; Toronto, 1962 and 1975; Chicago, 1968; New York, 1964 and 1977; Washington, 1965; Dallas, 1972; Detroit, 1978. All sessions included parades on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening. July was the month for the Imperial Conventions.



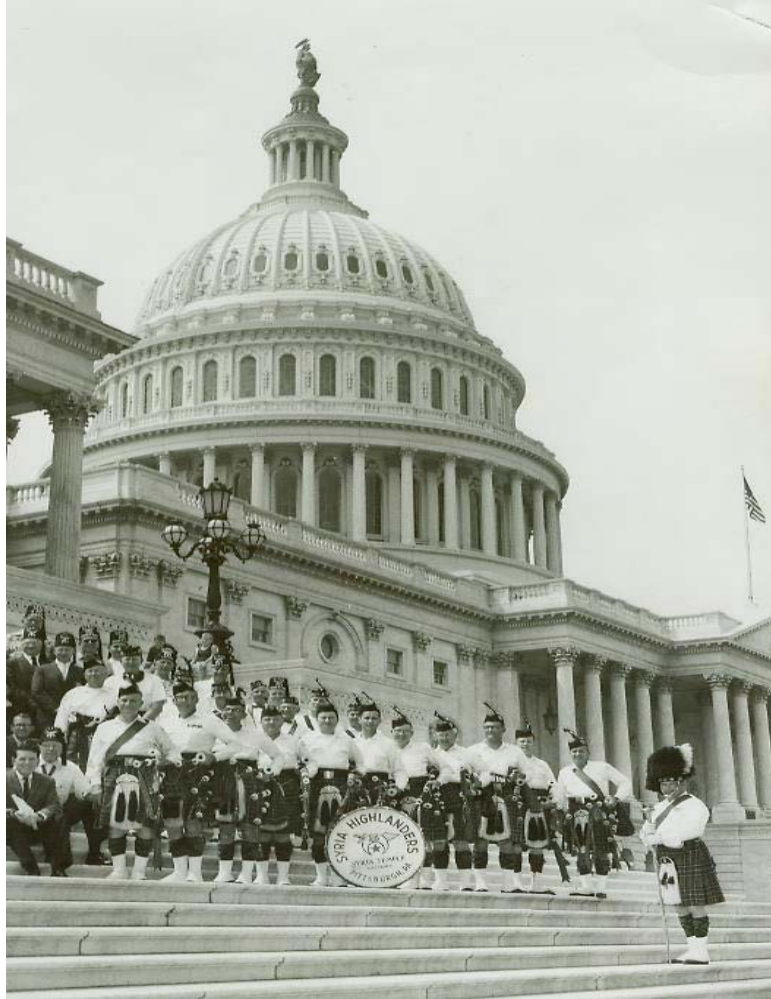
TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

In retrospect, from the time that Syria joined MASA in 1959, it seemed inevitable that participation in the Imperial would wind down. Expecting members to allocate upwards to two weeks vacation for Band events was unrealistic. And even with discounted Syria packages, expenses were high. Both conventions enabled the Band to perform at many places outside western Pennsylvania and to socialize with other pipe-band members. Nevertheless, something had to give.

HIGHLIGHTS

DENVER, 1960. The Highlanders, Harige and Stage Crew Units were quartered in the Bilmore Hotel, eight miles from downtown Denver. Unfortunately the pick-up bus arrived 2 ½ hours late for the day parade. Entering the city, the bus sped down side streets. The Unit men jogged for several blocks. Finally, they caught up and joined the Syria Units as they marched by only two blocks from the reviewing stand. The trip to Denver was by train. Returning home the air-conditioning was out-of-order much of the 24-hour trip.

WASHINGTON, 1965. The staging area was on the Mall. The wide open spaces enabled members to grasp the vast multitude of marchers in the morning parade.



The Highlanders in Washington DC

Drum Major Larry Scott, Front Row: Jim Wardrope, Tom Purdie, John McIsaac, Art Smith, Andy Whitelaw, Harry Fabry, Rannie Erskine, Bill Sands, Bob Grabb, Gene Coon, Pat Elder. Back Row: Andy McCullouch, Joe Lewis, (?), - partially hidden, Jim Thompson Jr., Pete Conway, Walter Stewart, Earl Franz, (?) – partially hidden.

