

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23, No. 2

Feb. 2007

Burns Nicht in Hind Sight

First and foremost, I was delighted that Wolf River Pipes and Drums sounded so good. There really is nothing like a pipe band to put you in the spirit for a grand evening, "Scottish style". Thank you, ladies and gentlemen – it was splendid! OK, SAMS color guard presented the colors next, and our Caledonian Chorale provided a Scottish national song and the anthems of Canada, the United Kingdom, and the USA, which was appreciated by our members and visitors alike. Thanks to you, also. Next, I should note the splendid job Seldon Murray did as the MC for the evening: He moved things along really well and kept the dialogue in between presenters short

and sweet. Ken Letterman provided an appropriate Scottish grace before dinner and then, before you know it, Bruce Erskine presented the haggis with excellent piping, with Kent McAden and Dan Irvin dutifully marching behind holding the bag, so to speak. Then we had an exuberant performance by Bud Hiskey in Burns' "Address to a Haggis". It almost made us believe the stuff tastes good! Thank you, Dan, for the haggis and, Jackie Garner, for the vegetarian version. Next, the Scottish Country Dancers looked right at home in the middle of the ball room with their dances. It really lent an air of elegance to the evening to have dancers of this caliber performing, Scottish dances at that.



Our featured performers Smithfield Fair rounded out our evening meal with Burns songs while guests dined on roast beef with madiera sauce, grilled chicken breasts, sugar snap peas, and rumbledethumps, followed by a tasty dessert of fruit and pound cake.

The Immortal Memory was presented as a literary talk on the politics of Robert Burns by James Cantrell, followed by a short and sweet Toast to Burns by Melissa Gibson.

Always a highlight of any Burns Nicht, the Toast to the Lasses by Bill Crump with an assist from Willie Nelson's "To All the Girls I've Loved Before" earned a wonderful response from Sue McDoniel including "Take the Ribbons From My Hair". Well done. See texts next month! Next on the program was Mary Ann Lucas with "To a Louse", followed by a lovely Scottish rendition of "To a Mouse" by Dick Bevier.

Then the annual give-aways began. First, the quilts donated by Dena and her teacher were won. The S.A.M.S. "rifle raffle" was won by yet another lass, as were all of the other raffle items. Come on guys, you really must start buying some of these tickets. The evening wrapped up with presentation of the Order of the

Thistle and Heather awards. (See page 4 for the text of these awards.)

Appreciation is to be expressed to the Mary Clausi for the patrons reception and to the patrons for their support; this is not always the most appreciated of tasks. Last but not least, a thank you to all who contributed to a great silent auction and a nod to Cheryl Noland for pulling it off.

Ok, I have probably missed something or somebody, and I do apologize if I have, but, as you can see, this is a Memphis Scottish Society event and the members have pulled together for yet another memorable evening celebrating the great bard of Scotland. Plans are well under way for next year's evening, and we intend to involve as many of you as possible. This is the way it works each and every year: The more people involved, the more that will come, and the more that will want to contribute their time and talents to this annual treat. That's neat!
Sammy Rich et al.



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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In the afterglow of Burns Nicht it might be well to reflect on another Scottish poet worthy of our revering, lest anyone forget that, while Robert Burns is no doubt our greatest poet, he is by no means our only one. Did you know, for example, that Robert Frost had a **Scottish Connection**?

Robert Frost was born in 1874 to William Frost and the former Isabelle Moodie. (Her family name is often spelled “Moody”; the poet himself spelled it thus, until he was fifty years of age and got corrected by a family member.) Isabelle was born in Clackmannan into the family of a Scottish sea captain. She had been an elementary school teacher before marrying and resumed that profession upon the death of William when Robert was eleven years old.

Frost reflected that in his youth, when left alone, he heard voices. His mother credited these to the gifts of second hearing and second sight which Robert inherited from her. According to one reviewer, “her intense Scottish loyalties greatly influenced his work, which combines practicality with mysticism”.

Frost’s work, rather like Burns’,

has yielded many phrases that are in such common usage that quoters oft forget their source: “the road not taken”, “miles to go before I sleep”, and “good fences make good neighbors” amongst others.

So, next time you’re stopping by a woods on a snowy evening, remember Robert Frost and his **Scottish Connection**.

- from the Scottish-American History Club, the Authors Calendar, and the Poet Society of America websites and ancestry.com .

Robin Bullock in Concert

Memphis Acoustic Music Association invites us to a concert by Robin Bullock at 8 pm on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at Otherlands Coffee Bar 641 South Cooper, Memphis TN. Robin is a prolific composer and multi-instrumentalist, whose virtuosity on guitar, cittern and mandolin blends the ancient melodies of the Celtic lands and their vigorous Appalachian descendants into one powerful musical vision.

