

Triple Silver for local Piper in Shreveport

Local piper David Corbett (of Alicia and Marion), traveled to Shreveport, LA for the: Ceòl Na Pìoba “Music of the Pipes” Solo Bagpiping Competition.

Continuing with previous success, and even improving, David brought back 3 silver medals and one 5th place finishing, meaning he placed in the top 5 in all 4 events entered. These events are various types of tunes or combinations of tunes or time signatures. They included 2/4 March, 6/8 March,

Slow Air, and a Strathspey / Reel combination.

Along with the medals, David receives additional points which combine towards year end standings, and efforts to be promoted within the ranks of competitive pipers in the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association.

David along with 3 other members of the Jonesboro, AR based Northeast Arkansas Caledonians, will be traveling this next weekend to Glasgow,

KY (near Bowling Green) for another competition and hope to bring back more high placings and medals. For more information about piping and drumming,



or the band see www.neacaledonians.com

Attached Pictures: Medals and the pipes played to win them, & David in actual competition. Jimmy Bell of Lyon College, Batesville, AR judging.

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Though to most Americans alive today it is known only an off-screen allusion in the film *Mrs. Miniver*, one of the most remarkable phenomena of civilian or military history happened in June 1940: the Dunkirk evacuation. Officially known as Operation Dynamo, thousands of civilian trawlers, ferries, and even pleasure craft affected the rescue of hundreds of thousands of Allied troops from the shallow harbor at Dunkirk. But the success of this unique naval endeavor is in large part due to the indefatigable 51st Highland Division, who formed the rear guard of the land action and for their troubles were killed or captured to spend five long years as POW, a very powerful and poignant **Scottish Connection**.

Americans need not feel alone in this lack of awareness: Scots in large part do not know about it either, according to one blogger responding to a notice on the release of *Dunkirk: The Men They Left Behind in Scotland on Sunday* on May 18, 2008. He wrote, "What is a surprise is that so few of you proud Scots here today appear to have known anything about the glorious rear guard action fought by the 51st Highland Division."

The people in the French town of St. Valery, where the valiant Highlanders finally surrendered, are most aware of this historical episode: to this day you can "see

a Saltire fluttering on a flag pole in the main square and a Granite monument on a hill above the town."

St. Valery, France, is a stylized standing stone on a Saltire cross.

The relatives of those brave troops remember also, among them filmmaker Guy Ritchie and



The surrender at St. Valery. actor Hugh Grant, both of whose grandfathers were captured at St. Valery.

After their capture the soldiers of the 51st were force-marched to a prisoner-of-war camp near Salzburg, where they were interned

until the end of the war in 1945.

The lads weren't idle, however. While in the camp, for physical fitness, recreation, and morale, they developed an all-male dance incorporating many of the steps that they had learned as boys in Scottish country dances. This dance, The Reel of the 51st Division, aka as The St. Valery Reel, reconstructs the shape of the Saltire cross, which was also the dress insignia of the Division.

Nor is the dance the only artistic tribute to the valiant 51st. There is a pipe tune, "The Heroes of St. Valery" based on a folk song heard by the composer at St. Valery. The Battlefield Band also performs a song, "The Beaches of St. Valery", written by their late member Davy Steele, based on his uncle's experience there. And *Dunkirk: The Men They Left Behind*, the memoir of David Mowatt, one of the 51st who was captured after Dunkirk, was written by Sean Longden and released in the UK on May
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The monument to the 51st, above

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), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

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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published by Constable. It will be released in the UK on May 29, 2008 and can be ordered by your favorite book dealer. Another highly recommended book on the role of 51st in the Dunkirk evacuation is *Dunkirk: Fight To The Last Man* by Simon Sebag-Montefiore.

So, next time you watch *Mrs. Miniver* or see the Saltire flag or think about WWII, remember the evacuation at Dunkirk and its **Scottish Connection**.

Thanks to John Schultz whose tip on the Reel of the 51st brought about this article.

Editor's Note: In preparing this Scottish Connection, I gathered far more material about the action of the 51st and its history than could be presented within the finite confines of our monthly newsletter. I will send it to any who wish further information on this exceptional group of Scots. MA

VISIONS OF SCOTLAND DVD

Hello all, you requested and we delivered. Several members have requested information about the DVD that has been showing the past few months at the members meeting, so here it is.

"I just saw a really good sale price, \$22.98, on the "Visions of Scotland" DVD in the "Video Collectables" catalog.

