

# GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 5 • May 2017

## President's Letter

The Board is considering a few slight changes to our By-Laws, one of which concerns the awarding of scholarships and grants to individuals who are interested in Celtic studies not limited to all things Scottish. Currently Section 2, #1 reads: "Scholarships may be granted to a person with an interest in Scottish heritage or Scottish culture who is pursuing education or studies in that area, through classes, seminars, workshops, etc." The proposed change would be: "Scholarships may be granted to a person with an interest in Scottish or Celtic heritage or Scottish or Celtic culture..." Think about it and talk to one of your Board members to let your opinion be known.

On another note, I was listening to WKNO on my way to work this morning and there was a story from BBC Scotland concerning Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. There were more sightings of her in 2016 than ever before, but there has not been a single sighting of her in 2017. Gary Campbell, Registrar of Sightings, Loch Ness, speculated that she may no longer be there. Now, wouldn't that be sad?

---

## It's Spring Picnic Time!

Our Annual picnic will be held on Saturday, May 20th, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1508 White Station Road, from 11 am until 2 pm. Please bring a comfy chair and yard games. Yes, we will have the ever popular horseshoes match again with the current champion, Sammy Rich, taking on all comers.

MSSI will provide buns, hotdogs and burgers. We ask that members whose last names begin with the letters listed below to bring the items shown:

A-H: Chips / dips and drinks & ice

I-O: Salads and sides

P-Z: Desserts

**Note: We still need someone with a truck or trailer who can bring a grill or bring the one from Darwin's patio. If you can help, please call Madeline Phillips at (901) 233-7673.**

---

## May Meeting

### "The Other Poets"

Presented by

**Mary Ann Lucas**

See page 2 for further information



## Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. Board

### President

Melissa Gibson  
901 299-3170  
[president@memphisscots.com](mailto:president@memphisscots.com)

### Vice President

George Malone  
901 385-1938  
[vice-president@memphisscots.com](mailto:vice-president@memphisscots.com)

### Treasurer

Bob Noble  
901 221-4131  
[treasurer@memphisscots.com](mailto:treasurer@memphisscots.com)

### Secretary

Phyllis Davis  
901 830-9564  
[secretary@memphisscots.com](mailto:secretary@memphisscots.com)

### Members at Large

Madeline Phillips  
901 233-7673  
[madeline.phillips@memphisscots.com](mailto:madeline.phillips@memphisscots.com)

Steve Andrews

901 485-7679  
[steve.andrews@memphisscots.com](mailto:steve.andrews@memphisscots.com)

Betty Gibson

901-323-5428  
[betty.gibson@memphisscots.com](mailto:betty.gibson@memphisscots.com)

# May Meeting

## The Other Poets

Presented by Mary Ann Lucas

There's an old joke about heaven and hell. The difference between them is just a matter of organization. In heaven, the Germans are the engineers, the French are the cooks, the Italians are the lovers, the English are the policemen, the Scots are the poets, and the Swiss organize everything. In hell, the Germans are the policemen, the French are the engineers, the English are the cooks, the Swiss are the lovers, the Scots are the musicians, and the Italians organize it all. At least the joke got it right when it says the Scots are the poets in heaven.

We revere Robert Burns as Scotland's greatest poet, and well we should. Is he, however, the best because there are no other great poets? Oh, no, Grasshopper! On Monday, May 8th, we will learn that he is the greatest among Scottish giants of rhythm and rhyme.

### Some of the more Famous Scottish Poets:



Joanna Baillie



Arthur Conan  
Doyle



Walter Scott



Robert Louis  
Stevenson



## 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.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Melissa Gibson  
Editor, (901-299-3170)  
melissa.gibson@memphisscots.com

Sammy Rich  
Publisher, (901-496-2193)  
sammy.rich@memphisscots.com

Gavin Anderson  
Circulation Editor, (901-485-8270)  
gavin.anderson@memphisscots.com

Karen English  
Circulation Editor, (901-396-9134)  
karen.english@memphisscots.com

info@memphisscots.com



*to foster education  
and promote understanding  
of things Scottish*

# The Picts: Ancient and Modern

*Borrowed from Peter Hill, Member of the St. Andrew's Society & President of the Order of St. George in Philadelphia.*

Any tribes encountered by the Romans who either wore tattoos or adorned their bodies with bluish wode—not just these northern tribes—earned the uncomplimentary nickname “Picti”, meaning literally “the painted people,” is the theory confidently put forward after reading the late Roman historians. However, the Picts who inhabited seven kingdoms in northern Britain apparently used the name “Picts” for themselves because it appears in variations in many Gaelic languages. Were they Scythians or Gauls from Brittany (Armorica)? Does their name instead actually come from the Gaelic word “pirate”?



