

GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 9 • September 2017

President's Letter

Greetings! Your Board is busy planning for Burns' Night 2018! We've done a lot already, but of course there's always more to do. Please consider helping. We have the date, January 20, and the venue, Woodland Hills Event Center. The entertainment for BN18 will be provided by Colin Grant-Adams (look him up on You Tube for a preview). Contact any Board member to volunteer.

It is time to start collecting items for the Silent Auction, which is our main fundraiser for the year for scholarships and grants. If you have a restaurant or shop you frequent, ask for a gift card. Know anyone in direct sales? Ask them for a piece of merchandise—it's good advertisement for them! I will take any items you bring to the September meeting.

It's time to pay your dues for 2018. This is still the best deal in town: \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families. Some benefits of membership are the newsletter you are reading, which is sent by e-mail unless you request a hard copy, an entertaining and informative program every month about some aspect of Scottish culture, the chance for fellowship with others of Scottish ancestry or an interest in Scottish culture, participation in parties and other events throughout the year, and Men in Kilts!!!

Hope to see everyone at the picnic on September 9 and the meeting on the 11th.

It's Fall Picnic Time!

Our picnic, which was postponed back in May, will definitely be held on Saturday, September 9th, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1508 White Station Road, from 11 am to 2 pm. Please bring a comfy chair and yard games. Yes, we will have the ever popular horseshoe rivalry between Sammy Rich, the reigning champion, and George Malone.

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

A-H: Chips/dips, and drinks and ice
I-O: Salads and sides
P-Z: Desserts

Help! We need a grill, or a trailer to haul Darwin's grill from his patio. If you can help, call Madeline Phillips at (901) 233-7673

September Meeting

Helen and the Highlanders

Presented by

Bill MaGuire

See page 2 for further information



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September Meeting

**Program Presented by Bill McGuire:
Helen and the Highlanders:
A Scottish Connection?**

How You Can Help the Tummalapalli Family

For those of you who have been asking how to make gifts to help support Amelia Rose Tummalapalli's two minor children, Lakshmi and Priya, their aunt and uncle, Monica and Morse Rose, have set up a trust account at Renasant Bank. The name on the account is LAK-PRI TRUST. You can make payments by check by depositing it at any Renasant Bank branch, or by mailing a check payable to LAK-PRI TRUST to:

Renasant Bank
Attn: Janie Jones
2177 Germantown Rd. South
Germantown, TN 38138

Monica is looking into setting up either a You Caring fundraiser to enable people to make gifts online, or setting up a paypal account. Thank you.



A Thank You from WKNO

It's Elvis week in Memphis and I just want to say thank you to the Scottish Society for your support of WKNO. Thankya - Thankya very much.

Sally Stover



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*

THE ATHOLL REGIMENT

The History of Europe's Only Private Army

By James Irvine Robertson (*Scotland Magazine*, May 2017)

After heading north from Perth, the traveler enters the Highlands at Dunkeld. This is the beginning of Atholl, once one of the ancient Pictish kingdoms of Scotland. The route follows the course of the Rivers Tay, Tummel and Garry, with straths and glens branching to the west and passing Blair Castle.

The boundary lies at Drumochter Pass where a hill called the Sow of Atholl confronts another known as the Boar or Badenoch. Armies have come this way for centuries and the country is amongst the most fertile in the Highlands. Thus, it's well worth defending.

The old Celtic earldom ended with an heiress, who married David of Hastings, but most of the land descended in the male line, and these heirs were the founders of the Clan Donnachaidh, the Robertsons.

The king re-granted the earldom of Atholl 10 separate times, usually to his Stewart kinsmen, before it finally ended up with the Murrays in 1629. They are now the Dukes of Atholl. Of the first Stewart earl, a local historian wrote, "His revenue and estates had a great many allies and pretty numerous company of gentlemen of his own surname to surround his molehill and fight under his banner. Some of these Stewarts were cadets of his own house; many were collaterals that had been called in from Lorne. A few were descended from the Walter of Atholl line, and more than a few from the Wolf of Badenoch. To these were added Stewarts who boasted ancient or illegitimate descent from kings and princes who, when hunting deer, wooed Highland maids in sequestered glens."

In 1515, the 3rd Earl of the 8th creation managed to wrest ownership of the best bits of the old Clan Donnachaidh territory. When the young chief (the earl's own nephew) objected, he was executed. Many of the small Robertson chieftains now found themselves vassals to the earl, although a few had their charters from the crown. They were joined by these in-coming Stewarts. In 1723 the Duke of Atholl had 31 Stewart vassals and no fewer than 29 from Clan Donnachaidh. The Clan chief could still field 700 swords from his lands, but the earls and dukes of Atholl had more than 3,000.

