

St. Andrew's Day Tea

Once upon a time, a verra long time ago, mony years indeed, the congenial folk of the Memphis Scottish Society met in a gracious gathering at the end of each November to honor St. Andrew, the Auld Country's patron saint. This genteel affair took the form of an afternoon tea with pots of hearty brew, fare suitable to the occasion, some characteristically Scottish entertainment, and proceeds donated toward the Scholarship Fund.

This, the St. Andrew's Day Tea, is being recalled from the misty realms of

fond memory. Once again the Society will host the event, with some of the cherished elements of the earlier teas

patrons many long-denied amenities which are considered de-riguer by coffee drinkers – the beverage presented at the table

already brewed, second or multiple cups as part of the original order, selections of blends, and decaffeinated alternatives.

Crumpets' full-cream-tea meal will be served,



and some new elements as well.

The tea will be held on Thursday, November 30th from 2:30 pm till 5 pm at Crumpets Restaurant, 262 S. Highland Street. A number of MSSI members have discovered this lovely small restaurant and can attest to its elegant ambiance and excellent cuisine (ask Sue Malone, Mary Clausi, or Mary Ann Lucas, amongst others). Additionally, it affords to its tea-drinking

featuring Taylors of Harrogate blends, overlaid by the performance of favorite Scottish tunes. Alas, due to the diminutive size of the restaurant, seating is limited to twenty-five. Tickets are \$25 and include a donation to the MSSI Scholarship & Grant Fund. Contact Mary Ann Lucas at 725-1879 or StarCntyDown@aol.com for tickets or more information.



YOUR MSSI BOARD

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October 24, 2006

To: Seldon Murray, Chairman, Nominating Committee
Mary Ann Lucas, Editor, Grace Notes
From: Dick Bevier, Member, Nominating Committee
Subject: MSSI Board Nominations

As of this writing, as decreed by Section 8, Article VII, of the Bylaws, as revised, the duly appointed Nominating Committee shall recommend to the members at the November meeting the following slate:

President: John Schultz Vice President: Mary Ann Lucas
Treasurer: Cheryl Noland Secretary: Mary Clausi
Members at Large: Sue Malone, Janet Mandanna, Sammy Rich

Further affiant saith not. -- DB/sr

Scottish Connection

Nowadays, everybody is concerned about fuel conservation, but long before it became popular to hug a tree, did you know that fuel conservation had a **Scottish Connection**? Not for the green movement, however; for that most Scottish of values, economy. In 1828 James Neilson developed a method of blowing hot rather than cold air into the blast furnace, decreasing the quantity of fuel required for smelting.

James Beaumont Neilson was born in Shettleston, a village three miles east of Glasgow, on June 22, 1792. After leaving school at age fourteen he went to work at a colliery (a coal mine and its associated build-

ings), responsible for tending a wind-ing engine. He was apprenticed as an engineer two years later. In 1817 he was appointed manager of the newly established Glasgow Gas Company, a post he was to hold for forty years.

During the 1820's he was invited to correct a fault which had developed in a blast furnace at the Muirkirk Iron Company. On inspection it occurred to him that he could increase the force of the blast by passing hot rather than cold air through the red-hot vessel. He set about conducting experiments in the smithy at the Gas Works, where he proved his theory to be correct. After further trials at a foundry, he patented his hot-blast

process. The process quickly proved its worth through significant savings in fuel consumption and was rapidly adopted by the iron industry throughout the west of Scotland. Frequently challenged as the inventor of the hot-blast, Neilson successfully defended his claim in a number of actions. He became a rich man and a keen advocate of technical education.

So, next time you're re-fueling your car, stop crying long enough to remember James Neilson's fuel conservation and its **Scottish Connection**.

- from the *Texas History Celtic Connection website and Wikipedia.*

Scotland, Ho! w/Ed Miller

Thanks to Kathy Schultz for this: "Dear Kathy: Many thanks for your interest in possibly joining one of the 2007 Ed Miller Folksong Tours of Scotland. The dates for 2007 are June 16-30 and Sept. 8-22. We will rendezvous in Glasgow Airport on the morning of June 17 or September 9. As in past years, the tours will cover many parts of Scotland, including the Borders, Edinburgh, Fife, Perthshire, Angus, the Central Highlands, Skye, Glencoe, and Glasgow.

