

GRACE NOTES

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

373 YEARS OF PRIDE

Tears of sadness mixed with drops from the sky on a chilly, wet day in Edinburgh - a day that evoked a wave of emotion as the city and the nation said good-bye to the Royal Scots Regiment. After 373 years of pride, sacrifice and service, The Royal Scots - the oldest regiment in the British Army - marked its passing yesterday with an emotional march through Edinburgh.

Large crowds ignored the drizzle to pay tribute to the regiment's proud history while also hailing a new future as a battalion. The Royal Scots will merge later this year with the King's



Bayonets fixed The Royal Scots look to future

Own Scottish Borderers to form The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The parade also celebrated the return of active servicemen from an operational tour in some of Iraq's most dangerous hotspots. Some 400 troops dressed in desert combats, bayonets fixed and drums beating, joined 200 veterans who had travelled from all corners of the country to take part in the farewell ceremony.

Princess Anne, the Colonel-in-Chief, took the salute from the steps of the Royal Scottish Academy, watching the procession marching with colours flying down Princes Street. Leading the veterans' Old and Bold march, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, the regiment's former colonel, said the "golden thread" linking the past and more than three centuries of "unrivalled tradition, service and comradeship, courage and loyalty

to crown and country" will be preserved through to the future. "The Jock is second to none and admired throughout the world. One request to my old comrades and those serving today: treasure the past, draw strength from it but do not live in it. The old days are gone. never to return".

But despite Sir Robert's encouraging words, a sense of regret and nostalgia dominated the ceremony, as active and retired servicemen felt that centuries of proud traditions and loyal comradeship were being lost forever as The Royal Scots ceased to be an independent regiment. The Royal Scots, the oldest Regiment of the Line, was formed in 1633 when Sir John Hepburn, under a Royal Warrant given by King Charles I, raised a body of men in Scotland for service in France. The group was nicknamed Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard after an argument with the French (cont on page 6)



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America’s touching tribute to Scotland’s war dead

WILL SPRINGER

NEARLY 80 years ago, on a bright Edinburgh day, hundreds of people joined in the unveiling of a new war memorial on the west end of Princes Street Gardens. Like most monuments and plaques that dot the city’s landscape, this particular one has carried additional significance ever since.

The Scottish-American War Memorial is a moving expression of beauty and dignity and captures the essence of the strong bond between the two lands. At its centre, the memorial – known as The Call – features a young, kilted soldier representing the First World War fighting spirit of Scotland. At the unveiling ceremonies on 7 September 1927, Alanson B. Houghton, the US Ambassador to Britain, said of the seated bronze infantryman gazing toward Castle Rock:

“Today we commemorate the Great War with the figure of a common soldier – one youth separated from the thronging files of recruits pressing on from behind – one youth within sound of the pipes and drums and within sight of the old Castle on the hill – one son of Scotland from a mansion or a manse or a mine, from a farm or a factory, from a Glasgow close or an Edinburgh lane – it matters not. For he came from all of these. He kept lonely company with his own soul in a tank or in a trench, on the sea or in the sky. And he went to his death alone.”

Memorial Day in America is a time to reflect on the men and women from all US wars who went to their “death alone”. Five years after the dedication of the Scottish-American memorial, it was decided to hold an annual remembrance service on the

The Call Memorial



US holiday. This year marks the 72nd Memorial Day service in Edinburgh, one of the few European cities that sustains the tradition.

“It’s appropriately sombre,” says Cécile Shea, Consul General to the US Consulate in Edinburgh. “It reminds me of the important foundations that have developed over the years between the US and Scotland.”

“It’s very moving,” says Shea. “It’s very symbolic and shows the important values that we share – both now and on the battlefield.”

One of the most poignant war memorials in Britain, The Call was designed by R. Tait McKenzie, a Canadian-born physician and artist of Scot-

tish descent who was at the time a distinguished educator at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The memorial was a gift from American Scots as a tribute to the bravery of Scottish troops during the 1914-1918 conflict.

