

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 22, No. 4

April 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Memphis Scottish Society Ceilidh

Saturday night April 29, 2006 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

2000 North Germantown Parkway

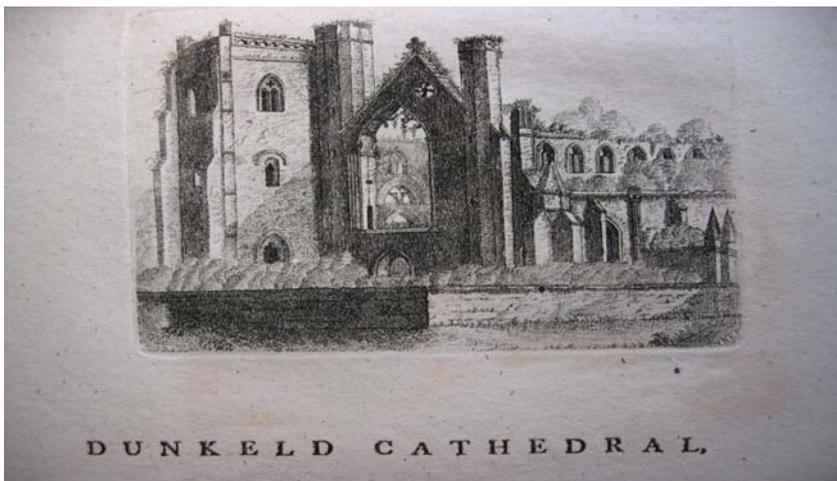
Cordova, TN 38016

Dinner will be pot luck. Beverages and dinnerware will be provided by MSSI. Please respect church policy that no alcoholic beverages be on the premises and no smoking allowed inside the building. Join us in an evening of music, song, and dance. Contact Emily Smith at 683-6416 for more information or if you are able to assist her with the Ceilidh.

Fàilte oirbh!

The Gaelic Society, America will be combining two of its annual events this year. For just this year, the Gaelic Immersion Weekend will take place in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week. The combined Gaelic event will be held at Lees-McRae College, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina near Grandfather Mountain. The fun will take place on 2nd -7th July 2006, the week prior to the Highland Games there. The week will include three levels of Gaelic song and five levels of Gaelic language instruction. This will be augmented by Gaelic conversation groups and special interest sessions. For those who love the great outdoors, there will be organized hikes every afternoon. Kenna Campbell and Fiona MacKenzie will be our main Gaelic song teachers during the week. Gaelic language classes will be taught by Catriona Parsons and Sorley MacDonald. Dr. Jamie MacDonald, founder of the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song Week, will teach beginner Gaelic and song. For as little as \$405, you will receive a private room, three great meals a day, and plenty of instruction in Gaelic and Gaelic song. This is not to mention all the other fun things that go on as well. To find out more, contact Libit Woodington at LibitW@aol.com or 803-695-0307 or go to the ACGA website at: <http://www.acgamerica.org/events/gfathermtn/2006/gfathermtn2006.html>

Thanks, Dr. Jamie MacDonald (Department of Celtic Studies, Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia 902-867-5426)



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Celtic Woman in Concert April 17

The lovely ladies of Celtic Woman, whose PBS special last year “took America by storm” according to the *Boston Globe*, will perform at the Orpheum Theater on Monday, April 17th at 7:30. Tickets are available from the Orpheum, Davis-Kidd, or any Ticketmaster location. Call 901-525-3000 or 901-743-ARTS to charge ticket orders. For more information call 901-525-7800 or check out

www.orpheum-memphis.com or www.celticwoman.com .

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Our own Nancy Chase is more than merely our lovelist piper (the *only* female piper in Wolf River Pipes & Drums), more than a gifted pediatric cardiologist. She has just been elected to the Board of Directors of the Memphis-Shelby County Medical Society. Congratulations, Nancy! We are very proud of you!

Thirty-three Counties of Scotland

Do not read this list or you are endangering the brain's ability to recall all thirty three of these counties of Scotland which are buried in the puzzle on page 4.

