

SCOTTISH CONNECTION

We celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th. Did you know that one of the heroes of our American Revolutionary War, John Paul Jones, has a **Scottish Connection?**

Few men have led such a tumultuous, swashbuckling life at sea. Born John Paul in Kircudbrightshire, Scotland, on July 6, 1747, he was destined to receive special honor citations by the American Congress and King Louis XVI of France.

At the age of twelve, John sailed as a cabin boy to Virginia where he visited his brother William in Fredricksburg. John Paul soon moved from first mate to master to Captain. Then he killed the ringleader of a mutinous crew on a voyage to Tobago. Dropping out of sight to avoid the British admiralty and a sure court martial, he emerged with a new name, John Paul Jones.

He soon joined the fledgling U.S. Navy and set about disrupting British shipping from Nova Scotia to the Bermudas. He extended his raids to the British Isles and once even landed his men on the coast near his birthplace in Scotland.

Commanding the *Bon Homme Richard*, Jones intercepted a British convoy guarded by *HMS Serapis*. In perhaps the best known and bloodiest engagement of the War - nearly 600 were killed or wounded - he lost his ship, but boarded and captured the *Serapis*.

After the war he joined the Russian Navy as a rear admiral and fought the Turks. He later returned to France, embittered by Russian politics. There, his health failed and he died on July 18, 1792. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

More than a century later, a U.S. flotilla of destroyers was sent to France to return his body to America. He is buried in a magnificent tomb of marble beneath the domed chapel of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis.

The United States Navy recently commissioned another ship in honor of John Paul Jones. In all, since the Revolutionary War, five U.S. Navy ships have been named after America's first great sea fighter.

So, when July rolls around, and especially July 4th, 6th, or 18th, remember

John Paul Jones and his **Scottish Connection.**

Quotes: John Paul Jones

"An honorable Peace is and always was my first wish! I can take no delight in the effusion of human Blood; but, if this War should continue, I wish to have the most active part in it."

"I have not yet begun to fight!" (In answer to the Captain of *HMS Serapis* who had asked if Jones wanted to surrender the fatally damaged *Bon Homme Richard*; Jones captured the *Serapis* shortly thereafter.)

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast; for I intend to go in harm's way."

"If fear is cultivated, it will become stronger; if faith is cultivated, it will achieve mastery."

"It seems to be a law of nature, inflexible and inexorable, that those who will not risk cannot win."

"Whoever can surprise well must conquer."

Please reacquaint yourself with the dashing John Paul Jones on pg.3

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WebSite News



Our online MSSSI Photo Gallery has now been updated to the latest version. Among other features, Members can **upload their photos** to share (hint, hint), send digital postcards, or even have photos professionally printed at various popular online services, like Shutterfly, and mailed to their home.

While walking Mary Lewis, our new Gallery admin, through the upgrade, I botched things up, so the Gallery was down for a few days; however, we managed to save all the photos, and have now rebuilt all the albums.

If you have previously uploaded photos, please let Mary Lewis (photos@memphisscots.com) know which photos/albums were yours, so that we can reattribute them to you. Gallery membership is free for MSSSI members.

Sincerely,
Gavin Anderson
MSSSI Webmaster

The United States of Scotland

From an article by Kenny MacAskill on [The Scotsman](#) website 12/1/06.

Barely five million people live in Scotland; yet, global estimates of those claiming a Scottish identity range from 40 to 80 million. Whether they stayed in Scotland or left for whatever reason, being Scottish is something people have clung to through the centuries. Some nationalities forsook their heritage when assimilating into new lands; the Scots never have. They successfully married integration into a new society with celebration of their native land. *(Editors note: And sometimes that integration was literally BY marriage into that new society, but thats a different kind of celebration!)*

Hardly a land exists without Scottish footfall and, in many, the footprint has been vital in creating the country. Scots took not just themselves and their families, their skills and talents, but their values and beliefs. Landing on foreign shores, they seldom forgot the land of their birth - and that sense of identity has been passed on through the generations. The Scots have made their indelible mark all around the world.

Gone are the days when emigration was a one-way ticket with little chance of return. For many years, immigrated Scottish communities lived in isolation with no direct link to their homeland. Now, Scotland is accessible to its people wherever they are. Communities scattered to every continent can now, if not reunite, at least remain in touch via new technology.

There is a duty incumbent on the newly re-established Scottish Parliament to reach out to Scotlands immigrated kinfolk, to learn about their common past and to work for a shared future. Scotland has an opportunity

to reverse the loss of talent and allow the Scottish diaspora to help guide Scotland's future path and maintain and develop Scottish values, culture and identity. The cost is minimal; the potential benefits are substantial. It is time to make being Scottish an identity that traverses the world, uniting people with shared values and common culture - and to make being "Scottish" a global identity.

