

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 21, No. 2

Feb 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Burns Nicht 2005

What do Scots around the world do on an evening in late January every year? Why, we honor the immortal bard, Robbie Burns! Rumor has it that the MSSSI Burns' Nicht is one of the largest and most elegant anywhere. This year's was no exception. From the roses and colorful tartans and evening attire to beautiful Celtic music, the event was a roaring success!

Starting off the evening was a Patron's reception. Headed up by Diane Wade, with able assistance from some of our finest chefs, we had the opportunity to snack and visit while listening to the dulcet tones of virtuoso Larkin Bryant's hammered dulcimer. The party then moved downstairs to the Woodland Hills Country Club ballroom, where SAMS presented the colors and the Caledonian Chorale led the singing of the National Anthem. The Haggis was piped in (in fine style) by Bruce Erskine and presented by Dan Irvin. Bud Hisky's rendition of Burns' ode "To a Haggis" was outstanding, and made the stuff sound scrumptious! More piping, this time from the Wolf River Pipes and Drums, insured that everyone was ready for an evening of entertainment, Scottish-style.

Masterful Celtic music from Isla linked the festivities. Their ballads and instrumental music paid tribute to Burns beautifully. A highlight of the evening was our own Dr. Robert Burns' (dressed in period costume) presentation of "The Immortal Memory". It seemed like the bard himself was back among us. Sammy Rich toasted the lassies in a very entertaining and informative manner, and Mary Ann Lucas' toast to the laddies made them sound like scoundrels, one and all. Accepting Gordon Abernathy's Order of the Thistle was his son, Andy. Bud and Lore Hisky were awarded the Order of the Heather jointly, to a standing ovation.

2005 officers were presented by outgoing president Rick Clausi, and the evening was rounded out by Isla and the Caledonian Chorale leading the group in singing "Auld Lang Syne".

Many thanks to the Burns night planning team for a wonderful evening we'll long remember.- Melissa Gibson

Scottish Connections

Did you know the geographic name "Cumberland", used so frequently in eastern TN and KY, has a **Scottish Connection**? In 1750 a Scotsman named Dr. Thomas Walker led a company of settlers with names of Buchanan, Campbell, and Findlay, into eastern KY. (Yes, this pre-dates Daniel Boone's arrival by 25 years.) Upon encountering a convoluted river the Indians called "Suwannee", Walker remarked that it was "as crooked as the Duke of Cumberland". This was only four years after the Battle of Drumossey More (Culloden), during which time Cumberland had earned the sobriquet "Butcher Billy" for the murder, rape, and pillage of Scotland by his soldiers after that disastrous battle. Revisionist historians have posited that Walker's naming was in honor of Cumberland for funding the expedition, but given the date and Walker's parentage (and his journal, for crying out loud), this seems unlikely. So, next time you encounter the names of Cumberland Gap, River, Plateau, Falls, etc., remember its **Scottish Connection**. - Thanks to Jim Lucas and Cumberland Falls State Park, KY for this tip.

