

# Sassenach Society Scoop

Facebook Group: Sassenach Society of South Jersey

SSOSJ Twitter: @SassenachJersey

EMAIL: sassenachsocietyofsouthjersey@comcast.net

Administrators: Celeste Amundsen @hal12362 & Christine Gordon @sassenachs

## FIVE QUESTIONS WITH TIM DOWNIE BY: CHRISTINE GORDON & CELESTE AMUNDSEN

**SSOSJ ASKED:** Did you read any of the Outlander books prior to starting your role?

**TIM:** I was actually sent the first two books by the wonderful Outlander many moons ago. It was a great help in getting a feel of the world and the voice of the characters.

**SSOSJ ASKED:** Did you do anything in particular to get prepared for your role on Outlander?

**TIM:** I shouted at people and tipped badly in restaurants. I think Tryon would have liked that enormously. I also ate a lot of roast meat. I did do some background reading of the period though and of the man himself which was truly fascinating.

**SSOSJ ASKED:** Can you let us know a little bit about your acting background? How did you get started?

**TIM:** I started in school doing impressions of teachers and trying to be funny and I think it blossomed from there. I grew up in a tiny village and so all there was apart from grey skies and brown ploughed earth was stories, tales and folk legends. I love stories and to tell a good story is one of the finest things you can do, that's what sustains you and makes you carry on. I so desperately wanted to be an actor that not only did I skip college to audition for drama schools but then lied about my age on the application form as I was too young to even be considered. The rest, as they say, is history.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ask Tim	1,6	Costume Corner	2
Scotland Travelogue	2	Claire's Apothecary	3
Poem & Pictorial	4, 5	Date in History	7
Where are they now?	8	SSOSJ Info	8

**COSTUME CORNER By: Carrie Needham**

Ever wonder where Sam and Cait get those warm coats to wear over their costumes when it is cold? One of the Set Costumer's many duties is to keep the principal actors and their costumes warm, dry and comfortable while waiting for shot set ups. But that is just one part of the job.

Before the actors arrive for the day, the Set Costumer will consult the shot list and then prep the costumes and put them in the actors' dressing rooms and ensure that they are worn correctly. Before the first shot, and after each costume change, the Set Costumer will take photos and track and record all costume details in the set costume continuity book. While filming, the S.C. will watch the scene via a monitor on set. Between shots, repairs and adjustments will be quickly made to costumes to make sure they continue to match the previous shots. The S.C.'s set kit includes a great many things, including sewing, cleaning and distressing tools, jewelry repair items and even a hair dryer for fast costume drying. The job takes a tremendous amount of concentration, attention to detail, and ability to work quickly under pressure!

**Scotland Travelogue By Toni Polito**

My first trip to Scotland was 14 yrs ago, way before I even knew about Outlander but was captivated by the beauty of the countryside and the old world charm of Edinburgh. I fell in love with everything I saw, so when I finally found out about Outlander I was already a fan of one of the most important character in Diana's incredible story, the country itself. Although its as green as Ireland, Scotland's Highlands has soft rolling green hills, miles of purple heather. Everywhere you look is a Kodak moment. Traveling along the westcoast or in Glasgow its a country rich in history, pride and the simple pleasures of life.

Everyone NEEDS to go at least once.

**CLAIRE'S APOTHECARY IN FOCUS** By Jennifer Olmi Germanotta**Sage****Botanical name:** *Salvia officinalis*

Sage is an herb which is included in the mint family. It has a sweet yet savory flavor. Sage's botanical name stems from the Latin word, "salvere," meaning "to be saved." The second part of its name, "officinalis," refers to the traditional store-room, "officina," of a monastery where herbs and medicines were stored. Sage is a perennial, evergreen subshrub (a dwarf shrub) with woody stems, grayish leaves, and purplish flowers.

Sage has been growing for centuries. It can be traced back to 1753, in the Old World, where it was utilized for its food and healing properties. Once referred to by the early Romans as the "holy herb," it was employed in religious rituals and at times, credited for miraculous recoveries from illness or having been near death.