Aberdeen	Caithness	Kincardine	Orkney	Shetland
Angus	Clackmannan	Kinross	Peebles	Stirling
Argyll	Dumfries	Kirkcudbright	Perth	Sutherland
Ayr	Dunbarton	Lanark	Renfrew	West Lothian
Banff	East Lothian	Midlothian	Ross & Cromarty	Wigtown
Berwick	Fife	Moray	Roxburgh	
Bute	Inverness	Nairn	Selkirk	

Music Unlocks Rosslyn's Code

Dan Irvin isn't the only MSSSI member who sends in interesting articles to be included in *Grace Notes*. This one is from Winifred Drane, who spotted it in her clan association's newsletter.

Scottish composer and musician Stuart Mitchell has unraveled a Rosslyn Chapel riddle that has puzzled architects and scholars for more than 500 years. Mitchell discerned that codes carved in 213 cubes in the Chapel's ceiling could be interpreted as a musical composition for 13 instruments (bagpipes, whistles, trumpet, a medieval mouth piano, guitar, and voices). The key to Mitchell's interpretation was his observation that footstones at each of the 12 pillars of the Chapel comprised a musical form known as a cadence (three terminal chords). Not that the Chapel yielded its secrets readily: the codes contained symbols and decoys to fool the incidental seeker.

In the end the music wasn't magnificent: Mitchell likens it to a nursery rhyme. He reminds us that William Sinclair, who designed Rosslyn Chapel, was “an architect, not a musician” and that “It is evident... that he could not play very well.” Nonetheless, it took a musician, not a historian or architect to decipher the tangle of the Chapel's long-held secret.

— from Angie Brown,
scotsman.com via MacFarlanes'
Lantern, no. 93

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



SCOTTISH CONNECTION

The word “glamour” evokes images of bewitching charm, mysterious allure, elusive fascination. Did you know the word has a **Scottish Connection**? In fact, it has a Scottish misspelling (pun intended).

According to Charles Earle Funk, noted verbalogist, and the Webster family of dictionaries, the term was originally “grammar”. Yep, the stuff you groaned over in high school composition classes.

The link goes something like this: up until the 1600’s the only grammar taught was Latin, and amongst the generally uneducated population, someone who could not only read, but do so in Latin (that is, had knowledge of *grammar*) induced feelings of reverence or awe. Such folks might be so far beyond the capacities of ordinary humans as to have occult powers, might even be able to cast spells that could mesmerize us mere mortals. Thus, to grammar someone was to bewitch them, to beguile them into your power by your charismatic appeal.

So, how’d we get “glamour” from “grammar”? Well, that’s the Scottish part. In Scotland the word had been corrupted to “glamer” (or “glamor” or “glamour”), though the meaning was retained unchanged. When the immensely popular Sir Walter Scott used and explained the term around 1850 with its Scottish spelling, it came into general English usage and has been that way ever since. (He must have *glamoured* the rest of the writers.)

We rarely use the verb form nowadays, though you’ll still find it in fantasy fiction about vampires, who glamour their victims with a strangely compelling lure. We are more likely to “glamorize” someone or something, to imbue with the power of enchantment. Thus, “glamorous” has come to connote stunning or attractive in the sense of pulling or drawing as if by a spell.

So, when next you encounter a person or thing that is undeniably fascinating, that is *glamorous*, remember its **Scottish Connection**.

— from numerous Webster’s dictionaries and especially from Charles Earle Funk, *Thereby Hangs A Tale* (New York: Harper & Row, 1950), 132.

DATE, TIME & LOCATION

April 2, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

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

\$15 advance, \$20 door
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
Fiddler’s Green
5101 Sanderlin Ave. Suite 104-B
901-684-2207

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

Kevin Burke and Ged Foley...

... have been household names among Irish and British Isles folk music enthusiasts for three decades. Their credentials include membership in several of the most highly regarded Celtic groups — The Bothy Band, Battlefield Band, The House Band, Celtic Fiddle Festival and Patrick Street. Kevin and Ged bring highly ornamented fiddling, un-adored and straightforward vocals. Seating is limited. Buy tickets early!



