

GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend. The Memphis Scottish Society has a low-key June and July planned, with only regular monthly meetings and board meetings scheduled. We will get things going again in August with a new twist on the Ceilidh—it will be combined with the Scottish Breakfast on August 12. MSSSI will participate in the Renaissance Faire the next weekend, August 19 and 20. The picnic, which was postponed from May 20 has been rescheduled for September 9. Details will follow later in the summer.

An addition to the By-Laws has been suggested concerning the election of officers. As you may know, a nominating committee prepares a slate of officers that is presented in writing at least ten days before the November meeting, and to the membership at the November meeting. The election is then held in December. This is the proposed addition: *If there are no challenges put forth at the November meeting, the slate may be elected by acclamation at that time.* This is another change for you to think about before we go through the process of changing the By-Laws. Talk to your friends, and please express any concerns to a board member when you see one of them.

June Meeting



Local Celtic harpist, Nancy Lendman, will give a brief history of the Celtic harp and its role in Scottish history. She will play a selection of favorite Scottish folk songs and give insight into the lives and times of various Scottish composers. Brush up on your Scottish trivia, too!

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10 facts you didn't know about Scottish food & drink

Scottish produce is a source of pride within the country for good reason – despite infamous North American bans and the occasional turned up nose from abroad. Food and drink gives Scots many reasons to hold their heads high – from gaining luxury status, to being the mothers of invention, to creating foods that double up as sporting apparatus. Here are ten facts you may not know about Scottish produce.

1. Haggis is banned in the USA. Despite sounding so ridiculous that you think it would be a Brass Eye sketch, haggis has indeed been banned in the USA since 1971 by US Department of Agriculture due to the minor detail of key ingredient of Sheep's lung being considered an 'inedible item' by law. Your loss, America.

2. Haggis hurling record Not only making a key component to a Burn's supper meal, the haggis is also a source of sporting greatness for the country. The competition of 'haggis hurling' is a feat of strength undiluted by excessive rules, with the main task being to launch your sheep's lung as far as possible. The current Guinness world record was set when 19-year-old Lorne Coltart threw a 1.5lb haggis over 217 feet at the 2011 Milngavie Highland Games.

3. Rival bridies The Forfar bridie is a pie steeped in Scottish tradition, but the origin of the name 'bridie' is the source of dispute between local producers. Saddler's Bakery claims that the pie was named after Maggie Bridie, who distributed the pies to local farmer's markets and thus becoming 'bridie's pies'.

However, another theory states that the pie was named due to being a culinary treat saved for special occasions such as weddings (hence bridies), which explains the horse-shoe shape for good luck.

4. Old money Highland Coo The famous shaggy-haired cattle with their origins in the Scottish highlands are the oldest registered breed of cow in the world, with first written records of the animal dating back to 1884. The Scottish beef industry is a huge-earner for the country also, recorded to be worth over £596 million a year.

5. French seal of approval for Scottish Salmon Despite an often one-sided relationship between France and Britain when it comes to culinary cross-overs, Scottish-farmed salmon has held the Label Rouge, the French government's highest quality food award, for over 22 years. Salmon sourced in this country was the first non-French produce to receive such an accolade.

6. Slow-take on whisky. Scotch Whisky may now be a local produce worth billions to the UK Economy, but the spirit itself was originally created in China – before first being distilled by monks in Ireland and not making its way across the Irish sea until another 100 years later. This makes Scotland's whisky industry a mere bright eyed and bushy tailed start-up, only dating back to the 1400s.

7. Mad for mackerel. Seafood is big news in Japan and a huge component of the national diet. Scotland's mackerel is a multi-million pound export to the country, with Scottish food and drink accounting for nearly a quarter of all exports to the land of the rising sun. (continued next page)



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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and promote understanding
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8. Dundee Marmalade legend. Dundee's connection to Paddington Bear's favourite preserve is well documented, but the story behind the original marmalade invention is still uncertain. Legend has it that after a Spanish vessel harboring oranges from Sevilla was stranded in the city port, grocer James Kellier bought a large quantity of the citrus fruit on the cheap. Due to their bitterness, he was unable to sell them and was instead persuaded by his wife to turn them into a preserve. The orange preserve proved popular and a regular order of Sevilla oranges were ordered from then on.

