

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 24. No. 11

November 2008

It's Tea Time!!

The scones & tarts & wee-teensy sandwiches & fancy cakes & tea blends galore of a high cream tea await those attending the new & improved St. Andrew's Day Tea set for Saturday, November 29th (yes, that's the Saturday after Thanksgiving) from 2:30 - 4 pm at Crumpets, 262 South Highland. (Catchy address, huh?)

Besides the classy eats & infusions, one can expect a brief brief on Scotland's beloved patron saint, some lovely music, and convivial conversation. Tickets may be obtained from Mary Clausi (753-9494) or Sue Malone (385-1938) for \$26 (see map on page 3 and related article on page 4).

Remember: the December meeting will be our **annual Christmas Party**. It will be held at Neshoba Unitarian Church at 7350 Raleigh Lagrange Road, though on our usual 2nd Monday (December 8th) and at our usual time, 6:00. Contact Jackie Garner (386-3269) for details or questions or to volunteer.



Halloween Recap

The hardy few who braved the elements to attend our annual Halloween Party were met with a hearty repast in the form of barbecue from Pig & Whistle, as well as a generous potluck, especially of desserts. Drinks, which were also pot-lucked by those with initials S through Z, included "AB-Negative" and "Nouveau O", as well as sodas and chocolate milk (hurrah!) to go with freshly popped corn.

Best costumes were worn by Geoffrey & Elaine Meece, a pair of elaborate scare-crows, and Dena Warth, a Bow-Peep whose wee sheepee dangled from the back of her skirt.

Attendees, including, Debbie Sellmansberger, Elaine Meece, and Lou & Jackie Garner shared personal ghost stories.

Songs from the Chorale and the party itself were cut short by the cold, despite a roaring fire in the fireplace. Incidentally, the traditional witch trial and burning was nixed both by the cold and by the fact that a heavy dew rendered the witch non-flammable. The best laid plans....

Marshmallows roasted over the fire on the tines of a rake finished up the party, a perfect ending to an enjoyable night. See Geoff & Elaine on page 3.

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

When the election is over, you might feel it's safe to turn your TV on again. Did you know that television has a Scottish Connection?

John Logie Baird is credited with inventing the 1st working TV system. Though such a complicated device owes its final success to many, Baird's was the first. He also contributed heavily to the development of color TV and TV cameras. His demonstrations of early TV transmissions in 1924 – 1926, his color transmission in 1928, and his long-distance TV transmission (via telephone line) secure his place among the icons of 20th century inventors.

Baird was born in Helensburgh, Argyll. He attended the Glasgow & West of Scotland Technical College (now University of Strathclyde) and the University of Glasgow, but he left school during World War 1.

Some of his early attempts at invention are notable in their colossal failure. His attempt to create diamonds by heating graphite shorted out Glasgow's entire power supply. He invented a glass razor which never rusted but, alas, did shatter. He invented pneumatic shoes (modeled after pneumatic tires) which, unfortunately, burst (just like pneumatic tires). One of his early successes was the Baird undersock, a thermal lining he used to warm his own cold feet. He also invented significant developments in video, fiber-optics, infrared night viewing, and radar.

His highest achievement, though, was the television which he crafted from "an old hatbox and a pair of scissors, some darning needles, a few bicycle light lenses, a used tea chest, and a great deal of sealing wax and glue."

The current climate of TV programming, especially "reality" TV shows, would probably not have pleased Baird. His son Malcolm told a reporter "had his father known how TV would turn out in sixty years time, he would have dropped it and turned to other inventions." (And who could blame him!)

As lingering mark of Baird's acclaimed invention, the Australian Television awards are named the "Logies" in his honor.

So, next time you're flipping through 225 channels and find that nothing's on, remember John Logie Baird, his television, and their Scottish Connection.

