



Just in Time for Elvis Week

Buchanboy Elvis is a loon - so don't you step on his blue suede brogues.

Fit next!* Elvis Aaron Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll, was born in Tupelo and died in Memphis, but the rock legend's roots lie in Buchan.

Eight years ago, an American author traced Elvis's family tree back to a Paisley blacksmith who emigrated from Scotland in 1745. Bill Burk, in his book *Early Elvis: The Tupelo Years*, claimed that Elvis's great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was Andrew Presley,

who settled in North Carolina.

But a Scottish-based researcher is challenging Paisley's right to claim Elvis as one of their own by insisting the King is actually a Buchan. Allan Morrison, the author of *The Presley Prophecy*, has traced Elvis's ancestors back more than 250 years to the tiny Aberdeenshire village of Lonmay in the heart of Doric country. According to Mr. Morrison, the Andrew Presley who emigrated to North Carolina in 1745 - a year before the Battle of Culloden - hailed from Lonmay, six miles south of Fraserburgh.

Elvis's ancestry, he claims, can be directly tracked from Andrew Presley's arrival in America to 8 January, 1935, when the King was born to Vernon Elvis Presley and his wife, Gladys Love Smith.

Mr. Morrison, 61, from Greenock, said: "Scottish genealogy is a high-profile, popular subject, and it gets no bigger than Elvis Presley. Elvis Aaron Presley is the world's most

enduring icon. Even today, 26 years after his death, Elvis is continually featured in the media. Having established that the Presleys were of Scottish origin, it has been a joy to trace back their past and write about the adventures of Elvis's ancestor, Andrew Presley, who lived in Scotland during an exciting period of history, the Jacobite rebellion."

According to Mr. Morrison's research, Andrew Presley and Elspeth Leg married in the parish of Lonmay on 27 August, 1713, 32 years before setting sail for America.

There were a number of Presleys in Scotland during both the 18th and 19th centuries. And, with few exceptions, they lived in Aberdeenshire, either in Lonmay or the nearby villages of New Deer, Old Deer and Tarves.

Jim Presley, 70, who lives in the Aberdeenshire town of Oldmeldrum, 24 miles from Lonmay, has also been researching his own family's

(see *ELVIS* on page 4)



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Calling All Cranks!

Come one, come all, to the Memphis Scottish Society Picnic from 3:00 - 8:00 PM Saturday, September 9th at the Gates Pavilion in the St. Columba Center. This is a potluck event with the usual friendly time and fun together. The Society will provide soft drinks, cups, plates, and utensils, with a cost of \$2.00 per person to cover St. Columba's per person charge.

Featured this year is a homemade ice cream contest. So get your favorite recipe, mix it up and get cranking! Our secret panel of ice cream aficionados will declare which is the best.



SCOTTISH CONNECTION

It's August and too hot to engage in any *high jinks*, but maybe not too hot to contemplate their **Scottish Connection**. Yep, it was the Auld Country which spawned the original term and, quite possibly, its broader applications.

High jinks (sometimes spelled *high jinx*, or as one word with either spelling) was originally the name of a Scottish drinking game popular since the mid 1600's. It involved the roll of dice to determine the player, who would then be required to perform some inane task. Tasks could range from singing "I'm a Little Teapot" while standing on one leg to chugging a profuse quantity of Scotch whiskey in one gulp. If the player was successful, (s)he drew a reward from a pool; if not, (s)he paid a forfeit into said pool. One information source indicates that the whiskey-type tasks were favored over the other type (now, there's real news!), so it would not be long before the figurative high jinks, or lively pranks and boisterous fun, ensued. By mid 1800 its figurative meaning of unrestrained merry-making had all but eclipsed its earlier use.

Etymologically, to *jink* is to dart

with sudden turns, as if evading a pursuer, and no doubt the high jinks players did that at least figuratively, if not literally. The term is still in use today in rugby, meaning to evade a guard by a sidestep, and amongst "fighter pilots in air combat, where a 'jink out' maneuver is a sudden roll or twisting motion made to elude an enemy aircraft's guns." And *high*? According to one source, "The word *high* has been used to mean 'intoxicated' since the early 1600s; it's even older than the expressions *high spirits* or to *have a high [old] time*, which did not appear until the 1730s and 1830s, respectively." (And you thought it got thunk up in the 60's!) Alas, no word master has been able to detect why high jinks *ensue* instead of *following*, *resulting*, or *occurring*.

So, next time you're engaged in such foolishness (hopefully, in cooler weather), call it by its real name, high jinks, and nip a wee dram to commemorate its **Scottish Connection**.

~Thanks to Jim Lucas for this little tidbit.

Thanks to Dan Irvin for this little goodie:

I heard a story recently about a student named Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye who was admitted into the prestigious Oxford University and was living in the hall of residence in his first year there. His clan was so excited that one of their own had made it into the upper class of education, but they were concerned how he would do in "that strange land."