9. Mars says 'non', Paris says 'oui'. Despite becoming the stuff of legend and perhaps something of a bizarre national treasure, the deep-fried Mars Bar is yet to be officially endorsed by the Mars company. The company released an official statement saying "deep-frying one of our products would go against our commitment to promoting healthy, active lifestyles" when reports of the chippie treat began to circulate. Despite a knock-back from the makers, Scottish chef Ross Kendal took the delicacy to the home of haute

cuisine when he featured it on the menu of Paris restaurant Le Chipper. Vincent Noce, of French daily newspaper *Libération*, described the delicacy as 'not bad at all'.

10. Tikka Masala territory A hotly-contested issue is whether Scotland was actually birthplace to the nation's favourite Indian dish. According to the son of Ali Ahmed Aslam, the proprietor of Glasgow's Shish Mahal restaurant, the tikka masala was initially created on their premises, when a bus driver sent a chicken curry back complaining that it was too dry. Aslam supposedly was eating a tomato soup at the time and so suggested using the soup and some spices – which proved to be a big hit. The bus driver's concoction eventually became a menu mainstay. MP Mohammad Sarwar put forward a motion in the House of Commons in 2009, that Glasgow should be given EU protected geographical status for the tikka masala. This motion was not taken any further however and Scotland is still in search of justice.

Read more at: <http://foodanddrink.scotsman.com/food/10-facts-you-didnt-know-about-scottish-food-drink/>

Gaelic Proverbs

As well as having a unique sense of humor, our Gaelic ancestors had the ability to see to the heart of the matter. Their system of values are revealed in the traditional "Sean-fhacail" or proverbs.

As an teine don ghriasaich
Out of the fire, into the embers;
from bad to worse

Luathaid gu deanamh maille
To much rush causes delay.

Iallan fada a lethair duin eile
Long laces from another mans leather;
taking advantage of another

Am fear a gheibh ainm na mocheirich,
faoaidh e cadal anmoch
The man who is known as an
early riser can sleep late.

Gheibh faidhidinn furstachd
Patience will get relief or reward

Bosd gun chur leis
Pride with nothing to back it up

SW ann mu seach a sheideas na builg
The bellows blow one about; one is up today
and down tomorrow.

Mollaidh an t-each math e fhein
The good horse will praise itself.

Cha tig spilgein air fear eiginn
A person in need gets nothing.

An rud a dh'fhalbhas chan e d'fhonis
What is gone (or goes) isn't sufficient.

Suirghe cein is posadh am bun na h ursainn
Distant courting, and marrying close at hand (at
the door posts).

Rud nach cluin cluas cha ghluais cridhe
That which the ear doesn't hear
won't stir the heart.

Excerpts from *A Genealogical History of
Glendale and Neighboring Communities.*

A proverb I try and live by:
Cuimhnichibh air na daoine
bho'n d'thainig sibh
Remember the people whom you come from.

Marguerite Garden

To Marguerite Garden's neighbours and many friends in the town where she has lived most of her life, she seems a typical grandmother. But the petite, grey-haired lady dressed in a cardigan and slippers has a secret past as a heroine of the French Resistance.

The Lanark pensioner rarely talks about her remarkable role in the war which she modestly dismisses as no more than 'doing her bit'. But yesterday on the anniversary of the D-Day landings, fame finally caught up with Marguerite. It was revealed that she is to be decorated with the Legion D'Honneur France's highest honour, for her exploits during world War II.

Preparations are being made for her to receive the award at a ceremony in Edinburgh later this year. French-born Marguerite, 77, has lived a daring life that mirrors that of Charlotte Gray, the fictional character brought to life on the screen by actress Cate Blanchett.

At the age of 14, Marguerite risked her life to work with the French Resistance in her picturesque home village of Plomodiern in Brittany. She and her father, who was also awarded the Legion D'Honneur, arranged escape routes out of France for hundreds of local men, including Marguerite's brothers, to allow them to continue fighting from England.

