

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

A week ago, I stopped in at Global Foods Market on Kirkwood Rd. to pick up a wee thing or two to make for our recent Ceilidh. Nae can of mushy peas would work; nae clottie dumpling mix; nae empire biscuits or potato scones. I wanted something that screamed "Glesga!"; that reeked of Edinburgh's Royal Mile; that upon one bite would transport me to a fishing village in the far north- something essentially "Scotland in a can" (and I don't mean that poor attempt at humor known as Vegetarian Haggis, either).

As I stood in the checkout queue with my treasured find of Scottish food- coriander spiked mutton, Rogan Josh mild curry sauce, Naan bread, chutney pickle and Poppadums (and I challenge you to find a food, any food, more redolent of Scotland than a good Pakistani curry!) I was amused by the items of the Sikh man in front of me on the conveyor: amongst a variety of other items were Mother's Chip Batter, Cadbury Flake, and a good dozen cans of Heinz baked beans. We literally could have swapped places in line and nobody would have batted an eye (insert theme music from "It's a Small, Small World" here).

The cashier commented that it seemed as if Spring was just around the corner and I smiled, remembering that the reawakening of all things outdoors is outpaced only by the stir of Society activity at this time of year: Tartan Day; Scottish Socials; Spring picnics. The planning for October's Games and Cultural Festival is of course well under way; likewise for the half-dozen more outdoor festivals the Society takes a part in yearly.

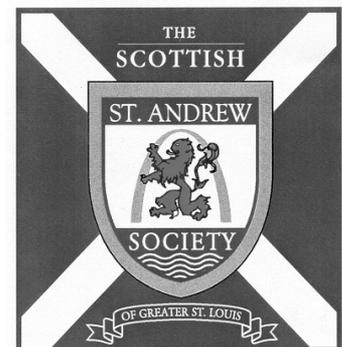
So regardless if it seems that Spring is that exit on the roundabout that we just can't quite get off at before passing Winter, Winter and Winter (Junction A6), keep circling- you'll be well rewarded with all we have planned for the upcoming months.

Welcome, New Members!!

Andrew & Daisy Archie, St. Louis, MO
Richard & Judy Engelsmann, St. Louis, MO
George Fonyo, St. Louis, MO
William Boyd Kiphart II, St. Louis, MO
Ken Law, St. Louis, MO
Ed & Lu Perantoni, Chesterfield, MO
Guthrie & Barbara Veech, Florissant, MO
Nancy Walsh, Maryland Heights, MO
Guy & Alice Young, Wentzville, MO
William & Georgia Zimmerman, St. Louis, MO

Aw ra best,

Chris Brennan



THIS TIME



Tartan Day - April 6, 2007

No doubt you're looking forward to the Tartan Day festivities in St. Charles as much as I am- this "mini-Games" in spring is proving to be a wonderful way to welcome the warmer temperatures and foliage returning to the trees (not to mention goosebump-free kilted knees!)

What is Tartan Day, however- and why is it celebrated in Missouri, not to mention many cities across the nation? It all harkens back to April 2000, when members of our own SSAS (as well as St. Andrew and Celtic Societies of Kansas City, Jefferson City and Springfield) assembled at the State Capitol Building to receive the first proclamation of Tartan Day in Missouri- solely for 2000, however.

At an assembly of the same groups in 2001, Missouri Governor Holden proclaimed that April 6, 2001 and every April 6 in perpetuity would be known as Tartan Day in Missouri. A year later, the first annual Tartan Day parade in St. Charles, MO occurred and Mayor Patricia York proclaimed April 6, 2002 and every year thereafter as Tartan Day and The Day of the Scots in St. Charles, MO.

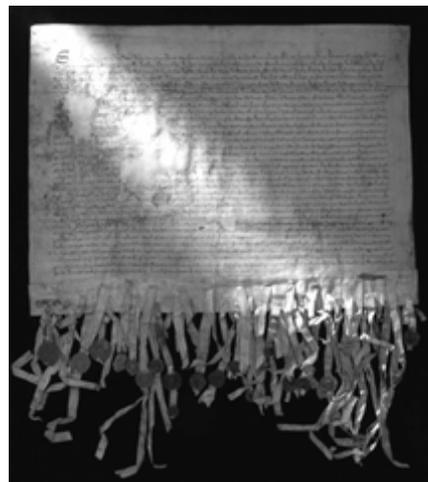


On March 9, 2005, the United States House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 41, which designates April 6th of each year as "**National Tartan Day**", created to specifically recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the development of the United States.