Duncan Bruce, the 95th and current president of The St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York and author of *The Mark of the Scots* and *The Scottish 100*, makes it clear what he defines as a Scot: "There are many people, particularly in Scotland, who think that only people born in that country are Scots. Others think only people who have lived in Scotland are Scots. In the US, there is a general feeling that anyone with even a small amount of Scottish blood is still a Scot."

Bruce's books are about taking pride not just in the history of Scotland, but also in the actions and exploits of Scottish people; about recognizing that the history of the Scots is not simply in how they journeyed in their native land, but where they journeyed to world wide; that their tale is not just in the Scotland they molded, but also in the stories of the other countries they helped create. It is about taking pride in Scottish identity as much as in one's own individual country, about discovering our common past and considering our shared future.

There must surely be a place for according successful Scottish sons and daughters the honor and respect they deserve. It is a logical extension to envision a Center for the Scottish Diaspora, not just embracing those who have left but celebrating those who succeeded.

Who we are as Scots is not just

reflected in the Auld country, but also the ideas and influence we have exerted and generated around the globe. It is time to recognize that and celebrate the achievements of our most successful sons and daughters who left their mark around the world.

Fun facts and figures:

4.8 million - the number of Americans who claimed Scottish ancestry in the 2000 census; another 4.3 million said they were Ulster Scots (aka Scotch Irish), whose forebears migrated first to Northern Ireland, then America.

75 - the number of St. Andrew Societies in the US. An estimated 300-400 other Scottish groups with different names exist.

1657 - the year the oldest US society — the St. Andrew Society of Boston — was set up. Many original members were sent to America after being captured following Cromwell's routing of Scottish forces at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650.

30,000 - the attendance at the biggest Highland Games in the US, at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

11 - the number of American presidents who claimed Scottish descent - including Theodore Roosevelt and Ulysses S Grant.

21 - the signatories of the Declaration of Independence who were Scots or of Scots descent.

Nine of the governors of the then newly-created United States of America were of Scots descent.

8 - the number of places named Aberdeen and Edinburgh by Scots settlers in the US. There are also seven Glasgows and eight places called Scotland.

130 - places in North Carolina which begin with Mc or Mac.

79 - the number of the New York Highland Regiment, which served under president Abraham Lincoln as the nation's only kilted regiment and was

recruited largely from the membership of the New York Caledonian Club. The 79th fought in many major battles, including the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. President Ulysses S Grant was an honorary member of the 79th.

45 - the number of members of the St Andrew's Society of Philadelphia who, at a meeting on 1 December 1788, consumed "38 bottles of claret, eight bottles of port wine, two bowls of punch plus Welsh rabbit and bread and cheese".

Thanks to Dan Irvin for passing this along.

Internet Goodies

Here is a fun website from Dan Irvin:

Copy and paste the link below to see what song was #1 when you were born....

<http://www.joshhosler.biz/NumberOneInHistory/SelectMonth.htm>

Incidentally, Dan tells us that the #1 song when he was born was... "Good Night, Irene"! Hint for those who might not know Dan well: "Good Night, Irene" is one of Dan's favorite sayings — he even signed his final President's

John Paul Jones



Attention: All Celtic Artisans & Craftsmen (Craftspersons?)

Our own Lisa Melendez is heading up the recruitment of vendors for the Celticfest in Jackson, TN on November 3, 2007. It's not too early to be reserving a booth/tent for your goods or services — in fact, the time to do so is now. You can contact Lisa at 731-512-1121 or weeliza@aol.com.

More Celticfest News

Dear John and Kathy (Schultz),

I need a favor and it can help you also. Could we get the word out about Celtic Fest in Jackson, TN on Nov. 3rd? For Clans to sign up they need to contact me at: Dr. Charlie Viar; 623 Morning Road; Dyersburg, TN 38024; Attn: Celtic Fest in Jackson, TN. There will be no tent fees and tent spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We have an exciting day planned with you all (Country Dancers), of course, and many other presentations including Needfire. When I receive a request from a Clan, I will send them a registration form and we will go from there. Also, you two are more than welcome in the Clan MacTavish tent (that being home for Kathy anyway).

Thanks, Charlie Viar

The information for Thistle & Shamrock was not available at press time. Please check their website for the July schedule: <http://www.npr.org/programs/thistle/season/index.html>



More Whiskey Galore

As part of John Schultz' animated presentation at the June meeting, he shared this delightful poem by an anonymous poet. Here is the text in its entirety (you supply your own Scottish accent):

The SS Politician
"Och, times are hard in Barra"
You'd hear the Badochs cry.
"No food to feed a sparra!
And effery bottle dry."