The cost of the tour is \$2900 per person, based on double occupancy. This price covers all transport and hotels in Scotland, all breakfasts and dinners, performers' fees and entry to most historical sites. It does not cover lunches, tips, single room supplement (\$350) or airfare. Direct flights into Glasgow and Edinburgh are available. If you plan to use frequent-flyer miles towards buying your ticket, please book very early as only a few spots are allocated for such programs.

The basic aim of these tours is to give people the chance to enjoy and learn about Scotland through experiencing its music and landscape. You will meet and hear performers and songwriters on their home ground, visit the contexts from which the songs and music have come, and have the chance to enjoy occasional hikes in both the Lowlands and the

Highlands. This is NOT a search for the Scotland of Brigadoon, Braveheart, and the Loch Ness Monster – rather it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the music, people, history and landscape of this amazingly varied country in an interesting, personal and entertaining way.

The tentative itinerary includes 3

(cont on pg. 3)

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



Cymanfa Ganu

We are not the only Celts, of course. It is good to keep up with what our Brythonic cousins are doing from time to time. Since I probably have more Welsh than Scot in me, I guess I qualify as one of those cousins. Anyway, the first recorded use of Cymraeg (Welsh), “yr iaith y nefoedd,” (the language of heaven) was in Scotland, so we have another connection there.

While Scotland developed a national kirk after the Reformation, Wales became strictly nonconformist, with Baptist, Methodist, and Congregationalist chapels springing up. The Great Awakening brought a flurry of hymn writing in Wales, and the tradition has continued with many hymns being written during the nineteenth century. The most familiar of the Welsh hymn tunes in hymnals today are “Cwm Rhondda” (“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”), “Diamdem” (“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”), and “Joanna” (“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”). Our own Caledonian Chorale even has a Welsh tune in its repertoire: “Llef” (“Cry”), though sung to different words than the Welsh use.

There developed in the mid-nine-
(*cont from pg. 2*)

nights in Peebles; 2 in Edinburgh; 3 in Birnam/Dunkeld; 2 in Plockton; 1 in Glencoe and 2 in Glasgow. There will be free days where hiking will be possible, with other activities for non-hikers. Some of the performers you will probably meet and hear include fiddler Iain Fraser, songwriter Brian McNeill, Fife singer Jack Beck, young brilliant singer/fiddler Lori Watson, the Singing Kettle children’s program, Gaelic folklorist/singer Margaret Bennet, singer/songwriter Jim

Malcolm, bothy songster Scott Gardiner, fiddler Pete Clark and his ceilidh band, local singers/musicians in Plockton and Glasgow-on-legs Adam McNaughtan....I, and guide Charles Hunter, will also be singing and telling stories throughout the trip. [Space is extremely limited], so if you are interested in joining the group, please send in your deposit ASAP to ensure a place. Once I have received these, I will send you a detailed proposed itinerary, reading list

teenth century a tradition called the Cymanfa Ganu (pronounced kuh-MAHN-vah GAH-nee), which means “a gathering for song.” Due to initial consonant mutations in Welsh (don’t ask), it is usually written Gymanfa Ganu. It is considered a worship service, though not as formal as a regular church service. The invitation to a cymanfa is “Deuwch, Canwn i’r Arglwydd” (“Come, let us sing to the Lord”). It is also just a great time of singing the beautiful Welsh hymns, reminding us of a time when church life and social life were much more closely connected than they are for many today.

Various Welsh churches and societies in America have local cymanfaeodd canu (the plural). Every year on the weekend before Labor Day, the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association puts on the national Gymanfa in a different city in the U. S. or Canada. This year’s Gymanfa, the 75th, was held in Cincinnati at the Hilton Netherlands Plaza. They now call the event the North American Festival of Wales (<http://www.nafow.org>) since it has come to include much more than the actual Gymanfa itself. On Thursday,

Friday, and Saturday, there are seminars, films, Welsh language and singing classes, Welsh folk dancing, folk and formal concerts, banquets, times of informal singing, a vendor marketplace and a Welsh tea room. There is also an Eisteddfod, a musical and literary competition. This is another Welsh tradition in which contestants compete in singing, recitation, and literary composition. On Sunday, there is a bilingual church service in the morning, followed by the afternoon and evening sessions of the Gymanfa itself.