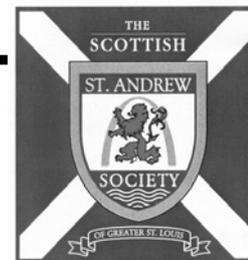
Why April 6th?

The Declaration of Arbroath, dated April 6, 1320, is famously and rightfully known as the document which confirmed Scotland's status as an independent, sovereign state and its use of military action when unjustly attacked. Sealed by fifty-one magnates and nobles, it was in the form of a letter submitted to Pope John Paul XXII. The American Declaration of Independence is widely believed to be modeled after the Declaration of Arbroath.

"It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."



SSAS News and Notes



March 31-April 1 - Tartan Day Festivities in St. Charles

The Scottish St. Andrew Society will be marching in the parade on the Saturday and will have a Society booth. For more information please see the Tartan Day website: www.motartanday.com.

April 4 - Tartan Day Reception

Tartan Day is April 6th, and like last year we will be holding a lunch-time reception in the Missouri State Capitol to honor our State Senators and Representatives in their support of Tartan Day and the Scottish community. This year it will be held on **Wednesday, April 4th** from 11am to 1pm in Senator John Loudon's office, room 422 in the State Capitol in Jefferson City. If you have any questions, or any offers of help with food (we have a list), please feel free to reply by email or phone Alex and Carrie Sutherland at 314-771- 0119, and we'll be happy to talk with you. Can you also let us know if you plan on coming? Thanks!

April 19 - Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms. From 6:30 pm. Come along on Thursday evening and enjoy a time of social interaction with other members of the Society. The address is 6-10 S. Sarah, off Forest Park Ave. Phone: 314-535-0551.

The SSAS Board has recommended a donation of \$1,000 to help support the Athletics portion of the Tartan Day Festivities. This action requires membership approval. If you are opposed to this recommendation, please send an email to cdbrennan@yahoo.com by March 30st (No need to reply if you are in favor of the recommendation).

Filmed on Location: Scotland



Movies have, for decades, transported the viewer to distant locales: through the eyes of the director, we've traveled to space ("Space Odyssey", "Space Quest", "Beyond Space and Time", "Office Space"...you get the idea) and to the bottom of the sea ("Little Mermaid", of course!). Movies allow us to journey to Afghanistan and Rwanda ("Osama", "Kandahar", "Hotel Rwanda") from the comfort o' the couch and ascend Siula Grande in the Andes ("Touching the Void") without the need of a single pickax or crampon.

And how many movies have you seen and thought "My, that's lovely scenery! Reminds me a bit of Scotland, that." Well, one enterprising Doug Hill has taken it upon himself to chronicle just how many vistas reminiscent of Scotland really *are* Scotland. His site, www.scotlandthemovie.com, lists many of the usual suspects: "Rob Roy", "Braveheart", "Chariots of Fire",

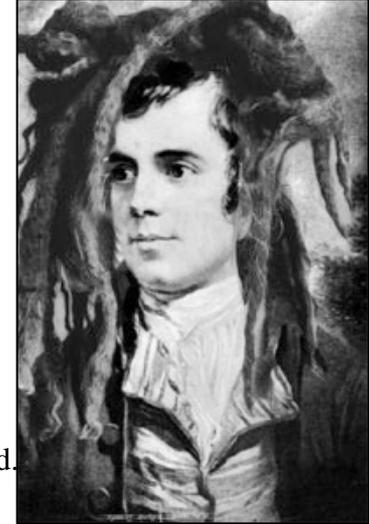
"Brigadoon". And "The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby" could hardly be filmed anywhere other than in Edinburgh (mostly filmed in Stirling, however). But were you aware that in "Journey to the Center of the Earth", "Entrapment", "007-The World is Not Enough", and all the "Harry Potter" movies many scenes were filmed in Scotland?

