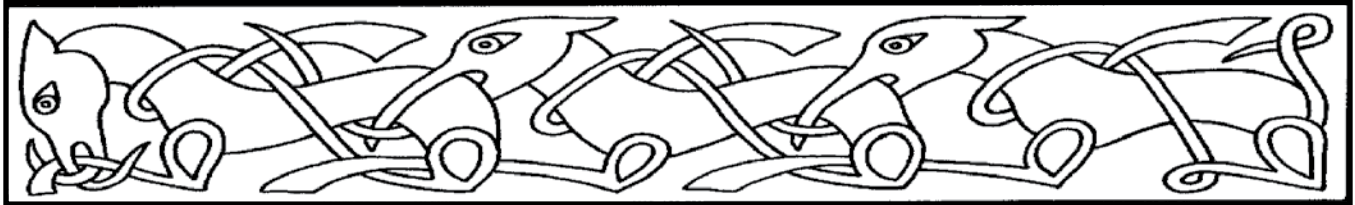


GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23, No. 11

November 2007



The Loyal and Royal Order of the Kirk Announces The Third Annual Whiskey Tasting

The bagpipes will pipe and the Knights Templar will guard the precious Usquebaugh as the Verger will announce the parade of the six featured scotches. This year we will feature "The Finest Usquebaugh" from The Scotch Malt Whisky Society of Edinburgh Scotland. These scotch's sisters have been highly rated by Michael Jackson in his book "The Complete Guide to Single Malt Scotch (5th edition)". The single barrel, single malt whiskeys are unique, very rare, extremely expensive, and quite a tasting treat. We will explore how it's made and how to taste the finer qualities of very old cask strength scotch. Featured will be scotches as old as 10 to 30+ years from the lowlands, and the islands, to the highlands of ancient Alba. A fine Scottish buffet will also be had, featuring Scottish Salmon and other Scottish food delights to the beautiful music of Brenda McGuire and her Celtic harp. Come and join us as we sit among the roses of Robert Burns and enjoy Scotland's finest Usquebaugh (Gaelic for waters of life)

The Tasting will be held on Thursday November the 8th 2007 at 6:30 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Cost is \$75.00 per person. Reservations are most important. Call Seldon Murray at 753-6565. Scottish attire is welcome but not required. Gentlemen here is the chance to wear your kilts and trews in style! Ladies don't let the Gents out shine you!

Profits of the tasting go to support the St. John's "Kirkin o the Tartans" and Clanjamtry 2008.

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

It is totally amazing that the prolific author of some of the most thrilling tales of swash-buckling adventure, including *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*, was a bed-ridden invalid most of his life. A further wonder is that this same genius gave us both the tender & endearing *A Child's Garden of Verses* and one of the darkest and most threatening of psychological horror stories *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

This genius author is, of course, Robert Louis Stevenson, and we observe his birthday in November, as well as celebrate his **Scottish Connection**.

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, or RLS as he is known to his worldwide fans, was born in November 13, 1850 at Edinburgh. His entire life was overcast by his physical frailty ("weak lungs", probably tuberculosis), which frequently confined him to his bed as a child. He referred to this portion of his life as "the land of the counterpane" (i.e., a bedspread).

Much of this time was spent in the house of his grandfather, a professor of moral philosophy and a minister. While so confined, his nanny read to him from the Bible and the lives of the Covenanters. Through careful scheduling of summers outdoors and winters inside, his health was coaxed along to the point that he could be enrolled at age 17 into the University of Edinburgh, so as to follow his father into the strenuous career of engineering lighthouses.

Fortunately for the world of literature, he proved to have only a mediocre skill in science and to be totally lacking in the stamina necessary to that profession. However, on the tours his father took him on to

acquaint him with the environment of lighthouses, he gained the lifelong inspiration of the sea, sailing, and exotic ports of call. Being greatly skilled, however, as a word smith and rhetorician, he convinced his father to let him pursue a career in writing, but this permission was conditional on young Robert's first securing a degree in law "to have something to fall back on." By his 25th birthday Robert had hard won this degree, but the stress and toil of these studies took such a toll on his health that he never recovered from it.

