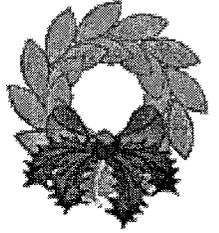


SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

We skipped Hallowe'en, but within a week were hosting the Kinlochard Ceilidh Band as part of their KC/St. Louis/Chicago tour. Fergus Wood and his talented young musicians led us in another great St. Andrew's Day celebration. The next day, piper Finlay's playing added color to the Jefferson Barracks "Remembrance Day" service, with a good Society presence this year.



At recent events, attractive Games T-shirts (\$15), Souvenir Pins (\$5), Programs and Posters (\$1) were on display and can be ordered through macmail@scottish-games.com or at 314-821-1286. Advance orders are also being taken for the professional Oct 12-13 Games video @ \$20 – I've seen clips and this is a must have! Also, for new Society merchandise, classy "Made to Order" polo shirts with logo are on offer – for details call Chris Fulton (314-962-1478).

Visit Union Station before Jan 2nd to see our Scottish Christmas Tree in the International Folklore Federation's display. Snow cancelled our Christmas Party last year, but torrential rain last week didn't prevent 30 youngsters from getting on Santa's knee in front of their carol-singing parents and friends.

Check inside about our flagship event, Burns Nicht, along with other fun gatherings through Spring. Compliments of the season to all – and a Happy Ne'erday on the 1st.
Yours aye, Bill Nicoll.



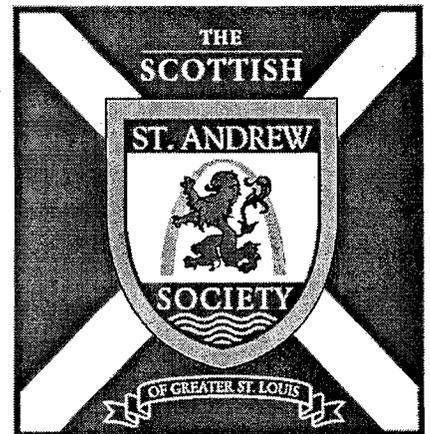
MERRY
CHRISTMAS



& A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Lang mae yer lum reek!



inside...

Upcoming Events

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Toasts & Things: R. Burns

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

Saturday, January 26th, 2002. 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

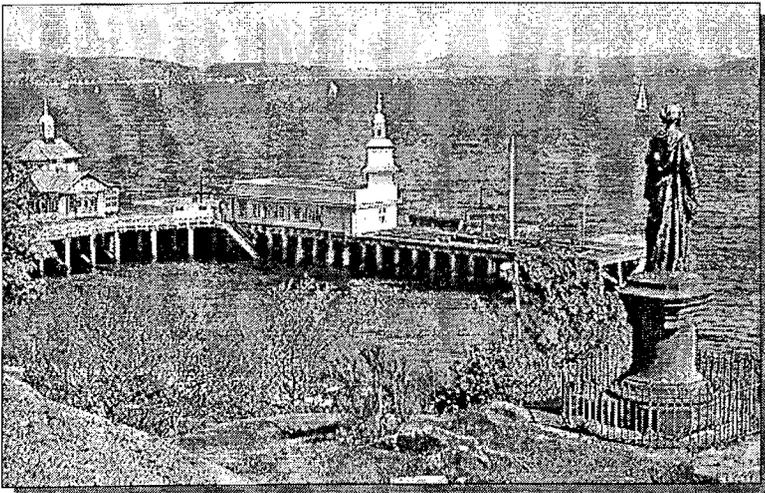
Other exciting events for this year...

February/March: To be announced

April 6th, 7:00pm: **Ceilidh and Tartan Day Celebration**
at Whispering Hills (yes it's on the same day this year).

May: Annual Picnic will be on Memorial Day week-end
(at the Wentsville Renaissance Faire)

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



The statue of Highland Mary (a great love of R. Burns) was built in 1896, overlooking the Firth of Clyde at Dunoon. The farm that she was born on, Auchnamore, was taken over as the town expanded.