However, the Murray earls and dukes had a problem. In theory, they commanded all on their territory, but many of the Robertsons retained their old clan loyalties and the Stewarts had no links to the incoming family. Despite this, all who lived in Atholl had a common interest in defending their own lands and they almost always fought together and formed one of the most formidable forces in Scotland.

The first time they popped into history was in 1391 when the Stewart sons of the Wolf of Badenoch joined with Clan Donnachaidh in a raid on neighboring Angus. They were caught by a posse of armed horsemen led by the sheriff of Angus and Sir David Lindsay but successfully routed it.

In 1644, the Highlands were being ravaged by the Irish MacDonalds under Alasdair MacColla in the name of the King against Parliament. MacColla was using the opportunity to lay waste to Campbell lands, but his treatment of other clans' territories to supply his men was not much more gentle. The Athollmen put themselves under the command of the Clan Donnachaidh chief's uncle, Donald, who had been the chief's guardian during his minority, and marshalled in the hills above Blair Castle to repel this wild army.

Conflict was prevented by the arrival of the Marquis of Montrose with a commission of command from the king. He brokered an alliance between Donald and MacColla. The Athollmen joined him and fought with him in his winning string of six battles over the following year.

In 1685, the 9th Earl of Argyll was in rebellion against James II. The Athollmen were led by Patrick Stewart Ballechin, steward and warlord to the Marquess of Atholl, and marched to Inverary where they hanged 17 Campbell lairds from the town walls.

In 1689, the Marquess was for the government, but Patrick Ballechin took Blair Castle for the king and the rest of the Athollmen. Although many were too late for the Battle of Killiekrankie, they enthusiastically joined in this abortive rebellion. Again, in 1715, with the first Duke supporting the government, the Athollmen mustered for the Stewarts. Many were part of the army under Brigadier MacIntosh of Borlum that was dispatched across the Forth by the Earl of Mar to march south and link with the English Jacobites, but they were captured at Preston.

Atholl was split in 1745. The Duke and half his lairds were for the government; the other half, including both the Duke's disinherited brother and his younger sibling Lord George Murray, raised the Athollmen for Prince Charles. Lord George was the best of Charles' generals, and he drilled and nursed the Athollmen into becoming probably the best troops in the rebel army.

They were split into four battalions: one from the Robertson chief's own lands, another under Lord George himself, a third under his elder brother, and the last was



commanded by Lord Nairne, the duke's cousin. Well over a hundred gentlemen of Atholl were listed as officers. Alone, they held their discipline at the battle of Falkirk and ensured the government's defeat.

Under Lord George, the 1st Battalion launched a raid into their home country a few weeks before Culloden and captured 700 Campbell militiamen. At Culloden, the Athollmen were on the right wing and charged along a wall from which they were enfiladed by fire from the Argyll Regiment and then by cannon firing grape shot from their front and flank. One history states that 32 officers were lost and the regiment was destroyed without even making contact with their enemy. The casualties to the ordinary soldiers can only be guessed at, but it has been estimated that more men were lost on that battlefield than during the entire First World War.

This was not quite the swansong of the Atholl Regiment. Twice the duke's tenants turned out to parade and escort Queen Victoria on visits to Perthshire. In 1845, the Queen granted them colours, giving the regiment official status. Under the command of the Duke, the 80-strong regiment still parades at least twice a year. Many of the soldiers had ancestors who fought and often died in defence of their own country of Atholl. Today, they are known as the Atholl Highlanders.

The Return of the Statues of Alexander Stirling Calder

The second in the dynasty of Scottish-American Calder sculptors, Alexander Stirling Calder (1870-1945), a member of Clan Campbell, created in 1897-99 the unique white terra cotta sculptures (to resemble marble without the weight) which were placed four stories up on the Witherspoon Building in Philadelphia, then the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church.

The statues were removed when the Witherspoon Building at Walnut and Juniper was taken down in 1961 and were installed at the Presbyterian Historical Society headquarters in 1967. A recent inspection proved that much weathering had taken place, so the PHS began a capital campaign to restore and re-site them.

The Presbyterian Historical Society director, The Rev. Dr. Beth Hessel, welcomed all Society Hill and dignitaries from the Presbyterian churches of the area and the nation to view the restored statues of the great Presbyterian leaders of the 18th century.



The three statues above are (left to right):

Rev. Samuel Davies (1723-61), a leading evangelist of the Great Awakening who stressed religious freedom and inspired young Patrick Henry. Davies was briefly also President of Princeton.

