

Clanjamfry 2007

This time of the year seems to come around with as much anticipation as Christmas comes to children every year. The anticipation and enjoyment of Clanjamfry always leaves us wanting more of the good stuff that is brought our way, year in and year out. Here we are, with it upon us again. Have you volunteered for anything yet? Are you participating in any of the many venues, whether it is food and drink, children's area, vendors, clan or society tents, Scottish games, music events, 5k run, dancing competition, or are you just people watching and soaking up all the fun served at the coolest little festival, this side of anywhere? My bet is that if you are there as a member of the Memphis

Scottish Society, you are plugged in to several of the above duties and responsibilities that come with any successful Highland games.

You may want to pre-plan this weekend, because it just makes good sense to. Here is the run-down of events starting with Friday evening: the Sponsor and Clan Reception followed by the Ceilidh at Rhodes College. Early Saturday morning is the 5K run, followed by the festival opening ceremonies. During the day on Saturday – Main faire with Clan Cunningham as the honored clan. On Saturday night there will be a concert featuring Bodega, winners of the 2006 BBC Radio Regional Young Folk Award and then on Sunday morning is the Kirkin' o'

the Tartans followed by a dinner on the grounds at Evergreen Presbyterian. This does not even begin to cover all of the events, so here are a few more of the highlights: the music stage with regional performers such as Wind Dance, Kula and Troen, of Selmer, Tennessee and Legacy of Jackson, Mississippi. All of these events are well and good but still nothing quite puts our peasant hearts to pumpin' as the skirl of the bagpipes a-thumpin'. Yes, Wolf River Pipes and Drums will perform twice on Saturday and at least once on Sunday, so make your plans to bring your friends and have a great day supportin' this cause. Please go to www.clanjamfry.org for further information. SRich



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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

It is a matter of some amusement that the phrase “the real McCoy”, meaning “the real thing, the genuine article”, is not itself the real McCoy, but definitely authentic is its **Scottish Connection**. The phrase emerged in the 1880’s and was originally “the real MacKay”. The name came from the whiskey of excellent quality exported to North America from A. & M. MacKay, a distillery in Glasgow. Scottish settlers in both Canada and the U.S. were

discerning enough to recognize the good stuff when they encountered it, naming it “the real MacKay” as opposed to whatever inferior spirits they might have otherwise consumed.

In good American fashion, the phrase was subsequently corrupted to “the real McCoy”, possibly due to the popularity of champion boxer Kid McCoy in the 1890s or bootlegger Bill McCoy during (shudder) Prohibition. Nope, it had no relation to the famous Hatfield &

McCoy feud, but was perhaps assured immortality by the long-running television comedy *The Real McCoys*, starring Walter Brennan.

So, the next time you sip an exceptional whiskey or encounter a genuine article, remember “the real McCoy” and its **Scottish Connection**.

- adapted from *Heavens to Betsy! & Other Curious Sayings* by Charles Earle Funk.

A Parting Glass

Tommy Makem passed away the first of August, but before he passed away, he passed my way about 15 – 20 times. Each time I ran into him, he left me with another one of those timeless Irish melodies that either set your toes tapping and your spirits soaring, or cause your mood to become as pensive as ever you thought possible.

When I first became acquainted with Tommy, I was teaching elementary school music at Immaculate Conception in mid-town Memphis. It was always a struggle to find songs to teach rowdy children who really weren’t terribly interested in anything I did, but then I finally met Tommy in *The Irish Songbook*, one of the fine songbooks he, along with the Clancy Brothers, left us.

In this book there was a song about a cobbler and his wife. He carelessly dips her three times in the river at the end of the song because “her tongue went clickety-clack”. The verses were interesting enough to get the kids’ attention, but it was the chorus that stole the show: “with me ing-twing of an ing-thing of an i-day, with me ing-twing of an ing-thing of an i-day, with me roo-boo-boo roo-boo-boo

ran-dy. And me lab stone keeps beating away”. These were the words that got them. They first got tickled at the nonsense, then they thought they knew what the words meant, but mainly they just got a kick out of singing for perhaps the first time in their lives. I was amazed! What a great new friend I had found in Tommy Makem.

The book was so full of treasures I taught the children at least

13 of the 75 different songs in the collection. With each song I learned, I was getting to know and introduce the children to Tommy Makem and the Irish music. The children immediately picked up on the intense passion the Irish have in their music, and this is what kept them coming back for more.

To Tommy Makem, may I toast “The Parting Glass”. SRich

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



Tommy Makem, 74, Hero of Irish Folk Music, Dies

Tommy Makem, a songwriter, balladeer and folk singer who, with the Clancy Brothers and as a soloist, introduced a raucous, revolutionary take on time-honored Irish folk music, first in the United States and then in Ireland, died August 1st in Dover, N.H. He was 74.



