

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 25 No. 9

Sept 2009

Festival Season is Upon Us

September is the month for the best festivals of the year and for the best opportunity for our membership to reach out and invite new members into our fellowship. Starting with the **Cooper-Young Festival** on the 19th and then followed with **Clanjamfry** on the next weekend. I have been charged with and need your help in the manning of our society tent for these two events. What I am hoping to do is line up enough volunteers to cover the basic 10:00 – 4:00'ish time frame and then enough of a commitment to cover the set up and break down of the tent and our associated materials. It is a job that should be shared and so **BE** prepared at our next meeting to commit to covering some of these slots. They can be 1 or 2 hour slots and that should leave plenty of time for strolling and enjoy-

ing the rest of the festival. We all know and love Clanjamfry, but Cooper-Young is a much different affair. With over 85,000 people in attendance, parking is a premium close to the main CY intersection, but with our tent location being the front of the Stash yarn shop at Elzey and Cooper, we can park right behind the store and have only a short walk to our tent. The catch is we have to provide Melissa a list of names that will be parking so she can inform her security people to let us on her parking lot. Well there you have it. Look forward to seeing you on the 14th and all of our gracious volunteers that help bring new members into our society. Please read the article submitted by new members Steve and Jeanette Martin on page 4. Sammy Rich

Scottish Halloween Bash

Date: Sat, October 17, 2009
 Time: 5:30 p.m.
 Where: St. Columba Center
 Bring: Salad or dessert.
 Spaghetti/Chicken provided.

Costume Contest
 Balloon Stomp
 Witch's Pot Throw
 Halloween Memory Game
 Live Auction- Bring an item to sell and money to purchase items with. The person whose item brings in the most money wins a prize. Be ready to bid.
 Kid's Korner - pumpkin painting/ Piñata, Bring your neighbor's kids if you don't have any! Surely we can find 8 children to bring to this fun event and at a minimum enjoy watching them bust a pinata. Sounds like fun Elaine, hmm, I meant Geoff!

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What genuine Scottish scion doesn't love a bargain? And what's one of the best places to find a bargain? The army-navy surplus store, of course. Did you know this most thrifty institution has a Scottish Connection?

Francis "Frank" Banner, born in Dundee in 1851, was brought to America as a 3-yr-old. His father began a business selling goods at Navy auction. A youthful Frank expanded the interest by gleaning scrap from the New York harbor. By the beginning of the Civil War Frank, now 17, had the running of the company when his father joined the Union Army. The end of the War saw our man expanding their wares by buying up the enormous federal surpluses. This was so successful a business plan that after the Spanish-American War, Bannerman's, as it had become known by then, was forced by the NYC charter to move outside the city limits.

Enter beautiful Pollepel Island in the upper Hudson River. Frank's son David came across it while canoeing. Frank purchased the island from the Cornish immigrant Taft family in 1900. Frank built not only storage for their massive inventory, but a family residence and "a simulated Scottish castle".

Bannerman's did some commerce in brick-&-mortar stores but more through their catalog, advertising it in the back of pulp magazines in the '30s & '40s. Bannerman's was also known for donating uniforms and militaria to live theaters to be converted into costumes, sets, and props. And in an ironic twist Bannerman's also gave back a goodly parcel of its goods to the government when it was needed for the next call to arms in the Great War (which came to be known as World War I).

Though Frank's merchandise was all military, he considered himself peace-loving. He expressed in each catalog his hope that his collections of arms, now large and exclusive enough to have gained museum status, would become known as "The Museum of the Lost Arms". He was a devoted church and St. Andrew's Society member, founded the Caledonia Hospital, and opened the island, now known simply as "Bannerman's Island" (of course) to the boys club he led for camping in the summer.

Access to the island is severely limited these days because it has fallen into great decay since it was donated to the state of New York after a devastating fire 30 years ago. A foundation is slowly funding restoration of the holdings, holding a tea on August 9, 2009, for example, and leading guided tours which avoid the more dangerous derelict structures. Restoring the fabulous gardens Frank's wife established are one of the foundation's goals.