Directly behind the statue, a long bronze relief panel features men from all walks of life joining the call to arms, marching from left to right, with a pipe band leading the way. The Craigleith sandstone backdrop was designed by architect Reginald Fairlie. Along the base of the panel, a carved inscription reads: “If it be life that waits I shall live forever unconquered; if death I shall die at last strong in my pride and free.”

High atop the frieze, and worn from the years exposed to Scotland’s notorious weather, are two intertwined wreaths. Featuring two shields – one bearing the Stars and Stripes and the other the Saltire Cross – they best symbolise the long-standing links these two nations share to this day.

Thanks to Dan Irvin for this article from scotsman.com!

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

It's July, and the first order of business this month is to celebrate Independence Day, our nation's birthday, on the 4th. And what do you get on your birthday? No, not spit-covered cake — presents! Did you know one of the best presents our country ever got has a **Scottish Connection**? Yep, our national parks system, the present we gave ourselves, was brought into being by Scotsman John Muir.

John Muir was born in Dunbar on April 21, 1838. In his autobiography, he described his two main boyhood pursuits that would prove important to his later life. He and his friends played relay running games that lasted for hours, covering tremendous distances, yielding physical endurance. He also sadly recalled the wanton slaughter of immense amounts of local birds by himself and his friends for nothing more than the thrill.

His family immigrated to Wisconsin when he was 11. He spent his youth working on the family farm and later studied several years at college.

One of Yosemite's many falls.



Then he elected to continue his education at the “university of the wilderness”. After a circuitous journey of geography and occupation, he encountered the great love of his life, a place he had only read about, called Yosemite.

After seeing Yosemite Valley for the first time, he was captivated, and wrote, “No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite,” and “[Yosemite is] the grandest of all special temples of Nature.” For the rest of his life he never strayed far or long from it, and when it was threatened by private development, he traded his roles of scientist, scholar, writer, and explorer for an entirely new profession — conservationist. Although not entirely alone in his work, Muir was largely responsible for inspiring the American people and alerting them to the possible loss of the wilderness areas and through his petitioning of Congress for the setting up on October 1, 1890, of Yosemite National Park, which covers roughly a quarter of a million square miles. Some of the spectacular sites therein are Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, El Capitan, Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Vernal Fall, Nevada Fall, Glacier Point, Tunnel View, Tuolumne Meadows, and Tenaya Lake.

John Muir continued to protect other wilderness areas. He worked with his friend and President, Theodore Roosevelt, to create other national parks. Today, John Muir is remembered as one of America's most famous nature writers and “the Father of the National Park System”.

Despite spending most of his life in America, Muir always considered himself a Scot, only taking American citi-

zenship late in life. He returned to Scotland on a visit in the 1890s and visited the places of his youth which were deeply etched in his memory. This included his old school where his memories were of a somewhat mixed nature, for he recalled, “If we failed in any part, however slight, we were whipped; for the grand simple all-sufficing Scotch discovery had been made that there was a close connection between the skin and the memory, and that irritating the skin excited the memory to any required degree.” Despite this recollection he was warmly welcomed by the schoolmaster, who, it turned out, had read Muir's books.

Today, the National Park System consists of 388 separate geographic locations, and John Muir is as well known in his native land as in his adopted land. He is the namesake of a holiday, hiking trails, a county, a town, monuments, national forest land, and on and on, in both Scotland and the U.S.

So, while you're saluting our Flag in the parade, chomping a hotdog at the picnic, and oo-ing and ah-ing at the fireworks, remember our country's best birthday present, our national parks, and their **Scottish Connection**. — *from the websites of Wikipedia, the National Park Service, and the Sierra Club.*

“When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild... I loved to wander in the fields to hear the birds sing, and along the shore to gaze and wonder at the shells and seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools when the tide was low; and best of all to watch the waves in awful storms thundering on the black headlands and craggy ruins of old Dunbar Castle.”-John Muir

MEETING BRIEFS

May Board Meeting – The board met on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 5:30 in the meeting room of Shoney's, Summer at Sycamore View. Secretary Dena Warth was absent, so V.P. Mary Ann Lucas took notes.