Their web site is:

<http://www.collectablesdirect.com>

Kathy Schultz

Thanks Kathy for this information. I have my copy in hand. SR

The Beaches Of St Valéry

It was in 1940 the last days of Spring
We were sent to the Maginot line A fortress in France built
to halt the advance of an army from a different time
For we were soon overrun out-fought and outgunned
Pushed further back every day. But we never believed
high command would leave us So we fought every inch of the way
Till the 51st Highlanders found themselves on the banks
of the Somme one more time

It still bore the scars of that war to end wars
The old soldiers scars deep in their minds
But we couldn't stay long for the Panzers rolled on
And the battle raged west towards the sea
Then on June the 10th when sapped of all strength
I entered St Valéry

Chorus

And all I recall was the last boat leavin!
My brother on board waving and calling to me
And the Jocks stranded there wi' their hands in the air
On the beaches of St Valéry

So I huddled all night in a hammered old house
As the shells and the bullets rained down
Next morning at dawn my hope was still strong
For we moved to the beach from the town
But the boat that had left on the day we arrived
Was the only one we'd ever see
And with no ammo or food we had done all we could
So we surrendered at St Valéry

Chorus

When I returned at the end of the war
From the stalag where I'd been confined
I read of the battles the allies had fought
Stalingrad, Alamein, and the Rhine
Wi' pride in their hearts people spoke of Dunkirk
where defeat had become victory
But nobody mentioned the Highland Division
They'd never heard of St Valéry

Chorus

No stories no statues for those that were killed
No honours for those that were caught
Just a deep sense of shame as though we were to blame
Though I knew in my heart we were not.
So I've moved to a country I've come to call home
But my homeland is far o'er the sea
I will never return while my memories still burn
On the beaches of St Valéry.

Spring Picnic's a Blast

The MSSI annual spring picnic was hosted by Joe and Debbie Sellmansberger at their country estate in Williston, TN. For me the road to Williston in the heart of West Tennessee brings up fond memories. The farmlands are guarded by old barbed-wire fences, overgrown with local vegetation just like on my grandparent's farm in Milan, TN. Williston has the smallest downtown of any West Tennessee city I have ever had the opportunity to experience, complete with the cutest little bank you will ever see. You just have to see it to believe it.

I know, I know: this is supposed to be about the picnic and not Williston, but it just seemed like a great big part of my trip out there, so I feel compelled to tell you to be sure and go see it.

OK, about the picnic. The food was in plenty, and there were so many people that I didn't get to speak to everyone near enough, and the opportunities for play were abundant. I personally found the piano upstairs in Joe and Debbie's music loft particularly enticing and spent the better part of an hour picking out some old bluegrass standards, and a few that you probably would not know as well. John Simmons and Margaret Zavodny joined in on several songs. Dr. Simmons was a big help with Marty Robbins "El Paso" – that high note is much easier to sing with a great tenor in your ear. Thanks to John and

Margaret both for helping out.

Ok, more about the picnic. Did I mention food? Yep.

Well, then, how 'bout animals? Debbie had raised 30 chicks in her bedroom for the previous month and had just gotten them out into their own chicken coop before the picnic. I am pretty sure the chickens will not like the chicken coop as much as they did the air conditioning, but even so, I am sure they will find their new home quite nice. How 'bout those puppies that Debbie rescued just the day before the picnic? She said Joe didn't fuss at her too much, and as I understand it, she has found home for all five of the fat little fur balls at this time. Even I, who did not want a dog, took one home (and have named it Dodger for the "Artful Dodger" in *Oliver Twist*), because after I picked him up and held him, I simply could not shake the soulful look of his dark eyes -- he just stole my heart away. He made the ride back home to the city in good fashion with only one minor accident, which happened on Melissa Gibson's lap and not in my car, so all in all it was a pretty good transport for his first big ride. Ok, so what about the goslings that were hatched out about two weeks before the picnic? Well, it seems like one of our early season storms came through and blew them all away. We aren't sure where, but they aren't at Debbie's pond anymore. They may be

in a neighboring county, or the local critters may have gotten them. I think if there's another picnic out at Joe & Debbie's place, I shall take my pole and try to catch up a mess of fish. It is the cleanest pond to get around that I have ever seen, so I am hoping the fish are big enough to keep the next time I go.