DALLAS, 1972. This is generally considered to have been the best convention. Syria booked the beautiful Fairmont Hotel. Unit high jinks were enjoyed by all. Syria participated in the formal pipe band competition for the first time. While second place was a solid accomplishment, many questioned the objectivity of the judge's inasmuch as the host, Hella Temple, won by one point. Nineteen members were present. Syria had 315 rooms.

ATLANTIC CITY, 1974. It was a cold, windy day when eleven Highlanders suffered through the parade in their summer uniforms.



TORONTO, 1976. The two hotels for Syria were located several miles apart. Contrasts. Silently marching through a hospital zone of several blocks. Many patients on the lawns in wheelchairs and beds. Otherwise, unbelievable loud applause from the crowd of a city with a large Scottish population.

NEW YORK, 1977. Travel was by plane. The Divan stayed at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; the Highlanders were at the Hotel Taft. Friday evening, the Band walked several blocks to Syria headquarters. They arrived uninvited, unannounced, and probable unwanted and proceeded to play. Members enjoyed marching on storied Broadway, Times Square and 42nd Street.

CLEVELAND, 1980. One of the highlights was that several members rented a motor home for the trip. At night some men slept outside on the grounds of a German-American club.

Suddenly Syria Temple ceased attending the Imperial Sessions. It was great while it lasted!

S.C.O.T.S.

S.C.O.T.S. (Scottish Ceremonial Organizations Throughout Shrinedom) is the international organization for Shrine pipes and drums groups. Syria was an early promoter of the organization. Began in 1973, the impetus came from Judge Harry Strouse, a member of the Medinah Highlanders of Chicago. Strouse served as president in 1973-74. Syria joined in 1974. Walter Sarraf from Syria served as president in 1977-78. Two years later Syria was back with Jim Niccum, who filled the office in 1979-80. The Highlanders had continued their membership through the years. Sadly, all things come to an end and the S.C.O.T.S. organization has ceased and the periodic newsletter has been discontinued.

BAND DINNERS

In 1960 the Band dinner was held at Lincoln Manor, McKeesport. Entrée choices were: ham, \$2.50; Turkey, \$2.75; steak, \$3.25. West View Park was the site of the Bands 10th Anniversary Dinner. Dinners were few and far between. The 25th Anniversary was celebrated at Freddy's in Dravosburg; the 30th at Syria Mosque. Thereafter the Dinner became an annual event. Early on, because there was little advance planning, few Divan members were present. In 1995 the entire Divan attended. At these functions the post-dinner formal program is only the beginning. Guests have commented about how many the members and their ladies seem to enjoy the company of one another.



The presentation of the Haggis.

Don McCulloch, Jerry Corrie, Bill Gourdie, Ken Eastgate and Crawford Wilson

The annual Band Dinner at the Shrine Center is a much-awaited event. This year the Band will celebrate, on the occasion, the 50th anniversary of the Band. The charter date is December 12, 1956. There will be haggis and the full ceremony that goes with it. Mark Goss has succeeded the late Bill Gourdie in giving the address to the haggis.

In recent years, the Clan Chief has been empowered to select a member to receive the "Highlander of the Year" award. This is the time to announce the winner and make the presentation.

Awardees have included the following Syria Highlanders:

1993 - FRANK SIMS

1994 - ED SCHATZ

1995 - JOE EASHA

1996 - JAMES HENDERSON

1997 - CHARLES GLEDICH

1998 - FRANK SIMS

1999 - KEN LANGLANDS

2000 - RALPH CHAFFEY

2001 - JERRY CORRIE

2003 - RALPH CHAFFEY, III

2004 - MATT PERRY

2005 - DON McCULLOCH



BAND PICNICS

Band picnics began in earnest about 15 years ago. Now the Band picnic is a major outing that is eagerly awaited. The home of Jerry Corrie is an ideal setting. Many members willingly provide the help that is necessary to keep things running smoothly from noon into the evening. In addition to the Band families, Jerry's neighbors are present, as well as former and prospective members. The area is large enough to provide adequate individual space, yet small enough for people to interact easily. The annual Band Picnic continues to be held at the home of Jerry Corrie. Perfect grounds and a gracious host make this event to be a huge success year after year.



