



SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

The Early History Of The Scottish Terrier Club Of America

By Janet Tomlinson, Historian

A Scottish Terrier brings joy in ways that are indescribable. He may frustrate you with his independent attitude, make you laugh with his sense of humor and let you know that he is there for you, that he owns you. Consider yourself lucky!

Janet Tomlinson

According to Edward C. ASH there are approximately 40 references to the dog in the Bible. Most of these references are stated that almost all were derogatory in its character. The Greek and Roman writers had few references to cats, but there were many interesting writings regarding dogs. Xenophon, born in Athens in or about 443 B.C. wrote a treatise on "Hunting with Dogs." He divided dogs into breeds: Indian, Cretan, Locrian, and Spartan.

In Ash, Plate 14 (below) you will see a figurine that resembles the Scotch Terrier found in Cameiros, in Rhodes 600-500 B.C.

Dr. Caius, who founded the college that bears his name at Cambridge, was a graduate of that University. He was appointed Physician to Edward VI, afterwards filling the same office to Mary and Elizabeth. He wrote a letter to his friend Conrad Gesner, which I have pulled an excerpt from here: "Some are Fox and Badger Hounds only: called the Terrarii because they penetrate holes in the earth, as ferrets do when after rabbits, and so frighten and bite the fox and the badger that they either tear them on the ground with their teeth, or force them from their lairs into flight or into nets drawn over the burrows in the ground." ... "In this class none is by nature aquatic unless it be the Otter Hound, for others frequent banks of earth and water in turn. But all of them will, if their prey takes to the water, take to it also, such being their desire to catch it. This, however, is more the working of the desire than of the instinct. ..."



The Scottish Terrier – by various names – has been indigenous to Scotland for a thousand years or more and it is thought the original stock was brought in by the early Celts from Europe.

The Bishop of Ross – one John Leslie – who wrote a history of Scotland, covering the period 1436 to 1561, mentions a dog of low stature being used to “go to ground” to kill or drive out wild cats, foxes, badgers and other vermin.

1771, in *The Dogs of Manchester* Whitaker gives some interesting details of “our little terriers,” which, says he, according to Ash, are evidently describe in the poems of Oppian who lived in the days of Severus:

“A small bold breed and steady to the game, next claims the tribute of peculiar fame! Trained by the tribes on Britain’s wildest shore, thence they their title of Agasses bore.

“Small as the race that useless to their lord, bask on the hearth and beg about the board, work-limed and black-eyed, all their fame appears, flanked with no flesh and bristled rough hairs; but shod each foot with hardest claws seen, the sole’s kind armour on the beaten green; but fenced each jaw with closest teeth is found, and death sits instant on th’ inflicted wound.

“Far o’er the rest he quest the secret prey, and sees each track, wind opening to his say: Far o’er the rest he feels each scent that flows, count the live nerve and thrill along the nose.”

In the 1700’s in England laws began to spring up regarding the welfare of dogs and even a tax was suggested to be put on dogs in 1791 by a Mr. G. Clark who published an address to the Houses of Parliament on the subject.

As time passed and we move into the 1800’s we find more attention to breeding of our Scotch Terrier. In 1804, The Scottish Terrier Club of Scotland wrote the first known stud book for the Scottish terrier, printed and published in Glasgow. Messrs., J. D. McColl, J. N. Reynard and A. MacBrayne were responsible for the compilation of data, Mr. A. MacBrayne serving as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.



In 1845 W.C. L. Martin breaks dogs into groups. For the Terrier he wrote, “Ears, sub-erect; muzzle, rather acute; jaws, strong; hair, short or wiry; scent, acute; habits, active; intelligence, considerable.” He placed the Terrier in the *Indagaator* Group and wrote: “related to the Lyciscan Group, and its habits seem to connect it with the burrowing Canidae, and the most probable supposition is that it has been produced by a mixture of jackal or even common fox with domesticated dogs.”

1816 Portrait of Sir Walter Scot – Observe the small size of these terriers

In 1880 Mr. James Morrison and Mr. Thompson Gray drew up the first standard for the Scottish Terrier. The working qualities of the breed were the main emphasis, but primarily portrayed the dog we know today as our Scottish Terrier, originally being picked for their gameness rather than for their looks. In the west of Scotland a certain family maintained a certain strain that were light colored, dirty or biscuit colored and which were the progenitors of the present day West Highland Whites.



