



THISTLE TIMES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

SPRING 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS JOINING SINCE WINTER 2013

Harry Charles
David Hoffman
Sandy & Judith MacLean
Sara McBride
Chris Palmer



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars and attend the Annual General Meeting on Sept. 9 at Llywelyn's Pub in Webster Groves. (See Upcoming Events on page 7.)

Your attendance is most important as we will vote on new officers and board members.

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's annual Robert Burns dinner

January 25, 2014



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Withrow, *President*

The Missouri Tartan Day Festival was held the first weekend of April in St. Charles. Unlike last year the weather cooperated by providing beautiful weather. The Society staffed a tent to provide information on our organization to attendees and encourage membership in the Society. Many people stopped by seeking information on their Scottish heritage. Thanks to Steve Nichols, Don Shaw, Denise Duffy and Jeffrey Holtz in helping with the tent.

The Activities Committee has been busy planning events for the coming year. Plans for the 2014 Burns

Dinner are well underway. We are also planning a St. Andrews Day in the fall that will incorporate a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Society. There are also preliminary plans to have a summer event that will appeal to families and children. More information will follow as the details are worked out. Please remember that dues notices will be mailed out this summer and must be paid by the end of August if you wish to vote at the Annual Membership Meeting in September.

Best regards,
Don Withrow

TARTAN DAYS

Steve Nichols, *Editor*

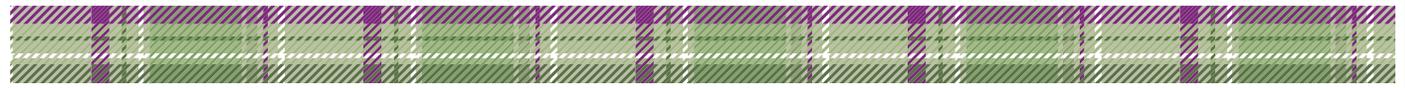
What a difference a year makes! Set up and opening day for last year's Tartan Days were rain events. This year we were blessed with sunny weather. We'll take a little wind over rain any day. Member Don Shaw helped me raise our tent Friday afternoon, then treasurer Jeffrey Holtz joined us later to complete set-up. But we couldn't get too far--the tent sides were AWOL. We didn't want to leave our books, maps, give-aways, etc exposed to the elements overnight, so the three of us joined forces again before opening Saturday morning to complete the set-up.

We greeted many visitors throughout the day. As is usual, the visitors are primarily interested in their probable clan affiliation based on their family surnames. We're well equipped with several clan books to help in their research. Brisk sales of our American/Saltire flag lapel pins helped defray some of the booth fee.

President Don Withrow joined in the fun late morning to fraternize with visitors. He was then joined by Membership Chair Denise Duffy allowing the rest of us to visit the vendor aisle, and lunch on 'Scotty Dogs' and 'Hotty Scottys' from perennial favorite Oz Farms. Of course one needs an Irn Bru to wash down the victuals. Entertainment under the Miller Beer Tent included Dance Caledonia led by Sandy Brown and lots of music, from traditional balladeers to bands with a more modern spin on the Gaelic song. And always, fair visitors are in thrall of the bagpipe bands with a broad representation from local and regional pipers.



Steve Nichols (left) and Don Shaw (right), top photo.
Don Withrow (left) and Don Shaw, bottom photo.



TARTAN

From Scottish
Tartans Authority
(www.tartansauthority.com)

Nowhere in the world is there such a versatile textile design capable of displaying such aesthetic beauty, evoking such heartfelt images and providing the wearer with such strong 'genetic links' to the past. After many centuries it is still a living, evolving expression of national pride and individuality that shouts out to the watching world, "Look at me and look at whence I came!"

In these modern times, sight is all too often lost of tartan's place in the Gaelic heart - probably best displayed by the following poem from Carmina Gadelica, an early 19th century collection of Celtic folk prayers, charms, rituals and omens by folklorist Alexander Carmichael.

This is no second hand cloth
And it is not begged,
It is not property of cleric,
It is not property of priest,
And it is not property
of pilgrim;
But thine own property,
O son of my body,
By moon and by sun,
In the presence of God,
And keep thou it!
Mayest thou enjoy it,
Mayest thou wear it,
Mayest thou finish it,
Until thou find it
In shreds
In rags
In tatters!

Amongst woven textiles, tartan reigns supreme in its versatility. The Scottish Tartans Authority has in its International Tartan Index (December 2009) over 7,000 entries, no two of them being the same.



TARTAN!

Steve Nichols, *Editor*.

