

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 21, No. 3

Mar 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Spring Ceilidh Just Weeks Away!!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 2nd (the Saturday after Easter), the night of our Spring Ceilidh. At 6:00 come to St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Life Center, 3245 Central Avenue at Greer (same place as last year, but a different room than the Christmas party). The evening will commence with a pot luck dinner. Bring your best pot luck dishes according to your last name initial: A-D, desserts; E-J, appetizers and salads; K-M, meats; N-S, side dishes; T-Z, breads, relishes, chips and dips. Later we'll have music from Wolf River Pipes & Drums, Caledonia Chorale, and Joe Lyle, some sing-a-longs, a game or puzzle or two, some surprises, and oh yes, wait for it, wait for it, DANCING. The Scottish Country Dancers promise both performed and participation dancing, maybe even some ceilidh dances like "The Gay Gordon" we learned at last year's ceilidh. The chairperson for this event is Board Member-at-large Dorothy McWhorter; contact her at 872-4997 or dmcwhorter@prodigy.net if you'd like to help.

A Little More Burns

For those who missed Burns' Nicht, or went but sat too close to the cash bar to hear, or just like good poetry, here are the Burns poems presented that night: Burns' short poems strike with the causticity, verve, wit, and punch of an election year sound bite.

In his first published collection, just after writing "Winter, A Dirge", "To Ruin", "A Prayer, in the Prospect of Death", "Though fickle Fortune has deceiv'd me", & "O raging Fortune's withering blast" and other such jolly poetical subjects considered fashionably appropriate at the time, he wrote this extempore: "*O WHY the deuce should I repine,/ And be an ill foreboder;/ I'm twenty-three, and five feet nine,/ I'll go and be a sodger.*"

Shortly thereafter he wrote an epitaph, which would be followed by many more, becoming less & less suitable for mixed company over time: "*On Jas. Grieve, Laird of Boghead, Tarbolton / HERE lies Boghead among the dead,/ In hopes to get salvation;/ But if such as he, in Heav'n may be, Then welcome, hail! damnation-.*"

From the very last collection of his work come these three jewels.

*"On Commissary Goldie's Brain/ LORD, to account who dares
Thee call,/ Or e'er dispute Thy pleasure?/ Else, why within so thick a
wall/ Enclose so poor a treasure?"*

Now the name of this little gem is the equivalent of the modern term "brown-noser": "*The Toadeater/ NO more of your titled acquaintances
boast,/ Nor of the gay groups you have seen;/ A crab louse is but a
crab louse at last, Tho' stack to the @#%* of a Queen.*"

This last is the result of Burns being asked for a grace *AFTER* a meal at the Globe Tavern. (BTW, Meg is the publican's wife and Jock the barman.) "*O Lord, since we have feasted thus,/ Which we so little
merit,/ Let Meg now take away the flesh,/ And Jock bring in the
spirit!*" MAL

YOUR MSSI BOARD

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Scottish Connections

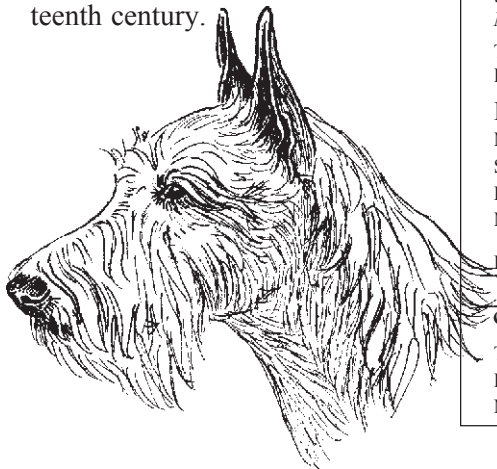
Did you know you make a **Scottish Connection** every time you turn on an electric switch? That lamp or toaster or TV is eating up energy that will show up at the end of the month on your utility bill as “kilowatts”. The light bulb in that lamp is rated by the amount of light it produces, measured in “watts”. The watt in both those terms is James Watt, a Scottish inventor and mechanical engineer. He did not, as touted in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Starlight Express*, invent the steam engine (that was Englishman Thomas Newcomen), but he did introduce a number of improvements that tamed the beast and harnessed it for the use of man. This modern-day Prometheus (well, OK, relatively modern: he lived from 1736 to 1819) introduced the term horsepower, but was dead wrong about one use of steam power, opposing it as a source of power in rail-borne vehicles. So, next time you light up a room or toast a waffle or watch TV, remember this **Scottish Connection**.

