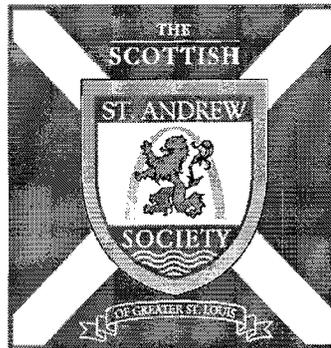


SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY  
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

**D**ear Members,

There was a super turnout for our resident humorist, Dr Tom Forrester, and he did not disappoint the audience. He reminded us of the Scots who were living in Ireland and thus thought they were Irish but eventually moved back to Scotland and .... vice versa! And, the Norwegians who were living in Denmark at the time, but invaded Britain through Thanet! Then there was the story of the Stane of Destiny, done in verse and covering those infamous happenings of 1950! What a wonderfully insightful perspective on those ancient events that formed (or otherwise) the United Kingdom.



activities in

Talking of historic events, the evening seems like a long time past now so thank you to all those who responded to our survey about the Burns Dinner. It has been very helpful to receive these comments, and the results are published in this edition of the Thistle Times.

The upcoming Annual Ceilidh will be a very special event encompassing our recognition of Tartan Day. Also, this year is the 25th Anniversary of incorporation of our St. Andrew Society, and we have planned some special connection with the Ceilidh. See

inside for details and please make your reservations on the attached form.

We need lots of volunteers and nominees for Board positions, including mine, for our 1998-99 year. The work is hard and the pay is terrible.... but the members are a great bunch (most of the time!)

Hope you can all make it to the March meeting, then the Ceilidh on April 4th.

**Nominations**

In line with our Constitution it is almost time for me to step down as President, and for Denise to move from being Executive Vice-President of the Society.

I have asked Keith to lead the Nominating Committee for these positions which will be filled by election by the members, and to collect any other nominees (self or otherwise) who wish to volunteer to help on the Board, starting Aug '98.

Please relay your comments, nominations, and suggestions, to Keith Parle at (314) 537

**inside...**

*Upcoming Events*

*Out and About*

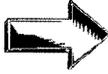
*Andrew Carnegie*

*Caledonia Corner*

*Toasts & Things*

# Upcoming Events

Next



Event

March 16th, 7:00pm

**“Views of Scotland”** by Esley Hamilton, author and  
Preservation Historian, St Louis County Parks and Recreation  
at Mary Institute/Country Day School



**ANNUAL CEILIDH — see attached  
reservation form**

**April 4th: there will not be another newsletter before then**

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If you would like  
to help out, call  
Marilyn Geery  
314 916 5344

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ther events for the year:

**Wed. March 18th, 7:00 - 8:00pm**

**Scottish traditional music** at Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St Louis, MO 63108. (Take Lindell to Taylor and turn north onto Westminster, church is on the corner). There is no charge and the program will feature **John Hughes** (St Paul, MN), who plays the pipes, bohdran, tin whistle, etc. He also provides background information about the music being presented.



**would you like a free decal with the Society logo?**

All membership groups (or families) attending our Annual Ceilidh will receive a free automobile decal with the new logo of the St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis, in color! We are undertaking this activity as part of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Society.

Additional decals will be available for sale at the Ceilidh and at future events.



pecial recognition will be given to those long-standing members of the Society who were members of record prior to 1974. If at the Ceilidh we will take the opportunity to acknowledge them there. For those who cannot make it to the Ceilidh then we will still do this either via mail or at another time.

**CEILIDH: *Kail-ly.* (noun)** — Originally an informal gathering of neighbors with spontaneous performances of music, singing or story-telling. **(verb)** — a visit or a chat.

## Out and About



Peggy Flynn sent these excellent photos from the Dedication Ceremony for the Stirrat Memorial Bench. There's Winnie, Jean, Babs, and Betty on the Bench, and a grand representation of the tartans in our Society, displayed by a fine body of our male members.

**T**he official “**Tartan Day**” in North America is widely recognized as April 6th. In Canada, this day has been celebrated for many years, while in the U.S. it has grown in importance in recent years. Some States (e.g. Nevada, Colorado) have it as a statute, and there has been a large movement to to have April the 6th be a Federally-recognized “National Tartan Day.”

The observation of Tartan Day is recognized by some 200 organizations throughout the U.S., that honor Scottish heritage, tradition and culture. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, of individuals now take part in the acknowledgement of Tartan Day. The celebration of April 6th has become so significant that Senator Lott (Mississippi) introduced a resolution in the Senate on November 10th, 1997, to designate this day as “National Tartan Day.” While Senate resolutions do not typically make exciting reading, the following extracts from the record are very interesting:

**Whereas** April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320, and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on that inspirational document....

