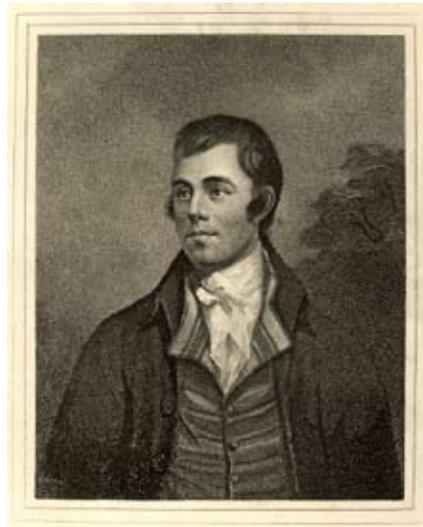


Burns' Night 2009

Where will you be on January 24, 2009 at about 7:00 pm? The correct answer is, of course, Woodland Hills Event Center for Burns' Night, MSSI's biggest night of the year! There will be plenty of bagpipes, kilts, haggis, and music to get your Scottish blood flowing, even if you've only got a wee bit of the Scots in your veins! This will be a special Burns' Night as 2009 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Rabbie Burns.

This year's event begins with a Patron's reception and Scotch whiskey tasting from 4:30 until 6:00 pm, then at 6:00, the doors open for everyone else to mingle, meet and greet, and bid on the many varied Silent Auction items. The pomp and ceremony of the bagpipes and color guard will begin at 7:00, followed by the presentation of the haggis, and dinner will be served

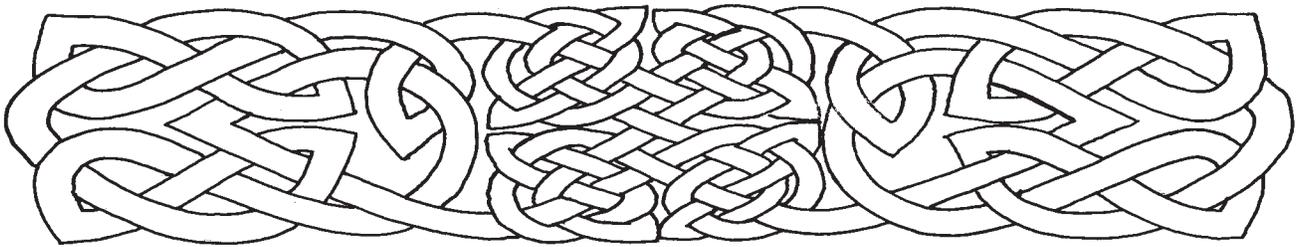
at 7:15. Many other fun things will be part of the evening, including recitations, toasts, music by Planet Reel, and a Scottish dance demonstration by our own Scottish Country Dancers.



Get out your tartan finery and dust off your dancing shoes so you'll be properly attired for Burns' Night. Tickets for Burns' Night are \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers, \$20 more for the Patron's reception, and a \$10 break for senior citizens (over age 65).

Please get those dinner reservations in as soon as possible. Woodland Hills Catering requires a final count on January 12, which is a week earlier than normal. You may make your reservation by calling Melissa Gibson at 901-299-3170, calling the Society's phone at 901-757-4200, or mailing your reservation to M.S.S.I., PO Box 241934, Memphis, TN 38124-1934.

(See page 4 for a reservation form.)
Melissa Gibson



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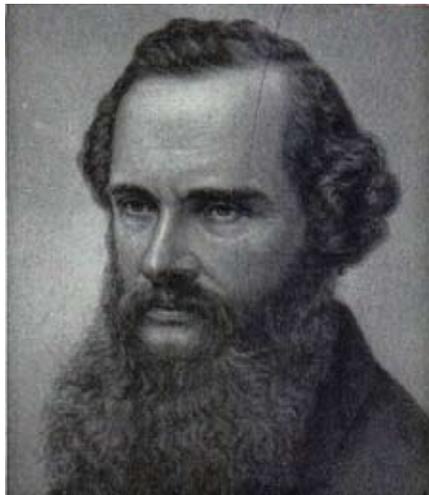
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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In the northern hemisphere we greet the new year in chilly, sometimes even freezing weather, but we have nothing on Lord Kelvin, who envisioned the absolute coldest that can be. Did you know that Lord Kelvin had a **Scottish Connection**?