The annual band picnic at "The Corrie Estate"

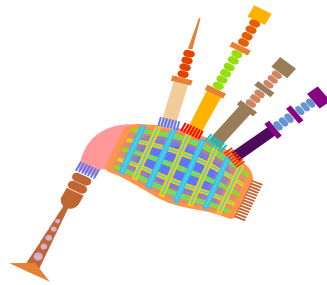
OTHER FUNCTIONS

In recent years when members have married, it has almost become a custom for them to invite the Highlanders and their ladies to the marriage ceremony and/or wedding reception. As with the Annual Band Dinner, Potentate's Banquet, Annual MASA Dinner, these are splendid occasions to don the formal Highland garb.

There have been numerous good times after parades when members who lived near the performance site have generously invited the group to their homes.

Members, their families, and friends have purchased a block of tickets for the bi-annual visits by Scottish regiments to the Civic Arena for exhibitions.

For the first time, the Band purchased a block of tickets for a Pittsburgh Pirates game. Possibly this could become another annual event?



CHRISTMAS PARTY

For the past couple years, the Band members and ladies have a Christmas Party in December at the Clubhouse near the home of Cal Wonderly in Butler County. It's a nice way to end the year and get into the Christmas spirit with good food and great friends.

CHRISTMAS WALK

For a few years in the middle of the last decade, several members and ladies attended the annual Christmas Walk held in December at Alexandria. Some members participated in the massed bands. MAASH usually has a hospitality suite.

SPECIAL EVENTS

RECORDING

In 1977, Potentate Frederick T. Hiller announced a special project that resulted in the publication of a historical book, "The Shrine", and a phonograph album containing music coupled with commentary featuring brief histories of each Unit. Seven members of the Highlanders volunteered. The recording sessions took place at a studio in Wilkinsburg. As expected, "starts" were the biggest problem. On the other hand, through the magic of technology the "stops" were perfect. Several tunes were recorded; the album contains one, "Bonnie Dundee."

LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES

Unfortunately, with rare exceptions, the Ligonier Highland Games have been scheduled the same weekend as the MASA Convention. In 1978 the Syria Highlanders were part of a pick-up Band that played there. The "James Wardrope Memorial Band" was formed for a one-time appearance. They did not participate in the Band competition. They did play, however, during the individual band march-on that open the program. At the final event of the day, they were part of the massed bands. The thirty-some pipers and drummers who gathered that bitter-sweet day were former associates with Jimmy in pipe bands. He was Pipe-Major, Syria Highlanders, from 1959 until he passed away in 1975; founder and Pipe-Major, Gordon Highlanders; Pipe-Major, Clan Grant Band; Pipe Sergeant, Clan Douglas and a member of Westinghouse Kiltie Band.

FUNERALS

Solidarity is evidenced by the number of members who come to funeral homes and services to pay their respects to members and their loved ones. There have been memorable occasions when members have passed away and Highlanders have served as pallbearers or honorary pallbearers. And, of course, often there is a gravesite piper playing the haunting "Amazing Grace."

In 1999 everyone was shocked by the accidental death of piper and Past Clan Chief, Bill Gourdie. This was the first time a member died while on Active status since Bill Ackley who passed away in 1985. The entire Band played at the church service.



PIPE BAND BASH

A first-ever social get together of pipe bands in this area was hosted by the Syria Highlanders on a Sunday afternoon in February 2004. The event was informal. No uniforms were worn. Several local bands were present as well as a bus load from Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg. A workshop provided a place to exchange ideas. Massed bands ended the event.

MASONIC DEGREE TEAM

Band members organized a degree team and presented the third degree at the Avalon Masonic Lodge. Prospective band member, Lee Foster, represented the class of candidates. The team wore kilts and formal attire. The year was 1999.