In attempts to find a climate supportive of recovering his health, he moved from Scotland to England to France, and during this period (1880 – 1887) wrote all those works mentioned above, a tremendous amount considering that his lung affliction had progressed to the point that he was daily coughing up blood in spite of constant doses of the best medicines of that time. Then, on advice of his physician he

again sought a favorable climate and planned a move to Colorado. In route Robert, his mother, wife, and family were caught by an early winter and suspended their journey at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. There RLS began work on *The Master of Ballantrae*, which he finished after finally settling in Samoa in 1890, again, in an attempt to find a supportive climate. He attempted twice to return to Scotland, both plans scuttled due to his declining health.

The natives loved him and sought his advice on diverse matters, including the politics and economics of the islands, then under colonial rule by Europeans. He was convinced that these professional politicians were incompetent and did not act in the best interests of the native inhabitants. Failing to prevail in his attempts to ameliorate the plight of the native Samoans by conventional means, he wrote *A Footnote to History*, a work so biting in its criticism that two government officials were recalled

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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), 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*



Celtic Fest 2007

The Celtic Society of West Tennessee announces its second annual Celtic Fest, to be held on Saturday, November 3, at the Casey Jones Village in Jackson, Tennessee. The event will go from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. There will be many Celtic artists and vendors on site, as well as Highland Cattle

and Shetland Sheep demonstrations. The mainstage (on the amphitheatre) will be the site of many wonderful performances, including our own Caledonia Chorale singing Celtic folksongs, Elaine Meece singing Irish songs, and Mary Ann Lucas storytelling. Other performers include Needfire, Will Tell, David

Corbet, a bagpiper from Marion, Arkansas, and Kristina Melendez, Highland Dancer extraordinaire. Cara Ann Phillips and Sheila Hart-Mitchell will round out the program. Admission is \$5.00, and we are reminded to leave the coolers and animals at home!

St. Andrew's Day Tea

MSSI members and guests are invited to the 2007 St. Andrew's Day Tea which will be held on Saturday, **December 1, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at Crumpets Tea Room on Highland.** Because of limited seating, it is advised that all who would

like to attend make their reservations early. The cost of the tea is \$25 with proceeds going to the MSSI Scholarship and Grant Fund. It will be a full cream tea/high tea with light entertainment. Gentlemen are most welcome to attend.

Please make your reservations early by sending your check to Sue Malone, 10134 Serenity Drive, Lakeland, TN 38002. For more information, you may contact Sue Malone at 385-1938 or Mary Clausi at 753-9494.

Banner this around a bit:

This is a banner year for the Memphis Scottish Society. In fact, the board has decided we should have our own banner for Clan walks and other such events that may require a banner. So in order to illicit the best design possible from our Membership or from potential members,

we are offering as incentive a free ticket to Burns Night to the winner of our banner design contest. The banners should be in the shape of a flag, 3ft X 5ft, so that they may be displayed in different ways. So get out your pens and pencils and draw us up something special or, do it in one

of those fancy drawing programs on your computer, and turn it in to one of our board members. Either way, we will accept, review and then choose the one that is most representative of our society's goals. All designs submitted by Dec. 15th, 2007 will be considered.

MAMA News

Mark your calendar for Saturday, **Nov 10**, for the return of guitar master Richard Gilewitz. If you like Leo Kottke's music, this is YOUR concert. Otherlands Coffee Bar 8

pm. This concert will mark the tenth anniversary of the Memphis Acoustic Music Association. Come celebrate with us!

