

# GRACE NOTES

*Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.*

*Vol. 33 No.3 • March 2017*

## President's Letter

Greetings! Your MSSI Board met on February 27 to plan out the year's events. I think you'll find something for everyone. First up, and just around the corner, is not a Scottish Society event, but should be fun anyway. It is the second annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Cooper Street. It starts at 10:30 (lineup at 10:00) and ends at First Congo Church at Cooper and Walker. The day's festivities will continue at Celtic Crossing, where a good time should be had by all! Next is not a Scottish Society event either, but it is something for us to remember: April 6, which is National Tartan Day, is also the day that in 1320 the Declaration of Arbroath was signed. The document is also known as the Declaration of Scottish Independence, which is the document after which our American Declaration of Independence is modelled. April 6 is a day to wear your tartan proudly and tell people about your Scottish heritage and MSSI when they ask!

May 20 is the date for our annual Spring Picnic. It will once again be held at All Saints Episcopal Church at the corner of White Station and Quince. Madeline Phillips is in charge; please contact her to offer your help. We are changing things up a little bit for the next event. Instead of a Scottish Breakfast or an evening Ceilidh, MSSI will host a Scottish Brunch and Ceilidh combination. It will be held on August 12 from 10am to noon at St. Luke Lutheran on Germantown Road. MSSI will participate in the Renaissance Faire, at the USA Baseball Stadium in Millington the last two weekends in August. Watch for details as we decide which weekend to participate and what you can do to be a part of this fun event. MSSI will have a tent at the Bartlett Festival on September 30. Contact George Malone to offer your help for that festival. The Halloween Party will be on October 28; details to follow. We are in the process of securing a location for the Christmas party on a weekend rather than our regular meeting time of the second Monday of the month. All these events bring us around to January 20, 2018, which is the date of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Burns Nicht. The Patron's Reception will be held on January 12. Make your plans to attend both.

I know you don't want to miss anything, so go ahead and put everything on your calendar now. See you at the March meeting!

## March Meeting

### Genealogical Uses of DNA

PZ Horton III

*see page 2 for further information*

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## March Meeting Genealogical Uses of DNA

PZ Horton is an amateur genealogist with a special interest in technology. He has been working on his and his wife's family genealogies for over 25 years and has worked

### PZ Horton III

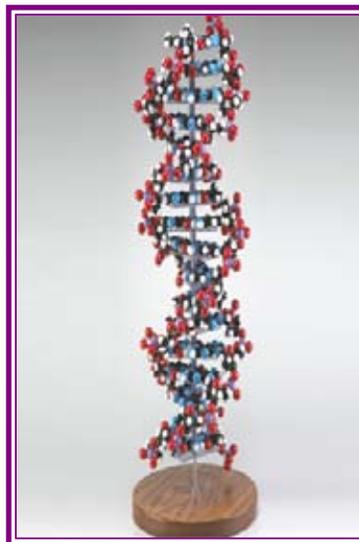


with computers for over 50 years. He has traveled to societies, libraries, courthouses and cemeteries in 22 states. He supports over 25 genealogical or historical society organizations and is Technical Advisor to the Board of the Tennessee Genealogical Society. He teaches Family Tree Maker, Ancestry, RootsMagic and Family Search for the Society. He has presented sessions on

genealogy research in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

He is a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Sons of the American Revolution, General Society of Colonial Wars, General Society of the War of 1812, Military Order of Foreign Wars, Order of Founders and Patriots, Piscataqua Pioneers, National Society of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, National Society of

Old Plymouth Descendants, The Flagon and Trencher Society, Order of Descendants of Colonial Physicians and Chirurgiens, Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, The Hereditary Order of First Families of Massachusetts, Plymouth Hereditary Society, Winthrop Society, Order of the First Families of Maine, Order of the First Families of New Hampshire, Order of the First Families of Vermont and First Families of Montana.



PZ is a retired USAF LtCol and is a member of the Air Force Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Military Order of World Wars and Military Officers Association of America.

If this all sounds a bit familiar, well it should. We were fortunate to have Mr. Horton speak at our February meeting,

but due to technical difficulties, he was unable to present any of his slides and pictures that are an important part of any presentation. So, he graciously agreed to come back this month and try again. Hopefully, everything will work properly and we can all glean from the knowledge that Mr. Horton has accumulated over the years. Hope to see you on the 13th. at Jason's Deli.



*Grace Notes* is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the fourth week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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*to foster education  
and promote understanding  
of things Scottish*

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## A WEE DRAM Pam Aquadro

Now that you know what Scotch Whisky is, let's discover the several types that are made. In 2009, the Scotch Whisky Association established Regulations formally defining five categories of Scotch Whisky. The category description must appear clearly on every bottle of Scotch Whisky sold. Each of the five categories is unique to its type and region. We will look at the different characteristics of each category below.

