

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 25 No. 12

Dec 2009

MSSI CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009

Mark your calendars for Monday, December 14 at 6:00PM; instead of our regular monthly meeting, we will gather for a gala holiday fete at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 2000 N. Germantown Parkway.

The evening will begin with an elegant pot-luck feast. Suggested offerings by initial of your last name are: A-D, side dishes or vegetables; E-J, breads or relishes; K-M, meats or entrees; N-R, desserts; and S-W, appetizers. Remember, you need not feel limited to these suggestions. The club will furnish tableware and non-alcoholic drinks; BYOB.

As did the wise men of old, we will come bearing gifts: new, unwrapped toys to be given to the Marine Corps's Toys-For-Tots program. Also we will again indulge in the annual Prove-You're-A-Real-Scot \$5 gift exchange. Bring a gender appropriate gift to exchange (that is ladies bring a ladies gift and men a manly gift), COSTING NO MORE THAN \$5.

For entertainment, the Caledonian Chorale will perform some of their traditional Scottish Christmas selections and lead us in a sing-along.

There will be games (with prizes) and this year there will be contest for the table with the most beautiful or unusual centerpiece. So rummage through your Christmas decorations and put together your best centerpiece. There will be a nice prize for the winner. Let Becky Trafford (385-7628 or rtrafford@comcast.net) know if you wish to enter the contest and she will assign you a table.

And like Scrooge's visiting Spirits, we will do it " all in one night". So come prepared for a "right gude-willie waught" of fun, food and fellowship. See ya there!

Burns Nicht 2010

Are you looking forward to an evening of pipers, dancers, and live music with Ed Miller singing your favorite Scottish songs? I am, and hope that you are as well. It is shaping up to be another big success like all of them in the past. If you have never been a patron or a benefactor, then consider doing so

this year. The food is always special and it gives you the chance to sup on some fine Scottish Whisky. Not to mention , Just getting to be there a bit earlier than the crowd so that you have more time to mingle with your favorite Scots.

cont on back page



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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

One would seldom have occasion to think of Gilbert Stuart, iconic American portraitist, and Derby, England, in the same sentence, but December is a pivotal month for both, and both have a significant Scottish Connection.

Derby is an English city of 233,700 population, currently the 18th largest settlement in England. The city gave its name to a great horse race, and since then, almost any kind of race has been called a "derby". Indirectly, the "derby" hat (called a "bowler" in the U.K.) also took its name from the city, from its initial prevalence among the ladies' hats worn at the Kentucky Derby.

Bonnie Prince Charlie set up camp at Derby on 4 December 1745, whilst on his way south to seize the British crown. The prince called at the inn where the Duke of Devonshire had set up his Hanoverian headquarters and demanded quarters for his Jacobite 9,000 troops.

While in Derby, the Prince stayed at Exeter House, where he held his "council of war". (A replica of the room is on display at Derby Museum in the city center.) There he received misinformation about an army coming to meet him south of Derby. Although he wished to continue with his quest, he was overruled by his fellow officers, many of whom were not Scots nor had any understanding of British ways of thinking. The Rising of '45 was abandoned a few miles south of Derby. As a testament to his belief in his cause, the Prince - who on the march from Scotland had walked at the front of the column - made the return journey on horseback at

the rear of his bedraggled, tired, and hungry troops.

Each year at the beginning of December, the Charles Edward Stuart Society of Derby leads a weekend of activities culminating in a parade through the city center and a battle on Cathedral Green. See photo of Bonnie Prince Charlie on next page.

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755 in Rhode Island. His father was Scottish immigrant Gilbert Stewart, a merchant & snuff manufacturer. He was tutored in painting in America by Scottish portraitist Cosmo Alexander, who took Gilbert at age 16 to Edinburgh to finish his studies. Unfortunately, Alexander died shortly after they arrived there, and young Stuart was left penniless and without a sponsor. He returned home for 2 years, then went to England to study for 6 years under American Benjamin West, portraitist to George III.

Upon his return to America, Stuart set out to make his fortune painting George Washington's portrait, and his definitive portrait of Washington gained him the wealth & fame he sought. (It still appears on the US \$1 bill.) Sadly, of Stuart it was said, "... he painted and accumulated debt with equal vigor", & despite his commercial & critical success, he died in great debt & was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave in Boston.

So, next time see or wear a derby hat, attend a derby race, or spend a \$1 bill, remember Derby, England, and Gilbert Stuart and their Scottish Connection.

Gilbert Stuart's unfinished 1796 painting of [George Washington](#), also known as The Atheneum, is his most celebrated and famous work. Please see some of his works on the 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), 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*



Someone we all should know.



"The Skater" by Gilbert



Self-portrait by Gilbert Stuart



Seeking to enliven their portraits, some painters reiterated their sitters' real-life parlor behavior and polite accomplishments. Responding to a commission from Dublin's distinguished Foster family, Stuart enlisted the pastime of embroidery to help tell a story.