The site creator has done an extensive job of matching Scotland to the silver screen, and has even included a search function based on location- so if you're headed to, say, Glen Coe, you'll know exactly how to get to the site where "Restless Natives" was filmed!

A mon's a mon for a that?

The peculiar connection between Jamaica and Scotland

In 1786, Robert Burns was not the celebrated bard that we (and the world) regard with affection today. In fact, disillusioned at the thought of never making a name for himself in Scotland, Burns planned that year to travel to Jamaica to work on a sugar plantation. His reasoning was sound- if he was, after all, "condemned" to a life with the plough, why not on another, slightly more temperate isle? (The average temperature in Jamaica is a balmy 80°F; in Alloway, 54°F.) To finance his escape to Jamaica, Burns sold several of his poems. The 612 print-run of these poems, referred to as *The Kilmarnock Edition*, sold out in a month- and the rest, as they say, is history. Burns, now a national sensation, shuttled between Edinburgh and Dumfries yet never set sail for Jamaica, deciding that emigration paled in comparison to the acclaim he received in Scotland. What a shame, in a way- it would be brilliant to toast a Jamaican Jerk Haggis in Scotch Bonnet Sauce on January 25, or perhaps sit around reciting "Wee Sleekit Irie Mousie, Eh Mon" in the patois of this West Indies nation.



Whit a "dread"ful picture o' the bard!

This brief flirtation between Scotland and Jamaica would hardly be worth a mention if it wasn't for an art exhibit slated to open at Glasgow's Museum of Modern Art this March entitled "Downpresserer". Artist Graham Fagen, a contemporary of Roddy Buchanan and Douglas Gordon (other notables from the Glasgow School of Art) previously devoted two solo exhibitions to the link between Burns' songs and reggae music as well as Scotland and the West Indies before deciding to research the link further.

Fascinated by the trip to Jamaica that Robert Burns planned in 1786, Fagen traveled in December 2006 to Savannah La Mar in Jamaica, where Scotland's national poet would have docked. "I wanted to do what Burns never did and go there with his work," writes Fagen. "It's all sugar plantations north of that old port so in terms of crops and vegetation very little has changed since the time Burns would have arrived."

**It was in sweet Senegal that my foes did
me enthrall,
For the lands of Virginia,-ginia, O:
Torn from that lovely shore, and must
never see it more;
And alas! I am weary, weary O:
Torn from that lovely shore, and must
never see it more;
And alas! I am weary, weary O.**

Excerpt from "A Slave's Lament", Robert Burns, 1792

Traveling around the west with Burns' 1792 poem "The Slave's Lament" in his pocket, Fagen found himself delving into both Scotland's and Jamaica's pasts - and the history of slavery that links them - as he drove through villages named Dundee, Cessnock, Penicuik and Kilmarnock.

"Some of these villages were no more than a couple of houses or shacks," Fagen writes. "We stopped in one and there was a man standing

outside a house there. So we got out of the jeep and went to say hello and tell him that we were from Glasgow, Scotland, and he introduced himself as Mr. Buchanan from Glasgow, Jamaica."

In one of his previous exhibitions, Fagen had worked with leading reggae producers and musicians and recorded them singing their own versions of The Slave's Lament spliced with Auld Lang Syne. On his most recent trip to Jamaica, however, Fagen wanted it to be more of an impromptu performance featuring local musicians, all of whom unsurprisingly had never heard of Scotland's national poet.

Graham writes: "We met a Rastafarian living in the hills who introduced us to some local singers and players. We ended up with a singer, a bongo player and a trumpeter and recorded it on the beach. Introducing the idea was the most nerve-wracking bit. I was worried about being seen as some white boy who was turning up in Jamaica saying, 'Hey, I've got this song by one of my white brothers who wrote it more than 200 years ago about what it must have been like for one of your brothers to be taken from Africa and enslaved. Will you sing it? But the response was incredible, and very emotional. They were all talking about Burns, not knowing anything about him. They all said that the man who wrote these words was great and that it came from the heart."



