

## Special Guest Speaker at March Meeting

We are afforded a rare opportunity at this month's member meeting. Dr. James P. Cantrell will address us on the subject of his newly released book *How Celtic Culture Invented Southern Literature*.

Dr. Cantrell first sensed that the Celtic cultural heritage was the primary source of Southern culture while researching his master's thesis. After learning the Gaelic and Cymric (Welsh variation) languages—in order to specialize in Irish literature while working toward his M.A. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Dr. Cantrell recognized many surnames of Celtic origin common to his native Middle Tennessee, a region primarily settled by immigrants from Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Further reading about Celtic folk culture revealed social behavior similar to what he knew from his own upbringing in the hill country. Dr. Cantrell pursued his theory, despite surprisingly strong opposition from some academics, and found further evidence in the writings of many great Southern writers, including William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Margaret Mitchell and Pat Conroy. *How Celtic Culture Invented Southern Literature* disproves the common perception, prevalent in American universities, that the culture of white Southerners springs from English, or Anglo-Norman, roots.

Dr. Cantrell will autograph copies of his book purchased at the meeting (\$29.95 plus tax). There will also be a signing at Davis Kidd on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.

Be sure you plan to attend Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. (...and remember to make your dinner reservations by Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>.)

## FROM THE D-I FILES

Dan Irvin, our intrepid reporter, has scouted out these interesting stories for our interest and edification:

Gilmerton Cove, a subterranean warren of rooms and tunnels whose secret entrance lies ten meters (some thirty-odd feet) below the streets of Edinburgh, was used in the mid-seventeenth century as a family residence, but its very size and complexity suggest that its existence and uses reach much further back in time.

Blacksmith George Patterson claimed to have carved the Cove out of sandstone from 1719 to 1724. We do know that he housed his family there until 1737 and, according to church records, operated a pub in one of its chambers. But in 1897 Assistant Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland F. R. Coles researched the Cove and concluded that it could not have been hewn out by only one man in a mere five years, suggesting that Patterson inherited Cove essentially intact and only added finishing touches like its stone "furniture".

So, what is the origin of Gilmerton Cove and how was it used? Speculation includes the failed start of a mine. Others suggest it was a secret meeting place for Freemasons, for a coven of witches, or for those persecuted for their religious beliefs. These last could have been Covenanters or Roman Catholics, depending on when such a use was made of the Cove. (continued on page 2)

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But the finding of two small bolt holes out of the complex raise even more elaborate conjectures. One of these secret passages heads straight to Rosslyn Chapel, which lies only a few miles away. The link to Rosslyn leads inevitably to the theory that these linked chambers and tunnels were in fact the site of secret meetings of the Knights Templar. From there, it's only a small step to the intriguing possibility that Gilmerton Cove was the true resting place of the Holy Grail.

—from Diane MacLean, Scotsman.com, February 9, 2006

Nothing says “San Francisco” better than its fabled cable cars, but did you know those cars have a **Scottish Connection**?

Engineer Andrew Smith Hallidie immigrated to the west coast just in time to work as a miner during the Gold Rush of 1849. After designing and patenting metal-wire ropes based on his father's inventions, he took the rewards of his mining efforts (which he described as “just enough to starve on”) and relocated to San Francisco. There, on a stormy night he witnessed a heavy horse-drawn carriage give way on a steep and slippery cobbled street, pulling five of its dray horses to their deaths.

Hallidie saw in this tragedy the pressing need and applicability of his mining engineering expertise. His efforts yielded the Clay Street Hill Railroad, the first of its kind in the world. After achieving fame for the success of his cable car, Hallidie branched into bridge building – including the Klamath River bridge at Weitchpec, California – and writing, mostly texts on education and civics.

His original cable works were devastated by the catastrophic earthquake of 1906, but live on in the current cable works, which continue in use essentially unchanged from Hallidie's initial design.

So, next time you're riding up one of San Francisco's vertiginous streets on a cable car (or eating ‘ding-ding’ Rice-a-Roni®), remember its **Scottish Connection**.

— from Craig Howie, Scotsman.com, November 18, 2005

James Morrison, president of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, has announced the formation of a Scottish caucus in the Congress, to be known as Friends of Scotland Caucus.

