



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As the holiday season approaches we are all preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The society is no exception and we will again be hosting our usual Christmas dinner, with a visit from Santa. We will be meeting at the Mary Institute and Country Day school again this year. This is a really pleasant family event that I hope many of you will attend. One of the other Christmas traditions within the society is the decorating of a Christmas tree under the St. Louis Arch. It won't surprise anyone I'm sure when I tell you that our tree has a tartan theme. As you may remember the task of decorating the tree was coordinated by Peggy Flynn and friends for many years. This year the job has fallen to me but I would like a couple of volunteers to help me buy some new decorations and set up the tree. The Scottish tree is just one of several that will be decorated by national groups within the St. Louis area. Please call me at 532-7587 if you can lend a hand and help represent your society.

Preparations for the St. Andrew's Dance and the Burns' Dinner are going well and I urge you to get your reservations in early.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Lang May Your Lum Reek, Denise

THIS IS THE

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HAPPY St Andrew's Day

November 30th

Sign up now for our dinner-dance celebration to be held on November 20th, using the flier from last month, or call us.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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Upcoming Events

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

November 20th, 1999 St Andrew Dinner Dance

At The Missouri Athletic Club
405 Washington Avenue
Limited to the first 60 couples to register

December 20th: Christmas Party & Pot Luck Dinner
Starts 6:30pm. At Mary Institute/Country Day School.
Call Judy Chaboude 636-946-4174 with number of kids that will meet Santa.

January 22nd, 2000: Robert Burns Dinner
At The Frontenac Hilton

February 28th, 2000: To be determined
At MICD School

April, 2000: Ceilidh (and Tartan Day Celebration)
At Whispering Hills Clubhouse

May 21st, 2000: Picnic and Scottish BBQ
At Tower Grove Park

If you would like
to help out, call
Diane McCullough
314 773 4195

At a recent auction in Glasgow, a wealthy American announced he had lost his wallet containing \$10,000 and would give a reward of \$100 to the person who found it. From the back of the room a Scottish voice shouted, "I'll give you \$150"!!

In Scotland, Thanksgiving is not practiced as a large festival, nor holiday. The harvest and "thanksgiving" festivals are all held earlier in the year — possibly because of the shorter days and more inclement weather in November. The Celtic festival of autumn is called Lammas, and is held in August. Michaelmas and Harvest Home were September festivals of "thanksgiving" for the produce gathered during that season. The Celtic and Druid festival around the winter solstice, known as Samhuinn, became one with Halloween.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

Pic(t)s from Recent Events

If you didn't make it to these events you missed a great time.

The Annual Kilted Golf Tournament was a super success with a lot of chasin' the wee ba' and a fun dinner afterwards.

This "mad for the plaid" foursome usually play at Sunset Country Club and turned out for the event.



And party, well, judge fir yourself'...

that Halloween



Scarrryyy!!



Really Scarrryyy!!



Sticky!!



Ir you dookin' or jist snorklin'?



And back in the bleachers!

Andrew, Our Patron Saint

St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and has long been a symbol of the individuality and courage of the nation. It was Andrew who first carried the gospel to the ancient city of Byzantium, which later became the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and was re-named Constantinople. In response to his missionary efforts, the Roman proconsul at Patras had Andrew bound on a distinctive (X-shaped) cross, the *crux decussata*, in the year AD 60. About 300 years later, Emperor Constantine wanted to establish Constantinople as a centre of Christianity and had the martyr Andrew's body transferred to the city — at this time a portion of Andrew's bones were moved to Scotland. There are two versions of the legend of how this came about.

The Pictish King Angus (731-761) was facing a hostile army from the south in the area we know as Berwickshire, and while pondering his options, heard the voice of the apostle Andrew telling him to advance. Following this advice, Angus won the battle and soon after met a Greek monk called Rule. Rule was the guardian of the relics of Andrew that were being transported. Angus promised he would honor Andrew and proceeded to set up a shrine at his fortified encampment of Cennrigmonaid — the place we know today as St. Andrews on the Fife coast.

The second version also involves St. Rule (or Regulus). After hearing the body of Andrew was to be moved from Patras to Constantinople, Rule secured certain relics including a tooth, a kneecap, an arm-bone and three finger bones. He brought these remains to "the utmost part of the world" which turned out to be a place called Muckross (the headland of the boars). The settlement nearby was called Kilrymont, another early name for the town we know as St. Andrews.

