

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 21, No. 5

May 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

GLASGOW HIGHLAND GAMES

This year's Glasgow (Kentucky) Highland Games will be held June 1-5 at Barren River Lake State Resort Park in Lucas, Kentucky. The games will commence on Wednesday, June 1, at 9:00 a.m. with the Sponsor and Gold Patron's Golf Outing. The Chief of the 2005 games is His Grace the Duke of Atholl, Chief of Clan Murray. Other honorees this year include Lord Lyon, King of Arms, The Bluegrass Highlanders of Lexington, Kentucky, and Clan Montgomery.

Athletic events at the festival (besides the golfing) include a Caber Toss, Clachneart, Weight Toss, Sheaf Toss, Weight Throw, Hammer Throw, and Highland Wrestling. Other competitions are Highland Dance, Harp, and Pipes and Drums. Ticketed events include Lunch with the Chief and a Celtic Rock Concert on Thursday, a Barbeque and Ceiledh on Friday, the Governor's Breakfast, a Celtic Band concert, and the Grand Banquet and Tartan Ball on Saturday.

For more info or to purchase tickets, go to www.glasgowhighlandgames.com or call (270) 651-3141.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Our June Picnic will be held in conjunction with the Scottish Highland Festival & Games at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens on Sunday, June 12th. Stay tuned to *Grace Notes* for further developments.

There's Music in the Air

Those who love live music will have ample opportunity to fulfill their desires with three (yes, three!) upcoming concerts. The first two are on Sunday, May 1st (on which Beltain, one of the major Celtic fire feasts, was held) and third is on Friday, June 3rd.

Memphis Celtic Arts Alliance presents the Craobh Rua (pronounced crave ROO-ah), four lively musical and humorous boys from Belfast in a Beltain concert, May 1st at 4 pm at the Memphis College of Art (in the heart of Overton Park). Tickets are \$20 and are available at The Deliberate Literate, 1997 Union Ave., Davis-Kidd, 387 Perkins Ext., or MCAA, 801 Park, Earle, AR 72331 (mail only). For more info, contact M C A A - 901-276-1527 or 870-792-8679.

That same day (a busy Beltain, for sure) Church of the Holy Communion, 4645 Walnut Grove at Perkins, presents a concert at 5:30 pm featuring the musicians who provide the excellent music for its Taize and Celtic Evensong services each Sunday night. Though the concert is free, its purpose is to collect donations in support of the Evensong services. Several of the musicians have played for MSSSI's social events, and the program will feature the Celtic side of their repertoire. Contact 901-767-6987 or www.holycommunion.org for more info.

On June 3rd, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral at 700 Poplar in downtown Memphis presents an organ concert by Douglas Bruce. There is no charge for the concert. More information is available from Dr. Jane Gamble at St. Mary's, 901-527-6123.

YOUR MSSSI BOARD

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Information on the Drambuie Collection Exhibit - (Continued from last month)

“Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Royal House of Stuart,” and its nationwide tour have been made possible by The Drambuie Liqueur Company of Edinburgh, Scotland. The 117 works of art and artifacts on view in the exhibition, including hand-written letters and other rare manuscripts, are drawn solely from the company’s collection, regarded as the finest of its kind in the world. Although the scholarly collection is usually accessible only by appointment in Edinburgh, works are regularly loaned to museums both in Britain and abroad.

The roots of the Drambuie Liqueur Company may be traced directly to the period of history examined by this exhibition. In 1746, Bonnie Prince Charlie bequeathed to the MacKinnon clan of Skye, the owners of Drambuie, the recipe for scotch whisky liqueur still followed today. (For more information, visit [www. Drambuie.com](http://www.Drambuie.com).)

Robin Nicholson, curator of Drambuie collection, has organized this exhibition. Born in Edinburgh, Mr. Nicholson was educated at the Edinburgh Academy, Queen’s University, Ontario and Cambridge University, before spending a number of years working for the leading dealers in British art, The Fine Art Society. He has written articles on Scottish and Jacobite art and aspects of collecting for both academic and non-academic journals and has curated several touring exhibitions to museums and galleries in Britain and abroad. He is the author of the recently published book, *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Making of a Myth, A Study in Portraiture*, Bucknell University Press.

“These works demonstrate how the Jacobites, in creating an abiding tartan-clad iconography, invented a myth so large that it came to eclipse the reality of their adored leader, ‘Bonnie Prince Charlie’ while he was still alive,” said Mr. Nicholson.