They are first mentioned as “Picti” only in 279 AD, while previously the people of the later “Picthland” region were known to the Romans as the Caledonii. The latest thinking would have these Picts as maritime invaders of Orkney, Shetland, Hebrides, Skye, and northern Scotland—rather than the native people of northern Britain. Nevertheless, several

Scottish clans claim Pictish descent.

In “*Saxons, Vikings, and Celts*” by Oxford Professor Bryan Sykes, a study of genetic roots of Britain and Ireland, and one of the first books written about the genetic history (DNA) of Britain and Ireland, I found Chapter 11, *The Picts*, of particular interest to our fellow Scots in relation to their independence versus governmental decree. I draw your attention to the segment on the building of Skye Bridge plus tolls.



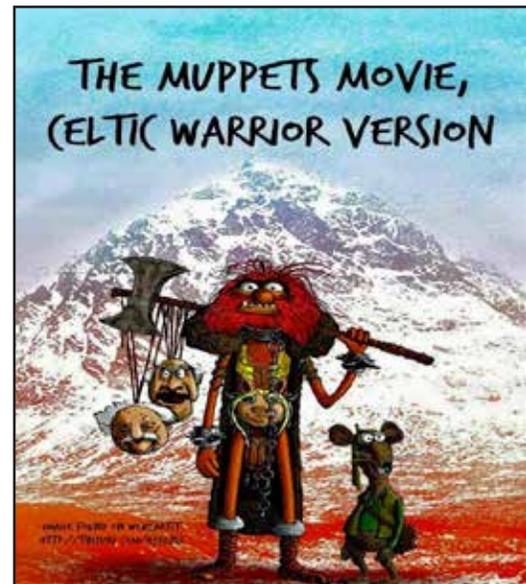
“On 15 July, 1995, the final section of the Skye Bridge (above) was lowered into place. Three months later, at 11 a.m. on 16 October the Secretary of State for Scotland declared the bridge open, and, for the first time since the Ice Age, the Isle of Skye was joined by solid connection to the mainland. The very next day the protests started. The target of the protesters was a combination of the very high toll, the loss of the ferry, and the suspicion that the main financial backers, the Bank of America, were making far too much money. By 1 a.m. there was a queue of thirty-five cars all refusing to pay. Welcome to the spirited world of island protest! There followed years of active opposition, non-payment, even one imprisonment. hilariously, those charged with refusing to pay the toll had to make the 140 mile round trip to the Sheriff Court at Dingwall, which once again meant crossing the bridge, where of course they refused to pay, thus incurring further criminal

charges. The Skye Bridge toll became a cause celebre until eventually the Scottish Executive bought the bridge and the tolls were scrapped on 21 December 2004.

Though Skye is firmly Gaelic, the protests were coordinated by one “Robbie the Pict.” Not just a sobriquet, but a formal change of name. Born Brian Robertson, Robbie the Pict is a celebrated campaigner against all kinds of modern evil. He has been arrested over 300 times, refuses to pay road tax, and has formed his own sovereign state on one acre of land in the north end of Skye. There are one or two other people who choose to link their names to this obscure ancient people. I am regularly contacted by one “Nechtan the Pict,” eager to enlist my help in recovering DNA from an allegedly royal Pictish body found in Perthshire. Clearly it means something to be thought of as a Pict.”



Thanks to Mike Taylor



---

## Britain's Oldest Seabird

A guillemot, originally banded on Canna in 1978, was recently retrapped on the same Inner Hebridean island. At 38 years old, it is the oldest living seabird ever recorded in Britain and Ireland. The National Trust for Scotland's banding team also caught a 36 year old guillemot and two 34 year old birds. “It is incredible that a guillemot has survived this long,” said Simon Fraser, a banding team member. “The birds live in a particularly challenging environment...and they normally spend the entire winter at sea.” Canna's cliffs are home to around 15,000 seabirds encompassing 14 different species.