Morrison, whose column, “Embassy Row” appears in *The Washington Times*, says the caucus is now registered in the House of Representatives, and so that means it is an official caucus.

Members are as follows: Mike McIntyre (D-NC), John Duncan (R-TN), David Scott (D-GA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Jim Matheson (D-Utah), Brad Miller (D-NC), Candice Miller (R-MI), and Henry Brown (R-SC). Additional information may be obtained from Morrison at [jmorrison@WashingtonTimes.com](mailto:jmorrison@WashingtonTimes.com).

— from Duncan MacDonald to Carl Schnecke to Gloria Hamilton to Margaret Rothermel to our own Dan Irvin.

## 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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### Grace Notes

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.  
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*to foster education  
 and promote  
 understanding of  
 things Scottish*



## Scottish Connection

Did you notice at this year's Burns Night that, besides all our traditional tartans, there were many examples of another lovely pattern, the paisley? Those paisleys have a **Scottish Connection**.

The word 'paisley' is world famous as the name of the teardrop or tadpole shape pattern, used on everything from haute couture to a whole range of everyday domestic goods and gift items. It is perhaps less well known as the name of a large burgh or town in Scotland. The pattern did not actually



originate in the town, and only became associated with Paisley, Scotland after a long journey through time and across oceans and continents.

It can be traced back to the Indo-European cultures of 2,000 and more years ago. In Britain, the pattern is represented in Celtic art,

which died out in Europe under the influence of the Roman Empire. However, in India the motif continued to flourish in many different art forms. It was first used on shawls in Kashmir, and examples of this work were brought back to Britain by the East India Company in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Shawls quickly became the vogue, but they were in short supply and enormously expensive! As a result they were imitated by British textile manufacturers who sold them for a tenth of the price. The Indian motif itself was reinterpreted and developed to conform to European taste. The impact was dramatic. Imitation Indian shawls were so popular that the weaving centers in Edinburgh, Norwich and Paisley were swamped with orders. To this day, the patterned shawls remain fashionable, and the term 'paisley' is renowned throughout the world.

So the next time you put on a paisley shawl or necktie, remember its **Scottish Connection**.



## TOAST To The Lassies

*by Jon McCalla at 2006 Burns Night*

I want to thank Bill Crump and the Burns' Night Committee for the opportunity this year to offer the toast to the Lassies. Last week, while going through some old photographs at my mother's home in Rosemark, Tennessee, I came across an early draft of a portion of the family history by one of my cousins, Nell McCalla. Nell was the unofficial family historian for many years and pursued, with considerable enthusiasm, the family history including the event that brought my great, great, great grandfather, Samuel McCalla, to the United States in approximately 1798. His story, and the story of his wife Mary and their son Robert, is a story of romance, undying love and devotion and eventual reunion.

Samuel McCalla was one of the "Irish rebels" in the Irish uprising of 1798. His family was originally from Dumbartonshire in the southern Scottish Highlands on Gare Loche. His ancestors had been part of the immigration from Scotland to northern Ireland beginning in the plantation period under James I in the early 1600s.

Samuel McCalla was born in County Antrim in 1773 and at age 21 married his wife Mary in 1794. They had a son Robert. [Samuel, like many good Scotch Presbyterians, became a member of the United Irishmen. The United Irishmen were created to attempt, politically, to stop the erosion of the rights of both the Scottish Presbyterians living in northern Ireland and the Irish Catholics as a result of a withdrawal of certain rights and representations that had been granted to all of those living in Ireland during the period of the American Revolution.]

By 1796, it became apparent to those seeking permanent reform in Ireland, that a military alternative might be necessary in order to secure their liberties. By 1798, an uprising had begun which was put down in a series of battles including the Battle of Vinegar Hill. Samuel McCalla was captured in that battle and escaped hanging by the good fortune of someone having removed his rank designation. Many of his comrades were executed but he was given the option, even though he had a small son and a young wife, of seven years in the King's service (either the British army or navy) or deportation to the British West Indies. Because the King's service, under those circumstances, was a virtual death sentence, he chose deportation with the possibility of being sold as a bondsmen (indentured servant) in the tropical plantations of the British.