Incidentally, if Bannerman doesn't sound very Scottish, be


assured that it is as Scottish as "Stewarts", who originally were the stewards of the royal family. The Bannermans were the monarchs' flag bearers, since well before the time of Malcolm III or Alexander I.

(The Frank Bannerman family is sometimes given credit for gaining the name by having been descendants of the few MacDonalds to survive the Glencoe Massacre and thereby given the honor of carrying Clan MacDonald's colors and the honorary surname title of "Bannerman". Great story, but like some of the best, it has no factual basis, according to Clan Bannerman's website.)

So, next time you find yourself at the army-navy store, look around, enjoying all the great bargains and remember Frank Bannerman and his great idea's Scottish Connection.

Thanks to Jim Lucas for passing along the idea for this Scottish Connection.

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), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

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*



Beware the Shrinking Sheep! (Or Not)

Friday, July 3rd, *The Commercial Appeal* ran an AP article by Randolph Schmid reporting the newest indicator used for detecting global warming: shrinking sheep.

Over the past 24 years (1985 to 2009) the wild Soay sheep of Scotland's Hirta island of St. Kilda in the Outer Hebrides have become 5% smaller. Since larger sheep can survive the harsh winters of the island better, this is taken to be an ominous sign.

Intervening factors said to contribute to the smaller average size are a higher rate of survival of smaller lambs which can now live longer, even to reproductive age, and a higher incidence of lambing among younger ewes, which bear smaller offspring than they will when they are older.

Now, wait a minute. Global warming is making the winters milder? Yes. And smaller lambs, which used to perish, are now surviving? Yes. And the flock is suc-

cessfully bearing young at younger ages? Yes. That just sounds like nature at work.

Scientists do admit that the winters are maybe not as harsh as earlier, and the summers on Hirta and the rest of St. Kilda are now longer. Additionally, since all humans habitants of Hirta, the only occupied island of St. Kilda,



were removed in 1930, these Soay sheep, a breed domesticated in the Neolithic era, have grown wild, surviving or not without intervention by man. Consequently, the

market efficiencies of larger meat and wool production have not intervened in natural selection. The sheep, however, have made use of human detritus when it is available – they tend to inhabit abandoned buildings, another factor, no doubt, increasing winter survival rates.

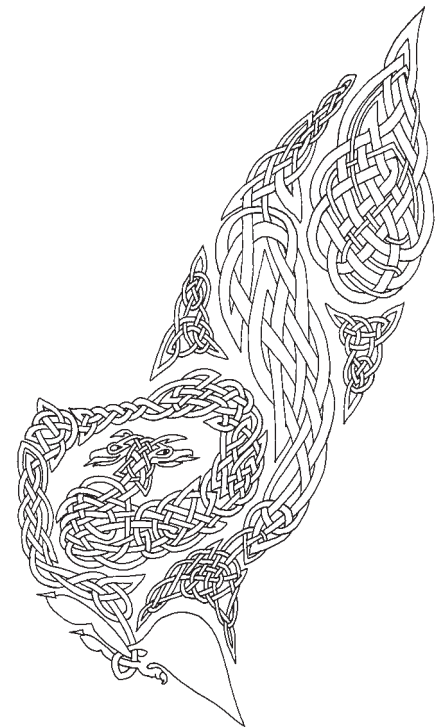
So, the sheep on Hirta weigh a bit less, from 64 to 61 pounds, and their legs are about ½ inch shorter, perhaps more sheep-shaped than roast-sized, but there are more of them surviving year by year.

← Soay sheep.

Tongue Twister

If six shrinking sheep are shrieking on six sinking ships, how many ships can six shrieking sheep sink? Have you got this down yet? There will be a test at the monthly meeting.

Hirta, St.Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Scotland



Reflections on our first trip to Scotland

We joined MSSSI about two years ago, knowing that a trip to Scotland was in our future. Although we had participated in many Burns' Nicht Dinners, and we both have Scottish heritages, we thought that visiting Scotland would be more meaningful if we became more involved in MSSSI. This proved to be the case.

