

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 22, No. 2

February 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.



Burns Night 2006

President Bill Crump greeted guests as they arrived all decked out in their Scottish finery. This was soon superseded by the thrilling skirl of Wolf River Pipe and Drums who were at their gala best. Chaplain Clifford McWhorter blessed our dinner, and a haggis was ceremoniously piped in by Bruce Erskine, borne by Dan Irvin, and followed up by Kent McAden with a handy bottle of Scotland's finest. After sharing a dram all around, Bud Hisky offered Burns' "Ode to the Haggis".

A very traditional Scottish dinner was served with the sweet sounds of "Celtic Grace" in the background. Kudos to Larkin Bryant et al. Reverend John Sewell included in The Immortal Memory an excellent recitation of "Holy Willie's Prayer", followed with a response by his parishioner Seldon Murray. The traditional Toasts to the Lads and Lassies* were offered by Jon and Mary McCalla. Two native Scotsmen, Lex Carnie and Ken Baigrie, thrilled us with their rendition of Burn's favorite "Scots Wha Hae" and a Toast to Hame.

The crowd was delighted with the induction of Lee Hutchison into the Order of the Thistle* and for John and Kathy Schultz into the Order of the Heather. (Picture and additional information on page 4). New MSSSI officers were then installed, and Ben Kemker was handed the gavel by outgoing President Bill Crump. After a few minutes of impromptu dancing, we closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

* Look for more details in the March issue.

YOUR MSSSI BOARD

President

Bill Crump..... 853-0958

Vice President

Bud Hisky683-3403

Treasurer

Faye Dalrymple...662-623-7394

Secretary

Dena Warth.....662-890-7443

Members at Large

Dorothy McWhorter.. 872-4997

Joe Lyle.....754-1811

Diane Wade.....382-1402

BEYOND BURNS NICTH...

If you've been thinking that after Burns NictH your social life would grind to a swift halt, think again! Social and entertainment opportunities are abundant over the next several weeks.

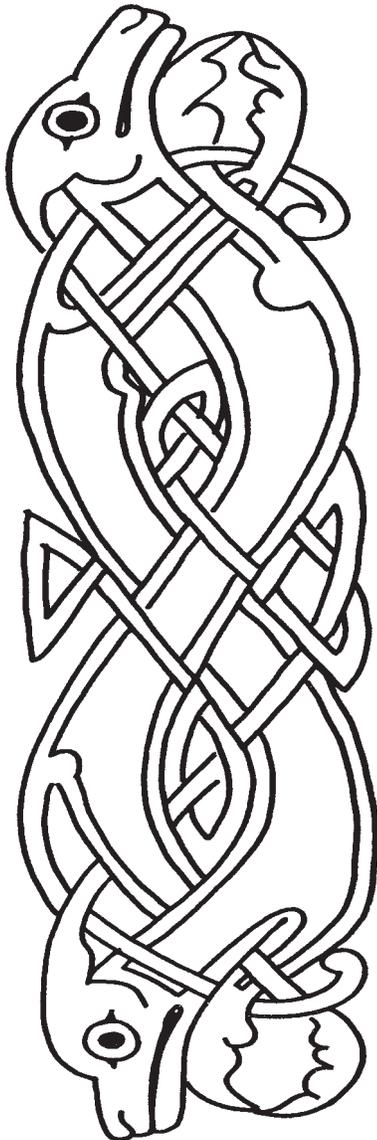
First is the Tony McManus concert on February 5, 2006 at Café Franciso downtown. See details on page 3.

Next is the Celtic Fair sponsored by the Arkansas Celtic Music Society on February 18th at the Mabelvale (AR) United Methodist Church from noon till 6 pm. Participants include Celtic musicians, Scottish country dancers, Irish dance schools, and various vendors and artisans.

Following that is the Old Fort Celtic Festival on March 11th in Fort Smith, Arkansas. This is the OFCF's inaugural event and is therefore necessarily of small scale, but who needs more than a superficial excuse to visit the Arkansas highlands in the spring? Check out <http://w.IrishDanceFortSmith.com> for more info.