Fortunately for Samuel the market for indentured servants collapsed and, in a relatively short period of time, after deportation, he was able to make his way to Charleston, South Carolina. There, he was able to receive land grants, and gradually developed several farms. He also supported himself as a haberdasher.

For the period from approximately 1798 until 1817, he wrote his wife Mary regularly and sent money to pay for her passage, along with their young son Robert, to the Carolinas. Mary faithfully waited for Samuel in County Antrim and, when the Napoleonic wars finally ended, and when some of the mail actually got through to her, she and Robert departed Ireland and arrived in Charleston in the fall of 1817, where she was reunited with her husband, Samuel.

By that time, Samuel's son Robert, was a grown young man, and Mary and Samuel had moved from their early years to their senior years. There is little doubt, however, that Samuel and Mary were happy to at last be together. Samuel lived only another seven years, dying in 1824 and Mary lived only a short few years more. Robert then sold the family properties in South Carolina and began the journey that took him through Georgia, to Lincoln County, Tennessee and ultimately to Rosemark where he died in 1861.

Samuel and Mary McCalla's story is a story of true love, persistence in adversity, and devotion. Mary McCalla represents all the virtues of love and caring that each of us look for in a spouse, a sweetheart, and best friend. It is hard not to note that throughout the years, McCalla men have often selected Marys to be their wives. My father married Mary Catheryne Phipps and I married Mary Mason Rainey.

So this is a toast to all the lassies and to my Marys in particular. Gentlemen, raise your glasses and salute our spouses and sweethearts. **May we never forget their love and loyalty, may we always remember their trials and tribulations, and may we hold them close and treasure them always. To the Lassies.**

## Response (Toast to the Lads)

by Mary McCalla

Thank you, Jon, for that loving toast. As all of you can see, we have chosen the tumultuous real side of relationships as our theme for both of our toasts this Burn's Night. It is to the deep and abiding relationships in our lives that we pay tribute this night. So this is my toast to the laddies.

Will all the Lassies please stand and charge your glasses.

### GENTLEMEN

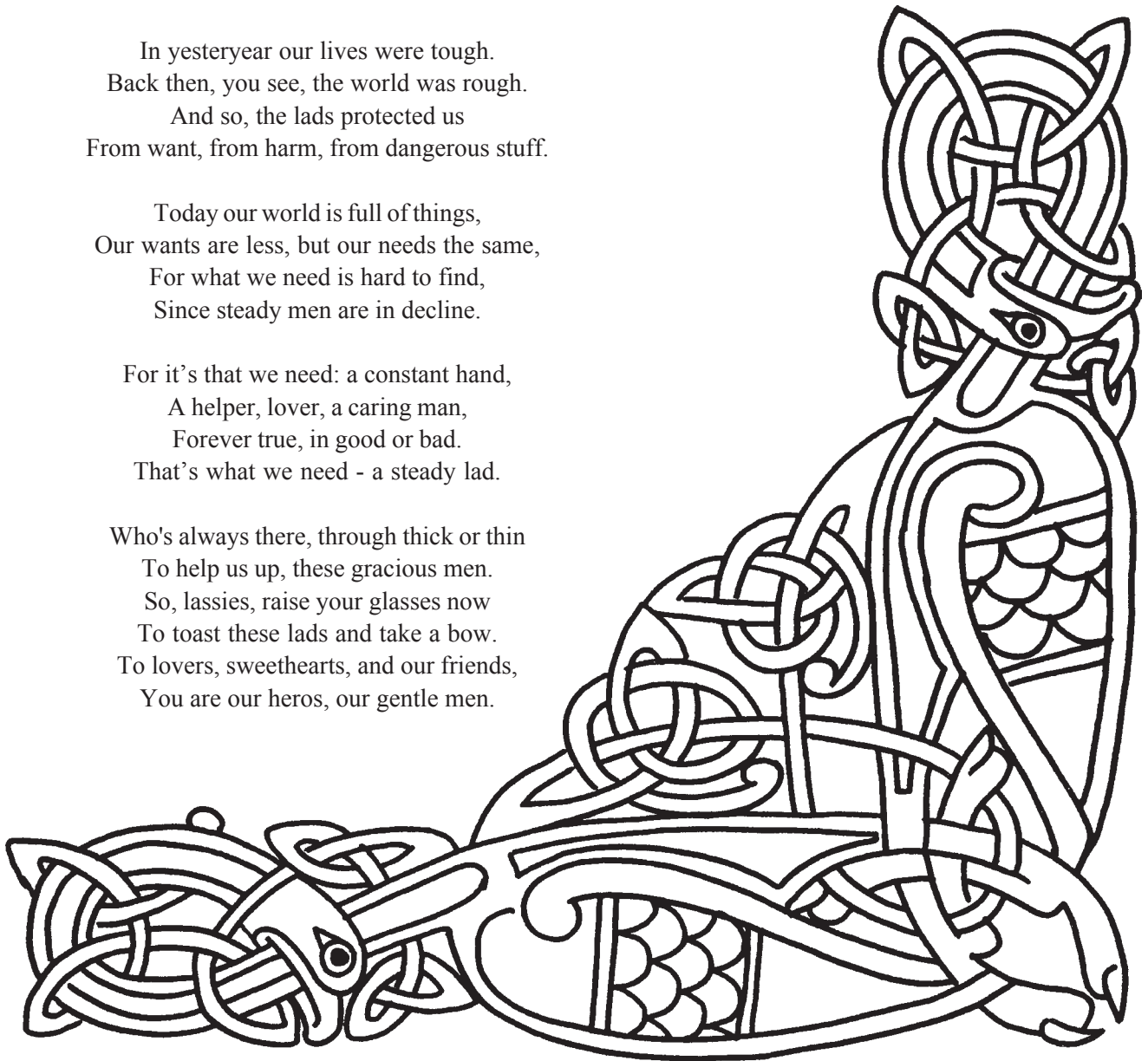
This is to the men in our lives.  
To some of them, we are their wives.  
To others, friends, and sweethearts, too,  
It is to you that we are true.

