

Am fear-gléidhidh

"The Guardian"—Published by the Clan Wallace Society Worldwide. Founded 1966.



Special Edition Wallace Tour Summer 2005

VOLUME 39 No. 3



Clan Wallace Society (Worldwide) Tour 2005

President's Message for Special Tour 2005 Newsletter

If you have not already heard, the Wallace 700 Gathering Tour to Scotland in August was fantastic. The 50 Plus Wallaces who participated in this event all agree that it was both monumental and unforgettable. The weather was outstanding and we were treated with great respect and honor. In order to share our experiences with you, two Board Members Marcus J. Wallace and William J. Wallace have stepped forward to create this Special Edition of the CWSW Newsletter, dedicated to the 2005 Gathering Tour.

Highlights of the tour included a dinner in Edinburgh with Andrew Wallace, son of our Clan Chief Ian Francis Wallace, as our guest. We had a wonderful evening and Andrew's presence and comments to us made the occasion even better. Andrew's graciousness extended to staying late into the evening socializing and enduring having his photo taken many many times with members.

As your President, I also got a chance at the dinner to present the first Rewards Program Certificates to several of our faithful members. The program thus far has netted \$ 7,900. in donations to the Society.

We were invited to several events in Aberdeen, including a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor and a marvelous Sunday filled with a parade, entertainment, and a very special ceremony in honor of Sir William Wallace. I was privileged to lay a beautiful Clan Wallace Society Wreath at the foot of the Wallace Statue during the event.

Our tour was packed with great sights, exciting events, and wonderful memories and I am sure you will enjoy seeing some of the photos we took and places we visited. I invite you to read on!!!

Pro Libertate.

In Your service,

Captain John R. Wallace

From the publishing team

This edition of the Clan Wallace Society (Worldwide) newsletter is the joint effort of those who went on the Wallace 700 Tour in August 2005 to commemorate the brutal execution of Sir William Wallace August 23, 1305. It is intended to stir the memories of the participants and bring a little of the passion to all of you. It was truly a once in a lifetime trip, over two years in the planning and over way too soon. A little about the picture which captures all of us on the main tour and best typifies the events of the trip. We are standing in front of the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling Scotland. Dr. Elspeth King, Director is holding a presentation copy of *The Book of Wallace* by Dr. Charles Rogers which we publish and our Society gift of 500 British Pounds. Standing on the opposite side of President John R. Wallace CAPT. USCG (Ret) is Colin O'Brien the Provost of Stirling. We were welcomed with open arms amid great ceremony everywhere we participated in the Wallace Commemoration ceremonies. This is but one example. Our very heartfelt thanks to all who participated in providing stories and pictures for this effort.

William J. Wallace
Mesa, Arizona

Marcus J. (Jim) Wallace
Corinth, Texas

CLAN WALLACE GATHERING ~ SCOTLAND 2005

Commemorating the 700th Anniversary of the Execution of Sir William Wallace

PRE-TOUR: THE HIGHLANDS AND BEYOND

August 9-15, 2005

Wednesday, August 10 - GLASGOW

Pick up at Glasgow Airport. Introductory city mini-tour of Glasgow including George Square, the Cathedral, medieval Provand's Lordship, and Sauchiehall Street. Introductory Dinner meeting for all in the hotel.



Glasgow to Inverness Area via Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle

Thursday, August 11 - Nethybridge

Northward along the "Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond", Rob Roy's cave, Rannoch Moor and on to Glencoe. Stop to visit the 'Glen of Weeping' site of the notorious massacre of 1693. Stopped at the monument to the British Commandos of WW II, who trained in this area. Then on to the ruins of Urquhart Castle and visitor center. Cruise on mysterious Loch Ness, near the site of the major 'sightings' of Nessie. The boat "Jacobite Spirit" provided transportation and a view from the water of the ruins. Reservations at the Nethybridge Hotel in Nethybridge. There has been an Inn on this site since 961 A.D. Nethybridge is close to Inverness. There was another welcoming dinner at the Hotel.



