

Introducing . . . www.memphisscots.com

Through the talents of Gavin Anderson, our webmaster, the MSSSI website has been re-launched. The website can be reached by going to www.memphisscots.com. There you can add the clan(s) you are affiliated with, including mottos, badges, history, septs, etc. Members' websites can be linked to this site (after review), as well as links to sites of particular interest to our members. The site will enable you to find out (either on the page or via link) what's going on with the Scottish Country Dancers, SAMS, Wolf River Pipes & Drums, the Caledonia Chorale, Clanjamfry, and other affiliated groups. You can also contribute your favorite photos of past MSSSI events or members. (Remember that one of the pipe major in a pink tutu? Or the one of current President Ben Kemker in a kilt made of a red-&-white-checked table cloth?) What a great way to share our society with the world: information about us and the fun, educational, and cultural events we participate in!

Incidentally, the site was submitted to SiteReportCard.com (a clearing house for grading websites) and received a rating of 9.83 out of a possible 10 for a perfectly-constructed site. (Compare this to one of the best known and most frequently visited sites, www.google.com, which earned a 7.83 of 10 rating.) Pretty good, eh? All this is especially remarkable, considering that Gavin works a real job, and still is willing to share his time, skills, and energy to do all of this for MSSSI. Slàinte, Big G!

Time for a Scottish Web Domain?

Mary and Tom Lewis spotted on the internet the following information from a group working toward establishing a separate web domain for all things Scottish:

Why do we want a .SCO? Because the Scots language and culture is a community that we believe should be identified with its own domain on the internet. Under a .SCO domain those organizations, companies and people that express themselves in the Scots language and/or wish to encourage Scots culture will be able to be registered and will be clearly identifiable.

Can languages and cultures have domains? Since cooperatives (.coop), the aeronautical industry (.aero), museums (.museum) and the Catalan language and culture (.cat) have all been recognized as communities with their own domain on the internet, then the Scots language and

culture should have a very strong basis for .SCO as a domain.

Who is behind the push for .SCO? The name of the association who is in support of .SCO is called dotSCO. The association, dotSCO, is calling on all individuals, groups, organizations and companies that wish to express their support for this initiative to join us. We want to demonstrate support for the Scots linguistic and cultural communities around the globe online. We believe that support can be gathered from across civic Scotland and from throughout the Scots Diaspora.

Who can join dotSCO? Those organizations that work to promote the Scots language and culture can request to join by writing the interim council of dotSCO. Membership of dotSCO is subject to the approval of the interim council of the association.

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YOUR MSSSI BOARD

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Meeting Briefs: Board meeting - Bill Halliday will investigate the possibility of the Holiday Inn on Central as a meeting location. The board has not received nominations from the nomination committee. Ben Kemker will check with Clifford McWhorter for an update.

Emily Smith reported the Ceilidh is confirmed for April 29, 2006, 7-10 p.m. at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church. The dancers and the chorale will perform. The pipers were to be invited to perform.

A committee will be formed which will be responsible for sending cards and receiving & disseminating information regarding membership in ill health or grieving.

The current membership file will be updated using the treasurer's file. Once updated, the file is to be prepared as a new directory. The current Bylaws will be included in the directory.

(cont. from pg. 1)

Membership is open to individuals and organizations that work to encourage and promote the Scots language and culture. Political parties and public offices may not become members of the association.

What are we looking for at this stage? Currently dotSCO is looking for members and supporters. We are looking for supporters of the Scots language and culture from within and without Scotland. The Scots language and culture has influence across the globe and we hope that our membership will eventually reflect this. What we hope you will do is take time to consider joining the campaign and the organization. We hope that you will join with us in taking this campaign forward and help give the Scots language its place in the **World Wide Web!**

The Board is to begin work for this year's budget, guided by last year's expenditures.

MSSI will have a tent at the Arkansas Scottish Festival. Ideas for the summer picnic were discussed. Items of interest, such as upcoming Scottish Games, will be placed on an information table at monthly meetings.

Member meeting - Called to order by President Ben Kemker. Joe Lyle, accompanied by Mary Ann Lucas, Gavin Anderson, and John Simmons, led the group in singing traditional Scottish songs. Rev. Clifford McWhorter said grace over the meal, and the colors were presented by Dick Bevier.