Born William Thomson in what is now Northern Ireland, this Ulster Scot returned to the Auld Country for his schooling. At Glasgow University he derived mathematical representations of electricity and thermodynamics and greatly furthered the then-emerging science of physics. His best known contribution to the



world of knowledge is, however, the development of the Kelvin scale of absolute temperature measurement, including absolute zero, the temperature at which all molecular motion ceases. For this he was named the 1st Baron Kelvin. His title was taken from the River Kelvin which flows beside Glasgow University. His life was long and distinguished, and he made significant contributions to many different fields of science.

So, the next time you are absolutely *freezing*, remember Lord Kelvin, his absolute zero, and their **Scottish Connection**.

Bits n Pieces

Thanks to Kathy Schultz who has found a couple of websites that may be of interest to our readers:

<http://www.kiltmen.com/>

<http://www.kiltmen.com/suppliers.htm>

Scottish Military History Forum:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scottish_military/

Celtic Concert

Celtic Crossroads

The group Celtic Crossroads will be performing at the Bartlett Performing Arts Center on March 7th at 8:00 pm. -- **Gavin Anderson**, our webmeister ran across this information and forwarded it to your Grace Notes Staff for distribution. Pretty good catch eh.

This was in the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalog!

“The largest single bowl of porridge weighed in at 179.9 lbs.

It was made at a farmers’ market in Edinburgh, Scotland in September 2007.” Kathy Schultz

Letters to the Editor

In order to stay off the streets and out of trouble, I have joined a number of organizations, most of them non-profit and all very worthwhile. All of them send out newsletters, relaying information about the organization, reporting past events and whetting one’s appetite for up-coming functions. I have to say one particular organization stands heads and shoulders above the rest, in the final product of

its newsletter, and you’re reading it, right now. The Grace Notes staff is extraordinary, not only for this missive, but for the time and dedication they consistently show, month after month, to reach all of us and the world wide web at large. The articles are superbly written, the photos are clear and always interesting, the information is accurate, easy to access, and to read; the finished product is wonderful!

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is “to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish.”

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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to foster education and
 promote understanding of
 things Scottish

Two Scottish Greats

The lately departed 2008 saw the passing of two titans of the storytelling world, Doc McConnell and Duncan Williamson. Both were Scottish, though Doc considerably more distant than Duncan.

Doc McConnell was one of the best loved and most unique of the far-sighted individuals who masterminded the renaissance of storytelling as a popular art form in American society. These folks established a foundation for the “preservation and perpetuation” of storytelling and changed unprepossessing Jonesborough, TN from a historical footnote to the international mecca for storytelling.

Doc hailed from ‘way back in the hollers of Appalachia. His repertoire included the perennial Jack tales & the so-called American tall tale. His trademark was a fully restored peddler’s wagon, and when a more formal

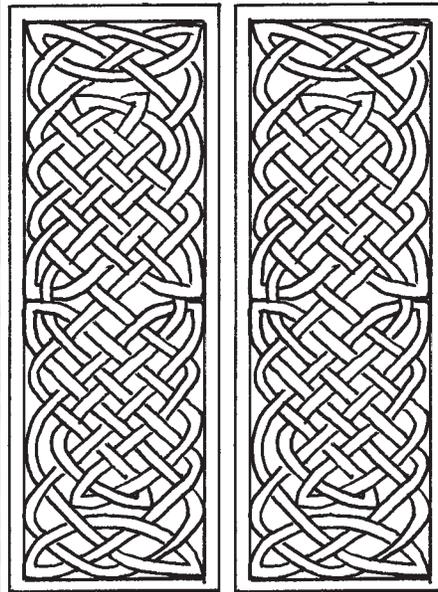
stage was not immediately available to him, Doc was known to drop down the sides of his wagon to form a makeshift stage and start telling his stories, dubbed “Doc McConnell’s Traveling Medicine Show” on the spot. At the most recent international Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Doc’s wagon was parked in its familiar spot across from the Courthouse, but rather than its sitting in reverent silence, it became a forum for various professional storytellers, including Doc’s daughter Elizabeth McConnell, to carry on Doc’s cherished tradition, telling stories to fascinated passers-by.

