

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23. No. 6

June 2007

COME ONE! COME ALL TO OUR ANNUAL PICNIC

The Sellmansbergers at 14670 Hwy. 193 (Macon Road) are sharing their home for our picnic this year. The picnic will start officially at 3:00 PM but early birds are welcome. This will be a potluck lunch (soft drinks provided); also, Debbie has about 4-5 tables, 20 chairs that can seat about 40 people.

Please bring chairs if you have them. If you have a lawn umbrella, bring it as well. Debbie has 2 tables that can hold them. Ice chests are welcome and if any one wants to make home-made ice cream, please bring necessary ingredients and equipment. Debbie has 2 grills (gas & charcoal) so if anyone has a portable grill, and would like they can bring it also.

They have lots of land, a great lake and trails to hike. We have horseshoes to play, as well as badminton and croquet.

Debbie's home phone is 465-4739 and cell is 289-2141. Call if

you have questions.

The following are suggested guidelines for the pot-luck. If your last name begins with A-G, side

dishes; H-L, salads or appetizers; M-P, entrees or sandwiches and R-Z, desserts.

Janet Mandanna.



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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

“What is so rare as a day in June?” Answer: a day in June that you DON’T need a cold drink from that most wonderful of all inventions – the thermos bottle. Did you know the thermos bottle, known more correctly as the Dewar flask or the vacuum flask, has a **Scottish Connection**?

Sir James Dewar, who developed this delightful & valuable invention, was born in Kincardine-on-Forth, the youngest of six boys. He lost his parents at the age of 15. He was graduated from University of Edinburgh. Dewar later became professor at the University of Cambridge and still later a member of London’s Royal Institution.

In 1867 Dewar described several chemical formulas for benzene. Unfortunately, one of the formulas, which does not represent benzene correctly and was not advocated by Dewar, is sometimes still called Dewar benzene. Dewar was particularly interested in atomic and molecular spectroscopy, working in these fields for more than 25 years.

In 1891 he discovered a process to produce liquid oxygen in industrial quantities. He developed an insulating bottle, the Dewar flask, still named after him, to study low temperature gas phenomena. He also used this bottle to transport liquid gases such as hydrogen. In 1905 he observed that cold charcoal could produce a vacuum. This technique was quite useful for experiments in atomic physics.

Additionally, along with Frederick Augustus Abel, Dewar developed cordite, a smokeless gunpowder alternative, used through World War II.

Dewar died in London in 1923.

Dewar in his long life accumulated a vast number of honoraria,

among them a lunar crater in his name and a cleriheiw (ask Sammy Rich about this), as follows:

Sir James Dewar
Is better than you are.
None of you asses*
Can liquefy gasses!



But to us mere mortals, Dewar is most revered as the maker of that brilliant device that keeps hot things hot and

cold things cold. (The wonder is how it knows the difference!)

Incidentally, we here in the States most often call this contraction a “thermos”, which started out as the brand name of a vacuum flask manufactured in Germany. It was used so much, though, as the generic term for these gadgets, that Congress ruled it a common noun, not protected as a registered trademark (like kleenex, jello, velcro, and vaseline).

So, next time you’re enjoying a chilling cold beverage from a thermos, remember Dr. Dewar and the vacuum flask’s **Scottish Connection**. From Wikipedia.com and inventors.com. *Editor’s note: This is taken to be a reference to donkeys, given that the writer was British.

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



Curse of Scotland

Sometimes a fact just bears repeating. Here is one such fact which appeared some years ago in (Lore) Hisky's History Corner, but was found again just recently by Kathy Schultz on www.rampantscotland.com.

"The nine of diamonds playing card is often referred to as the Curse of Scotland. There are a number of reasons given for this connection:

1. It was the playing card used by Sir John Dalrymple, the Earl of Stair, to cryptically authorize the Glencoe Massacre. Certainly, there is a resemblance between the nine of diamonds and his coat of arms.

2. The Duke of Cumberland is supposed to have scribbled the order for 'no quarter' to be given after the Battle of Culloden on a nine of diamonds playing card.

3. It has also been suggested that it is a misreading of the Corse of Scotland, i.e., the Cross of Scotland or St Andrew's Saltire. There is a resemblance between the pattern of the nine of diamonds and the Saltire.

4. Nine diamonds were at one time stolen from the crown of Scotland and a tax was levied on the Scottish people to pay for them - the tax got the nickname The Curse of Scotland.

The first two explanations are the ones most commonly given."

-- Thanks, Lore and Kathy, for this fascinating information.

Creaky Travelers

Bibliophile Kathy Schultz has discovered a jewel of a book for those traveling to Scotland this year, whether by airplane, tramp steamer, or even armchair: *The Creaky Traveler in the North West Highlands of Scotland: A Journey for the Mobile but Not Agile* by Warren Rovetch. She researched a little farther and found a companion book: *The Creaky Traveler in Ireland: A Journey for the Mobile but Not Agile*, also by Warren Rovetch. Who knows? Maybe Mr. Rovetch will put out a similar guide for those of us attending the more altitudinally challenging Scottish game sites, like Stone Mountain & Grandfather Mountain!

