

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 22, No. 9

Sept. 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Clear the Decks for Clanjamfry!

The 8th annual Clanjamfry Scottish Festival is only weeks away, and a whole cadre of MSSSI members are working diligently with all the nice folks at Evergreen Presbyterian Church to make this year are the finest ever. Memphis' own equivalent of Highland Games will run from Friday, September 22 through Sunday, September 24, come rain or shine.

Friday night opens the weekend with a bang: a posh reception for sponsors* of the festival at Rhodes College, followed immediately by a Ceilidh. At the Ceilidh you can see

Wolf River Pipes & Drums at their very best, the elegance of our Memphis Scottish Country Dancers, storyteller Mary Ann Lucas, and loads of other musicians, singers, and dancers.

Saturday sees an early start to the festivities, opening before 8 am with a 5K Kilted Run through the Evergreen/Rhodes/Overton Park area. Watch for our own Bruce Erskine, who pipes the runners off at the start of the race, and other MSSSI members amongst the runners. Past participants have included Mary Ellen Kemker and Bill Halliday, who won his division.

Then it's on to a full day of fun at the Faire, more than anyone can possibly do, since there are three or more events scheduled at any given time. WRP&D will make several appearances throughout the day. Regional and local favorites, including The Border Collies, The Fiddlers Four, Kula and Peggy Loyd, will perform throughout the day on the music stage. The dance stage will feature a Highland dance competition, the Scottish Coun-

try Dancers al fresco, Irish step dancers, and a return performance by the run-away hit of last year's festival, WindDance. The Scottish Heritage Tent will include many MSSSI members (John Schultz, Bill Maguire, Seldon Murray, and the Caledonian Chorale amongst others), presenting topics ranging from Druids to Covenanters, saints and sinners (sometimes the same person!), Scottish humor (yes, there is such a thing!), plus songs, stories, and surprises. Vendors of Scottish and Celtic goods and foods will vie for your attention and commerce, and an impressive line-up of Clans look forward to meeting you at their hospitality tents. The featured Clan this year is Clan Elliot, MSSSI President Ben Kemker's clan.

And as if that weren't a full-enough day, Saturday night features a first-ever concert pairing of Brian McNeill and Enoch Kent. Brian is one of the original members

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YOUR MSSSI BOARD

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Calling All Cranks!

Come one, come all, to the Memphis Scottish Society Picnic from 3:00 - 8:00 PM Saturday, September 9th at the Gates Pavilion in the St. Columba Center. This is a potluck event with the usual friendly time and fun together. The Society will provide soft drinks, cups, plates, and utensils, with

a cost of \$2.00 per person to cover St. Columba's per person charge.

Featured this year is a home-made ice cream contest. So get your favorite recipe, mix it up and get cranking! Our secret panel of ice cream aficionados will declare which is the best.

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of the famous Battlefield Band, and Enoch is a favorite of American audiences.

But the high point of the festival comes on Sunday with a Kirkin' o' the Tartans during Evergreen's 11:00 am worship service, to which all are invited. Tartan attire is the order of the day, of course, and you may present your Clan's tartan banner at the service: just let the Evergreen folks know ahead of time so it can be mentioned especially.

Who could ask for anything more? No one, but nonetheless, yet another treat awaits you immediately after the Kirkin' because the Church members are preparing a full course Dinner on the Grounds and look forward to sharing their native hospitality with you.

You'll need a year to rest up after all that, and that's just what you'll have to ready yourself for next year's Clanjamfry!

***For more info on how to become a sponsor of Clanjamfry and enjoy all the goodies thereof, including the swank Friday night reception, or for any other Canjamfry question, call Lee Hutchison at 901-278-1830 or c h e c k - o u t www.clanjamfrymemphis.com.**



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Take the Sycamore View exit 12 (the first exit east of I 240). Go north on Sycamore View through Bartlett, (it will change names to Bartlett Bou-

levard). At Memphis Arlington it will change to Billy Maher Road. Continue going north 2.1 miles, turn left into St. Columba.