Highlander Degree Team

From L to R: Mark Goss, Charles Gledich, Tony Gennaccaro, Ken Langlands, Bill Kable, Greg Moran, Ed Hustwit, Cal Wonderly, Mike Mamma, Wink Laird, Dale Brown

POTPOURRI

BLOOD RELATIVES

FATHER-SON

CHAFFEY, Ralph (drummer), Ralph III (drummer)
EASHA, Joe (drummer-piper), Phil (drummer)
ERSKINE, Rannie (piper), Scott (piper)
GOURDIE, Bill (piper), Bobbie (drummer)
MARSDEN, John (piper), John (piper), Leslie (piper)
McCULLOCH, Andy (drummer), Donnie (drummer)
SANDS, Bill (piper), Jim (piper)
THOMPSON, Jimmy, Sr. (drummer), Jimmy, Jr. (drummer)

In 1998, Drum Sergeant Ralph Chaffey transferred from Active to Veteran status. It was a smooth transition as the coveted designation, "lead stroke", was assumed by Drum Sergeant Ralph Chaffey, III. Like father, Like Son!

BROTHERS

MacGREGOR, Jim (piper), Charlie (piper)

THE HIGH AND MIGHTY

A few of our members have taken leadership roles within the Syria Shrine Center, and others have received the highest honor bestowed upon a Mason.

DIVAN..... Kent Kretzler was Potentate in 1997
Ken Eastgate, currently Assistant
Rabban, is in line to be Potentate in 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....Bill Kindle was a member of the Syria
Temple Executive Committee for 1976-
1981. In 1980 he was Chairman.

Frank Sims joined the Executive
Committee in 2006

Kent Kretzler and Ken Eastgate served on the
Executive Committee as Divan members.
Kent Kretzler served as Chairman in 1997.

33rd DEGREE MASON.....Walter Sarraf was coroneted a 33rd degree Mason in 1988.

Wink Laird was coroneted a 33rd degree Mason in 2001.



Kent. Kretzler PP '97



Ken Eastgate Asst. Rabban



Walter Sarraf 33



Wink Laird 33

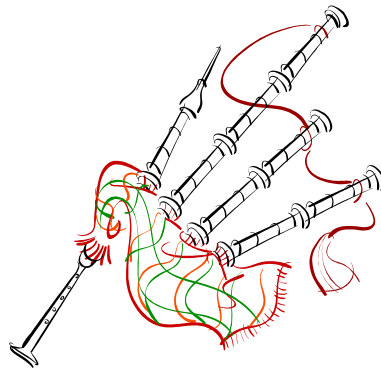
CORRESPONDENTS

VOICE OF SYRIA.....Joe Easha had written a column about the Highlanders in the Syria Temple newspaper since 1972 thru 2003. And for the past several years, he has authored a companion piece, “Scottish Culture.” Previous correspondents were Art Smith, Brad Magill and Sam Brown. Matt Perry served briefly. Ed Ussack is the present correspondent. The “Scottish Culture” portion is still intact in each issue of The Voice.”

S.C.O.T.S. NEWSLETTER.....Jim Henderson was the correspondent to this publication of Shrine pipes and drums bands before its demise. Prior to 1987, Walter Sarraf served in this capacity since its inception in the mid 70s.

SECRETARY EMERITUS

At the end of 2003, Jim Henderson was designated the title, “Secretary Emeritus.” Walter Sarraf received the same honor in 1985. Both men were very deserving of this honor for the many untold hours of behind the scenes work in maintaining the records, organizing the performances and answering the numerous inquiries of from all that had “just one more question”.



POET LAUREATE

Matt Perry, Clan Chief in 2002, often ended the meeting by reciting a limerick he had composed about a targeted member. At the end of the year he gave everyone a booklet containing his handiwork.

VERSATILITY

Ralph Angus and Joe Easha joined the Highlanders as snare drummers, but played most of their time in the Unit as pipers. Pipers, Charles Gledich and Crawford Wilson also show great talent on the drums.