What else was it we did? Oh, yes, several of our members, along with Bill Dickerson, whom we met when he spoke at MSSI's member meeting, set out to the other side of the pond to try and hit some lawnmower blades (a great target with a satisfying ting when hit) at about 40 paces with the muskets that Joe Sellmansberger and Bill Dickerson shared with us. That was particularly a treat for me, as I have never fired a musket, and it was quite a thrill to stuff a wad and ball down the barrel, and pour black powder into the firing pan of the musket, and then try to act like I wasn't scared when I pulled the trigger. It really doesn't kick much, but sometimes the powder does flash a bit. (My singed eyebrows are the clue.) All in all, it was very informative and quite a thrill that was worth the trip, in and of itself.

So, hearty thanks go to Joe and Debbie for having us out, and hopefully, we left the place in as good a shape as we found it when we left. Enjoy the pictures on the next page
Sammy Rich

A bit of Humor

Rushing to work, I was driving too fast and as a result was pulled over by the highway patrol. The state trooper noticed that my shirt had the name of a local high school on it. "I teach math there," I explained. The trooper smiled, and said, "Okay, here's a problem. A teacher is speed-

ing down the highway at 16 m.p.h. over the limit. At \$12 for every mile, plus \$40 court costs, plus the rise in her insurance, what's her total cost?"

I replied, "Taking that total, subtracting the low salary I receive, multiplying by the number of kids who hate math, then adding to that

the fact that none of us would be anywhere without teachers, I'd say zero." He handed me back my license.

"Math was never my favorite subject, Please slow down."

Ben Kemker contributed this bit of humor. Thank-you!

Ray Whitehurst, a friend of Joe and Debbie takes aim under the watchful eye of our host Joe.



Below is a picture of the lovely log cabin home of Joe and Debbie Sellmansberger, our hosts for the spring picnic. See article on pg4.



Pictured below, Margaret Zavodny taking a shot, but wait, where's her husband? Surely she was shooting at the target.



Above, Dr. Simmons fires one while Bill Dickerson and Frank Trafford watch.

Pictured on the right are three of the rescued puppies. Dodger, or the one who adopted Sammy Rich is at the food bowl. Hmm, reckon that is a sign of things to come. Stay tuned.

Thanks Again to Joe and Debbie for being such gracious hosts, and to all members who came and brought all of the yummy foods.



50 Things You Never Knew About Scotland

Our intrepid historical researcher Sue Malone has discovered as interesting and informative an article as this humble publication has ever come upon, "50 Things You Never Knew About Scotland". It is subtitled "Ed Pearce Enlightens Us All", and it first appeared in Scotland Magazine.

This find is too rich to consume all in one big gobble, so expect a 10- "thing" portion per issue, starting this month. Here's the first:

1 Aberdeen has won the 'Britain in Bloom' competition an unprecedented 39 times in a row. At one point after winning 9 years straight, Aberdeen was banned from the Britain in Bloom competition in order to give another city a chance.

2 Auld Lang Syne was sung more than 150 years before Robert Burns discovered it. He transcribed it from "an old man singing" and added at least two new verses. He sent it to his friend James Johnson, the publisher of *Scots Musical Museum*, an old Scottish song but Johnson delayed publishing it until after Burns' death. The American bandleader Guy Lombardo popularized the association of the song with the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve in the early 1930s.

3 It was the Romans who brought the first bagpipes to Britain. By 1500 the bagpipe had displaced the harp as the instrument of choice in the Scottish Highlands. The use of the bagpipes as a military instrument inspired the Highlanders in their fight so much that after the Battle of Culloden, the English banned them. During this period carrying a bagpipe was considered to be as much a crime as carrying arms as it was classified an "instrument of war."

4 John Logie Baird, (1888-1946) the inventor of the television was an inventor from a young age. As a boy in his hometown of Helensburgh, Baird installed not only a telephone exchange in his father's manse but

also a system of electric lighting even entangling passing traffic in the wires. Some of Baird's early inventions were not fully successful. He was forced to resign from his post of a supervising engineer for an electrical supply company in Glasgow when he apparently blacked out half of the city following a failed attempt to manufacture diamonds from coal dust. He also invented an unsuccessful cure for piles which left him in severe pain for a week, but made a good deal of money out of his 'Baird patent Undersock' damp-proof socks for cold Scottish feet.

5. In 1314 King Edward II of England was defeated by the Scottish King, Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn. The victorious Bruce attributed his success to the relic of the Scottish Saint, St. Filian, which he took into battle. He declared it was the Saint's intercession that gave him victory.

6 Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) As a boy in Scotland, the inventor made a talking doll that said "mama." So convincing was it that his neighbours began hunting for an abandoned baby.