The following announcements were made: Bud and Lore Hiskey were absent from the meeting due to a trip to New Orleans on the train (as some of you will remember, they were on the train when it derailed a couple of years ago).

Gavin Anderson, new Grace Notes staff member and MSSI webmaster (*see related article pg. 1*) was introduced. Wolf River Pipes and Drums were to play at the Easter Sunrise

service at Calvary Episcopal and compete in the Grade V competition at Batesville's Arkansas Scottish Festival. Volunteers were needed for the MSSI tent at the Arkansas Scottish Festival. Lee Hutchison announced a new co-chair for Clanjamfry, Carol Blankenship.

Dr. Nancy Chase was congratulated for her appointment to the board of the Shelby County Medical Society. Emily Smith needed volunteers to help with set up for the Ceilidh.

Vice-President Mary Ann Lucas introduced Dr. Barry Anderson, who presented a slide show and talk about his trip to the Holy Isle of Lindisfarne. He connected the island's history and holiness as roots for our "Celtic Spirituality." He brought to life St. Aiden and St. Cuthbert and made us feel the peace, charm, and holiness of this tiny island and its inhabitants.

Please call in your reservation for the May meeting by May 4th.

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*



SCOTTISH CONNECTION

May weather has come (at last) and supplanted March's blast and April's ambivalence. It's time to enjoy the wide expanses of lawn and golf course – and to get out the ole lawnmower. Did you know the lawnmower has a **Scottish Connection**?

Now, to be fair, some credit an Englishman named Budding with the invention of the lawnmower after he observed a machine in a fabric factory whose rotating scythe was able to cut velvet without crushing its nap, but that mower is kindly described as “operator-powered”. Such an invention was hardly worthy of the middle of the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century.

Enter a Scotsman named Alexander Shanks. Shanks was born in 1801 in Arbroath and died young in 1845, but he left his indelible mark on history as the inventor of the modern lawnmower and the founder of Shanks and Sons Iron Machine Works. Now, he did develop an operator-powered mower, the Caledonia, the design of which incorporated both mowing and rolling grass and is the progenitor of the

push-mower still used by those committed to exercise or conservation. It was his pony-pulled mower, however, that gained him his real fame & fortune.

Patented in 1841, this remarkable mower, the first powered by a non-human source, gained instant commercial success in the vast and numerous golf courses of Scotland, replacing the flocks of sheep which had done the job (so to speak) on the links until the mid-1800's. The sheep left other benefits all over the courses, good for the grass, but, alas, not so good for the shoes (or tempers) of the golfers who mistook them for divots. The Shanks' pony lawnmower continued as the mower of choice from its inception till the late 1940's, when almost all animal-powered machinery was replaced with “petrol”-powered devices. (These 60 years later, that's not looking like such a smart move.) Interestingly enough, the design of the gears and pulleys in most mowers currently in use derive from Shanks' pony lawnmower.

The pony mower was so prevalent that it gave rise to the expres-

sion, “to go by Shanks' pony” or “to ride Shanks' mare” meaning “to walk”. This derived from the fact that it was difficult to guide both the mower and the pony at the same time, so it became the custom to have a boy to walk beside the pony to direct it. For whatever reason the lad did so afoot rather than astride, the expression stuck, though sadly both Webster and Charles Earle Funk have lost the initial sense of the saying by printing *Shanks'* as *shank's* and speculating its source as having to do with the shank (calf) of the leg. They both, however, recognize it as wit of Scottish origin.

So, next time you're behind your mower, or on the links, or (ahem) just walking, remember Alexander Shanks, his mower, and their **Scottish Connection**.

— from the websites of the Angus Council, the Gazette for Scotland, the Old Lawnmower Club, and Turf Machinery Services, and from *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, 2nd College Edition, and Charles Earle Funk, *A Hog on Ice & Other Curious Expressions* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1948), 191.



SAMS

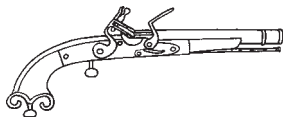
The Memphis post of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS) meets the third Monday of alternating months. The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm., May 15th 2006 at Evergreen Presbyterian Church, 613 University, across from Rhodes College. Membership is open to those in active military service or veterans, who are also members of a Scottish heritage society or a clan association. The commander is Tom Williams, 901-274-0460 or twilliams@juno.com.