Old men, once fresh and frisky,
So full of ploy and play,
Dropped dead for want of whisky,
The blessed Uisque Bae.

Now, the dusty dry Sahara
Is a bare and barren land,
But the drought that year in Barra,
Was more than man could stand.

Aye, life was hard and cruel
And days were long and sad,
When the strongest drink was gruel,
And the war was going bad.

A cleffer man, old Hector
And wise the words he said:
"Without the barley's nectar,
A man is better dead."

But strange the ways of Heaven,
When men in darkness grope.
Each sorrow has its leaven,
Each tragedy its hope.

The great ship "Politician"
Her hold stocked high with grog,
Steamed proudly past the island,
And foundered in the fog.

A case was rent asunder,
Twelve bottles came to grief,
When the Barra surf - like thunder -
Came pounding on the reef.

And then the scent of nectar,
Came on the wild wind's breath.
"I smell it" screamed old Hector
"It's whisky - sure as death".

He yelled out Kirsty, Kirsty,
Bring down my oilskin coat.
No more will we be thirsty,
Salvation's in that boat.

Though thirst her tongue had
blistered,
Old Kirsty forced a laugh.
"I'm coming too" she whispered,
"It's me that needs a half."

Now, Chon MacNeill was dying,
The death that's far the worst.
No end so sad and trying,
As the fatal pangs of thirst.

For weeks he had been lying,
Without a sign of life,
And all the neighbours crying,
For his nearly widowed wife.

He sobbed "I am delivered"
"From the torture I am free".
As his nostrils flared and quivered,
In the glory from the sea.

He shook, chust like an aspen,
The man they thought was dead,
An' sighin' gulpin' gaspin'
He vaulted out of bed.

Barefooted, in his nightie,
He slipped from out their reach,
With steps both long and mighty,
He headed for the beach.

Now Sarah Chance MacKinnon,
A lady through and through,
Was chust a wee bit partial,
To a drop of Mountain Dew.

She brooded at the Ingle,
Her form all old and bent,
When her blood began to tingle,
At a well remembered scent.

Wan sniff and she was rising,
Two sniffs and straight outside,
Where odours appetising,
Were blowing from the tide.

She ran, but so did others,
Och hundreds, maybe more,
As uncles, cousins, brothers,
Stampeded for the shore.

The boats went gaily dashing,
Across the crested wave,
The long oars dipping, splashing,
To their Aladdin's Cave.

They climbed aboard the liner,
The halt, the lame, the old.
No Vikings e'er were finer,
No Pirates half so bold.

They peered with anxious faces,
Within the gaping hold,
And saw a thousand cases,
Of precious liquid gold.

"Ashame! Ashame!" cried Kirsty
It is an act of God,
Just think of Barra thirsty,
And all this going abroad.

Och the ceilidhs and the pleasure,
Oh the choy in Castlebay,

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

Monday, July 9

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

Dinner reservation required
by July 5th; call 757-4200 or
online at memphisscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: Scotland 101: History
by presenters Seldon Murray,
Bud Hiskey, and John Schultz.

July 12-15

Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games at MacRae
Meadow in Linville, NC

Thursday, July 26

Board Meeting at Perkins at
1340 S. G'town Rd. 5:30 pm.

(cont. from pg.6)

*As the gurgling golden treasure,
Chased the cares of war away.*

*Och the bottles that were hidden,
Buried deep beneath the croft.
Oh! the cases in the midden,
Oh! the joy up in the loft.*

*Who would heed an air raid
warning,
Who would hide himself in fright,
With a tumbler in the morning,
And a bumper late at night.*

*And Barra boys hard fighting,
On sea and ocean wide,
Deserved their wee bit parcel,
With glook, glook, glook inside.*

*Old Hector cried we're winning,
The fact is plain to me.
This night is the beginning
Of Victory at sea.*

*He swigged another chug full,
And happily he sighed:
"The Germans sure have had it,
Now Barra's fortified."*

*A Slainte - now for Churchill,
His name I proudly call.
But the Barra Politician
Is the greatest of them all.*

*Meaning of unusual words:
sparra=sparrow
Uisque Bae=water of life
Ingle=fireside
choy=joy
Slainte=health*

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 Sellmansbergers and MSSSI had a great spread
and plenty of food and drinks at our annual picnic.

Thanks to the committee for a job well done!



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*



Next Monthly Meeting - July 9th - Dinner Reservations by 07/05, 757-4200 or online
www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, July 26th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

GRACE NOTES

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