



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

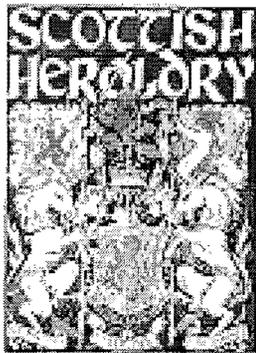
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

What a wonderful night we spent at the Frontenac Hilton as we celebrated the Society's 29th Burns' Dinner. The atmosphere, food, and entertainment were second to none. Dance Caledonia under the direction and choreography of Sandra Brown was a definite highlight of the evening. My admiration also goes out to the group of male dancers who performed the "Dance of the 51st Highland Regiment." My thanks also to the Highland Mist Dancers for their exhibition and Wayne Elrod our champion harper who entertained us during the evening. The "Sisters of the Haggis" outdid themselves yet again with a magnificent Haggis. Then Bill Nicoll gave us a superb "Address to the Haggis" after it was ceremoniously piped in by Pipe Major William Henry III. Diane McCullough and Charles Clark toasted the President and the Queen. Dr. Tom Forrester and his wife Norma toasted the laddies and lassies as well as a very insightful look at what may be found up a chimney. The Immortal Memory by Brock Moss was without a doubt one of the best I have heard, presented with poise and conviction. The musical portion of the evening was overseen by our resident entertainer Alex Sutherland. Winnie Shirreff played piano for us as we sang the national anthems. Mary Stewart sang two beautiful Burns' songs. The Invera'an Pipe Band again raised the house to it's feet with the sound of those glorious pipes and drums. Last but not least thanks to Dr. Jim McLaren for being our MC for the evening and making sure everything ran like clockwork, and a very special thank you must go to Carrie Sutherland who organized the whole event. An Honorary Lifetime Membership was awarded to Vic Masterson for his years of work for the society and his love for Scottish music. The 2000 Burns' Dinner was a great Scottish cultural event pulled together by great people and I thank them all for their hard work.

Watch out for the Thistle Times next month as it will contain a report submitted by the members of our Highland Games committee. This group have been busy looking at the feasibility of holding a highland games here in St. Louis. Their work is a follow-up from the information presented to the membership at our AGM in September 1999. The results will help us determine what actions should be taken and I'm sure it will make interesting reading.

Lang ma yer lum reek, Denise



By M.D. Dennis
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The Heraldry Society of Scotland,
44 Seaview Terrace,
Edinburgh EH15 2HE
(3.00 pounds sterling)

inside...

Upcoming Events

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THISTLE TIMES

Feb 2000
ISSUE 8.6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

February 28th, 2000, 7:00pm

MUSICAL EVENING

With award-winning harper, Wayne Elrod

At Mary Institute/Country Day School, Old Warson Road.

April 8th, 2000, 7:00pm: Ceilidh (and Tartan Day Celebration)
At Whispering Hills Clubhouse

May 21st, 2000, 2:00pm: Picnic and Scottish BBQ
At Tower Grove Park, Sons of Rest Pavilion

November 11th, 2000: St Andrews Dinner Dance
At Forest Hills Country Club

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

BURNS DINNER FEEDBACK

We have heard so many good things about the Burns Dinner this year that we decided not to send out the usual survey. We did hear about a few problems that occurred and will follow up with the hotel on those — however, for an event of this size it really went very well.

ALEX SUTHERLAND & His Cronies IN CONCERT

Sat March 11, 2000, 8:00-10:00pm
Borders Books, Fairview Heights

Sat June 3, 2000
Springfield Celtic Gathering, Springfield, MO

Sat Jun 10, 2000
Kansas City Highland Games

CD now available. Tel: 314 771 0119
or check out www.alexutherland.com

SCOTS OF MISSOURI

TARTAN DAY

On April 6th, 2000 there will be a gathering at the State Capitol Building Rotunda in Jefferson City. Meet at 1:00pm. The occasion is in honor of the State of Missouri proclamation for Tartan Day.