In yesteryear our lives were tough.  
Back then, you see, the world was rough.  
And so, the lads protected us  
From want, from harm, from dangerous stuff.

Today our world is full of things,  
Our wants are less, but our needs the same,  
For what we need is hard to find,  
Since steady men are in decline.

For it's that we need: a constant hand,  
A helper, lover, a caring man,  
Forever true, in good or bad.  
That's what we need - a steady lad.

Who's always there, through thick or thin  
To help us up, these gracious men.  
So, lassies, raise your glasses now  
To toast these lads and take a bow.  
To lovers, sweethearts, and our friends,  
You are our heros, our gentle men.



The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is hosting The Macallan Scotch Tasting on March 23 at 6:00 pm. Call the museum at 544-6200 for more information. Thanks to John Simmons for sharing this.



 A decorative border with intricate Celtic knotwork and animal motifs surrounding a central text box. The border features a variety of animals including a stag, a dragon, and a snake, all rendered in a stylized, interlocking pattern.
 

## New Membership Directory

Attendees at the February members meeting were given the opportunity to update their information which appears in the MSSSI membership directory. All others should send any such changes in to Treasurer John Simmons post haste at 272-9240 or [DrJWSimmons@yahoo.com](mailto:DrJWSimmons@yahoo.com)

## February Meeting Recap

**Board Meeting:** The MSSSI Board met on Feb 9, 2006; members of both 2005 and 2006 boards attended. Attendees agreed to reinstate a sign-in sheet to help with check-in at the member meetings. Ancillary groups (chorale, pipe band, Clanjamfry, dancers, SAMS, etc.) will be requested to prepare a tabletop display at the March meeting. Burns Nicht 2006, especially its financial aspects, was discussed at length. At-large members picked out which party each would chair: Ceilidh – Emily Smith; Picnic – John Schultz; Halloween – Bill Halliday. Bill Crump reported on the Mayor’s Multicultural Fair to be held at the University of Memphis. Ben Kemker reported on early talks with former member Monique Johnson, now a Ranger at Meeman-Shelby State Park, regarding a proposed Celtic festival in 2007.