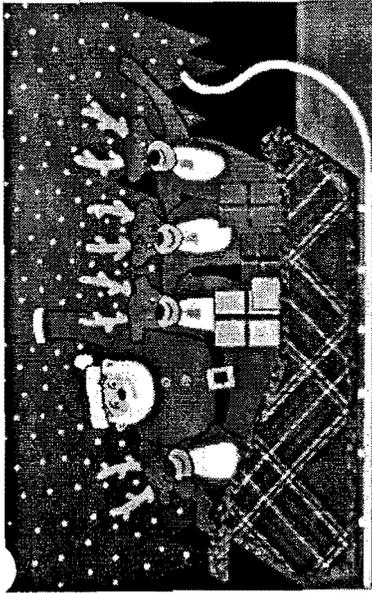
Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary
And leave auld Scotia's shore?
Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary,
Across th' Atlantic's roar.

She has my heart, she has my hand,
By secret troth and honour's band!
Till the mortal stroke shall lay me low,
I'm thine my Highland lassie, O.

That scared hour can I forget
Can I forget the hallow'd grove
Where, by the winding Ayr, we met,
To live one day of parting love.

Scottish Holidays

Christmas in Scotland — a recent holiday tradition



With all the Christmas lights, decorations, and shopping it is almost completely forgotten that Christmas has not always been a regular feature in the Scottish calendar.

Before the Reformation, Scotland had a version of Christmas, related to European festivals and, of course, the winter solstice celebrations. However, from the 16th century onwards Christmas was not a prominent nor traditional holiday in Scotland. Only 40 years ago, Christmas was just another day for most Scots. It wasn't even a school holiday, office work continued, and there was still a postal delivery on Christmas Day, until the 1960s. Any festivities had to wait until the main holiday on New Year's Day.

One theory on this situation is related to the fundamentalist view of Christianity which came in with the Reformation in 1560. Basically, if something wasn't in the Bible then it should not be celebrated. Of course, Christmas is not mentioned in the Bible and the only holy day that was kept was Sunday.

Individuals did, of course, continue to celebrate Christmas in their own way with their own families but despite December 25 being officially declared a bank holiday as early as 1871 it took almost another century to begin to rival the

New Year holiday. I recall as a kid on the farm back home — we sold as many Turkeys for New Year than we did for Christmas. However, as always, when Scots decide to do something they seldom do it half-heartily. Today, Christmas is a significant holiday in Scotland with all the trimmings that are common in most countries.

Hogmanay — the major Scottish Celebration

Hogmanay (December 31st) is the Scottish New Year and has been celebrated for centuries. The origins are lost in time but the event is present in many stories and legends. Marriage records from the 1940s and 50s show a surprising number of weddings on Hogmanay — because the following day was the only day off that a working couple could expect (see Christmas above).

Today, there are massive wild street parties in Edinburgh and Glasgow. All over Scotland there are traditional celebrations involving Ceilidhs (song and dance types), first footing, torchlight ceremonies, fireworks, and in some parts there is the swinging of special fireballs. The flame and fire at Hogmanay symbolizes many things. The bringing of the light of knowledge from one year to the next, lighting the way into the next uncharted period of time, putting behind you the darkness of the past, but carrying forward its sacred flame of hope and enlightenment to a better time ahead.

Throughout Scotland it is traditionally accepted that your new year will be a prosperous one if, at the strike of midnight, a "tall, dark-haired male" appears at your door with FIRE (a lump of coal for the fire), FOOD (shortbread or cake), DRINK (what else), and in some parts WEALTH (coins). In exchange, you offer him food, wine or a wee dram of whisky, or the traditional "Het Pint", which is a combination of ale, nutmeg and whisky. This cultural practice is called "first footing".

It is also traditional to convey good wishes for the coming year...

Wishing all our readers **A Very Happy New Year, or A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YIN AN' AW.**

Caledonia Corner

How quickly do we forget the passage of time, and the changes that occur all around us. Yes, it's almost the end of 2001 already. Here's a note from 150 years ago, from the Glasgow Herald.