Loyalist Scots gathered and consolidated their support in social clubs at a time when the art of glass making in Britain was unmatched in the world. Through this historical convergence, the lowly drinking glass became the focal point of intensely competitive craftsmanship, displaying a gamut of inventive engraved verse and symbols and mottoes for an educated, tightly bound elite who enjoyed elaborate word games, visual puns and riddles. On view in “Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Royal House of Stuart” are 58 drinking glasses from the unequalled holdings of Jacobite glass in the Drambuie collection.

The centerpiece of this selection is the finest, rarest and most valuable example of an “Amen” glass, a form of drinking glass bearing a subversive toast to the “King o’er the Water.” The *tour-de-force* Spottiswoode “Amen” Glass, c. 1745, an unequalled example of free-hand engraving, drawn trumpet bowl and spiral air twist stem, spent, most of the 19th century stored in a special box in a cupboard under the stairs of the Spottiswoode house. Given its clear espousal of loyalty to the Catholic pretender to the throne, possession of this glass would have been reason enough for a death sentence in 18th century Britain. (continued in your June issue of the *Grace Notes*)

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.

Editorial Staff

Mary Ann Lucas - StarCntyDown@aol.com Editor, (901-725-1879)
 Sammy Rich - Rich_SamuelS@bellsouth.net Publisher, (901-272-7159)
 Ben Kemker - DrKemker@aol.com Circulation Editor, (901-386-9909)
 Melissa Gibson - mliissgibson@aol.com Line Editor, (901 299-3170)

Please address all correspondence to:

Grace Notes

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

to foster education
 and promote
 understanding of
 things Scottish



Watch for Culloden on *Battlefield Britain*

WKNO is broadcasting the BBC production of *Battlefield Britain*, the imaginative project by father and son historians Peter and Dan Snow. The series, which runs Thursdays from April 7th through May 26th and is repeated from June 2nd through July 21st, is described as “the story of eight key battles fought on and over British soil. Each episode tells the story of a different conflict – those who fought, the weapons, the tactics, and the effect on British history. You’ll travel to the actual battle sites and see computer-generated images that recreate the scale of conflict and overview of the events.” The seven campaigns included in the series are Boudicca’s Revolt, Hastings, the Battle for Wales, Spanish Armada, Naseby, the Boyne, Culloden, and the Battle of Britain.

The episode on “Culloden – 1746” will be aired on Thursday, May 19th and again on Thursday, July 14th. In this episode the authors review how, in the final battle of the Jacobite rebellion, Bonnie Prince Charlie’s “exhausted army were slaughtered in the boggy ground of Drummossie, thus cementing the English and Scottish crowns together”. (You may also want to catch the May 12/July 7 episode on the Boyne, the 1690 battle between William of Orange and James VII/II, which precipitated the entire Jacobite movement.)

Be sure to tune in to these timely programs, adding to your appreciation of Lore Hisky’s lecture at last month’s membership meeting and the upcoming exhibit of Jacobite *objets d’art* at Dixon Gallery.

Tennessee Genealogical Society

Members of The Tennessee Genealogical Society will assist the staff of the Germantown Community Library in conducting basic genealogy classes and workshops this summer.

The first two sessions will address locating local and Internet resources and the basics of acquiring family history information. Attendees will complete family history record sheets, analyze census records, investigate migration patterns and study language pertinent to genealogical research.

After the first two sessions, selected family history subjects will be presented the last Sunday of each month via video. The basic classes will be conducted at The Germantown Community Library, 1925 Exeter Rd., Germantown, TN, 3:00 p.m., Sunday May 1 and May 22, 2005.

For additional info contact Ann Wallace at the Germantown Community Library, 901-757-7323, ext 10 or Jim Bobo -- jbobob1230@aol.com. Thanks, Kathy Schultz for passing along this information.

Meetings in Brief*

April Board Meeting – 4/7/05

The meeting opened with the treasurer’s report, including the loss of revenue at the February meeting. The recent Spring Ceilidh was reviewed. MSSI will be a tent patron at the Arkansas Scottish Festival. Since three upcoming events fell within the same week in June, the picnic, scheduled for June 18, will be combined with the Dixon Gallery Scottish Highland Festival and Games on Sunday, June 12th. The new membership directory may be ready by the May membership meeting (5/9).