2006 Arkansas Scottish Festival at Lyon College in Batesville, AR

The following photos are compliments of Pat Bevier, who holds a mighty steady camera. Good job, Pat!



Recognize this handsome fellow? He will be our speaker at the May 8th Members Meeting of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. He will be sharing with us his "Experiences in the British and Indian Armies."



Above: Frank and Becky Trafford greet some members of Clan MacTavish while VP Mary Ann Lucas validates a bonnie wee lassie's festival passport.



Wolf River Pipes and Drums

Left: Competition was stiff in the Pipe Band Class V competition, but our Wolf River Pipes and Drums walked away with second place regardless. Congratulations also go to Kenny Hiner, who won first place in bass and tenor drum competition, and his brother Billy Hiner, who won first place in snare competition.



Ken Hiner accepts his award for best Tenor and Bass Drummer in the Drum competition at the 2006 Arkansas Scottish Festival!



Top: The SAMS color guard display our nations' colors at the 2006 Arkansas Scottish Festival with all the dignity and panache we have come to expect from these gentlemen.

Middle: MSSSI tent volunteers Jim and Mary Ann Lucas, Mary Clausi, Linda Amos, Mary Ellen and Ben Kemker, and Janie Diggs, also Frank and Becky Trafford(not pictured) THANKS!

Right: President Ben Kemker leads Mary Ellen Kemker, Becky Trafford, and Mary Ann Lucas in the parade of the clans.



From the D.I. files--Thanks to Dan Irvin, our tireless and intrepid reporter, for passing along the following:

Field of English Yields Its Secrets

For all that is known about the battlefield of Culloden, there remains some mystery. Many monuments pay tribute to the Jacobite dead, whose number may lie between 1000 and 2000. For the nearly four hundred Hanoverian casualties, however, there is but one simple sign, "Field of the English: they were buried here." What is missing from this extremely descriptive marker (yes, we are being sarcastic) is the location of the grave and the number of its occupants. The Handovers had fifteen infantry regiments that fateful day. Three of those units, a full 20% of their forces were manned by Scottish troops. This is of particular interest to both the National Trust for Scotland, which manages this historic site, and to specialists in battlefield archaeology such as Tony Pollard, who want to offer a more balanced representation of the event in 1746. "I think there is greater need to be doing some form of investigative work on British [government, that is, Hanoverian] army graves," says Pollard, project manager for Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division and lead research-investigator of the

Culloden battlefield. "At the moment we have several facets of the evidence which suggests where the graves are within the Field of the English - between 40 and 50 men."

Finding the graves of the British troops will help researchers paint a more complete picture of what actually occurred in the battle, "It's not unusual for a victorious side to play down its losses and play up those of the enemy," says Pollard. "So there might actually have been less [sic] Jacobites killed in the battle and more British soldiers killed. So, one of the interesting things to do is to determine how many men are buried."

As Culloden is a national historic site with government protections, Pollard understands the importance of working carefully and with a high level of decency as to not upset the graves once found. "The graves are a scheduled monument and they are protected by law," he says. "But that doesn't mean to say that I think we shouldn't be digging graves. There are places there that I think we should be investigating."

Pollard and his team of forensic archaeologists have uncovered new

evidence that might point to the location of a larger gravesite. He recounts a recent discovery and what the finding may mean: "We actually found this silver coin, a German Thaler. It doesn't relate to the battle as such; it's dated 1752. I have little doubt that it was dropped by a British soldier who'd seen service on the Continent, and had come back to visit the graves of his fallen comrades, probably while they were still marked with low mounds before they got ploughed out," Pollard says. "I think, literally, that is an 'X' that marks the spot. I think there's a good chance we have actually tied down the position of those graves. It's not unusual to leave some form of offering for whatever personal reasons. And I think we can safely say that that German silver coin was left deliberately rather than dropped."

From *Springer, Will*. "Forensics team closes in on Culloden graves." www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com *Edinburgh Evening News*. Mon 3 Apr 2006

Will 2008 See NY Tattoo?

