

Scottish Halloween Bash

Date: Saturday, 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, Brad Randal will be our auctioneer. Bring one or more items to sell and money to purchase items. The item that brings in the most money wins its contributor a prize. Get ready to bid. It can be really scary. Kid's Korner - pumpkin painting - Piñata

5th Annual Whisky Tasting Royal and Loyal Order of the Kirk St. John's Episcopal Central @ Greer, 6:30 pm

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. En-

tertainment during the meal will be Brenda Maquire on the harp and Rick Clausi and Derek Stine 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 Scottish Malt Whisky

Society of Edinborough and will be single cast, single malt whisky. 34-yr-old Glen Moray, *cont pg 3*

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Ken Burn's Our National Parks: America's Best Idea is causing a lot of excitement. The gift we gave ourselves constantly gratifies, inspires, and, yes, maybe makes us proud of ourselves. The main author of the national parks movement was a Scotsman named John Muir. Muir was featured in a this column in July 2006, but his story bears repeating as does his national park's Scottish Connection.

John Muir was born in Dunbar on April 21, 1838. In his autobiography, he described his two main boyhood pursuits that would prove important to his later life. He and his friends played relay running games that lasted for hours, covering tremendous distances, yielding physical endurance.

He also sadly recalled the wanton slaughter of immense amounts of local birds by himself and his friends for nothing more than the thrill. His family immigrated to Wisconsin when he was 11. He spent his youth working on the family farm and later studied several years at college.

Then he elected to continue his education at the "university of the wilderness". After a circuitous journey of geography and occupation, he encountered the great love of his life, a place he had only read about, called Yosemite.

After seeing Yosemite Valley for the first time he was captivated, and wrote, "No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite," and "[Yosemite is] the grandest of all special temples of Nature." For the rest of his life he never strayed far or long from it, and when it was threatened by private development, he traded his roles of scientist, scholar, writer, and explorer for

an entirely new profession – conservationist.

Although not entirely alone in his work, Muir was largely responsible for inspiring the American people and alerting them to the possible loss of the wilderness areas and through his petitioning of Congress for the setting up on October 1, 1890, of Yosemite National Park, which covers roughly a quarter of a million square miles. Some of the spectacular sites therein are Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, El Capitan, Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Vernal Fall, Nevada Fall, Glacier Point, Tunnel View, Tuolumne Meadows, and Tenaya Lake.

John Muir continued to protect other wilderness areas. He worked with his friend and President, Theodore Roosevelt, to create other national parks. Today, John Muir is remembered as one of America's most famous nature writers and "the Father of the National Park System".

Despite spending most of his life in America, Muir always

considered himself a Scot, only taking American citizenship late in life. He returned to Scotland on a visit in the 1890s and visited the places of his youth which were deeply etched in his memory. This included his old school where his memories were of a somewhat mixed nature, for he recalled, "If we failed in any part, however slight, we were whipped; for the grand simple allsufficing Scotch discovery had been made that there was a close connection between the skin and the memory, and that irritating the skin excited the memory to any required degree." Despite this recollection he was warmly welcomed by the schoolmaster, who, it turned out, had read Muir's books.

Today, the National Park System consists of 388 separate geographic locations, and John Muir is as well known in his native land as his adopted land. He is the namesake of a holiday, hiking trails, a county, a town,

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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*



Scottish Connection from pg 2

monuments, national forest land, and on and on, in both Scotland and the U.S. So, while you're saluting our Flag in the parade, chomping a hotdog at the picnic, and oo-ing and ah-ing at the fireworks, remember our country's best birthday present, our national parks, and their **Scottish Connection**.—from the websites of Wikipedia, the National Park Service, and the Sierra Club. Encore **Scottish Connection** from Grace Notes, July 2006.

"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild...I loved to wander in the fields to hear the birds sing, and along the shore to gaze and wonder at the shells and seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools when the tide was low; and best of all to watch the waves in awful storms thundering on the black headlands and craggy ruins of old Dunbar Castle."