And don't fill up your social calendar before the Arkansas Scottish Festival at Lyon College in Batesville, AR the weekend of April 24 -26. Look for more details in next month's issue.

Finally, Dena Warth alerts us to the upcoming concert by Celtic Woman at the Orpheum in April 17 at 8 pm. Anybody up for reserving a section for us all to go & sit together? Check out www.celticwoman.com if you have questions.



Celtic Grace

The musicians even got a chance to eat. Job well done.

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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*to foster education
and promote
understanding of
things Scottish*



World's Best Celtic Guitarist Returns to Memphis

Greetings, friends,

I hope your New Year is off to a good start. We're easing into the winter concert season with a new down-town venue — Cafe Francisco. This sophisticated coffee shop, eatery and internet cafe is located in a lovely old building with wonderful acoustics and comfortable furnishings. We'll have good music from a splendid guitarist and good company from everyone who chooses to celebrate this first event of 2006 with us. There is plenty of free parking for patrons, so come on down! Hope to see you soon. Advance tickets \$15 -- Robert Campbell, MCAA

TONY MCMANUS

With solid mastery of the folk idiom, Scotsman Tony McManus has earned a chair among the all-time guitar greats. His extensive repertoire draws on traditions from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, Galicia, Cape Breton and Quebec, and his dazzling delivery is further infused with jazz and eastern European stylings. Tony is known for his skill in transposing the complex and often delicate ornamentation of bagpipe and fiddle tunes and Gaelic songs. Folk legend John Renbourn calls Tony "the best Celtic guitarist in the world". Please join us for a pleasant Sunday afternoon of music in comfortable and spacious Cafe Francisco (located downtown in the historic Pinch District, two blocks east of The Pyramid). Tasty beverages and baked goods available to order. Cheers!

DATE, TIME & LOCATION

February 5th, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main Street, Memphis
free parking in adjacent lot

TICKET LOCATIONS

You may purchase advance tickets from:

Cafe Francisco, 400 N. Main, 901-578-8002

The Deliberate Literate, 1997 Union Ave., 901-276-0174

Davis-Kidd, 387 Perkins Ext., 901-683-9801

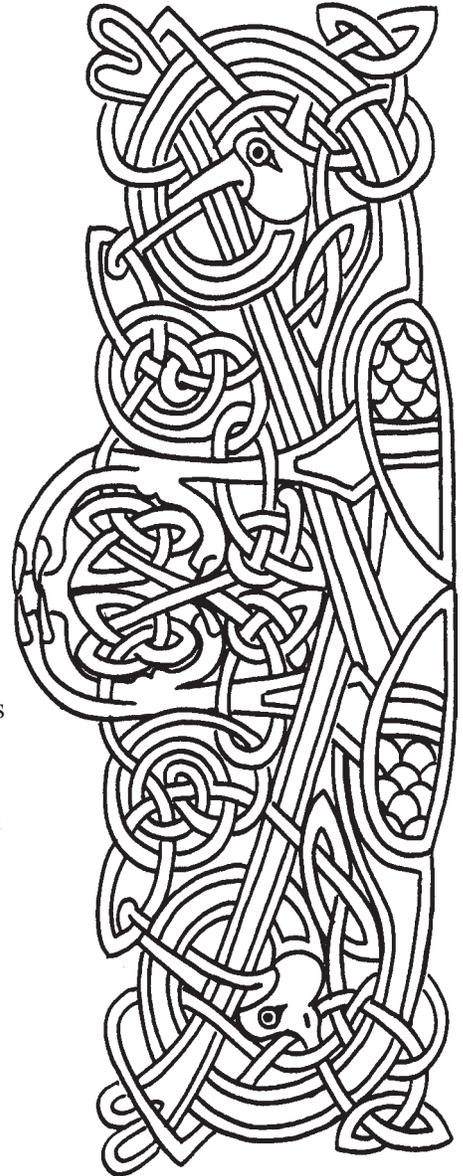
MCAA, 801 Park, Earle, AR 72331 (mail only)

For more information about this concert, please contact:

Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance at 901-276-1527

or 870-792-8679 and visit Tony's website:

<http://www.tonymcmanus.com>



Order of the Heather 2006

When this lad was nominated as a candidate for the Order of the Heather, we were delighted, because he's a slam-dunk to be inducted:

Long-time member? Check.

