



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

SPECIAL BURNS ISSUE

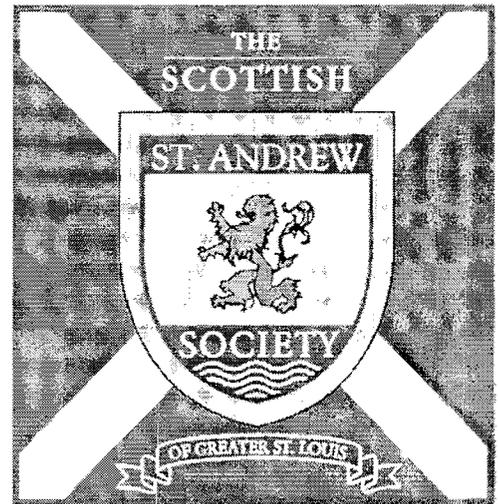
Dear Members,

We have been working hard to prepare for another great Burns Dinner and we look forward to seeing you on January 22nd. Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Lang ma yer lum reek, Denise.

**Welcome
to the
Year 2000**

An' mony may ye see!



THIS IS THE

Jan 2000
ISSUE 8.5

Next



Event

January 22nd, 5:45pm: Burns Dinner

At the Frontenac Hilton, Lindbergh Blvd.

Cocktails start at 5:45pm: Dinner starts at 6:45pm

Entertainment includes the Invera'an Pipeband, Dance Caledonia, and various toasts to the Bard, Robbie Burns.

Be sure to send in your reservations early for this fabulous event — Use the attached form.

Events schedule for early 2000:

February 28th, 2000 at 7:00pm:

A musical evening with Harper, Wayne Elrod

At Mary Institute/Country Day School.

What is a Burns Supper...

A Burns Supper is a traditional Scottish event designed to celebrate the Life and Works of the Great Bard, Robert Burns. In the original format the ceremony involved a haggis dinner, washed down by Scotch whisky, and accompanied by poems and songs written by Burns.

Today, the format has changed somewhat to accommodate a broader level of participation. For example, here in St Louis, our St. Andrew Society incorporates the main elements of the Burns Supper ritual into a grand evening of Scottish culture — that we call the Burns Dinner. We celebrate our Burns Dinner on the nearest Saturday to January 25th which will be on January 22nd, 2000.

The evening consists of the traditional haggis, a helping of Burns' more famous poems and songs such as 'Bruce to his Men at Bannockburn', 'Ode to a Mouse', 'A Red Rose', and the traditional Burns supper speeches, both serious and funny. Before the dinner begins, the 'Selkirk Grace' is said as Burns rendered it at the home of the Earl of Selkirk at St. Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbright. The master of ceremonies for the evening asks the company to stand for the arrival of the haggis. A piper leads the procession, followed by the chef carrying the haggis on a platter and lastly the person who will recite 'To a Haggis'. The assembled company gives a slow hand-clap as the Haggis makes it's way to the podium. The address 'To a Haggis' (composed around 1786) is given and as the line '*An cut you up wi' ready sleight*' is reached, the haggis is slit open with a knife. The address finished, the piper and chef are given a dram of the whisky and everyone drinks a toast to the haggis. In Scotland haggis is usually served as the main meal with mashed turnip (champit neeps) and potatoes (tatties). Here in St. Louis, we serve a taste of the haggis as an appetizer with crackers, just to let everyone sample the magnificent beast.

To a Haggis (First verse)

*Fair fa' yer honest, sonsie face,
Great Chieftain o' the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe or thairm,
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my arm*

After dinner the speeches and entertainment begin. The major speech of the evening is the 'Immortal Memory', which normally lasts about 10 to 15 minutes. The speaker illuminates Robert Burns' achievements and his contribution to Scotland. Sometimes a particular facet of his life is examined, whether his rigorous early days, his time in Edinburgh or the end of his life as an exciseman in Dumfries.

The 'Toast to the Lassies' is the first of two short, witty, speeches in which the men and women alternately lambaste one another with their different defects and attributes. The first toast is a fun-packed look at the 'fairer sex' as Burns saw them, from the ugly, nagging wife in 'Willie Wastle' to the temptress Clarinda. It ends on a warm, affectionate note, praising the lassies as Burns surely would, whereupon the men rise and drink the toast to them. The 'Response' is the ladies chance to retaliate by sighting men's foibles and weaknesses and pointing out their own superiority and fidelity and like the speech before normally ends on a conciliatory note.

These are the traditional speeches that make up a Burns Supper. At our Burns Dinner we go beyond just traditional speeches. The evening includes entertainment (Alex Sutherland), poems, songs, pipers (Invera'an Pipeband), dancers (Dance Caledonia), camaraderie, (and did we mention scotch?) — all coordinated into a memorable experience of Scottish culture. Finally, the evening is rounded off with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Don't miss this chance to be part of the St Louis-Scottish tradition

Robert Burns...

In a small two-roomed, thatched cottage at Alloway (near Ayr), on January 25th, 1759, Robert Burns was born. His father, William Burnes, was a farmer and his mother, Agnes, was a great storyteller and had a fine singing voice. The hard farm work ethic combined with his mother's influence led young Rabbie to become one of the greatest poets in the world.

