

The Ulster-Scots Society of America

*Dear Friends and Members of the Ulster-Scots Society of America,
What About Ye?*

I hope you have been keeping well. I am writing to let you know, especially those of you in the Atlanta/North Georgia area, that the Ulster-Scots Society of America, despite the recession and tight pocket books, will once again hold our Annual General Membership Meeting in conjunction with the 37th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games at Stone Mountain Park and at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast near Atlanta, Georgia across the weekend of October 16-18, 2009 with special emphasis being given to the evening of Saturday, October 17.

The U-SSA has once again been invited to be a Sponsoring Society at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. This prestigious festival is now rated as the premier Scottish cultural event in the United States with thousands in attendance and showcases the leading Scots heritage organizations in the country. With only limited Clan and Society participation offered, this is a unique environment to unveil the Society to a wider audience. The U-SSA will have a Society tent both Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th with books and other educational materials to help tell the story of the Ulster-Scots and their impact on America. Your help is appreciated as volunteers will be needed.

As a special treat, during our evening gathering on **Saturday, October 17 at 6:45 p.m.** in the Cobb & DeKalb Rooms at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast Hotel 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA, (770) 447-4747, we will sponsor a program, **"UNCOVERING YOUR SCOTS-IRISH HERITAGE: History, Genealogy, Travel"**, conducted by **Fintan Mullan**, Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Many of you may know of the excellent books and research tools available through the UHF aiding the historian and individual genealogist alike. The program will offer an overview of aspects of the settlement of Ulster and Ulster immigration to North America particularly in the 18th century, identify genealogical sources and tools to help you make additional discoveries about your Scots-Irish/Ulster-Scots heritage, and give an update on the **July, 2010 Ulster-Scots Heritage Tour to Northern Ireland** where you can explore the land, culture, and cousins of your ancestors during the 400th anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster 1610-2010. The tour may be the subject of a **BBC documentary**. Come and learn how **you might appear in it!**

Our time together Saturday will give you a chance to make an acquaintance with one of the leading researchers of the Ulster-Scots/Scots-Irish story and genealogy. The program will be followed by book purchasing opportunities and a reception with food and drinks. Attendees can receive a **free** brochure **"The Scots in Ulster"** and enter a **drawing for a "Plantation of Ulster" CD Rom** and a copy of **"Scotch-Irish Colonial Merchants"**. The program and reception will be open and free to both Society members and the public to garner increased awareness in the Ulster-Scots Society and Ulster-Scots story and to fulfill our Society's mission of educating the public. With us will also be Alan Bowen, President of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association in 1780's period attire relaying the story of the largely Ulster-Scots overmountain men who won the critical Battle of King's Mountain during the Revolutionary War. We may also be joined by eminent Scotch-Irish scholar Dr. Richard MacMaster who is launching his new book, **"Scotch-Irish Colonial Merchants"** which will be available at the program along with other fine UHF titles. We will be joined over the weekend by **Dr. Ian Adamson and Jacqui Reed, Board Members of the Ulster-Scots Agency from Belfast, Northern Ireland**, who will give us insight into the latest related to the Ulster-Scots cultural scene in Ulster and abroad. They will be accompanied by the Northern Ireland musical trio **"Stonewall"** which will be performing at the Games.



www.UlsterScotsSociety.com

P.O. Box 3969 Amarillo, TX 79116

For those of you attending the Games in other capacities during the day Saturday which ends at 5:00 p.m. or may have activities scheduled during that evening, the program and reception is set for 6:45 p.m. which gives you plenty of time to make it to the headquarters hotel from the Games field, listen to the lecture and get a bite to eat, and then attend other planned activities that evening such as the Scottish Musical Evening beginning at 8:00 p.m. across the hallway from the lecture. Seating and availability is limited so please contact me regarding your attendance at the program and/or reception if you can.

The Society sponsorship invitation, the opportunity to have a Society tent on the festival grounds, ads in the festival program, and the Scots-Irish program will greatly add to our organization's visibility as we build upon our very successful impact at the Stone Mountain Highland Games the past couple of years. These promotional and educational activities will help us aid many of Scots ancestry who may not be aware of or perhaps do not understand the Ulster chapter of what may be their family's history.

There are few better ways to share the Ulster-Scots story, and your own stories, than one-on-one in the fall air among the pine trees at the foot of beautiful Stone Mountain or at the Saturday evening program. We hope to see you there. Please contact me and let me know if you may be available to volunteer that weekend, attend the games, help with the Ulster-Scots Society booth, or attend the program with Northern Ireland's Fintan Mullan. Stone Mountain is shaping up to be a great event for the Society. Please be part of the weekend and tell your friends – better yet, bring'em!

Your RSVP information is very much appreciated. Please e-mail or call your information in to UlsterScotGP@Yahoo.com or (806) 676-3339. Put "SMHG" in your e-mail headline for quicker recognition due to the high volume of e-mails. Enclosed you will find Stone Mountain Games information including area hotels and activities, a current U-SSA membership form you can copy and pass on to interested parties, and other pertinent information. Whether or not you are able to attend Stone Mountain, you may use the registration form to go ahead and send in annual membership dues. Note that at the beginning of the year, **the "Ulster-Scot" newspaper will no longer be mailed to recipients in the United States – unless you are a member of the Ulster-Scots Society of America**. So please note on your membership renewal form that you would still like to receive the "Ulster-Scot". And please update your contact information, particularly your e-mail information. Contact me with questions or comments.