Everyone welcome

See attached flier

Pic(t)s from Recent Events



Sisters of the Haggis caught in the act.

YEAR 2000 BURNS DINNER



Brock Moss gave an Immortal Memory to remember



There was Dance Caledonia



Bill Nicoll
"Addressing"
the Beastie!



And the Invera'an Pipeband



Vic Masterson receives
"Honorary Life Member"



What's this? ...Everyone rushing to buy tickets for next year!

Caledonia Corner

Did you know that Valentine's Day was celebrated in Scotland over 200 years ago. The original custom came from the Roman Lupercalia (the feast of the shepherd god Pan and Juno Februalis), which then took the name of Valentine from a beheaded martyr priest. Eligible young men and women wrote their names on pieces of paper and placed them in two boxes. The alternately drawn names were then "amators" for the year.

In Scotland, the naturalist Thomas Pennant (1726-98) wrote of "young people drawing Valentines". Robert Burns mentions this with some humor in his 1788 poem "Tam Glen"...

Yestreen at the Valentine's dealing, My hert to my mou' gied a sten (My heart was in my mouth)
For thrice I drew ane without failing, And thrice it was written, Tam Glen

Eventually, the drawing of names became a custom of exchanging gifts which, in turn, became an exchange of letters then Valentine cards.

Scotland is famous for many medical discoveries but sometimes the bedside manner of the doctors there is a bit too humorous.... The doctor said, "I have some bad news and some very bad news." The patient gulped and said, "Give me the bad news first." The doctor replied, "You only have one day to live." The patient gasped, "What's the very bad news?" The doctor says, "Sorry, but I forgot to tell you yesterday!"

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What kind of critter is a midge?
2. How would you describe the Duke of Perth?
3. From what castle do you see the Wallace Monument?

Congratulations to Etta May Eagle who won.

Answers:

Napier invented logarithms
Hogmanay is Auld Year's night/New Year
Boxing Day is the day after Christmas

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

Holiday TV!

Sandy the bus driver from Aberdeen was loading up the luggage for a group of old ladies that were going on a bus trip to Northern Italy.

Up comes an old lady with a 14 inch TV on a trolley and puts it beside all the luggage. Sandy has seen a lot in his time but this beats everything. He says "Fit wye ye're takkin yon TV oan ma bus?" (*this is Aberdonian for — can you explain to me why you need to take a TV on this bus trip*).

The woman replies, "I canna mis Crossroads!" (*she doesn't want to miss a well-known British TV soap*). Well, Sandy says "A divna want tae disappoint ye but they didna hae Crossroads oan Eytalian TV" (*I'm sorry but they don't have Crossroads on Italian TV*).

The old lady quips, "Ye daft loon, I ken that fine" (*you silly man, I know that*) ...

.. "why else do you think I would be taking my own TV!"

A Wee Bit o' America

You may recall that in 1999 one of the activities that the Society help fund was \$500 towards the travel costs of John Beech. John is a student at Edinburgh University (Scotland), School of Scottish Studies, and is writing a thesis on "Scottish Emigration to the Western United States." He has sent us a report of his work during the summer of 1999 and some excerpts are:

"During my 3 months in Colorado, I spent much time searching the Population Census returns from 1850 – 1900 for evidence of Scottish settlement, which proved to be profitable, though painstaking."

"The US Government had suspicions that Europe was off-loading its criminals to the States and commissioners were sent to investigate...I managed to pick up interesting information on Prisoners' Aid Societies in Scotland and their relationship with certain emigration agents."

"Three 19th century photographs of two adult pipers in full Highland Dress accompanied by some children in Highland Dancing garb, came into possession of the Denver Public Library. We managed to identify one of the pipers as Colin Ross and came across a newspaper article where it is recorded that he played the pipes at the St Andrew's Dinner in Denver in 1898."

