

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 21, No. 9

September 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

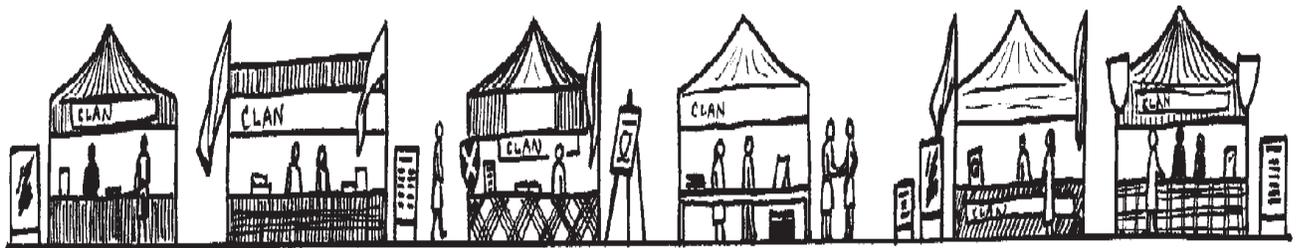
CLANJAMFRY

Mark your calendars for September 23 – 25, when Evergreen Presbyterian Church in midtown Memphis will host its seventh annual Clanjamfry. You can start the weekend by attending a traditional Scottish Ceilidh on Friday evening, then bright and early Saturday morning you will have the opportunity to run your socks off (while keeping your kilts on) at the 5K run through Overton Park.

The Faire, starting at 10:00 a.m., is the main event of Clanjamfry, and will last all day on Saturday. The Wolf River Pipes and Drums will open the Faire with a Parade of Tartans, and give demonstrations during the day. Live music will be performed throughout the day on the Music Stage, and you may attend lectures on Scottish topics in the Scottish Heritage Tent. Games, contests, sheep herding demonstrations, Scottish fiddle workshops, and a Highland Dance Competition, as well as vendor booths and clan tents will round out the day.

A highlight of the festival is the Saturday evening concert featuring The Tannahill Weavers. This band plays the best of Scottish traditional music, from ballads to fiery instrumentals in innovative arrangements. You won't be able to sit still for this one!

Clanjamfry will conclude on Sunday with The Kirkin' of the Tartans followed by a dinner on the grounds hosted by members of Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Please call the church at 901-274-3740 for ticket information.



Tennessee Genealogical Society

continues its free monthly seminars the fourth Sunday of each month at the Germantown Library. This month's program is on reading early American handwriting.

On October 8, Tennessee Genealogical Society is having their big workshop of the year with their most famous speaker yet, Cyndi Howells of "Cyndi's List" web site, at the Central Branch of the Memphis Library. Cost is \$35, including lunch, and registration in advance is required. The registration form can be printed out from their web site:

http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Etngs/Cyndi_Howells.htm
(That is an underscore between Cyndi and Howells.)

Thanks to Kathy Schultz for this information.

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SCOTS OOT AND ABOOT

This has been a busy month for our Society socially. At the Cathy Ryan concert members Charles & Diana Crump, Nancy Chase, Bill Crump, Agnes Stark, and Jim & Nancy Gresham met and re-recruited former members Neil & Edna Aird.

The ranks of partiers at the grand opening of Celtic Crossing was swelled by Lee Hutchison and company (who shared the hot-off-the-presses Clanjamfry posters and brochures), a whole bunch of Scottish country dancers (Bill & Brenda, Jerry, & David, among others), and Caitlin Cannito & her proud dad Mike. Young Meagan Cowell entertained with several Highland dances, and though her brother Ben's pipe had succumbed to the humidity, Nancy Chase stepped right in to save the day, playing a special Irish repertoire to the delight of all.

Several of these *bon vivants* were also seen at the Smithfield Fair concert, as well as Linda Nichols & Robert Burns, Sammy Rich with son Ellis & a buddy in tow, and Society friends Bill Erskine, Larkin Bryant & Andy Cohen, and WRP&D piper David Corbitt, practicing on his chanter(with headphones).

Finally, is that *our* Seldon Murray listed in University of Memphis' Continuing Education catalog as the instructor of "Investments for a Changing Economy" (Tuesdays, 10/25 – 11/22) and "Investing for Income" (Tuesdays, 9/13 – 10/11)? *Y-e-s, it is!* And is that *our* Jim Moffitt listed in that same catalog as the instructor of a class of stained glass? *N-o, it isn't.* The talents of our Jim Moffatt lie elsewhere.