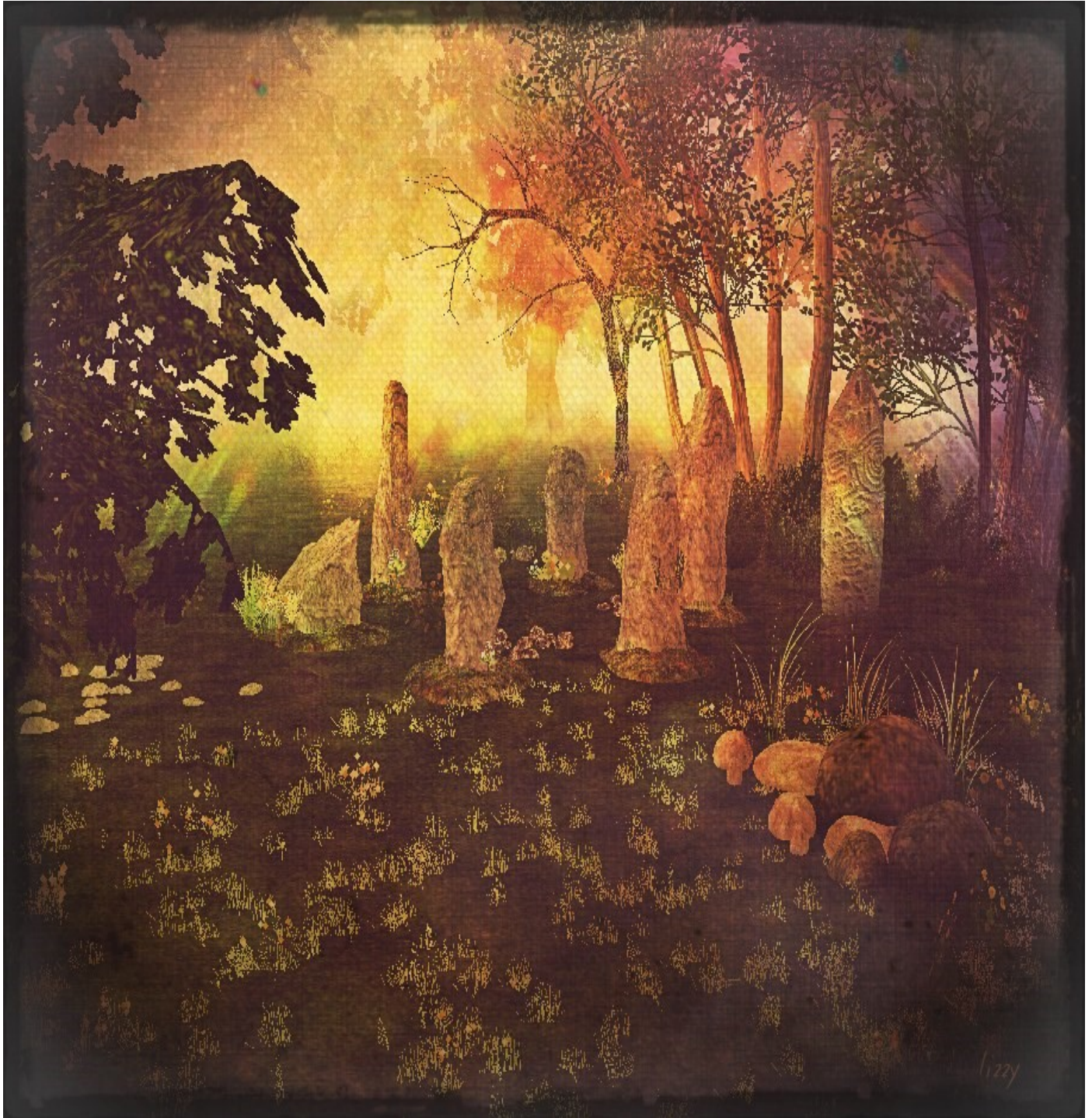
While Claire may have used it in preparing a Bostonian Thanksgiving dinner – she surely would have used it within her Scots community and later in her Fraser's Ridge community to aid with mental disorders, digestion, and snake bites.

Perhaps Claire used it in treating Reverend Campbell's sister, Margaret, for all the good it did! Later in the New World, Native Americans mixed it with bear grease in making a salve to treat sore throats. Cherokee healer, Nayawenne (Adawehi/TV series), surely would have educated Claire on sage during their conversations about local plants and medicinal uses.

As you are preparing your own turkey on Thanksgiving Day, you may find yourself adding some sage and thinking about how you might use sage in your life's work should you find yourself transported back in time to Fraser's Ridge in the 1770s.