I had not been to a Gymanfa for fifteen years, so this year Linda and I made the trip to Cincinnati. It was well worth it. We especially enjoyed the twmpath dawn (Welsh folk dancing), which is similar to the Scottish country dancing that we do here. It was great to see a few old friends from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where I first got involved in Welsh activities. And, of course there was the music, always the beautiful music. I even bought a tartan tie for the Gwynne family, my Welsh ancestors. And who knows: later, perhaps another kilt? There were some kilted lads there! — Thanks John Simmons for sharing this bit of history.

and other materials. I do very much hope you’ll join us in 2007! If you have any preliminary questions, please contact me at 2411 W. 8th St.; Austin, TX 78703 or at Edmiller@songsofscotland.com.

A’the best, Ed

Editors Note: MSSSI member, Debra Parmley is also organizing a tour of Scotland for next year. Contact her for more information at: 331-4982, or debra@debraparmley.com



Some thoughts on Halloween

Have you ever seen such a ghostly affair?
Ben Kemker pipes for all on the leftt. Old friends
- new friends! Lottie Rich and Marty Wooley,
below share common interests the violin.



Ok, I will be the first to admit to Sandy and Ellen Simpson, I am not sure what these costumes are, but let me be the first to say congratulations to the most outstanding color of the evening! Don't look bad in the Grace Notes either. Bill, I didn't get a chance to read all your patches, Have you been every-where man? Oh yes, lest I forget, thanks for the impromptu song! It was great fun.

Dancing, singing, adequate eats, “hot dogs roasting o’er an open fire” Does it get any better than this ? They ask that in the beer commercial, and I’m here to tell you, they are on to something. I do believe everyone that came enjoyed the evening, a few even stayed to help clean up. Ok. That is Mary Ann Lucas and Elaine Meece dancing the night away on the right.



Where else to meet a certain lass (Mary Ellen Kemker) we all know and love, who walks around in a pirate’s git-up, complete with a pet parrot that leaves marks, and an in-law (Elizabeth) as that Harry Potter gal, I confess I have forgotten her name, that Harry Potter gal? I better check with my children, they will know.

Y U M Y U M. Have I mentioned Hot Dogs Roasting o’er an ... yea, maybe I have. How ‘bout a tip of the hat for a unique way to roast enough dogs at a time with only one fire. Pretty darn good Scottish ingenuity, if you were to ask me. I nearly forgot there was a bit of singing from the Caledonia Chorale and Mary Ann gave us a good Halloween story complete with Musical accompaniment from Marty Wooley. Good job from both of you. Have you got any better ideas? Step up, let’s have them. See you all next year. -- Thoughts on Halloween by Sammy Rich, pictures are from him as well.



Murray Shoolbraid, an introduction

Murray Shoolbraid has been my mentor in collecting Scottish music for the past couple of years and has consistently provided me with outstanding guidance, and in many cases, outright instruction. For this I am indeed a lucky man. Murray is not only an outstanding source of information in this field, but he is willing to share his time with myself and many others who study the Scottish Ballads and the folklore behind them. He has shared several songs and hymns that our Caledonia Chorale has performed.

Murray was born in Fife, Scotland, in 1931, to a third generation dancer and teacher. His education, which began in Scotland, progressed through England and Ireland and was completed at the University of British Columbia where he graduated with a Masters of Arts in Slavic Studies in 1965. Murray, a librarian in Lanarkshire, entered the Royal Navy in 1952 and upon graduating from U.B.C., taught Russian language and literature for eleven years at Simon Fraser University. Murray is an expert in the field of Scottish literature prior to the 20th century and is sought as a reference by many of the finest ballad scholars around the world. Sammy Rich

Tunes and Text

Some tunes are more popular than others, and in some cases there is a bewildering plethora of words to one tune (or close variants thereof), though usually only one set is considered *the* text, at least in one area. In the United States, the melody of “O Tannenbaum” is usually known as “Maryland, My Maryland”, from the poem by James Ryder Randall of Baltimore (1861) - one of the many good songs to come out of the War between the States. Elsewhere, naturally, other chauvinisms come into play. In its native Germany it seems to have appeared first in 1799 as “Es lebe hoch”, and in 1820 it was set to the “Christmas Tree” words with which it is mostly associated. A little later, a student song (of around 1815) was set to the tune, and passed around the universities (in many countries) because it was in the learned tongue of Latin:

“Lauriger Horatius, quam dixisti verum: / ‘Fugit, Euro citius, tempus edax rerum.’ / Ubi sunt, O pocula, dulciora melle / Rixae, pax, et oscula rubentis puellae?”