April Membership Meeting – 4/11/05

President Bill Crump welcomed our visitors. He then recognized Secretary Dena Warth and the Grace Notes staff and extended our thanks. Bud Hisky introduced Lore Hisky who gave a fascinating and detailed talk on Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Young Pretender. Bill announced that the picnic would be combined with the June 12th Dixon mini-games. He closed the meeting with a reminder to be sure to make dinner reservations for the next membership meeting dinner. *More details available from Secretary Dena Warth.

Treasurers Corner

Balance (3/25)	\$10,525.44
Deposits	\$ 1,310.00
Withdrawals	(\$529.75)
Balance (4/25)	\$11,305.69

Faye Dalrymple
253 CR 180
Oakland, MS 38948
662-623-7394

SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In May 1940, some 65 years ago, before the US had even entered WW II, there was a remarkable operation that had a strong **Scottish Connection**. After an extended land and air campaign across France, the British Expeditionary Force backed inexorably toward the English Channel, pushed by an overwhelming wall of Axis tanks, air power, and infantry. The troops were funneled toward the French port of Dunkirk, which unfortunately had only a shallow-draft harbor. It was so shallow, in fact, that British naval vessels could not get close enough to shore to pick up the troops, even if there had been enough such vessels to accommodate so many.

So the British government made a singular call: all seaworthy civilian craft were to be dispatched to the rescue. Dubbed Operation Dynamo, the response is still almost unbelievable. Over 700 boats – fishing trawlers, private yachts and motorboats, commercial ferries, even oar-powered dinghies – answered the call. In the nine days from May 27 through June 4, this motley armada, some of which made three or more runs, delivered 385,000 military personnel to the safety of British deep-draft troop ships or all the way to the coast of England. In doing so, they faced constant artillery bombardment, strafing air assault, and sniper fire from the land, sometimes in the dark, some without a compass. Most had never been to sea before, and over a hundred of the boats were destroyed, their crews lost.

What enabled Operation Dynamo to be so fantastically successful is the little-known back action of the 51st Highland Division (composed of Seaforth Highlanders, Argyll and Southern Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders, Gordon Highlanders, and the Black Watch). These regiments were sacrificed to capture by the enemy, thereby assuring supporting defensive coverage for the main force to escape to their knee-deep navy.

Upon their capture, some 8000 Highlanders were subjected to “The Long March”, a 1000-mile grueling slog across France and Germany to Oflag 7C at Laufen Castle near Salzburg where they would remain for the five long years till the end of the war. Among the captives was one Lt. Jimmy Atkinson of the A & S. He had been active in the country dancing of his native Clackmannanshire and envisioned dancing as a means to maintain healthful vigor and to elevate morale amongst the detainees.

However, since Scottish country dances typically have specific parts for male dancers and different ones for females, something had to give. Atkinson joined with Lt. Peter Oliver of the Seaforths to develop a male-only dance. They were assisted by Lt. Col. Tom Harris-Hunter, who had been the chairman of the Perth branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society. It became known as The 51st Country Dance (also known both as the Reel of the 51st and the Laufen Reel) and is still performed today all over the world, a worthy tribute to these hardy Scots in adverse circumstances.

The dance also precipitated one of the most humorous anecdotes of the war. Seeing how well the 51st Country Dance was received by the men, Col. Harris-Hunter wrote a letter to his wife about it and included the moves of the dance. The camp’s mail censors, being unfamiliar with the detailed and somewhat cryptic notation of formal dance instructions, suspected they conveyed enemy troop numbers or movements and refused to send Hunter’s letter through. He explained otherwise to little avail. It was necessary for him to gather up a troop of dancers from amongst the prisoners to perform the dance for the camp’s commandant, thereby demonstrating the innocuousness of the markings. The letter was subsequently sent on to Mrs. Harris-Hunter, who saw to it that the dance’s instructions were circulated widely. Even the Queen Consort (who became the late Queen Mother, herself a Scot) participated in the acceptance of the dance, appealing for its formal recognition by the Scottish Country Dance Registry, even though its all-male movements do not conform to its guidelines.

So, as you think of the anniversary of this extraordinary operation and its aftermath (watch *Mrs. Miniver* again!), remember its **Scottish Connection**.