The Scotsman, in partnership with the **National Trust for Scotland**, has launched a public survey to find the **SEVEN WONDERS OF SCOTLAND**. It is a search to find the heartbeat of the nation, to discover those wonders - natural, manmade and cultural - which make Scotland what it is today. From their shortlist of 30, we are invited to compile our own personal list of Seven Wonders. Which of Scotland's treasures will you select? The Black Cuillin or Ben Nevis? Iona or St Kilda? The Forth Bridge or Rosslyn Chapel? Golf or single malt whisky? It's a tough choice.

The shortlisted 30 wonders below will be "championed" by public figures in **The Scotsman** on Saturdays and Mondays over the coming weeks. They will argue why their choice **MUST** be a wonder of Scotland. How will you balance the remarkable variety of wonders and come up with a list of only seven? It's up to you - discuss it with family and friends or argue about it in the pub. Whatever the outcome, don't forget to cast your vote to make this a widely representative choice. Everyone who votes can take up an 18-months-for-12 membership offer with the National Trust for Scotland - and will be entered into their Grand Prize Draw for a week-long luxury tour of Scotland, taking in each of the winning Seven Wonders.

If you wish to vote for a 'WONDER' that is not on the shortlist of 30, then e-mail:

7wonders@scotsman.com - and vote for your alternative 'WONDER'. When you have decided on your seven wonders please proceed to the "Vote" section to submit your entry online.

The Shortlist: Scotland's wildlife, The Scots tongue, Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags, The Scottish Enlightenment, Rosslyn Chapel, The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, The Edinburgh Festivals, Dolly the Sheep & Scots inventiveness, Golf, The architecture of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Ben Nevis, Edinburgh Old and New Towns, The light and sky of Scotland, The kilt, Fingal's Cave and Staffa, St Kilda, The Scottish Parliament, Glencoe, Scotland's literature, The Forth Bridge, The ancient Caledonian Forest, New Lanark, Glasgow's shipyards, The prehistoric treasures of Orkney, The Borders abbeys, The Scottish sense of humour, The Cuillin of Skye, Single Malt Whiskey, The Caledonian Canal, Iona

Can you find the names of all
Thirty Three Counties of Scotland
within the grid of letters puzzle?
Look on page two for the list.

Ready for a Riddle?

Our resident riddle-writer Monty Payne has sent the following along for your pondering. Answer will be revealed at our upcoming member meeting and also in next month's issue. Hint: we should have run this in the February issue.

*I am hot. I am cold.
I am timid. I am bold.
I can be broken and still be sound.
Bars enclose me all around.
You can have me even when you
don't have me.
By my actions one is known.*

Thirty Three Counties

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

Board meeting – Discussion of a possible change in meeting site continues. Per recently approved by-law changes, the 2005 nominating committee will select the Scholarship Committee. Emily Smith reported on plans for the upcoming Spring Ceilidh. (See details on page 1.) At Bill Crump's request, Mary Ann Lucas will coordinate our participation in the University of Memphis Multicultural Fair on April 7. SAMS has agreed to present the colors at member meetings this year; Dick Bevier will organize this. Gavin Anderson has volunteered to serve as circulation editor for Grace Notes and to re-establish MSSSI's website. The board agreed to provide complementary dinners to speakers at the member meetings. MSSSI will host a St. Andrew's Day Tea on November 30, 2006. A committee to notify members and mail appropriate correspondence concerning bereavement or serious illness amongst our members will be appointed. The 2006 membership directory, including a copy of the by-laws, will be prepared by Treasurer John Simmons. John will also arrange to have cash for change at the member meetings. A stamp to facilitate depositing checks was approved. Awarding of door prizes at the member meeting will resume.