John Muir

**This n That**

Craig Ferguson, recent Scottish immigrant & darling of late night talk shows, has recently released a memoir entitled *American on Purpose* about his early life in Scotland & immigration to America. It is available for purchase at book stores & online, or, more thriftily, you can borrow it from the public library. *Thanks to Jim Lucas for this tip.*

Willie Stewart, a Scottish film director, has just released a Deepwater Production *The Bruce Trilogy*. It is a 3-DVD boxed set about this fascinating historic character & the turbulent time in which his life was set. For more information, go to www.kingrobertbruce.co.uk, on which you may also view trailers of the film.

Long-time member of MSSI Dan Irvin, now an elder at his Presbyterian Church, went seeking access to some cloth in the Presbyterian tartan for a new kilt for him & sashes for several of the ladies of the congregation. What he got was a tartan adventure of rare entertainment. Ask him about it.

Dan also is seeking a used MacGregor kilt. He asks that you contact him if you have one you would sell to him.

Celebrate the Celtic New Year Samhain (Halloween) with a concert by the Brock McGuire Band from County Clare. Hosted by Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance, the concert will be held on Saturday, October 31st. For more info, contact long-time MSSI friend Robert Campbell, the Duke of Earle (Arkansas) and host of *Strands of the Celtic Knot* on WEVL. His Grace may be approached via earlduke@ipa.net.

Whisky Tasting From pg 1

23 year old GlenForclass, Glen-Morangh, and Glen Grant are some of the varieties offered for the sampling. None of these are available in your local whiskey 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 Gold Level sponsorship of Clanjamfry. 'Unfiltered' magazine, the publication for the Scottish Malt Whisky Society will be on hand to take pictures of the event for their publication in January. This is the first Whisky Tasting outside of the UK to be included in their publication. Congratulations Murray and St. John's it sounds like a fabulous evening.

**MSSI Directory Updates**

Kenneth Noe Phone Number:
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Lee Hutchinson email:
elh0520@gmail.com

If you missed the fabulous Ken Burns' series on American National Parks, aired by PBS in late September and prominently featuring our man John Muir, the DVDs are available from PBS via their website.





TO THE FAR LEFT IS JUST ABOUT THE CUTEST DOG PICTURE IN A BABY STROLLER! IMMEDIATE LEFT IS A PICTURE OF GAVIN ANDERSON'S SON GIVING A WHIRL AT TOSSING THE WEIGHT BELOW ARE A COUPLE OF SCOTTIES TAKING ON ALL COMERS.



BELOW LEFT IS ONE HAPPY LASS. BELOW ARE JOHN AND KATHY SCHULTZ WITH GEORGE MALONE





BELOW ARE A COUPLE OF LASSES FROM THE HONORED CLAN.



ABOVE IS A PICTURE OF THE CLAN AND SOCIETY ROW.
BELOW ARE A COUPLE OF OUR EXCELLENT VOLUNTEERS! WHAT AREN'T THE SIPLEYS' NEW MEMBERS? YES AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL FOR VOLUNTEERING TO MAN THE SOCIETY TENT FOR A SPELL ON SATURDAY



Clanjamfry Still Delivers

Ceilidh

Entering Brian's Hall with its gothic interior one would expect to see a royal table where the King and Queen dined while being serenaded by a minstrel. Friday's performances were fit for a King. The evening started with the Wolf River Pipes and Drummers, filling our hearts with Scottish pride with every note they played. Lindsay Recknagel bewitched us with her Scottish dance while her father, John played the bagpipes. Mary Ann Lucas humored us with her ghostly tales, and the Scottish Country dancers glided with grace. Geno Smith strummed the guitar and sang while Kara Kilpatrick struck harmonic notes on her dulcimer. Three members of the Evergreen Choir, Ben Tucker, Gregg Overman, and Carole Blankenship bedazzled us with their rendition of Wild Mountain Thyme. Julie Bailey and Walt Tennyson did a splendid job of hosting.

