

Clanjamfry Celebrates 10 Years

OK, so far this year, we've had Scottish festivals in Arkansas and Kentucky and North Carolina – now it's our turn! Clanjamfry, our very own festival (well, officially it belongs to Evergreen Presbyterian Church, but it feels like ours), will celebrate its 10th anniversary on September 19 – 21. To make the birthday even more special, we've been selected as this year's honored organization. The Memphis Scottish Society tents will be situated

in a prominent location & will be THE spot for meeting, greeting, and just hanging out. By the way, President John Schultz would love to hear from you if you can help staff the tents for an hour or two.

For full details refer to the brochure mailed to your house, or if, you've misplaced it, check out clanjamfry.org. Here's a brief summary: Friday, September 19 5:30 pm - Reception for Patrons and 7:00 pm – Ceilidh, both in

Bryan Student Life Center on the Rhodes College Campus, Saturday, September 20 9:30 am Kilted Run, 10:00 am Faire, & 7:00 pm Old Blind Dogs concert, all at Evergreen Presbyterian Church; Sunday, September 21 10:45 am Kirkin' o' the Tartans, followed by Dinner-on-the-grounds for worshipers.

So, mark you calendar & make plans to enjoy our Clanjamfry!

This year at the Heritage Tent we are focusing on the theme "Scots To & Fro – The Scottish Migrations". We'll cover those who came to Scotland, specifically the Celts & the Norsemen, and those who carried their Scottish culture to the ends of the earth. Expect songs & tunes both about the Scottish diaspora and those they them-

selves sang or played. Likewise, we'll have tales about Scottish immigrants and the stories they shared 'round their hearths and campfires. There's even a special presentation of Scots in the Holy Land. And we'll wind up the theme with a panel discussion featuring the contemporary Scottish immigrant, those native Scots who now live amongst us

here in the Colonies.

You'll find a presentation on bagpipes and a special talk on the new piping competition being inaugurated this year at Clanjamfry. Harpists, singers, storytellers, dancers, and lecturers – you'll find them all at the Heritage Tent.

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In presidential election years it is inevitable that we attempt to liken the proffered candidates to those who have previously held that lofty position. If your rumination considers Ronald Reagan, be aware that our 40th president has a strong **Scottish Connection**.

Yes, it's true: though Reagan is generally held to be of Irish extraction and has solid Irish bona fides, Reagan's family tree has several Scottish branches. (To muddy his ethnic background further, those of elephantine memory may recall that Reagan throughout his long and public life was often called "Dutch", a nickname given him in infancy by

his own father, because he looked "like a fat little Dutchman" and wore a Dutch boy haircut.)

Here are the facts: Reagan's great-grandfather John Wilson was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire; Wilson's mother was Amelia Glasgow. Reagan's great-grandmother Jane Blue was born in Nova Scotia, but her parents Daniel Blue and Catharine McFarlain had been born in Argyll and married there.

Reagan's life history well exceeds what could be attempted here given space limits, so you are encouraged instead to catch PBS's *American Experience: Ronald Reagan*. The 2-part series will be aired on WKNO

Channel 10 on Monday, September 22 and Monday, September 29 at 8:00 pm (repeated at 1:00 am). But, the temptation is too great to refrain from sharing these Reagan tidbits: though one of the most conservative politicians of recent history, Reagan was a Democrat until 1962 AND is the only U. S. President to have ever been the president of a labor union, having held the presidency of the Screen Actors Guild from 1947 to 1952 and again in 1959.

When you watch that TV special or find yourself comparing today's presidential hopefuls to former presidents, remember Ronald Reagan and his **Scottish Connection**.

Hi Folks

We're back! MCAA's spring concert featuring Emily Smith was a lovely Sunday afternoon of Scottish song and music, and now it seems like so long ago!

