

# GRACE NOTES

*Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.*

*Vol. 33 No. 4 • April 2017*

## President's Letter

Greetings! I hope you will share your Scottish heritage on Thursday, April 6, by celebrating National Tartan Day. This celebration of Scottish heritage also marks the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, which is a declaration of Scottish Independence, signed in 1320. The declaration was written in the form of a letter addressed to Pope John XXII, and it declared Scotland an independent and sovereign state. The declaration was written at the Arbroath Abbey by Bernard of Kilwinning, Chancellor of Scotland and Abbot of Arbroath.

National Tartan Day originated in New York City when mayor Ed Koch declared July 1, 1982 as Tartan day, a one-time celebration of the 200th anniversary of repealing the Act of Proscription (August 12, 1747), which had forbidden Scots to wear tartan. Then in 2004, the National Capital Tartan Day Committee lobbied US House Representatives to designate April 6 as National Tartan Day, a day which was adopted on March 9, 2005.

On April 4, 2008, President George W. Bush made the following Presidential Proclamation: "Americans of Scottish descent have made enduring contributions to our Nation with their hard work, faith, and values. On National Tartan Day, we celebrate the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognize their many contributions to our culture and our way of life."

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## April Meeting

### Life of the Common Civil War Infantryman

**John Turner**

*See page 2 for further information*



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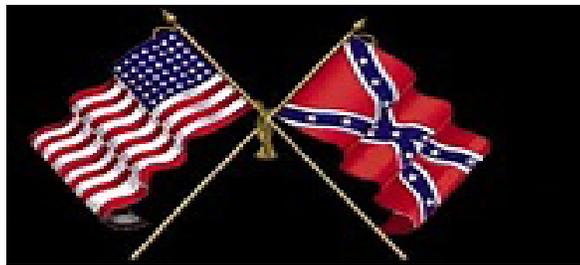
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## April Meeting

### Life of the Common Civil War Infantryman

John Turner, a living historian, is very passionate about the life of the common Civil War infantryman. His presentations are based on facts/documentated research, not conjecture or hear-say. John focuses on a fair and balanced approach to teach about those who came before us, and link it to them personally through stories about the men. He makes history come alive through the most accurately reproduced (or original) uniforms, equipment, weapons, personal items, etc. John is also a veteran US Marine Corps officer with multiple combat tours overseas - whose experiences in combat operations help him to better explain many of the unique dynamics guys went through in armed conflict - which ties the whole picture together.

John focuses on the 2nd TN (Walker's) Volunteer Infantry. This was an all Irish / Scots unit from Memphis -- a "wild and reckless bunch" -- who were later selected because of their heritage to serve with Cleburne's Division. They saw action from Mill Springs and Shiloh, through every major battle in the western theater, and solidifying their legacy at the Battle of Franklin. John concentrates heavily on what makes their role and that fight so unique and special.



## GRACE NOTES

*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*

# Face of Robert the Bruce reconstructed showing the heroic Scottish king had leprosy

Robert the Bruce really did suffer from leprosy, scientists have concluded after reconstructing his face from his skull.

For years, historians have argued about whether the 14th



century Scottish king was infected with the disease, with some believing there was a medieval cover-up so he would not have to relinquish the throne, while others suggest he was the victim of a smear campaign.

Recently, experts at the [Robert The Bruce Heritage Centre](#) said it would have been impossible for him to attend mass, hold court, or drink from his local well – all of which he did – if he had suffered from the illness.

But a new project to reconstruct his face by the University of Glasgow and Liverpool John Moores

University (LJMU) has found that his skull shows the telltale signs of leprosy, including a disfigured jaw and nose.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson, director of the Face Lab at LJMU, who also reconstructed the face of Richard III, said, “We could accurately establish the muscle formation from the positions of the skull bones to determine the shape and structure of the face.”

“We produced two versions – one without leprosy and one with a mild representation of leprosy. He may have had leprosy, but if he did it is likely that it did not manifest strongly on his face.”

The illness is not specifically mentioned in documents from the period, nor do contemporaneous historians mention a disfigurement. Images of Bruce, such as the statue at Bannockburn, unveiled in the 1960s, and a terracotta model, unveiled two years ago in the National Portrait Gallery, have

always portrayed the king without the condition. However records do recall that Bruce suffered from a mystery ailment which laid him low several times during his reign, and probably killed him. In Ulster in 1327, he was said to be so weak that he could only move his tongue.

The new reconstruction shows Bruce with a large, squarish head, supported by a muscular neck and stocky frame, suggesting he was a seasoned warrior.