MSSI PICNIC



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

Does the Scottish Rite actually have a **Scottish Connection**? Check out this excerpt from the article “Esoteric Secrets, Scottish Freemasonry and the Building of the American Dream” by guest writer Diane MacLean of Scotsman.com, who says it even better than we could:

“...There is a strong and vocal body of Masonic historians who believe that the whole of American Freemasonry is essentially Scottish.

“Any study of Freemasonry needs first to look at where it all began. Although the first organised meeting took place in England in 1717, many Scottish Masons maintain that it actually began there even earlier. Robert Cooper, museum and library curator of the Grand Lodge in Edinburgh, believes he holds the oldest lodge records in the world and that these prove Scotland was the birthplace of Masonry.

“The minutes from Aitchison’s Haven – a small harbour in East Lothian – date from 9 January 1599. This was a stonemason’s lodge, as all lodges would have been then. Lists of rituals from another stonemason lodge written 100 years later demonstrate that although slightly different, they were essentially the same as today’s rites.

“According to Cooper, the first English lodge effectively stole the ideas and rituals from Scottish stonemasons and that Freemasonry as we know it today is based on early Scottish stonemason traditions. ‘There is a lot of evidence to support that,’ says Cooper. ‘The early rituals even use Scottish words. The chap who

wrote the [England Grand Lodge] rules was from Aberdeen and his father had been a grand master there.’ If this is true, then it is easy to see where an argument might be made that all Freemasonry is inherently Scottish.

“But as Cooper explains, the influence of Scottish Freemasonry in building the American dream is even stronger. ‘We do know that the first Freemason in the North American continent was a Scot, John Skene, who travelled to America in around 1680. We also know that the second Freemason was a stonemason from a lodge in Melrose. So right from an early age Scots Freemasonry and stonemasonry was in America.’

“Masonic lodges soon began to crop up across America with Scottish lodges particularly prominent on the East Coast. In Virginia, George Washington was initiated into the Fredericksburg lodge in 1752.

“The oldest was the Lodge of St Andrew in Boston. Paul Revere, who in 1775 made his famous midnight ride from Boston to Lexington to warn that the British had begun their invasion, was a member there. This Boston lodge was based in the Green Dragon Tavern – remembered by some as the ‘headquarters’ of the American Revolution. On the day of the Boston Tea Party in 1773, Revere and another Masonic brother, Joseph Warren – one of Washington’s generals – met in the Green Tavern with other Masons. The meeting was quickly adjourned as so few members were present. Cryptically, the minutes for the meeting read: ‘Consignees of tea took up the Brethren’s time.’

“Throughout the period of the American War of Independence it was usual for Scottish lodges to be hotbeds of revolution whilst, understandably, English lodges tended to be loyalist. Cooper is sympathetic to the idea that not only were the Scottish lodges instrumental in many of the acts of revolution, but their ideal and beliefs may have been integral in shaping the future of America.

“‘Some people say that one of the major impulses for democracy almost certainly comes from Freemasonry. At that time [during the War of Independence] the systems of government in the UK consisted of elementary democracy, dominated by the monarchy. There were no entirely democratic countries in the world. So the argument goes that America looked at Scottish Freemasonry, which was very democratic. That’s why people claim the USA is a Masonic country.’

“Not only that, but seven Masons are known to have been present at the drawing up of the Declaration of Independence. So, yes, one could argue that... Scottish Freemasons [did] influence the thinking behind the American dream and help win the War of Independence.... How long before the change from the Stars and Stripes to the Saltire in recognition?”

Thanks, Diane, and thanks also to Dan Irvin for turning in this article. So, next time you pass a Scottish Rite hall, remember its **Scottish Connection**.

(The web address for the entire article: <http://heritage.scotsman.com/myths.cfm?id=587052006>)

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Robert Cooper, from the Grand Lodge of Scotland



Cooper with the minutes of the Lodge of Journeymen Masons No8 - showing scored off names indicating a move to America.

Snippet

“Of all the small nations on this earth, perhaps only the Ancient Greeks surpass the Scots in their contribution to mankind.”

Winston Churchill

Cantrip is coming!

Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance kicks off its Fall 2006 concert season with Cantrip, a dynamic new group from Scotland. With their strong, well-crafted and eclectic blend of music, Cantrip delivers an exciting program of traditional and original material from Scotland and beyond. Come on out for a fun evening. Cheers! - Robert Campbell

CANTRIP



Cantrip is a quartet of Scottish traditional musicians that positively crackles with energy! The band's name — an Old Scots word meaning charm, magic spell or piece of mischief — aptly describes the unexpected twists and turns in their arrangements as well as the inherent, compelling potency of their native Scottish tradition. By interweaving dual fiddles, bagpipes, flute, guitar, bouzouki and banjo, Cantrip creates a robust sonic landscape that is wild, spirited, somber, whimsical and sometimes quirky. Their music is a savory stew of Breton, Scandinavian, Balkan and several strands of Scottish music — a feast to leave you blissfully satisfied! Refreshments at halftime. Saturday, September 16, 2006, 8:00 p.m. Memphis College of Art, Callicott Auditorium (located in the heart of Overton Park, Memphis)

Tickets - \$20 general admission. You may purchase advance tickets from Cafe Francisco, 400 N. Main, 901-578-8002; The Deliberate Literate, 1997 Union Ave., 901-276-0174; Davis-Kidd, 387 Perkins Ext., 901-683-9801; Fiddler's Green, 5101 Sanderlin Ave, Suite 104-B, 901-684-2227; or MCAA, 801 Park, Earle, AR 72331 (mail orders only.)

For more information about this concert, please contact: Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance at 901-276-1527 or 870-792-8679. Visit Cantrip on the web at www.cantrip.co.uk Thanks for supporting live Celtic music in the Mid-South.

400-Year-Old Scottish Pistol Found in Jamestown

Archaeologists have uncovered a rare but perfectly preserved early 17th-century Scottish pistol at the historic former British colony known as the birthplace of the United States, making the firearm one of the oldest artifacts of European origin ever discovered in North America. The weapon probably belonged to one of the first settlers to arrive at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 and was recovered from a well at the site with several other “hugely significant” artifacts.

“The lock is encrusted but it has a brass barrel common on a lot of Scottish-made pistols. It’s very distinctive and in very good condition,” said Bly Straube, the curator of the Jamestown Rediscovery Museum where the snaphaunce pistol, probably made by a manufacturer in the Scottish Lowlands more than 400 years ago, was being cleaned up in a chemical-free water bath.

The pistol, leather shoes, a ceremonial axe known as a halberd and a small lead tag engraved with the archaic spelling “Yames Towne” are some of the earliest European artifacts to be discovered in the United States, according to William Kelso, the site’s director of archaeology. His team has spent 12 years excavating areas of the 22.5-acre Jamestown site, where three boats

carrying 107 colonists, under the command of Captain John Smith, landed on 14 May, 1607, and began construction of what would become Britain’s first permanent settlement in the New World.

Once clean, all the artifacts will be freeze-dried then given a protective wax coating before they go on display. “They’re the earliest you could find in what is now the United States,” Mr. Kelso said. He added: “On a scale of one to ten, this is an 11. The pistol is gorgeous. Maybe it was lost accidentally, or maybe it was broken. It’s not even tarnished. The brass looks like gold.”

Dr. David Caldwell, curator of the National Museum of Scotland, and an expert on medieval weapons, has also welcomed the discovery. “It’s very exciting because, of these 17th-century Scottish pistols, there are maybe only about 30 or 40 remaining anywhere in the world,” he said. “Most of them are preserved in collections abroad, where they might have been given as gifts by mercenaries to foreign dignitaries. Virtually none is preserved in Scotland, or has come out of the ground in Scotland. So to have one turn up in the context of somewhere like Jamestown is very interesting. It’s evidence of a weapon actually being used by the people of that time, and not one from a collec-