Mr. Makem's music emerged in the 1960s as part of the rise of modern folk music, and its sound and success particularly buoyed Irish-Americans who remembered the sting of prejudice toward immigrant ancestors. Mr. Makem, a baritone who played the banjo and tin whistle, was hailed as the godfather of Irish music. In 1961 the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, the name under which they performed,

signed a \$100,000 recording contract, a big deal at the time. Mr. Makem and Joan Baez were named the most promising newcomers at the Newport Folk Festival that year.

On March 12, 1961, the group, all of whom were born in Ireland and emigrated to the United States, performed for 14 minutes in front of a television audience of 80 million on "The Ed Sullivan Show," the first of many television appearances.

The next year an Irish radio announcer visiting the United States took some of their albums back to Ireland and played them on his show. They skyrocketed to popularity. By 1964 a third of the albums sold in Ireland were by the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem.

In 1963 they performed at the White House at the request of President John F. Kennedy, who was of Irish descent.

Mr. Makem had rewritten an old song, "We Want No Irish Here." It was taken from the time in America when there were signs saying, "No Irish Need Apply."

In an interview with The Belfast News Letter in 2003, Mr. Makem said, "Superimposed over us on television was a great shot of President Kennedy laughing his head off."

Thomas Makem was born on Nov. 4, 1932, in Keady, County Armagh, Northern Ireland. His mother, Sarah Makem, was a legendary folk singer whom the American song collector and folk singer Jean Ritchie, among other musical folklorists, visited to collect traditional songs.

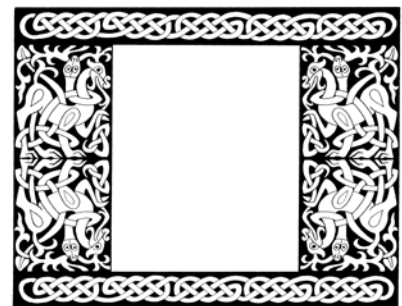
Mr. Makem made his stage debut in his hometown at the age of 5, singing "The Little Beggarman." Like many in his family, he immigrated to New Hampshire to apply skills learned in Irish linen mills to that state's cotton mills.

When Mr. Makem arrived at Logan International Airport in Boston in 1955, he carried a makeshift suitcase, a set of bagpipes and an X-ray of his lungs to prove he did not have tuberculosis, he said in an interview with The Associated Press last year. The customs agent told him, "Have a great life."

More than a half-century later, Mr. Makem declared, "I took him at his word."

By Douglas Martin

New York Times; The Arts/Cultural Desk, August 3, 2007





Bud Hiskey

John Simmons

John Schultz

Seldon Murray



Ok, the instructions are simple for this game: just draw a circle around one of the names and then a line to the picture of one speaker that did not give a Scotland 101 talk. The first person that successfully completes this task can win one free year of love and support from the Memphis Scottish Society or they can get their name in the hat for the next door prize at our monthly meeting. On your mark, get set. Please bring all completed entry forms to the next meeting. GO!



I wonder what these folks are up to?

(Clanjamfry Committee at work)



Ok, Chorale, let's have all eyes on your director. You don't have one, you say? Will somebody step up, please?



Brigadoon Returns (and you didn't have to wait 100 years)

All those who may have never see the 1954 film *Brigadoon* and all those who delight in it can catch it in its entirety on Friday, September 14th on WKNO, Channel 10. Follow the adventures of two unsuspecting Americans (played by Gene Kelly and Van Johnson) touring Scotland, who happen upon a quaint little village, Brigadoon, that's not on their maps. The Americans, and the viewers, learn more and more about the town, all the while entertained by Alan Jay Lerner's fabulous songs ("Heather on the Hill", "Go Home w' Bonnie Jean", "Come to Me, Bend to Me" among others) and score. Eventually, the tourists discover the secret to the enchanting and enchanted village, and viewers are also enchanted by this lush visual treat from director Vincent Minnelli. Don't look for authenticity in history, costume, or (Lord help us!) accent, but enjoy this classic movie and let it transport you with the enchantment of *Brigadoon*.

A wee bit of Scottish humor from Ben Kemker

A guy walks into a bar and notices two pieces of meat on the ceiling. He asks the bar man for a pint and the bar man asks, "Don't you want to participate in our competition?" The guy asks "What's it all about?" The barman informs him, "All you have to do is get those pieces of meat off the ceiling and you get a free pint! If you fail you have to buy the whole pub a drink." The guy replies, "No, I don't think so, mate... the steaks are too high!"

Pod-Casts to Enjoy

David Corbett, WRP&D piper & long-time friend of MSSSI, sends along this note:

Well, I'm trying to learn to create pod-casts. So far, I've put one out, with no talking on my part, just some most excellent piping by one of today's best, Rob Crabtree. Hopefully, where I'm hosting these will be available via Itunes before long, but for now, you can just go to: <http://blog.birlsgonewild.com/> and listen directly from there, or you can download, or subscribe to the feed with "myYahoo" or a few others. Hopefully, there will be a mix of piping and music from the seisuins [*a gathering of Celtic musicians*] at Celtic Crossing [*free to the public every other Tuesday at 7pm*] in the coming weeks. Enjoy, and let me know what you think. David. www.birlsgonewild.com - www.davidcorbett.net - www.wrpd.org - www.neacaledonians.com

"Cape Breton Live"

Is on Your Computer!