Our recent celebration of Tartan Days reminds me that so many people who visit our tent yearn to know more about their Scottish roots--the origin of their name and their clan association. And additionally, these visitors are fascinated with the 'tartan', the kilt, and all the accoutrements of Scottish dress. You have to go easy with explaining, because too many details overwhelms a tyro, and you can just see the eyes glaze over.

Still, it's a good time to remind ourselves about some of the finer points, and perhaps with these fresh in mind, we can better teach friends and acquaintances who inquire about our peculiar haberdasheries.

The fundamental definition of a tartan is a material woven generally of wool, and having stripes of differing colors and varying breadth. The arrangement is the same in the warp (length) and weft (width). The overall appearance is a number of squares intersected by stripes which cross each other. By varying the colors used and the breadth of the stripes, different patterns, called 'setts', are created.

District tartan: the oldest of our tartans from which clan tartans may have developed.

Clan tartan: for general use by specific clan people. The use of the term 'Ancient' is most misleading; it merely indicates the tartan has been woven in lighter shades, and may actually be recent in origin.

Dress tartan: originally worn by ladies of the clan who desired a lighter colored pattern, with a background generally in white, but with variations of the clan sett. Wearing of these is typically confined to formal or 'dress' occasions.

Mourning tartan: generally in black and white, worn for the expressed purpose.

Hunting tartan: worn for sport and outdoor activities, generally brown is the predominant color. Developed for clans whose bright tartans was unsuitable for hunting purposes, and the subdued setts allowed for concealment in the heather.

Long before the advent of aniline dyes, weavers used locally available plants and mosses that imparted a soft, earthen, brumaire quality to the palette of vegetable dyes. Furthermore, given the limitation of the district weaver using the indigenous flora, the local people consequently used these same colors, and likely the same sett; hence, the origin of district tartans. And that brings us to the fact that people in a certain district were likely members of the same clan, anyway. Perhaps branches of a clan would vary the colors or arrangements of the stripes thereby evolving their own tartans, but still the similarities identified them with the main clan.

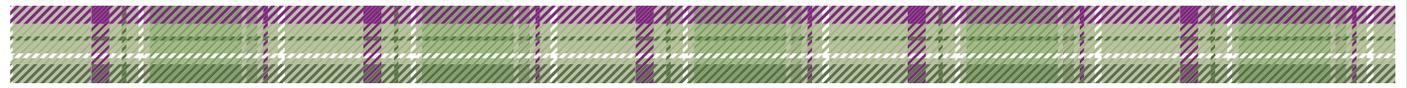
What may be the earliest reference to a 'clan' tartan appeared in a Crown Charter of 1587 to Hector MacLean of Duart stating the 'feu duty (the right to use land in return for a payment, or duty) was sixty ells of cloth of white, black and green,' colors corresponding to what we now call the MacLean hunting tartan. But written evidence is scant, and some claim that our current day links between tartans and clans is a contrivance of more modern times. Although these critics do not deny the tartan cloth existed in 'ancient' times, it had no clan meaning and that people within a clan wore the tartan of their fancy. Some proponents point to 17th and 18th century paintings as evidence of a tartan-clan link, but some of these display different tartans in vests, coats and plaids, and that the 'gentlemen' depicted in these paintings dressed differently from the common clansman.

Then, in 1822 during King George IV's famous visit to Scotland, many Highland chiefs attended the official levies attired in their tartans and Highland finery. Virtually overnight this sensation created an allure to wear the tartan. Unscrupulous tailors contrived connections for families to particular tartans. Perhaps the most infamous were the Sobieski-Stuart brothers who published an abject forgery, *Vestiarium Scoticum*, purported to be derived from 16th century manuscripts.

Whatever the beginnings and historical events, we wear our Scottish dress with great pride in our heritage. Slainte!



Tartan swatches from Lochcarron of Scotland.
(www.lochcarron.com)



CLAN STRACHAN & ITS ROYAL CONNECTION, P.II

By Joan Strachan; edited by Steve Nichols

SMOKED FISH PIE

(from AllRecipes.com)

Here's a tasty dish to serve on your patio this summer with a fresh salad and chilled white wine.

Ingredients

- 6 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 TBS olive oil
- 2 onions, halved and sliced
- 2 C frozen peas, thawed
- 2 (6 oz) salmon fillets, (1" cubes)
- 1 lb smoked haddock, (1" cubes)
- 1 C flaked smoked salmon

- 1 TBS butter
- 1 TBS flour
- 3 C milk
- 1½ C grated Cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- ½ tsp salt

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F; grease 9x13 baking dish. Cook potatoes until tender. Sauté onions in oil in skillet until tender. Add potatoes, onion, peas, and fish to baking dish.