Member meeting - We had standing room only! **NOTE: Please call in your reservation for the April meeting early so that we don't have to bring in extra tables once the meeting has started.** President Ben Kemker called the meeting to order and, after presentation of the colors, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Cliff McWhorter blessed the meal, and Joe Lyle led the group in singing. Treasurer John Simmons reported a account balance of \$12,455.12. Grace Notes and Caledonian Chorale displayed info about each group. Members were encouraged to wear their tartans on Tartan Day, April 6. The Nomination Committee will select the Scholarship Committee. Upcoming activities of the Tennessee Genealogy Society were announced. Visitors and new members Sandra Sutherland Wilbourn, June McLauren, Mary Giles, Bill Hoge, Anna Houston, and Ramona McKnight were welcomed. Then, Dr. James P. Cantrell, author of *How Celtic Culture Invented Southern Literature*, explained that our Celtic ancestors were removed culturally from Puritan New England, therefore Southern literature derives its roots from our Celtic culture. He believes that the work of Southern authors should be read with consideration of their Celtic ancestry and how it influenced the work. He stated that in order for our cultural identity to be recognized and appreciated by the nation as uniquely ours, we (of Celtic origin) must become a powerful, insistent organization. We must stop being so polite and insist that our heritage, including literature, music, and language be written into history books and taught in universities. Kudos to Dr. Cantrell for an enlightening new perspective on our culture as it pertains to our Southern identity. Following the program, Dr. Cantrell offered a private book signing for the society.

Hamish Henderson Library -A Rare Opportunity for Scholars and Collectors

Hamish Henderson (November 11, 1919 - 2002) was a Scottish poet, songwriter, humanist, soldier, and intellectual. Originally from Perthshire, he studied at Cambridge prior to World War II and smuggled messages for the Quakers in Nazi Germany. He took part in the desert war in Africa, the source of his *Elegies for the Dead in Cyrenacia* which reveals a soldier's experience of the war in North Africa and finds common ground between German foot-soldiers and the Jocks of the British 51st (Highland) Division. It was to him that the Italians in North Africa surrendered.

Hamish threw himself into the folk revival after the war, discovering and bringing to public attention the astonishing Jeannie Robertson, whose singing and artistry utterly destroys any criticism of folk music as a "lesser art". He collected songs and performances widely in the Borders and the North-East of Scotland, creating links from the travelers [sometimes mistakenly called "Gypsies"], the bothy singers of Aberdeenshire, and the Border shepherds to the young men and women in Edinburgh for whom the folk revival provided a new lens through which to view their country and people.

Hamish's personal contact with many different and diverse people helped him to acquire a fabulous library of books, sent to him from all over the globe. These are primarily books on Scottish culture, music, and such. His death in 2002 has made this large library available to the public. Gordon & Carmen Wright Scottish Books of Edinburgh is handling the disposition of the library, of which about half is still available. For further information on this rare opportunity to acquire prime additions to your personal library, contact our own Sammy Rich at 272-7159 or e-mail gordon.wright11@btopenworld.com .

MARINER'S CALL

*as read by Geoffrey Meece, Poet,
at the Feb. members meeting.*

Awaken, all ye shipmates,
And heed the Captain's call,
Whether dead from broadside battle
Or washed over in a squall.

Spirits of widows and lovers
Wait vigilant on Heaven's shore.
Ghostly eyes peer seaward
As in olden days of yore.

The day is at hand to come aboard.
Store your gear on this new ship.
This voyage, mates, will be the last,
For we dock in yon Paradise slip.

No lines to pull, nor yards to raise.
You'll find comfort in the berth.
The days of danger are at an end,
Along with all worries of Earth.

Welcome aboard, you sailors that
Went down in Pearl Harbor's blaze,
And the poor men of the Dutchman,
Souls lost in an icy haze.

Call out, all those brave hands
That courageously challenge the sea.
You'll find this vessel a tidy craft.
Her name is the "Jubilee".

Sing out a joyous chorus, lad,
As only a mariner sings.
The true Christ is Captain on deck.
The sails are pure angel's wings.

All ye men face down in the deep,
When Gabrielle's trumpet blasts out,
Jump lively to the Captain's command,
"Arise, heave to, come about."

Do you feel an ecstasy building, lads?
A joyous reunion awaits.
Look ye there, it's family and friends
Standing by yon Pearly Gates.

Men of the seas face hardships
In a strong brotherhood fraternal,
Now it's time to reap the rewards
On this beautiful voyage eternal.



