

Christmas Party Heads Up

No, it's not too early to start thinking about the MSSSI Christmas Party, which will be held in lieu of our regular member meeting, on Monday, December 12th at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3245 Central at Greer. As befits the posh nature of this affair, it will be held, not in the gym-like Parish Life Center, but in the elegant Parish Hall on the west side of the church property. Come in your dressy togs with your fanciest dishes for an elegant potluck starting at 6 pm. (Suggestions by last name: A-D side dishes or veg, E-J breads or relishes, K-M meats or entrees, N-R desserts, S-W appetizers or salads, all BYOB.) Entertainment will commence around 7 pm and include all the traditional favorites, including a gender-appropriate gift exchange, \$5 max. New this year will be a Toys-For-Tots collection box and panto, traditional British Christmas mummery skits. More details at the November meeting and in the December Grace Notes. Board member Joe Lyle is in charge of the festivities and welcomes any volunteer assistance; contact him at 754-1811.



A PARTY WITH PLENTY OF BOO'S

In nearly perfect weather (though a little chilly right at the end) MSSSI ghosts, ghouls, and goblins gathered for a Halloween (Samhein to us Celts) fete. They fed on flesh provided and seared by President Bill Crump and assistant fiend Malcolm, along with all the fixin's, which this year included a platter of eyeballs and a sack of fingers assembled by Debra Sellmansberger. Her husband Joseph won first place in the adult costume contest, dressed as a haggis. (And you thought it took nerve to wear a kilt!) Elaine Meece took second place as a gypsy. In a surprising and happy outcome, all the under-18 costume competitors were awarded prizes.

Music filled the air as pipers Rick Clausi, Charlie Jester, and James Connelly began the evening's entertainment, and Board member Joe Lyle led a hearty sing-a-long. The Caledonian Chorale entertained with a selection of melancholy melodies, dreary ditties, and scary songs, while the youngsters in the crowd (including Linda Simmons) were treated to a surprise hay ride.

Since the extremely dry weather of late precluded any bon fires (with or without witch), party chair Diane Wade invited those gathered to write on scraps of paper any bad habits or ill luck from the past year and, in ancient Celtic fashion, commit said scraps to the fire, to burn them away for the new year. (It is with great relief that we are able to report that George Gregory was restrained from chucking his wife into the blaze.)

A grisly story about *baobhan sith* (BAA-van shee), particularly nasty Highlands vampires, was told by Mary Ann Lucas. Almost everyone took toasty turns backing up close to the fireplace to help round out the evening, after which all the witches and warlocks drifted away into the night.

Thanks to Diane and all who helped to make the party truly enjoyable!
See the shots on page 5!

YOUR MSSSI BOARD

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Joe Lyle.....754-1811

Diane Wade.....382-1402

Knights Templar

The Knights Templar were a monastic military order formed during the 12th century European crusades to the Holy Land. The Knights Templar became mythologized as guardians of spiritual secrets, such as the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail. Eventually, the wealth the order accumulated put them on a collision course with royalty and Rome.

In 1118 Hugh de Payen and eight other French knights founded an order of warrior monks whose aim was to protect pilgrims on the road to the Holy Land. The new order was granted quarters within the Temple of Solomon - hence their name, Knights of the Temple, or Templar. Whilst in Jerusalem, in addition to fighting for and protecting pilgrims, the knights also excavated under the Temple of Solomon. Evidence of digging has led to many theories of what they found - the most popular version being that they located the Ark of the Covenant. Less prosaic interpretations suggest they found scriptural scrolls, treatises on sacred geometry and details of ancient Judaic-Egyptian wisdom.

In 1127 the knights returned to France. They were gifted land by pious aristocrats to finance their rapidly growing order. Their wealth grew as they developed commercial interests in mines, quarries and vineyards. They had a fleet that outshone the largest state. But what the Knights Templar did most was build. The classic round Templar church, founded on octagonal geometry, is still regarded as the most obvious example of their building, but many observers see Templar influence in the vast gothic outpouring that occurred throughout the next hundred years.

They set the gold and silver standard for coin weight, and introduced the “note of hand” – a kind of 12th century credit card. Christians at the time were not allowed to charge interest on money, but the Templars got round this by charging “rent”. The order quickly became the richest bankers in Europe, lending to kings, princes and influential people across Europe.