Tickets are \$12.00 at Otherlands and Davis-Kidd Bookseller. MAMA’s concert series is partially funded by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Greater Memphis Arts Council.



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*



March 25th is the date and Memphis College of Art, Callicott Auditorium is the place to hear Battlefield Band. The group has been on the world's roads for just on 30 years now, distilling their own unique form of the Scottish spirit and bottling it in concert and onto disc.

According to Billboard, "What the internationally renowned Irish band, The Chieftains, has done for Irish music, Battlefield Band is doing for the music of Scotland."

Battlefield Band is frequently featured on "Thistle & Shamrock" and well known for their excellent Memphis concerts. Tickets are a bargain at \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and can be obtained at Cafe Francisco, Davis-Kidd, and Fiddler's Green. This concert is presented by the Midsouth Celtic Arts Alliance.



Battlefield Band is coming back



Glencoe Revisited

Intrepid *Grace Notes* reporter Dan Irvin has sent along a reminder that February 13th is a hallmark date in Scottish history and one of the nadirs of English/Scottish relations, for this date marks the anniversary of the infamous Glencoe Massacre.

On this date in 1692, 120 troops under the command of Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, after being housed and fed by the MacDonalds of Glencoe for 12 days, fell on their hosts, murdering 38 men, women, and children of the clan. The survivors were driven from their homes into the harsh winter night; at least 40 of these froze to death. Additionally, the MacDonald buildings & stores were destroyed and burned.

After an inquiry ordered by King William into the wily political maneuvering that yielded these nefarious acts, the only action of justice was

the dismissal of the Scottish secretary of state. It is this event which has fueled the long-standing feud between the MacDonalds and the Campbells.

Those interested in more details of the Glencoe Massacre are recommended to excellent articles on wikipedia.com and by Diane MacLean on scotsman.com of 2/9/2005, or the intriguing novel *Lady of the Glen* by Jennifer Roberson.

A Short Kilt Is Intriguing, But A Kilt Short Ain't

The Associate Press reported last month that the more than 5,000 Scottish soldiers in the Royal Regiment of Scotland* are being forced to share a mere 320 kilts. That comes to one kilt for every fifteen soldiers, since a contract to buy enough of the garments to

go around has not been negotiated. A full supply of kilts, requiring some 15,000 yards of tartan cloth worth an estimated \$1.95 million, will not be available till January '08.

Lt. Col. Willy MacNair, of the abolished Queen's Own Highlanders, said, "The kilt is psychologically important for the identity of Scottish soldiers. It may mean that some soldiers in this (new) regiment, by the time they leave, may never have worn it."

These kilts form the heart of the dress uniform of these troops, some of whom are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Kilts have not been worn in combat since World War I.)

*See earlier *Grace Notes* articles on the forming of this regiment in August 2006 from ancient and traditional Scottish regiments.

Thanks to Gavin for passing spotting this news and passing it along.



Order of the Thistle

Dena Warth first showed up on our radar when she wrote an insightful and touching article for the Grace Notes in December 2003, entitled “What Did He See,” about her mother’s being recognized as Scots by an elderly Scotsman from her mom’s “beautiful Scottish features,” when Dena was just 15 years old.

She agreed to serve on the board within 3 years of her joining the Memphis Scottish Society, served a second term, and has set the bar for performance of the duties of Board Secretary amazingly high, having consistently written and distributed the minutes of both board and member meetings THE SAME NIGHT OF THE MEETING! — a daunting prospect for those secretaries who will follow her.

Order of the Heather

Emily Smith is this years recipient of the Order of the Heather. She has met regularly to perform Scottish Country Dancing as well as participated in all aspects of our society. She is one of our quiet leaders that is floating calmly on the water but is paddling furiously underneath. As one of our charter members, she has raised the standards for any of us to follow. Thank-you for your dedicated service.



Master of Ceremonies

Seldon Murray, held us in the palm of his hand all evening and never let us down. He invites us all to St. John’s Episcopal Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans, Sunday Feb. 11th at the corner of Central and Greer in Midtown. Put on your plaidies, ye lads and lasses, and come to the Kirk.



S.A.M.S

Scottish American Military Society dudes are faithful participants at most of MSSSI events. Their rifle raffle is always well received, by a woman, again this year! We wait with bated breath to find out which lass will win each year, for how many now 5, 6, 10? Who knows? There she is right below, holding up her prize winnings with -- is that her husband smiling coyly on the side?



Pipers, Pipers, every where, and not a rodent in sight! That is the Wolf River Pipes and Drums, above. Bruce Erskine is pictured below, getting ready to pipe in the haggis. Great jobs, both!

Re-enactor James Johnston keeps a close watch on the revelers while Clifford McWhorter keeps a close watch on him.