Our first Fall 2008 event is just around the bend, Sept 7th at 4 PM. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. This will be the only concert in September, and we are proud to present the German-Irish group Cara. Vocally rich and instrumentally mischievous, they will immerse you in a tidepool of refreshing music. Their name is Irish for friend. For more information about Cara, you may visit them on the web at: www.en.caramusic.com.

Cara will be joined by Amanda Kehoe of County Wexford Ireland. She is a Senior All Ireland Champion on both piano and piano accordion, and she has a unique voice combining contemporary and traditional styles.

With this concert, we are honored to introduce a new venue that you are sure to enjoy -- The Pink Palace Theater. The theater has been renovated and has splendid acoustics. See you soon. Cheers for now. Robert Campbell



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), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

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

Have you ever heard of “Shinty”

Seems to be the Scottish cousin to Irish “Hurling” both being predecessor’s to Golf and Ice Hockey.

Shinty (derived from the Scottish Gaelic *sinteag*, although it is referred to as *camanachd* or *iomain* in modern Gaelic) is a team sport played with sticks and a ball. *Shinty* is now played almost exclusively in the Highlands of Scotland, and amongst Highland migrants to the big cities, but it was formerly more widespread, reaching as far as England.

Whilst comparisons are often made with field hockey, the two sports

have several important differences. In *shinty*, a player is allowed to play the ball in the air and is allowed to use both sides of the stick. The stick may also be used to block and to tackle, although a player may not come down on an opponent’s stick, this is defined as hacking. A player may tackle using the body as long as this is shoulder-to-shoulder as in football.

The sport was derived from the same root as the Irish game of hurling, and is similar to bandy but has developed different rules and features. The old form of hurling played in the northern

half of Ireland resembled *shinty* more closely than the standardised form of hurling of today. Like *shinty* it was commonly known as *camánacht* and was traditionally played in winter.

Shinty is also one of the forebears of ice hockey: in 1800, Scottish immigrants to Nova Scotia played a game on ice at Windosor. In Canada, informal hockey games are still called shinny.

In the Scottish Lowlands, it was formerly referred to as common/*cammon* (*caman*), *cammock* (from Scottish Gaelic *camag*), knotty and various other names.



Shinty is unique to Scotland and one of the oldest games in the world. The game is similar to games such as hockey and lacrosse in some aspects and has historical roots with golf and ice hockey. As with lacrosse the game is a fast moving aerial game where physical fitness is tested to the limits. However, different from both hockey and lacrosse as in *Shinty*, feet can be used to stop the ball but not the hands (unless you are the goal-keeper). You can carry the ball on your *caman* which can be also be swung above shoulder height.....a skilful eye and a sense of survival are paramount!! Thanks to David Corbett for sending in this article.



10 More Things You Never Knew About Scotland

31 In the early 19th century a Scottish engineer John MacAdam (1756-1836), who'd become increasingly frustrated with highways that were often impassable because of rain and mud, came up with a revolutionary method of road construction. It involved placing tightly packed layers of small stones bound with fine gravel on a base of large stones with adequate drainage to carry away rainfall. This *macadamisation* of roads did much to ease travel and communication and the process was quickly adopted in many other European countries and North America. Midway through the 19th century the use of hot tar to bond the stones was developed. This method known as tarmacadam (today shortened to tarmac) is still the staple of road building 200 years later

32 In 1490 the Bishop of St Andrews declared that meat pies were too English and banned their consumption in Scotland

33 Although the Scots comprise less than 0.5 percent of the world's population, 11 percent of all Nobel prizes have been awarded to Scotsmen.

34 Scottish soldiers in the 14th century carried bags of oatmeal and cooked themselves fresh oatcake wherever they camped. The dough was rolled out and

while on side was baked on a flat iron plate the other side was toasted on the campfire. These cakes gave them the energy to endure long marches

35 In the last years of his life George Orwell lived a self-sufficient lifestyle in a remote smallholding on the island of Jura in the Outer Hebrides. Barnhill, his house there was an empty farmhouse, eight miles from the nearest road. There he wrote his novel *1984* away from the phone and other distractions and he could fight his tuberculosis.