Still very active in Society events? Check.

Participates in a group ancillary to the Scottish Society? Check.

Represented the Society to the public? Check.

Presented programs at the member meetings? Check and check.

Served as a board member? Check & check & check again this year.

And just this past year, he chaired an ad-hoc committee when asked by the Pres.

BUT . . . we just couldn't give it to him.

BECAUSE . . . there's a lass who's every bit as deserving as he:

Long-time member? Still very active? Ancillary group? Represents the Society? Programs? Board member? Check, check, check, checkity-check.

And since they're both Scottish country dancers, she's done it, if not backwards and in high heels, then clockwise and in long skirts.

So, we decided to pick both of them.

Therefore, we are pleased this year to induct into The Order of the Heather, a couple whose service to the Memphis Scottish Society has been as pervasive and perennial as that venerable plant,

JOHN AND KATHY SCHULTZ.

Let's enumerate some of their accolades: charter members, Scottish Country Dancers, multiple times board members, editors of the *Grace Notes* when it was the award-winning *Grace Notes*, he chaired the recent by-laws revision committee, she's the liaison for the Society with the local genealogy group, and more & more & more.

Congratulations, JOHN & KATHY. Thank you from a grateful Society for all you've done and are doing.



FROM THE D. I. FILE

Dan Irvin is proving to be *Grace Notes*' most regular and generous correspondent, sending in articles of interest almost every month. Here are some of his most recent:

— from *The Associated Press* December 22, 2005

Yet another young man has been refused permission to wear his kilt to a formal high school dance. Nathan Warmack in Jackson, Missouri wore his kilt to his school's "Silver Arrow" dance in November, after showing the kilt to a vice principal and receiving permission to wear it to the dance. (The vice principal only joked that Warmack had better wear something beneath it.) Unfortunately, the principal, who wasn't contacted about it before the dance, ordered the student to go and change. Warmack refused, saying the outfit recognized his heritage. To which, Warmack alleges, the principal said, "Well, this is my dance and I'm not doing to have students coming into it looking like clowns."

As you can image, the incident has excited quite a response, though the school superintendent confirmed that the principal acted within the scope of his authority. Several Scottish groups, including Clan Gunn, have filed protests and started an on-line petition requesting an apology to Warmack. (By late December the petition had gathered some 1600 names.) Other Scottish groups are outfitting the student in the other items of full formal Highland regalia, in which he may attend his prom in the spring. (Hopefully.)

— from *The Wall Street Journal ONLINE* January 7, 2006

The Falkirk Wheel, built to solve the problem of a 115-foot drop between the Union Canal and the Forth & Clyde Canal, is so lovely in form and graphically unique in design, that it has become a major tourist attraction since it opened in May 2002. Many of the 1.5 million who have visited elect to pay \$14 to take a 50-minute ride on the exceptional boat lock.

The 19th century canals previously connected Edinburgh to Bowling on the Clyde and Grangemouth on the Firth of Forth through a dizzying series of 11 locks, a descent taking a whole day. The new Wheel, besides providing entertainment to tourists and engineers alike, can lift 330 tons in under five minutes "using just enough electricity to power two kettles".

The fully loaded Wheel weighs nearly 2,000 tons, is anticipated to with stand nearly constant use for 120 years, and cost less than \$35 million to design and built. In practice it resembles a short, extra-wide Ferris wheel with only two gondolas. Each gondola is filled with balancing weights of boat/barge, cargo, and water, enabling the Wheel to transfer them its eleven-story height, not by lifting against gravity, but by using each gondola as a counter weight against the other, so it only requires power to turn itself and keep the free-swinging gondolas level.