Compiled from excerpts of bairdtelevision.com, wikipedia.com, and electricscotland.com

The nominating committee for MSSSI has met and selected (recruited) the following individuals to be the slate of officers for 2009. They are:

President - Mary Ann Lucas

Vice-Pres - Sammy Rich

Treasurer - Lou Garner

Secretary - George Malone

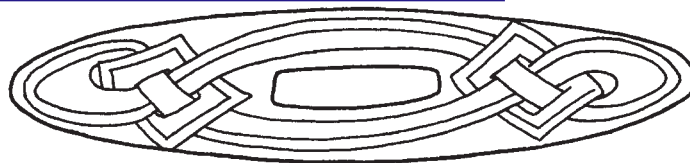
Members-at-large:

Becky Trafford

Sue McDoniel

Geoffrey Meece

The membership will vote on this slate at the November meeting and the new officers will be formally introduced at Burns Night on January 24. Thanks to Ben Kemker, David Corbett, Sheena Rose, the members of the nominating committee for this outstanding board. Please be ready to assist your new officers when the need arises.



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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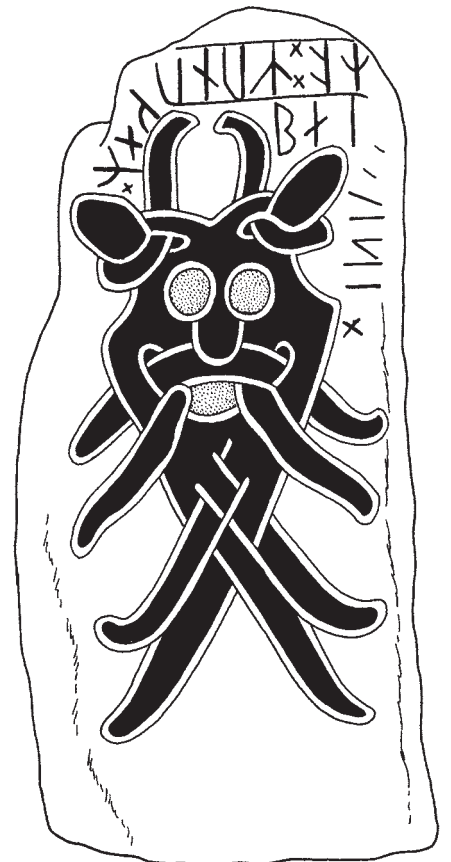
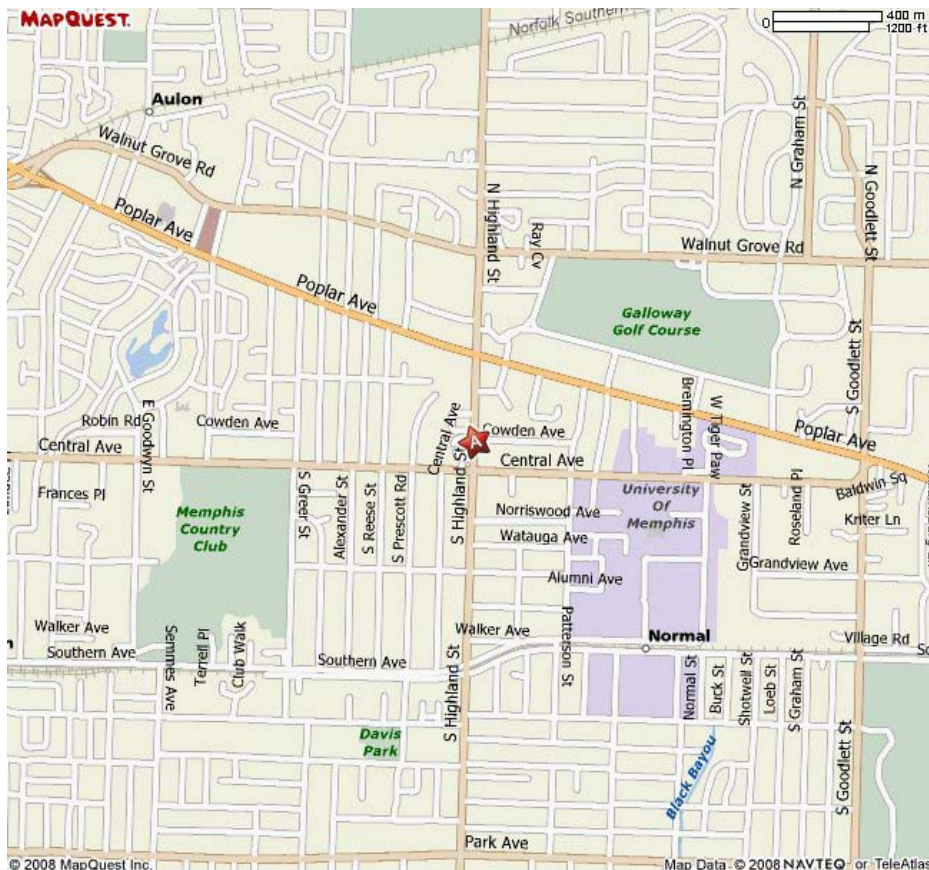
to foster education and
promote understanding of
things Scottish