SAUCE

In same skillet used to sauté onions, melt butter over medium heat, stir in flour until no lumps, cook & stir a few minutes. Gradually stir in the milk; simmer, stirring frequently, to thicken. Add seasonings, remove from heat. Stir in most of the cheese until melted. Pour sauce into baking dish and sprinkle top with remaining cheddar. Bake until salmon cooked thru and cheese on top is toasty, about 30 minutes.



The Barons de Strachan were important nobles until they backed the Earls of Buchan and Comyn (to whom they were probably related) in 1296 in support of King John Balliol against Robert the Bruce. This culminated in the Battle of Inverurie in 1308 when the Barons were defeated by the Bruce and disinherited. The Barony de Strachan was then passed to Bruce's great chamberlain Sir Alexander Fraser. However, fifty years later after King Robert's son and successor David II had been defeated and captured by the English at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1341, six descendants of the former Baron de Strachan received grants of lands and baronetcies:

- The House of Glenkindie**
- The House of Thornton**
- The House of Carmyllie**
- The House of Lenturk**
- The Barony of Aberdeenshire**
- The House of Knock**

In 1699 a Strachan sailed with William Penn on his second voyage to America. This ancestor, tired of explaining his surname was pronounced "Strawn" (the Gaelic pronunciation) despite the spelling, changed the spelling to S-t-r-a-w-n. Later some of his descendants migrated to Texas, settling about 70 miles west of Fort Worth founding a village bearing their name. Another branch settled about 50 miles southwest of Chicago, also founding a town named Strawn.

The Scottish district of Strachan may be pronounced 'Strawn' or pronouncing the 'ch' as in loch; either is acceptable. Today the latter has become the most common pronunciation, but Strawn was perhaps more common until about 1875. Evidence for this is that visitors to Scotland from the United States and Commonwealth countries whose forefathers emigrated from Scotland before 1875 invariably call themselves 'Strawn' although spell the name Strachan.

To recount some of my personal family history, my great grandfather Strachan was the youngest of three sons born in the early 1800s in Scotland. My grandfather Hiram Strachan was also the youngest of three sons were born in the mid-1800s. In the late 1880s Hiram came to America on a clipper ship that sailed from Aberdeen and entered the United States through Ellis Island. He married Daisy, and they eventually settled in St. Louis. In 1894 my Aunt Jean Ellen was born, and five years later in 1899 my father was born. My father met my mother Kathryn Louise in 1921 and they married the following year. In 1924 my sister Betty Jean was born, then Nancy Louise in 1929, and I was born in 1940, christened Joan Kay. Among we three sisters were born

thirteen children—six to Betty, three to Nancy, and four to me. Now that my sisters have passed, I am the matron of the family that include many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and now a few great, great grandchildren.

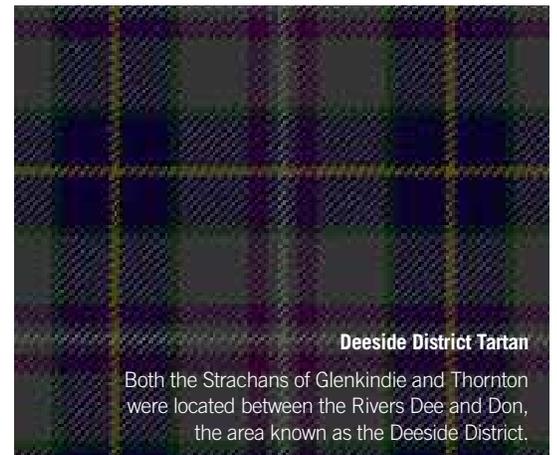
The last chief of Clan Strachan was Admiral Sir Richard John Strachan of the Royal Navy. His many honors included Knight of the Bath and the freedom medal of the City of London. He died in 1828 without a male heir, and his title and baronetcy became dormant in 1854. Therefore, the Court of the Lord Lyon considers Clan Strachan an armigerous clan, a clan whose chief bore 'undifferenced' arms, but is currently without a chief.

The Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society is headed by James Strachan (he says 'Strachan'). The Society recognizes Major Benjamin Strachan (he says 'Strawn') as the head or patron of our clan. He and his wife Lize are the current owners of the Mill of the Strachan in Kincardineshire where they live. The Society is in dialog with Lord Lyon to begin the process to determine a new chief.



The House of Thornton

The last seat of the chief of Clan Strachan was at Thornton Castle.



Deeside District Tartan

Both the Strachans of Glenkindie and Thornton were located between the Rivers Dee and Don, the area known as the Deeside District.