Translatable as “Laurel-wreathed Horatius, true it is your saying: / ‘Time flies swifter than the wind, all things ever slaying.’ / Draughts of wine so honey-sweet, where are now their traces, / Where the quarrels and the peace, blushing maids’ embraces?”

This tune for some reason supplanted “The White Cockade” (a good Scottish tune) as the melody to carry Jim Connell’s immortal “Red Flag”:

“The people’s flag is deepest red, / It shrouded oft our martyred dead. / And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold, / Their heart’s blood dyed its every fold. / Then raise the scarlet standard high, / Within its shade we’ll live and die; / Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer, / We’ll keep the red flag flying here.”

In Britain, therefore, it’s commonly known by this title. It’s very popular, hence has acquired, as pops do, several parodies, mostly cheeky or satirical. Try this, which is very close in many of the words and rhymes to the original; I got it from a Vancouver amateur mountaineer:

“The people’s crag is deepest red, / It cushioned oft our fallen dead. / And ere their limbs had ceased to twitch, / Their life’s blood dyed its every pitch. / Then raise the piton hammer high, / Upon the crag we’ll do or die; / Though leaders fall, and seconds spill, / We’ll raise the standard higher still.”

Chauvinism proper creeps in when a patriotic or nationally boastful song is employed by other nations to their own flattery; hence “The Roast Beef of Old England” becomes “The Old Scottish Broadwords” (by J. G. Lockhart, 1821), and “The Fine Old English Gentleman” has been transmuted into (of course) Scottish, as well as Irish and Dutch! - - Thanks for sharing this with us, Murray Shoolbraid



Calendar of Events

Mondays

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

November 7

Board Meeting at Shoneys Sycamore View at Summer.- 5:30 pm.

November 11

WKNO/ Auction/MSSI/oncall

November 13

Regular monthly meeting at Holiday Inn , Poplar and 1-240. Reservations required by Thursday, 11/7, call 725-1879 or online at www/Memphiscots.com. 6:00 pm dinner

& 7:00 pm Program: Bill Maguire: "Gaelglish"

November 30

Saint Andrew's Day Tea; 2:30-5:00 pm at Crumpets Restaurant 262 S. Highland. See page 1 for details.

*******December 11*******

Regular Members Meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party at All Saints Episcopal 6:00 pm. 1508 S. White Station



Nov 2 | Kate Rusby and John McCusker

Kate Rusby has been called "the brightest light in English folk music" (Daily Telegraph) while her husband John McCusker, composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist, is widely regarded as "a great talent" (Living Tradition). They are all

of these things and great fun too as you'll find out when you meet them to hear about their albums "10" and "Goodnight Ginger."

Nov 9 | Still Sounds Great

We're in the mood to reminisce this week, as we celebrate 10 years of the music of Solas with their "Reunion" release, featuring band members past and present. We also mark 20 years of music from Greentrax, and re-live the excitement of the 1980s when Stockton's Wing stormed across the world as one of Ireland's leading live acts. Their album "Live - Take One" has been digitally re-mastered and re-released.

Nov 16 | Frankie Gavin

The internationally revered Irish fiddler and flute player talks about the many facets of his music, from his decades of groundbreaking work with De Dannan to the individual projects that occupy much of his time today. Featured are recordings with Frankie's lifelong friend Mairtin O'Connor, also renowned jazz violinist the late Stephane Grappelli, and De Dannan.

Nov 23|Remembering Mícheál Ó Domhnaill

Everyone who has thrilled to three decades of music from The Bothy Band, Relativity, and Nightnoise was greatly saddened by the loss, in Dublin this summer, of one of the foremost figures in folk and traditional music. A native of County Meath, Ireland, Mícheál Ó Domhnaill's guitar accompaniment was a seminal influence on acoustic music throughout Ireland, the UK and the US, where he made his home in the 1980s and 90s. We remember him through his many remarkable recordings.

Nov 30 | Live from D.C.

Savor highlights from a live performance by humorist and songwriting legend Adam McNaughtan. Hosted by Fiona Ritchie, his appearance at the National Mall, Washington DC, was part of "Scotland at the Smithsonian," a celebration of Scottish music, arts, crafts and food at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2003.

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

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MSSI members- Stone Mountain Games



Frank and Becky Trafford

Brenda and Bill Maguire



Westley, Allen and Sandy Simpson

Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Nov. 13th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00

Program @ 7:00 : Bill Maguire, "Gaelglish"

Board Meeting, Nov. 7th at 6:30 Shoneys at Summer and Sycamore View

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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