Duncan Williamson was a member of a group of people whose itinerant life style has earned them various sobriquets: in Scotland “Travelers”, in Ireland “Tinkers”, and in America (mistakenly) “Gypsies”. They live in portable homes and travel almost con-

tinuously. Through Duncan’s stories the world has learned of the fey members of Scottish folklore, including selkies, brownies, kelpies, and waterhorses, as well as the unique life of the Scottish travelers.

The international stars amongst storytellers can claim repertoires number from 200 to 300 stories. (Our own Mary Ann has upwards of 60.) Duncan was estimated to have had over 3000 stories, and while this is only an estimate, the Scottish National Trust has itself recorded Duncan telling over 1500 of his stories. The Memphis and Shelby County Public Library has several collections of Duncan’s stories: [Tales of the Seal People: Scottish Folk Tales](#), [The Broonie, Silkie & Fairies: Travellers’ Tales of the Other World](#), and [Fireside Tales of the Traveller Children: Twelve Scottish Tales](#).

Duncan Williamson



Doc McConnell



It seemed appropriate to offer one of Scotland’s many fabulous stories in memory of these two world famous storytellers. It is an amalgamation of several legends of folklore, I found in a 1925 “Scots Magazine” and is titled Piper’s Cave. I hope that you enjoy it. pgs 4 & 5. Sure makes me wish some of our members would bother to share some stories with me. Why not give me a call, 272-7159 and invite me over for an evening of story telling. What fun! I promise to behave. SR

The Piper's Cave

By J. G. Baird

It may be subconscious memory surviving through long generations of civilization from our cave-dwelling ancestors, or it may be merely wonder and awe at the works of Nature, but most people experience a thrill on entering a natural cave of any great size. Most caves worthy the name have a legend attached to them. Every self-respecting cave seems to demand it.

Prince Charles Edward Stewart may have found refuge occasionally in a cave, but if he even visited every one pointed out as "Prince Charlie's Cave" he must have had a busy time of it. Tales of the smuggling days, and the uses to which innumerable caves were put at that time, are all round the coasts.

But the story of the Piper's Cave is the most wonderfully widespread. It varies somewhat in various localities. It is found in the far North and well into the South of Scotland, as far as the Solway. But I have never found a trace of it in England, or in Orkney or Shetland.

The general outline of the story is always the same. A piper goes into a cave, playing his pipes, and the sound grows fainter and fainter until it finally dies away. Usually the piper's dog accompanies him, and its fate is generally that it is found lying dead at the mouth of the cave next morning. But the piper "never came out." In some versions the dog is found lying skinned! In others it retains its skin, minus the hair, and in one case it emerges with "one hair on the tip of its tail."

The cave or passage (for it is sometimes a subterranean passage) always "leads over" to "the other side."

This part of the legend has no foundation on fact, for I myself have been to the end of several of these Piper's Caves. Whence then the legend?

By Loch Long there is a Piper's Cave. It goes across "Argyle's Bowling Green" and the exit is said to be at Lochgoilhead. "Before a storm those who have ears to hear may discern the sound of the bagpipes played by the piper who never came out."

Five or six miles from Stornoway, in the island of Lewis, is a sea cave into which a piper entered playing a Gaelic song, the words of the first verse of which in English mean—

The little kids
Will be goats of the rocks,
Before I come,
Before I reach,
Before I come from the Cave of the Gold
The Cave of the Gold.

All sorts of things were mentioned as going to happen before the piper returned, and for the very good reason that he was never going to return at all.

In Skye, near Dunvegan Castle, there is a Piper's Cave. It is said that one day when a young MacCrimmon was playing his pipe near the shore, he met the "Fairy Queen," who gave him a silver chanter, by which he could charm the otter from the sea, the deer from the hills, and the lark from the heavens. No pipe was ever so powerful, and never was music so seductive, for the rich wonder of the theme of "The Cave of Gold" burst its beautiful chords asunder as the player entered the cave. The fairy music died away in faint and fainter accents till it was heard no more. As a recompense, in a year and a day the music-maker was destined to leave his life on earth and enter Fairyland, through the Cave of Gold, from which he never returned.

The Barra version is similar, "but one must not go near the Cave of Gold, because of the sea-dogs!"

