

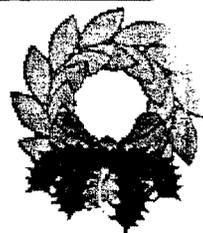


SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

We're now in the thick of the Holiday Season with all its pressures and joys. By the time you read this, the Society will have added its Christmas celebration to everyone's loaded calendar, but our usual good time will have been had by young and old alike. Thanks to fellow Board members Diane, Judie and Janet for the work they do on such events that are then enjoyed by the rest of us.



Delighted to report that Fergus Wood, leader of The Kinlochard Band, has accepted our invitation to return next November and they have set aside more time for an even bigger series of U.S. performances. We'll work with them and our friends in neighboring societies and other groups to have another all round success.

Look for important news (in this Thistle Times) about the new Scottish Games company which continues to get organized and welcomes the many different kinds of support needed for a successful event next October.

A letter of encouragement is on its way from me to Governor Wilson as a follow-on to last month's report on future annual Tartan Day (April 6) plans for Missouri.

Have a great start to the real Millenium – and order your Burns Nicht tickets now!

Yours aye, Bill Nicoll.



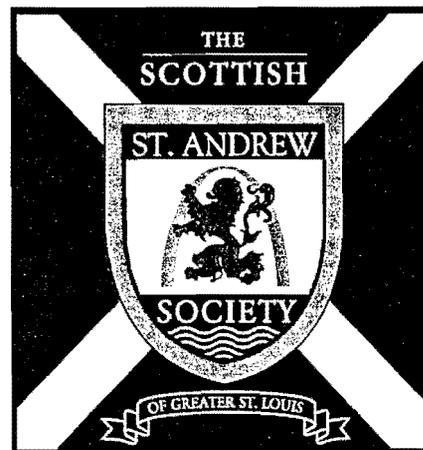
MERRY
CHRISTMAS



& A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Lang mae yer lum reek!



inside...

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Next



Event

Saturday, January 20th, 2001. Cocktails start at 5:30pm

Robert Burns Dinner

at the Frontenac Hilton

See attached flier — plan now and ask some friends

THE FLIER IS YOUR RESERVATION FORM: USE IT, DON'T LOSE IT

Other exciting events for this year....

February/March: Special Program TBA (at MICDS)

April: **Ceilidh** at Whispering Hills — details TBA

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



The St. Andrew Day Dance was an outstanding success. The feedback we received indicated that Forest Hills CC was a good location and that the Kinlochard Band were really appreciated. They played a nice mix of various tunes, songs, and dances. The band also commented that our St Louis group had the most enthusiastic (and best) dancers that they had encountered on their tour. Unfortunately, we had some camera problems and have not been able to obtain pictures in time for this edition of the Thistle Times.

Picture were received from our annual Halloween Party....

Guess who?
Ok, one is a
pumpkin but
what about
the other two
faces?



The treacle scones were a bit "tricky" & sticky!

Scottish Highland Games

There will be a Scottish Highland Games in St. Louis again — we have embarked on that course and look forward to a magnificent event that will be enjoyed by all.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY PLANS TO SUPPORT ST. LOUIS GAMES

The St. Louis Scottish Games (SLSG) company has been incorporated and will operate as an independent entity to manage the Scottish Highland Games. The target date for our Games is October 12 (evening) and 13 (all day), 2001. A great deal of work remains to be done and now that we have the operating company started the pace should accelerate.

The St Andrew Society Board has recommended that the Society should take a leadership position in sponsoring the Games, in accordance with our objectives and purposes in promoting things Scottish in the St. Louis area.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

In accordance with Society by-laws. This notice is posted for your information and a response is required if you disagree with the recommendations.

The recommended position is that the St. Andrew Society will make an initial donation of \$5,000. When the SLSG has raised a matching sum then another \$5,000 will be given. When the SLSG raises a further matching sum then a third and final amount of \$5,000 will be donated. This level of support is feasible due to previous savings (for the purpose of having a Games in St. Louis), and the fact that the Society will retain sufficient reserves to operate the Burns Dinner and all events in 2001, even if something were to go wrong with the Burns Dinner and no income were received.

The SLSG presented a budget and operational outline to the Society's Board which was taken into account in determining the level of support. If this recommendation is supported by the membership, the St. Andrew Society will be acknowledged as a major founding sponsor hereafter.

If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to register a disagreement with the recommendation then please call Bill Nicoll (314) 966 3920, or Jim McLaren (636) 532 5986, or e-mail the Thistle Times, or e-mail to macmail@stlouis-scottishgames.com

The SLSG website is being developed at
www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

And the logo for the Games.....
(it's even better in color)

S T L O U I S
SCOTTISH GAMES



Caledonia Corner

Did you realize that America was number two in the world at rugby? Well, if winning the "Superbowl" results in being designated #1 in the world, then losing to Scotland at Murrayfield seems obvious!

The official line from the Scottish Rugby Union was....

"Scotland got their Autumn test series off to an explosive start in front of an enthusiastic Murrayfield crowd running in six tries against the USA".

The actual score was 53 to 6 (that was points scored not beers in the changing room), but the USA did get chance to see (and hear) the Murrayfield Tartan Army.



Christmas & New Year were equally welcomed by Scots before the Reformation of the 16th-17th centuries. The original name may be from Scandinavia, for whom "Yultid" was the festival celebrated at the twelfth month, being the twelfth name of Odin – who visited Earth and left gifts for the needy.