**Single Malt Scotch Whisky:** A Single Malt Scotch Whisky is distilled at a single distillery from water and malted barley without the addition of any other cereals and by batch distillation in pot stills. Since November 2012, all Single Malts must be bottled in Scotland. Glenlivet 12 is an example of a Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

**Single Grain Scotch Whisky:** A Single Grain Scotch Whisky is distilled at a single distillery from water and malted barley with or without whole grains of other malted or unmalted cereals. They are also required to be distilled in batches and in pot stills. Cameron Brig is an example of a Single Grain Scotch Whisky.

**Blended Scotch Whisky:** A Blended Scotch Whisky is a blend of one or more Single Malt Scotch Whiskies with one or more Single Grain Scotch Whiskies. Chivas 18 is an example of a Blended Scotch Whisky.

**Blended Malt Scotch Whisky:** A Blended Malt Scotch Whisky is a blend of Single Malt Scotch Whiskies which have been distilled at more than one distillery. Monkey Shoulder is an example of a Blended Malt Scotch Whisky.

**Blended Grain Scotch Whisky:** A Blended Grain Scotch Whisky is a blend of Single Grain Scotch Whiskies which have been distilled at more than one distillery. Compass Box Hedonism is an example of a Blended Grain Scotch Whisky.

Sounds a little confusing, but the Scottish take their Wyhisky seriously and are even more serious as to how it is made. To make it even more confusing, a distillery name cannot be used as a brand name on any Scotch Whisky that has not been wholly distilled in the named distillery. Legally, labeling must not mislead consumers as to where the Scotch Whisky has been distilled. Next month we will learn the proper way to drink Scotch Whisky and what types of glasses are used. Hope you are enjoying this exploration into the world of Scotch! *Nice article Pam. Thank-you*

## "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond" What's Behind the Song?

This article first appeared in the September 2001 Thistle & Shamrock Newsletter.

In thinking of a song for Halloween, the cheery "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond" may seem like an unlikely candidate. But when you look into the background of the verses, written at the time of the 1745 Jacobite rising in Scotland, it emerges as a good candidate for a mention at this time of year. First of all, you need to know that in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany, some people still hold onto the old Celtic belief that if you die away from your homeland, you return by an underground spirit route called The Low Road.

In 1745 the Scottish Jacobite army was in retreat following its invasion of England. As they approached the border, several of the walking wounded could struggle no further and fell back from the rest of the troops in Carlisle, just south of Scotland on the English side. Unfortunately, many were picked up by English soldiers, and were thrown into Carlisle jail.

Written during this period in history, the song tells of two Scottish prisoners in those dreadful circumstances. One was to be set free, and the other to be executed for his part in the Jacobite rising against the Hanoverian king. The two prisoners' release and execution were timed for the same hour. The freed man would travel home to Scotland the conventional way, tramping wearily for many miles by The High Road. The condemned man, travelling with the speed of a spirit by The Low Road, would be transported instantly at the moment of death, arriving home first. So...

You'll take the high road  
And I'll take the low road  
And I'll be in Scotland afore ye  
But me and my true love will never meet again  
On the Bonny Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond.

Most people hear these verses as a simple celebration of the landscape to which the song has brought worldwide fame. And most singers have given it a jaunty interpretation, including the American jazz singer Maxine Sullivan, who had a hit with the song in the 1940s. Wouldn't verses imagined to be the last words of a condemned man be more effectively sung as a lament? If anyone knows of a version of this song which seems to match its origins, do let us know. *Copyright 2004 NPR and Fiona Ritchie*

## Donald Trump - A Scottish Connection



Wouldn't you think the Isles of Scotland the dreamiest place to be and possibly want to live there? Harken back to reality and know island life is and was harsh. A number of inhabitants today are descendants of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Clearance removal families. They became fishermen and farmers who endured dangerous occupational hazards and economic hard times. No wonder 20<sup>th</sup> century youth left in droves immigrating to Canada and the U.S.A.

One such Scottish lass was a part of that in the 1930's. Eighteen year old Gaelic speaking Mary Ann MacLeod, from the Isle of Lewis, found herself doing just that. Youngest of ten children, she followed several sisters to America finding employment in Jamaica, N.Y. as a nanny. As times grew more difficult due to the Great Depression, her employment ended causing a return to Scotland. However, her story did not end there. Hers was a true "Rags to Riches" tale. Eventually Mary returned to America and was introduced to a son of German immigrants. Who knew the poor (English as a Second Language) young lady would marry well-to-do Fred Trump, rise to high society, and bear five children...one of whom would become the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump.