Bill Gourdie became a member of the Highlanders as a band-aide. Then he learned to play the bagpipes with a specially designed chanter. As far as we know, he is the only one-armed piper in the world. Piper, Don McMillan doubles on the bugle and Mark Goss fills in on keyboard.

Talent abounds throughout the unit.

FILL 'ER UP

For 22 years beginning in 1964, Jim Henderson traveled 115 miles ONE way to Band practice from his home in Bridgeport, West Virginia. Fortunately for him, practices were always scheduled on Sunday, performances were relatively few, and the Board of Control at times, was lenient.

Many of the current members accumulate a high number of miles to attend practices and performances. It's not uncommon for one to drive 50 to 100 miles, round trip, for an event. As gas nudges past \$3.00 per gallon and our activities become more numerous, it shows the true dedication that each member exhibits to make The Highlanders what they are today, and tomorrow.

PHANTOM DRUMMERS

At a parade in Mt. Lebanon many years ago, seven pipers arrived, but no drummers. Go home? No way. They marched, but it was a painful experience. And they found out the hard way how vital drummers are to a group of marching pipers. Imagining drum rolls to start the tunes, a double beat to stop the music, and drum beat for marching resulted in disaster. All pipers vowed never to try again.



The 2005 Syria Highlanders

Front row: Ed Ussack, Jeff Gruber, Kent Kretzler, Mike Mamma, Ed Hustwit, Bob Simpson, Doug Mahaven, Dave Johnston, Greg Moran, Ralph Chaffey. Middle row: Jerry Corrie, Tony Gennaccaro, Cal Wonderly, Jim Henderson, Bob Armstrong, Don MacMillan, Joe Easha, Charles Gledich, Ken Langlands. Back Row: Mark Goss, Dale Brown, Harry Pease, Frank Sims, Jim Sands, Bob Huffman, Wink Laird

A.K.A.

There are references in Band records and written information to the “Syria Highlanders Band,” Syria Highlanders Kiltie Band, and “Syria Highlanders Pipes and Drums.” The original By-Laws, as well as all revisions, contain the following working in Article 1, Name: “This organization shall be known as the “Syria Highlanders, of Syria Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.”

EPILOGUE

When this historical booklet was written in the summer of 1996, the future looked bright.

The active members include 15 pipers, 15 drummers, and 1 band-aide. Compared to other pipe and drum bands, this is a large contingent. Nevertheless, expansion is always a goal. The latest growth period began in 1985 and peaked in 1994. During the decade, membership increased from 19 to 33.

Looking back, the past 10 years seems to have been a less hectic period in which good progress has been made.

The overall membership of The Syria Shrine has declined over the past 50 years. At one time, Syria boasted a membership in excess of 25,000 nobles. Currently our numbers have fallen below 9,000 and a continued decline is forecast. Yet, during this time, The Syria Highlanders have grown and prospered. Starting from an idea from a few noble Scots, The Highlanders are now considered the premier marching unit in The Syria Shrine. The color, the pageantry, the sound and the camaraderie have made this unit the very best to watch, associate with and belong. A testament we can all be proud.

As new members join the band and step up to lead The Highlanders into the future, they know that a wonderful and proud tradition has been placed before them. The 50 years of parades, practices, meetings, shows and pomp have built a marching unit that all can be proud.

The past 50 years have been eventful, rewarding, fun, and entertaining. As the Syria Highlanders Band marks its 50th anniversary, it stands on firm footing for a vibrant future.

*Long may the Royal Stewart tartan wave, the sporrans swing, the bagpipes skirl, the drums command a strong cadence, and the spirit continue into the future. Let the good times roll on.
By the right quick, march.*



This booklet is dedicated to all of the men that have adorned the Royal Stewart Tartan and have contributed in making The Syria Highlanders the premier Pipes and Drums band in all of Shrinedom. Thanks to each Highlander's dedication and loyalty! We couldn't have done it without you!