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CEUD MÌLE FÀILTE! (A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES)

Chaplain Millie Slack

The Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis extends its warm friendship in welcoming Alex and Linda Beaton to our community! Alex is a multi-talented entertainer who was born in Glasgow, Scotland and immigrated to the United States in the 1960's, eventually becoming a U.S. citizen. He served in the United States Army during the Viet Nam era, entertaining troops in the Third Army Soldiers' Show and the Seventh U.S. Army Chorus in Germany. Though proud to be an American citizen, Alex has never lost his love for his native Scotland, and has promoted an appreciation for the land of our ancestors. He has educated many through his music, historical presentations, videos, and DVDs. In addition, for many years, Alex also hosted numerous tours to Scotland and Ireland.

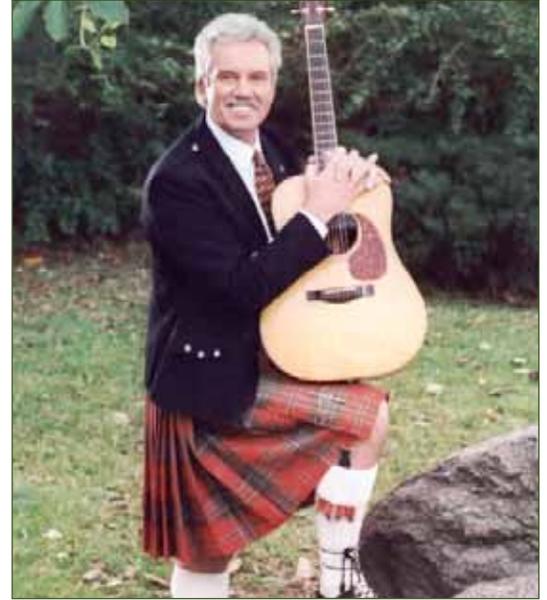
Alex is well known to many in the Scottish-American community in St. Louis, because for several years he was the featured entertainer at the Robert Burns dinner. He also appeared at some twenty Scottish festivals and games almost every year for the past three or four decades from California to Florida and from Michigan to Texas. In fact, it is because of Alex's efforts that the games and festivals began including musical entertainment as a regular feature of their format. This paved the way for the many groups and individuals who continue to entertain at these events, including those who will appear at the St. Louis Scottish Games and Gathering which will take place in September.

In July of 2011, Alex suffered a severe spinal-cord injury, and is currently unable to perform his music. But fans of Alex and traditional Scottish folk music may continue to enjoy his rich baritone voice and phenomenal guitar playing through his more than twenty CDs and DVDs. Alex has a new "Live in Concert" double CD that was released this winter. It was recorded a few years ago at the annual Memorial Day concert, preceding the Scottish Highland Games and Festival held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, California. The recording includes Alex's friends and talented entertainers, master

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Chaplain Millie Slack

The recent bomb explosions in Boston, and the resulting deaths and injuries have once again caused anger, fear, and outrage in Americans and people across the globe. We have many questions and if we have achieved a feeling of security in recent years, it has been mightily shaken. It is at times like this, that it is easy for us to feel righteous anger, and even justify hatred. It is also at times like this, that the human spirit rises above these feelings, and true humanity becomes evident. We have heard stories of the bravery and compassion of so many: first responders, race participants, medical personnel, and ordinary citizens. Prayers have been said and continue to be said for those directly impacted by the events—prayers by Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others whose faith does not condone the actions of the bombers. As we reflect upon these events, we

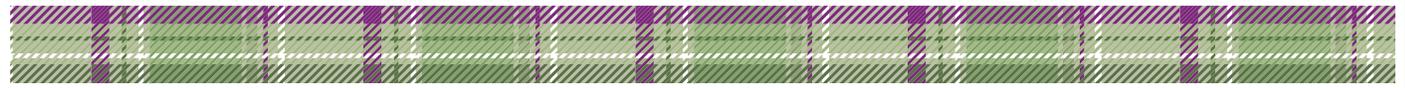


Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser, and the world's most recorded piper, Eric Rigler. The new CD sells for \$20 plus shipping. Proceeds from the sale of this most recent recording benefit the Alex Beaton Rehabilitation Fund to assist with his care and therapies.

Alex and his wife, Linda, continue to make his recordings available through their company, Glenfinnan Music, now located at 1803 Jacobs Circle, St. Peters, MO 63376. You can visit Alex's web site: www.alexbeaton.com for more information or to place an order.

We in the Scottish-American community of the St. Louis area may offer our support to Alex and Linda by continuing to purchase his recordings and through our friendship. Most of all, we can surround them with our prayers for Alex's continued progress in rehabilitation.

are called to affirm our common humanity in solidarity with those who have suffered great pain and loss. On April 24, I attended an Interfaith Response to Boston at the chapel at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves. The event, sponsored by Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis, featured three speakers: Imam Mohamed Hasic representing Islam, Rabbi Susan Talve representing Judaism, and the Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw representing Christianity. They all unequivocally condemned the acts of the terrorists, while urging their constituents to get to know one another, to look out for one another, and become neighbors and friends with people of different faiths to build a better world. As we move forward from here, may the prayers and human compassion of a nation bring healing, hope, and peace to Boston and beyond.