Irish Trad Music on the Web

Betty Westmoreland has graciously shared with us information on an interesting website:

<http://www.causewaymusic.co.uk>. It's a kind of directory of traditional musicians of northern County Antrim in Ireland called "Causeway Music". Betty says, "Enjoy the website. County Antrim is where my ancestors went upon leaving Scotland." If you are amongst those whose extraction is Scotch-Irish, yours may have, too!

NPR Webcasts

Wow! Here's some good news from our president John Schultz:

"This evening Kathy was listening to Thistle and Shamrock and told me about a segment in which a poem about the Politician was recited. While checking on this, I came across a website called "Allegro" at <http://jrabold.net/radio/index.htm> that lists the times that various public radio musical programs are webcast by public radio stations. From this list, I found a webcast of Thistle and Shamrock at 10:00 tonight and was able to record the poem. This might be something for the next Grace Notes. – John"

Editor's note: It certainly is! Especially since it's sometime hard to catch T&S at its new broadcast time (6-7 pm Sundays). Via the Allegro site you can choose to listen to T&S (or any of the dozens of other NPR shows listed there) at virtually any hour you choose. Happy listening!



Flowers of the Forest

It is our sad duty to inform you that long-time member Frankie Atkinson has passed away. Our condolences to her friends and family. (You may remember Frankie's husband Ed, also a long-time member died in June of 2005.)

So what does the new Scottish National Party plurality mean?

In the May 4, 2007 election the Scottish National party became the biggest party in Scotland., by just one legislative seat. The SNP. Which is committed to Scottish independence, will need to form a coalition in order to take power in Edinburgh.

With all the seats in the Scottish Assembly counted after numerous technical irregularities, the SNP emerged from the election with 47 seats, one more than its rival Labour Party. The Tories ended up with 17, the Liberal Democrats with 16 and the Greens two. There is one inde-

pendent MP. Although the Scottish results will have little immediate effect on British politics, the SNP has promised to hold a referendum in 2010 on whether Scotland should secede from Britain and declare independence, ending a union that began almost exactly 300 years ago, on May 1st 1707.

Speculation is now rising about an SN/Lib Dems/others coalition, but a stumbling block could be the Nationals' plans for that independence referendum. Scottish Liberal Democrats regard the referendum

as a significant block to a power-sharing deal.

While only a quarter of Scotland's five million people are said by political analysts to favor independence, the very prospect of a referendum will set the British and Scottish administrations against each other from the beginning of Mr. Gordon Brown's tenure as British Prime Minister Tony Blair's successor. During the campaign, Mr. Brown, a Scot who is deeply opposed to Scottish Independence, said he could not cooperate with the SNP.

WebSite News

This is an announcement to let everyone know that Mary Lewis has graciously agreed to administer the Member Photo Gallery. You can send her a message at photos@memphisscots.com, if you have questions.

Please DO NOT send photos to thewebmasterorthegalleryadministrator. We don't have an official photographer, to the best of my knowledge, but I know a lot of you have been shooting pictures at events; I've seen you with your cameras. We'd all love to have you share your pictures with our other members.

If you have not already visited our gallery or signed up, please do so. Signing up is free, and assures that your pictures will be attributed to you. . Thanks: *Gavin Anderson, webmaster*; Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Up for Auction at the next meeting!

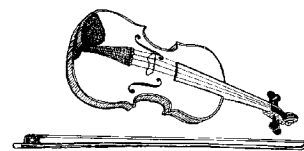
These articles will be offered in a silent auction at the June 11th meeting, with proceeds going to the Scholarship/Grant Fund.

They were donated by Loren Todd (Bill Crumps daughter & Malcolms mother).

The items include a Dress Gordon tie, a Huntley (Red Gordon) tie, a small purse and tam oshanter in MacLeod of Lewis (the Loud

MacLeod) tartan, and two tiny figures made of teasels by local craft artist Shirley Patti.

Be sure to bring your checkbook with you to the meeting so one (or more) of these articles can go home with you!



Scotland 101

Dr. Bill Crump expostulates on on the flora of Scotland; Mary Ann Lucas points out the wild life of Scotland, most of which has been transplanted to the States, judging from our motley crew. Lou Garner gave us the run down on the political geography of Scotland while Jim Lucas took us on a real geological tour of our floating island. I am just a bit skeptical of that theory myself, but who knows what lies underneath this rock we call Scotland; maybe there really are giant styrofoam pads holding us above the ocean floor. On another matter, the camera at the front table was supposed to be taking pictures of all our speakers. Sorry Jim Lucas and Lou Garner, we will have to try another time.



Scotland 101

Please go to page eight to see one of the many types of wildlife Mary Ann exposed us to in her trauma with the wild kingdom!