Geoffrey & Elaine Meece, pictured to the right, got into the spirit of the costume contest at the Halloween party and came as a pair of matching scarecrows. Pretty Scary Huh? Other notables costumes were Little Bo-Peep, a vampiress, and a couple of witches. We all were not afraid because the great white hunter was there to protect us all! Nice costumes from several of our members.



St. Andrew's Day Tea Map 262 S. Highland



Tea anyone?

It took until the late Victorian era before Americans took to tea drinking. After all, it had only been “four score and seven years” before the defining events of 19th Century America that tea drinkers were most unpopular here, might even have been thrown overboard right along with their leaves, which had become an unfortunate symbol of the tyrannical taxation of the King.

But take to it they did, and therein lay the rub: there was nothing but confusion for the hapless Colonist who wished to ape the quality of Mother England in the observance of tea. For example, the time of “tea time” could be any time from mid-afternoon until well after dark. The nature of the menu? “Light”, whatever that may have meant to the genteel host or hostess. Who drank tea? In England, all ages and strata of

society and both genders did, while in America tea was seen as a sissy drink, not fit for a rough-and-tumble, hard-working population, until well into the 1900s.

What was meant by the meal of “tea”? It could be a family supper with the children (who, in Victorian custom, rarely were in the company of adults, the proverbial “seen, but not heard” ideal) or it could be the lighter evening meal of those who had “dinner” at midday. It could also be the light repast intended to tide over those whose supper was not to be until the fashionably late hours of 8 to 9 pm. It could be the snack served to afternoon callers or a meal so substantial it was really a very late lunch. It could be served in almost any room – the parlor, library, conservatory, office, even the kitchen – any room, that is, except the dining room.

It may have been simply the consumption of the goodies with elite conversation or of such extensive entertainment as to merit the name “musicale”. It may also have served to launch a relative, newly come into the community, into polite society or to acquaint a celebrity with one’s social circle.

And if the Yank had not been put off the idea entirely and he had struggled through all this ambiguity, consider that fashion re-defined what any of these aspects of “tea” meant with great, ahem, irregularity.

Thanks to Louis Garner for forwarding this information from Victorian Homes just in time for us to have our St. Andrew’s Day Tea well-informed.

Does anybody recognize this delightful little cottage found online?