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Malawi

Blantyre (or Mandala) is Malawi's center of finance and commerce.

Although the second largest city with an estimated 728,285 inhabitants as of 2012, Blantyre is Malawi's oldest municipality, founded in 1876 through the missionary work of the Church of Scotland. Blantyre is also one of the oldest urban centers in east, central and southern Africa; it pre-dates Nairobi, Harare and Johannesburg, and hence has the longest historic and cultural heritage in the region. Its unique geographical location is surrounded by Mount Soche, Ndirande mountain, Chiradzulu mountain and Michiru mountain which constitute the Michiru Mountain Conservation Area. Blantyre supports a small expatriate population of about 25,000, mainly from the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe, and South Africa.

It is sometimes referred to as the commercial capital of Malawi as opposed to the political capital, Lilongwe. Located in Blantyre are: the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, the country's state broadcaster and provider of Malawi's only television channel; the Supreme Court; the College of Medicine, the Malawi Polytechnic and the Kamuzu college of nursing, constituent colleges of the University of Malawi.

The city's stature as Malawi's center of commerce and industry began through its role as a center for colonial trade in ivory. Thus, Blantyre quickly established itself as a crossroads for trade in southern Africa. Today the city is Malawi's main manufacturing hub, producing shoes, cotton, metal and plastic.

Livingstone's missionary endeavors saw the establishment of the St Michael and All Angels Church dating from 1891. It was famously built by a team of local workmen with no knowledge of architectural building techniques.

Linarkshire, Scotland

Blantyre has a population of 17,505. High Blantyre is the area to the east and south of Burnbrae Road. It is thought to be the area of earliest settlement, with a Bronze Age village near Auchintibber 2 miles south of Blantyre Parish Church. To the west is Greenhall Park, where the River Calder flows to join the Clyde near Flemington.

CELEBRATING DAVID LIVINGSTONE: AFRICA'S FIRST FREEDOM FIGHTER

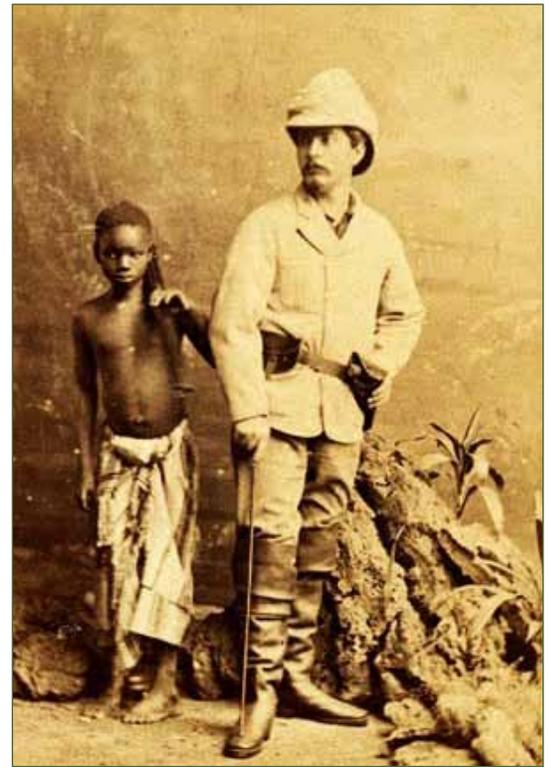
Steve Nichols, Editor, Adapted from *The Scotland Blog* from *The Guardian*

Born to mill-workers living in a single room in Blantyre near Glasgow 200 years ago, David Livingstone's life and legacy as an explorer and humanitarian is being celebrated across the UK and Africa in a series of events marking the 200th anniversary of one of the greatest European explorers of Africa. The bicentenary celebrations are set to take place with events and exhibitions across the UK and Africa, including an arts festival in Livingstone, Zambia and a 1000km mountain bike tour across South Africa to remember the life of the man described as "Africa's first freedom fighter." Livingstone died in 1873 after spending 30 years working on expeditions in Africa. Today he remains a deeply respected humanitarian figure in the many the regions that he visited, having tried to provide an alternative to the slave trade for the continent.