36 The British Isles' shortest place name is I (Gaelic for Iona). In addition there are three Scottish place names which contain only two letters: Oa, Ae and Bu.

37 An English visitor to Scotland in the early 17th century described a 'pottage' made of oatmeal flour boiled in water and eaten with butter, milk or ale. This meal, which was to become known as porridge had many regional variations in Scotland and was served at breakfast or as the main course at lunch or dinner

38 When the potato was introduced to Europe in the early 17th century, it was damned as an evil food. The Scots refused to eat it because it was mentioned in the *Bible*, and in other European

countries it was blamed for starting outbreaks of leprosy and syphilis.

39 One of the first Scottish railways was opened between Edinburgh and Dalkeith in 1831. It contained Britain's first railway tunnel stretching 350 yards under the southern edge of Holyrood Park. The carriages were originally horse-drawn as it was thought steam engines were dangerous. It became known as the Innocent Railway because of the safety record, as no one was ever killed.

40 The first international rugby game happened in 1871 at a time when teams still consisted of 20 players each side. It was played between England and Scotland at Raeburn Place in Edinburgh, in front of a crowd of 4,000, who paid an entrance fee of one shilling. Scotland won by one goal and one try to one goal. There were no penalty goals, as it was accepted that gentlemen would not cheat. The try was awarded after a 10 minute argument, leading to a famous aphorism by Dr. H.H. Almond, the Scottish referee: "I must say, however, that when an umpire is in doubt. I think he is justified in deciding against the side which makes the most noise. They are probably in the wrong."

PAY ATTENTION, NOW (X2)

1. Our dues are due on October 1st.
2. See, it goes like this: We have to vote on the slate of officers at the December member meeting, SO, we have to have any nominations from the floor (from whom you have, of course, secured prior permission) in the November member meeting (in addition to the nomination committee's slate of officer nominees, of which the membership are notified at least 10 days before, which in 2008 is 11/1), SO a nomination committee needs to be formed in the October meeting,

consisting of the immediate past president, the current president's appointee, and one member elected from the membership in that meeting (who has, of course, also given prior permission), SO we need to remind the membership of this process in September in order that we can be thinking of who we want to nominate to that committee, SO we can contact him/her in advance (of course) & secure his/her agreement. NOW, if you've absorbed all that legalese, try this on for plain straight talk: that gives the nomination committee about

2 weeks to arrive at their slate of nominees. This is one of the most important functions of the year and must be done in a very short time, SO if you've ever given any thought to being an officer of MSSSI (and all members of an organization ought to at some point), call one of the nominating committee members to let them know of your willingness & availability. OR, if you think someone should be an officer, let the nomination committee know that also. (It would be polite to mention it to the putative nominee first.)

Websites of Interest From our Scottish Friends

To our readers from our Scottish connection Carmen Wright.

Traditional folksongs and storytelling in the Canongate at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Their website is:

www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/



'Local heroes: The art of the graphic novel' - the spring exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, looking at key development in the world of comics and graphic novels, revealing the contributions made by Scots. See also:

<http://www.nls.uk/events/local-heroes/index.html>

Check out this new calendar:

http://calendar.scotsman.com/winQuaich_submit.cf

BAGPIPE MUSIC

My little brother sent these sites to us. He is on the staff of the Vanderbilt Music Library and has been a source for finding many items of interest for me over the years. Thanks Robert Rich for this submission.

Piobaireachd Manuscripts

(rarely-heard "classical music of the Highland bagpipe")

<http://www.ceolsean.com/>

For most of the 20th c there were only one or two versions of the canonical piobaireachd repertoire accessible outside hard-to-find library archives.