SYRIA HIGHLANDER BAND ROSTER
2006 ROSTER

PIPERS

Robert M. Armstrong
Dale A. Brown, Jr.
Jerry L. Corrie
Kenneth Eastgate
Anthony F. Gennaccaro
Charles Gledich
Mark Goss
Frank D. Greer

Robert Huffman
Winthrop W. Laird
Donald J. MacMillan
Harry A. Pease
Matt Perry
Frank G. Sims
Crawford Wilson, Jr.
Calvin R. Wonderly

DRUMMERS

Ralph R. Chaffey, III
Jeffrey D. Gruber
Edward T. Hustwit
W. David Johnston
William Kable
L. Kent Kretzler
Douglas E. Mahaven

Michael S. Mammay
Gregory Moran
Jack Moucheron
Paul Robison
Robert Simpson
Edward Ussack

BAND AIDES

Eric Cohen

VETERANS

Don L. Carbaugh
Ralph R. Chaffey
Joseph P. Easha
Robert W. Grabb
James Henderson, Jr.

Richard S. Lashley
Don McCulloch
James Sands
Edward C. Schatz

HONORARY

Norman C. Arbes, P.P.
Raymon Arbes, P.P.

Eugene L. Coon
Kenneth M. Langlands

SYRIA HIGHLANDERS BAND
ELECTED OFFICERS

CLAN CHIEF

1957	Guy Jardine	1990	Harold L. Gregg
1958	Guy Jardine	1991	Crawford Wilson, Jr.
1959	James H. Thompson, Sr.	1992	Frank D. Watson
1960	Harry A. Croft	1993	William R. Gourdie
1961	Thomas Morrison	1994	Winthrop W. Laird
1962	J. Brad Magill	1995	Edward C. Schatz
1963	J. Brad Magill	1996	Ralph R. Chaffey, III
1964	J. Brad Magill	1997	Don McCulloch
1965	J. Brad Magill	1998	Kenneth Eastgate
1966	Eugene L. Coon	1999	Donald J. MacMillan
1967	Eugene L. Coon	2000	Harry A. Pease
1968	William F. Kindle	2001	Richard S. Levine
1969	William F. Kindle	2002	Matthew L. Perry
1970	Harry A. Croft	2003	Mark Goss
1971	William Ackley	2004	William W. Kable
1972	Robert W. Grabb	2005	Michael S. Mammay
1973	Robert W. Grabb	2006	Calvin R. Wonderly
1974	Robert W. Grabb		
1975	James M. Niccum		
1976	Joseph P. Easha		
1977	Frank G. Sims		
1978	Ralph R. Chaffey		
1979	Allan J. Brodsky		
1980	Allan J. Brodsky		
1981	Richard S. Lashley		
1982	David J. Parry		
1983	Ronald E. McKay		
1984	L. Kent Kretzler		
1985	John A. Vogel		
1986	Charles Gledich		
1987	Frank G. Sims		
1988	Frank G. Sims		
1989	James R. Sand		

CIVIL:
SECRETARY

1956-63 Sam Brown
1965-69 Arthur Smith
1970-85 Walter H. Sarraf
1986 John A. Vogel
1987-03 James Henderson, Jr.
2004 - Frank G. Sims

MILITARY:
PIPE MAJOR

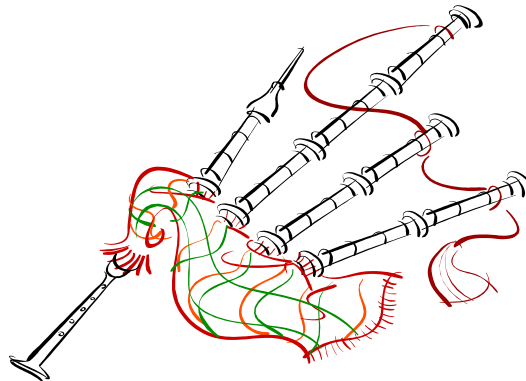
1956-59 Sam Brown
1960-74 James Wardrope
1975 William B. Atkinson
1976-84 James A. Niccum
1985- Jerry L. Corrie