**Whereas** this resolution honors the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent. The Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, and Scottish Americans successfully shaped this country in its formative years...

**Whereas** this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and performing arts....

....on that day nearly 700 years ago, that group of men in Arbroath wrote “*We fight for liberty alone, which no good man loses but with his life.*” These words reached across the centuries, across the ocean. Over 450 years later a group of men stood in a building in Philadelphia...they used the Arbroath Declaration as the template...this was natural as almost half the men there were of Scottish ancestry...and they signed their own Declaration of Independence... The words and thoughts of those long-ago Scottish patriots live on in America.... so that we may never forget the beginings of freedom

# Caledonia Corner

**T**he strangest subjects are sometimes the basis for common ground between two countries. A recent Scottish - American topic was mentioned in the Glasgow Herald....

And now a word about prunes. As you will be aware, next Monday sees the start of National Prune Week. We have been deluged with useful facts by the **California Prune Board** including the information that the dried-out and wrinkled plums can cure hangovers and simultaneously improve your sex life.

\* On a not entirely dissimilar theme, we quote Mr Bill Copeland, a lawyer chap who addressed Motherwell Chamber of Commerce dinner last week. He said he planned to patent a substance that ~~reduces a woman's sex drive by 80%. It's called wedding cake!~~

**R**emember that poll that gave Scotland it's own Parliament? Wonder what's happening now? ....

The panel of judges which will choose the design for the **new Scottish Parliament building** will include broadcaster Kirsty Wark as "the voice of the people". Last night she described her appointment as a "tremendous honour and responsibility". The panel of five judges will be chaired by Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar who described the building as "one of the most exciting and prestigious architectural projects in Europe at the present time".

Independent architectural expertise is represented on the panel by Professor Andy McMillan from the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow and Joan Connor, a past president of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland. These and other panel members will have to sift through the 70 submitted bids from ~~architects all around the world, 40 of which~~

**I**nvolve Scottish design teams.

## t's not a fare deal!

Recent report on transport in Scotland....

Since 1974, the cost of rail fares has increased by 74% and bus fares by 58%, while the price of motoring index has dropped by 7%. Apparently, this confirms other reports that public transport costs have risen so much that it's cheaper to own and travel by car!

And the Government reaction.... maybe we need to increase fuel tax so that motoring would again be more

## Wha wad ken?

**F**irst to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. What's a "Sgian Dubh"?
2. What did Alexander Fleming discover?
3. Which is further west: Loch Lomond or Loch Ness?

Sorry, nobody won last month.

### Answers:

1. Neep is a turnip (usually a swede turnip)
2. Mary was crowned Queen in Sept 1543 (she was born in 1542)
3. Ailsa Craig is a granite island in the Firth of Clyde, where curling stones are made.

All replies to Jim McLaren

Phone: 314-532-5986

Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,

Chesterfield, MO 63017

# Andrew Carnegie

Once the undisputed richest man in the world, Andrew Carnegie remains known today as the greatest philanthropist that ever lived. Born in the attic of a small house in Dunfermline, on November 25, 1835, he spent the first, formative, 12 years of his life in Scotland. In 1848, Andrew's parents immigrated and settled in Pittsburgh. Within a year of being in America, young Andrew got his first job in a cotton factory (his father was a loom-maker), and a year later he had risen to messenger-boy for a telegraph company. Through his self-taught understanding of this "new technology," Andrew eventually became Superintendent of Railroad and was influential in Washington during the Civil War (although he hated wars).

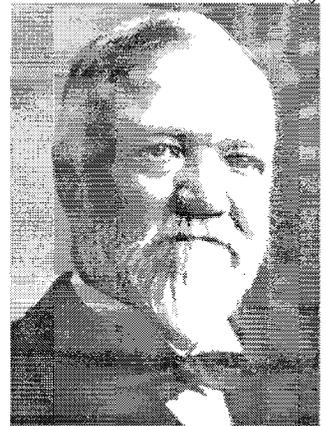
By the time Andrew was 25 years old, he had already invested in the Woodruff Sleeping Car, the first oil development in Pennsylvania, and the Keystone Bridge Company (replaced wooden bridges with steel). In 1873, he founded the J. Edgar Thomson Steel Mill in Pittsburgh and, from that moment on, the Carnegie empire just exploded with growth — driven by the demand for steel that Carnegie had predicted and fueled by the steel furnaces that he had faith enough to build. While Andrew Carnegie had made a huge success of the "American Dream" he never forgot his native Scotland. In fact, from the mid-1880's he spent almost 6 months a year at Skibo Castle which he built in Northern Scotland. The platform for his success is often debated, yet Carnegie was the first industrialist to use research scientists in a drive for continuous improvement. He also prided himself on selecting the "right man for the right job."