Clan Forsythe extends an invite

Jim Forsythe, the Tennessee representative for Clan Forsyth, has issued an invitation to join Clan Forsyth for lunch at the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis Clanjamfry weekend on Friday, September 23. I am gladly forwarding his email as he asked me to do.

For those of you who do not know Jim and his wife Patti, they are fun people and great representatives of their clan and all things Scottish. And if you have never visited the Peabody, you should really give it a try – it is a wonderful place (in my completely unbiased opinion!).

Think it over, and see you at Clanjamfry! Yours Aye, Lee Hutchison, Clanjamfry Liaison

Hi Lee:

Clan Forsyth is having a luncheon at the Peabody on Friday, September 23rd and we would like to invite any of the other clans who would like to come. Dale Forsyth Sandusky, our Clan Commissioner, is going to be the Honorary Duckmaster that morning at 11:00 a.m. We would like to invite you and any of the Clans to come to see the ducks do their walk and then we will have lunch about 11:30 or 12:00. We hope some of the other visitors will join us at the luncheon. The cost will be about \$20.00. We are paying for the room. We look forward to hearing from everyone.

We look forward to another great Clanjamfry. Jim & Patti Forsythe

*Clan Forsyth Society of the USA E-Mail:
clanforysyt@bellsouth.net*

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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Grace Notes

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*to foster education
and promote
understanding of
things Scottish*



Meeting Briefs

The meeting opened with some hearty singing by those gathered, led by Board Member Joe Lyle. Visitors and new members were welcomed, including Neil & Edna Aird, Linda & Gary Wood, and Tina McWhorter. Lee Hutchison gave a preview of this year's Clanjamfry and its expanded venue and activities. Nancy Gresham, Rick Clausi, and Ed Hunt shared their views on the Scholarship Fund, and President Bill Crump recognized the Scholarship Fund Committee. Frank Trafford appealed for support of petitions against the re-naming of certain Memphis city parks. Vice President Bud Hisky inaugurated a series of exercises on the geography of Scotland with one on the shires (counties) of Scotland; Lore Hisky supported this with a promise of a prize to the table with the most correct answers. Then, a fascinating program on Frances Wright, a Scotswoman way ahead of her time and a prominent early Shelby County settler, was presented by Pres. Bill. VP Bud closed the meeting with a joke, which, in mercy, we will not repeat here.

Looking for a New *Grace Notes* Publisher

Our publisher Sammy Rich has recently experienced a change in his responsibilities which makes it necessary for him to resign from our staff. He promises to stay on until his successor can be recruited and trained. If you've a modest background as a personal computer user, several hours a month you can commit to MSSSI, and a willingness to serve our society, let any of the *Grace Notes* or Board members know.

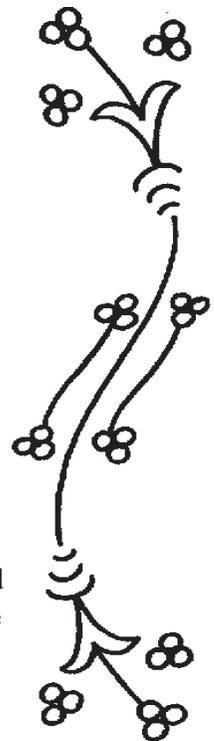
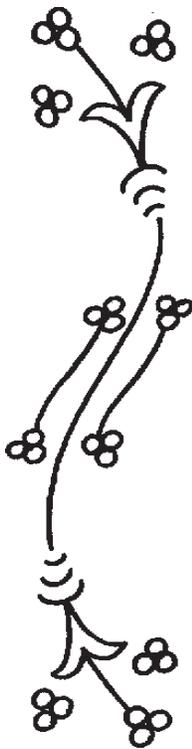
Hail and Farewell, Pete and Scotty

America lost two of her favorite Scottish sons recently, James Doohan and Peter Jennings. Never mind that both were actually born in Canada, we claimed them as our own.

Doohan was best known as the beloved and frequently overwhelmed chief engineer of the Starship Enterprise in the long-lived *Star Trek* TV and film franchise. He served in the Canadian army in WWII, landing at Juno Beach on D-Day when he sustained 6 wounds. After the war, he became a radio actor. When offered a role on the experimental TV series, he tested several accents from which the broad Scottish burr was chosen. He spent the next 31 years answering to the name of UFP Star Fleet Commander Montgomery Scott.