Gilewitz is conducting a

fingerstyle guitar workshop earlier that day from 2 - 4 at Fiddler's Green Music Shop. 901-684-2227 for details. mamamusic.org 901-726-1010 hotline



Christian Brothers University

invites you to

A JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN ISLES OF SCOTLAND

Photographs by Greg Lawhon

In the foyer of the Beverly & Sam Ross Gallery (lower level of Plough Library) through Dec. 6th

“The title of this exhibition is from a well-known book of the same name, first published in 1775. For 83 days in the late summer and fall of 1773, Dr. Samuel Johnson, the famous English essayist, poet, critic, and lexicographer, traveled around Scotland, from Edinburgh to the Isle of Skye and back, with his friend and

future biographer, the Scot James Boswell. Boswell met Johnson in London and tried for years to get Johnson to visit his homeland. At age 63, Johnson finally relented and visited Scotland. Johnson was so well-known at the time that his tour of Scotland was considered a pretty big deal. My photos cover much of the same territory traveled by Johnson and Boswell (Edinburgh and Skye, and a number of points in between).”

A Milestone Burns' Nicht

Our 2008 Burns' Nicht to be held on Saturday, January 26, will mark an important milestone for Memphis lovers of Scots culture: the twenty-fifth consecutive celebration in Memphis of the bard's birthday.

The first Burns' Nicht was held in January 1984 at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. It was sponsored by the Memphis Scottish Country Dancers. It was the vision of their teacher, Dr. Pete Douglass, to draw together Mid-South lovers of Scotland and its national poet, with the aim of leading to the formation of a new Scottish society for our area. This goal was attained later that spring with the organization of the Memphis Scottish Society, and Dr. Douglass was elected our first President.

This year's Burns' Nicht will once again be held at Woodland Hills. The Patrons' Reception will be from 4:30 till 6:00 PM with dinner served at

7:00 PM. The evening includes all the traditional elements mandatory for Burns' Nicht: the presentation of the haggis, Burns' "Ode" in its homage, Toasts to the Lads and Lasses, "The Immortal Memory," and "Auld Lang Syne," along with the skirl of the pipes, the flash of the kilt in spirited dancing, and the well-loved songs and poems of Burns. Our entertainment will be provided by the talented local group "Celtic World". More details to follow in next month's "Grace Notes."

Tickets are \$50 for members, if ordered by December 31, \$60 for non-members, \$70 for Patrons and \$100 for Benefactors. There is a \$10 discount for seniors over 65. Tickets must be purchased by January 19th. Send ticket requests to Burns' Nicht, c/o Memphis Scottish Society, P.O. Box 241934, Memphis, TN 38124-1934, or call 901-757-4200 for more information.

We Thank Thee Lord

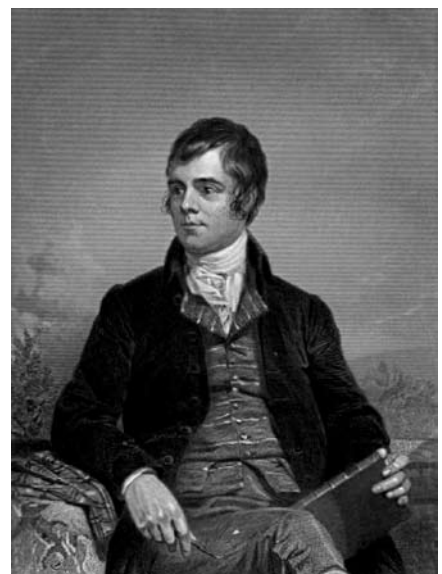
Behold our family here assembled. We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies, that make our lives delightful; and for our friends in all parts of the earth. Let peace abound in our small company.

Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Give us the grace to accept and to forgive offenders. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune, and, down to the gates of death, loyal and loving one to another.

Robert Louis Stevenson, see picture on page 3.

Robert Burns



Continued from pg 2

from their posts and RLS feared he would be deported.

The turmoil eventually died down, but in a private letter to a friend

Stevenson claimed, "I used to think meanly of the plumber; but now he shines beside the politician."

In 1894 he suffered from the great-granddaddy of all writer's blocks and struggled so hard to overcome it that he once again strained his health and feared a return to the invalidism that had prevailed in his youth. This prospect was abhorrent to him. He wrote, "I wish to die in my boots; no more land of counterpane for me. To be drowned, to be shot, to be thrown from a horse – ay, to be hanged rather than pass again through that slow dissolution."