Rev. James Caldwell (1734-81), the “fighting parson” of the American Revolution, who when Patriot troops ran out of wadding at the battle of Springfield, tore up the hymn books with the cry: “Give ‘em Watts, boys!”

Rev Dr. Marcus Whitman (1802-47), who, with his wife Narcissa, followed the Oregon Trail to answer a call from the Nez Perce for “The White Man’s Book of Heaven.”

Thanks to Kathy Schultz



The above statues represent (left to right):

Rev. Francis Makemie (1658-1708), a native of Ireland who founded Presbyterian churches in Maryland and was moderator of America’s first Presbytery.

Rev. John Witherspoon (1723-94), the Scottish-born pastor who helped heal the Old Side/New Side division (1741-58) within the colonial Presbyterian church and became President of what was later Princeton University. He was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Rev. John McMillan (1752-1833), was a frontier preacher whose Log School in Canonsburg was one of the first educational institutions west of the Alleghenies. He also helped establish the University of Pittsburgh and Washington & Jefferson College.

Highland Cattle Trivia

Highland cattle are the oldest registered cattle in the world! Unlike most cattle, they have a double coat to



keep them warm during cold winters in the Scottish Highlands, where they originate. Those long horns aren’t just for show; the Highland cattle use them during the winter to help forage for food under the snow. If you see a group of Highland cattle, it’s called a fold, not a herd.

The Mystery of the Carved Stone Balls

(Thanks to Kathy Schultz)

The Carved Stone Balls are mysterious objects and have been the subject of much speculation by scientists over the years.

Over 400 of these unique objects have been found, nearly all of them in the Scotland, with the majority found in Aberdeenshire, however, some samples were also discovered in Britain and Ireland. The stone balls date from about 3500 to 1500 BC, a period spanning between the later Neolithic era and the Bronze Age.

All the stones are made of different materials ranging from sandstone to granite and they are all decorated with knobs around the surface. The numbers of knobs range from between three and 160 but the most common ones are those with six projecting knobs.

Some carved balls have additional decoration, such as in the spaces between the knobs which are decorated with hatchings, incised lines, spirals, and concentric circles.

Most of the stones are of a similar size with a diameter of 3 inches, although some larger ones were found, ranging from 3.5 and 4.5 inches.



The symmetrical patterns engraved all over the surface on some of the objects suggest that the Neolithic people were experimenting with solid geometry, a type of geometrical form known as Platonic solid. The ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician Plato was the first to mention these solids as the core patterns of physical creation.

Intriguingly, the Scottish stones are dated a millennium before Plato's time, which is what makes them so fascinating for mathematicians. They believe that there is a possibility that these stones are the earliest examples of experiments in solid geometry anywhere in the world.

Various theories have been put forward to explain their use or significance. Many researchers suggest that the balls were actually used as weapons, and others think that they were used as weights for fishing nets; some suggested they were used as totems of power and prestige, while others speculated that the objects had a ceremonial role in various rituals.



None of these theories gained wide acceptance, however, and the function of these special, carved stone objects from the Late-Neolithic-Scotland era remains unknown to this day.



Molded ball made from pottery



Some Notable Golf Sayings

They gave the game the name of Golf because all the other four letter words were taken.

Jack Benny: "Give me the fresh air, a beautiful partner, and a nice round of golf, and you can keep the fresh air and the round of golf."

Lee Trevino: "You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex-wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work."

Hank Aaron: "It took me seventeen years to get 3,000 hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course."

Lee Trevino: "I'm not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced."

Sam Snead: "These greens are so fast I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow."

Paul Harvey: "Golf is a game in which you yell "fore," shoot six, and write down five."

Tommy Bolt: "Putting allows the touchy golfer two to four opportunities to blow a gasket in the short space of two to forty feet."

Jimmy Demaret: "Golf and sex are about the only things you can enjoy without being good at."

Jack Lemmon: "If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball"

The Long Awaited Highlander Scottish Pub is Open!

The Highlander Scottish Pub restaurant that aims to be “the neighborhood’s living room,” located at 74-78 North Main Street on Collierville’s Historic Square is now open for business.

Alan Mullen, founder of Crew Training International Inc. and a Collierville resident, is the owner of Highlander. Mullen said he decided to open the pub when he recognized an opportunity in the area.

“The Collierville Historic District is growing in population and changing in character,” Mullen said. “More and more of our neighbors are looking for dining and entertainment options nearby. I hope to satisfy that need.”