Peter Jennings, the esteemed anchor of ABC Evening News for decades, moved from his native Canada in the '60's, carefully excising from his speech any flavor of his homeland. While he may have shrouded the land of his birth, he actively and proudly exercised the trappings of his Auld Country heritage: comfortably wearing his kilt, rearing his tiny son up in the wearin' o' that proud garment, and receiving a serenade from tartan-clad pipers in his office.

We wish them peaceful repose.



This summer's issue of *Golf Connoisseur* features "A Toast to Britain". Among the treats you'll find in it are an article on Edinburgh (the "Perfect City"), one on "Cooking With Lady Claire" MacDonald from the Isle of Skye, and a stunning pictorial on the clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St. Andrews. Thanks to Jim Lucas for sharing this.

Scots Abroad Create a Heritage of Profits

Braveheart: myth or historical realism? That's the question faced by Robert Sproul-Cran, co-founder and chief executive of *Tartan TV*, an Aberdeen-based company which makes shows to satisfy the insatiable North American appetite for all things Scottish - especially the desire to trace their roots back to the "old country".

The advent of internet technology may have revolutionized long-distance research into family history, but no matter how much data an enquiring member of the great Scottish diaspora may glean from electronic archives - half a world away, in Edinburgh or wherever - there is no substitute for treading the ancestral turf.

"There's no doubt from our research that the single strongest thing Americans want is to connect with the homeland," says Sproul-Cran, "but while we want to tell them about 21st-century Scotland, we find that we have to tread this fine line between reality and the mythology they tend to believe in - the misty glens and heilan' clans and the little bit of Braveheart they all think they have in them.

"Our take on this is that you can't just tell them it's a load of nonsense, but what we do say is that it is part of the rich mythology of the country. Then we try and get the facts across. On the genealogy side, that might mean that you can take as much pride in being of Shetland fishing stock or Lanarkshire mining stock as being part of a Highland clan."

Ancestral tourism... somehow manages to suggest a coachload of wandering ghosts, but the Scottish tourist trade is finding, much to its advantage, that those visitors embarked on tracing their Scottish roots will soon be going beyond the tartan tosh and the obvious tourist destinations, visiting those parts of Scotland normal holidaymakers don't reach. Research for the Scottish tourist board, VisitScotland, through its Ancestral Scotland family and clan history website (www.ancestralscotland.com), revealed that in 2001 genealogy had been the motivation behind an estimated 260,000 tourist trips to Scotland - contributing £153 million to Scotland's economy. Family history buffs also stayed longer - 13.5 nights compared to an average 4.1 - and spent at least 10 per cent more than average tourists.

The research was commissioned by the Ancestral Tourism Steering Group - which involves VisitScotland along with other parties including the office of the General Registrar for Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, tour operators and heritage agencies - and also estimated that the number of "ancestral tourists" could increase to between 300,000 and 800,000 trips annually - and its value could expand to between 5 and 13 per cent of annual tourism expenditure in Scotland.

With an estimated 50 million people of Scots descent around the world, VisitScotland and related concerns are clearly rubbing their hands in anticipation. "There's an image of ancestral research being a bit dusty, all about opening old tomes," says Kathryn MacDonald, genealogical projects manager with VisitScotland, "but it's really opening up now as a visitor attraction and it's a really important market for us. The message we're hammering is that, although you can sit at your PC anywhere in the world and do family history research from home, you haven't done the full job until you've come to Scotland and experienced your heritage first hand. We call it 'walking in the footsteps of your ancestors'."

Among the new breed of specialist tour operators catering for this upsurge in demand is Inverkeithing-based Scottish Routes (www.scottish-routes.com), founded only 18 months ago by Dave McNicoll, who is now a member of the steering group and is finding a ready response to his tailored packages that cater to family researchers' specific needs. Most of his clientèle so far have come from North America, but he says he also has customers from the south of England: "We're not only getting people following their very specific family trees, but also a lot of the clan heritage stuff. Without sounding too blasé, it really is an emotional homecoming for a lot of them, and the holiday of a lifetime. Some of them know more about all this stuff than the genealogists."

The ScotlandsPeople family history centre - under construction at New and General Register Houses in Edinburgh - will play an important part in boosting this aspect of tourism, as does the proliferation of local archives, in offering resources for the researcher anxious to visit their forebears' tramping grounds.

"It's a huge opportunity," says Ian Gardiner, marketing manager for the National Trust for Scotland and chairman of the Ancestral Tourism Steering Group. "One of the things that really attracted me to this initiative is that people will travel to the most remote parts of Scotland. It's very much a personal journey, so no two journeys can be the same.