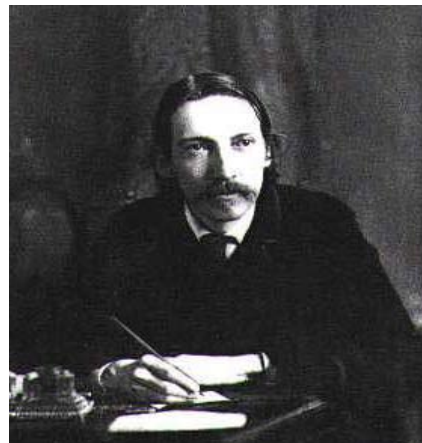
He overcame the writer's block by dint of will and began *Weir of Hermiston*, a piece "so good that it frightens me". Buoyed by what he considered the best work of his life, he claimed "...sick and well, I have had a splendid life of it, grudge nothing, regret very little...take it all over, I would hardly change with any man of my time."

He was spared "that slow dissolution" that he so dreaded. As one biographer puts it, "During the morning of December 3, 1894, he had worked hard as usual on *Weir of Hermiston*. During the evening, while conversing with his wife and standing to open a bottle of wine, he suddenly fell to the ground, asking 'What's the matter with me? What

is this strangeness? Has my face changed?' He died within a few hours, probably of a cerebral hemorrhage, at the age of 44. The natives insisted on surrounding with body with a watch-guard during the night, and on bearing their Tusitala (Samoan for "Story Writer") upon their shoulders to nearby Mt. Vaea and buried him on a spot overlooking the sea. A tablet was placed there, which bore the inscription of his "Requiem", the piece he always had in intended as his epitaph:

'Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.
This be the verse you grave for me:
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.'

His home and burial site are maintained by the Samoan government in their state they were in at the time of his death and are visited by thousands every year.



Many modern anthologists and critics discredited his work, which was written for popular entertainment and did not conform to the prescribed strictures of classical literary fiction. None of his work appears even by reference in the 2000+ page *Oxford Anthology of English Literature*, compiled in 1973. The current benchmark of all English-language literature, *Norton's Anthology of English Literature*, excluded him until its eighth edition, published in 2006. Critics today are in the vanguard of a renaissance of regard for his work, comparing him to Joseph Conrad and Henry James. In the prestigious *Index Translationum* which ranks authors by the amount of their work translated into other languages, RLS is 25th, ahead of Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, and Edgar Allen Poe. His work has always, however, been held in high regard by both readers and famous and successful writers: he was claimed as a major influence by Rudyard Kipling, the afore-mentioned Conrad, and Ernest Hemingway.

So next time you encounter one of the dozen or so films versions of *Kidnapped*, refer to someone as a Jekyll-and-Hyde, notice your "little shadow", or snuggle under your own counterpane, remember Robert Louis Stevenson and his **Scottish Connection**.

– Thanks to Kathy Schultz for suggesting this article, which was taken from numerous websites, including www.wikipedia.com, and many more

The Massing of the Colors

The Massing of the Colors will be 4 November 2007 at 1500 hours at the Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis. Color Guards from all the services, SROTC and JROTC and patriotic organizations will be there with music provided by the Christian Brothers High School Band.

WKNO Art Auction

Sunday-Nov. 11th 3:30 – 8:00 PM

Our Scottish Society will be on the air again manning the phones for WKNO and getting a plug in for our society at the same time. Let me be the first to thank those that have

volunteered to spend the afternoon there, I am confident we will have a good time as we help with their biggest art auction night. In fact they have contacted us and said they would like for us to be dressed in our finest as the evening is considered “formal”. If you haven’t volunteered yet, we could use a few more warm

bodies as we need 10 people on the phones at all times. It is nice to have a replacement for those necessary moments. Please contact Sammy Rich at 272-7159 if you are willing and like to have a good time. Come help us to put our best face forward on the TV!

Gerry O’Beirne House Concert

“Gerry O’Beirne is a renowned singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist (6 and 12 string guitar, tiple, and ukulele, slide guitar among others).”