Our church sent seven boxes, over one hundred fifty pounds of love to my son Ben. He passed it out to his fellow soldiers. This is the email we got back from him. Ben is to the right of our flag, next to the blue field. The sign says "Support Our Troops", it should read, "Support Our Children". God Bless Our Troops. Ben Kemker



Thomas Blake Glover

At first sight Fraserburgh in the Northeast of Scotland and Nagasaki in Japan might appear as if they have little in common, in reality they have a very strong connection through one man - Thomas Blake Glover. In his native Northeast of Scotland Thomas Blake Glover is virtually unknown; however in his adopted country of Japan he is revered as a national hero - one of the founding fathers of modern Japan.

Thomas Blake Glover was born at 15 Commerce Street, Fraserburgh on June 6, 1838. His father, an Englishman, had served as an officer in the Royal Navy, later becoming the Chief Coastguard in Fraserburgh. Glover's mother was a Scot through-and-through; she was from Fordyce in Banffshire.

After leaving school Glover began working for a trading company and traveled the world. He was successful as a merchant trading in ships and weapons in Japan during the 1860's, at that time a politically unstable and

violent corner of the world. He settled in Nagasaki. His house was built in 1863 and remains the oldest western style building in Japan.

Glover became a prominent individual and helped the samurai to topple their military leader, the Shogun, restoring the Emperor to his throne. At this time he helped in the industrialization of Japan.

He was responsible for commissioning three warships for the Japanese navy from Aberdeen shipyards. Subsequently, he established his own shipbuilding company which later grew into the industrial giant Mitsubishi. He was responsible for introducing the first railway locomotive into Japan as well as establishing the country's first mechanized coal mine. He also organized the education of many young Japanese abroad, mostly in Britain.

Glover married a woman called Tsuru, the daughter of a samurai, who many believe was the inspiration for Puccini's opera - Madame Butterfly,

since she habitually wore the emblem of a butterfly on her clothes.

Glover was not only the first to introduce much western technology to Japan but was also the first non-Japanese to be presented with the Order of the Rising Sun - one of the country's top honors. He died in 1911, aged 73.

Glover's house in Nagasaki is now the centerpiece of "Glover Garden", Western Japan's top tourist attraction with almost 2 million visitors each year.

The site of Glover's birth has not fared so well. During the Second World War the Luftwaffe scored a direct hit on 15 Commerce Street - the site to this day remains empty, although plans have been put forward to rebuild the cottage at a cost of 375,000 and turning it into a tourist attraction.



Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159 for info.

Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494
for info.

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday
Contra Dancing. 278-1216.
2nd & 4th Friday
Scottish Country Dancing.
274-1889

June 9

MSSI "Picnic" See related story
on page 1.

June 11

Regular monthly meeting,
Holiday Inn Express, Poplar @
I-240.

Dinner reservation required
by June 7th; call 725-1879 or on-
line at memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: John Schultz "On the
Rocks: the Real Story of the
Whiskey Galore."

June 28

Board Meeting at Perkins at
1340 S.Germantown Rd.5:30
pm.

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"
Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and Fridays,
7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3



good use this week by Celtic
musicians from Ireland, Scot-
land, Brittany, Wales, and the U.S.

June 21 | You Cannot Be Serious

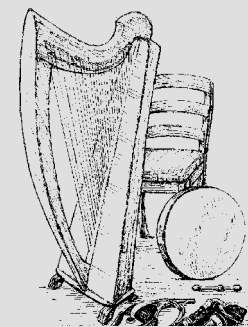
Sad lover's laments and tragic bal-
lads, although gorgeous, can weigh
heavily on the heart. For the opposite
sensation, check this week's music.

June 22 | Singers and Songwriters

While music radio as a whole often
seems over-populated by perfor-
mance s from media manufactured
acts, public radio is still a haven for
singers with voices of their own.
Meet some of them this week, includ-
ing Karine Polwart, who crafts new
songs, often in an authentic traditional
style, and Christine Kydd, who shapes
and develops traditional song styles in
her solo, duet, and trio collaborations.

June 29 | Young Tradition

The finals concert of the BBC Radio
Scotland Young Traditional Musi-
cian 2006 took place earlier this
year at the 13th Celtic Connections
festival. Meet the winner, learn
what the year will hold for her and
enjoy music from the successful
recording artists who launched their
careers after winning the coveted
title in previous years. Back stage,
Archie Fisher, Simon Thoumire,
and Alex Salmond, MP explain
why this annual event is so special.



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June 7 | Digital Imperfection

Studio technology has vastly im-
proved standards in music record-
ing and performance. Some artists
offset all the digital perfection by
mixing archive vinyl, complete
with clicks and pops, into their
own tracks, while others resist de-
pending on overdubs and re-takes.
More than a gimmick, it all helps
us stay connected to the authentic
roots of today's music.

June 14 | Fret Full

Mandolin, guitar, cittern, banjo,
bouzouki: the fretboards of these
stringed instruments are put to



We have all heard of the North End of a South Bound mule over here in the States. Do you think in Scotland they might refer to the South end of North bound Ram?

Next Monthly Meeting - June 11th - Dinner Reservations by 06/07, 725-1879 or online www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, June 28th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.



The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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