Tributes to the great Bard abound. The following is a different view of the life and works of Robert Burns, showing the chronological order of events (times are approximate, since different books give different dates for certain events):

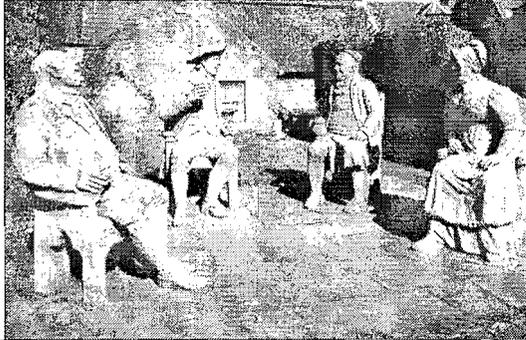
- 1759 ⇨ Robert Burns born to William and Agnes Burnes: eldest of seven children.
- 1766 ⇨ Burnes family moves to Mount Oliphant, a 70 acre farm near Alloway.
- 1777 ⇨ Burnes family moves to Lochlie, Tarbolton, a 130 acre farm (near Ayr).
- 1780 ⇨ The Tarbolton Bachelors' Club formed (debate club) with Burns as President.
- 1781 ⇨ Robert Burns works as a flax dresser in Irvine, with his uncle Alexander Peacock.
- 1784 William Burnes dies, Robert moves to Mossgiel to farm with his brothers.
- 1785 ⇨ Birth of Elizabeth. Burns' daughter by his mother's servant Betty Paton.
- 1786 ⇨ Kilmarnock Poems published: Burns' has affair with Jean Armour and she becomes pregnant: Jean's father will not approve a marriage: Burns plans to emigrate to Jamaica, but never makes it.
- 1787 Poems published by William Creech in Edinburgh.
- 1788 ⇨ Burns returns to Ayrshire and marries Jean Armour: Jean has twins: Burns commissioned as exciseman in addition to working a small rented farm at Ellisland. Burns visits Edinburgh for last time and says farewell to Clarinda (Mrs Nancy McLehose).
- 1789 Burns' son Francis Wallace born.
- 1790 ⇨ Burns was riding over 200 miles each week on excise duty: Tam o' Shanter completed.
- 1791 ⇨ Burns' daughter Elizabeth born to Anne Park (in Dumfries) and son, William Nicol, born at Ellisland
- 1792 Appointed to the Dumfries Port excise: 4th volume of the Scots Musical Museum published with 60 of the songs written or revised by Burns: Burns' daughter Elizabeth Riddell born: Burns accused of political disaffection.
- 1793 Second edition of Edinburgh Poems: first set of Thomson's Select Collection published: moved to Mill Vennel, Dumfries — this is now called "Burns House" and is a National Monument.
- 1794 Burns appointed supervisor of excise: son James Glencairn born.
- 1795 ⇨ Burns joins in organizing the Dumfries Volunteers: becomes ill with rheumatic fever.
- 1796 ⇨ Burns struggles through illness but eventually dies on July 21st: son Maxwell born on July 25th.
- ⇨ Although famous today, Burns never made a fortune from his work. As he lay dying he told his wife *"I'll likely be more thought of a hundred years hence, than I am at present"*.



Join us on January 22nd to celebrate the Life and Works of the Great Bard

TOASTS & THINGS

To Robert Burns....



Souter Johnnie's cottage and statues of the characters from *Tam o' Shanter*.

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!

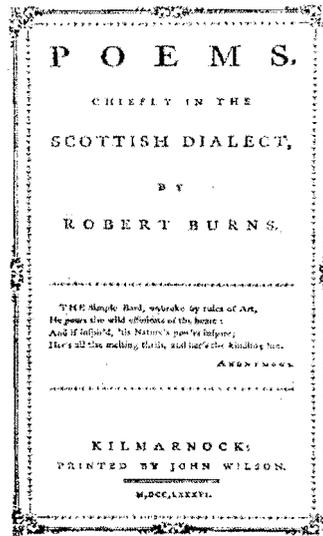
From "To A Mouse"



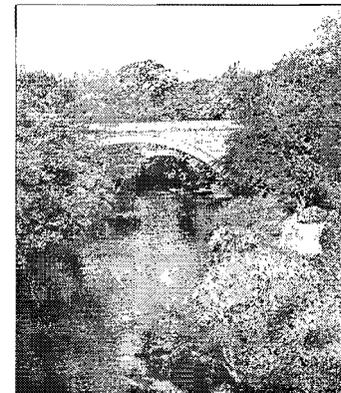
From an oil painting
By C.M. Hardie

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,
Ilk man and mother's son, take heed:
Whane'er to drink you are inclined,
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*.

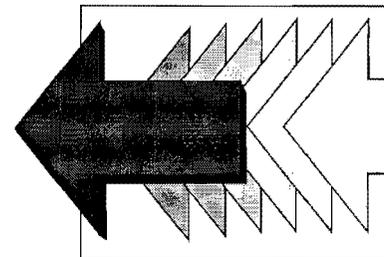


The famous Kilmarnock Edition
Published in 1786



Brig O' Doon, Alloway

**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