She said: 'I think my involvement began when my father took me with him when a lobster boat was going away so I got to know the people who were preparing it. Later on, when my father wasn't around, they trusted me enough to come to me and ask me to help.'

At one nerve-racking point, while harbouring airmen waiting to leave France, she helped conceal them upstairs in the family home while a German slept in one of the bedrooms, unaware. 'What better cover than to have the Wehrmacht in the house,' said Marguerite.

It was also at her family home that the head of MI6 — the intelligence-gathering network for which she worked - began making radio transmissions that were picked up at Bletchley Park, the Enigma code-breaking station in England.

Her work did not stop there. Marguerite carried out many dangerous missions. She scoured the Brittany coastline, searching for mines, to ensure British maps were accurate. She also carried messages and parcels between her network and another in Paris.



Marguerite Garden

'There was no reason to suspect me,' she said. 'I was a young girl, travelling to my school. I was never. Eventually, her father's role in the Resistance was found out and he fled as the Gestapo came knocking. 'I opened the door to them,' said Marguerite. 'They smelled of the Gestapo, of Turkish cigarettes. My father had

learned what was happening and didn't come home, so my mother told them that he had left us and they accepted that. If it hadn't been for that story, they would have taken us away.

'I was aware of risking everything but tried not to think about it. I wasn't scared even though one of my brothers was shot by the Germans in Paris. She added: 'We wanted to be of use to Britain. That was our aim, to help win the war. I would do it all again if I had to.'

After the war she began an architecture course at college in Paris. At the age of 20 she met Scots holidaymaker James Garden and it was love at first sight. Within a year they were married in Kilmun, Argyll. She and her husband, who became a prominent surgeon, had seven children. He died in 1992.

News of the Legion D'Honneur, which the French foreign minister recommended she receive, brought a surge of emotions for Marguerite. 'I don't know why it has taken so long to come,' she said. 'But it means so much to me, I cannot say. When I think about it, I just burst into tears.'

Editorial Note: In 2004 Marguerite's story formed the basis of a BBC2 documentary "Crafty Tricks of War" and the movie mentioned in the article above is "Charlotte Gray" (2001). Marguerite Garden died May 5, 2010. Article by Maureen Culpey in the Daily Mail, Sat. June 7, 2003

Scots Out and About

Friday June 16 6 - 8 pm featuring original art works by Amelia Lovel (center right) with entertainment provided by Larkin Bryant, Fiddle and Sammy Rich, Piano. Come order a bite to eat and buy some original art by this amazing young lady.

**Amelia Lovel Art Exhibit
Caritas Village in
Binghampton
2509 Harvard Ave
Memphis, TN 38112**

Go ahead, put your Scots on.



Gibson Girls invade Scotland



Abigail and Nora discover Snails in their Grandmother's Garden in Largs, Scotland.



Nora is the new poster child for Ice Cream!

VECA Street Faire

**Jackson & Evergreen
Sat. June 10 - rain date June 17
3 pm to 7 pm**

Sammy Rich and members of Caledonia chorale will be part of the entertainment on the main stage that afternoon.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge, 1297

“For this reason the Scots adopted a stout heart at the instigation of William Wallace, who taught them to fight, so that those whom the English nation held as living captives might be made renewed Scots in their own homeland,... Hence in the year one thousand three hundred less three time one the Scots vanquished the English, whom they put into mourning for death, as the bridge bears witness, where the great battle is recorded, which lies beyond Stirling on the River Forth.” Poem in Bower’s *Scotichronicon* on the Battle of Stirling Bridge

John de Warenne marches north with a huge force of cavalry and infantry. Earl of Surrey, Governor in Scotland for Edward I of England, and spearhead of his imperial ambitions north of the border, he is confident of victory, whether by battle or negotiation. It has been four months since the rising of William Wallace and Andrew Murray began.

Near Stirling Castle he arrives at a narrow, wooden bridge which crosses The River Forth. There, on the opposite bank is Wallace and Murray’s army. Warenne delays his crossing for several days to allow for negotiations, cocksure that the Scots will choose peace over war in the light of recent English victories and their obvious military superiority. He is surprised by their refusal to surrender and on the 11th September decides to force the crossing.