"Cape Breton Live" is on your computer! Right this minute! Information about this terrific website was just passed on to this writer by our own Mary Ann Lucas. Thank you, Mary Ann! What a wonderful site for music from a great number of festivals and shows in and around Cape Breton! Visit www.capebret-onlive.com and turn up the sound. My guess is that you will leave it on most of the day. Choose a show from the archives of past shows and get information about which performers are playing. When that show is over, or if you don't care much for that one, choose another. "Cape Breton Live" will soon be one of the links you can find with just one click. You will be completely delighted! by **Betty Westmoreland**

From Robert Campbell and the Celtic Arts Alliance:

Greetings, Friends,

It has been a hot, buggy summer so far. To maintain a semblance of sanity, we are thinking about mountains, lakes and rivers and looking ahead to our fall concerts!

We have an interesting line-up, so please take a moment to add these dates to your calendar.

October 28 - Jim Malcolm/ former Old Blind Dogs lead singer serves up an afternoon of traditional, original and Robert Burns songs.
November 18 - Lehto & Wright/ expressive and evocative trio makes more folk rock than you can shake a blackthorn stick at!

Tickets will be on sale at our regular ticket locations in Memphis: Cafe Francisco (400 North Main), Davis Kidd (387 Perkins Ext.), & Fiddlers Green (5101 Sanderlin Ave, Suite 104-B). Mail order tickets are available from the following address: MCAA, 801 Park, Earle, AR 72331.

We look forward to seeing you again soon. Cheers for now.

Robert Campbell, Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance



Check Out This Website

Kathy Schultz passes along this nifty website, Dictionary of the Scots Language: <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/dsl/>

(Editors Note: Sammy Rich & the rest of the Grace Notes staff LOVE this site and thank Kathy for bringing it to the attention of the readers.)

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, September 10

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

Dinner reservation required
by September 6th; call 757-4200
or go to memphiscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: Scotland 101
Culture (The Arts)

September 21 - 23

Clanjamfry

Thursday, September 27

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

Scotland 101: Culture

The program for the September 2007 MSSI Members Meeting will be the 3rd installment of our Scotland 101 series. This segment will cover the fine arts portion of Scottish Culture. Some of our favorite speakers will be featured. Look for presentations on Dance from Brenda Maguire, Music (Bagpipes) from Rick Clausi & Music (Other) from Sammy Rich, Visual Arts from Lore Hisky, and Literature from Mary Ann Lucas. As has been the case with the earlier Scotland 101 programs, this is more than can be dealt with in our ordinary program length (20 minutes), so we will expand to almost an hour, so come prepared to be entertained a wee bit longer.

And don't forget to make your dinner reservations by Thursday, September 6th.

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

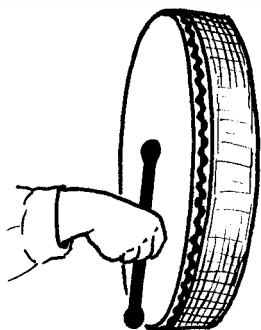
"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

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®

September 6, 2007/ Canada

Travel to Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and beyond to hear the authentic Celtic traditions of Canada with Leahy, Loreena McKennitt, Mary Jane Lamond, Natalie MacMaster and more.

September 13, 2007/On the Road

Itinerant work ways are celebrated this week in traditional songs, while today's working musicians offer us contemporary verses of the traveling musician's lifestyle.

Copyright 2007 NPR/Fiona Ritchie

September 20, 2007 /Celtic Show Bands

With their diverse array of instruments, including the brass sections of ten-piece outfits Skolvan and Junction Pool, we hear ensembles that blend traditional and contemporary melodies to create big cutting-edge grooves.

September 27, 2007 / Live From D.C. – Alasdair Fraser

Savor our exclusive highlights from a live performance by fiddler Alasdair Fraser, who appeared with cellist Natalie Haas on the National Mall, Washington, D.C. as part of "Scotland at the Smithsonian."

FACT OR FICTION?

In the year 565, St Columba, a founder of Christianity in Scotland, had one of his better known encounters when he came across a group of Picts being attacked by a horrible monster emerging from Loch Ness. After being firmly rebuked by Columba, the monster retreated back into the murky depths only to resurface again several centuries later - much to the joy of the Highland tourist industry. – Thanks to Dan Irvin for sending this bit of history.

**note to staff re: sept Grace Notes:
Help me remember that we need
to put in something about our dues
being due on Oct 1, b/c i've already
forgotten it x2.
m.a.**

Next Monthly Meeting - September 10th - Dinner Reservations by 09/06, 757-4200 or online www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.
Board Meeting, Thursday, September 27th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.



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