YOUR MSSSI BOARD

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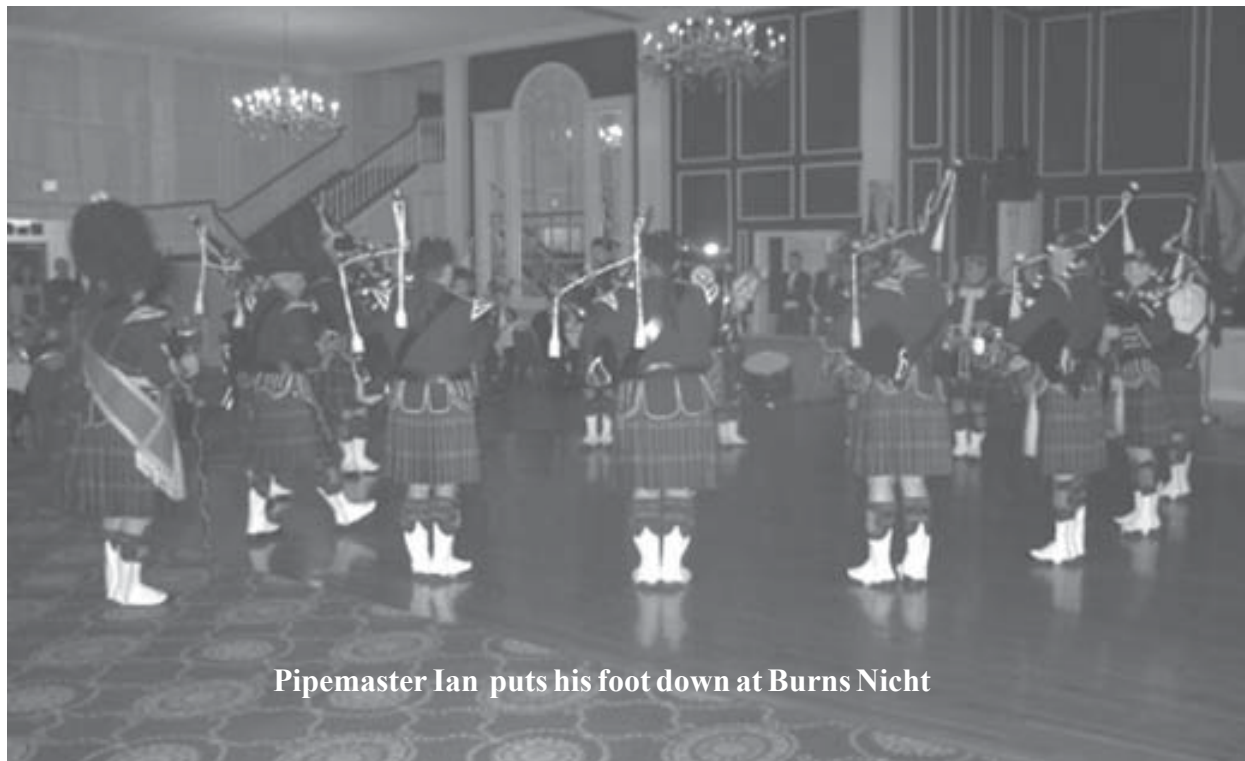
Diane Wade.....382-1402

A Word From the Prez

Incoming president Bill Crump shared these observations on MSSSI's direction in 2005 during a recent telephone interview: the old order is giving way to the new order, and the new order is very old. Bill is in fact a recycled president. So it's back to the future with a blast from the past.

Circulation Editor Needs Your Help

Ben Kemker, DrKemker@aol.com requests that anyone with an e-mail address still receiving *Grace Notes* via the USPS (snail mail) to please forward their e-mail address to him for our PDF version of the *Grace Notes*. This really helps to keep the mailing and copy costs down. Thanks.



Pipemaster Ian puts his foot down at Burns Nicht

Proposed By-Law Change Update

At the January membership meeting, the proposed by-law changes were read and discussed briefly. The subsequent vote by those present did not yield a two-thirds majority to pass or fail as required by current by-laws. The proposed changes are therefore remanded to committee.

GRACE NOTES

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), just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

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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 and promote
 understanding of
 things Scottish*



Order of the Heather – Bud and Lore Hisky

Preparing a short review of the contributions of these two has proved to be overwhelming: there have simply been too many, even if we had hours to do so, which we don't. They have each done all or most of the usual ministrations: presentations at monthly membership meetings, occasional articles in *Grace Notes*, serving as club officers, chairing committees, and representing the Scottish Society in the larger community. Not that those aren't, in themselves, enough to warrant recognition of their contributions, but Bud and Lore have gone well beyond these.

Both have given freely of their professional skills to tasks and labors for MSS:

Bud has frequently been the artistic hands of the Society – painting, lettering, and decorating as needs for graphic arts arose. He has also literally been the face of MSS, as his famous mug has been featured in illustration of national and local news articles, especially as the long-time Drum major of Wolf River Pipes and Drums, for which we salute him.