Andy’s At It Again

Our man Andy Goldsworthy, a noted artist who was wise enough to rise above his birth and become a Scotsman, has been honored by two different major television networks recently. On February 4th, ABC *Nightly News* named Goldsworthy “Person of the Week” for being the youngest person ever to have received a commission from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. That commission was also featured on CBS *Sunday Morning* February 13th. Goldsworthy is known for his use of natural surroundings and naturally occurring materials in sculpturing works of art. The work in progress for the NGA is a series of beehive-like domes, constructed of slate plates placed so as to stand without any concrete or fastening, only gravity. Other of his works include ice sculptures, rock cairns, and startling geometric patterns of sticks or leaves, all preserved on artistic photographs. For more information pick up *A Collaboration With Nature* or other book by Andy Goldsworthy, available at your favorite book store (or from the public library at 778.93/G624c) or plug “Goldsworthy” into your chosen search engine on the ‘Net.

Tune In To Channel 10!

Our local PBS Channel is offering several programs that members of our Society will find of interest this month. On Sunday, March 27th at 8:00 pm, *Masterpiece Theater* will present “Bertie and Elizabeth”, the story of the romance and subsequent marriage of the late Queen Mother (a Scottish lass) and her prince, who became George VI. Earlier that evening at 7:00 pm, *Nature* features “Ireland”, emphasizing not the Emerald Isle’s green aspects, but its geophysical mountains, crags, coastlines, and inland waterways sculpted by its ice-bound past. Earlier in the month, on Thursday, March 3rd at 8:00 pm, a theatrical work *Looking For Victoria* portrays the monarch who ruled our Auld Country (and those other little nations) for most of the nineteenth century.



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*



2005 Order of the Thistle Recipient Gordon Abernathie

Since joining the Scottish Society a few years back, Gordon has systematically gone about making himself useful in many different areas. As most prominently a piper in Wolf River Pipes and Drums, he has both learned to pipe, no small under taking, but also shared his learning by passing it along to his son Andy. Along with the rest of WRP&D he has practiced long hours weekly and performed in many different venues: parades, weddings, funerals, kirkin's, and concerts.

But his contributions have gone way beyond this. He has chaired a Society party and provided games and music at other parties. He has provided security at Society events, which required that he miss those events. He is a most active and vocal member of Scottish American Military Society, and may have sold you the raffle tickets you held at Burns' Night, as well as representing SAMS at area gun shows and events. He has also presented the program at monthly membership meetings, even offering a repeat lecture to those who missed it at the meeting.

Above all, though, he has displayed his Scottish heritage in his attire, actions, and conversation in his day-to-day activities, our own county deputy in kilts at the court house.

For these reasons we are pleased and grateful to induct Gordon Abernathie into the Order of the Thistle.



Aye, ye ha' tae admirre the succinctness...

of Seldon Murray's Toast to Rabbe Burns, here in it's entirety:

Laddies and lassies charge your drinking vessels and
rise in honor of the poet laureate of Scotland... Rabbe Burns!

"We gather here with purpose clear
In honour of our Bard each year
We toast his works with wine and song
Each several year that comes along
As Janwar' days are wearin' late
And folk begin tae tak' the gate
Throughout the old world and the new
Brave Rabbe's Star comes shinin' through" (anon)

Here, Here

You've Got Riddle

We've heard that lots of folks solved the latest riddle, the answer to which is, of course, bagpipes. Try this one, another haiku. Hint: think of spring.