A Mr. Adamson of Aberdeen (Ashley prefix) was breeding these terriers about the 1890’s – perhaps before – and the writer (either Mr. Caswell Barrie or Mr. William MacBain 1926 Secretary-Treasurer of the Club) has a distinct recollection of seeing Roger Rough and Ashley Charlie in Aberdeen shows. They would pass as average Scotties with, I think, smaller ears than is now the rule.

In 1894, Mr. Rawdon B. Lee issued his classification of sporting and non-sporting dogs, a classification which the British Kennel Club adopted. The Scotch

terrier was placed in the *Sporting division*. This was important because there had been confusion as to what to call our breed – the Rough-haired, Scotch, Otter, Scottish Terrier, Cairn, Highland Terrier, Skyes, Dandies, and other terriers that were low in stature and Aberdeens. This last mention for less time than others, but the name still persists in some areas today.

In 1883, the first Scottish Terriers were imported to America from the United Kingdom by John Naylor. His imports, Tam Glen and Bonnie Belle, showed in Pittsburgh in the spring of 1883, entered in a class for Rough-haired terriers. They were not favored by many and in 1889 John Naylor gave up his attempts to make this the breed of choice.

In 1895, before the formation of the Scottish Terrier Club of America, there had been an organization known as the American Scottish Terrier Club composed of four or five gentlemen who had attempted to foster the breed but after several years they abandoned the idea, at least so far as a specialty club was concerned, for the American Scottish Terrier Club ceased to exist. However, its treasurer, Mr. James L. Little of Boston, Massachusetts became active in the new Club. The original officers of the Scottish Terrier Club of America were President, Mrs. Jack Brazier; Vice-President and Treasurer, Dr. Fayette C. Ewing; Secretary, J. Steele Mackenzie; Delegate to the A.K.C., J. B. Brazier. There were twenty-six members.



In 1896, a group of Diehard lovers regroup, joined by L.S.B. Saunders, and in 1900 The Scottish Terrier Club of America was organized. It owes its being to the enthusiasm and hard work of two gentlemen, Dr. Fayette C. Ewing who at that time was a resident of St. Louis, Missouri and Mr. J. Steele Mackenzie of Cincinnati, Ohio, who brought together in the membership of the Club that little group of Scottie lovers who thirty-nine years ago were struggling to improve and popularize their beloved Diehard.

Mr. Brooks, Mr. Ames and Mr. Little brought imports over and worked home-bred Scots, as well. When Tirie was imported and became the first American champion in 1898, the first American breed club for the Scottish Terrier was formed. This Club adopted the standards written by the Scottish Terrier Club of Scotland and with a few revisions the last standard was framed in 1947 and is still the standard today, again,

with few amendments.

The Scottish Terrier Club of America was elected a member of the American Kennel Club in 1900 which at the close of that year had a total membership of twenty-five.

In December 1917, L.S.B. Saunders, of Clinton, New York, who started the Bulletin in May of 1915, which is now known as the handbook or yearbook, and resembled our Bagpiper (a quarterly production) wrote:

"The next time we meet will be not at the table of the Bulletin, but at our Annual Meeting in New York at the time of the Westminster Show. Let us make special effort to be there, just because this year it will not be easy, and we want to hold together.

The trophies will be on exhibition; and we shall have to replace some of our most valuable officers, who have bigger work than ours on their hands.

Besides this, the editor would point out to the Club that the Bulletin was never formally founded; it grew up itself out of what seemed a need of the Club; the present editor was never appointed to her position, but has been simply sitting on the job since it began, with no opportunity offered anyone to make a change. There are other members of the club who could, if they would, perform her duties far better than they have been hitherto performed; the present editor would be very glad to see the task in such hands.

Should not the Club then, if it wishes to retain the Bulletin, create the office of editor, and henceforth entrust it to the elective choice of the Club?

With which suggestion, and gratitude for the kindest indulgence for short-comings all this past year, and in the years gone by, the Bulletin wishes the Best of Clubs."

By 1926, it can be said that to a Mr. Ludlow we owe more than to any one breeder the then modern Scottish Terrier. He owned Bonaccord, an Aberdeen bred dog, said to be rather high station, light in build, but cobby and with a good coat. He was a very game dog. Dunolly, another dog that helped the breed, came from Skye on the west coast. He was a different type from Bonaccord, being low and long with a larger head. Mr. Ludlow also owned a bitch, Splinter II, that had been sent from the Highland and she might be called the mother of the breed, as most of our present-day Scotties trace back to her. Her daughter "Worry" produced four champions. Kildee traces back to Splinter II in every line. Rambler and Tartan also figure largely in the foundation stock of the present-day Scottie of the 1920's.