The Scots were encamped on the Abbey Craig, where the National Wallace Monument stands today. Their army was predominantly infantry armed with long spears, and was drawn mainly from the “lesser” ranks of society - not because the Scots nobles completely resisted Wallace, but because many of them were being held captive in England.

From the base of Abbey Craig a causeway stretched for a mile across The River Forth’s flood plain (roughly in line with the present day road between The Craig and the river). At the end of the causeway stood the bridge (lying 180 yards upstream from the 15th century stone that still crosses the river today).

It was wide enough to pass with only two horsemen abreast and the entire English army would have taken several hours to cross, after which they would have to enter a confined narrow loop in the river, leaving their flank dangerously exposed to attack. All this before they were even ready to give battle.

At dawn the English and Welsh infantry start to cross only to be recalled due to the fact that their leader, Warenne, has overslept. Again they cross the bridge and again they are recalled: as Warenne believes the Scots might finally negotiate. Two Dominican friars are sent to Wallace to acquire his surrender and return shortly afterwards with William Wallace’s first recorded speech: “Tell your commander that we are not here to make peace but to do battle, defend ourselves and liberate our kingdom. Let them come on, and we shall prove this in their very beards.”

Warenne decides to advance. He is advised to send a cavalry force upstream to The Ford of Drip in order to cover the infantry’s crossing, however Edward’s treasurer, Hugh de Cressingham, intervenes, pointing out that too much of the king’s money has already been wasted and insisting that they cross at once to bring the campaign to a swift end.

Wallace and Murray wait until more than half the English army has crossed the bridge before springing their trap. The Scots spearmen rush down the causeway. Those on the right flank force their way along the river bank to the north end of the bridge, cutting off any hope of escape.

Trapped in a confined space with the river to their backs the English heavy cavalry is virtually useless. Only one group of English knights, under Sir Marmaduke Tweng, succeed in cutting their way back to the bridge. After they have crossed, Warenne, who has wisely stayed put, has the bridge destroyed and flees to Berwick.

Over half the English army is left to its fate on the Scots side of the river. Those that can swim do so, the rest (over 100 men-at-arms and 5,000 infantry) are inevitably massacred. Many of them are Welsh, but among them is Hugh de Cressingham, Edward’s hated tax collector, who had crossed first.

On the Scots side, Andrew Murray is fatally wounded. He dies two months later and is buried at Fortrose Cathedral on Black Isle, north of Inverness.

Victory brings the collapse of English occupation. Wallace, now Guardian of Scotland, goes on to devastate the north of England in the hope of forcing Edward to acknowledge defeat. Records show that 715 villages are burnt and many helpless people are no doubt slain. The cycle of brutality, started by Edward at Berwick, rolls remorselessly on. (Continued on back page)

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 June 12

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli, Poplar / Highland
Nancy Lendman
History of the Celtic Harp

the Thistle & Shamrock®

June 04: The 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 - Kickback with some soothing voices and free spirited instrumentals, featuring Dougie MacLean, Maire Brennan, Karen Matheson and Davy Spillane.

Monday June 26

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

July 2: Summer Sounds - Breeze into the heart of summer with music from Eddi Reader, William Jackson, Nightnoise and more.

Fiona Ritchie



Dear Fiona and Thistle and Shamrock crew: The Memphis Scots wish to express our appreciation to you for keeping us immersed in the Celtic Music world, both ancient and modern. The beat goes on!



Until 1297 the heavily armed and mounted knight had been an invincible force on the battlefield. Stirling Bridge was the first battle in Europe to see a common army of spearmen defeat a feudal host. Only five years later a host of French knights were to go down to similarly-armed Flemish townsmen at The Battle of Courtrai.

Stirling Bridge also destroyed the myth of English invincibility. The Scots had not defeated a major English army since the Dark Ages, but this victory seems to have strengthened their will to resist Edward I. However, the humiliation of losing to lowly Scots only strengthened Edward's determination: under a year later Wallace's Scots

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, June 12, 2017

Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland; Nancy Lendman - "History of Celtic Harp"
MSSI Board and BN Meeting - June 26, 6:15 Panera Bread on Germantown Pkwy



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