# The Return of Black Colin

In 1400, a son was born to Sir Duncan Campbell and his wife Margaret, a granddaughter of King Robert III. His name was Colin, and was known to the Campbells of Glen Orchy as Cailean dubh na Roimhe - Black Colin of Rome. Black Colin was responsible for much of the building of Kilchurn Castle, which sits beneath Cruachan Ben at the northern end of Loch Awe.

The reference to Rome in his title signifies that he visited there three times. An account from the Black Book of Taymouth refers to a stone that he carried on his journeys: "Ane stone of the quantity of a hen's egg set in silver, whilk Sir Coline Campbell first Laird of Glenorchy woir when he fought in battel at Rhodes agaynst the Turks, he being one of the knychts of Rhodes."

The Scots were fierce Crusaders, and it was not unusual for them to carry charms with them on their journeys to the Holy Land. The stone mentioned above was the one that Black Colin took with him on his journey as a Crusader, which brings us to the story at hand.

Colin learned of the Crusades and vowed to go. His young wife, Margaret, was not keen to see him leave but Colin was adamant. Before he left, he had a ring made, inscribed with both their names. He broke the ring in two and gave Margaret one half, saying, "If you come to receive my half of the ring you will know me to be dead." He then took ship at Leith for Rome where, after an audience with the Pope, he left to join the knights fighting at Rhodes.'

Seven years passed. Lady Margaret was besieged by suitors during that time, who insisted that Colin must be dead. She replied that she had never received the token that Colin had promised to have sent upon his death, and that he must, therefore, still be alive.

Unknown to Lady Margaret, one of her suitors, Baron Neil MacCorquodale, had intercepted messages that Colin had sent, killing the messengers. He remained steadfast in his pursuit of her, despite her refusal to marry him, as the lands of Glen Orchy would add nicely to his Barony.

Despite her refusal to describe the token, MacCorquodale came up with a plan. He arrived to visit her with a raggedly dressed man who said that he bore a letter with news for the Lady of Glen Orchy. When she opened it she found that it described the death of her husband.

"Is there no token?," she asked.

"There is no token," said the man. "But I received word in Rome from the only survivor of the Campbells who accompanied your husband. He told me that, as he lay dying, your lord entrusted a token to this man. However, the man was sorely wounded in a battle with the Saracens after that, and the token was taken from him."

Lady Margaret was overwhelmed by grief. But, as time went by, MacCorquodale remained attentive, and continued to press for her hand. Finally, she agreed to marry him as soon as the tower of Kilchurn Castle was completed.

Despite her agreement, she still retained hope that Colin would return. She ordered the workmen to build as slowly as possible.

Another woman also had doubts about Colin's death; it was his old foster-mother. She disliked and mistrusted MacCorquodale, and hated the idea of

him taking her lord's place. She called her eldest son to her and told him to go to Rome, and find out what he could about Colin.

Colin's foster-brother made his way to Rome, where he came face to face with Colin. He told him what was occurring at home, and they immediately took ship for Scotland.

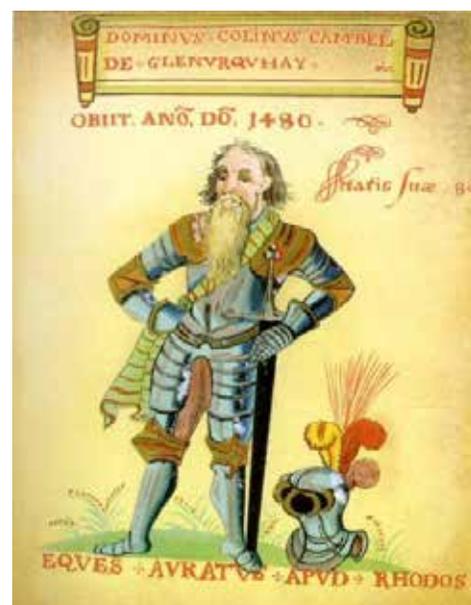
When they landed Colin sent his foster-brother home alone, told him to tell his mother that he had been unsuccessful, and said that he, Colin, would follow in disguise. Dressed as a beggar, Colin followed him to the home of his elderly foster-mother. Unrecognized by her, Colin asked for hospitality of the house, which was readily granted. Colin then revealed himself to his foster-mother, and asked for news of the wedding. She told him that it was planned for the following day.