After the first month, his mother came to visit. "And how do you find the English students, Donald?" she asked.

"Mother," he replied in his thick brogue, "they're such terrible, noisy people. The one on that side keeps banging his head against the wall, and he won't stop. The one on the other side screams and screams and screams away into the night."

"Oh, Donald! How do you manage to put up with those awful noisy English neighbors?"

"Mother, I do nothing. I just ignore them. I just stay here quietly, playing my bagpipes..."

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



Scots Choose “Flower of Scotland” as National Anthem

In a poll by the Scottish National Orchestra last month, “Flower of Scotland” was chosen as the favorite to be the Scottish national anthem. The popular rugby song, written by folk group The Corries, finished ahead of “Scotland the Brave” after more than 10,000 people voted online. The other three candidates were “Highland Cathedral”, “Scots Wha Hae” and “A Man’s a Man for A’ That”.

The songs were recorded in June at a concert at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh and placed on the orchestra’s website. The audience had been invited to sing along. More than 60,000 unique website visitors listened to the five contenders online. The winner was announced on the last night of the Scottish Power Proms at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

“Flower of Scotland” won with 41% of the vote, with “Scotland the Brave” coming second with 29%. In third place was “Highland Cathedral” with 17%. “A Man’s a Man for A’ That” was fourth with 7%, and last was “Scots Wha Hae” with 6%. The RSNO

decided to run the poll following the Scottish Executive’s decision to allow the people of Scotland to choose a national anthem.

Votes were cast from across the world, with the majority from the UK. A significant number responded from the US, Canada and from remote locations such as Mongolia, New Caledonia and Christmas Island.

RSNO chief executive Simon Woods said: “I am thrilled that the RSNO has been able to use its position as Scotland’s national orchestra to propel forward the debate on a new national anthem for Scotland. The last night of the RSNO Scottish Power Proms was the ideal occasion to hear how these patriotic songs sound when sung by massed voices. And we were thrilled to be able to make the recordings available across the length and breadth of the nation so that the whole of Scotland will have the chance to make its choice known.”

The vote was billed as the first poll of its kind in the long-running argument over whether Scotland needs its own

anthem, and if so, what it should be. The debate over a national anthem was stirred again at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, where successful Scottish athletes were saluted by “Scotland the Brave”. First Minister Jack McConnell later called for a national debate on an anthem to be played at sporting events, but Holyrood’s enterprise committee turned down a subsequent move by Michael Matheson, a Scottish National Party MSP, to initiate the debate.

“Flower of Scotland”, traditionally heard echoing around Murrayfield, is often accused of being anti-English. The song was written by Roy Williamson in the 1960s.

“A Man’s a Man for A’ That” was sung at the opening of the Scottish Parliament. McConnell named “Highland Cathedral”, written in 1982, as his favourite. It has words written by Ben Kelly from Inverness.

From an article by Jonathan Lessware Scotsman.com July 2, 2006. Thanks to Dan Irvin for this article.

... but nobody asked us.

Would you like to express your opinion on what the new national anthem of Scotland should be? The survey above presented only five songs for consideration, omitting, “Land of Light,” the only song specifically written for this purpose.

Shortly after the restoration of the Scottish Parliament, one of the Scottish national newspapers, *The Banner*, held a competition

amongst Scottish composers for a proposed new national anthem. *The Banner* chose “Land of Light” by William Jackson.

We will conduct our own poll and not limit you to any particular songs. So, send in your choice for the Scottish National Anthem, which should include why you picked that song.



(ELVIS cont. from pg. 1)

possible links to the King over the years. He said: "I definitely think there is some truth in this as there are lots of Presleys from this area. Sometime during the mid 18th century, my family's name was changed and the 'e' disappeared. I know this both through looking at local census records and due to the fact I have an old Bible which belonged to my grandfather's father and in it his surname is spelled the same way as Elvis's. Both myself and my sister, who lives in America, have been interested in this for some time. We knew that Elvis's ancestor, Andrew, emigrated from Paisley, but we did not know that he was originally from Lonmay."

Local tourism leaders are now hoping that Elvis's new found roots in Buchan could see Lonmay joining Memphis on the itinerary of every Elvis fan, providing a major boost to the North-east's £500 million a year holiday trade. Ian Dunlop, the chief executive of Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board, said: "If Elvis is indeed from Aberdeenshire, this could be great for the area - over a million people visit Graceland every year. He is an enduring icon more than a quarter century after his death, and we would be delighted to welcome Elvis fans here to Grampian to search out his roots."

Paul Downie, a spokesman for Scotland's Elvis Touch Fan Club,

also welcomed the news. He said: "For years fans have thought there was a connection with Presley and Scotland, and I have always thought his roots were in the Aberdeenshire area. I would think fans will want to visit Scotland and Lonmay. Elvis was at Prestwick in 1960 for an hour and fans from throughout the world [still] visit, so you can imagine what might happen to Lonmay."