*A life filled mirror
And landed cup of ocean
Where boys cast first lines*

Treasurer's Recap

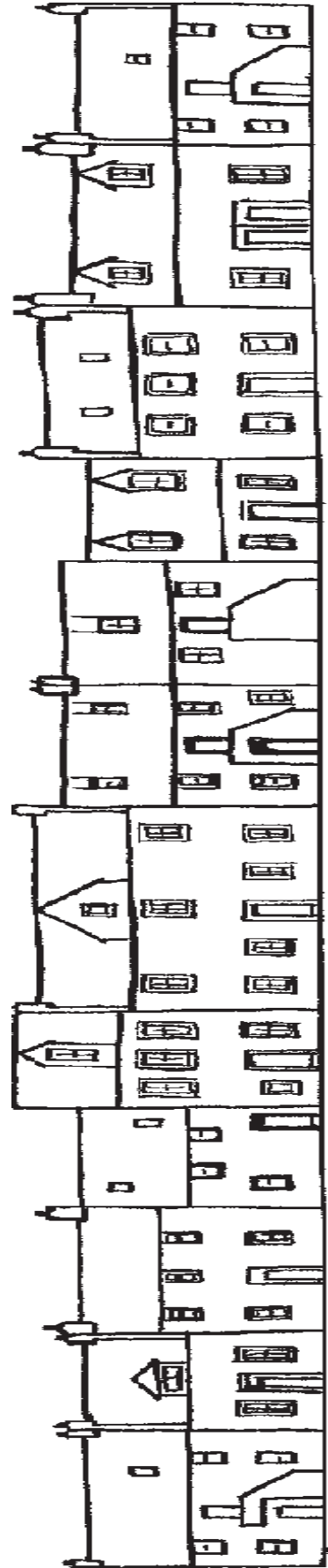
Balance - 12/28/04	\$8,489.79
Deposits	\$7,664.00
Withdrawals	\$6,295.68
Balance - 01/25/05	\$9,858.11

Faye Dalrymple, Treasurer

Think you know your clans?

The following puzzle appeared in the program of this year's Stone Mountain Games. Many thanks to Peter Wilson of Great Scot International Company of Charlotte, NC for permission to share it with our readers.

G R A N T M A C G R E E G O
 R E R T A A N A O O I R B
 A M R H S C D M R D A A I
 K E R R D P R P D M D I E
 E M S D F H A M C C O R D
 L A Y P R E C P S C O T T
 L C A M E R O N M H A A C
 I F G T R S O P I N A P E
 O I R L A O P O T A B U B
 T L A M O N T L H P P Z L
 P I X U S R U L C I A Q A
 T N I I U N R O H E F L I
 U D I R P A N C I R V I N
 N S K E I T H K S P U N D
 M A X W E L L C O X F D O
 O R D I E Y O H L U T S I
 O I U N E O S I M C L A R
 R T K E N N E D Y I P Y S



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
- Mar 6 Planet Reel in concert at Franklin Park Senior Citizens Center. 1:30. Free to seniors. Call the center for reservations.*
- Mar 14..... Regular membership mtg to be held at Holiday Inn @ I-240 and Poplar*
PROGRAM: Dick Bevier on "Ticonderoga: A Scottish-American Ghost Story"
Social Hour at 6:00p.m. 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.
- Apr 2 MSSJ Spring Ceilidh at St Johns Episcopal Church 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck and lots of other good stuff. See pg 1 for details*
- Apr 22-24 Arkansas Scottish Festival @ Lyon College*

Thistle and Shamrock

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 Ní 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.

March 17 | Canada

Travel to Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and beyond to hear the authentic Celtic traditions of Canada with Leahy, Loreena McKennitt, Mary Jane Lamond, Natalie MacMaster and more.

March 24 | Tomorrow, Today

There have never been more youngsters playing traditional music than there are today, and this trend stretches from Scotland to Ireland and across North America. It is finally cool to be learning fiddle, pipes, harp and all the rest, and the performance standards continue to rise. The future for this music is exciting. And it starts today.

March 31 | Jim Malcolm

Meet the vocalist of Old Blind Dogs who has, for over a decade, played an active part in the Scottish music scene. With their roots firmly anchored in the fertile soil of the Scottish North East, Old Blind Dogs seamlessly blend a myriad of influences into their music. And Malcolm's solo career continues to establish him as a leading performer and songwriter.

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

M.S.S.I.
March Membership Meeting
On the Road Again

Our March membership meeting on Monday, March 14th will find us gathering at the Holiday Inn at I-240 and Poplar in the 2nd floor conference room. Dinner will be a full buffet (meats, sides, and all) for a flat \$15, including tax and tip. Adult libations are available from the bar on the 1st floor and can be brought upstairs. Reservations are required: Call 725-1879 or e-mail to StarCntyDown@aol.com **BY THURSDAY, MARCH 10.** And no, we have not moved as much as the children of Israel: They wandered for forty years, we've only been at it for twenty!

Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
Mar 14 - Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting Mar 10 Shoney's I-40 @ Summer 5:30 p.m.

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