In 1899, Andrew Carnegie said "...the accumulation of wealth should be followed by its distribution in the form of public endowments." A Scotsman of his word, he sold his steel interests and by the time he died in 1919 he had given away \$380,695,653. It was not just to Dunfermline, nor just Pittsburgh, that he made endowments. There are 2,507 Carnegie-funded libraries — 1,689 in the USA, 660 in the UK, and 125 in Canada. Andrew was committed to the concept that education was a major key to success, and that access to information was the basis of all power. Clearly this is reflected in his drive to provide libraries to so many communities — we can only imagine how elated Carnegie would be today if he saw the vast information flow in the public domain that has been made possible by the Internet.

Skibo Castle has been turned into an elite retreat for members of an exclusive Executive Club, started by entrepreneur, Peter de Savary. Estimates are that Skibo costs around \$6 million per year to run, but that it is making around \$9 million — not a bad profit and one that Carnegie might think respectable.

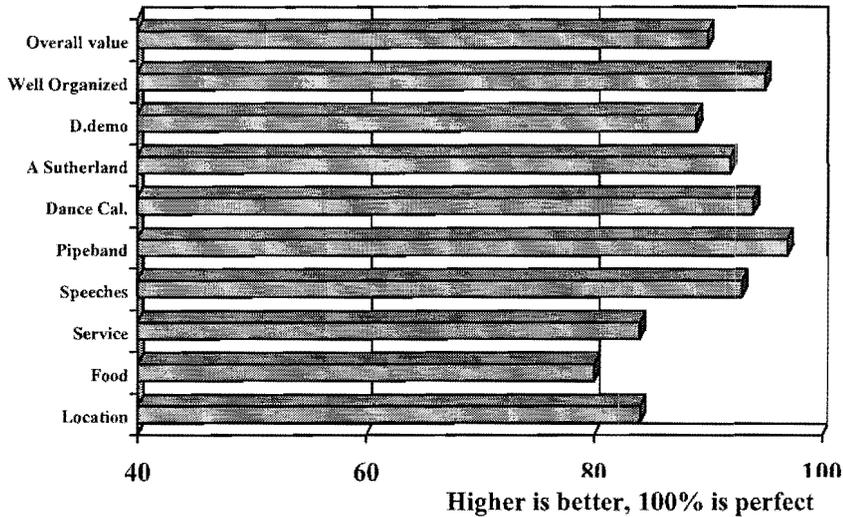
and of other American-Scots...

Kim Peterson brought my attention to some interesting information from the "Millionaire Next Door" that shows Scottish ancestry is highly correlated with millionaires. American-Scots have 21% of their ancestry group that are household millionaires, ranking second in the U.S. (closely behind Russian), and the Scottish ancestry group accounts for 9.3% of all millionaires in the U.S. The authors point out that Scottish-Americans are about 5-fold more likely to be millionaires than expected from the average. Interestingly, the evidence suggests that "Scottish offspring typically become economically and emotionally independent even as young adults." Sounds like all the Scots kids watch Andrew Carnegie



# 70 ASYS & THINGS

**T**he survey results from the Burns Dinner indicated that we had improved the overall value for the third year in a row, and it now scores over 90% based on responses (14% of memberships responded)....



Among the negative comments:  
 \* some people just don't like the Adams Mark, but it has improved greatly since the first time.  
 \* some people think it is too expensive to attend.  
 \* the program ran on too long this year.

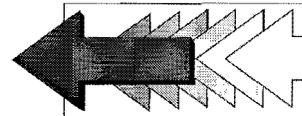
We will work on these issues but have to assume that if you didn't respond then it was fine. We also had several very positive comments about the whole evening. Thank you.

**TARTAN DAY at Kennealy's Pub**, April 6th, 8:pm.... Scottish folk music, bagpipes, kilts, good food, beers, Scotch.... Corner of Menard and Lami in Soulard (~4 blocks north of Anheuser-Busch).  
**Invera'an Pipeband Concert**. April 20th, 7:30pm. Cupples Museum, St. Louis University.



Prompted by the brilliant original research done by Dr Forrester on the movement of people and major invasions in the formative days of Great Britain, we contacted some experts in Roman history. They did indeed confirm that the majestic Roman armies first landed at Thanet — and even sent us the pictorial record of that momentous occassion.

**Send in your nominees  
 for the Board  
 to Keith Parle, 314 537 9463**



**H**ope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**.

Comments, and new material to the Editor:

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
 or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>