And, if Bud has been the hands and face of the club, Lore has been its heart and mind. She has taught and presented in many venues and on many subjects, as well as sponsoring scholarship of Scottish subjects, especially history through the Nigel Tranter Society. She also wrote for *Grace Notes* the Hisky's History Corner column monthly for years.

Bud was also instrumental in our pursuit of non-profit status for MSSSI – thank you, sir, for that. And they have led educational tours of Scotland – Lore did the lectures, Bud carried the bags.

Furthermore, in the early days of the Society (1985) Bud was already teaching a continuing education class at the university previously known as Memphis State. It was only the first of many. In 1987 Lore, by virtue of her excellence in teaching, received a national endowment to study in Scotland, and her sharing of the knowledge she picked up then and since enriches our lives through today. And these kinds of unique undertakings are only a cursory sampling of what Bud and Lore have done for the club.

Though either of these two would deserve recognition in his or her own right, their collective contributions to the Memphis Scottish Society are overwhelming. It is with great pleasure and gratitude, therefore, that we honor Lore and Bud Hisky with induction into the Order of the Heather.



2005 Toast to the Lassies

By Sammy Rich

What can I say to the lassies that has not all ready been said? Not much. Can I rephrase what has been said better? The answer to that is a quick "no" as well. So what do I do now? Write poetry to the lassies and compete with our national bard? Not likely, but maybe I have something that is at least along these lines that I wrote way back in my college days. But first a poem by Robert that he wrote about his beloved Jean while plowing in his field. One day in a deeply retrospective mood, he razed a tiny field daisy, and in it's fate saw a parallel to the fate of Jean who was now three months pregnant. Robert writes:

"Wee, modest, crimson-tipped flow'r./ Thou's met me in an evil hour;
But I maun crush among thy stoure thy tender stem;
To spare thee now is beyond my pow'r,/ Thou bonnie gem!"

After a similar type accident with a dogwood bloom, I wrote the following lines:
"Little white flower with the pale brown trim,/ It must be rough stuck out on a limb.
Your pistils are sweet, but your stem is sour./ What a combination, my little white flower."

The forced separation from Jean was tormenting to Robert, to be denied the love of his life, and the chance to see his own flesh and blood. This drove him to make plans leave his beloved Scotland and sail abroad to the West Indies in search of relief for his broken heart and wounded pride. All of this served Robert Burns well. During this period he wrote some of his most beloved poems of which he submitted 44 poems to a printer in Kilmarnock who printed 600 copies that quickly sold out due to their popularity.

Now I won't go on with the rest o' the story but will change gears and introduce to you what they told me was a "wonderful piece of nonsense," titled "Pirn-Taed Jockie", written by George Thompson, a music-hall performer that got a little bit too much under the influence and landed in jail. In order to get out of jail, he gave the copyrights of all his songs to Gavin Greig, who, along with the help of James B. Duncan, compiled the single largest collection of Scottish folk music, "The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection" with more than 2,000 songs included. This song speaks to the very essence of the Toast to the Lassies. The battle of the sexes and goes as such... After the Song - Lads stand up and raise your glasses and repeat after me. Sammy Rich

Roses are red/ And violets are blue.
If it 'tweren't for the lassies,/ What on earth would we do?

Catch these CD's

Through a generous grant from MSSSI members Charles and Diana Crump, two CD's have recently been produced and are now available for purchase. *Sacred Impressions – Music from Three Centuries* and *Celtic Grace* include selections from the Evensong services of the Church of the Holy Communion. Most are traditional favorites, though, rather than hymns. *CG* is taken from the Iona-type Celtic Evensong and feature traditional Celtic tunes on Celtic instruments (hammered dulcimer, guitar, Celtic harp, wooden flute, penny whistle, and fiddle) by local artists Larkin Bryant, Robert Feol, Susanna Perry Gilmore, Barry Gilmore, Mary Abbay Gourley, and Jeanne Simmons. *SI* is from both the Celtic and the Taize services with Mary Abbay Gourley on harp and Jeanne Simmons on traditional and wooden flute and penny whistle. Contact 767-6987 or www.holycommunion.org for more information.