GENEALOGY NEWS

There is a seminar by Michael John Neil on Saturday, April 22, from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM at the Benjamin L. Hooks, Jr. Library at 3030 Poplar Avenue. His topics include "Research on a Tight Budget," "How to Use Ancestry.com," and what to do with your research results. This seminar requires registration (\$30, including lunch) in advance by mail to the Tennessee Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 247, Brunswick, TN 38014-0247, (by April 14 to order lunch). The registration form is at http://www.tngs.org/neill_seminar.htm

Registration, available at the door, starts at 9 AM. (Lunch may NOT be available if registering at the door.)

The regular April Germantown workshop will return to Sunday afternoon, April 23, at 3 PM in the meeting room at the Germantown Library with a repeat of last year's very helpful program on reading handwriting from the 1700's forward. Thanks Kathy Schultz for providing this information.

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.*
- Apr 2* *Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance presents Kevin Burke and Ged Foley 4:00 pm*
..... *Cafe Francisco, see page 3 for details*
- Apr 6* *Tartan Day and Board Meeting at Shoney's at Summer and I-240, 5:30*
- Apr 7* *Multicultural Fair @ University of Memphis contact Mary Ann Lucas 725-1879.*
- Apr 10*..... *Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240. Reservations required, call 725-1879. 6:00 pm dinner & 7:00 pm speaker.*
PROGRAM: Rev. Dr. Barry Anderson on "Lindisfairne"
- April 17* *Celtic Woman Concert at the Orpheum, see page 2 for details.*
- April 21 - 23* *27th Annual Arkansas Scottish Festival, Lyon College, Batesville, AR*
- Apr 22* *Tennessee Genealogy Society workshop at main library. John Michael Neil on **Research on a Tight Budget and using Ancestry.com.** see pg. 6 for further details.*
- Apr 23* *TN Genealogy Society workshop: **Reading handwriting from the 1700's forward.** at Germantown Community Library, 3:00 pm.*

27th Arkansas Scottish Festival

MSSI will be hosting a tent at this annual Scottish festival on the campus of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas April 21-23. Please contact Ben Kemker if you plan to go and can help staff the tent for a period of time. It is a lot of fun and a great way to meet people.

Thistle and Shamrock

April 8-9 | Celtic Spirit - Songs of praise from the traditions of Celtic psalm singing and American gospel united and recorded live in Scotland's biggest Cathedral.

April 15-16 | Pan Celtic - Roam among the connected music of Wales, Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Brittany, and Galicia with musicians from across these lands.

April 22-23 | Once Upon A Time in the North - Multi-instrumentalist and composer Jack Evans has long been known for his eclectic approach to music. His involvement in The Easy Club, Jock Tamson's Bairns, The Cauld Blast Orchestra, and Keltic Elektrik maps some of his influential musical moves. Jack talks to us about his earthy, gutsy Celtic/Americana sound.

April 29-30 | Scandinavian Journey - Nordic musical traditions are stretching and evolving in parallel to those from Celtic roots. Explore music from the far north and hear how it overlaps and complements music from Celtic roots with Blazin' Fiddles, Swap, and others.

May 6-7 | Listeners' Choice - Here's your chance for a replay of music from across recent programs that took you by surprise, stopped you in your tracks, touched your heart, and agitated the soles of your feet.

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

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

GUEST SPEAKER AT APRIL MEMBER MEETING

The Rev. Dr. Barry Anderson is the local pastor of a Cumberland Presbyterian church, an associate professor at Memphis Theological Seminary, and sometime world traveler. Having recently returned from a tour of holy sites in the UK, he has accepted our invitation to present his impressions of the Holy Isle of Lindisfairne in the Disputed Territories. Be sure to make plans to attend: it will surely add depth to your observance of Holy Week! (And remember to make dinner reservations by Thursday, April 6, which by the way is TARTAN DAY so get 'em out and get 'em on.)

Next Regular Monthly Meeting -April 10th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240

Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00

Board Meeting, Apr 6th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-240 and Summer

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The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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