TREASURER

1956-57 William Bell
1958-59 James Henderson, Jr.
1960-75 Ralph C. Angus
1975-82 John A. Vogel
1983-84 James D. McFadden
1985-88 L. Kent Kretzler
1989-91 David J. Parry
1992-97 William C. Fife
1998-03 Frank G. Sims
2004 - Mark Goss

DRUM MAJOR

1956-61 James . Thompson, Sr.
1961-64 George . Mossman, Sr.
1965-67 Lawrence Scott
1968-69 Thomas Bell
1970-91 William F. Kindle
1992-94 Stewart A. Boyle
1995-05 Kenneth Langlands
2006 - (vacant)



SRYIA HIGHLANDERS BAND YEARS OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

46 James Henderson, Jr.	P	1957-2003	16 John S. McIssac	P	1964-1980
32 Jerry L. Corrie	P	1974-	16 *Thomas Purdie	P	1956-1972
32 Frank G. Sims	P	1974-	15 Wayne Croshure	P	1961-1976
32 Joseph P. Easha	D-P	1971-2003	15 James A. Niccum	P	1969-1984
30 Walter H. Sarraf	D	1957-1987	15 John A. Vogel	P	1972-1987
28 Charles Gledich	P	1978-	14 Matthew L. Perry	P	1992-
28 Don McCulloch	D	1972-1983 1986-2003	14 Peter Conway	BA	1963-1977
27 L. Kent Kretzler	D	1979-	14 Eugene L. Coon	P	1963-1977
27 Ralph R. Chaffey	D	1972-1999	14 Harold S. Gardner	P	1960-1974
27 William F. Kindle	D	1964-1991	14 Kenneth L. Langland	D	1991-2005
25 James R. Sands	P	1981-2006	14 Joseph M. Lewis	D	1960-1974
24 Arthur Smith	P	1960-1984	14 J. Brad Magill	D	1958-1972
23 Ralph C. Angus	D-P	1958-1981	14 Andrew M. McCulloch	D	1960-1974
21 *Harry A. Croft	P	1956-1977	13 Harry A. Pease	P	1993-
20 Crawford Wilson, Jr.	P	1986-	13 Robert Gourdie	D	1990-2004
19 Robert W. Grabb	P	1965-1984	13 *James Thompson, Jr.	D	1956-1969
19 Richard S. Lashley	P	1965-1984	12 Kenneth Eastgate	D-P	1994-
19 Edward C. Schatz	D	1963-1974 1990-1998	12 Donald J. MacMillan	P	1994-
19 *James Wardrope	P	1956-1975	12 O. Patrick Elder	P	1962-1974
18 Ralph R. Chaffey, III	D	1986-1990 1992-	12 Robert G. Hunter	P	1962-1974
18 H. James Agnew	P	1960-1978	12 James D. Laird	D	1962-1974
18 Stewart A. Boyle	D	1978-1996	12 *Andrew W. Whitelaw	P	1956-1968
18 David J. Parry	D	1978-1996	11 William C. Fife	P	1987-1998
17 Winthrop W. Laird	P	1989-	11 William R. Forsyth	P	1960-1971
17 *William Bell	D	1956-1973	11 Earl A. Franz	D	1962-1973
17 *Richard Paton	P	1956-1973	11 William R. Gourdie	P	1988-1999
16 William A. Ackley	D	1969-1985	11 Harold L. Gregg	D	1985-1996
16 Don L. Carbaugh	P	1981-1997	11 Wilmer C. Lucas	D	1977-1988
16 *Adolphus Erskine	P	1956-1972	11 Lawrence Scott	D	1968-1979
			11 Frank D. Watson	D	1988-1999
			10 William A. Comforti	D	1968-1978
			10 William R. Green	P	1992-2002
			10 Richard S. Levine	D	1993-2003
			10 Ronald E. McKay	D	1969-1973 1980-1986
			10 George A. Mossman	D	1958-1968