"Some of these people were real pioneers.. Archibald Blair, born in Rothesay (Scotland) in 1835 moved to Canada at age 9, and then in 1860 left for the gold fields of California via the Panama Canal. Later he joined his brother, Duncan, in a profitable mining venture in Idaho, and the two brothers went to Wyoming and took out the first gold mined in the State (1865). Blair is credited with opening up the coal mining industry of the region (Rock Springs, WY), with the first being taken out at Blairtown (no longer in existence). He was also a successful rancher with cattle and sheep.... I interviewed Leonard Hays, the grandson of Archibald Blair."

"I have painstakingly copied the Calder Papers (at the National Library) which include letters written home by two brothers who immigrated to Kansas in 1887."

John is continuing his studies and thanks the St Andrew Society for the support given.

In America it's sometimes called plaid and sometimes called tartan.

So what's the correct term...Well... The interlocking pattern of colored stripes woven into cloth should be called tartan, while the material itself in which there may be tartan is properly called plaid. The American term plaid comes from the old Scots word "plaide" that was used to describe a garment worn between the 16th and early 19th centuries. The plaide was about 4-6 yards long, of double width, and was gathered into folds around the body and held at the waist by a belt. The material need not have included a tartan pattern but often did. By the mid-19th century, the word plaid was used in Scotland to describe a blanket. In America the terms plaid and tartan are often confused due to the early association of the material and the pattern.

REMEMBER TARTAN DAY — APRIL 6th

TOASTS & THINGS

THE KILT

by Bill Smith

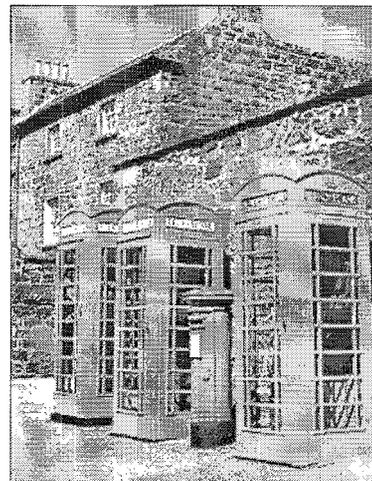
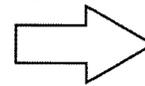
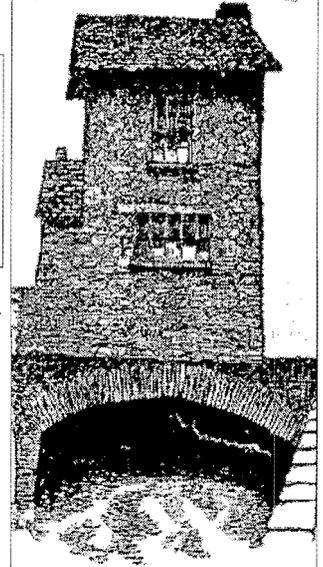
An embarrassing question has often been asked
That has plagued mankind down thro' the years.
This query's been known to make Englishmen blush
And move many a lassie to tears.

It's a subject there's great speculation about
And has even caused blood to be spilt;
It's hotly debated to this very day,
Pray tell what's worn under the kilt?

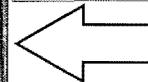
And even the Queen while inspecting the troops
Said, "Dear Philip I hate to sound glaikit",
"But is it quite true that beneath their tutus
The poor darlings are stark raving naked?"

So when asked if there's anything worn neath the kilt
Whether up north or south of the Border,
The answer my dears is that nothing is worn,
Everything is in fine working order.

A cottage built over a
stream in Ambleside.
The story goes that it was
built by a Scotsman to
avoid paying land rent!

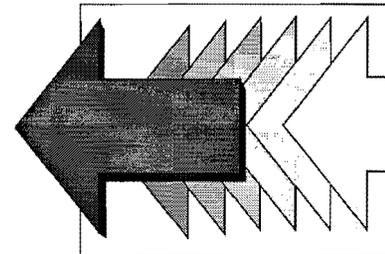


Who needs the Inter-
net or cell phones
when the town has this
kind of connectivity!



**IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT
LIKE TO JOIN THE SOCIETY...**

**HAVE THEM CALL PETER GEERY
TEL: 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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Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>
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