The Faire

A dark and dreary sky hovered over the grounds of Evergreen Saturday morning, but as if a gift from God, sunlight beamed from a clear blue sky by the time the gates opened. People browsed around the vendors while others visited the clan booths or watched the dogs herd sheep.

At noon, the Wolf River Pipes and Drums led the clans up the sidewalk. The honored Clan MacLean proudly processed at the front.

In the Heritage tent, Bruce Erskine, Bill Macquire, Chuck Bohannah, and members of the Chorale shared their talents whether playing an instrument, lecturing, dancing, or singing. Below on the Stage, Legacy and the Sallymacs performed. The young lassies of the Inis Acia School danced to a lively jig. At the food court, haggis and Scotch eggs were served along with hamburgers.

Laughter from children rose from the kiddie games.

Later that evening, Brian McNeill charmed us with songs and stories. A wonderful way to end an already wonderful day.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Another beautiful day provided by God. The clans paraded into the Evergreen sanctuary, each displaying clan flags and banners while bagpipes played. One person summed it up by saying, "Great sermon, great music, and great food."

Thanks to Elaine Meece for this submission.

A special thanks to the members of Evergreen Presbyterian for their efforts each year in putting on the "Scots" for the weekend.

The Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton: Rules*

Rules of The Bachelors' Club

- * Members must meet in Tarbolton every fourth Monday night to debate a chosen question
- * Religion is not to be debated at meetings
- * Members should take whichever side of the debate they agree with
- * At each meeting, new questions will be proposed by members for the next week's meeting. Members must vote for their favorite question and the most popular one will be chosen
- * At the end of the meeting the bachelors' mistresses are to be toasted
- * No private conversations are to be held during the debate
- * No swearing or bad language is to be used at meetings
- * No-one must tell anyone else about what is discussed at the club. It must remain a secret!
- * If secrets are let out, the member who has spoken out of turn will be dismissed from the club and other club members should not talk to him or treat him as a friend again
- * Members who don't give good excuses for not being able to attend three weeks in a row will be excluded from the club
- * The membership is limited to 16 people
- * All members must be bachelors (unmarried men) to begin with
- * No-one who thinks he is better than the others in any way can be a member
- * All members must be cheerful, honest-hearted lads
- * This set of rules is an abridged version adapted for pupil use. Could we use it?

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, October 12

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli: Poplar@Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.
6 pm Dinner
7 pm Program: John Schultz

Saturday, October 17

MSSI Halloween Party
St. Columba
5:30 p.m,

Thursday, October 22

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

Saturday, October 29

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

Thursday, October 30

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



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

**October 8: Patsy Seddon in
Conversation**
Celebrated for her innovative
contributions to The Poozies
and Sileas, harper and singer
Patsy Seddon joins Fiona for
a musical chat recorded at the
Perthshire Amber Festival.

October 15: Essential Celtic
How do you inject a Celtic
core into your music collection
that will reflect the past and
present, honouring the purity
of tradition and the spirit of
innovation? It's a tall order but
we have some suggestions this
week to enhance any collection.

October 22: In Full Voice
Traditional and contemporary
song is thriving, with quality
new releases coming out all the
time. Enjoy a full hour of strong
voices.

October 29: Local Heroes
Meet some musicians who are
best known on their home turf
as we relish taking their music
to wider audiences.

November 5: The Witness
Fiona talks with writer Jamie
Jauncey about the role of music
in his novel "The Witness."
Also a professional pianist
Jauncey shares the music of his
life, as well as introducing com-
positions inspired by the book.



I realize this isn't the best picture of the sheep, but don't they just make you reflect back on simpler times?

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, October 12th - Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 John Schultz. Scots Movies
Burns Nicht Committee -- October 22 @ 5:30 Cordova Public Library
Regular Board Meeting, October 30th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

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