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo has performed to sold-out crowds in New Zealand and Australia, but has never sounded on American soil, but hopefully that will change in the near future. Lord Provost Lesley Hinds has revealed plans to stage a week-long version in New York during the annual Tartan Week festival in 2008. The New York venture has been discussed at board level within the Tattoo organization, and the Lord Provost is to pursue the idea further at April 2006's Tartan Week festivities. It is understood that the current Tattoo chief executive,

Brigadier Melville Jamieson, may be asked to pull the NY Tattoo together after he steps down from his current post. No venue has been booked yet, though ideas such as Madison Square Garden and Yankee Stadium have been discussed.

The Brigadier was in New York during Tartan Week 2006 to lead the traditional Tartan Day parade through the heart of the city. One insider said today: "The idea of staging the Tattoo in New York during Tartan Week makes perfect sense, particularly because of how the latter has grown in

stature and importance in recent years. [The Tattoo] is not the kind of thing that can be organized in 12 months, but the idea is to talk seriously about it in New York this week to try to get things up and running."

"Any event in New York would be at least two years away because of the scale of the organization required, but it's something we are very keen to progress. This week is the perfect time to discuss things, when we are in New York, particularly as Mel [Brig. Jamieson] is in the city, to gauge the

(cont. on pg. 7)

Calendar of Events

- Mondays..... Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, 725-1879 for more info.*
- Thursdays..... Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-9:30 at St Lukes Lutheran, G'town Pkwy, Rick Clausi - 753-9494.*
- 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.*
- May 4 Board Meeting at Shoney's at Summer and I-240, 5:30*
- May 8..... Regular membership mtg. to be held at Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240. Reservations required, call 725-1879. 6:00 pm dinner & 7:00 pm speaker. PROGRAM: Lex Carnie on "Experiences in the British and Indian Armies"*
- May 15 SAMS - Evergreen Presbyterian Church 6:30 Tom Williams - 274-0460*
- May 28 TN Genealogy Society workshop: Tracing your WWII ancestors, Colonel Lucius F. Wright, speaker, at Germantown Community Library, 3:00 pm.*

(cont. from pg. 6)

interest of the authorities and explore where it could possibly be staged, including Madison Square Garden." Tattoo marketing manager Alan Smith said: "There is no doubt the United States is the obvious place to take the Tattoo next, having conquered the southern hemisphere. New York is just crying out for the event, and somewhere like Madison Square Garden would be sensational, bearing in mind all the big names who have performed there."

From: *Ferguson, Brian. "Tattoo to march into America" www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com Edinburgh News. Mon 3 Apr 2006*

Scottish/ Celtic Radio Music

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"
Cassie Tobin, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

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



Thistle and Shamrock

April 29-30 | Scandinavian Journey - Nordic musical traditions are stretching and evolving in parallel to those from Celtic roots. Explore music from the far north and hear how it overlaps and complements music from Celtic roots with Blazin' Fiddles, Swap, and others.

May 6-7 | Listeners' Choice

Here's your chance for a replay of music from across recent programs that took you by surprise, stopped you in your tracks, touched your heart, and agitated the soles of your feet.

May 13-14 | Boys of the Lough

The first of the full-time professional Celtic bands to arise on the international scene, Boys of the Lough now occupy a unique position of respect in the traditional music world, having competed well over fifty U.S. tours with performances and recordings spread across five decades. Dave Richardson talks about life with the Boys from the early days to the present.

May 20-21 | The Strathspey King

Fiddler and composer James Scott Skinner (1843-1927) wrote a huge number of tunes, and many of these are now classics to today's players. Learn more about this larger than life Victorian character — the self-styled "Strathspey King" — and hear his music played by Battlefield Band, Natalie MacMaster and by Skinner himself, recorded on cylinder in the early 20th century.

May 27-28 | Beyond Borders

Fiona talks to fellow broadcasters to hear what most appeals to them about the emerging sounds in Celtic music.

June 3-4 | Sea Sound

Images and moods of the sea emerge this week from traditional and new music, including the classical sounds of William Jackson's work for fiddles, pipes, woodwind and strings: A Scottish Island.



Next Regular Monthly Meeting -May 8th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879
Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240
Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, May 4th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-240 and Summer

GRACE NOTES

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