In the early 14th century King Philip IV of France was heavily in debt to the Knights Templar. The King bribed the Pope to initiate enquiries against the order, which was subsequently charged with heresy. On a Friday the 13th, in October 1307, Jacques de Molay, the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, and 60 of his senior knights were arrested in Paris. (*Editor's Note: this is generally believed to be the source of the superstition linking Friday the 13th with bad luck.*) Across Europe thousands of Knights Templar were taken into custody. But when King Philip raided the Templar treasure house, he found it empty and the fleet gone from Larochele.

Anyone found sheltering a Templar was under threat of excommunication. Scotland was already excommunicated for Robert the Bruce's involvement in the murder of John “Red” Comyn. Since Robert the Bruce could not afford to turn away wealthy and powerful allies in his struggle against Edward I, it is not to fanciful to suppose that Scotland may have welcomed the homeless knights. French Masonic ritual seems to indicate that Scotland was designated as the place of refuge for the Templar treasures. It is a matter of fact that their land in Scotland was never seized.
(continued on next page)

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



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Some accounts even hold that the Knights Templar may have fought at Bannockburn. After that they apparently disappeared. Some commentators think that they never truly vanished but went underground. Some think they were quickly assimilated into different orders, such as the freemasonry.

Knights Templar started to re-emerge in the 18th century, and today the movement is pan-global with an enormous membership in Europe and America. The international order tries to focus on the less fanciful of Templar interpretations. For many people, however, the appeal of the Knights Templar will always be the lure of Templar Gold, The Ark of the Covenant, pre-Columbus journeys to America and, of course, the Holy Grail.

Knights Templar Timeline in Scotland:

1128 - Hugh de Payen, a relative by marriage to the St Clairs of Roslin, travels to Scotland where he stays with his relatives. The Templars are granted land – which becomes their headquarters in Scotland – at Ballontrodoch, now Temple.

1203 - The sack of Constantinople. Important relics looted and fall into Templar hands. The Orkney Crusade saw Scottish Templar families, including the Sinclairs, join the crusade.

1307 - 11 October, two days before the arrest of many Templar Knights, Templar ships leave at midnight from La Rochelle, probably heading to Scotland.

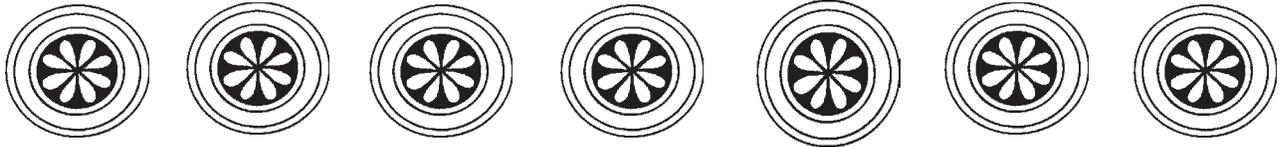
1311 - Bishop Lamberton of St Andrews gives the Templars his protection.

1314 - Possibility that Knight Templars fought at Bannockburn.

1790 - Alexander Deuchar revives the order in Scotland in an attempt to re-start a new chivalry.

DIANE MACLEAN — Scotsman.com February 8, 2005

(Thanks to Dan Irvin for sharing this article.)



Membership Notice

Your prompt attention to the following items is requested:

1) Your annual dues are due. Please remit them to:

Treasurer Faye Dalrymple
c/o Memphis Scottish Society
P. O. Box 241934
Memphis, TN 38124.

2) Burns' Nicht tickets are now available. See Faye about those too.

3) SAMS' annual raffle of fine hand-crafted weapons is underway. Contact Dan Irvin or any member of SAMS for more info.

4) Please pass along recommendations for individuals to be honored by the third annual Order of the Thistle and Order of the Heather awards at Burns' Nicht to *Grace Notes* staff or President Bill Crump. Last year's honorees were Bud & Lore Hisky and Gordon Abernathy.



Flowers of the Forest

Our deepest condolences are extended to long-time MSSI member Robert Scallions upon the loss of his mother last month.

[Editor's Note: "BookCrossing" is the process of leaving registered books in public places for others to find, read, and hopefully, leave in another public place for some other reader to find, and so on. The progress of such a book can be monitored on the Internet. Ask MSSI's own Mary Ellen Kemker or Mary Ann Lucas about BookCrossing.]

CLIMBING TWICE THE HEIGHT OF EVEREST TO RELEASE BOOKS

(Or Wild, Wild Releasing)

Some people like to release books at coffee shops, shopping centres, or other city centre locations, but none of these are places I frequent. Wild releasing for me means leaving books in truly wild locations in my beloved mountains here in the Highlands of Scotland.