Following are our reflections from ten full days and 850 miles driving on the "wrong" side of the road. We have divided our reflections into four categories: Countryside, Historical (Monuments, Churches, Abbeys, and Castles), Food, and People. Our trip to England (London—Bath area) formed our basis of comparison.

Countryside: This was the most exciting experience. Driving from Glasgow, through Ft. William to the Isle of Skye, north to Inverness, along the Spey River, and finally to Edinburgh, we saw incredible changes in topography. The snow-capped mountains (in mid-May) were a complete surprise. With rivers seeming to pour from mountainsides, it is no wonder that the world's leading distilleries are nearby. Sparking waterfalls, fast-flowing rivers, and spectacular lochs were absolutely crystal clear. We've never witnessed such a pristine countryside.

Historical: While we anticipated visiting structures nearly 1,000 years old, the reality is that they were better than advertised. The boat-like ceilings in the church in Luss were a lesson in how boat-building techniques can transfer into building roofs. The stained glass windows in the Bruce the King Dunfermline Abbey Church, in Dunfermline, and St. Giles Church, Edinburgh, are testaments of craftsmanship that has survived hundreds of years and several wars. The memorial structure in Glenfinnen, sitting on the edge of Loch Shiel, provides a National Geographic-like landscape. It is unfair to exclude other churches and abbeys, but Rosslyn Chapel stands out after reading *The DaVinci Code*, by Dan Brown. It was founded in 1446 by William St. Clair, likely a relative of ours.

Food: Remembering that our comparison basis was English cuisine, seasoned Scottish travelers know the satisfying results of our first several meals. As expected the famous "Fish 'n Chips" are wonderful but we were served larger portions than anticipated. Breakfasts probably contained the daily calorie allotment. Many restaurants offered a price-fixed 2- or 3-course dinner, for approximately \$15.00. For those who haven't been to Scotland,

don't go expecting to diet!

People: We've been told the further north from London one travels, the friendlier the people. We agree completely. Here are a couple of examples: Ever heard of a B&B receptionist making restaurant reservations? We asked for her recommendation for dinner. When we arrived (a group of 6), we were told there would be a 30-minute wait. There was an empty table for 6, but we assumed it was reserved. The hostess returned a couple of minutes later, asking if we were the Martin party, and told us that the B&B called in the reservation. When we asked about a distillery to visit, two patrons spent nearly a half-hour debating many options in Speyside. When signing in to play golf at St. Andrews, the reservation was left at the hotel, which was 75 minutes away. The Course Starter said, "Hold on, let me check our files." Shortly he found an email trail and said, "No problem, go to the first tee. We can sort this out later." Imagine that treatment at Pebble Beach.

We had been planning this trip since meeting our native Scot neighbors in 1979. We wonder now why we waited so long!

Thanks to Jeannette and Steve Martin for sharing this with us.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Geoff and Elaine Meece on the birth of their 2nd grandchild, Sophia Noel Feldman, born 8/31/2009.

She weighed 6lbs 8 ozs, at birth and the proud parents are Jeff and Alicia Feldman. Elaine, the Grandmother has already bought

her a plaid dress with Scottie dogs on it. Be sure and start her on haggis at an early age so she can develop a taste for it!

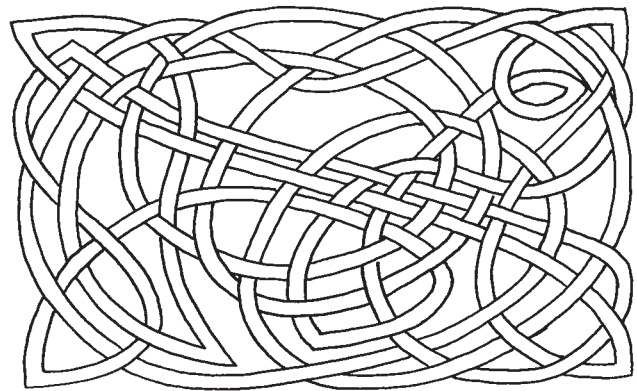
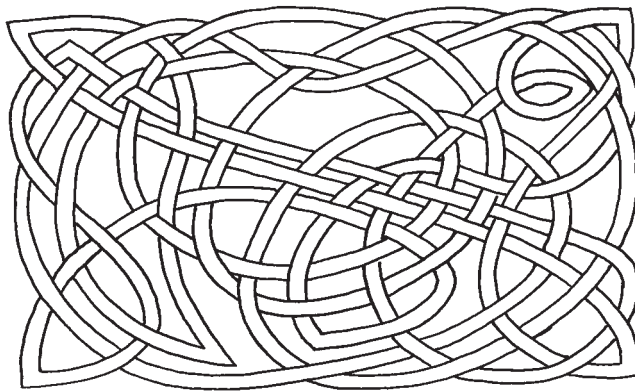
5th Annual Whisky Tasting