The U-SSA has been active this year with promotions at Scottish games, meetings with the Belfast Trade Commission and the Belfast/Nashville Songwriters Project in Austin, the Ulster-Scots Agency, the Ulster-Scots Community Network, Tourism Ireland and the Irish Consul General in New York City, as well as attendance at various lectures, seminars, and book launches. And there is more happening as we gear up for the 400th anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster next year. More on this and much else later. Until then, I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at Stone Mountain!

Sincerely,

Glen Pratt

Glen Pratt
President
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**6th ANNUAL ULSTER-SCOTS SOCIETY of AMERICA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

Friday, October 16, 2009

Optional attendance at Stone Mountain Highland Games genealogy and whisky tasting seminars and piping competition at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel Northeast or the Scottish Country Dance Gala. See enclosed SMHG handouts and www.smhg.org or call (770) 521-0228 for all SMHG activities and ticketing information. If coming from outside the Atlanta area, note list of SMHG recommended accommodations. Mention the Stone Mountain Games to see if they offer special rates. The Hilton Atlanta Hotel Northeast is the Games Headquarters Hotel and is located about 25 minutes from Stone Mountain at 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092 (770) 447-4747.

Saturday, October 17, 2009

7:00-9:00 a.m. Ulster-Scots Society tent materials set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field.
Volunteers needed.

9:00-5:00 p.m. Manning of the **Ulster-Scots Society tent** set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field.
Volunteers needed.

Ulster-Scots Society of America Annual Meeting:

Cobb & DeKalb Rooms at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast Hotel 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092 (770) 447-4747. (about 19 miles or 25 minutes from Stone Mountain)

6:00 p.m. Cobb & DeKalb Rooms open. *Volunteers needed*

6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. “*UNCOVERING YOUR SCOTS-IRISH HERITAGE: History, Genealogy, Travel*” with Northern Ireland genealogist and researcher Fintan Mullan, Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation.

7:45 p.m. Reception, buffet, fellowship, and discussion. Books available for purchase.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

9:00-5:00 p.m. Staffing of the **Ulster-Scots Society tent** set up on Stone Mountain Highland Games field.
Volunteers needed.

5:00 p.m. Pack up Ulster-Scots Society materials from tent and depart.

"Uncovering Your Scots-Irish Heritage: History • Genealogy • Travel"

Free Presentation,

Optional Dinner Buffet, and Reception with Ulster Historical Foundation Executive Director
and Northern Ireland Native Fintan Mullan

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Saturday, October 17, 2009 6:45 p.m.

Cobb & DeKalb Rooms Hilton Atlanta Northeast Hotel

5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092 (770) 447-4747

"Uncovering Your Scots-Irish Heritage" includes:

- An overview of the Scottish settlement of Ulster/northern Ireland.
- Scots-Irish and Irish immigration to North America.
- Genealogical sources and tools to uncover your roots.
- Scots-Irish history and genealogy books.
- Giveaway of "The Scots in Ulster" brochure and map and drawing for a "Plantation of Ulster" CD Rom and "Scotch-Irish Colonial Merchants" book.
- Advice on what to do and where to go next to explore your Scots-Irish ancestry.
- 400th Anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster 1610-2010.
- 2010 Ulster-Scots Heritage Tour to Northern Ireland.

TRAVEL to Northern Ireland/Ulster Summer 2010!

Learn how you can come see the land, culture, and cousins of your Ulster-Scots ancestors who built America. This tour may be the subject of a BBC documentary! Learn how you might appear in it.

Listen to this informative presentation on Ulster-Scots/Scots-Irish roots and travel to Northern Ireland.

Meet Ulster Historical Foundation Director Fintan Mullan.

Enjoy a reception afterwards with fun and fellowship.

Learn more about the Ulster-Scots Society of America – the country's newest and most dynamic Ulster-Scots/Scots-Irish heritage organization.

Share your family stories, history, and heritage.



Fintan Mullan is Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Mr. Mullan's presentations are practical, wide ranging, factual, and informative benefiting beginning and seasoned historians and researchers alike.

Free Presentation 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. and Optional Buffet following.

*Presentation and buffet are free. Limited seating and availability. RSVPs appreciated by calling Glen Pratt (806) 676-3339 or by marking your name down at an Ulster-Scots Society booth.

sponsored by



The *Ulster-Scots* Society of America ₂

www.UlsterScotsSociety.com

Membership Application

(please print clearly)

Check membership category:

Individual: _____ Family: _____ (List spouse/family member names also)

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

Annual membership dues: Individual: \$15, Family: \$20

FULL NAME: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

____ *YES! I would like to continue receiving/receive the "Ulster-Scot" newspaper.*

I am interested in volunteering for the following committees and activities:

Membership _____

Publicity _____

Newsletter _____

Special Events _____

Social Activities _____

Web Page _____

Education _____

Historian _____

Area Convener _____

Completed applications and attached dues payments can be mailed to:

Ulster-Scots Society of America

Glen Pratt

P.O. Box 3969

Amarillo, Texas 79116

For more information contact Glen Pratt, President at email:

ulsterscotgp@yahoo.com or telephone 806-372-2039.

Signature/Date