"For some it's not so much a holiday, more a pilgrimage - and not just for people from overseas. There are lots of people within the UK researching their roots. Things like the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* have had a big effect."

The feedback coming to *Tartan TV* (www.tartan.tv) is certainly that the American genealogy explorer will happily venture well off the beaten track.

"We regularly come across people who say, yes, they'd visited the Trossachs and Balmoral," says Sproul-Cran, "but in fact the thing that really got them excited turned out to be their visit to a little churchyard in Ayrshire or wherever. These visits go way beyond the obvious tourist destinations.

"If you look up family names and where they come from on the Ancestral Scotland site, you often find a cluster of them wherever the name originally came from, then another cluster in the Central Belt, in Glasgow or Edinburgh, because people generally moved to where the work was during the Industrial Revolution. So they leave a kind of trail."

What particularly fascinated Sproul-Cran when he started working on the *Tartan TV* series, some 52 half-hour episodes of which have gone out so far, was that unless they carried the "mac" prefix, Americans often had no idea their names were Scottish: "Yet we did a survey of the 50 commonest American names, and guess how many start with Mac? Just three."

So, the Aberdeen firm enlisted the unlikely aid of hugely popular cartoon series *The Simpsons*. "The Americans regard them as an archetypal American family, and if you say to them: 'Look, not only is Simpson a Scottish name, but an Aberdeen name,' they find that astonishing.

"Then we say: 'Well, if you look at *The Simpsons*, you could say it's a story about the Scots in America, if you look at other names in the program.' They've got this character Groundskeeper Willie, who is bearded and all "och-aye the noo", and he's supposed to be the archetypal Scot. The joke is really that, with names such as Simpson and Burns (the arch-industrialist character), about half the other characters are of Scottish background."

In their anxiety to capitalize as much as possible on the family history boom, VisitScotland enlisted the help of various celebrities to promote its Ancestral Scotland website, such as Hamish Clark, who played Duncan in BBC1's *Monarch of the Glen* drama. He uprooted himself from the fictional Glenbogle Estate a couple of years ago and became a VisitScotland "ambassador" for real Scottish family history in Australia and New Zealand.

Tartan TV has also found some high-profile Americans keen to follow up their Scottish lineage, among them Hollywood actor Kyle MacLachlan, star of *Twin Peaks* and *Sex and The City*, who actually became so keen on his Caledonian lineage that he changed the "Mc" spelling of his surname to "Mac".

"He certainly got very interested in genealogical research," recalls Sproul-Cran, "and when he discovered where the MacLachlans came from, in the west of Scotland, he came over. He told us there was just no substitute for coming back and visiting your family's homeland."

JIM GILCHRIST *The Scotsman* Tue 16 Aug 2005

Editor's note: 1) Thanks to Dan Irvin for passing this along. 2) WKNO Channel 10 will broadcast *Tartan TV* (which they describe as, "A fast-paced, upbeat travel entertainment series on all things Scottish") on Saturdays at 11:00 am starting September 17th.

Scottish Connection

Lest you think that Scotland's contribution to *haute cuisine* is limited to scones, marmalade, haggis (eew), and guga (double eewwww), here is the **Scottish Connection** of the venerable Twinkie.

Though you might think by his name that he's related to Scotch whiskey, James A. Dewar, a Scot living in Chicago, developed the cream-filled sponge cake in 1930. His was the most Scottish of motivations: he observed that the strawberry-shortcake-making machines sat idle except during the relatively short strawberry season. Since idle machinery is very un-thrifty, he designed a snack that could be made on the same machines throughout the year. He originally filled the cakes with a banana mixture, but changed to the white vanilla crème still in use today when bananas became scarce in WWII.

Because of their extended shelf life, Twinkies were among the foods most often used in civil defense shelters and are still a staple in convenience stores and vending machines. It is not true, however, as is commonly held, that Twinkies last forever: Dewar, who ate two to three Twinkies with a glass of milk every night before bed since their creation in 1930, did eventually die at age 88 in 1985.

Twinkies do have another more recent **Scottish Connection**, however. Within the last five years, an enterprising Scot in the Auld Country took a Twinkie, dipped it in batter, and fried it in deep fat, creating...(wait for it)...the Scottish Twinkie Fritter!

So, next time you're enjoying a Twinkie (with or without deep-fat-fried-batter coating), remember its **Scottish Connection**.

(This information came from, among other web sites, that of the Chicago Scottish History Society.)