He puts on display the teenaged Anna Dorothea, a marriageable aristocratic girl in want of a good match—perhaps even love—and lets her expert sewing skills carry the narrative. He shows her working on a tambour frame, which indicates that she has graduated from mere samplers to significant projects suitable for framing or use in upholstery.

In contrast, he portrays her cousin Charlotte Anna Dick in profile, as befits a younger not-yet-marriage-age lass who serves merely as an accomplice to Anna Dorothea's dual tasks of embroidering and of finding a husband.

A statue of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Derby, England



Bits of Scotia

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day

flyting \FLYT-ing\ *noun*

Meaning – a dispute or exchange of personal abuse in verse form

Example Sentence

In the first flyting in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Beatrice wittily responds to Benedick's line "What, my dear Lady Disdain! are you yet living?" with "Is it possible Disdain should die while she hath such meet / food to feed it as Signior Benedick?"

Flyting in 15th-and 16th-century Scotland is analogous to a modern-day rap competition during which rappers improvise clever disses and put-downs against their opponents. Similarly, the makars (a Scottish word for "poets") engaged in verbal duels in which they voiced extravagant invectives in verse against their rivals. The base of "flyting" is the ancient verb "flyte" (also spelled "flite"), meaning "to contend" or "to quarrel."

The Birth of the Kilt

By popular request, the YouTube video shown at last month's meeting is being offered for your viewing pleasure.

So turn on your computer and go to www.youtube.com and then in the search box of Youtube type The Birth of the Kilt. Hit the search button and Michael McIntyre's BBC comedy show should come up! Enjoy.

Oatmeal Cake

Ingredients

1 ¼ c boiling water	
1 stick oleo or butter	
1 c instant oatmeal (=3 small packets)	1 c brown sugar
1 c less 3 T granulated sugar	2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla	1 ½ c flour
1 tsp baking soda	1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp salt	

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour boiling water over instant oatmeal and let stand for 20 minutes. Cream together the oleo (or butter), brown sugar, and white sugar. Add eggs, vanilla, and oatmeal. Blend in flour, soda, cinnamon, and salt. Pour into a 9x13 inch pan and bake for 35 minutes.

Frosting: 1 can evaporated milk 2 c brown sugar
2 c flaked coconut 1 stick oleo or butter
1 c chopped nuts

Combine all ingredients. Spread over cooled cake and place under broiler for 3 minutes, or until the frosting is slightly browned.

NOTE: I left out the coconut (not everyone is a fan!) and halved the other ingredients. Frost the cooled cake and do not broil. Thanks Sue Malone for this recipe. Will we see it at our Christmas party?

The Scottish Country Dance group is branching out this fall and doing a mixture of dances from all over the British Isles. In addition to Scottish Country Dancing we will now offer Irish Country Sets and English Country Dance. Beginners are always welcome and encouraged. All dances will be taught and called as needed. The dance will be in the Fellowship Hall at Idlewild Church, beginning at 7:30 pm. A Beginner's session is offered at 7:00pm. Please join us. Contact Brenda Maquire for further information. 274-1889

The Jonesboro based "North-east Arkansas Caledonian Pipes and Drums" is pleased to announce the 2nd annual "BURNS NIGHT" dinner and awards banquet to be held: Saturday, January 30th at 6pm First Presb.Church, Jonesboro. Cost is \$20/adult, \$10/ child (under 12) Tickets to go on sale, Friday Oct 30. The event is a fundraiser for the band, helping to purchase equipment and training for the coming year. For more information, contact: David Corbett [901.233-2903 fireham@yahoo.com] or any band member. www.neacpipes.com



St Andrew's Day Tea 2009

Our newest annual event was attended by 28 people. 14 Members and 14 guests, all potential members in my mind.

Sammy Rich provided entertainment playing background music on the piano and then performed songs for each table. Mouth Music was the most frequent request.

Sue Malone really outdid herself this year and brought 9 guests to the tea. Thanks Sue.



Above are two of our members, Rebecca and Kenneth Muska of Millington, TN.



Lottie Rich with her grandmother, Dottie Marcinko of Auburn, Al. I believe I see Frank and Becky Trafford in the background.



Frozen Scotch Whisky to be Rescued.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) - A beverage company has asked a team to drill through Antarctica's ice for a lost cache of some vintage Scotch whiskey that has been on the rocks since a century ago.

The drillers will be trying to reach two crates of McKinlay and Co. whiskey that were shipped to the Antarctic by British polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton as part of his abandoned 1909 expedition.

Whyte & Mackay, the drinks group that now owns McKinlay and Co., has asked for a sample of the 100-year-old scotch for a series of tests that could decide whether to relaunch the now-defunct Scotch.

Workers from New Zealand's

Antarctic Heritage Trust will use special drills to reach the crates, frozen in Antarctic ice under the Nimrod Expedition hut near Cape Royds.