If interested in more of Mary Ann MacLeod's story, much can be found on the internet. A favorite link is: [bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-38648877](http://bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-38648877).

Debby Sellmansberger!! What a nice article! Thanks for this submission.

OK, I couldn't resist and went and had a look myself. It appears that Donald's mother was quite a looker as a young lass and the picture both to the left and above should serve as confirmation. SRich



## Order of the Thistle

The *Order of the Thistle* consists of the Sovereign of Scotland and twelve Knights. The Knights wear pearl stockings, white shoes, breeches and doublets of silver and green ribbons, surcoat of purple velvet, gold belt, black velvet cap with a white feather, and mantle of green velvet.

The collar is a diamond cross of St. Andrew with thistles and rue. The arms are a purple tartan, unicorn, and cross. In 1488 there is a reference to the Scottish Queen's '*covering of variand purpir tartar, browdin with thrissillis and a unicorne.*' (1)

### ORDER OF THE THISTLE

The Order of the Thistle represents the highest honour in Scotland, and it is second only in precedence to the Order of the Garter. The date of the foundation of the Order is not known, although legend has it that it was founded in 809 when King Achaius made an alliance with the Emperor Charlemagne. It is possible that the Order may have been founded by James III (1488-1513), who was responsible for changes in royal symbolism in Scotland, including the adoption of the thistle as the

royal plant badge. It is said that James V bestowed the insignia of the 'Order of the Burr or Thissil' on Francis I of France in 1535. Around the time of the Reformation, the Order was discontinued.

Although some kind of Scottish Order of chivalry existed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, or even much earlier, it was James II (James VII of Scotland) who established the Order with a statutory foundation under new rules in 1687 - to reward Scottish peers who supported the king's political and religious aims. (One statute required that the robe should be 'powdered over with thistles of gold'; a robe from that period still survives, scattered with more than 250 applied thistle motifs.) The statutes stated that the Order was 'to continue to consist of the Sovereign and twelve Knights-Brethren in allusion to the Blessed Saviour and his Twelve Apostles'.

After James II (and VII)'s abdication in 1688, the Order fell into disuse once more until it was revived by Queen Anne in 1703 - the number of knights remained at 12. Despite the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, the Old and Young Pretenders (Prince James and Prince Charles 'Bonnie Prince Charlie') appointed Knights of the

Thistle (and Garter) in their exiles. The early Hanoverian kings also made use of the Order to reward Scottish nobles who supported the Hanoverian and Protestant cause.

Interest in the Order revived when George IV wore the Thistle during his visit to Scotland in 1822. A statute of 1827 established the complement of Knights Brethren at 16, and in 1987 a statute enabled ladies to join the Order. (Extra knights may be created by special statute.) The Princess Royal was invested in the Order of the Thistle in June 2001. In 1962, King Olav V of Norway became the first (*see pg 6*)



**Thanks to the BlackOakNaturalist for the use of this lovely picture of a Thistle bloom with a bumblebee on top!**

foreigner to be admitted to the Order for over 200 years.

The patron saint of the Order is St Andrew (also the patron saint of Scotland), who appears on the Order's badge. The breast star of the Order, instituted by George I in 1714, consists of a silver saltire with a pointed ray between each of the arms of the cross: at the centre is a gold medallion contained in an enamelled representation of the thistle, surrounded by a green border on which the Order's motto is written in gold. The motto is 'Nemo me impune lacessit' (No one harms me with impunity).

The chapel for the Order was to be at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where James II had issued instructions in 1687 for the Abbey Church to be converted into the Chapel Royal and the Chapel of the Order. However, the political situation deteriorated and, by the time it was ready for use in December 1688, the furnishings and the stalls of the Chapel had been destroyed by a rioting mob. It was not until 1911 that the Order had a chapel, adjacent to St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, in which its services and ceremonies could be held. When practicable, and when there is to be the installation of a new knight, a service of the Order is held each year during the week spent by The Queen at Holyrood.

#### **Plant Badges of the Clans**

As already mentioned, Heather can be used, in conjunction with deerhorn, silver and pewter, to make colourful and effective jewellery. But another important decorative use for heather was as a plant badge of the clans. This was used long before the tradition of heraldic badges with the appropriate chiefs crest, straps, buckles and mottos.

Referred to as 'Heather Taps', these natural plant badges were worn by the Highlanders in the seventeenth century, if not before, and were placed behind the crest in the bonnet. Heather (Fraoch) was the emblem of the clans MacAlister, MacDonell, Shaw, Farquharson, MacIntyre and Mac Donald, with white heather (Fraoch Geal) pertaining to MacPherson.