Bagpipe Tunes Music Manuscripts (from Andrew Carnegie's personal piper, Carnegie Mellon University Achives)

<http://shelf1.library.cmu.edu/Andrew/pipe/thumb.htm>

Another site for all of you Scottish Music Lovers: <http://www.scotchsnap.com/>

The Edinburgh Festival? Those lucky enough to have been there or those who have read *Starburst* by Robin Pilcher (Rosamunde's son) know all about it, but to summarize, the Edinburgh Festival is a number of unrelated shows & festivals held each August in Edinburgh, including the Edinburgh Fringe. There are live comedy, music, dance, opera, and theatrical performances. There are book shows, fine arts displays, and pipe-and-drum tattoos. To read about this year's festival, go to www.eif.co.uk.

David Corbett has passed along the news that Lochcarron is having a terrific sale on in-stock cloth.

For details, go to www.lochcarronusa.com/sales. David can co-ordinate your order with that of others to save on shipping. You can contact David at info@birlsgonewild.com or 901-233-2903.

Last but not least our very own Shell's concert schedule: <http://www.levittshell.org/schedule.cfm>

Postal Carrier campaigns to wear a Kilt!

Well, this is a new item we had to bring to the attention of all Grace Notes readers – it was forwarded to us by Gavin Anderson, David Corbett, AND John Schultz.

It seems that a certain U. S. postman, Dean Peterson, has petitioned his union to request that the U.S.P.S. expand its approved uniform options to include a “Male Unbifurcated Garment”. We would more likely recognize it by its original name... a kilt.

Though Peterson is of Finnish and Norwegian extraction, not Scottish, he, like our own Mr. Clausi and Mr. Schultz, had the great good sense and fortune to marry a woman who is. This whole kilt thing started when Mrs. Peterson brought Dean back a kilt from a trip to Scotland. In good husbandly fashion, Peterson tried it on and like many another found it

so comfortable that before long he was wearing it “everywhere – to one son’s football games, the other son’s concerts, shopping and gardening.”

Why? Well might you ask. “In one word,” says Peterson, “it’s comfort.” As have many others across the years, he has found that his 6’, 250# frame is better accommodated by the kilt than by bifurcated (i.e., two-legged) garments such as trousers or shorts. Though both of these are sanctioned garments for postal carriers of either gender, Peterson claims that they cause “chafing and scarring”, of which kilts are elegantly innocent.

Before carrying his quest to the Boston convention of the National Letter Carrier’s Association, Dean sent a letter & photo of him wearing a prototype of the proposed uniform kilt to “union branches in every state,

Guam, and Puerto Rico.” The letter contained this plea: “Unbifurcated Garments are far more comfortable and suitable to male anatomy than trousers or shorts because they don’t confine the legs or cramp the male genitals the way that trousers or shorts do,” he wrote. “Please open your hearts — and inseams — for an option in mail carrier comfort!”

Alas, Peterson’s campaign was defeated, but thereafter he was encouraged by the amount of support he got from other carriers. Vowed our thwarted kilt-wearer, “I got so pumped up after being at such a low that I’m taking this to the next convention in 2010 in Anaheim, Calif.”

This story was originally filed by Associated Press Writer Dan Catchpole on August 7, 2008, with assistance by AP’s Jill Lawless.

A Warm Up to Clanjamfry

As you prepare for Clanjamfry, here’s an event you might want to consider adding to your festival training program – CelticFest Mississippi 2008 September 5, 6, & 7. Think of it as a warm-up to Clanjamfry. This information is from their website:

“CelticFest Mississippi 2008, Celtic Heritage Society’s 17th annual weekend festival is almost here! Take your mind off of the weather at air-conditioned stages filled with the best of Celtic music and dancing. Alternatively, venture

outdoors to get your fill with everything else the festival has to offer. It’s a packed weekend of Celtic music, dance, and fun not to be missed.

“CelticFest” is a celebration of the Celtic nations including Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Brittany. It takes place on September 5-7 at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum. “CelticFest features an exceptional variety of exciting Irish and Scottish music and dance on 6 stages, plus Celtic heritage, music and dance

workshops, a children’s area, Celtic specialty vendors, and plenty of food and drink. Because much of the festival takes place indoors, CelticFest will be held RAIN OR SHINE!

