



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

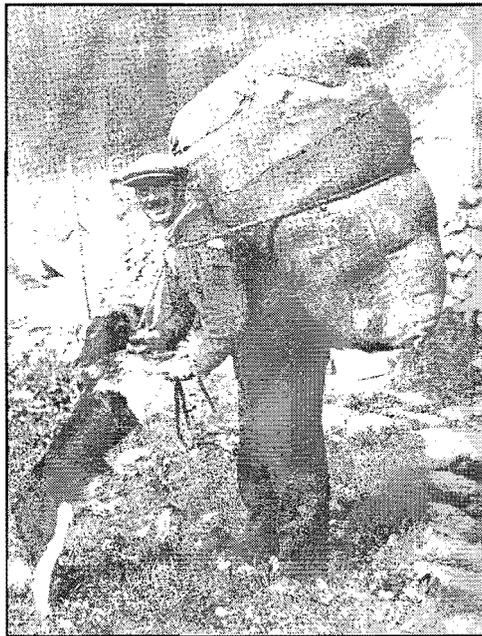
Dear Members & Friends,

For most St. Louisans, January is a month to get through as quickly as possible, keeping out of the cold, with only a possibility of an appearance of the Rams in the Super Bowl to look forward to. But we Scots see January as one of the highlights of our Society year. Our Super Bowl of events - our Robert Burns Dinner - was once again a tremendous success, and many thanks to Jen and her "team" for putting together one of St. Louis's premier functions. Robert Burns's performance, of course, was the highlight of the evening, especially his Tam O'Shanter. Even those who found the Scots tongue a wee bit difficult to follow were caught by the excitement of the story through his animated storytelling. The Bard (alias Christopher Tait) expressed himself as "weel pleased" with the evening. You can't get higher praise than that!

On a much sadder note, we learned the day before our Dinner that long time Society member and former Board Member, Peter Geery, had died suddenly. A short tribute to Peter can be found within the Newsletter. He will be greatly missed.

Yours aye, Alex Sutherland

**St Kilda, just before the island
was evacuated in 1930**



This picture is said to be the last sack of wool taken from the famous local sheep



inside...

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THIS TIMES

FEB 2004
ISSUE 12.4

Membership News

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR NOW

Saturday March 20th, 2004 starting at 7:00pm

ANNUAL CEILIDH

Whispering Hills Recreation Center. \$15.00 at door.

Bring potluck heavy finger foods and desserts.

Music, dancing, raffle, fun and friends...

(bring your favorite joke or song for group performance)

From I270, take Olive west for ~1 mile then north on Ross Rd,
then left into Whispering Hills subdivision.

Other exciting events for this year....

April 2, 3 & 4 — Tartan Day Events in St Charles.

See web for details at www.missouritartandayfestivities.com

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

Annual Kilted Golf + BBQ/Picnic/Ceilidh — Provisional date **Friday May 14th**, Shotgun at 1:00pm followed by BBQ and mini-Ceilidh. Playing golf — get your foursome organized soon. Not playing golf then turn up for the evening festivities at 6pm. It'll be fun for all! Call Jim McLaren at 636 532 5986

**BULLETIN
BOARD**

April 4th, 4:40pm. **Peat Fire Flame and Ceol Alann** will be performing in concert at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church (benefits to the church Choir Scottish trip). 45 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119, tel. 962-9210

FLOWERS O' THE FOREST

Chev. Peter William Geery, KCTJ (1941 – 2004) was an active member of the St Andrew Society from it's inception, and served on our Board in various capacities over the years. Peter was a past President of Clan Lindsay USA. He was also a board member of The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO, and participated as a Crew Commander portraying Sgt. Ordway in the reenactment of Lewis & Clark. Peter was also Honorary Member of the Kentucky Colonels and was involved in many other local and national organizations.

The many of us who knew Peter will remember a dedicated, energetic man with a passionate love of things Scottish. He made great contributions to our Society and made a difference to every venture he undertook. We will all miss him and our thoughts and prayers go to his wife, Marilyn, and the Geery family.