And don't forget Wolf River Pipes and Drums' CD! Since becoming available to the public at Clanjamfry last September, sales have continued apace. You can still get one, however, by contacting any member of the band.

Toast to the Lads – 2005

By Mary Ann Lucas

Of lads there are many a kind:
Braw, slight, dull, smart, uncouth, and refined.
So I'll try in these verses,
To show blessings and curses
That amongst Scottish lads you will find.

On the golf course each Saturday morn
There are lads who are mighty forlorn,
'Cause they miss all their birdies,
Then say naughty wordies,
While squandered greens fees they mourn.

Then there're those adventurous chaps,
Who discover rills, streams, hills, and gaps.
By poster'ty they're crowned,
But they found what they found,
While wondering 'round without their maps.

One Scot who's a certified Yuppie
Had no pets – no, not even a guppy.
Then he got a great deal
On twelve sacks of dog meal.
Saved enough to go rent him a puppy.

Scotsmen love to catch salmon and trout.
They're intrepid sportsmen, no doubt,
But when you have found
Those fishes' price per pound,
You'll see that they've paid through the snout.

When drinking wine, liquor, or brew,
Scotsmen sometimes toss down quite a few.
But when breakfast's eggs,
Evoke last night's dregs,
They shoot, scoot, or move to the loo – PDQ.

Now I've shown you many a laddie,
And made each one sound like a baddie,
But be sure that ye ken,
How much we love our Scots men,
Whether friend, brother, son, spouse, or daddy.

Ladies, be upstanding – To the Laddies!!!!

Scots Out & About

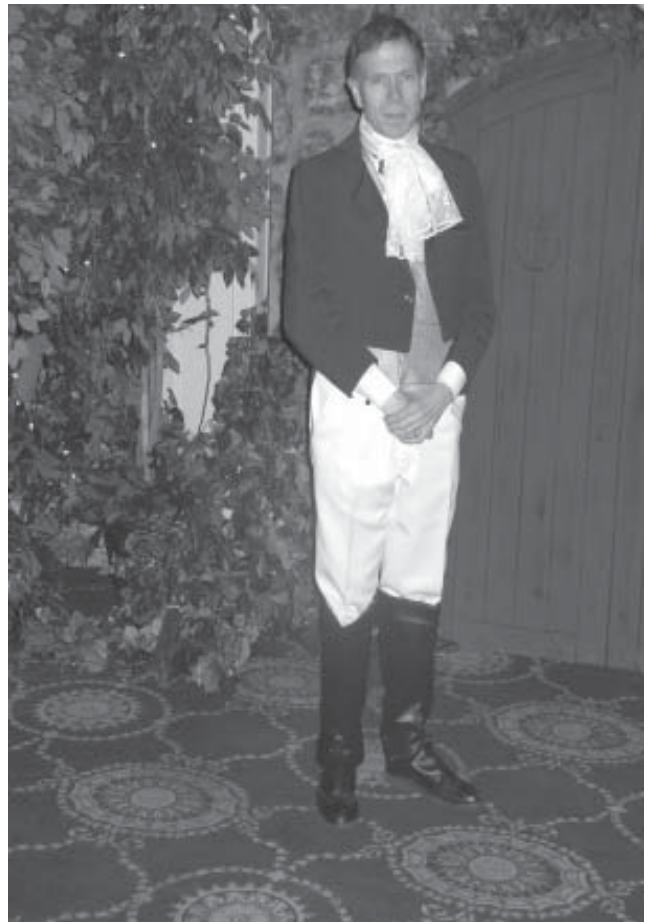
Our own Seldon Murray is teaching two courses this semester in U of M's Continuing Education, entitled "Investing for Income" and "Investments for a Changing Economy". The investment of your time to take these courses will surely be only the first to reap dividends, but hurry – the first class is February 1st! Contact 901-678-6000 or www.ConEd.memphis.edu for details.

U of M is also the source of this next announcement, wherein our VP Jim Smoot has just been named Dean of the Law School. Congratulations!