Friday, August 12 – Nethybridge

After breakfast we departed for Grants Distillery. Following the tour we had lunch at the World famous Baxters Restaurant. Then on to Cawdor Castle associated with the Shakespeare's Play "MacBeth". Short tour of Inverness, the Highland capital, then to nearby Culloden Battlefield, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's '45 Rising' ended in 1746.



Saturday, August 13 - Nethybridge

Met in the lobby of the hotel for group pictures and then march to attend the Abernethy Highland Games dating back to 1880! Events include Heavy Events, Piping Competition, Track Events, Highland Dancing and over 100 pipers in the grand massed band display! Clan Grant is the honored clan and like many area specific games in the region is the only clan represented. Following the games the massed bands marched back to the hotel for a wee dram and then the winning band played in front of the hotel "until they dropped." Those that wanted to went by bus to Aviemore for dinner.





Inverness Area to Ft. William via the Isle of Skye Sunday, August 14 - FORT WILLIAM

We stopped at Eilean Donan Castle for a picture moment then continued westward into Wester Ross, along the route taken by Bonnie Prince Charlie after the Battle of Culloden, we cross the road bridge 'over the Sea to Isle of Skye'. Visit Armadale Castle, which is the hereditary seat of Clan Donald (Macdonald) and view the spectacular Cuillin Hills before returning to the mainland via ferry (to Mallaig) en route to Fort William, located at the foot of towering Ben Nevis



Ft. William to Glasgow via Callander

Monday, August 15 Eastward bound past Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain at 4,406 feet and on into the mighty Grampian Mountains, then on over the Pass of Killiecrankie to the spa and festival town of Pitlochry. Continue into The Trossachs, the 'bristly country' via Aberfeldy and along the shores of Loch Tay to Callander. Visit the Rob Roy Visitor's Center and then on to return to the big city of Glasgow..



The Main Tour ~ August 14 - 23, 2005

Glasgow, Stirling, Aberdeen & Edinburgh

Tuesday, August 16 - Glasgow

Day tour of the William Wallace homeland, including Elderslie and the monument marking his birth; Robroyston where he was betrayed and captured; and beautiful Paisley Abbey with its stained-glass window of Sir William Wallace.



Glasgow to Edinburgh via Stirling

Wednesday, August 17 - EDINBURGH

Guided tour of Stirling Castle and also tour the Old Town, including the Church of the Holy Rude (Cross) At lunch we attended a presentation at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum. We presented Dr. Elspeth King with a donation to the Gallery and a copy of the "Book of Wallace" which we publish. Visit Wallace Monument, Continue on to Edinburgh. Group dinner with Andrew Wallace, son of Ian Francis Wallace of that ILK.