A Special Treat from Alexander McCall Smith

Besides being the international best-selling author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series, Alexander McCall Smith published what the *Sunday Express* called "joyous, charming portrait" of Edinburgh city life as a serial in *The Scotsman* newspaper. Now that serial is available in novel form, entitled *44 Scotland Street* and published by Anchor Books. The book jacket states, "Love triangles, a lost painting, intriguing new friends, and an encounter with a famous Scottish crime writer, are just a few of the ingredients that add to this delightful and witty portrait of Edinburgh society...."

While you can no doubt purchase this little jewel from your favorite bookseller, you might want to take the Scottish (i.e., thrifty, not cheap) option and borrow it from the public library.

OOPS!!!

We listed the date for the Tennessee Highland Games in Murfreesboro, TN in error in our July & August issues. (Hey, at least we're consistent!) The correct date is September 30 - October 2, 2005. Thanks to Mary Clausi for bringing this mistake to our attention.

Also thanks go to Kathy Schultz for noticing some changes in the scheduling of radio programs of Scottish/Celtic music, usually included in *Grace Notes* on the calendar page. The corrected dates & times are listed in this issue.

Tell us your favorite Scottish songs!

It's time to update (and refurbish) the little song books we use in our meeting and party sing-a-longs, and we'd like your input! So, send along to any member of the *Grace Notes* Staff or any Board member your ten favorite traditional Scottish songs. We will tabulate all submissions and include those ditties cited most often, so that the booklets will truly contain our "Favorite Songs".

Calendar of Events

- Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, 725-1879 for more info*
- 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*
- Sept 4 "Shadow Over the Sun: A Story of Eagles" gliding above the highlands of Scotland. 7:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. - WKNO public television*
- Sept 12..... Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I 240 PROGRAM: "All Creatures Great and Wee: Scottish Fauna" by Mary Ann Lucas Social Hour at 6:00pm 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.*
- Sept 16-18 Oklahoma Scottish Games www.tulsascottishgames.org*
- Sept 23 Clanjamfry at Evergreen Pres. Ceilidh 8:00 p.m.*
- Sept 24 Clanjamfry - 5k run - 9:30 a.m. The Faire - 10:00 am - 6:00 p.m. The Tannahill Weavers 7:30 p.m. in Evergreen Church Sanctuary*
- Sept 25 Clanjamfry - Kirkin' O' The Tartans 10:55 a.m. Evergreen Church Sanctuary "Dinner on the grounds" followin' the Kirkin'*
- Sept 30 -Oct 2 TN Highland Games, Murfreesboro, TN*
- Oct 15-16 Stone Mountain Games, Atlanta, GA*
- Oct 29 MSSI Halloween Party at St. Columba.*
- Jan 21, 2006 Burns Nicht*

The World's Shortest Fairy Tale

Once upon a time a guy asked a girl, "Will you marry me?"
The girl said, "No."
And the guy lived happily ever after and went golfing a lot.
The End. (Thanks to Ben Kemker for this wee tale.)

Treasurer's Corner

Balance (6/24)	\$ 7,682.03
Deposits	\$ 74.00
Withdrawals	(\$ 560.36)
Ending Balance	\$ 7,195.67

Faye Dalrymple
253 CR 180
Oakland, MS 38948
662-623-7394

Thistle and Shamrock

Celtic Entertainment

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

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

"Celtic Connections"
WMAV-FM 90.3

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.

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

September 1 | Easy Does It - It's not all high-energy reels and jigs, this Celtic music business. Kick back with some soothing voices (Maire Brennan, Dougie MacLean, Karen Matheson) and some free-spirited instrumentals. **September 8 | Heading South** - Join us to explore the Celtic roots of music from the mountains of the American South, with songs and tunes from flatpick guitarist Norman Blake, fiddler James Bryan, multi-instrumentalist Mark O'Connor and more. **September 15 | Family Gathering** - Some of the finest Celtic music recorded during the past three decades has sprung from musical families. Hear the Brennans, the O'Domhnaills, the Cunninghams, the Fishers and the Lunnys.

September 22 | Irish American Attitude - The Irish American community has issued some brilliant recordings, especially over the past decade or so. We'll meet Detroit-born, New York-based singer Cathie Ryan. **September 29 | New Releases** - This week we stop to take stock of an influx of traditional and contemporary recordings from rising Celtic music talent, paired with recent offerings from stars of the genre.



Legs you may see at Clanjamfry!



**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
Sept 12th - Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Sept 8th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-40 and Summer**

GRACE NOTES

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