



Dark Secrets of the Pentlands

TODAY it's a peaceful stretch of open countryside, the silence only broken by the occasional walker and the cries of the birds of prey which hunt over the open moorland. And it's easy to imagine that in years gone by Cauldstane Slap was even quieter, with no weekend walkers from the city having the time or the transport to make the short journey to the Pentlands merely for pleasure. But in fact this ancient drove road once echoed with the noise of up to 150,000 cattle a year being herded on their way to the markets of northern England.

Edinburgh City Council senior ranger Duncan Monteith leads guided walks along nine miles of Cauldstane Slap from Little Vantage to the village of West Linton. "We always get a good crowd for this walk. We find the public are quite interested in the history," he says. "It was perhaps the busiest drove road in Scotland - the M6 of its day - taking cattle down from Scotland to the English markets. "It was probably used as a drove road for about 300 years, right up until the early part of the 20th century. "In fact, there are still people living in the area whose grandparents remember the cattle going past."

The drovers wended their way, sometimes from as far as the Highlands, pushing their cattle down the country. "They didn't travel more than 15 miles a day so it would have been a slow journey," says Duncan. They did, however, have their own fresh food supply with them. "They used to carry oats with them and bleed the cattle at night to make a kind of black pudding," says Duncan. They returned with sheep and money from selling their wares. "It was also known as the Thieves' Road because the drovers were regularly raided on it. There were good pickings to be made from the drovers going both ways," says Duncan.

The cattle bandits weren't the only ones lurking in the hills with an illegitimate purpose - although the Covenanters who met in secret conventicles in the hills believed their mission was entirely righteous before God, if not the law. Covenanters were 17th-century religious rebels, named after the 1638 National Covenant, which opposed the episcopal or bishop-run church system which King Charles I was trying to impose on the country. In 1661, the National Covenant was rejected by Charles' son, Charles II and non-conformist ministers took to the hills and preached in the open air. By the year 1670, attendance became treasonable and preaching at them, a capital offence. "So Covenanters meeting up there in secret used to carry arms as they expected to be routed by government troops at any time," says Duncan. "It does still have an air of foreboding about it, a sense of danger," he adds. (continued pg. 3)

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Dear Editor:

I visited a new Celtic Store in Jackson called "The Celtic Moor". It is located at 31-B Wiley Parker which is at exit 82a off of I-40 in the North Park Shopping Plaza. Linda and Gary Wood run the store and wanted me to let the Scottish Society know that they are in business. There have a limited stock right now but it is growing as customers tell their wants. The store is right next to Dumplings so you can have tea and cakes, etc., before or after shopping. Their e-mail is thecelticmoor@aol.com. -- Thanks Rick

Grace Notes Staff is always on the look out for a good article on any thing Scottish.. Particularly if it is happening around here!

June Meeting Recap

Janet Mandanna volunteered to organize a telephone tree which will serve to alert members of urgent information as well as reminders of various scheduled events. Volunteers are asked to contact Janet. 323-7873 or mcphauljm@aol.com

Dr. Ben Kemker told those thievin', raidin', pillagin' stories about Border Reivers. With his natural wit and intellect, he presented a most informative vision of the Border Clans and their impact on the shaping of Scotland, geographically as well as politically. He concluded his presentation with a border poem read by our guest, Lex Carnie, which poetically wove the origin and development of the language of the Borders.

Any one care to take a stab at this quote?
 "Crystyne thair ar, yone is thair heretage,
 To reuff that croune that is a gret owtrage".



Flowers of the Forest

Condolences are extended to friends and family of Edward E. Atkinson, husband of Frankie, passed on June 7th. Ed was a beloved, longtime member of MSSSI and was active in the SAMS color guard.

Treasurer's Corner

Balance (4/25)	\$11,305.69
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Withdrawals	(\$3,081.66)
	(\$1500-Scholarship fund)
Balance (5/24)	\$8,224.03

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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*



Pentlands (continued from page 1)

Duncan admits he doesn't know from where the unusual name originates. But the slap is likely to mean pass, and perhaps the Cauldstane is just a reference to the route's often chilly conditions. "It does seem to have its own micro-weather system which means it always seems to be windy and wet when it's fine in Edinburgh and other parts of the Pentlands," laughs Duncan. "But you can see ospreys flying over on their way north or south, peregrine falcons and merlins, which are quite rare now, so there is a good lot of wildlife as well as the dark history."

The Cauldstane Slap walk is nine miles long and the track is rough in parts. For details of this or other guided walks through the Pentlands, call 0131 445 3383 or see www.pentlandhills.org – Judy Vickers

Picture: COLIN HATTERSLEY - Thanks to Dan Irvin for this submission



Scottish Connections

It certainly would come as no surprise that Scotch whiskey has a **Scottish Connection**, but did you know that Bourbon whiskey does, too? Two of them, in fact.

When early European settlers were first acquainted with the grain maize (we call it "corn" nowadays), it followed naturally that they would attempt to convert it into whiskey. Their efforts met with an encouraging level of success, despite the all-too-frequent instances of unfortunate side effects – blindness, insanity, even death – from the consumption thereof.