The Scottish King, who ruled from 1306 until his death in 1329 aged around 55, launched campaigns throughout Scotland, England and Ireland, including the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 where he defeated the armies of Edward II. No reliable visual depictions of Robert the Bruce were made when he was alive and written records tell us nothing about his appearance so it is the first time his face has been seen for more than 700 years.



The project was led by Dr. Martin MacGregor, a senior lecturer at the University of Glasgow, who was inspired by the recent reconstruction of the face of Richard III. “The case of Richard III revealed how far the technology had advanced and I saw an opportunity to apply the technology to the

Hunterian skull held here at Glasgow,” said Dr. MacGregor.

“The skull was excavated in 1818-19 from a grave in Dunfermline Abbey. After the excavation, the original skeleton and skull were sealed in pitch and reburied, but not before a cast of the head was taken for the Royal College of Surgeons’ Hunterian Museum in London. Several copies of the cast exist, including the one now in The Hunterian, but without the original bone we have no DNA.” Professor Wilkinson added, “In the absence of any DNA, we relied on statistical evaluation to determine that Robert the Bruce most likely had brown hair and light brown eyes.”

“This is the most realistic appearance of Robert the Bruce to date, based on all the skeletal and historical material available.” - Thanks to Randy Seale

*A reconstruction of the face of Robert The Bruce*

*Credit: University of Glasgow*

*-Sarah Knapton, Science Editor*

From the Clan Campbell Newsletter, January, 2017 Thanks to Mike Taylor

**Note:** There have been several recent studies that refute the idea that Robert the Bruce had leprosy. One source is: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_the\\_Bruce](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_the_Bruce). Refer to the “Later Reign (1320-1329)” section.

# Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Dress He Wore to Flee Scotland

By Alison Campsie

It is a swatch of material that tells the story of one of Scotland's most famous escapes. Pinned to the inside cover of the original copy of *The Lyon in Mourning*, a collection of papers, interviews and speeches collected after Charles Edward Stuart's failed 1745 uprising, is a small patch of floral-print cloth. The swatch of material that is stuck in the original version of the *Lyon in Mourning*. It is a remarkable piece of evidence from one of Scotland's most romanticized episodes. Taken from the dress worn by Charles Edward Stuart during his escape from Scotland in the summer of 1746, it was collected by a woman on Skye who hosted the Prince for one night as he fled to France. The piece of cloth from the legendary disguise was sent to Rev Robert Forbes, the author of the book, by Margaret McDonald of Kingsburgh. A handwritten note in the original version of the book, which is held in the National Library of Scotland, says: "The above is a piece of that identical gown which the Prince wore for four or five days when he was obliged to disguise himself in a female dress under the name of Bettie Burke. "A swatch of the said gown was sent from Mrs McDonald of Kingsburgh according to her promise." Maggie Craig, in her book *Damn Rebel Bitches, Women of the '45*, said the gown was part of a disguise "sewn furiously" for Bonnie Prince Charlie as final arrangement to get Charles out of Scotland were made. Sticked by Flora MacDonald, the South Uist woman drawn into the plot for his escape by her family, and Lady Clanranald, Ms Craig gives a good account of the costume made for Charles, who was 5ft 10inches tall. It included a calico gown, quilted petticoat and a large hood "after the Irish fashion" which helped to cover his face. Shoes, stocking and garters and head-dress were also provided. The Prince, along with Flora MacDonald and Neil MacEachen, a tutor to the Clanranald children and friend of Charles, arrived at Totternish on Skye after a spell at Benbecula and South Uist. An account in *The Lyon of Mourning*

documents how Charles stayed with Margaret and her husband, the factor to the Macdonalds of Sleat, where he dined on eggs, bread, beer and brandy and smoked tobacco. Charles was "very much fatigued" but refreshed and merry by bedtime. He slept late the next day. When he woke, he was "keen to cast off his disguise" but it was not allowed. The account added: "It was necessary he should leave the house in the female dress he came in, which would, if enquiry happened to be made, prevent the servants telling the particular dress he had put on when he stript himself of the gown, petticoats, etc. and therefore in Kingsburgh's house, Miss put on his cap for him." After leaving the house late in the day, it is said he stopped at a wood to change into Highland dress given to him by his hosts.

It appears that the fabric swatch kept by Margaret McDonald caused quite a stir back in the late 1740s. According to Maggie Craig, the "sprigged flowery" pattern of the dress was copied and manufactured in Edinburgh by an "enterprising" company in Leith.

The material became all the rage for Jacobite ladies," she said. Meanwhile, Flora MacDonald was arrested and imprisoned at the Tower of

London after the plot was exposed but she returned to Scotland after the Act of Indemnity was passed in 1747.

