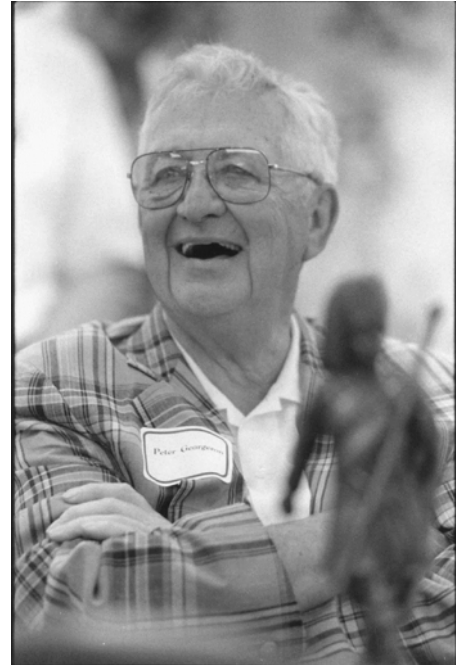


Peter I. Georgeson

2020 Distinguished Citizen for Chicago Scots Milestone Event

In every era of Chicago Scots 175-year history, great leaders have stepped forward to do their part to contribute to the unmatched legacy of charitable service our Society has achieved in Illinois. Such is the legacy of Peter I. Georgeson, our **2020 Distinguished Citizen**, whose impact at the Scottish Home as its most generous donor spans more than four decades and continues to this day.

Peter and his wife, Helen who passed away in 2001, were influential figures at the Illinois Saint Andrew Society throughout the 1980s-1990s. Peter is the 'Man of Steel' who led the enormous expansion of his family's forging business, into the successful employee-owned company Scot Forge- a global industry leader. He infused Scottish values and tartan into all aspects of his business philosophy and his philanthropic endeavors at the Illinois Saint Andrew Society.



Peter joined the Board of Governors in 1982. He was active on many committees most notably serving as Vice Chair of the Home Committee for four years where he learned first-hand the challenges facing the Scottish Home and advised on the day-to-day operations. Helen volunteered at the Home and chaired committees for cultural events. She is remembered fondly for selecting the wool tartan carpet

specially milled in Scotland still in our living room today. In 1986, Peter and Helen were named **Kinsman and Kinswoman of the Year** in recognition of their volunteer efforts and generous support.

But their real legacy would come 10 years later when they provided the lead gift to build the 22-bed Georgeson Wing which expanded the elder care services the Scottish Home offered to include round-the-clock skilled nursing care. While their portrait hangs in the lobby of the Georgeson Wing and their name is above the door outside, it is "Uncle Pete" the Scottish sentinel

in Highland dress with a bearskin fur hat who signals you've arrived at a bit of Scotland in North Riverside. He was a gift from Peter forged in memory of his namesake, one of the four founding brothers of Scot Forge. It is not surprising that over the years, family members and employees of Scot Forge have been among the thousands of residents to receive loving care "in a Scottish way" in the Georgeson Wing.



Peter's Scottish heritage shaped his success as a business leader and philanthropist. He is unassuming about his generous support and considers it a privilege to serve the Society and the heritage he loves. Today, at age 95, he lives a quiet life in Florida with his wife, Frances, where they actively support elder care causes. He stays in regular communication with President Gus and Society President Emeritus Wayne Rethford, whom Peter hired as Administrator of the Home in 1984.



In 2019 Peter gave the lead gift to the ***Reimagine Tradition Campaign*** to refurbish the interior of the Scottish Home, our legacy home at Caledonia Senior Living and Memory Care. Over \$4 million in commitments have been raised to date to refresh the 110-year old Home.

Sadly, the renovation project is on hold until COVID-19 has been defeated. The silver lining is knowing that our vigilant prevention protocols are keeping our residents and campus safe during this crisis. With an impeccable record of safety and the spirit of generations of Scots who have gone before us, we are confident we will weather this storm too and our legacy building will be renewed.

When Peter was awarded the Kinsman Award in 1986 he said he felt undeserving. That sense of humility also informed his decision to decline repeated requests to accept our Distinguished Citizen award. But the opportunity to join us virtually to shine a light on our 175th Anniversary as the oldest, nonprofit in Illinois, changed his mind.

“I have a lot of pride in my Scottish heritage and everything the Illinois Saint Andrew Society stands for. It is important that we continue the important work our founders began so long ago.”

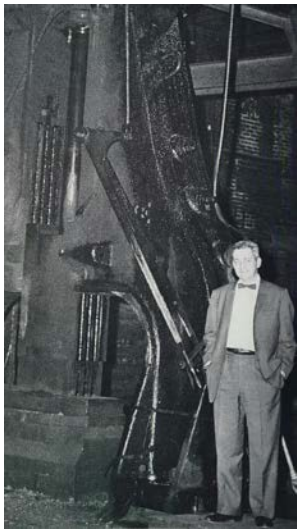
The Legacy of Scot Forge

In 1893 four Georgeson brothers immigrated to Chicago from the Shetland Islands seeking a brighter future. They founded a six-man hammer forge shop that serviced the steel industry. It began

as A. Kropp and was formally incorporated in 1914 as Kruse Forge. Peter's Uncle John changed the name to Atlas Forgings Co. Inc. in 1916 so it would be listed early in telephone books. By 1966 Peter Georgeson was heavily involved in the leadership and massive expansion of the family business.



In 1977 he renamed Atlas Forgings to Scot Forge. The name reflected the Scottish cultural roots of the family and a Scottish Highlander became part of the corporate logo along with the tartan design. The wearing of tartan jackets, ties, skirts and dresses by employees was a tactic to show their pride that was easily recognized wherever they went.



In 1978 Scot Forge became an employee-owned American manufacturer which it remains today. Based in Spring Grove, Illinois, Scot Forge is a company with a 126-year track record of success focused on solving their customers' greatest challenges. With five U.S. facilities and 500 employee-owners, Scot Forge offers the most modern open-die and rolled-ring forging, machining and downstream capabilities in North America. From the wheels of NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover, to mission-critical components for nuclear submarines, to large hydraulic cylinders for the largest mining trucks on the planet, Scot Forge creates the precision forged metal parts used in demanding applications all over the world.

At their 100th anniversary Scot Forge was described as a glowing example of the American Dream. In 2019 *EHS Today Magazine*, the occupational hazard and safety publication, named Scot Forge one of 16 companies to receive America's Safety Award. The legacy of Scot Forge has always been honest, hard work, performed with the needs of the customer in mind, through a work force where employees know they matter and can share in their company's fortunes.