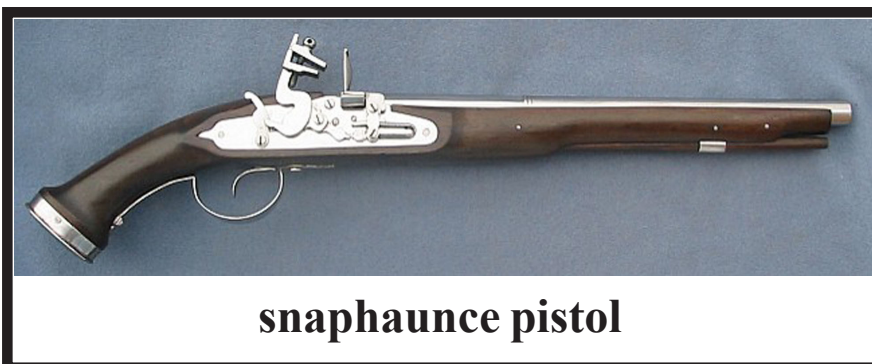
tion that was probably never fired.”

Ms. Straub said that the dig had uncovered similar weapons in the past, including a matching pair of left and right-handed pistols, but none was in such good condition. “The water in the well was the perfect preserver because it had no oxygen in it,” she said. “The colonists probably abandoned the well and started throwing rubbish in it when the water became stagnant and was no longer drinkable.” Another theory is that the gun’s owner placed the weapon on the well’s rim as he tried to get a drink and accidentally knocked it in.

The truth will never be known, but Ms. Straub said that the gun almost certainly belonged to a civilian family man among the settlers. “It was the preferred personal weapon of a gentleman and wouldn’t have been issued to the rank and file in the military. They were unwieldy weapons.”

Like all Scottish-made firearms of the period, they were muzzle-loaded and featured a simple lock firing mechanism. “One of the fortunate things is that manufacturers put their own markers or date stamps on the weapons around that time, so it will be interesting to see if we can identify it further,” Dr. Caldwell said.

- from Scotsman.com RICHARD LUSCOMBE Thu 27 Jul 2006
Thanks to Dan Irvin for sharing this article.



Celtic Fest

Saturday November 4, 2006
Casey Jones Village Amphitheatre
Jackson Tennessee
Festival to run 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

731-554-7500 or 800 345-1526
www.celticfest.tn.org
Gary Wood

We are inviting all Clans to come and participate with us in this festival. It will be similar to a Scottish Games but with an emphasis on family and children's activities. It will be an excellent opportunity to teach about our Celtic Heritage and make new friends and contacts. A website is available at www.celticfest.tn.org. Please consider coming and joining us. Bring your tent. We will have tables and chairs available at nominal cost. In order to plan our space, we ask that you let us know by October 1, 2006 if you can participate.

Gary Wood, proprietor of the Celtic Moor in Jackson, wanted us to share

the following information:

Celticfest 2006, a family oriented celebration of Celtic heritage, will be held on November 4th, 2006 at Casey Jones Village Amphitheatre in Jackson, TN from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Artisans and craftsmen are being sought as vendors for this event. Items offered for sale need not be Celtic-themed—this is an opportunity for all to display and sell their wares.

Applications are available at The Celtic Moor, 31-B Wiley Parker Rd; Jackson, TN 38305; (731) 554-7500 or (800) 345-1526. Vendor fees are ten percent of gross sales (excluding tax) with \$50 minimum. The \$50 is due upon acceptance of application. Booth space is 10 x 10 feet, although larger spaces are available. Tables and chairs may be rented at \$8 for tables and \$2 for chairs. Electricity may be available to limited locations. A list of items to be sold and samples or pictures should be provided with application.

LinksLink

Thanks Gordon and Carmen Wright of Edinburgh for these links!

Edinburgh International Book Festival on location at Charlotte Square

http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/radioscotland/view/show.shtml?cover_stories

Learn Gaelic with BBC Alba

http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlam/learn_gaelic/index.shtml