President Ben Kemker commended Member-at-Large Emily Smith on an excellent Spring Ceilidh. Emily reported that the party cost much less than was budgeted, since St. Luke's Lutheran Church did not charge for the use of their hall. At her suggestion, the Board approved an honorarium to the Church from the left-over funds.

The Board discussed on-going research into a new location. Though numerous sites were considered, none met all the criteria for improvement on our current meeting location. It was agreed to ask members at the May meeting and via the June *Grace Notes* for their input.

Treasurer John Simmons reported that he completed and filed the annual corporation report required by the State of Tennessee. He also informed the Board that he found a company to supply magnetic name tags for a bit more than the current pin-backed tags. The Board agreed that the magnetic tags were preferable, since they don't pierce holes in garments. The price of the tags was set at \$10.

Member-at-large John Schultz gave a status report on the next party, our Summer Picnic. With no further business to conduct, Ben closed the meeting.

May Member Meeting – Members convened at 6:00 at the Holiday Inn, Poplar and I-240. After some fine dinner and singing, President Ben Kemker opened the meeting

with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Cliff McWhorter offered thanks for the meal.

Those attending gave feedback on the search for a new location and suggested the formation of an ad-hoc committee for that purpose. Volunteers will be sought through *Grace Notes*.

V.P. Mary Ann Lucas introduced the speaker for the evening, Lex Carnie. Lex regaled his audience with a presentation of his experiences in both the British and Indian armies during World War II. Moving accounts of the honor and heroism of those groups were largely unknown to those present, and all agreed that Lex, with his elegant brogue and sharp wit, greatly educated and entertained. Thanks, Lex!

June Board Meeting – The Board met on June 8, 2006 at Shoney's, Summer and Sycamore View. V.P. Mary Ann Lucas reported that the new location search continues. The need for nominees to the Scholarship Committee to be presented in the July *Grace Notes* and voted on in the July meeting was reviewed.

A working meeting to organize a new membership directory was scheduled for June 15th at President Ben Kemker's office. There was a brief discussion of the budget for this year's Burns Night Supper.

June Member Meeting – On June 12 members met at our usual location. Opening observances included group singing led by John Simmons and Mary Ann Lucas, presentation of colors by Dick Bevier, Pledge of Allegiance by Ben Kemker, and prayer by Cliff McWhorter. Visitors, as well as new and returning former members were welcomed.

Mary Clausi reported for Wolf River Pipes and Drums that Scott McLeod won the competition for Senior Snare Drummer at the Glasgow, KY Scottish Games; Kenny Hiner won for Bass Drummer; and Derrick Stein and David Corbet won individual piping honors. Congrats, guys!

"Mr. Clanjamfray" Lee Hutchison announced their Saturday, September 23rd concert would feature Enid Kent and Bryan McNeill. Lee also reported that he has contacts who provide kilts for considerably less than the costs of custom-tailored.

Ben introduced Mary Ann Lucas, the night's speaker, who presented "The Other William Wallace", William Alexander Anderson "Bigfoot" Wallace, a descendant of Sir William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland, and Robert I, the Bruce. He gained his fame on the Texas frontier, in the conflict that won Texas independence, and later as a long-serving Texas Ranger. After hearing several of Bigfoot's hair-raising adventures, attendees were glad they had learned about this remarkable man. Mary Ann promised that more Scottish-American heroes would be featured at this year's Clanjamfray in the Heritage Tent.

John Simmons and Gavin Anderson then gave a live demonstration of our new web site. Kudos to Gavin for its design and execution!