"I tell you, mon- I jus' saw a t'ree-legged haggis run tha' way into th' jungle!"



Glasgow GOMA. Where "Lucky Strike Means Fine Art".

remembered. The singer? Peter McIntosh, better known worldwide as "Peter Tosh", good friend of Bob Marley. **Fair fa' your honest, irie face- great rastafarian of the Jamaican race!**

Fagen's exhibition, which runs from March 15 through May 28, features photography and video installations further exploring the slavery links between Jamaica and Scotland. Ironically, the venue exhibiting the works (GOMA) was once the home of one of the city's most notorious tobacco lords who directly profited from the slave trade. Fagen writes that "GOMA, like Glasgow, has this history but today it is a contemporary art gallery," he says. "It is precisely that change in meaning that interests me."

So Burns set to reggae- crazy? Maybe not. The Thistle Times editor would like to mention that one of the "godfathers" of reggae chose to drop a portion of his last name so his name would be more easily

Speaking of art...



If you attended the Opening Reception for the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis' current show "I Remember Heaven: Jim Hodges and Andy Warhol" you might have spotted the Thistle Times Editor clad in a camouflage kilt (both Hodges and Warhol feature camouflage patterns extensively in their works). If you're out and about at an unusual event in your kilt, please send a pic my way for inclusion in the Thistle Times!



No greetin' allowed...

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch. For several minutes they sat silently. The girl finally looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."
"Well, uh, I was thinkin'...perhaps it's aboot time for a wee kiss."
The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek. Minutes passed and the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus." "Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's noo time aboot time for a wee cuddle." *The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds.*
After a while, she again said, "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."
"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's aboot time you let me put my hand on your leg."
The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee. Then he blushed.
Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."
The young man glanced down with a furled brow.
"Well, noo," he said, "my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time."
"Really?" said the lass in a whisper, filled with anticipation. "Aye," said the lad, nodding.
"Dae ye nae think it's aboot time ye paid me the first three pennies?"



Ye ken yer Scottish if...

1. Ye can properly pronounce McConnochie, Ecclefechan, Milngavie, Sauchiehall, St Enoch, Auchtermuchty and Aufurheksake.
2. Ye actually like deep fried battered pizza fae the chippie.
3. Ye get four seasons in wan day (you could be a St. Louisian, as well)
4. Ye canny pass a chip/kebab shop withoot sleverin when yer blootert.
5. Ye kin fall aboot pished withoot spilling yer drink.
6. Ye see people wear track suits with Burberry accessories – puir class!
7. Ye measure distance in minutes.
8. Ye kin understaun Rab C Nesbitt and see him in yer ain family.
9. Ye go tae Saltcoats cos ye think it is like gaun tae the ocean.
10. Ye kin make hael sentences jist wi sweer wurd.
11. Ye know whit haggis is made ae and stull like eating it.
12. Somye ye ken has used a fitba schedule tae plan thur wedding daydate.
13. You've been at a wedding and fitba scores wer announced in the Church/Chapel.
14. Ye urny surprised tae find curries, pizzas, kebabs, fish n chips, irn-bru, fags and nappies all in the wan shop.
15. Yer holiday home at the seaside has propane gas under it.
16. A big flash car has a ned at the wheel.
17. Ye know irn-bru is a hangover cure.
18. Ye learnt tae sweer afore ye learnt tae dae sums.
19. Ye actually understand this and yurr gonnae share it wi' yer pals .
20. Finally, you are 100% Scottish if you have ever used any of these words: clatty, boggin, cludgie, pished, wee beasties, amurny, away an bile yer heid, peely-wally, humphey backit, ba'-heid, baw bag, dubble nugget, Fit lyk, min bam?



Rab Nesbitt an' wifie



CLUDGIE

A man left his bagpipes in the back seat of his car with the window rolled down. After leaving his vehicle and walking only a few blocks, he suddenly realized his mistake and hurried back - but it was too late! Someone had ALREADY left another set of bagpipes next to the first!

Next Month:

Photo Spreads of Ceilidh and Tartan Day!

Interesting contributions to the Thistle Times always appreciated - please send to cdmbrennan@yahoo.com.