**Date/time: Sunday, Nov 11, 2007:
Social, 6:00 & Concert 7:00
Venue: chez Nancy A. Chase,**

M.D. @ the HOUSE in E. Memphis, not the condo on the river bluff. Don’t let the street name fool you - it will be a long trip back and you’ll miss the food and drink!
Address: 450 River View Road, Memphis, TN, 38120 (This is east of the I-240 loop, and the River is the WOLF, not the Mississippi!! The house is off of Shady Grove E. and just west of Humphreys Blvd,

near Baptist Women’s Hospital)

**Phone: RSVP to the office (901) 287-4150, M-F, 8-4
E m a i l / W e b s i t e :
C h a s e N a n @ A O L . c o m
Entry Donation: \$15 at the door**

For more information about Gerry O’Beirne, please visit gerryo-beirne@yahoo.com

St. Andrew’s Day Tea

Start your holidays off with the St. Andrew’s Day Tea to be held Saturday, December 1, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Crumpets on Highland Avenue. Come join us for a delightful afternoon in a pub-like atmosphere. Men are encouraged to attend. The

event will be highlighted with a full cream tea and background music.

Please contact Sue Malone, 385-1938, for further information. There is limited seating and all reservations must be paid in advance to have a guaranteed reservation. The cost will be \$20 per person. Thank you,

Mary C.



Annual December Party (formerly known as the Christmas Party)

in lieu of our regularly scheduled Monthly Members’ Meeting on December 10th, we will hold our annual Winter Holiday Party. It will feature the customary aspects – a gala pot luck (featuring your best holiday recipes), an exchange of \$5 gifts, a collection of children’s gifts for the USMC’s Toys-for-Tots campaign, music, and dance – and maybe a surprise or two. WE WILL

NOT MEET AT THE HOLIDAY INN FOR THIS MEETING: stand by for the announcement of a different location. So, whether you celebrate the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Hogmanay, or New Year’s Eve, mark your calendars now. Contact Board Vice President Mary Ann Lucas 725-1879 for more info or to volunteer to help.

Your 2007 membership expired on September 30. To re-new membership send in dues of \$20 per family, \$17 per individual, \$10 for military or student. Note: this year the membership rosters are being built from scratch: they will not be carried over from last year’s roster, so only those who send in their dues will appear on the roster.

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

Thursday, November 8

Whiskey Tasting. Contact
Seldon Murray 753-6565.

Sunday, November 11

WKNO art auction
3:30 - 8:00 PM

Monday, November 12

Regular monthly meeting,
Holiday Inn Express,
Poplar @ I-240.
Dinner reservation required
by November 8th; call 757-4200
or go to memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: Scotland 101:
Culture part II
Science, engineering,
inventions, sports,
food, dialect

Thursday, November 29

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

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



November 1, 2007 / Soundtracks

From the epic "Rob Roy" and
"Braveheart," to the intimate
"Songcatcher" and "Heartlands,"
hear the contributions made by
Celtic music to many of today's
cinema soundtracks.

November 8, 2007 /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.

November 15, 2007 /Best of the Best

Vintage collection "The Very Best
of the Claddagh Years" to "Dusk
till Dawn" which spans the two-
decade career of Capercaillie, we
feature "best of" compilations this
week

November 22, 2007 /Viking Inva- sion

A hoard of Viking treasure un-
earthed in Yorkshire has been
proclaimed the most important
discovery of its kind in Britain for
150 years. We mark the find with a
haul of new Nordic music.

November 29, 2007 /Miles of Isles

From the Northern Isles of Shet-
land and Orkney to the Hebrides,
the Isle of Man, and Rathlin Island
off the Northern Irish coast, this
week's diverse choice of music is
insular only in the geographical
sense. Hear Fiddler's Bid, Maggie
MacInnes, William Jackson, and
more

Copyright 2007 NPR/Fiona Ritchie

Pretty cool place for a Halloween party!



Next Monthly Meeting - November 12th - Dinner Reservations by 11/08, 757-4200 or online www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.
Board Meeting, Thursday, November 29th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.



The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 241934
Memphis, TN 38124-1934