It is a Bothy, maintained by the Mountain Bothy Association along with about 50 others strewn across various regions of Scotland and Wales that can be used for overnight stays by groups to up of six people. Any more and the facilities are a wee bit crowded. Life was much simpler in the days when these huts were kept full of the fee’d workers that worked the fields for their lairds and stayed in at night. The most common way of staying warm was to burn a peat fire which had to be cut regularly to offset the bitter cold found in this part of the world. The great thing about these Bothies is that they generated a whole new genre of Scottish folk songs which are simply known as “Bothy Ballads”. If you are lucky

enough to have your ticket for the St. Andrew’s Day Tea, then you can hear authentic Bothy Ballads performed by



one of your very own members. The ballads are generally known for their comedic and sharp sense of humor towards their fellow workers, their bosses and anyone else they could afford to memorialize with a song and a bit of wise-ass humor. Virtually no

one was immune, especially a mean land-lord who was too tight with his food and provisions.

The Bothies are now a treasured glimpse into Scotland’s past and I would highly recommend anyone who is traveling there and hardy enough for a good walk to try and find one of these and stay in it overnight.

If only the walls could talk. I can imagine a room full of young men singing lustily with and to one another, each trying to out-do the other. What a great form of entertainment and a wonderful way to spend an evening with some of your comrades.

See the rules for the use of the bothies on the next page. SRich

BOTHY RULES

Respect other users
Please leave the bothy clean, tidy and with dry kindling for the next visitors.

Respect the bothy
Guard against fire risk and don't cause vandalism or graffiti. Please take out all rubbish which you don't burn.

Avoid burning rubbish: this pollutes the environment
Please don't leave perishable food, this encourages mice and rats.

Respect the surroundings, human waste must be buried carefully out of sight.

Please use the spade provided.

For health reasons never use the vicinity of the bothy as a toilet. Keep well away from the water supply.

Conserve fuel. Never cut live wood.

Please Note:

Bothies are available for short stays only. Permission should be obtained for longer visits.

Unless the safety of the group requires the use of shelter in bad weather, bothies are not available for groups of 6 or more because of overcrowding and the lack of facilities such as toilets.

For the same reasons groups are asked not to camp outside bothies.

Groups wishing to use a bothy should seek permission from the estate

Finally, please ensure the fire is out and the door properly closed when you leave.

Bothies are to be used at your own risk.

Five Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

No more buying whole cakes and watching them go bad or over eating because you don't want to throw it away. One Mug is enough for two servings, unless you are really in the mood for chocolate. The Men out there can fix this and the teenagers will love it. You can make it any time in 5 minutes, that includes total time, mixing and microwaving. You could probably even substitute Splenda for the sugar.

4TB Flour (plain flour, not self-rising)

4 TB sugar

2 TB Hershey's baking cocoa

Dash of vanilla

1 egg

3 TB milk

3 TB oil

3 TB chocolate chips (optional)

3 TB of chopped nuts (optional)

1 large microwave safe coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to mug and mix well.

Add the vanilla, egg, milk and oil to mug and mix well.

Add the chocolate chips and/or nuts. Mix well.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes (1000 watts)

The cake will rise above the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed, it will not run down sides of mug, But will drop back down when Microwave stops.

Allow to cool a couple of minutes and tip out onto a plate if desired. Let cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar, or serve with cool-whip or ice cream or drizzle a spoonful of canned frosting over top.

Super Easy!!





Dowie Dens of Yarrow

There was a lady in the north, I
ne'er could find her marrow;
She was courted by nine gentlemen,
And a ploughboy lad from Yarrow.

2. These nine sat drinking at their
wine, Sat drinking wine at Yarrow;
They made a vow among
themselves To fight with him on
Yarrow.

3. She's washed his face, she's
combed his hair As oft she's done
before Gave him a brand down by
his side To fight for her on Yarrow.

4. As he walked up yon high, high
hills, And down the glens so narrow
Nine armed men lay waiting him
Upon the braes of Yarrow.

5. It's three he wounded, three
withdrew, And three he killed on

Yarrow, Till her brother, John, came
in behind And pierced his body
thorough.

6. "O father, dear, I dreamed a
dream, I fear it will prove sorrow.
I dreamed I was pulling heather
green On the dowie dens of
Yarrow."