“Advance tickets are available (for the first time ever) online. Admission is \$12 for an adult Weekend Pass, \$8 for seniors and students, \$5 for children ages 5-17, and \$1 for children under four.” For more information, please visit the CelticFest web site: www.CelticFestMS.org.

Introduction of a new Scottish Friend!

I was born in Perth, Scotland but moved home to work in England. I retired about 10 years ago having worked in England as a technical training lecturer with British Telecom. Having been in exile for 30 years it seemed a good idea to retire

to the land of my birth and so came to live in Callander on the southern edge of the highlands in the shadow of Ben Ledi.

The mountains were so close and so beautiful that I had to get back to the love of my youth - walking

the mountains. I never go anywhere without my camera and inevitably have amassed a huge collection of photographs, not only of the mountains, but of the surrounding scenery. *Continued back page*

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums

6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,

6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889
2nd, & 4th Friday
Scottish Country Dancing.

Monday, September 8

Monthly Meeting Jason's Deli
Poplar and Highland. For
directions call 757-4200 or go to
memphiscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program:

September 19

"Kula" - Levitt Shell
www.levittshell.org/schedule.cfm
7 PM

September 19 - 21

Clanjamfry
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
clanjamfrymemphis.org

Thursday, September 25

Board Meeting at 5:45 at Perkins
on Germantown Parkway

October 25

Samhein - Halloween Party
5-9 pm at St. Columba's
contact: Mary Ann Lucas

November 29

St. Andrew's Day Tea
2 - 4:30 PM
Crumpet's on Highland between
Central and Poplar
Contacts: Sue Malorne or
Mary Clausi

December 8

Annual Christmas Party
contacts: Jackie Garner

January 24

Burns' Night
contact: Melissa Gibson

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"
Robert Campbell, host

WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3

The lovely ladies of Celtic Woman are back with a new album entitled "A New Journey". Watch for them on WKNO Channel 10 on Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 pm (repeated at midnight) and again on Friday, September 12 at 10 pm.

And while we're at it, James Galway will join the New York Philharmonic in concert on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 pm (repeated at midnight), also on Channel 10.

the Thistle & Shamrock®

Sept 4: Thistleradio Poll Winner: Appalachian Connection - This was the program visitors to our website (thistleradio.com) most wanted to hear. Sense the musical linkage between Scotland, Ireland and Appalachia through traditional songs and tunes.

Sept 11: Thistleradio Poll Run-up: New Gaelic Voices - Explore the branches of contemporary song sprouting from the roots of ancient vocal traditions.

Sept 18: Thistleradio Poll 3rd Place: Fiddle Styles
Sample the tasty fiddle flavors of music from Celtic roots.

Sept 25: The Silver Collection
From timeless vinyl to pioneering mp3s, enjoy an hour of musical masterpieces from 25 years of Thistle.

Oct 2: Stage and Screen Irish traditional arts thrive on Ireland's westerly Aran Isles, home to the internationally acclaimed music and dance show Ragús. Along with excerpts from this show we explore a variety of music from theatrical productions.



The InCallander.co.uk website came about largely as a result of the ‘discoveries’ I made whilst exploring the area of Scotland around Callander, the Trossachs and Loch Katrine. I realised that all this information would be invaluable to visitors on holiday here and so began the task of creating the website. InCallander now gets about half a million visits every year from people all over the world searching for tourist information, music, walks, history accommodation and even family history.

I hope you enjoy the photographs which are but a taste of what, for some of you, may be the ‘Land of Your Ancestors’. The photos are all from west central highlands. Alistair Reid

Kilchurn Castle, Den of the Campbells.



Next Monthly Meeting - September 8th
Jason’s Deli, Poplar @ Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Board Meeting, Monday, September 25th at 5:45, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

GRACE NOTES
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