**Happy Thanksgiving to the Sassenach Society of South Jersey Ladies!**

**“THE STONES” Artwork By Liz Pershick**



## Standing Stones By Marianne Sarcone

### *Standing Stones*

What is this place under the moon  
With standing stones at  
Craig nu dun.

The magic and mystery of them all  
With fairies dancing to their call.

The noise and buzzing deep inside  
I feel their presence at my side.

The wind and pull that lures at me  
the past that set my future free.

I'm tumbling and crashing as I fall  
Feeling like I hit a wall.

These standing stones have moved me through  
What on earth am I to do?

No car, no lights, no noise to hear  
a total feeling of despair.

I need to get back to the standing stones  
And find my way - to my once loved home.

The standing stones have changed my life  
And find myself - Jamie's wife.

The truth and the wonder of it all  
I'm actually glad I took the fall.

*Marianne Sarcone*

**CONT'D: FIVE QUESTIONS WITH TIM DOWNIE**

**SSOSJ ASKED:** What are your next projects/any projects you are currently working on that you can tell us about?

**TIM:** There are a few exciting projects in the offing but nothing that I can talk about right now. Just watch this space!

**SSOSJ ASKED:** Tell us one of your guilty pleasures?

**TIM:** I actually really love crappy gift shops. In fact the crappier the better. Gift shops that are attached to a model village or a pencil museum. I just love walking around them, not even with the intent to buy anything. If you can then get a Pope with a pencil snow globe or a tea towel showing the canals and waterways of England, then what's not to like! My day is complete after that.

**Picture of Carrie, Christine with Tim at recent Sasnak City event**



**THIS DATE IN SCOTTISH HISTORY** By Kathy D'Anna

Isobel Gunn lived from 1 August 1781 to 7 November 1861. She enrolled as a man in the Hudson's Bay Company and was the first European woman to reach western Canada. Isobel was born Isobel Fubister in Orkney. In 1806, at the age of 15, she followed her brother, and other young Orkney men, by joining the Hudson's Bay Company. According to some versions of the story, she was also following her lover, John Scarth. The company did not employ European women at the time, so she evaded this restriction by using her father's name, John Fubister, and dressing as a man. She then sailed with the company to Hudson Bay on board the *Prince of Wales*. [Sounds a bit like our Claire Beauchamp Randall Fraser, does it not?]

In the summer of 1807, she was sent as part of an expedition that made its way 1500 miles west to the extremely remote North West Company trading post, which was run by Alexander Henry. On 29 December 1807, "John Fubister" was excused from work because "he" was feeling ill. Shortly afterwards, Alexander Henry discovered Isobel in labor and helped deliver her son, the first European child to be born this far west in Canada.

Isobel Gunn, as she was now calling herself, returned to Fort Albany with her son, James, the following summer. Here she registered the birth, naming John Scarth as the father. No longer allowed to work as a laborer, she worked as a washerwoman until being placed, against her will, on a ship back to Stromness, Orkney in 1808. She continued to live in Stromness until her death on 7 November 1861.

## Where Are They Now? *Steven Cree: A New Fate* By Jackie Merrell

There's not much better than a new installment of a favorite franchise. Unless you add one of our favorite *Outlander* alumni to the cast list! Such is the case with the November first release of "Terminator: Dark Fate", which affords us the opportunity to see fan favorite Steven Cree on the big screen!

The film, which stars "The Terminator" and "T2: Judgement Day" legends Linda Hamilton and Arnold Schwarzenegger, is the sixth film in the franchise. Producer James Cameron clarifies that everything after "T2" is being ignored for this new film.

While we don't have much information on Cree's character, with the exception of the name Rigby, we can't wait to support him at our local box offices! "Terminator: Dark Fate" was released the 1st of November and can be seen in theaters now.

## Sassenach Society of South Jersey

We are a group of like-minded individuals who LOVE ALL THINGS OUTLANDER! We love that you have read our newsletter. We started our group to spread our love and passion for Diana Gabaldon's beautiful series of books and Starz series adaption. We look forward to celebrating all things *Outlander* with you.

Sign up for our newsletter by sending an email request to:

[sassenachsocietyofsouthjersey@comcast.net](mailto:sassenachsocietyofsouthjersey@comcast.net)