The next day dawned and found Colin making his way to the castle in his beggar's disguise. He arrived to find that the wedding feast was under way, and entered the hall, seating himself at the lowest table. When wine was brought to the table he announced in a loud voice that he would only accept a drink from the Lady of Glen Orchy, herself.

While some found this declaration by a beggar offensive, the lady made her way to the apparent beggar and offered him a cup. Colin, took the cup from her hand, drained it in one gulp and handed it back to her. Margaret looked down into the cup, where she saw his half of the token ring. Startled, she looked at the beggar, who raised his eyes to meet hers, and Margaret saw her husband who had left so many years before.

Their reunion was a time of great joy for the two of them, as it was for Colin's clansmen. Obviously, the wedding was called off, the wedding feast turned into a celebration of Colin's return and the news was spread throughout Glen Orchy.

MacCorquodale was terrified at Colin's return but, as he had already accepted the hospitality of the house, he was allowed to return to his own lands unharmed. That did not, however, stop Colin's clansmen from later hunting MacCorquodale down and killing him for his duplicity.



Black Colin

## Joisinga Noble Does It Again

Joisinga Noble, our very own talented piper, had a very successful day at the Arkansas Scottish Festival in Batesville, AR. In the individual piping competitions, she took first place in all events except the 6/8 march, in which she took second. One of the judges even complimented her playing a “big” Piobaireachd that was above her grade level. To top the day off, for the second year in a row, Joisinga was awarded “Amateur Grade 4 Jr. Piper of the Day”. Congratulations Joisinga!



## World’s Shortest Flight Reaches a Milestone



### A Loganair Islander aircraft lands at Westray Airport

The 1.7 mile journey from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkney Islands is the shortest flight in the world, taking just 52 seconds from wheels up to touchdown. And at the end of last year, at the cusp of the route’s 50th anniversary, Loganair welcomed aboard its one millionth passenger. Anne Randall, who visits island communities for the Royal Bank of Scotland, received congratulations and a bouquet of flowers from the captain as she stepped aboard the eight-seat Britten Norman aircraft. “It is fantastic to have become Loganair’s ‘millionaire,’” beamed Randall, who estimates she has personally flown the route 10,000 times. For those who are not able to experience the journey firsthand, the entire flight has been captured on video at You Tube (search for “world’s shortest flight”).

*Scottish Life Magazine, Spring 2017*

## Edinburgh Military Tattoo to Honor Clans

Every August, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo stages dazzling performances on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. Well over 200,000 people take in the spectacle annually — music, dance, and military pageantry that features bands from around the world, and display teams. Throughout 2017, the tattoo will also give Scottish clans a starring role for the first time, honoring at least two different clans on each night of the three week event. Clan members, led by their chief, will parade up the Royal Mile and onto the castle esplanade, where their clan’s history will be presented and their tartan projected onto the castle walls. For a schedule of clans to be honored, go to [www.clanchiefs.org.uk](http://www.clanchiefs.org.uk). For tickets and other information about the Edinburgh Tattoo, which runs from August 4-28, go to [www.edinburghtattoo.co.uk](http://www.edinburghtattoo.co.uk).

## Benefit for Fire Chief Ian Seivwright

You may have heard the sad news that Ian Seivwright, long-time Pipe Major of Wolf River Pipes and Drums and the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office Pipes and Drums, has been diagnosed with cancer, and has been undergoing chemo. A benefit is planned for Ian and his family. Here are the details:

Saturday, May 6th

Time: starting at 11 am

Location: The UA Moore Park,  
7097 Benjestown, Millington, TN,

Hot dogs and burgers will be served.  
Draft beer will be available.  
Feel free to bring your own drinks and chairs.

Scottish Highland Games will be featured  
(Caber toss, sheaf throw, stone throw),  
along with a Bounce House for kids.

Entertainment: DJ Jimmy Pike and  
Shelby County Sheriff’s Office Pipes & Drums

All proceeds from the food and drinks will go to the Seivwright family.