Intriguingly, there is also a tiny hamlet called Presley, near Forres, in Moray - just a few miles from another hamlet called Alves.

*Scottish slang for "What next?"

Taken from Scotman.com

by Frank Urquhart

An Unexpected Memphis/LaGrange Demo

We spent a July weekend in Pine Mountain, GA for a McNeil-Lindsey family reunion. Because of our long involvement with the Memphis Scottish Country Dancers and the Memphis Scottish Society, we were asked to give a short presentation on Scottish attire and dance. With just one other couple, we decided to use "Petronella" and "The Lea Rig" that we could work around the minimal involvement of a second couple.

The day before the presentation we had lunch at a lovely English-style tea room. Scottish background music was playing, and we asked the title of the CD. The staff indicated that it was the owner's CD, and we were soon talking to Rachel. We quickly learned that she had started dancing

about a year earlier in the LaGrange class. After a couple of phone calls, Rachel had lined up a partner! So, instead of making do with one couple, we now had two couples for two couple dances.

That evening we did some quick audio editing to have 2x32 versions of the music for the two dances.

Rachel and Jack arrived just on time, and the demo went without a hitch. Limited space dictated VERY "controlled abandon" on the down-the-middle and back. In later conversation, family members were surprised to learn that this was the first time the four of us had danced together!

Thanks, John and Kathy Schultz for submitting this article.

Flowers of the Forest



It is with deepest regret that we make known to you that Jim Gresham died on July 17th. Jim was a long-time member of the Memphis Scottish Society; he served as publisher of our *Grace Notes* newsletter for over ten years, as well as numerous other positions of service to the club. His survivors include his wife Nancy Gresham, our esteemed kilt maker, and bereaved family and friends.

A celtic wake for Jim is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th, at Celtic Crossing at 903 S. Cooper at Oliver from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Jim would appreciate the irony of Scottish people celebrating his life at an Irish pub, going Dutch.

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, Sammy Rich - 272-7159 for more info.

Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town Pkwy, Rick Clausi - 753-9494 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.

August 8

Celebratory Wake: **Jim Gresham** Celtic Crossing, Cooper at Oliver 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (or thereabouts)

August 10

Board Meeting at Shoney's, Summer at Sycamore View, 5:30 pm.

August 14

Regular membership meeting at Holiday Inn, Poplar and 1-240. Reservations required by Thursday, 8/10, call 725-1879 or online at Memphisscots.com. 6:00 pm dinner & 7:00 pm Program: Bill Maguire on The Celtic Migrations.

September 9

MSSI Summer Picnic at St. Columba 3-8 pm. \$2 cover Potluck Dinner and Homemade IceCream!

September 22-24

CLANJAMFRY

THE LINKS LINK

Many of our members are avid Internet surfers and occasionally discover dandy sites that might be of interest to the rest of us. Here are two we've received recently.

Ever wondered what's going on at Grandfather Mountain when it

isn't crawling with Scots during the games? Here's the answer from Marty Wooley: www.grandfather.com/

From President Ben Kemker, a topic dear to our hearts - saving money! In particular, saving money on gas. This site reports the gas station

with the lowest prices in the ZIP code of your choice (prices updated daily): www.autos.msn.com/everyday/GasStations.aspx

Have any fav sites you'd like to share? Send them along! We will include them in future issues.



Scottish/ Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"
Cassie Tobin, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

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

Sundays, 6:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3

August 3 |Stage and Screen

This week we explore a variety of music from theatrical productions including excerpts from "Ragús." This highly acclaimed music and dance show has toured internationally from its home in Ireland's westerly Aran Islands, where Irish traditional arts still thrive.

August 10 |Road of Tears

From ballad broadsheet to music hall, songs have served to document the true-life immigrant experience. They still do with Battlefield Band, Mick Moloney, and Mary Black.

August 17 |Percussion Excursion -With music from Capercaillie, Old Blind Dogs, Tommy Hayes and John Whelan, we listen behind the lead instruments and voices this

week to an ever expanding range of percussion techniques and tools.

August 24 |New Voices

This is your chance to get onto some new singing talent before everyone else does! We'll enjoy music of a number of rising artists from Ireland and beyond, and meet Scottish singer-songwriter Fraser Anderson who introduces us to his music.

August 31 |Americana Celtic

Hear artists this week, including Tim O'Brien, Jane Rothfield, and Mark O'Connor, who drift easily between American roots music and Celtic styles and collaborations.

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A
scene
from
last
year's
Clanjamfry.
Recognize
anyone?

Next Regular Monthly Meeting -Aug. 14th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240

Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Bill Maguire on The Celtic Migrations

Board Meeting, Aug. 10th at 5:30 Shoneys at Sycamore View and Summer

GRACE NOTES

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