And speaking of the Smoots, yes, that is Jim's lovely spouse PJ on this month's cover of *Memphis Woman*.

Dr. Robert Burns

Presented the Immortal Memory to Robert Burns in Fine Fashion we might say.



S O B W O M



WolfRiver Drummers (Where are the Pipers?)



Calendar of Events

Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale Rehearsals 7 pm - Holy Communion Episcopal Church, Walnut Grove at Perkins 725-1879

Fridays DANCING

7:30 til 10:00 p.m. Idlewild Pres 1750 Union Ave. West entrance.

1st & 3rd Friday -- Contra Dancing. Contact Martha Phillips, 278-1216

2nd & 4th Friday -- Scottish Country Dancing. Contact Brenda Maguire, 274-1889

Scottish Country Dance Class. 7:45 at Evergreen Pres 613 University

1st & 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Pam Cranford, 324-2532

Feb 14..... Regular membership mtg to be held at University Club 1246 Central Ave

PROGRAM: Love Songs of Scotland, Sammy Rich

Social Hour at 6:00p.m. Dinner is \$20. Reservations required by Feb 10th 725-

1879. Please wear name tags and tartan if you have them and sign the attendance sheet as you enter. Remember to let the Greeters know if you have brought visitors.

Feb 19 Arkansas Celtic Fair & Art Exhibition, Noon - 8:00; Mabelvale United Methodist Church, 10500 Woodman St. Mabelvale, AR. Contact Peggy Loyd (501)920-8534 email: IrishPegofAR@aol.com

Thistle and Shamrock

February 10 | A Different Kind of Love Song

We move beyond the traditional notion of romantic love this week to hear of a love of landscape, of whisky, of the natural world. Listen for contributions from Shooglenifty, Maura O'Connell, Tony McManus, Danu, Lunasa, Ceolbeg (pron: Kull-beg) and many more.

February 17 | A Broader Canvas

We shift the spotlight away from Irish and Scottish music this week to illuminate the rich Celtic traditions of Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Galicia, Asturias, Wales and Brittany.

February 24 | Dougie MacLean

Catch up on the life and times of Scottish singer-songwriter Dougie MacLean who joins us to introduce new music and some of his back catalog this week.

March 3 | Live and Kicking

Live performances electrify this hour of music with Donal Lunny, Jim Malcolm, Skolvan, and Capercaillie.

March 10 | Irish Pairs

We feature celebrated pairs this week: the fiddle of Martin Hayes in dialog with Dennis Cahill's guitar, the late Frankie Kennedy whose flute soars in partnership with Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh's fiddle (pron: Nee Weeney), and the intertwined voices of sisters Maighread and Triona Ni Dhomhnaill (pron: Nee Gonnell). We also throw the spotlight on emerging artists including Claire Mann on flute, whistle and fiddle, teaming up with bouzouki player and guitarist Aaron Jones.

Scottish/ Celtic Music on Your

Radio

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"

Cassie Tobin, host

WEVL-FM89.9

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"

WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot" Robert

Campbell, host WEVL-FM 89.9

Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock," PRM-FM

90.3

MSSI Board

will hold its monthly meetings on the Thursday before the regular monthly membership meetings. Since the membership meeting is on the 2nd Monday in each month, this will sometimes fall on the 1st Thursday and sometimes on the 2nd. In February it will fall on the 2nd Thursday, February 10th.

The Board will meet at 5:30 at the private dining room of Shoney's restaurant at Sycamore View and Summer. Board meetings are open to all members of the Scottish Society, who are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend.

February 14th Monthly Meeting

will feature Scottish Victorian Jewelry on display by Leon Bridges. You really should make the effort to see this Jewelry. If not to see the Jewelry, then how 'bout to see many of your friends for a pleasant evening around a three-course meal with cash bar and a short program on the Love Songs of Scotland presented by our very own Sammy Rich. He may know a few of these and so might you. So don't miss this special evening at the University Club and call your reservations in to 725-1879 by the 10th. See that you're there!

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
Feb 14 - University Club 1246 Central Ave
Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m.**

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The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
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