7. "O daughter dear, I read your
dream, To you it will prove sorrow;
Your true love John lies dead and
slain On the dowie dens of Yarrow."

8. As she walked up yon high, high
hill, And down the glen so narrow,
Twas there she found her true love
John, Lying cold and dead on
Yarrow.

9. She washed his face, she combed
his hair, As she had done before o,

And she kissed the blood from off
his wounds, On the dowie dens of
Yarrow.

10. Her hair it being three quarters
long, The colour it was yellow,
She wrapped it round his middle
so small, And carried him home to
Yarrow.

11. "O daughter dear, dry up
your tears, And weep no more for
sorrow.
I'll wed you to a better man
Than the ploughboy lad of Yarrow."

12. "O father dear, you've seven
sons, You may wed them all
tomorrow,
But the fairest flower among
them all, Was the lad I wooed on
Yarrow."

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

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

Fridays

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

Monday, November 10

Monthly Meeting Jason's Deli
Poplar and Highland. For
directions call 757-4200 or go to
memphisscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Program:

Clifford McWhorter: St. Andrew

November 9

Massing of the Colors

Church of the Holy Communion

November 11

Memphis Veteran's Day Parade
10 AM

Thursday, November 27

Board Meeting at 5:45 at Perkins
on Germantown Parkway

November 29

St. Andrew's Day Tea
2 - 4:30 PM

Crumpet's on Highland between
Central and Poplar

Contacts: Sue Malone or
Mary Clausi

December 8

Annual Christmas Party
contacts: Jackie Garner

January 24

Burns' Night
contact: Melissa Gibson
299-3170

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m.

-1.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

Nov 6: Thistlepod intros...

new releases podcasts to hear full
tracks introducing emerging artists'
brilliant debuts.

Nov 13: Heart of the Session

From Matt Molloy's pub in County
Mayo, Ireland to Edinburgh's
famous folk bar "Sandy Bell's," we
celebrate the sound of communal
music making.

Nov 20: St Andrew's Ceilidh

Celebrated throughout the world
by anyone with Scottish connec-
tions, St. Andrew's Day is a time for



ceilidhs and music-fuelled fun. We
hear dance music from traditional
bands and innovators, songs that
make you want to dance, and Connie
Irvine walks you through the steps
of a Scottish Country Dance anyone
can do!

Nov 27: A Visit with Jean Ritchie

Travel with us to the North Caro-
lina's Blue Ridge Mountains and
Warren Wilson College, home to the
Swannanoa Gathering series of folk
arts workshops. A legendary figure
in American music joined the Gath-
ering during its "Traditional Song
Week" launch: Jean Ritchie, born
and raised in Viper, Kentucky in the
heart of the Southern Appalachian
Mountains. Jean was an important
figure on the New York folk scene
in the 1950s and is credited with

reviving interest in the mountain
dulcimer, once a regional folk instru-
ment only. In her long career, she
has recorded more than 30 albums,
published 10 books and won numer-
ous awards, including the nation's
highest honor in folk and traditional
arts: the National Endowment for
the Arts National Heritage Fellow-
ship. Join our intimate audience at
the Swannanoa Gathering and meet
songwriter and collector, dulcimer
player and singer, Jean Ritchie.

December 4: Roots Run Deep

Musical Communities coast-to-
coast in the U.S. and Canada show
their roots with great traditional
fiddling, expressive singing, and
ear-catching blends of American
and Celtic music.



Cathedral ruins in St. Andrews, Scotland. In the middle is St. Rule's Tower. A climb up the narrow, spiraling stairway to the top affords glorious views of the town.

It is said that in it's day (12-14th century), it may have been one of the largest cathedrals in Europe and was certainly one of Scotland's largest buildings. Sadly, its ruination was due in large part to the Protestant Reformation.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, November 10th
Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Clifford McWhorter on St. Andrews
Board Meeting, Thursday, November 27th at 5:45, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

GRACE NOTES
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