WELCOME RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Keith & Karlyn Alderson	St Charles
James & Janey Brewen	St Louis
Nancy Hills	St Louis
William and Helen Jack	Wildwood
Margaret & Leo Kelly	Chesterfield
Judy Liddle	St Peters
Leland and Cheryl McClure	St Louis
Jane & James McDaniel	St Louis
Carolan and Gary Presley	Chesterfield
Eleanor Quinn	St Louis
Jenifer Wallace	Ferguson
Jim & Mindy Watson	St Louis

Rabbie Burns Dinner

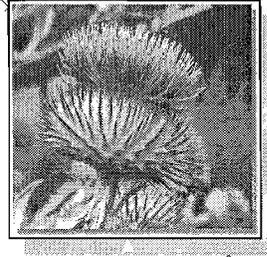
Another fabulous Burns Dinner and spectacular show was held at the Frontenac Hilton. Looks like everyone is enjoying themselves....



More pictures from Harry Bean at
www.blacktie-stlouis.com

Caledonia Corner

Jessie Gober sent in a whole series of "Signs of the Times" to share ☺....



In the window of a taxidermist on the Isle of Skye: "We really know our stuff!"

Door at the Glasgow school of music: "Gone for lunch. Bach in 10 minutes".

Window of a Wishaw antique shop: "We buy junk and sell antiques!"

(now that's a real Scots one)

On the side of a Glasgow plumber's van: "In our game a flush beats a full house!"

Arbroath pub window: "Happy Hour — 6pm to 6:30pm".

Portree garage forecourt has sign up: "Free estimates, at almost no cost!"

Window of a Perth hairdresser" "Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer!"

Who founded Mitsubishi?

Recently, it has become more fashionable to talk about the influence of the Scots on America. Yet, the 1.6 million Scots who emigrated between the late 1800's and mid-1900s (a fifth of the whole population) have had great influence on several countries, in addition to the USA. For example, Thomas Blake Glover of Fraserburgh (1838-1911) worked at a Scottish trading company before starting his own business in Japan. He opened the first coal mine and imported the first locomotive to Japan. He is credited with transforming the ancient feudal system into a modern industrial base. Glover was a key figure in creating the Japanese navy and was the founder of Mitsubishi Corporation.

It almost seems like it's too good to be true?

Well, consider that Glover received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Emperor in 1908. One of the most popular tourist attractions in Japan has about 2 million visitors per year, and it is the Thomas Glover mansion in Nagasaki.

...and he had an affair that became the inspiration for Madame Butterfly!

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What is a Scotch Egg?
2. What town lies at the East end of "The Border"?
3. The oldest library in Scotland was created in 1691 — where is it?

Congratulations to Diane Radford who was first with all the correct answers!

ANSWERS:

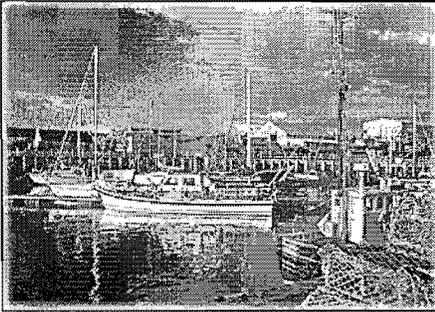
1. Jackie Stewart: Scottish F1 race driver
2. Marschall College: Aberdeen University
3. Bawbee is a coin (value was less than a penny)

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@strathkirk.com

Don't you just love the wit of the Scots, to wit.... Big Donny was in his local in Dunfermline when a chap comes in and asks what the soup of the day is. Wee Jimmy the barman tells him it is lentil. A frown creases the customer's face and he states: "Aw, c'moan, it's been lentil fur the past three months." Wee Jimmy thinks upon this before delivering a pearl of Solomon-like wisdom: "Aye...well, there's no' much ye can dae wi' lentils noo is there

Ayrshire

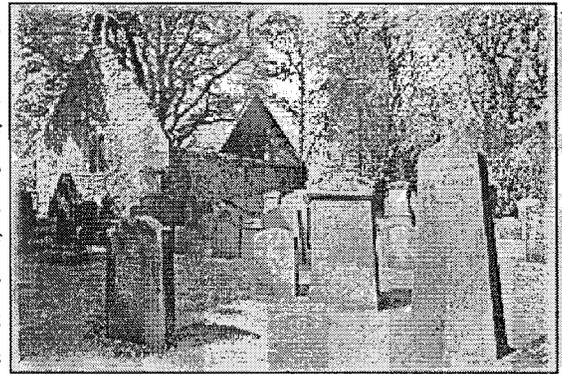
Most people correctly associate Ayrshire with Robert Burns, yet this western Scottish region also has several other attractive features inter-dispersed with the legacy of the Bard. Back in the time of Burns, Ayrshire was made up of three provinces called Carrick, Kyle, and Cunninghame.