Journalist Bill Coles of Edinburgh, who wrote the report for the *WSJ* calls it "not just a wheel – it's a remarkable piece of modern, moving sculpture." For more info on this remarkable devise, including two color pictures of the Falkirk Wheel in action, check out <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB113657924021540032.html>

— from *Scotland on Sunday* January 8, 2006

It is now believed that the timing and place of the execution of Scottish freedom fighter William Wallace served to make it the "opening attraction of a giant medieval carnival". According studies by David Ross, convener of the Society of William Wallace, St. Bartholomew's Church at Smithfield, August 23, 1305, was the setting of the traditional Bartholomew Fair, the largest of its kind in England.

The vast two-week market featured cloth, meat, and other vendors, as well as sideshows, musicians, wire-walkers, acrobats, puppeteers, freaks, and wild animals. From 1133 to 1855 the Fair was attended by nobility and ordinary folk in extraordinary numbers. In its heyday it doubled the population of London. (continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

The 1305 Fair represented for Edward 1 of England, known as “Longshanks”, the perfect opportunity to make an example of an enemy of the crown to the greatest possible audience. Ordinarily, such a prisoner would have been detained in a dungeon for months or years before facing trial and again before presented for execution.

But Wallace, who was captured near Glasgow on August 3, was taken down to London in 19 days, arriving on August 22. His trial was held the next day in Smithfield facing St. Bartholomew’s Church, and he was executed immediately thereafter. Later that same day the Lord Mayor of London formally opened the Bartholomew Fair on the same site.

Ross states, “It seems clear that Wallace’s hideous murder was the fair’s opening spectacle, timed perfectly for the day when most people congregated from all over the country – and led by the Lord Mayor himself to commence the celebrations.”

— Dan also recommends this site for all Scottish music fans:

<http://www.scotdisc.co.uk/home.htm>

Five RB songs

FREE downloads of five of the more popular Robert Burns songs are available:

<http://heritage.scotsman.com/traditions.cfm?id=81952006>

They work and burn easily to mini-CDs (all five) - about 25 minutes of music from a master wordsmith . . . Enjoy, Steve Kelly/Dan Irvin

SCOTTISH CONNECTION

If, in your contemplation of U. S. Presidents this February 20th (Presidents Day), your thoughts should linger on our first President, you might be interested in knowing that George Washington had a **Scottish Connection**. In fact, he had quite a few. No, he was not so fortunate as to have been of Scottish extraction himself, but he knew a good man when he saw one and surrounded himself with Scots and Scotch-Irish associates. Among Washington’s generals during the Revolution were Alexander McDougall; Arthur Sinclair of Caithness, who had also been the President of the Continental Congress; Lachlan McIntosh of Inverness; Hugh Mercer of Aberdeen; Robert Erskine (son of famous preacher Ralph Erskine) of Dunfermline; and William Alexander, the putative 6th Earl of Stirling.

And if that weren’t enough, during the bleak and defeat-heavy days of the Valley Forge winter campaign, Washington wrote, “If all else fails, I will retreat up the valley of Virginia, plant my flag on the Blue Ridge, rally around the Scotch-Irish of that region and make my last stand for liberty amongst a people who will never submit to British tyranny whilst there is a man left to draw a trigger.” (Or a woman either.) So, there.

Later, in happier times, Washington was inaugurated in Federal Hall, built by a Scotsman. Robert Livingston, a descendant of John Livingston of Ancrum, administered his Oath of Office.