Royal and Loyal
Order of the Kirk
St. John's Episcopal
Central @ Greer, 6:30 pm
October 29, 2009

This is one event that anyone should try to get into if at all possible. Seating is limited to 80 people for this deliciously fun kosher dinner event. Chuck Goldstein of Heart & Soul Catering presents the meal with the most fabulous salmon you

have ever seen. Entertainment during the meal will be Brenda Maquire on the celtic harp. Rick Clausi and Derek Stine with Scottish guards carrying authentic lowland Scottish slaughter swords will pipe in the Scotch as the dinner winds down and the Whisky Tasting begins. All of the Scotches to be sampled are available only through the Scotch Malt Whisky Society of Edinburgh. These are single cask, single malt whiskeys: 34 yr old Glen Moray, 23 year old Glenfarclas, 11 Yr old Glenmorangie, and 24 Yr old Glen Grant are some of the varieties offered for your sampling. None of these are available in your local whisky store and are extremely rare. Tickets are \$90

and proceeds go to raise money for the Kirkin o' the Tartans at St. John's in January and to support Clanjamfry at Evergreen. The world wide magazine, 'Unfiltered', a publication for the Scotch Malt Whisky Society will be carrying details of this event for their publication in January. This is the first Whisky Tasting outside of the UK to be included in their publication. Seldon Murray, FSA, Scot, Steve Martin, and Butch Porter of the Royal and Loyal Order of the Kirk will be your hosts for the evening. Tickets are selling fast and as in the past it will be a sold out event. Contact Steve Martin, 901-763-2324 for acquiring tickets to this event.



Flowers of the Forest



Our sincere condolences to Bud Hisky and his family on the loss of his lovely wife and our dear friend, Lore. Lore, FSA Scot, grew up in Chicago and was a graduate of Roosevelt University and the University of Memphis. She taught over 3,000 students in her teaching career and was named "Outstanding History Teacher of the

Year in Tennessee" in 1985. Lore and Bud are charter members of MSSSI and were recipients of the Order of the Heather in 2005, in recognition of the long time service to our Society. The family requests that memorials be sent to the Decorative Arts Trust at the Memphis Brooks Museum or the charity of your choice.

Haggis is English,

A historian says a haggis recipe was published in an English book almost two hundred years before any evidence of the dish in Scotland. Historian Catherine Brown told the Daily Telegraph that she found references to the dish inside a 1616 book called *The English Hus-Wife*.

The title would pre-date Robert Burns' poem *To A Haggis* by 171 years. But ex-world champion haggis maker Robert Patrick insisted: "Nobody's going to believe it."

Ms Brown said the book, by Gervase Markham, indicates that haggis was first eaten in England and subsequently popularised by the Scots. She told the paper that the first mention she could find of

Scottish haggis was in 1747.

"It was originally an English dish. In 1615, Gervase Markham says that it is very popular among all people in England," she said. "By the middle of the 18th century another English cookery writer, Hannah Glasse, has a recipe that she calls Scotch haggis, the haggis that we know today."

"Anything that's to do with Scotland, everybody wants to get a part of "Robert Patrick Former world champion haggis maker

Her findings are due to be broadcast in a documentary on STV in Scotland. But Mr Patrick said the idea haggis originated in England is akin to claims by the Dutch and Chinese to have invented golf. He added: "Any-

thing that's to do with Scotland, everybody wants to get a part of. "We've nurtured the thing for all these years, we've developed it, so I think very much it is a Scottish product. "It's one of the mainstays of my business' economy so we'd never give it up."