Al Fastier, who will lead the expedition in January, said restoration workers found the crates of whiskey under the hut's floorboards in 2006. At the time, the crates and bottles were too deeply embedded in ice to be dislodged.

The New Zealanders have agreed to try to retrieve some bottles, although the rest must stay under conservation guidelines agreed by 12 Antarctic Treaty nations.

Fastier said he did not want to sample the contents.

"It's better to imagine it than to taste it," he said. "That way it

keeps its mystery."

Richard Paterson, Whyte & Mackay's master blender, said the Shackleton expedition's whiskey could still be drinkable and taste exactly as it did 100 years ago.

If he can get a sample, he intends to replicate the old Scotch and put McKinlay whiskey back on sale.

"I really hope we can get some back here," he was quoted as telling London's Telegraph newspaper. "It's been laying there lonely and neglected. It should come back to Scotland where it was born.

"Even if most of the bottles have to remain in Antarctica for historic reasons, it would be good if we could get a couple," Paterson said.

Order of the Thistle and Order of the Heather Awards

Once again it is time to nominate members for the Order of the Thistle and the Order of the Heather. Affectionately known as OOT and OOH, these honors are awarded by the Grace Notes staff and are the highest awarded in our organization. The nominee for the Order of the Thistle should be a relative newcomer (under 5 years) to the society, and the nominee for the Order of the Heather goes to a long-time member of MSSJ. Nominations for each award should be based on this person's willingness to serve the society and promote its goals both within MSSJ and in the community at large. Previous honorees are:

Order of the Thistle

2004 - Diane Wade
 2005 - Gordon Abernathy
 2006 - Lee Hutchison
 2007 - Dena Warth
 2008 - Cheryl Noland
 2009 - David Corbett
 2010 - ??????

Order of the Heather

2004 - Bill Crump
 2005 - Bud & Lore Hisky
 2006 - John & Kathy Schultz
 2007 - Emily Smith
 2008 - Dick & Pat Bevier
 2009 - Rick & Mary Clausi
 2010 - ???????

Please contact any member of the Grace Notes staff to make your nomination for either of these awards. The honorees will be announced at Burns Night.

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

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



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

Thursday, January 7

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

Monday, December 14

MSSI Annual Christmas Party
St. Luke's Lutheran
For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.
6 pm Dinner.
7 pm Program: Christmas
Party

Thursday, December 17

*Board Meeting and Burns
Nicht Committee at 5:45*
St. Lukes Lutheran
2000 N Gtown Pkwy

Thursday, January 14

Burns Nicht Committee
5:45 - St. Lukes Lutheran
2000 N Gtown Pkwy



December 10: New Anthems

The process is mysterious, has nothing to do with critical acclaim, and builds momentum over years. Some songs then eventually capture the hearts of people from all walks of life who claim them as their own. Hear the Celtic anthems that inspire mass choruses in pubs and sporting venues, and the ones that may do so in years to come.

December 17: Connemara

Best known for the Grammy winning "Riverdance," Bill Whelan has played with legendary band Planxty and produced records for U2. His 'Connemara Suite' was written for traditional musicians

in a chamber orchestra setting.

December 24: Nollaig

Hear traditional carols, along with seasonal favorites, dance tunes and verses that have all become a part of the traditional Irish and Scottish Christmastide.

December 31: Raise a Glass

Many a fine song has been sung around the table to celebrate the company, lament the parting, and toast whatever lies ahead. Hand over your car keys and join in with Tony Cuffe, the Voice Squad and Robin Laing as we raise a glass to the New Year.

*Burns Nicht 2010 continued
from page 1*

I know everyone including myself is busy selling tickets to our Burns Nicht to be held on January 23rd at Woodland Hills, and that everyone is also busy accumulating items for the silent auction. Last year we raised a significant amount of monies for our scholarship fund with the excellent contributions and participation by our many members and guests.

This year we are planning for an equally large turnout of items and folks, and we want to be sure

we have the goods to sell them. Do you have a service that you can contribute? Pipers can give a blaw, singers can sing, sewers can sew, storytellers can tell stories or even if you just wish to offer a scrumptious dish that you like to prepare or are particularly good at. All of these ideas work. The catch is it is really important to let me know ahead of time what the donations are so I can be prepared the day of, or at least as much as possible.

This particularly applies to donations from businesses, since we have told them that they will be listed in our silent auction bro-

chure with their company name, address and other contact information. I need to have this information 48 hours before hand so I can prepare the brochure that will be our way of showing appreciation to these businesses. If a business has a logo and wishes to send it to me, that can be included in the silent auction brochure as well. Of course they will also receive a tax deduction for these gifts. Your preparedness and cooperation are appreciated with this regard.

Sammy Rich, silent auction

Meeting - Monday, December 14th - St Luke's Lutheran , Dinner-6:00 Program @ 7:00
MSSI Christmas Party, pot luck, Decorate a table with a fabulous centerpiece for prize.

Board Meeting and Burns Nicht Committee -- December 17th @ 5:45 St Luke's Lutheran
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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