## Prince Charlie's Swatch



## Bonnie Prince Charlie in Disguise



Thanks to Kathy Schultz.

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## Cainntearachd

Cainntearachds, pronounced Canderachs, are, I believe, a species of music peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland. Before pianos became so general, they were universally used for dancing at small merry meetings. At larger ones, weddings, etc., there was a piper. Two or three females sing together and seldom does the dancing drown the voice, for they bawl in their loudest key.

This ancient custom like many others has nearly worn out, but I am happy to say that Cainntearachds are still used in the islands and some few parts of the mainland. I have often danced to them and liked it as well, perhaps even better than a Reel performed on an instrument. Pipers have picked up the tunes, and I have been given both sets. The words have in general no meaning and are merely used to bring out the air.

From a publication titled "Celtic Melodies"



## Cooper-Young 2nd Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade

It was a cold and blustery day, but Scottish Society members Gavin Anderson, Phyllis Davis, Yvonne and Madeline Phillips, Darwin and Adele Concon, and George Malone, braved the elements to participate in the annual Cooper-Young St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mary Ann Lucas, who wore two hats representing both the Irish Society and the Scottish Society, and Jim were organizers for the entire parade. Wolf River Pipes and Drums led while the Irish Society float was last. Some of our members rode on the float, but Gavin, Phyllis, Darwin, Madeline and George proved heartier and walked the entire way behind the float (about 20 minutes). George chose the position to keep away from a brass band marching ahead of the float. The others fell in behind him. While George played the pipes, Gavin and Phyllis danced a modified version of "the Gay Gordons" without missing a step, but Darwin attracted the most attention. Being the last one in the parade, he really made a statement in his bright green vest, a huge Irish flag attached to his motorized wheel chair, and grinning from ear to ear. He could have passed for a leprechaun, and the crowd loved him. Thanks to Mary Ann and Jim for doing such a good job getting everything and everyone organized. The parade actually started right on time (a first!).



Madeline Phillips &  
George Malone



Adele & Darwin  
Concon



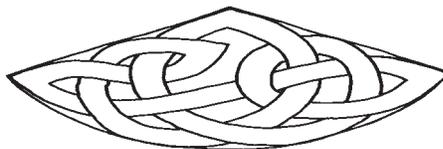
Gavin Anderson  
& Phyllis Davis



George Malone, Gavin Anderson, Phyllis Davis, and Darwin Concon. You would never know by our happy expressions that we were freezing to death, but still having fun. at the Cooper-Young St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## A Thank You from Joisinga Noble

I would like to give a hearty "*go raibh maith agaibh*" to everyone in the Memphis Scottish society, especially the board members who chose me for this year's Order of the Thistle. I am deeply honored by this great privilege. The Memphis Scottish Society has been a great blessing, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it for these past few years (and hopefully many more in the future). I have gotten to know many great people through this organization.



## With Sympathy

We wish to extend our condolences to Helen and Bruce Erskine on the death of Helen's mother, Katherine Pappas Charcalis who passed away March 10, 2017, at the age of 93 in Concord, NH.

# 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

## 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



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

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

## Monday, April 24

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

## Monday, April 10

*MSSI Monthly Meeting*  
Jason's Deli, Poplar/Highland  
John Turner: *Life of the Common*  
*Civil War Infantryman*



# the Thistle & Shamrock®

## **April 09: The Great Tapestry**

Follow the great musical migration from Scotland, through Ulster to Appalachia. Maggie MacInnes, Tim O'Brien, Cara Dillon, Jean Ritchie, Sheila Kay Adams and others share songs that tell the story of a remarkable musical Diaspora.

## **April 16: Common Currency**

Follow the instrumental links and song streams that connect musical traditions across miles and oceans.

## **April 30: Singer Songwriters**

An abundance of songwriting talent on this week's show takes us on a tour around the landscapes that inspire their music.

## **May 07: Bridges**

Music marks the landmarks that span our landscapes and is its own bridge across time and place. Cross all forms of bridges this week.

## **May 14: Celtic Piano**

In the right hands, the driving rhythms of fiddle music and the ornamentation of Celtic pipes and harp will all dance freely on piano keys. Join us for a trip to the heart of the Celtic piano music.



## Melrose Abbey:

The resting place of Robert the Bruce's heart. (The rest of him is buried at Dumferline Castle.)

### Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, April 10, 2017

Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland; John Turner: Life of the Common Civil War Infantryman  
MSSI Board and BN Meeting - April 24, 6:15 Panera Bread Germantown Pkwy



The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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