Scottish by birth, Mullen and his wife Donna recently moved from Germantown to Collierville and decided they wanted to contribute to their new community — and a Scottish pub was the answer. Mullen said the pub’s name is meant to convey an “image of self-reliance, courage and independence,” highly valued qualities both in Scotland and the U.S.



But, to ensure customers receive a true Scottish dining experience, Mullen went beyond the name and straight to the motherland to make a key restaurant hire. “Martin Mitchell, our chef and general manager, was recruited from Scotland to bring authenticity and superb cuisine,” Mullen said. “Rusty Hale, our service manager, is a highly experienced front of the house leader. Together, they will set a tone of respect for the customer and bring a well-trained staff who genuinely love to provide good service. Our neighbors will be welcomed and relaxed at Highlander.”

Mullen found Mitchell through an agency called Chefs in Scotland. Mitchell, who has decades of chef and restaurant management experience, said he once ran what was considered one of Britain’s most awarded pubs, which garnered about 110 awards over a 15-year period. With a change in circumstances regarding the building’s ownership at his last pub in Scotland, Mitchell said the opportunity to run the Collierville establishment was perfect timing. Check it out at: <https://highlanderpub.com/>. Frog burger anyone?

A Great Breakfast and Ceilidh!

Our own Jonathan Gibson, once again, prepared for us a superb breakfast at our ceilidh. He single handedly (with help from a few stirrers) presented us with a feast of delights, and even a haggis that he had squirreled away! We owe Jonathan a huge thanks for sweating over a hot stove all morning. His culinary delights, when blended with the other sumptuous treats provided by our members, made a meal to remember.

The entertainment was equally professional. The ceilidh opened with the newest pipe band in town, the Memphis Phoenix, under the direction of Pipe Major Douglas Dauson, playing some favorite tunes.

Joe Lyle played and sang several popular songs for us, and Larkin Bryant, with her violin, and Sammy Rich, on the keyboard, played together throughout the event.

Joisinga Noble introduced Andie and Ezra Bradley, two fine violinists. Together, the trio provided a very entertaining program for us. We hope to see more of Andie and Ezra in the future.

Thanks to all who brought wonderful examples of their crafts and collections to exhibit. They were beautiful and interesting. We hope more people will take advantage of it to show off what they can do next year.

I also need to thank those who helped set up tables and then clean everything up afterward. You have no idea how much we appreciate your help.

All in all, it was a great party. We couldn’t have done it without you.

The Bartlett Fall Festival

The Bartlett Fall Festival and Car Show is scheduled for kickoff Friday, September 29th, and Saturday, September 30th. We have had the MSSI booth set up at this festival for a number of years, and we have always had a good response from the visitors.

Set-up will be Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. George Malone will pickup everything at the shed and probably be at the site by about 10:00 am (the same spot as last year — about half way down the main drag). It doesn’t take very long to set up. Usually, we don’t man the booth on Friday night.

On Saturday, if you need to drop anything off at our booth, you can drive to it after 6:00 am, but all vehicles must be out by 8:00 am.

We are looking for volunteers to man the booth on Saturday. We only need two or three at any one time and George will be there all day, so you probably come and go as you wish. We will need a few people to help break the booth down at around 5:00 pm Saturday.

It is a fun and rewarding event. We hope to see you there.



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, September 24

MSSI Board meeting 6:15
Panera Bread on Germantown
Pkwy.

Monday, September 11

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli, Poplar/Highland.
Program: Bill MaGuire: "Helen
and the Highlanders"



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



September 10: Harpers

Hear innovation on an ancient instrument with harpers William Jackson, Wendy Stewart, Maire Brennan, Grainne Hambly, Saviourna Stevenson, and Alan Stivell all feature in an hour dedicated to small harps.

September 17: The American Folklife Center at 40, Part 1

Join Fiona and guests as they explore selections from the American Folklife Center's collection of about half a million sound recordings, including songs from Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Carrie Grover.

September 24: The American Folklife Center at 40, Part 2

This week Fiona and her guests conclude a two-part exploration of the American Folklife Center's extensive sound archive. It features rare recordings from collectors Jean Ritchie and John Matheson.

October 1: Cathy Jordan at Swannanoa

Join Fiona and Irish singer Cathy Jordan of the internationally acclaimed band Dervish as they share conversation and music at the Swannanoa Gathering in the North Carolina Mountains.



Fiona Ritchie



Joe Lyle with His Back-up Band



Memphis Phoenix Pipers

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, September 11, 2017

Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland;

Program - Bill MaGuire - Helen and the Highlanders;

MSSI Board and BN Meeting - September 25, 6:15 Panera Bread, Germantown Pkwy



The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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