By a happy accident in the early 1800's, Reverend Elijah Craig, a Scottish immigrant and Baptist minister of Bourbon County, Kentucky, discovered that charring the inside of the barrels used for aging the raw spirits imparted to the resultant whiskey a dark golden brown color and smoky flavor. Legend holds that the barn in which Craig's empty whiskey barrels were stored caught fire. Some of the barrels survived the fire, though somewhat charred, and Rev. Elijah was too thrifty (not cheap!) to discard them. The whiskey aged in the charred barrels became known as Bourbon, after the county (which was named in honor of the French royal house). The smoky whiskey caught on, though it, as well as all corn-based whiskeys of the times, continued to be plagued by imperfect distillation methods and those nasty side effects.

Enter Dr. James Crow, a Scottish physician and kitchen chemist. Starting in 1823, also in Bourbon County, Kentucky, Dr. Crow established medically precise measurement, testing, and control of the distilling process. His techniques, termed the "sour mash" method, virtually eliminated the hit-or-miss results of previous distillers and assured consistent, non-lethal products. Sour mash is still the basis of Tennessee and Bourbon whiskeys today.

The Elijah Craig brand of Heaven Hill Distillers and Old Crow brand of Jim Beam Distillers bear the names of these two Scots who shared their distilling successes with the world.

Incidentally, the distillery which employed Dr. Crow is still operating on the same site and in the same buildings he established. Now owned by Labrot and Graham (another Scot, maybe?), their small-batch product is triple distilled in three enormous onion-shaped copper stills forged in Scotland. A domestic regulation prohibits the re-use of the expensive charred white oak barrels here, but the enterprising (and thrifty!) folk at L&G have found a market for their used barrels in (you guessed it!) Scotland. So your favorite single or blended Scotch may have rested in a barrel which initially gave birth to a fine Bourbon.

So, next time you're enjoying a wee tot of Bourbon, remember its **Scottish Connection**.



Scottish Dog Breeds

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

The words are forward, backward, vertical and diagonal!

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

Bearded Collie
 Cairn Terrier
 Dandie Dinmont Terrier
 Deerhound

Golden Retriever
 Gordon Setter
 Rough Collie
 Scottish Terrier

Shetland Sheepdog
 Skye Terrier
 Smooth Collie
 West Highland White Terrier

Calendar of Events

Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale 7:00 pm call for location - 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*

May 22 - Aug28 . Works of Art from the Drambuie Collection at Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

July 11.....Regular membership mtg to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I 240

PROGRAM: Seldon Murray - High Celtic Crosses of Scotland

Social Hour at 6:00p.m. Reservations required for dinner 725-1879. 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.

Plan Ahead

September 23-25 Clanjamfry at Evergreen Pres.

October 3-5 TN Highland Games, Murfreesboro, TN

October 15-16 Stone Mountain Games, Atlanta, GA

October 29 MSSI Halloween Party at St. Columba.

Jan 21, 2006 Burns Night

Dixon Scottish Festival - June 12

Many thanks go to the several MSSSI volunteers who helped make this event a success. Over 500 people attended and the response at our MSSSI tent was positive with many people requesting information about our society and general membership information. Of course, there were a few questions about those kilts, just comes with the territory!

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.

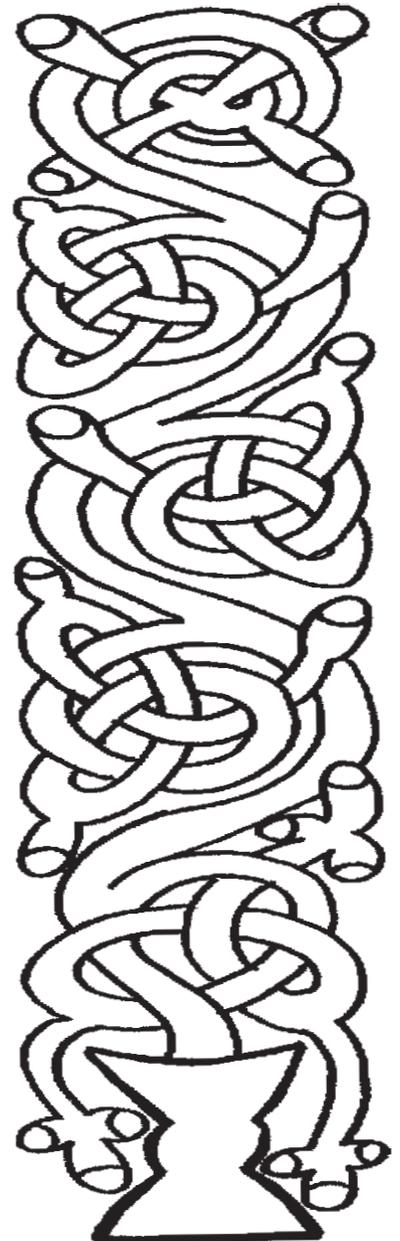
"The Thistle & Shamrock," PRM-FM

90.3



Flowers of the Forest

Condolences are extended to friends and family of Faye Jamison Lane, beloved wife of Bob Lane, died June 18th, 2005. She was an active member of the SSOR and the MSSSI before moving to east Tennessee. She was the mother of Leanne Flatt and Past MSSSI President Kirk Lane. Her contributions to the Scottish community were vast and she will be greatly missed.



Scholarship Forum

President Bill Crump announced at the June members' meeting that twenty minutes would be set aside in the August meeting for members to share their thoughts and concerns (no arguments, no debates) regarding the MSSSI Scholarship Fund. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to express his/her views. The first seven people requesting to speak on this subject when making their August meeting dinner reservation will be allowed to do so.



More Inside!

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
July 11 - Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting Dinner @ 6:00 Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Shoneys at I-40 and Summer - Cancelled**

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
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