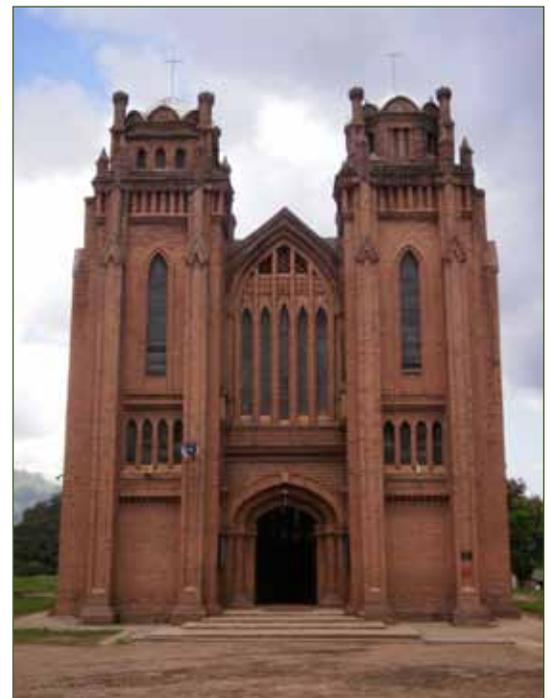
There will be commemorations of his life at Westminster Abbey and in Edinburgh, Hamilton, Glasgow, and in Livingstone's birthplace, Blantyre. Westminster Abbey, where the explorer is buried, will play host to a wreath laying ceremony attended by modern day explorers such as John Blashford-Snell and Sir David Attenborough, and his great-granddaughter Elspeth Murdoch, while Edinburgh hosts an art and photography exhibition by descendants of Livingstone's fellow explorers as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The Scottish parliament will host the first official visit to Scotland by the president of Malawi Dr. Joyce Banda who will address the Scottish parliament.

Meanwhile, at the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, a time capsule which includes material from Chilamba primary school, Dedzaron, Malawi, will be buried. The celebrations at his former home on Shuttle Row, the mill workers' housing where he was born and lived with his family in a single room, will start with the factory bell being rung. A centerpiece of the season of exhibitions and events will an exhibition at the David Livingstone Centre on "The Nyangwe Diary: Shining New Light on Livingstone". This demonstrates how modern technology revealed a previously inaccessible Livingstone diary, written on newspapers using ink made from a berry seeds, but now faded and illegible.

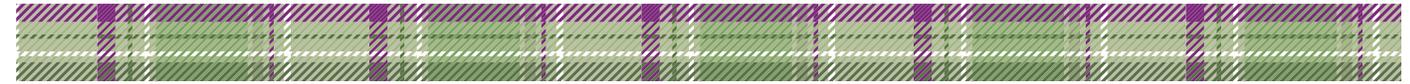
Livingstone was a truly remarkable and inspirational man--and it is even more moving to consider that his guiding light derived from the countryside, history and people of Blantyre. He was one of our greatest explorers who forged enduring links between Scotland and Malawi, and--as a writer, medic and tireless campaigner against the slave trade--left a long and lasting legacy from those travels. He treated all those he met as his equal and worked in partnership with Malawians, which forms the basis of Scotland's friendship with Malawi to this day. The bicentenary of his birth is the ideal opportunity to shed new light on his extraordinary life, and to build on his legacy.



David Livingston with a native.



St. Michael and All Angels Church, Blantyre, Malawi.



SCOTTISH FIRSTS

Popular myth is that Thomas Crapper invented the flush toilet. Not true, but he was in the plumbing business.

However, the Scots were johnny of the spot, so to speak. The earliest record of an indoor toilet connected to a sewer dates to about 3,000 years B.C. from a Scottish site, the Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands. Later, about 1,700 B.C. on the Isle of Crete at the Royal Palace of Knossos was developed the first non-mechanized flush toilet recognized by historians.

Although this factoid is fun, but perhaps a bit frivolous, the Scots were and continue to be preeminent inventors and engineers. Fast forward to our modern era, Scots have been in the forefront in the development of bionic limbs. The world's first commercially available bionic hand, pictured here, was developed by Touch Bionics in Edinburgh. At Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in the 1960s a research program began to develop solutions for children affected by thalidomide. The work evolved into a spin-off company, initially funded by the National Health System via Scottish Health Innovations Ltd. The company initially called Touch EMAS (Edinburgh Modular Arm System) was rebranded in 2005 as Touch Bionics to convey the dynamism of the company's products and innovations. The iLimb Hand launched in 2007 has articulating digits to allow amputees to improve everyday life.