Be sure to go to www.memphisots.com for more pictures of our annual bash.



More from Murray Shoolbraid

Murray is a full-time friend and part-time correspondent for *Grace Notes* from Fife in the Auld Country. Here is a February article that he sent us:

I'm keeping off Valentine's Day this year, and thought I should write something terribly objective about the love-hate relationship that Scotland and England have. Scots themselves can be quite vicious in attacking their own nation; you may know that Aberdonians satirise themselves with joke postcards portraying the town as a hotbed of meanness. Let me tell you, my own shire of Fife beats them hands down. There are several proverbs cautioning the unwary about Fife: "You need a long spoon to sup with a Fifer", for instance. The poem I'm sharing was written by a Scot, I'm sure [both parts], who was able to see the good and the bad, what we can be proud of and what we should be ashamed of — an objective look at Scotland, that is. He doesn't mention the most vilified clan (Campbell), which is just as well, else it might have prompted me to make remarks about a contemporary, hedged with disclaimers such as "Some of my best friends are Campbells..." — but enough. Here's the poem. There are two sets of four verses, sometimes labelled Obverse and Reverse, as if inscribed on two sides of a medal. The author is unknown; it was made up, I suppose, at the close of the 19th century.

Bonnie Scotland

Land of chivalry and freedom,
Land of old historic fame,
May your noble sons and daughters
Long preserve their honoured name.

Land where foreign foe ne'er ventured,
Land where dastard slave ne'er trod,
Land whose sons are ever foremost,
Treading nobly life's long road.

Land of simple-hearted kindness,
Land of patriotic worth,
May your virtues ever flourish,
Hardy clansman of the north.

Land where rest in silent slumber
Ashes of their honoured sires,
May their mem'ries long be cherished,
Round our humble cottage fires.

Reply - by an Englishman

Land of ancient bloody tyrants,
Sneaking traitors, deep and sly,
Land of theivin' Hielan' deevils,
Kilted rogues and stolen kye.

Land of Bibles, Kirks, and bastards,
Saints and lasses awfu' frail,
Drunkards, shebeens, godly deacons,
Parritch, whisky, brose and kail.

Land of cunning, carefu' bodies,
Foes to all ungodly fun,
Those who sum up men's whole duty,
Heaven, Hell, and Number One.

Land of psalms and drowsy sermons,
Pawky wits and snuffy bores,
Faur-gaun chiels sae fond o' Scotland,
That they leave it fast in scores.

Flowers of the Forest

From: Karol Knowles
Subject: Grace Notes newsletter
I regret to inform you of the death of Mary L. Moeldar. I work in the facility where Mrs. Moeldar resided. Her copy of your newsletter *Grace Notes* is still being sent here. Mrs. Moeldar loved being a part of your organization. She was a dear woman fiercely proud of her heritage.



Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m.:
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins, 272-7159
for info.

Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-
9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town
Pkwy. 753-9494 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. 278-1216.

2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889

February 8

Board Meeting at Shoneys Syc-
amore View at Summer.- 5:30 pm.

February 10

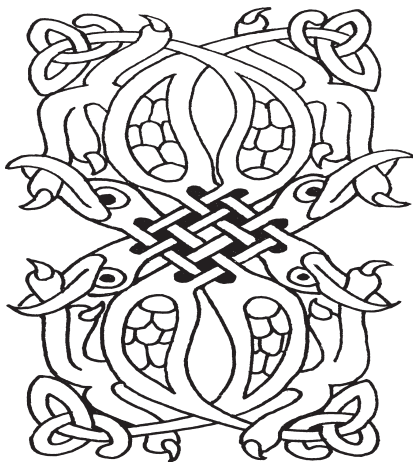
Dougie Maclean
Bartlett Performing Arts Center

February 11

Kirkin'o' the Tartans
St. John's Episcopal
Central at Greer

February 12

Regular monthly meeting .
Holiday Inn , Poplar and 1-240.
Dinner reservations required by
Thursday, Feb 8th, call 725-1879
or online at memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: Sammy Rich on
"Scottish Psalmody,
a Conversation".



Scottish/ Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"
Cassie Tobin, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

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

Sundays, 6:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3

the Thistle & Shamrock

Feb 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.

Feb 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.

Feb 23 |Musical Meltdown
What happens when you combine Irish and Jewish music? You get Ceilizemer. And 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 Statman 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.

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**Burns Nicht
Hind Sicht:
What would
it be without
“Auld Lang Syne”?**

**Next Monthly Meeting -Feb.12th -Dinner Reservations by 02/08, 725-1879 or online
www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.
Board Meeting, Thursday, February 8th at 5:30 Shoneys at Summer and Sycamore View**

GRACE NOTES

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