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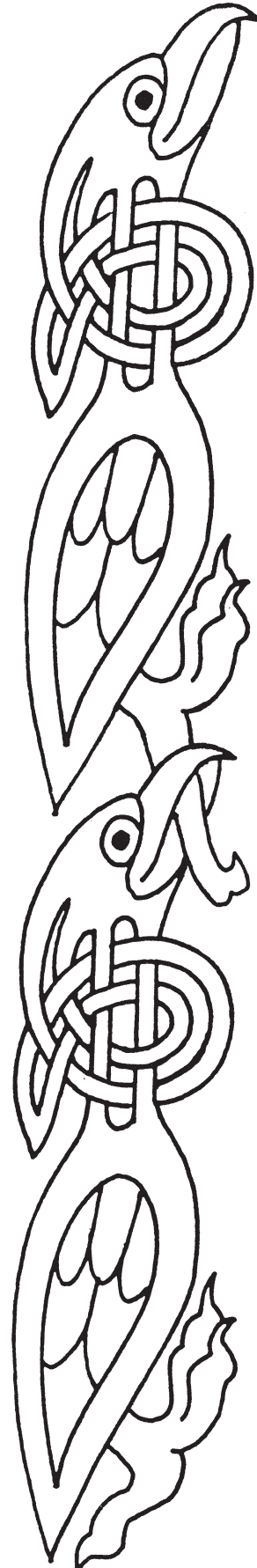
http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/5/_copyright_notice_gw.htm

Scottish Screen Archive

<http://www.scottish-screen.com/film/detail.php?id=26880001>

Academic and National Library Catalogue

<http://copac.ac.uk/>



Calendar of Events

Mondays

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

Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-
9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
G'town Pkwy. 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. 278-1216.

2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889.

September 5

Board Meeting at Celtic Crossing,
903 S. Cooper - 6:30 pm.

September 9

MSSI Summer Picnic at St. Columba
3-8 pm. \$2 cover Potluck Dinner and
Homemade IceCream!

September 11

Regular monthly meeting at Holiday

Inn, Poplar and 1-240. Reserva-
tions required by Thursday, 9/7, call
725-1879 or online at
Memphiscots.com. 6:00 pm dinner
& 7:00 pm Program: Bud Hisky on
"The Five Jameses"

September 16

Tennessee Genealogical Society
Charles A. "Chuck" Sherrill.
Germantown Municipal Center
1930 Germantown Pkwy.
9:30-3:30

September 22-24

CLANJAMFRY



August 31 | Americana Celtic

Hear artists this week, including
Tim O'Brien, Jane Rothfield, and
Mark O'Connor, who drift easily
between American roots music
and Celtic styles and collabora-
tions.

September 7 | Spirit of Youth

Explore the fruits of recent years'

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

Sundays, 6:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3

investment in traditional music
education in Scotland, Ireland, and
the United States in an hour of
recordings featuring the National
Center of Excellence in Tradi-
tional Music and similar tuition
programs. Together they create a
bridge between the next genera-
tion of musicians and the current
Celtic sound, honing the skills of a
great many of young artists.

September 14 | Alison Brown

The great American banjo player
is our guest this week. She quit
Wall Street to devote her energies
to originating her own acoustic
music brand. Along the way she's
been building an impressive roster
of artists, from both sides of the
Atlantic, for Compass Records,
the Nashville-based label she
created with her musician husband
and business partner Gary West.

Fiona Ritchie met up with the
couple at the annual Celtic
Connections music festival.

September 21 | Heart of the Session

From Matt Molloy's pub in
County Mayo, Ireland to
Edinburgh's famous folk bar
"Sandy Bells," we celebrate the
sound of communal music
making.

September 28 | Ferintosh

This week we explore a distinc-
tive blend of Celtic and Baroque
music, largely sourced from 18th
century collections of Scottish
airs and dance tunes, with studio
guests Ferintosh (fiddler David
Greenberg, cellist Abby Newton,
and harper Kim Robertson)

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Letter to the Editor:

I checked into the Bartlett Performing Arts Center concerning Dougie MacClean. He will be here February 10, '07. The Celtic Tenors will be here October 21, this year. The tickets are \$25.00 for one, a group of 10 to 29 goes for \$15.00 and 30 or more the price is 12.50 a ticket. Do you think we should publish this? — Ben -- *Editor's Note: Yes!*

Bill Maguire led us over the paths of the great Celtic Migrations of the past 2000 years at last month's meeting. Nice Pointer, Bill!

Bud, you have a tough act to follow in September.



Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Sept. 11th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240

Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Bud Hisky on The Five Jameses

Board Meeting, Sept 5th at 6:30 Celtic Crossing, 903 S. Cooper at Oliver

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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