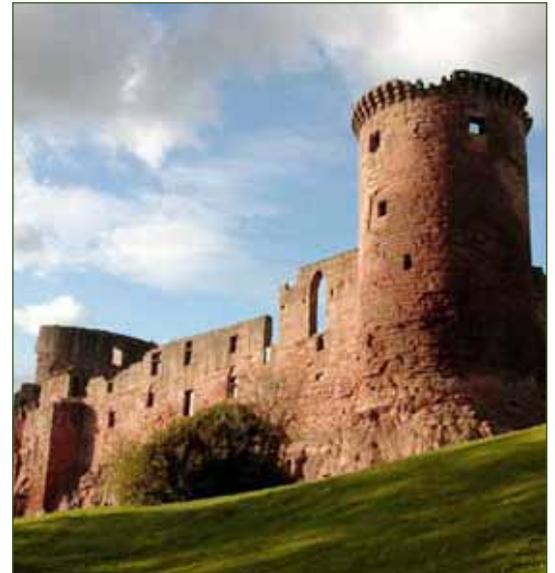
BOTHWELL: ONE OF SCOTLAND'S GREATEST CASTLES

Steve Nichols, *Editor* (adapted from HistoricScotland.gov.uk)

If you are planning to visit The Livingstone Center in Blantyre, by all means take a very short side trip to Bothwell Castle, high on the banks of the River Clyde. It is one of the outstanding monuments of medieval Scotland.

The castle owes its origins to Walter of Moray, a northern aristocratic family who acquired Bothwell in 1242. He (or his son William, known as 'the Rich') created a mighty castle in a spectacular display of feudal pride. The Morays envisaged a vast stone castle of enclosure covering 1.5 acres (0.75 hectares). This was to have had a mighty twin-towered entrance gatehouse and other circular towers projecting from its formidable curtain wall. Only the donjon, the main residential tower, was ever fully built. It measured 20m in diameter, and stood over 30m high. Although it was partially destroyed in 1337, it is still remarkably impressive – one of the greatest military works of medieval Scotland. The Morays' dream was never completed, probably because of the outbreak of the Wars of Independence in 1296. No matter, for what they did achieve – and what still holds us enthralled today – is the great donjon, or tower. Dr W. Douglas Simpson, librarian of King's College at the University of Aberdeen, has justifiably described the building as 'the grandest piece of secular architecture that the Middle Ages has bequeathed to us in Scotland'.

Not surprisingly, the Morays' great castle figured prominently in the Wars of Independence with England. Siege followed siege; the most momentous the great siege of 1301. Edward I of England, 'Hammer of the Scots', brought 6,800 soldiers to the castle. A huge siege engine, called le berefrey ('the belfry'), was hauled from Glasgow. It was a tall tower, with ladders inside to enable the attackers to fight their way onto the castle battlements. The garrison surrendered within the month.



After the wars, Bothwell Castle passed to another powerful noble family, the Black Douglases. After the last recorded siege in 1337, the mighty donjon was partially dismantled. The castle lay derelict until 1362, when Joanna Moray, heiress of Bothwell, married Archibald 'the Grim', 3rd Earl of Black Douglas. Archibald and Joanna completely rebuilt Bothwell to a different design in a form not envisaged by their predecessors. This included a lofty new tower house (now gone), with a great hall and chapel beside it. The hall and chapel still stand, and are impressive examples of later medieval castle architecture. After the Black Douglases were overthrown in 1455, the castle reverted to the Crown, and its later history was relatively uneventful.





EVENTS

5.9

St Andrew Society Social

(Every 2nd Thursday of the month)
6:30 –9:30 PM

The Scottish Arms
10 S Sarah St
St Louis, MO 63108

8.24-25

Festival of Nations

Tower Grove Park

See website for complete details:

www.festivalofnationsstl.org

9.9

Annual General Meeting

5:30 pm

Llywelyn's Pub
17 W Moody Ave
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-1515

Election of officers and board members

9.27-28

Scottish Highland Games and Cultural Festival

Forest Park

www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

THE ANGEL'S SHARE: A SCOTTISH FABLE

Review and photos provided by Mark Schulte, St Louis representative for IFC Films

Winner of the 2012 Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize, "The Angels' Share" is a comic fable about wasted talent and what happens when we are given a second chance in life. It would be hard to see Robbie as a man worthy of redemption. He's watching out for thugs looking to settle a family grudge, his girlfriend is giving birth to a baby while her father offers him money to leave, and he's serving 300 hours of community service. But when Robbie meets Harry, the benevolent man in charge of his sentence, he finds a hidden talent for whisky—and a new chance at life. For distillers, the angels' share is the whisky lost to evaporation each year, and that little fact makes a rare cask of whisky the perfect target for a heist. A hilarious story about second chances, THE ANGELS' SHARE is a crowd-pleaser from filmmaker Ken Loach ("The Wind that Shakes the Barely", "Kes") and screenwriter Paul Laverty.

"The Angels' Share" opens at Landmark's Plaza Frontenac Cinema on Friday, May 3rd. You can view the trailer at: <http://trailers.apple.com/trailers/independent/theangelsshare/>.