7 The world's first pedal bicycle was made by a Dumfriesshire blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan in 1839. His novel design enabled cyclists to ride with both their feet continuously off the ground for the first time; the popular bicycle of the time, the Hobby Horse, only provided momentum through the swinging of the riders feet back and forth. Macmillan never patented his idea and it was therefore widely copied. In June 1842 Macmillan, who was known locally as 'Daft Pate,' decided to visit his brother in Glasgow on his bicycle, a distance of 68 miles. However when he reached the Gorbals he knocked down a little girl who ran across his path and he was fined five Scot shillings for speeding at eight mph. The

magistrate initially declared that the highways of Britain had to be kept free of 'speedsters' of his kind but later modified his opinions after the young inventor had shown him his contraption and is said to have slipped him the money for the fine.

8 Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587) owned on the first ever billiard tables. The game was popular in 16th century France, where Mary probably acquired a taste for it, and she continued with the pastime on her return to Scotland. After she was imprisoned she was allowed to keep a table in her Tower of London cell and she was a keen exponent of the game right up to her death. In fact while awaiting her execution she complained of being deprived of her billiard table.

9 Robert Burns (1759-1796) published his first book in order to gather enough money to burn his bridges and emigrate to Jamaica where there was a job as a plantation manager waiting for him. It was only due to its success that he stayed in Scotland. The bard is very popular in Russia. His works have been translated more into Russian than all the other languages put together.

10 Actor Sean Connery, at the age of nine, supported his impoverished family with a milkrun in his hometown of Edinburgh. On his round the Scottish youngster delivered to Fettes School, which according to Ian Fleming, was the same school, which James Bond attended following his expulsion from Eton.

Thanks Sue Malone for finding this gem.

Calendar of Events

Mondays

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

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

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance
2nd, & 4th Friday
Scottish Country Dancing.
274-1889

Saturday, June 7

Celtic Oyster Festival
Celtic Crossing 11a.m. Till...
Featuring Needfire, Swagger,
Reel McCoy and Bagpipers

Monday, June 9

Monthly Meeting Jason's Deli
Poplar and Highland. For
directions call 757-4200 or go to
memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program: "Scottish
Emigration"

**Special Presentation of our
new MSSI banner!**

Monday, June 26

MSSI Board Meeting 5:30
Perkins on Germantown Pkwy.

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

the Thistle & Shamrock®

June 5: Travellers

They camped across the land, performing seasonal farm labor and repair work for the settled community. Along the way they picked up songs and stories and became a great source of traditional balladry and storytelling. We hear the music of the travelling folk of Scotland and Ireland this week.

June 12: Together We Sing

In difficult times, music has a special role to play, whether as a fundraising tool for local and international relief or in bringing people together to soothe wounded souls and ease broken hearts. Featuring "Hands Across the Water – A Benefit for the Children of the Tsunami," and other caring collections, we come together in music of hope and healing.

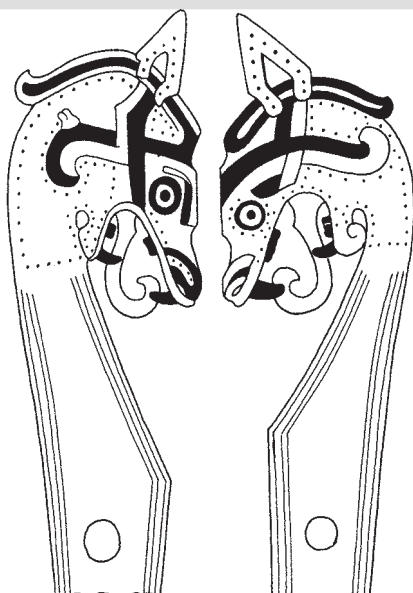
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June 19: Celtic Roots Down Under

Australia and New Zealand have thriving musical communities with Celtic roots led by bands Colcannon and Rua, and instrumentalists including Peter Neumegan, Mark Sanders, Dougal Adams and Ormonde Waters. Aussies Luke Plumb and Steve Cooney have reverse-migrated to the northern hemisphere to settle in Scotland and Ireland and make fine music there.

June 26: Alison Brown and Garry West

Get the insider's perspective on the music business from the co-founders of an independent record label and hear how banjo player Alison Brown has pushed her instrument into new musical territory to secure an international following from fans of jazz, bluegrass, and new acoustic music.



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Next Monthly Meeting - June 9th
Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 will be "Scottish Emigration"
Board Meeting, Monday, May 29th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.



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