In later times, Christmas was often known as Nollaig Beag, "Little Christmas". The Birth of Christ was acknowledged in a solemn manner. The festivities were postponed until a few days later, spilling over into New Year and Twelfth Night, which became the "Little Christmas". The French often called Christmas "Homme est né" (Man is Born) which is thought by some scholars to be the origin of the Scottish word, "Hogmanay", arising from the time of the "Auld Alliance".

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What are the Northern Lights?
2. Where is Holyrood?
3. How many steps are there going up the Sir Walter Scot monument?

Sorry nobody won last time.

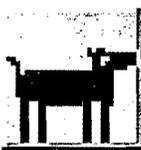
Answers:

1. A "firth" is a sea inlet (where river enters)
2. Galloway is in SW Scotland.
3. Salmon get to the East by swimming there! (and of course up the river where they were born)

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

A Russian couple was walking down the street in Moscow one night, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining", he said to his wife. "No, that felt more like snow to me", she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said". Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing.

Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it", the man said, "Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing". As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?" "It's raining, of course", he replied, and walked on.



But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" to which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear"

Famous Scots

We've written before about several famous Scots... here is an unusual story that has been going round on the internet, plus some a few more examples of famous Scots.

He was a hard-working but poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy that Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. The nobleman thought for a moment then said, "I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.... Just like the saying, what goes around comes around.

Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane (1773 - 1860)

Soldier and Astronomer, born in Largs, Ayrshire. Governor-General of the Australian state of New South-Wales. Set up an observatory and catalogued more than 7000 stars. The city of Brisbane (Australia) is named after him.

James Chalmers (1782 - 1853)

Dundee Inventor, Bookseller and Newspaper publisher. Invented the adhesive postage stamp, which made Rowland Hill's Penny Postal service a practical proposition.

Sir James Barrie (1860 - 1937)

Author. Best known for the creation of Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up.

John Buchan (Baron Tweedsmuir) (1875 - 1940)

Author, biographer and politician. Perhaps best known for "The Thirty-Nine Steps". Was also a member of parliament and Governor-General of Canada.

John Logie Baird (1888 - 1946)

Engineer. Inventor of the television and later developed ideas such as color, 3-D and large screen television. Also took out a patent on fiber-optics, a technology now used to carry many telephone calls and traffic on the internet.

Lord John Boyd-Orr (1880 - 1971)

As Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) he was the architect of food policies that helped starving nations, for which he was awarded a Nobel Peace prize in 1947.

TOASTS & THINGS: R. Burns

Here's tae oor ane Rabbie, The Bard, and Hero of Scotland
Born January 25th, 1759, in the Ayrshire village of Alloway.



Portrait by A. Nasmyth, 1787.
Scene is the new and old
bridges of Ayr.

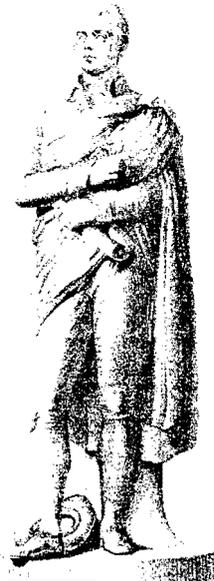
Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
O I will love thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.
From *A Red, Red Rose*



An oil painting
By C.M. Hardie

I'm truly sorry Man's dominion
Has broken Nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion,
Which makes thee startle,
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,
An' fellow mortal!

From "To A Mouse"



Statue by John Flaxman

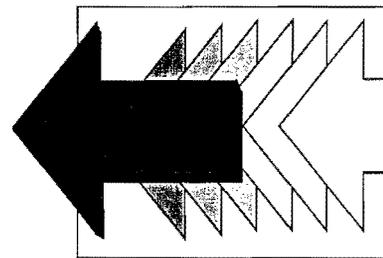
Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,
Ilk man and mother's son, take heed:
Whane'er to Drink you are inclin'd,
Or Cutty-sarks run in your mind,
Think! ye may buy the joys owre dear;
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.

From *Tam o' Shanter*.

A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a'
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, The Bard, that's far awa'.

We hope to see ye assembled a',
at the Burns Dinner, January 20th

**A wonderful century,
a great millennium, and a
Happy New Year
to Yin an' A'**



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:

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017
or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

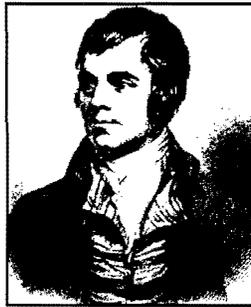
Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>
The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979

SCOTTISH ST ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST LOUIS

ROBERT BURNS DINNER

Frontenac Hilton
at Lindbergh and Clayton
Saturday, January 20th, 2001

Cocktails @ 5:30pm
DINNER @ 6:25pm
(plus haggis)



A Grand Evening
of poems, songs,
Dance Caledonia,
Invera'an Pipe Band,
and Scottish culture.

TRADITIONAL TOASTS AND TRIBUTES TO THE GREAT BARD

FEATURING Ed Miller in Concert

Special room rates at the Frontenac Hilton: \$92 single or double.

Call to make room reservations at 314 993 1100

Priority seating to members: must reserve and pay by Jan 13th.

RESERVATIONS: DETACH & SEND WITH CHECK

___ Members @ \$50.00 ea. = \$___

___ Senior Members @ \$45.00 ea. = \$___

___ Non-members @ \$55.00 ea. = \$___

Special deal: if reserved by a member, you can book a whole table
(10 people), or more, at the Members' rate for everyone: ___

CHECK FOR TOTAL = \$___

RESERVATIONS IN THE NAME OF _____

If seating with another party, please indicate your preference and we will try
to accommodate:

MAIL RESERVATIONS BEFORE JAN 13th WITH YOUR CHECK
AND A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:

Anne McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017

Need more information then call Anne @ 636-532-5986.