It is said that the chiefs of the clan Donald carried into battle, as an emblem of their race, a bunch of wild heather hung from the point of a quivering spear.

Another way in which heather was used decoratively was in the form of dirk handles. Made from the stems and roots of the plant and carved deeply in Celtic designs these were worn on kilts around the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

## **St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cooper Young**

Join us on Friday, March 17 at 10:30 am to celebrate all things Irish and Memphis in our 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade is co-hosted by the Memphis Irish Society (MIS) and Celtic Crossing Irish Pub.

The Memphis Irish Society has had a presence in Memphis for the last 200 years. They foster education in and celebration of Irish heritage, culture and people. Currently, there are 135 member households of the MIS throughout the Mid-South. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. St. Patrick rid the isle of snakes and converted the native people to Christianity, among many other marvelous acts. On March 17, the American Irish along with the Irish in Ireland celebrate all manner of Irish culture and heritage with parades, ceilidhs (parties, pronounced "KAY-les"), concerts, dancing, singing, feasting and going to church.

Please join us as we have our own celebration here in Cooper Young. Cooper Street will close at 10:00 am between York and Walker Streets and the parade will start. The parade will begin at York Street and turn south going down Cooper Street and will end at the parking lot of First Congregational Church at 1000 South Cooper.

There are numerous organizations joining us in the celebration such as Memphis Grizzlies Grizz Crew and Grizz Girls, Sonic Delivery, walking bands, Wolf River Pipes and Drums, Police Mounted Patrol, Revolution Bike Youngsters and many others bringing floats etc.

There will be merriment and leprechauns! Wear green and join us for the fun! Everyone is invited.



### **President's Letter (*cont from pg 1*)**

Melissa Gibson

## Calendar of Events

### Thursdays

**Wolf River Pipes & Drums,**  
6:00-9:30 Contact: Band Mgr,  
Kenny Hiner 494-4902 for info.  
wolfriverpipeband@gmail.com

### Sundays

**NEAC Pipes&Drums**  
2:00-4:00 - St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, 531 W. College  
Jonesboro, AR exit 45

### Monday- 1st,3rd and 5th

**MSSI Scottish Country Dancers**  
7:00 pm All Saints Episcopal  
1508 S. White Station Rd.

### Monday March 13

**MSSI Monthly Meeting**  
Jason's Deli, Poplar / Highland  
PZ Horton III  
Genealogical Uses of DNA

### Monday March 27

**MSSI Board/BN Meeting 6:15**  
Panera Bread on Germantown  
Pkwy,

### Thursday April 6

**National Tartan Day**  
Celebrate our heritage and  
wear your kilt around town.

### Saturday May 20

**MSSI Picnic: All Saints Episco-  
pal Church**

### Scottish - Celtic Radio Shows

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

*"The Thistle and Shamrock"*  
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1

p.m. *"Strands of the Celtic Knot"*  
Robert Campbell, host  
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and  
Fridays, 7 p.m.

*"The Thistle & Shamrock,"*  
WMAV-FM 90.3



## the Thistle & Shamrock®

### **March 05: Welsh Roots**

Explore some well-loved and emerging roots music from Wales.

### **March 12: ThistleRadio New**

Hear some of the recently added tracks that have grown our playlist to more than 1,000 tracks on ThistleRadio, our popular round-the-clock music channel.

### **March 19: Live from Ireland**

Re-live some great sets of Irish music, including years of live performances presented by Fiona with The Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies, and more.

### **March 26: Dear Jean**

Artists celebrate Jean Ritchie (1922-2015), singing the songs she taught them and passing along their wisdom. Much of this week's music comes from the commemorative

CD, which includes Robin and Linda Williams, Peggy Seeger, Kathy Mattea, John McCutcheon and many friends of Jean Ritchie.

### **April 2: The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart**

Hear music from the National Theatre of Scotland show that has won acclaim over the past five years, including during its recent run in the U.S. A non-traditional production playing in bars, pubs and civic spaces, it celebrates Scottish traditional poetry, storytelling and music woven through a supernatural tale.

### **Publisher's Pick**

As much as music from Ireland on the 19th and just a couple of days after St. Patrick's Day, I am more inclined to give a listen to artists celebrate Jean Ritchie and her music



This is one of many thousands of beautiful pictures of Loch Lomond, the home of Nessie and other Scottish legends. Also, one of Scotlands most beloved traditional songs.

**Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, March 13, 2017**  
Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland; P.Z. Horton: DNA Genealogy  
MSSI Board and BN Meeting - March 27, 6:15 Panera Bread on Germantown Pkwy



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