

# OVER THE WATER

A Joint Newsletter of the Northern Virginia and Washington DC Branches  
of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

April

2005

<http://rscds-greaterdc.org> \* RSCDS Headquarters, Edinburgh - [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

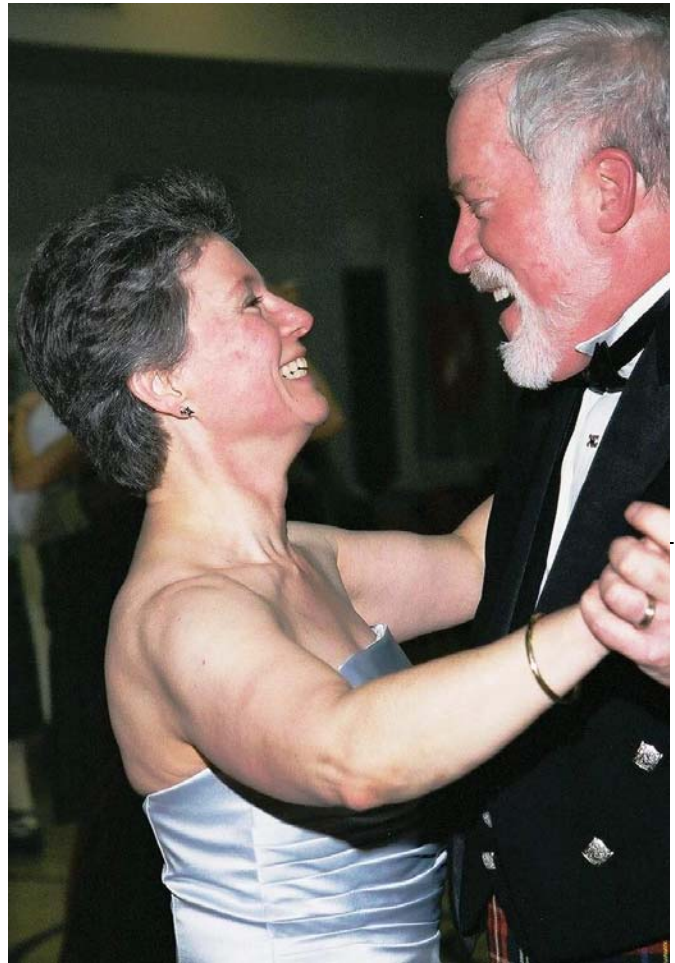
## “It’s About Time”

*Maria Adams and Ed Ward*

The rejoicing was great when Maria Adams and Ed Ward were married in Scotland on September 18, 2004, and the festivities continue. The happy couple hosted a grand ball to celebrate their marriage on March 12 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington. In between ceilidh dances, more than nine sets reeled, jigged and strathspeyed to the music of Terpsichore -- Liz Donaldson, Elke Baker, and Ralph Gordon.

A high point of the evening was Elaine Brunken's aptly titled strathspey, "It's About Time," devised to commemorate Maria and Ed's marriage. The title echoed the frequent response of Maria's and Ed's good friends upon news of their marriage after their long courtship.

Mary Andrews's beautiful paper sculptures of Scottish emblems decorated the hall. Pame MacFarland did all the things the caterers failed to do. Decorations also included two enigmatic posters, "Seize the Strawberry Shortcake" and "Hallelujah Anyway," remarks



made by the minister at the wedding. They could be translated as "don't fail to take advantage of the sweet moment" and "count your blessings."

The Northern Virginia Branch presented Ed and Maria with a pewter loving cup inscribed "from your many friends," a sentiment which included those present and all those unable to be there.—Peggy Collier

*More photos inside*

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**Grew up in:** I was actually born in a wee stone farmer's cottage in rural Montrose, Scotland, close to midnight on a cold winter's night on December 12 - when war was raging in Britain. Dad was from a rural area called Carmyllie, near Arbroath - close to Dundee - we moved to Dundee. I attended Blackness Primary School - full day from age 5 and my mum made my first kilt for my school photo.