The meeting closed with the re-institution of the door prize. However, the flowers and vase were won by Cathy Schultz, and her husband John won the onions from Edinburgh, TX, though their names were drawn by the innocent young Anderson brothers. Those present vowed to watch the proceedings closer in upcoming meetings.

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, Sammy Rich - 272-7159 for more info.

Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town Pkwy, Rick Clausi - 753-9494 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.

Janet Mandanna, Sammy Rich and Elaine Meece plus any from the floor (please gain their agreement ahead of time), for the MSSS Scholarship Committee stand for election at the July Meeting.

July 6

Board Meeting at Shoney's, Summer at Sycamore View, 5:30 pm. Deadline for making dinner reservations for 7/10 members meeting.

July 10

Regular membership meeting at Holiday Inn, Poplar and 1-240. Reservations required by Thursday, 7/6 call 725-1879, or online at Memphisscots.com. 6:00 pm dinner & 7:00 pm Program: John Simmons on : The Scottish Presence in the Holy Land.

Scots-Irish Humanities Lectures at Lyon College.

This information comes to us from our friends at Lyon College. The lectures are free and open to the public.

For those of you interested in language, Jamie McDonald will hold a Scots Gaelic class on Monday, July 10 from 3:30-5:00 PM.

Accommodations are available at the college for anyone who wishes to stay in Batesville overnight. If you

wish to reserve a room, Please send \$40 per person double occupancy, or \$50 per person single occupancy, made out to Lyon College Scottish Heritage Program. The address is:

Jim Bell, Director
Scottish Heritage Program
Lyon College
P.O. Box 2317
Batesville, AR 72503

Scottish/ Celtic RadioMusic

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

July 8/9 | Summer Light

The bright and airy sound of contemporary music from Celtic roots complements the long summer days, and the warm light of summer nights. Take your radio outside and tune into some fine music from Sharon Shannon, Bill Whelan, Kim Robertson, and Kirsty MacColl.

July 15/16 | Eileen Ivers

The sensational Irish American fiddler joins us and shows the way to new worlds of Celtic music with her band Immigrant Soul.

July 22/23 | Dreamtime

While traditional dance tunes are intended to do just the opposite, some instrumental and vocal music easily invokes a dreamy frame of mind. And there are many ballads telling of night visions and visits, both comforting and chilling. Daydream your way through an hour of music from Ireland, Scotland and Australia, home of the hypnotic didgeridoo.

July 29/30 | Perthshire Amber

We look ahead to the 2nd Dougie MacLean Perthshire Amber Weekend this fall with an hour of exclusive highlights from last year's winning event featuring concerts, workshops, sessions and an open mic stage.

August 3 | Stage and Screen

This week we explore a variety of music from theatrical productions including excerpts from "Ragús." This highly acclaimed music and dance show has toured internationally from its home in Ireland's westerly Aran Islands, where Irish traditional arts still thrive.

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the
**Thistle &
Shamrock**

(cont from page 1)

Regiment of Picardie over who would have guarded Christ's tomb best.

Battalions of The Royal Scots have been involved in almost every campaign in which the British Army has fought, from Marlborough's battles in the Napoleonic Wars to the Crimea and South Africa. During the Great War more than 11,000 were killed and more than 40,000 wounded.

The major defence shake-up which

created the Scottish super-regiment was billed by the UK government as a move to modernise Britain's armed forces, but many in the crowd yesterday denounced it as a penny-pinching bonfire of tradition.

Major Steve Simson, who joined The Royal Scots in 1948 at the same time as General Richardson, said he and the unit's former colonel exemplified the deep bonds and sense of family that had

been forged within the regiment throughout the years.

Norman Soutar, a former Royal Scot who served in the first Gulf war, said marching along Princes Street with the regiment for the last time was "a very sad moment". Thanks to Dan Irvin for this article from scotsman.com

Next Regular Monthly Meeting -July 10th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240

Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00 John Simmons

Board Meeting, July 6th at 5:30 Shoneys at Sycamore View and Summer

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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