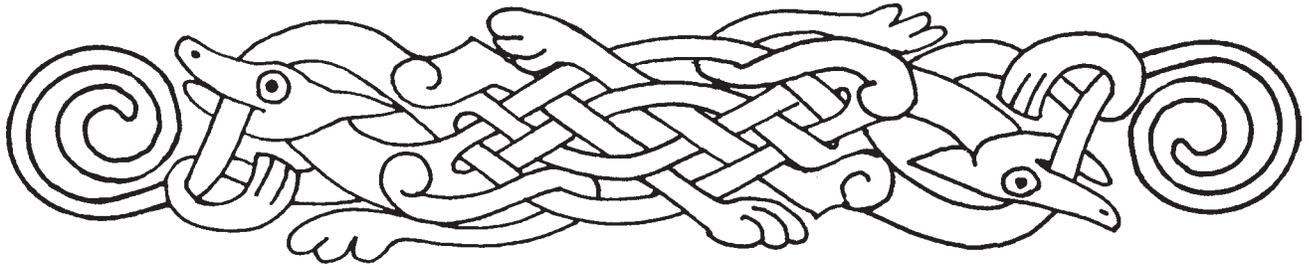
Much later, President Andrew Jackson, himself Scotch-Irish, appointed Robert Mills, born in South Carolina to the architectural Mills family of Dundee, to design a suitable monument to Washington. Mills’ 555-foot obelisk was long the tallest human-built structure in the world and remains the world’s largest masonry structure. Of the Monument it is said, “. . .the simplicity and grandeur of the forms are matched with the character of the subject.”

So, whilst enjoying your cherry pie, remember Washington’s **Scottish Connection**.

(Taken from the Brainy History, Colonial Williamsburg, Dictionary of the Scots Language, Electric Scotland, Chicago-Scots, and Treasures of Britain websites.)

Calendar of Events

- Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, 725-1879 for more info.*
- Fridays DANCING: 7:30 til 10:00 p.m. - Idlewild Pres. 1750 Union Ave, West entrance. 1st,3rd & 5th Friday -- Contra Dancing. Contact Martha Phillips, 278-1216. 2nd & 4th Friday -- Scottish Country Dancing. Contact Brenda Maguire, 274-1889.*
- Feb 5 Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance presents Tony McManus, guitarist at Cafe Francisco, 4:00 pm 276-1527 see page 3 for further info*
- Feb 9 Board Meeting at Shoney's at Summer and I-240, 5:30*
- Feb 13..... Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240. Reservations required, call 725-1879.
PROGRAM: "Songs of the Sea" presented by Caledonia Chorale*
- Feb 26 Tennessee Genealogy Society workshop on "Finding Your American Revolutionary War Ancestors", including documentation for DAR applications. Germantown Community Library 3 pm.*



Thistle and Shamrock

February 9 | Songs of Life and Love

The indigenous languages of Ireland and Scotland were the earliest in Europe to celebrate the natural world. Nature poetry – ancient and modern - has always thrived in these lands. So a Celtic love song won't always have romance at its heart. Dougie MacLean, Altan, Jim Malcolm and Clannad move us beyond the traditional love song notion and take in the bigger picture.

February 16 | Mackintosh at Murthly

Pete Clark returns to introduce us to the music of 18th Scottish fiddler and composer Red Rob Mackintosh (1745-1807), with stories and some colorful history of the period. Pete took fiddler Heather Netz and cellist Christine Hanson along with him to the music room of ancient Murthly Castle, just the sort of setting in which Mackintosh is likely to have played, and we'll hear some of the tunes they recorded there.

February 23 | Musical Meltdown

What happens when you combine Irish and Jewish music? You get Ceilizemer. This is the name of just such a fusion outfit from Northern California, but it would also have described the groundbreaking collaboration between De Dannan and NY klezmer artist Andy Statzman in the 1980s. We'll hear all this and other ethnic crossovers between Celtic and Latin, African, Balkan and Nordic music.

March 2 |Norland Wind

As true as a compass, this week's music responds to the magnetic pull of the north with Cilla Fisher, Duncan Chisholm and Catriona Macdonald, who are all inspired by northern landscapes.

Treasurer's Report

November Balan	\$	7,834.99
Deposits	\$	2,018.00
Withdrawals	\$	(116.80)
December Balan	\$	9,736.19

2006 MSSI Board Members

Front and Center:

John Schultz, at large

Emily Smith, at large

Dena Warth, Sec.

John Simmons, Treas.

Mary Ann Lucas, V.P.

Bill Halliday, at large

Background:

Ben Kemker, Pres.

Bill Crump - Thanks



Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Feb 13th
Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Feb 9th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-240 and Summer

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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