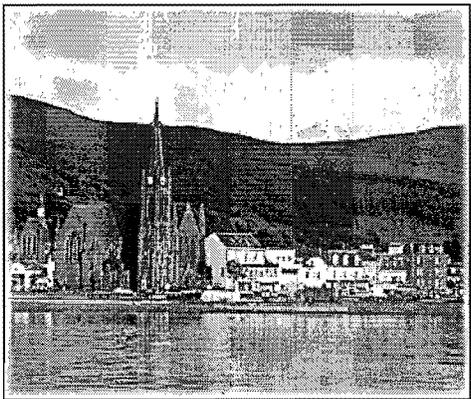
Girvan is a typical coastal town with beaches and fishing fleet.

Carrick is the southernmost of the three ancient districts of Ayrshire. On the Carrick-Kyle border is the River Doon (and Burns subject in various works) which winds down from Loch Doon in the east and enters the Firth of Clyde a few miles from Ayr. Carrick is a rural seaside area with about 30 miles of sandy beaches and quiet bays that attract many holidaymakers. The inland landscape consists of gently rolling hills, small villages tucked away in remote glens, and scenic countryside.

Kyle was the middle district running from the Doon (the southern Carrick border) to the River Irvine in the north. The River Ayr meanders through the district dividing it into Kyle Stewart in the north and King's Kyle in the south. Of course, Kyle was the birthplace of Robert Burns (*recall the poetic line "there was a lad was born in Kyle"*) and contains the ancient parish of Alloway, the county town of Ayr, and the inland parish of Mauchline (*all recognizable in Burns work*). Most people visiting Kyle take in the Burns National Heritage Park (cottage, Alloway Kirk). Mauchline has the National Burns Memorial, Poosie Nancie's Inn, the Burns House Museum, and Mauchline Kirk where many of Burns' family and friends are buried.



Inside the gate of Kirk Alloway is the burial place of Burns' father who died in 1784.



The town of Largs has great sunsets and rolling hills in the background.

Cunninghame lies north of the River Irvine which rises in Lanarkshire and flows past Kilmarnock before entering the Firth of Clyde at the Bay of Irvine. The coastline has some spectacular sunsets that are an additional attraction for the summer seaside crowd. Most of the landscape to the north-west consists of hill and moorland, providing some spectacular views across the Firth of Clyde to the Island of Bute, the two isles of Cumbrae and the beautiful island of Arran. The first edition of Burns' poems was published in Kilmarnock and his brief exposure to the flax-dressing trade was in Irvine.

Note that you can take a virtual tour of Burns Country on the web at <http://www.burnsheritagepark.com>

TOASTS & THINGS

Why sae early?
Cauld winter's icy blasts still sting
The snaws tae lowland hills still cling
An' Merch a when snell day'll bring
Tae chill ye sairly.

But dinna fret,
For truth it warms my hert tae see ye,
Wi' noddin snaw white face sae cheerie,
Bent owre agin the sleet sae drearie,
I'm gled we met.

From "Snowdrops" — part of a private collection of the work of Scotsman Henry Lyle



Christopher Tait playing Rabbie Burns at the Sutherlands house party. He also performed at the Burns Dinner, and provided a very entertaining rendition of Tam O' Shanter.

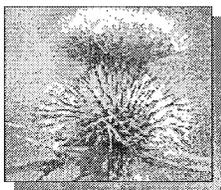
(Photo courtesy of John Avery)



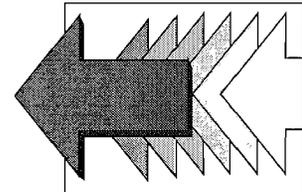
In 1904, the Scottish Antarctic Scientific Expedition reached 74 degrees south, before returning.

Notice that some of these guys are not even wearing coats!

The "uniform" included Fair Isle jerseys. Now that's good Scottish wool!



**Know anyone interested
In joining the Society
Call Geoff Chaboude
At (636) 519 7979**



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. **Please send 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@strathkirk.com.**

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