Both versions are influenced by the writing of monks who intended to show the religious significance of the site at St. Andrews where a new priory and Cathedral were developing (1143-60). After the fall of Constantinople (1204), the remains of St. Andrew were taken to Amalfi by the crusaders. Some say his head went to Rome, and was later returned to Constantinople.

In Scotland, the Feast of St. Andrew (also called Anermas) was regarded as an important event. In addition to religious ceremonies, celebratory dinners were known in 15th and 16th centuries. Sir David Lindsay, Lyon King of Arms wrote about such a dinner hosted by James IV:

*And ilk year for his Patron's saik, Ane banquet royall walk he maik,
With wylde fowle, venisoune and wyne, With tairt and flam and fruitage fyne;
Of bran and geill there was na skant, And ypocras he wald not want.*

Today, St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, is remembered all over the world, through the thousands of Societies that bear his name and on St Andrew's Day. On or close to November 30th there is typically a celebration involving a dinner (and dance or music). Most of these dinner events include a toast in the form of:

"To the memory of St. Andrew and Scotland Yet"



The St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia
upon the occasion of its
Two Hundred and Fiftty-second Anniversary
sends Greetings and a Message of Good Cheer to all Sister
Societies, everywhere, on St. Andrews Day 1999.

Received from the Philadelphia SAS

CALEDONIA CORNER

W HISKY GALORE!

Recent research has demonstrated that drinking Scotch whisky raises the level of antioxidants in the body — these protect against a number of ailments including coronary heart disease. Other alcohols also increase antioxidant levels but it was found that Scotch is one of the best, and even beats red wine. It has been suggested that a greater portion of the phenols in Scotch are absorbed by the body and this explains the results. The Scotch Whisky Association is “very pleased” with these findings and re-announced that moderate consumption is beneficial to health. Some might question the results since they were from a study conducted in Scotland, but remember that the original term for Scotch was “uisge beatha”, or Gaelic for “water of life”.

E ver hear about “Dougie the Dinosaur”?

In 1992, Scotland’s first official dinosaur bone was found on the Isle of Skye — that was a theropod tibia (shin bone). In 1994, a sauropod femur was found on Skye and the press called it “Dougie the Dinosaur”. These and other recent dinosaur bones are on show at the National Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh). However, no need to travel all that way, they can be viewed on the internet at the following URL — <http://www.gla.ac.uk/~gxha14/Dino.html>

Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. What Scot invented logarithms?
2. Where is the Bass Rock?
3. Who was born at Linlithgow on 7 December, 1542

Congratulations to Cliff Bone who won last month.

Answers:

1. Thomas Lipton (Scot famous for tea).
2. Caledonian Canal: Inverness to Fort William
3. “Fute-bal” and “golfe” were banned in 1491

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Chesterfield, MO 63017

A Tale of the Road.

Did you hear about the car crash where male and female drivers walk away unhurt despite their cars both being written off. The woman looks at the damage and tells the man: "Just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days." Flattered, the man agrees it must be a sign.

..."And look," continues the woman, "here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." The man agrees again, and she hands the bottle to him, which he opens and takes a generous drink from before handing it back. As the woman puts the cork back in he asks: "Aren't you having any of the wine?" "Oh no," she says, "I think I'll just wait for the police"

TOASTS & THINGS

May the best you've ever seen
Be the worst you'll ever see;
May the moose ne'er leave yer gurnal
Wi' a teardrop in his e'e.

May ye aye keep hale and hearty
Till ye're auld enough tae dee,
May ye aye be just as happy
As I wish ye aye tae be.

Allan Ramsay

MARTINMAS

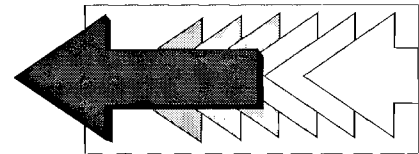
In ancient Scotland, St Martin's Day was November 11th and was called Martinmas — which signaled the beginning of winter. This old feast is described by Hew Ainslie as:

It's dowie in the hint o' hairst,
At the wa'gang o' the swallow,
When the wind grows cauld,
And the burns grow bauld,
And the woods are hingin' yallow.



KNOW ANYONE WHO'D LIKE TO JOIN!

Please contact Peter Geery at 636 916 5344



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. Comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:

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