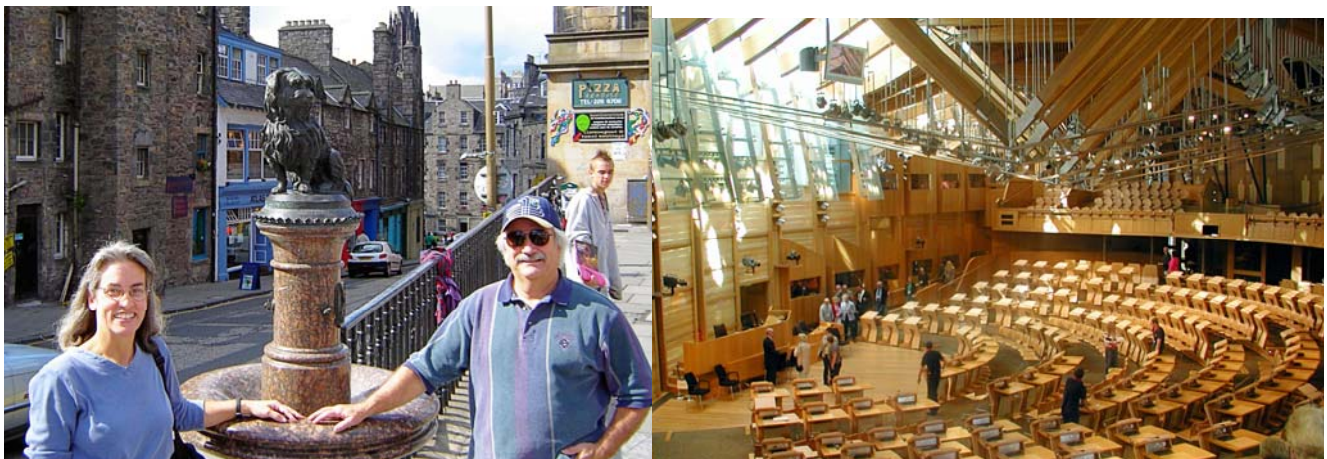
Thursday, August 18 - EDINBURGH

Tour the Scottish capital, seeing both Old and New Towns, the Royal Mile, St. Giles Cathedral, the Castle, and "New Town" to see Princes Street and Charlotte Square. Tour Holyrood Palace. Attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.



Friday, August 19 - EDINBURGH

Full free day in Edinburgh. The group split up. Some visited Roslyn Chapel, Some visited the new Parliament building and viewed the Declaration of Arbroath, the Lubeck Paper and others.



Edinburgh to Aberdeen via Arbroath

Saturday, August 20 - ABERDEEN

Aberdeen, stopping en route at Bannockburn. Continue via St. Andrews and Dundee, then on to Aberdeen via Arbroath. We toured the visitor center and Arbroath Abby. Attend a special civic reception for Clan Wallace Society hosted by the City's Lord Provost (Mayor) .in Aberdeen



Sunday, August 21 - ABERDEEN

Afternoon as invited guests of the Wallace 700 Society of Aberdeen at their solemn wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the 700th anniversary of the execution of Wallace. Special 'Farewell' dinner.



Monday, August 22 - GLASGOW AREA

Tour Drum Castle with David Irvine, Laird of the Castle.

Return to Glasgow via Deeside. View Balmoral Castle and Crathie Church. Visit Braemar. Continue via Glenshee and Blairgowrie into the Lowlands to Glasgow.



Poet's passion. keeps spirit of Wallace alive

Scots makar marks hero's anniversary

LESLEY DUNCAN

THE national poet of Scotland Has written a work to mark the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's death. Edwin Morgan was asked to contribute a poem to an anthology marking the anniversary of the hero's execution in London on August 23, 1305. When first approached the laureate, or makar, was polite but non-committal. However the remarkable Lines for Wallace were then sent to the compilers almost immediately. This latest work by 85-year-old may surprise readers with its eloquence and passion. When the question in the first line of the new poem – "Is it not better to forget?" – is countered by a negative, it is clear that Wallace is not going to be consigned to the resting-ground of old unhappy far-off things and battles-Long ago. "Betrayal never to be forgotten, Vindictiveness never to be forgotten, Triumphalism never to be forgotten

LINES FOR WALLACE BY EDWIN MORGAN

Is it not better to forget?
It is better not to forget.
Betrayal never to be
forgotten
Vindictiveness never to be
forgotten,
Triumphalism never to be
forgotten
Body parts displayed
At different points of the
compass,
Between hanging and hacking
The worst, the
disembowelling.
Blood raised in him, fervent.
Blood raced in him, fervent,
Blood razed in him, for ever
Fervent in its death.
Far Burns was right to see
It was, not only in the field
That Scots would follow this
man
With blades and war-horns
Sharp and shrill
But with brains and books
Where the idea of liberty

Is impregnated and
impregnates.
Oh that too is sharp and shrill
And some cannot stand it
And some would never allow it
And some would rather die
For the regulated music
Of Zamyatin's Polyhymnia
Where nothing can go wrong.
Cinema sophisticates
Fizzed with disgust at the
crudities
Braveheart held out to them.
Over the cheeks of some
[Were they less sophisticated?]
A tear slipped unbidden.
Oh yes it did. I saw it.
The power of Wallace
Cuts through art
But art calls attention to it
Badly or well
In your room, in the street
Even by god if it came to it,
On a battlefield,
Think about it.
Remember him.