Our Scottish mountains, at around 3-4,000 feet (900-1000m) may be small by comparison with larger lumps of rocks elsewhere, but height isn't everything. The high latitude (greater than 56 degrees north) and situation on the edge of the North Atlantic leads to some extreme weather and creates conditions for Arctic and Alpine plants to survive on the summit ridges.

On this small island of ours, climbing these mountains usually involves starting walking from sea level,

therefore creating up to 4000 feet (1000m) of ascent. Over the past three years I've left books on the summits of 18 of these mountains. About half of these releases have been journalled and some re-released on other mountains by the finders/keen walkers.

One of my earlier releases was on a local mountain called Ben Wyvis near to home. We were rather late starting out that day and all the way up the hill we met other walkers coming down. I admit I muttered and grumbled away to my long-suffering walking partner, complaining there would be no one left on the hill to pick up my poor book and rescue it. When we reached the summit plateau at 4 p.m., we were alone and only saw



two other people on the hill as we made our descent. I laughed out loud when, one week later I got a journal entry for that book. It had been picked up by three crazy guys who'd climbed the mountain at midnight, because they "felt like doing something a bit mad".

Two of my books have been picked up by keen hikers, journalled and re-released on other mountains. High on a Cliff hopped around a couple of mountains in Scotland, but my favourite catch is for the copy of Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*. I left this on a wee hill and the finder promised to leave it "on a much bigger hill....." They certainly kept their promise as the book was released on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,335ft/ 5,895m), the highest mountain in Africa. Two years after the release note for Uhuru Peak, Kili, I was delighted to hear from the book again, as it was journalled by a German doctor doing voluntary work in Tanzania.

Quite apart from these outstanding wild catches, I've had a much higher rate of journalled catches for the books left on mountain summits and in mountain huts, with over half of them being reported. As a fellow BookCrossing hiker (or is that hiking BookCrosser?) said to me, "hikers are such lovely, trusting people... they are willing to pick up stray books". It's true. Give it a go. Who knows? You may become as addicted to it as I am. Just because it's there.

By BookCrosser Sheila from Inverness, also as known as swan-scot October 12, 2005 ©2001-2005 BookCrossing.com All Rights Reserved

Officer Nominations in Progress

In accordance with MSSSI By-laws, Seldon Murray, Rick Clausi, and McWhorter, as the nominating committee named at the October meeting, are charged with selecting a roster of nominees to stand for election to the Board of Directors for 2006. They will announce their recommendations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three At-Large positions at the November member meeting; any member in good standing (that is, one who has paid his annual dues) may also nominate candidates from the floor at that time. Want to serve as a Board officer? Know someone who would? Contact one of the committee. Thanks and *Bon Chance* to them in this crucial task.



Scenes from MSSSI Halloween Party



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Occasionally any one of us might get tidbits of news that we'd like to share with other MSSSI members. When those get passed along to *Grace Notes*, they'll appear under "**HAVE YOU HEARD?**" MSSSI member Debra Parmley passed along one such tidbit this month: she has written a Western historical romance novel and entered the manuscript in a contest sponsored by *Romantic Times*, the benchmark of review publications in the field. Her news? The manuscript made the cut into the final competition category! The winner receives a publishing contract.

For more info, contact Debra at 937-2196 or www.debraparmley.com.

Scottish Connection

Ah, November! When the temperature has (at long last) dropped to a pleasant nip in the air and we all break out our comfort clothes: hat & caps, scarves, sweaters, gloves, and, oh, yes, socks knitted warm and thick enough to make your toes purr! Did you know those socks have a Scottish Connection?

Most experts believe that the first socks were made of animal skins, which our Stone Age ancestors tied around their ankles. By the 8th century B.C., Greek poet Hesiod wrote of *piloi*, socks made from matted animal hairs. The Romans began by wrapping their feet in strips of leather or woven fabric, but by the 2nd century A.D. they were wearing *udones*, which were sewn from woven fabric and pulled over the foot. It was in Egyptian tombs of the 3rd-6th centuries A.D. that the first real knit socks were discovered; alas, the art and custom of knitting socks had also been entombed until the tombs were excavated in modern times.

In Europe in the Dark Ages, socks were strips of cloth or hide that were wrapped around the legs and feet (called *leggings* then and now, although they are rarely seen today except in dress uniforms). In the Middle Ages, the legs of pants became longer and more fitted, worn over *hose*, a fitted cloth that covered the lower leg. When breeches became shorter, hose began to get taller, and around the twelfth century feet were added to those hose. Around 1490 breeches and hose joined and were made as one garment, forming *tights*. These were made of colorful silk, wool, and velvet, frequently with each leg a different color.