A GOOD SUMMER READ

Steve Nichols, *Editor* (with help from publisher's material)

Lauren Burnstein, publicist for Skyhorse Publishing, was kind enough to provide me a copy of the book *Call the Nurse: True Stories of A Country Nurse on a Scottish Isle* (Arcade Publishing, April 2013). In this fascinating first person account eighty year old Mary MacLeod shares her experiences as a nurse and often the only available care-giver on a wind swept island in the Hebrides.

Mary and her husband had tired of the rat race in suburban London, and decided to strike out anew in the Western Isles. They chose Papavray (a fictionalized name to protect the islanders' privacy), the island of her father-in-law's birth. They moved into a broken down croft house with their two younger sons. Their older children, a boy and a girl who were already in college, thought their parents quite mad for choosing this lifestyle change. The younger siblings were delighted with the adventure.

This harsh island environment is imbued with old-fashioned Scottish culture, including the crofters and their laird, the boatmen and tradesmen, young lovers and stern churchmen. Mary becomes the island's district nurse, working all hours against the majestic backdrop of sea and mountains. Her true stories run the gamut of real life: a young woman carried through snow for airlift to the hospital; the marriage of a gentle giant and the island beauty; a ghostly encounter; the shocking

discovery of a woman in chains; and the joyful, tipsy celebration of a ceilidh. Her nostalgic story reveals how her nurse's compassion soothes the rough edges of Gaelic fortitude.

This delightful narrative is available wherever books are sold, including Amazon.

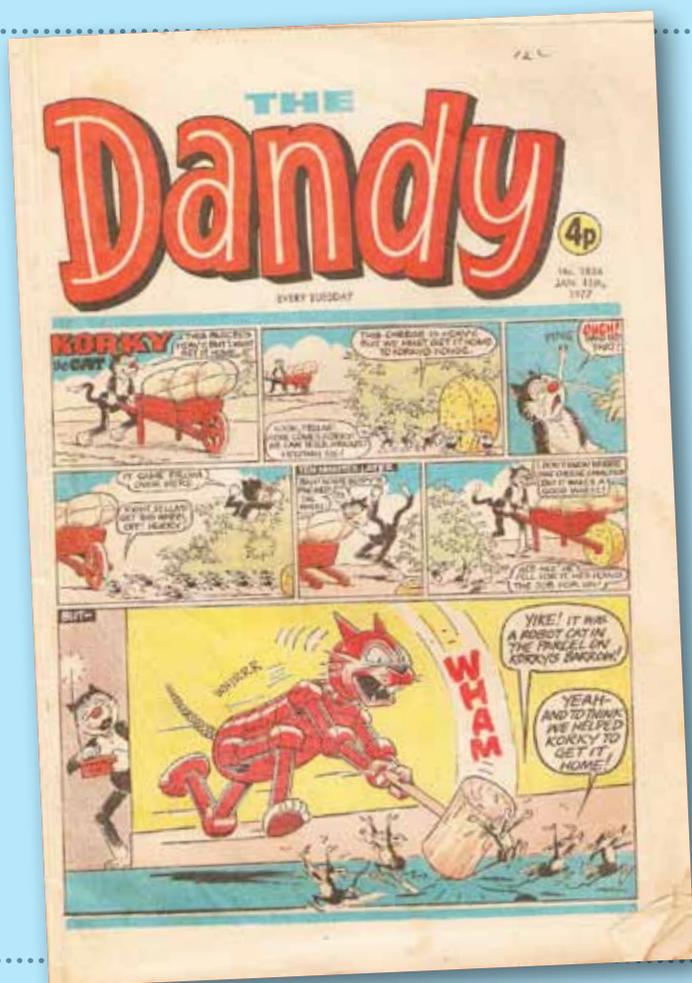
(<http://www.amazon.com/Call-Nurse-Stories-Country-Scottish>) or Barnes and Noble (<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/call-the-nurse-mary-j-macleod/1114336951>); hardcover for \$15 plus change. An audio version is also available, as well as a Kindle or Nook downloads.

If you can't travel to Scotland this summer, Mary MacLeod's account will take you there, painting a word picture of this wild and beautiful land, and the strong people who call it home.



To foster and exchange cultural, educational and recreational pursuits between those of Scottish birth or descent and others in the St. Louis area.

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NOSTALGIC FOR DANDY COMICS?

{LAUNCHED IN 1937 BY ALBERT BARNES}

Sinclair Barr Newsagents in Paisley, Scotland (near Glasgow) has acquired 50,000 copies of the last issue printed. Visit the website www.lasteverdandy.com to order your copy at £3.99.