In Colonsay, on the western side of the island, is to be found a cave, quite narrow at the entrance, and quickly dwindling to a mere shaft in the rock. No one, it is said, has ever found the exit. Many, many years ago, a piper, renowned for his bravery no less than for his skill in pipe music, determined to probe the mystery. On a beautiful calm evening, when the moon was at the full, he entered, playing "MacCrimmon's Lament." His faithful dog accompanied him. The islanders watched him vanish, and gathered round to hear the faint music of the pipes. A long time it was heard ere it died far away in the distance, but some fishermen, casting their nets in the bay, swore that they heard from deep below them the haunting melody. Time passed, and no piper was heard of, but there struggled forth from a cave in Islay a wretch of a dog with only one hair on the tip of its tail. It shunned all human beings, and would allow none to touch it; but always, when the moon is at the full, it sits at the mouth of the cave, emitting with heartrending sadness the tune of "MacCrimmon's Lament," in howl such as no dog ever made.

cont from pg 4

Once a wedding party in Mull went to explore a cave. As they did not return, their friends, headed by a MacCrimmon playing his pipes, went to search for them. They, also, encountered a fairy, who slew the clansmen one by one. But the music fascinated her so much that she allowed the piper to make his way back to the mouth of the cave, while she followed, and told him, if he ceased playing before he saw the light of day, he would immediately share the fate of his comrades. MacCrimmon struggled on bravely in the dark, but weariness overtook him and the music ceased, whereupon he was slain. His friends outside the cave rushed in to find him lying dead beside his companions. It is said that the last notes he played were—

My loss, my loss, without three hands—Two for my pipes, and one for my sword.

In Kintyre, also, the piper encountered a “leddy in a green goon,” and bemoaned the fact that he had not three hands, “Two to play the pipes and one to wield the sword.”

“MacCrimmon’s Lament” is a comparatively late piece of music, and is doubtless a modern accretion to the original story.

In Morvern it is a harper who enters, playing his harp. The harp was the national musical instrument of Scotland up till about the close of the sixteenth century. It was about that time that the bagpipe was imported from France. One would like to believe that the legend is older than that. But why should it be so widespread?

Edinburgh is said to have a subterranean passage leading from Holyrood to the Castle, and a piper was lost there. Ayrshire, also, has its legend. From the old fort at Ayr, leading to Greenan Castle, is the passage in which the unfortunate piper was lost. There are traces of the tale even in Lanarkshire, though it is somewhat garbled.

The strange thing is that usually the narrator of the tale is quite unaware that it exists elsewhere than in his own particular locality, and usually it is known by only the older generation. The young people seem to have no interest in “old wives’ tales.”

There must have been a common origin; but what it was can anyone tell?

OOT & OOH - Silent Auction

If you have been thinking about nominations for this years Order of the Thistle(new members 5 years or less) and Order of the Heather(long time members) awards. Thank-you. Now would be a great time to turn those thoughts over to a member of

Grace Notes or John Schultz. If you have been rummaging through your collections to find items for the silent auction at Burns Nicht, Jan. 24th. More thanks are to be passed your way. If you haven’t. There is still time! Please bring items to the

meeting Monday if you wish me to take them for you or else bring them in the morning of “BN” when we set up so there is time to display and set up bid sheets. As always. Cheers. Sammy Rich

Burns’ Nicht Ticket Order Form

Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. Membership Form

_____ MSSJ Members: \$50 _____ Non-Members: \$60
 _____ Patrons: \$70 (preferential parking and seating, private reception and whiskey tasting 5:00 PM)
 _____ Benefactors: \$100 (Patron benefits plus acknowledgement in program)
 _____ Seniors over 65: Entitled to a \$10 discount
 _____ Table of 10 \$500
 _____ Vegetarian entree required

_____ New Member _____ Renewal
 _____ Family: \$20 _____ Individual: \$17
 _____ Military: \$10
 Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 E-Mail Address: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Clan Affiliation: _____
 Native Scot? _____yes _____no

Check or money order made payable to Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. must be received by January 15, 2009.
 All seats are reserved on a first-received, first assigned basis.
 If you would like your tickets mailed to you, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets are non-refundable.

INTERESTING STORY ABOUT WW II

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the authorities were casting-about for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where-stuff-was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses', where a POW on-the-loose could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks: They make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear-out rapidly and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise what-so-ever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd.