James Macsween, whose Edinburgh-based company makes haggis, said it will remain a Scottish icon whatever its origin. He said even if the haggis was eaten in England long before Burns made it famous, Scotland has done a better job of looking after it.

And he added: "I didn't hear of Shakespeare writing a poem about it."

Story from BBC NEWS.

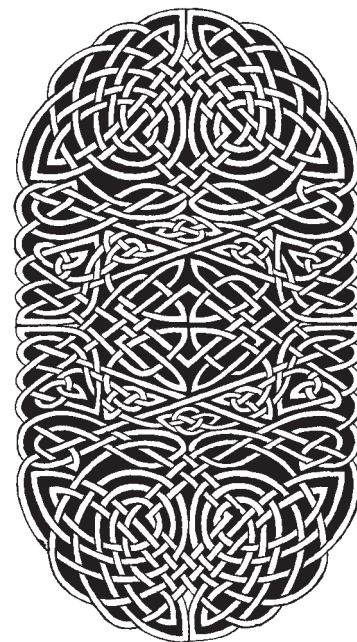
Scotland's BrewDog... brewery has released 18.2% Tokyo® beer, each bottle of which exceeds the recommend



daily limit of alcohol – by 200%!

Made with jasmine, cranberries, malts, and American hops, it is fermented with champagne yeast to achieve its high alcohol content. Its recommend price is £9.99.

Brewdog is catching grief for its suggestion that Tokyo is intended as a solution to the current near-epidemic alcoholism in Scotland and binge drinking in particular. Their spokesman explained that most Scottish beer is so tasteless & insipid that consumers are driven to drink way too much of it, claiming that stronger, tastier brew will satisfy consumers before they ingest too much. You be the judge, but you'll have to hurry: Brewdogs only produced a test run of 3,000 bottles and they're only available at the brewer's home in Fraserburgh.



Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Holy Communion Episcopal,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

Sgt. Singleton Pipes & Drums
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road- Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
7:00-9:30 St. Luke's Lutheran;
2000 Germantown Parkway.
753-9494

Fridays

Contra Dancing: 7:30-10 pm,
Idlewild Presbyterian;
1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889
2nd, & 4th Friday:
Scottish Country Dancing

Sundays

NEAC Pipes and Drums
1:30-4:00
First Presb. Church; SW Dr
Jonesboro, AR exit 45

Monday, August 10

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli:Poplar@Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.

6 pm Dinner
7 pm Program: Brad Randall
A pilgrims journey to
Templar sites in the UK

Thursday, August 27

Board Meeting at 5:45
St. Lukes Lutheran
2000 N Gtown Pkwy

Thursday, Sept 10

2010 Burns Nicht Committee
Cordova Branch
Memphis/Shelby County
Library 5:30 - 7:00

Friday-Sunday Sept 25-27

Clanjamfry
Evergreen Presbyterian

Saturday, October 17

MSSI Halloween Party
St. Columba

Saturday, October 29

5th Annual Whisky Tastin'
St. Jophn's Episcopal



Scottish - Celtic RadioShows

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

September 10:

Common Currency

Follow the instrumental links
and song streams that connect
musical traditions across miles
and oceans.

September 17:

Tale o' the Bank

Rivers run through many of
our best-loved landscapes and
they are now often the focus of
urban regeneration and rural
rediscovery. Traditional and
contemporary song celebrates
our rivers as sources of life and
timeless inspiration.

September 24:

Viking Invasion

A hoard of Viking treasure
recently unearthed in Yorkshire
was declared the most impor-
tant discovery of its kind in
Britain for 150 years. But what
would the experts make of this
haul of Nordic music?

October 1:

Highland Homecoming

In the year of Scottish home-
coming, we tell the story of
emigration from the Highlands
through song.



The
Hieland
hills
we
view
on
the
Bonny
Bonny
Banks of
Loch
Lomond

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, September 14th
Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Brad Randall: Pilgrimage to Templar sites in the U.K.
Regular Board Meeting, September 24th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

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