**Member Meeting:** Joe Lyle led the group in singing Scottish songs, colors were presented by Rick Clausi, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Ben Kemker. Ben opened the meeting with an invitation to all members to become involved in the ancillary organizations of MSSSI. Lee Hutchison spoke about plans for Clanjamfry 2006, and announced that Clan Elliott will be the honored clan. Bill Crump announced that there will be a Multicultural Fair at the University of Memphis on Friday, April 7, and that MSSSI will be represented with a table on the lawn. John Schultz presented the proposed revisions to our bylaws, and both revisions were approved by the membership. The Caledonian Chorale presented the program, “Scottish Sea Chanteys and Songs”. Ben closed the meeting with an announcement that he is willing to move the monthly meetings to a different location, if someone finds a place.

# 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 & 5th Friday -- Contra Dancing. Contact Martha Phillips, 278-1216. 2nd & 4th Friday -- Scottish Country Dancing. Contact Brenda Maguire, 274-1889.*
- Mar 9 ..... Board Meeting at Shoney's at Summer and I-240, 5:30*
- Mar 13..... Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240. Reservations required, call 725-1879.*  
*PROGRAM:Dr. James P. Cantrell on How Celtic Culture Invented Southern Literature*
- Mar 26 ..... Tennessee Genealogy Society workshop on "Finding Your American Revolutionary War Ancestors", including documentation for DAR applications. Germantown Community Library 3 pm.*
- Apr 7 ..... Multicultural Fair @ University of Memphis contact Bill Crump 853-0958*
- Apr 21-23 ..... 2006 Arkansas Scottish Festival; Contact Jimmy Bell 870-698-4298 for more info*

## Thistle and Shamrock

### March 2 | Norland Wind

As true as a compass, this week's music responds to the magnetic pull of the north with Cilla Fisher, Duncan Chisholm and Catriona Macdonald, who are all inspired by northern landscapes.

### March 9 | Remember Silly Wizard?

In the 1980s, Silly Wizard took their high-energy brand of traditional music and song to audiences across Europe and the United States. Fronted by singer and raconteur Andy M. Stewart, and featuring Johnny and Phil Cunningham on fiddle and accordion, a night with the Wizard was a night to remember, and the band helped inspire the generation of Celtic musicians to follow. Bassist Martin Hadden recalls these wild times and shares many of the brilliant recordings that captured the young band at its prime, some of which have only recently re-surfaced.

### March 16 | Irish Ancestral Stories

Irish figures of myth, legend, and romance tell their stories this week through the music of Maire Breatnach and Anuna. Maurice Lennon's musical portrait of the 10th century Irish king Brian Boru marks the hero's struggles to defend his country against the pillaging Vikings.

### March 23 | Atlantic Bridge

From dance tunes to Gaelic airs, the musical links between Scotland, Ireland and Cape Breton are here for you to explore with Scotland's Alasdair Fraser, Cape Breton's Dougie MacDonald, and Ireland's Maeve Donnolly, along with many more.

### March 30 | Songs of the Jacobite Risings

Hear songs this week from the 18th century to the present time, reflecting various viewpoints on one of the most unsettled periods in British history. It was the half-century of great political unrest known as the Jacobite Risings, when loyalists of the deposed Stuart royalty fought to restore this family to the throne. Often romanticized as a struggle between the Scots and the English, in reality it played out mostly as a Scottish civil war, culminating at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Travel through history with Rod Paterson, Ewan MacColl, Brian McNeill, and The Whistlebinkies.

### Treasurer's Report

12/27/05 Balance \$	9,736.19
Deposits \$	9,045.00
Withdrawals \$	11,877.24
01/26/06 Balance \$	6,903.95

## Order of the Thistle

Normally, you would read off a list of accomplishments to introduce the recipient. But in two words I can describe our honoree of the Order of the Thistle: Mr. Clanjamfry. He is a member of Evergreen Presbyterian Church and has kept his church and the Memphis Scottish Society connected with our Scottish heritage as well as with Lyon College. He is the Elder Representative of Evergreen's Session for Clanjamfry, and he has worked tirelessly for over seven years for Memphis' growing Scottish festival, even through serious but successful cancer therapy.

He has the distinction of being a Naval Flight Officer graduating from the United States Naval Academy. We are almost as proud of him as his wife, Katherine; it is an honor to present the Order of the Thistle to Lee Hutchison! Well Deserved. -- *Ben Kemker*



**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Mar 13th**  
**Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240**  
**Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00**  
**Board Meeting, Mar 9th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-240 and Summer**

## GRACE NOTES

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