Knitted hose was developed and worn in Scotland around the turn of the 15th century, and then was adopted into use in France. A mechanical device for knitting socks was available as early as 1589, although the most treasured socks were hand-made. (And still are!)

A word about *Argyle socks*: they are not from Scotland! It is true that the distinctive diamond pattern was derived from the original hosiery worn with Scottish tartans or plaids, but these were cut from the same cloth as the kilt, only on the bias so that the squares on the kilt became diamonds on the stockings. The socks are not related to the Clan Argyll (note the different spelling) per se. So, why are they called that? One noted word-ologist speculates that they were first knitted (in American, by the way) in the colors of the clan, hence the name (though spelled differently to avoid exclusive rights issues). Argyles became popular in the Roaring Twenties and 1930, especially with knee pants.

So, next time you're treating your feet to the embrace by a pair of knitted socks, remember their Scottish Connection.

(The above was taken from *Horsefeathers & Other Curious Words* by Charles Earle Funk; Modernman.com; Lonelysock.com (check out one of the subtlest pieces of political satire you'll ever encounter at this site, under "The Missing Sock"); and the Oxford English Dictionary.)



Genealogy Notice

Kathy Schultz, our liaison with the Tennessee Genealogical Society, reports that their October meeting was, as she was told, the "last for this year". She assumes their meetings will resume with the fourth Sunday afternoon (their customary date) in January, that is, January 22, 2006. Because of when they announce their monthly meeting topics, it is difficult for her to get the info in to Grace Notes in time for it to appear in the issue before the next TGS meeting, so Kathy suggests that probably the best thing would be to contact her at 754-2419 or kathyschultz@earthlink.net in January to see if she has found out the topic.

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*
- Nov 14..... Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I 240 PROGRAM: "Scottish Roots of Scouting" by Dr. Ben Kempker 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.*
- Nov 6 Massing of the Colors 3:00 pm Holy Communion Episcopal*
- Dec 12 MSSI Christmas Party*
- Jan 21, 2006 Burns Nicht*

Thistle and Shamrock

November 3 — Live Vibe

From Old Blind Dogs in the Midwestern U.S. and The Chieftains in Dublin, to Skolvan in Italy and Skyedance in Spain, this week's live recordings prove what we already know: Celtic music has worldwide appeal.

November 10 | Canadian Celts

Fresh sounds from rising Canadian artists including Beolach and Slainte Mhath builds upon the considerable foundation laid down by such Canadian greats as Mary Jane Lamond and fiddler Natalie MacMaster. We hear MacMaster's Cape Breton dance music live in its natural environment: the square dance at Glencoe Mills Hall.

November 17 | Celtic Roots Down Under

Australia and New Zealand have thriving Celtic communities led by bands Colcannon and Rua, and instrumentalists such as Peter Neumegen, Mark Sanders, Dougal Adams and Ormonde Waters. Australians Luke Plumb and Steve Cooney have made the return journey to the northern hemisphere, settling to make fine music in Scotland and Ireland.

November 24 | Made in America

Travel from the 1920s to the 1970s, listening to field recordings of Irish traditional music in the United States. Some recordings from the '20s feature Irish master musicians who influenced players for the remainder of the 20th century, including Michael Coleman and James Morrison. By the mid-'70s, a large number of artists were keeping their repertoires alive in American homes and music bars. They included Mick Moloney and Liz Carroll, who also play for us this week.

December 1 | Pipes 101

Irish uilleann pipes, Scottish lowland pipes, and bagpipes from Brittany and Galicia are all cousins to each other, and to the most celebrated of all, the great highland pipes of Scotland. We'll hear the various bagpipe brands and listen through the wild and exciting music in the hands of Davy Spillane, Kila, Carlos Núñez.

Treasurer's Corner

Balance (8/25)	\$ 7,945.10
Deposits	\$.00
Withdrawals	(\$ 664.12)
Ending Balance	\$ 7,280.98
Savings Acct	\$ 3,029.39

Faye Dalrymple
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Oakland, MS 38948
662-623-7394

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Peter Marshall, the native Scot who became chaplain to the US Senate, is worthy of our fondly bringing him to mind, not only for having developed the much beloved Kirkin' o' the Tartans, but for some dandy, quotable sound bites, too. Here's one that suggests he had experienced a lot of interaction with other Scots (or maybe with lots of Senators!): "Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with."



You
meet
the
nicest
people
in a
clan
tent!

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
Nov 14th - Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Nov 10th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-40 and Summer**

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
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