**Started dancing:** Scottish Country Dancing was taught in the school system as part of gym. so I have danced as long as I can remember.

**Memorable "Life" Moments:** Coming to the U.S with the Kelly Girl Secretarial Agency to Washington, DC. in 1961. Two girls from England and two from Scotland all arrived together. Warm weather at that time, we could not believe the lady executives pulled up out front of the National Airport to pick us up in 2 of the longest convertibles we had ever seen. We knew we were in America.

## ◆ PROFILE ◆

### *Dorothy Penders*

I went to work for the National Education Association, Department of Classroom Teachers, as an itinerant secretary for all the Teacher of the Year winners, and life has been a ball for me ever since.



The other was being invited to the USO Cherry Blossom Ball on our first April in Washington - and wait for it - my sash said Alabama! When the girls in my office in Dundee knew I was coming to America, at that time, we were in love with the movie star Robert Conrad in *Hawaiian Eye* and watched it faithfully. Never in my wildest dreams, did I imagine that he would be my escort as surprise guest. I got a super photo with him that I needed for proof! Of course, that was

immediately sent off to the girls back home, who could not believe it was so easy to come over and do this!



**Family:** A wonderful husband, Dave, of twenty-five years, who worked for Pepco as a Superintendent, sadly died from lung cancer in 1988. I have one super daughter, Debbie, born on the Fourth of July, who has given me three grandchildren to fill this void— Randy, Steven and Alexi.



**Favorite dance:** White Heather Jig, with all that great birrrrling at the end is hard to beat!

**Other hobbies:** St. Andrew's Society , Washington Demo

## We Have Four New Teachers

Eva Lanyi, Dale Mantautas, Ron Lehmkuhl and Yvonne Yang received official word that they passed the RSCDS Preliminary Teaching Certificate exam.

On April 5, they danced and conducted lessons for the RSCDS examiners at the Greenbelt Community Center. Examiners were Johan MacLean, from Glasgow, and Frances Gray, of Toronto.

More than four sets of "stooges" from the Washington and Virginia Branches turned out to show their support for the candidates, to dance as if it were their first time (on purpose, instead of unintentional approximation of same), cheer the candidates, and perform the obligatory SCD tradition of nibbling between dances, on snacks arranged by Stoogetmaster Jay Andrews.

Candidate tutors Elaine Brunken and Ellie Briscoe looked on from the sidelines, doing their best to observe with poker faces. In the middle of one of the exams, Brunken burst into the hallway coughing. "It's REALLY a cough," she sputtered, alluding to the tutors' well known feigning of coughing when they want a candidate to "demonstrate."

Helpers Sheryl Griffith, Margaret Grandine, Pam Stephens and Ellen Ternes filled out the set for the candidate dancing test. When instructed by the examiners to join in the personal dancing as well, they were assured their teaching certificates could not be revoked. That remains to be seen.

Mark Priest, who helped throughout the candidate classes, breathed a sigh of relief that he didn't have to take the exam.

**Congratulations to our new teachers!**

## Wee Nibbles...

**The Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance** will hold its 25th anniversary session July 3-8, on the campus of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent Band, along with Peter Campbell, will be the musicians. Teachers for the School are John and J'ina Middleton, Frances Gray, Bobby Brown, Keith Bark, Mary McConnell, David Gilliam and Betty Lee Barnes. Spots are filling fast, so get in touch soon with Betty Lee Barnes, Director, [thistle-dance@starpower.net](mailto:thistle-dance@starpower.net), 202-966-3595.



**RSCDS headquarters** has a new e-mail address for general inquiries—[info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org). A good name for a new dance?




**Reminder**—Washington Branch AGM, May 22, The MacLeods.

## Maria's Wedding ... (Ed's too)



*Washington* **55th Anniversary Ball** *Branch*



Come celebrate 55 years of Scottish Country Dance in the Washington area



Admission \$20

◆————◆

Formal wear encouraged but not required

 Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent 

April 30, 2005 8:00 PM

National Cathedral Girls School - Wisconsin Avenue and Woodley Rd.

**Over the Water**  
1718 Priscilla Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904