(Thanks to John Schultz for telling our Society about the Reel of the 51st on several past occasions. Most of information above is from the website of Clan Sinclair and the British WWII memoir project website www.wartimememories.co.uk)

Calendar of Events

- Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale 7 pm - Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins 725-1879*
- 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*
- May 9.....Regular membership mtg to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I 240
PROGRAM: John Schultz: William McGonagall - Scotland's "Worst Poet"
Social Hour at 6:00p.m. 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.*
- May 22-Aug28 ... Works of Art from the Drambuie Collection at Dixon Gallery and Gardens.*
- June 12..... Scottish Highland Festival and Games at Dixon Gallery and Gardens.*



Thistle and Shamrock

May 5 — For Our Mothers

We celebrate musical legacies of mothers with Gaelic singer Flora MacNeil, whose daughter Maggie MacInnes has inherited her mother's passion for Gaelic song, along with much of her repertoire. Maddie Prior and her daughter Rose also feature, along with Mary and Frances Black with their Mum, showing us that the gift of music only appreciates through the generations.

May 12 — William Jackson

Catch-up with the multi-instrumentalist and composer en route from North Carolina to Ireland via Scotland, as he reflects upon his large-scale work Duan Albanach (the most popular piece of music ever featured on *The Thistle & Shamrock*), and introduces us to his collaborations with Irish harper Gráinne Hambly.

May 19 — What in the World?

21st century contemporary Celtic music may take in Balkan tunes, African percussion, Latin rhythms, and have a gritty urban edge. Are the musicians who draw upon such diverse influences simply creating World Music soup with a dash of Celtic spice? Or are they the innovators of a cutting edge Celtic sound? See what you think as we circumnavigate the world of Celtic music.

May 26 — Musical Breizh

Intoxicating melodies from Brittany fill the air this week, with ensembles Kornog and Skolvan, vocalist Annie Ebrel, and the father of contemporary Celtic music in Brittany, Alan Stivell.

June 2 — Soundtracks

From *The Chieftains* Oscar-winning Barry Lyndon soundtrack in the 1970s, to the '90s epics *Last of the Mohicans*, *Braveheart*, *Rob Roy* and *Titanic*, Celtic music has had its fair share of cinematic attention. This week, these and other soundtracks have ours.

Scottish/ Celtic Music on Your

Radio

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"

Cassie Tobin, host

WEVL-FM89.9

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"

WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot" Robert

Campbell, host WEVL-FM 89.9

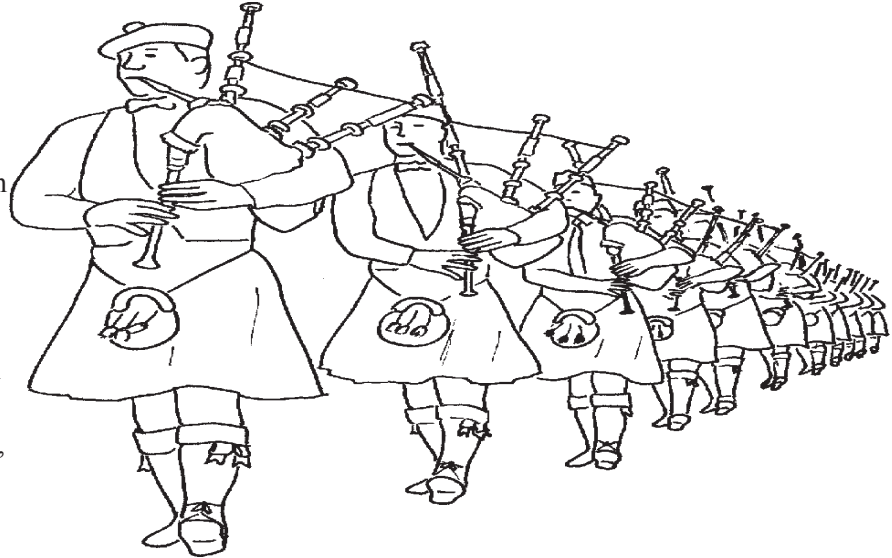
Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock," PRM-FM

90.3

Kudos

The Wolf River Pipes and Drums swept the band competition at Lyon College April 23 - 24 at the annual Arkansas Scottish Festival. The band took first place in the grade V and grade IV competitions. The next competition the band will compete in will be at the games and festival in Glasgow, Kentucky (see page 1). — Rick



**Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Reservations Required (725-1879)
May 9 - Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting Dinner @ 6:00 Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Shoneys at I-40 and Summer 5:30 PM May 5th**

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

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