## Tartan Day 2017 at Celtic Crossing

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6th, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath (declaration of Scottish independence) was signed in 1320. An ad hoc celebratory event was held in New York City in 1982, but the current format originated in Canada in the mid-1980s.

“...for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. 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.”



Gavin Anderson &  
Jim Lucas



Mary Ann & Jim Lucas



Steve Andrews



---

## Genealogy DNA Revisited

In case you could not write fast enough during P.Z. Horton's talk last month on DNA uses in genealogical research, here are some web sites that might be of use to you.

### Genealogy DNA Vendors:

**Family Tree DNA:** [www.familytreedna.com/products.aspx](http://www.familytreedna.com/products.aspx)

Y-DNA  
mtDNA  
Autosomal

**23 and Me:** [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)

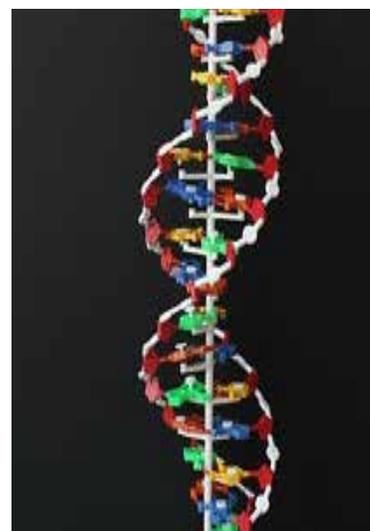
Autosomal  
Health

**Ancestry:** [www.dna.ancestry.com](http://www.dna.ancestry.com)

Autosomal

**MyHeritage:** [www.myheritage.com/dna](http://www.myheritage.com/dna)

Autosomal



### Genealogy DNA Links:

**Genetic Genealogy Society:** <https://isogg.org>

**Beginners Guide:** <https://sites.google.com/site/wheatonsurname/beginners-guide-to-genetic-genealogy>

# Calendar of Events

## Mondays

*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, May 22

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

## Monday, 8

*MSSI Monthly Meeting*  
*Jason's Deli, Poplar/Highland*  
*Mary Ann Lucas: The Other*  
*Poets*



## 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



## **May 21: Season of Light**

Marked in early May, Beltane is one of four quarter-day festivals in the old year. Join our celebration of the natural elements –Air, Earth, Water and Fire – in a Beltane-themed hour of music.

## **May 28: New Writing**

From festival commissions for traditional instruments to new songs from emerging singer-songwriter talent, we enjoy the wealth of new writing that enriches the acoustic music scene.

## **June 04: Songs of Robert Tannahill**

Explore songs of the 17th century "weaver poet" who wrote verses in the style of Burns. His work is still widely sung and has been immortalized internationally in folk songs

he influenced, including "Wild Mountain Thyme" and "Waltzing Matilda".

## **June 11: New for Summer**

Tune into the great new sounds, from both sides of the Atlantic, that artists and their record labels are launching for this year's music festival season.

## **June 18: Archie Fisher**

We re-visit our rendezvous with the legendary Scottish singer, songwriter, guitarist, producer and broadcaster, hearing music from across the decades of his remarkable career.

## **June 25: Dream Time**

Kick back with some soothing voices and free spirited instrumentals, featuring Dougie MacLean, Maire Brennan, Karen Matheson and Davy Spillane.





The most taxing hole on the Durness Golf Course in northwest Sutherland is a 7-iron shot across the Atlantic. The tee is perched on high basalt cliffs above the sea and golfers play over a scallop-shaped inlet known as a "geo." A local man attacking this hole struck his tee shot superbly. The ball bounced on the edge of the green, rolled to the cup and trickled in. A rare hole in one. Whereupon he turned to his companion and announced somberly, "Well, Hamish, you can win this round with a "half." In other words, nothing short of a hole in one on an impossible half-stroke would win. The story may be apocryphal, but it encapsulates the way in which the noble game is played in Scotland — with no holds barred. *Scottish Life Magazine.*

**Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, May 8, 2017**

Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland; Mary Ann Lucas: The Other Poets  
MSSI Board and BN Meeting - May 22, 6:15 Panera Bread, Germantown Pkwy



**GRACENOTES**

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 770028

Memphis, TN 38177-0028