When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. By pure coincidence, Waddington was also

Midwinter in many parts of Scotland was observed as a season of merriment and, where possible, of feasting. The name and the festival were of Old English and of Old Norse origin; in the extreme north of Scotland the name corresponds to the Scandinavian feast, *Jol*, of heathen time, which lasted for twelve days and became later a commemoration of Christmas.

The length of time varied, sometimes lasting only for the week between Christmas and New Year, but often continuing till Twelfth Night, and occasionally till February. It corresponded to the dark time of the winter solstice when it was believed that evil forces were abroad, unde-

the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dis-patched by the International Red Cross, to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add: 1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass, 2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together. 3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

The Yules

terred by the weakened sun till his victory was greeted with rejoicing. It corresponded also to an intercalary period of the calendar, invented to adjust lunar and solar reckoning, and regarded as unlucky.

The chief of these (festivals) was Yule, and the Saturnalia which then began extended over New-Year-Tide to Uphaliday, as the Epiphany or Twelfth Day was called, and indeed was not held to be legitimately concluded till Candlemas was past. [Th. Dickson *Scot. Records*, I, 1473-1498,

Yule was not one festival but a series of them and that period is still named by the Shetlandrs as 'The Yules' – The Yules began...seven days before Yule-day.

British and American air-crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square! Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful use in still another, future war.

The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony. Anyway, it's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card.

We on the Grace Notes staff know that many of our society members are veterans and would like to thank them for their service to our country, but also would like to know if any of them were POW in any war. So give us a shout and share your story with us.

Evil influences were kept away by special means.

Atween Yeel an' Canlemas

Aul' wies sudna sin,

Nor hooses sudna be waterless

Fahr maidens lies within.

Aberchurder and Fyfie,

The whole time about Christmas and the New Year was given up to festivity to a greater or less degree. All the straw (called the Yule straw) for the cattle had to be in readiness, and for several weeks before Christmas an additional hour was given to the 'flail'.

British Calendar Customs (Scotland) – Mary Macleod Banks, 1878

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums

6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,

6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889
2nd, & 4th Friday:
Scottish Country Dancing.

Monday, January 12

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli
@ Poplar & Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
go to
memphiscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program:
Bill Maguire

Thursday, January 15

Board Meeting at 5:45 at Perkins
on Germantown Parkway

January 24

MSSI Burns' Night
Woodland Hills Country Club
contact: Melissa Gibson
299-3170

January 31

Northeast Arkansas
Caledonia Pipes and Drums and
the First Presbyterian Church of
Jonesboro, AR Burns Night
Contact: David Corbett
901-233-2903

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m.

-1 p.m. *"Strands of the Celtic
Knot"* Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3



Jan 15: New Voices

This is your chance to get
onto some new singing talent
before everyone else does!
We'll enjoy music of a number
of rising artists from Ireland
and beyond, and meet Scottish
singer-songwriter Fraser
Anderson who recorded a
studio session for us.

Jan 22: Mando Banjo Magic

Stringed instruments of all
sorts help forge this music's
identity. This week we
feature two that have become
central to its sound with
Seamus Egan, Jane Rothfield,
and Gerry O'Connor.

Jan 29: Burns Homecoming

Homecoming Scotland
2009 celebrates the 250th
anniversary of Robert Burns'
birth with a year-long
programme of events across
the land. We mark the launch
with an hour of musical
innovation and tradition
inspired by Burns' legacy.

Feb 5: Classically Celtic

Hear music that draws upon
traditional roots whilst
oozing classical style, albeit
with string sections sounding
just a little more racy than
usual!

Jan 8: Horizons

Tune into sounds that are
turning a new generation
onto Celtic music including
flute and whistle player
Michael McGoldrick, singer
Emily Smith, and piper Stuart
Cassells who fronts the Red
Hot Chilli Pipers.



Here is yet another great photograph sent from Carmen Wright, via Christmas card. Too cute to not pass on. Carmen is a correspondent in Edinburgh. Thanks Carmen and Happy New Year to all of our friends in Scotland.

~~~~~  
Our stamp emblem this month is titled Basking Lizard. It will play tricks on your eyes following all of the loops.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland  
 Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Bill Maguire  
 Board Meeting, Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:45, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

**GRACE NOTES**  
 The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.  
 P. O. Box 241934  
 Memphis, TN 38124-1934