"The steamship Glasgow, Captain Stewart, which sailed from Greenock on Saturday, November 8, arrived in New York, all well, on Sunday, November 23. Passage, 14 days 23 hours, mean time. Considering the time of the year and the runs the paddle steamers have been making, this is remarkably good and augurs well for the qualities of the vessel, both as a staunch sea boat and fast-sailing steamer."



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 is a "Munroe"?
2. When was St Andrew's University founded?
3. What was the name of Tam O' Shanter's horse?

Sorry nobody won last time.

Answers:

1. Soldier's Leap is at Killiecrankie
2. Town at center of Scotland is Pitlochry
3. The Glencoe massacre was in 1692

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

Back in Scotland, it is common for colleagues from work to go out for a Holiday celebration. Needless to say this results in many curious and intriguing tales. Here's one from a hotel where there were several groups all participating in the big party atmosphere — also known as eating and drinking too much.

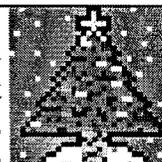
One man went off to the restroom and met a fellow at the urinal, who was in festive spirit. While attending to the needful with one hand, he held a mincemeat pie in the other. Undeterred by the task in hand, he continued to consume his pie and engage in conversation — even although it was a bit slurred and he was swaying slightly.

With eyebrows raised in wonder, our gent asked him, "Are you here with your work?"

"Aye," he replied, popping the last mouthful of mincemeat pie.

"I'm with the health Board"

(Believe it or not — it's true)



Membership News

The St Andrew's Day Dinner Dance at the elegant Forest Hills CC was another great success...

Socializing....



A birthday trio...



Caledonia Dance — sharp & lively..



The Society now has around 250 members and in recent months has welcomed a significant number of new members with interests in things Scottish. The names of these new members are:

John & Joan Birchler, Waterloo IL
David & Laura Courtney, St. Charles
Wayne & Pamela Davis, Webster Groves
Rick DeClue, Kirkwood
Lachlan & Janet DeSmith, St. Louis
Josephine Garven, Chesterfield
Doug Glenn, St. Charles
Larry & Rita Grisvard, St. Louis

Wanda Jones, St. Louis
Harry & Candy Keeler, Fenton
Dan & Lori Kinkade, St. Louis
James McBain, Columbia
Eric & Janet McDougall, Chesterfield
Michael & Kirsten Novak, St. Louis
Mark & Amy Sutherland, St. Louis

If you missed the Annual General Meeting, a brief update on our financial situation is that we have \$17,336 in the bank, and around \$460 in assets (inventory of Society lapel pins, stickers, etc). This amount is just exactly right for the working capital required to run the Society events throughout the year. In a typical year our expenses are in the \$32-34,000 range and our revenue is in the \$34-\$37,000 range. The difference goes to maintain a working cash balance and to sponsor various organizations, such as the St. Louis Scottish Games, or Caledonia Dance, or various worthy causes.

If you wish to request the Board to consider sponsorship for an event or organization then please send a written request with full details to Bill Nicoll, or to the Thistle Times.

"I can never get my coffee to taste right", complained Angus, "It's always too bitter or too sweet." How does that happen? "I prefer it with two lumps of sugar." Well. "Well, when I'm at home it's more economical to use only one, and when I go out then I take the chance to use three!"

TOASTS & THINGS

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

But come, ye sons of Liberty,
Columbia's offspring, brave as free,
In danger's hour still flaming the van,
Ye know, and dare maintain, the Royalty of Man!

Then let us pray that come it may,
(As come it will for a' that),
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,
Shall bear the gree, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brithers be for a' that.

To those who bravely till the ground,
And those who make the wheels go round,
To those who dig the coal and shale,
Those who succeed and those who fail,
To weak or strong this word of cheer —
We wish you all a Good New Year.

John Black, 1909

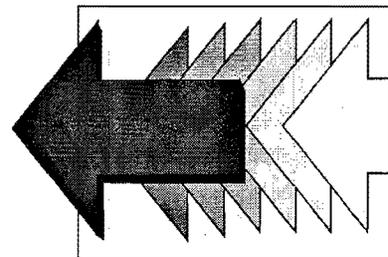


Gie me ae spark o' nature's fire,
That's a' the learning I desire.

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 26th**

**A wonderful Christmas
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