After the war a push was made for regional clubs and a history of their start dates follows:

Regional Scottish Terrier Clubs with the Scottish Terrier Club of America as their parent club:

GREATER DALLAS STC	April Specialty
HEART OF AMERICA	March Specialty
SAN FRANCISCO BAY STC	April & October Specialty
STC OF CALIFORNIA	June Specialty
STC OF CHICAGO	June Specialty
STC OF GREATER ATLANTA	April Specialty
STC OF GREATER BALTIMORE	April Specialty
STC OF GREATER DAYTON	March Specialty
STC OF GREATER DENVER	August Specialty
STC OF GREATER HOUSTON	July Specialty
STC OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	August Specialty
STC OF GREATER NEW YORK	May Specialty
STC OF GREATER WASHINGTON	October Specialty
STC OF MICHIGAN	September Specialty
STC OF NEW ENGLAND	June Specialty
STC OF NORTHERN OHIO	October Specialty
STC OF TAMPA BAY, INC.	December Specialty
STC OF WESTERN VIRGINIA	September Specialty
GREATER PITTSBURGH STC	May Specialty
WASHINGTON STATE STC, INC.	January & June Specialty

Scottish Terrier Breeders Association existed until 1959

Clubs that existed in 1959:

The Scottish Terrier Club of California
The Washington State Scottish Terrier Club
The Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Washington, D.C.
Scottish Terrier Club of New England
The Greater Miami Scottish Terrier Club, Inc.*
The Scottish Terrier Club of Chicago
The Scottish Terrier Club of Northern Ohio
The Scottish Terrier Club of Michigan
Scottish Terrier Club of Pennsylvania
Scottish Terrier Club of Kentucky, Inc. (Did not exist in 1965)
Scottish Terrier Club of Maryland – see The Greater Baltimore Area article

Added in 1962:

Scottish Terrier Club of Western Virginia

Added in 1963:

Heart of America Scottish Terrier Club

Added in 1966:

The Phoenix Scottish Terrier Club (still active in 1974)

Added in 1967:

San Francisco Bay Scottish Terrier Club

Added in 1969:

Greater Dallas Scottish Terrier Club

Scottish Terrier Club of the Greater Baltimore Area

Added in 1971:

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Nashville (STCGN) (When were they approved is still unknown by this historian)
The first meeting was held on June 11, 1971 and 15 charter members were counted. The founding officers are Donald F. Brookland, Creal F. Speiden, Mrs. Betty Lee and Mrs. Lina Love. The club is earnestly promoting membership and working toward improving the quality of area Scottish Terriers through grooming and information sessions. – From the 1972 handbook pg 57

Added in 1972:

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Atlanta

Added in 1973:

Scottish terrier Club of Greater New York

Added in 1974:

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Houston

Top O' The World Scottish Terrier Club (Alaska) as of 1974 has not applied for status as a regional club

Added in 1984:

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh

Added in 1988:

Scottish Terrier Club of Tampa Bay

*The Greater Miami Scottish Terrier Club, Inc. – Although currently inactive, the Greater Miami Scottish Terrier Club, Inc. served Southeastern Florida. It was founded on August 7, 1956. There were 40 members the first year and meetings were held each month at members' homes. The first specialty had an entry of 12 and took place in Miami on June 9, 1957. Mildred and Bob Charves moved to Miami and brought a number of good show dogs with them. They did much to stimulate interest in the exhibition of the breed and helped many with their grooming. The Charves returned to California and many members lived far from the area and sadly the club's membership dwindled. Finally, it was no longer possible to support the annual specialty or fill the officers' positions. In 1990 GMSTC went on inactive status and AKC was notified. In 1994, when there hadn't yet been a revival, its founders were distributed in accordance with the By-laws but the club was not formally dissolved.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ash, Edward C., DOGS Their History & Development Vol. I London 1927 Ernest Benn Limited

The Scottish Terrier Club of Scotland Stud Book, 1804

Lee, Rawdon B., Modern Dogs (Terriers) Third Edition 1903

Bulletin, produced by STCA 1915

Handbooks from STCA Archives