The poet himself was a 'bit surprised' at how strongly the poem emerged. He said "It's a very touchy subject...with all sorts of pitfalls." However Morgan, who recently handed over his post as Glasgow's Poet Laureate to Liz Lochhead, said he believed he had negotiated them. He said that as soon as he started writing, "he got very, very involved", adding that everything about Wallace made it hard not to feel strongly moved. However the poet denied he he could be fanning anti-English sentiment. "I don't think so." He responded mildly.

The poem goes on to consider the positive implications of Wallace's life as seen by Burns who identified him with ideals of liberty and freedom.

Morgan tilts at those who "fizzed with disgust at the crudities" of the film Braveheart, saying "The power of Wallace/Cuts through art/ but art calls attention to it/ Badly or well."

Despite being diagnosed with cancer six years ago, Morgan remains immensely productive. He has been writing more poems on public subjects in the last couple of years, and said there was a "Kind of obligation to make yourself a sort of spokesperson."

He has two new books on the way. The first, a play based on the Gilgamesh Legend, is due to be published by Carcanet in November.

The other, a new collection of poems, is called A Book of Lives, although it is unlikely to be as autobiographical as his 2003 volume, Love and a Life.

The Wallace Muse: Poems and Artwork Inspired by the Life and Legend of William Wallace is compiled by Lesley Duncan and Elspeth King and published by Luath Press at £7.99.

Jeffrey's Citing

I searched in Glasgow all day,
For the Hard Rock Café.
Much to my dismay,
I couldn't find my way

At Grants Distillery,
I found Scotch tasted bitterly.
It made my mouth hurt
Because it tasted like dirt.

At the Abernethy games I met Trudy,
She was a beauty.
Scottish women are the best,
They're better than all the rest.

In Stirling I learned about my ancestor,
Freedom's successor.
He was brutally maimed,
Yet his ideas remained.

Up to this date,
William Wallace is great.
Proud I became,
When I realized the importance of sharing his name.

Submitted by William Jeffrey Wallace

Reflections on Culloden

By Donna K. Wallace

Do we see?
The pain and terror, hear the lads muffled cries?
Power of mercy the pain invokes
Sadness fills the well now.
Flowers left behind show remembrance.
Heather from the ground of blood, what men have died?
What holy sacrifice; weeping still the families.
Hear the drums, hear the skirl?
Faintly whispers all that have passed.
Lightly tap the receding sight; marching on the light of Christ.
Softly leave the trampled moor..



Joyce's Thoughts

There were two strikingly different memories from the clan Wallace trip that stick in my mind. First, the small town of Nethybridge and the quaint hotel in which we stayed and the wonderful hospitality extended to our group by the hotel staff and the town's people. Our day at the 125th Abernethy Highland Games and the subsequent sharing of drinks and stories with the locals pipe bands in the hotel bar were an experience we could never recreate in the states.

On the opposite extreme, proudly participating in a big city event in Aberdeen in the Wallace 700 parade, and wreath laying ceremony at the Wallace statue was historical and very memorable. Although we recognized and celebrated our past with Scottish kin, we made history, too. It also makes one realize how much of an infant country America really is when put in perspective with the extensive history lived, and made, by our forbears, so we can have the freedoms we enjoy today.

Joyce Jones

Marcus's Thoughts

On the first day of the pre-tour we were traveling by bus from Glasgow to Nethybridge and I was listening to those around me chatting and telling family histories etc.

As I listened, I was struck more by the similarities of the stories rather than the differences. Having attended many family reunions over the years, the atmosphere on the bus was one of a family reunion rather than a first time gathering of strangers from all over the states. There was a strong feeling of companionship which did not dissipate even after the main tour started. The tour guide, Ann Doig, and bus driver, Tam Stewart, were included in this feeling of old friends and far distant cousins coming together for a Holiday.

Pre Tour Scotland 2005



Main Tour 2005