9	Jack W. Moucheron	D	1988-1995 2005-	4	Dale A. Brown, Jr.	P	2002-
9	Harry Fabry	P	1960-1969	4	Anthony H. Gennaccaro	P	2002-
9	*Thomas Morrison	D	1956-1965	4	Frank D. Greer	P	2002-
9	James H. Staff, Jr.	D	1990-1999	4	Jeffrey D. Gruber	D	2002-
8	Mark Goss	P	1998-	4	Edward T. Hustwit	D	2002-
8	William B. Atkinson	P	1969-1977	4	Calvin R. Wonderly	P	2002-
8	Anthony Blazovich	BA	1971-1979	4	Charles L. Aber	P	1975-1979
8	*Samuel; Brown	P	1956-1964	4	Louis A. Gerthoffer	BA	1981-1985
8	Robert A. Clark	P	1976-1984	4	*James Izatt	P	1956-1960
8	James Galbraith	D	1962-1970	4	James T. Park	P	1998-2002
8	William Sands	P	1960-1968	4	Frank Rule	P	1971-1975
8	Scott D. Smith	D	1995-2003	3	Robert Huffman	P	2003-
7	William W. Kable	D	1999-	3	Gregory Moran	D	2003-
7	A. Scott Erskine	P	1975-1982	3	Edward Ussack	D	2003-
7	Donald R. Felt	BA	1967-1974	3	Joseph L. Bayer	BA	1970-1973
7	Scott L. Herrle	P	1988-1995	3	Thomas Bell	D	1965-1968
7	Charles MacGregor	P	1958-1965	3	Samuel Ferguson	P	1963-1966
7	James MacGregor	P	1958-1965	3	James McFadden	P	1981-1984
7	Thomas W. Murray	P	1988-1995	2	Robert Simpson	D	2004-
7	James A. Nash	P	1975-1982	2	William W. Bessor	P	1977-1979
6	Douglas E. Mahaven	D	1999-	2	William G. Gumm	P	1964-1966
6	Michael S. Mammay	D	1999-	2	James T. Hall	P	1960-1962
6	William H. Davis	D	1985-1991	2	John F. Marsden	P	1966-1968
6	*David Hamilton	P	1956-1963	2	John T. Marsden	P	1966-1968
6	Frank P. Herock	D	1975-1981	2	Leslie G. Marsden	P	1966-1968
6	Robert C. Irdi	D	1993-1999	2	John G. McClelland	P	1973-1975
6	William Jeffrey	D	1964-1970	2	Edward L. Motteram	D	1960-1962
6	Thomas Lisenmeyer	P	1968-1974	2	William B. Painter	D	1976-1978
6	*James Thompson	D	1956-1962	2	William Stickel	P	1958-1960
5	Robert M Armstrong	P	2001-	2	Donald Wilson	D	1980-1982
5	W. David Johnston	D	2001-	1	Paul Robison	D	2005-
5	Allan J. Brodsky	P	1976-1981	0	Eric Cohen	BA	2006
5	Jeffrey C. Ingersoll	P	1977-1982				
5	*Guy Jardine	D	1956-1961				
5	Howard E. Lenfesty	D	1966-1970 1979				
5	John Maenpa	P	1975-1980				
5	Robert S. McCarthy	P	2001-2006				
5	Walter C. Stewart	BA	1963-1968				
5	Edward J. Whitfield	P	1968-1982				

P=Piper D=Drummer BA= BAND AIDE *=CHARTER MEMBER

The following former members were active in the Syria Highlanders for less than two years. They are listed alphabetically, by section. Membership years are omitted.

BAND-AIDES: Dexter T. Kennedy, David Smith

DRUMMERS: Daniel Ashton, Phillip G. Easha, Lee Foster, Andrew T. Hosie, *David Jones, Ronald A. Piefer, John G. Schlenker, Richard W. Troeger

PIPERS: Lawrence Anderson, Howard Berman, William J. Brown, Edgar T. Keene, John Morgan, Kenneth P. Woods.

NOTE: In calculating years of active membership, only years, rather than months and years was used. Therefore, for some individuals there will be a slight variance with the method used in determining time in issuing service stripes / years served.





We march..... so children may walk!

*The 50th Anniversary
of
The Syria Highlanders
1956 - 2006*