

# GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Vol. 41 No. 3 • March 2025

## President's Letter

The first day of spring is nearly here — Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> — but our next membership meeting at Perkins falls on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please come for the 6:00 pm visiting and 7:00 pm program (part 2 on Scottish superstitions by John Bair).

For the senior Scots who remember Robert Hawks — here's an update:

*He is in rehab next door to Serenity Towers on Highland. He is improving slowly and has a friend Alan Doyle who has begun a GoFundMe page. Donate if you are able.*

If you feel so inclined, there's a St. Patrick's Day parade Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm and line up at 3:30 pm in the Cooper-Young neighborhood. For info go to <https://memphisirish.com/parade>.

Have a great month!

*~ Debbie Sellmansberger, President*

## Member Meeting

Topic is:

Scottish Superstitions & Traditions: Part II.

Scotland is full of myths and legends, some scarier than others. From looking at the tales of folklore it could easily be assumed that Scotland is a land filled with ghosts, ghouls and witches. Come join us for the March meeting and learn more about these mythical creatures!

*~ John Bair*



## Memphis Scottish Society Inc., Board

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901-496-2193

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901-215-4839

## Notice to Program Presenters:

John Schultz requests that 5-7 days before the meeting you e-mail a KeyNote or PowerPoint file to [jfschultz1948@yahoo.com](mailto:jfschultz1948@yahoo.com). This is to allow time to incorporate the presentation into a full meeting presentation and to check out any issues. Otherwise there won't be a projector.

## A wee guide to the Language of Scots

The language of Scots originates from the Indo-European language family and the Germanic branch, which also gave us English, Dutch and German.

It all began when the Angles invaded Britain in the fifth century, coming over from Angulus, an area around today's Denmark and northern Germany. The Angles gave their name to England and English, but it wasn't long before the language of Scots developed. Throughout the Middle Ages, Scots grew apart from English until it was a distinct language.

The language of Scots became dominant in Scotland. Scottish words and phrases were used by our kings and queens, in literary works, and in official records.

There are 4 main dialects, which bring together 10 sub-dialects roughly covering:

- **Insular:** Orkney and Shetland
- **Northern:** Aberdeenshire, Highlands, Angus
- **Central:** Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Dundee, Fife, Perthshire, Dumfries & Galloway
- **Southern:** Scottish Borders

Thanks to the 1690s poll tax, we can estimate that 750,000 people spoke Scots back then — around 70% of the population. We actually have more Scots speakers now. According to the most recent Scottish census data, around 1,508,540 people reported being able to speak Scots, representing about 28% of the Scottish population.

- **Bahookie:** buttocks or backside
- **Blate:** shy or bashful
- **Braw:** excellent or pleasant
- **Coorie:** to snuggle or cuddle
- **Dook:** to dip in liquid, especially in water
- **Dreich:** dreary, dull or gloomy
- **Fankle:** to entangle, a tangle or confusion
- **Gallus:** cheeky, mischievous or bold
- **Glaikit:** stupid, foolish or thoughtless
- **Haver:** to talk foolishly or to babble
- **Keek:** a hasty look, a stolen glance
- **Loon:** boy or young man
- **Oxter:** an armpit
- **Piece:** a sandwich
- **Peelie-Wally:** pale, off-color or sickly-looking
- **Shoogle:** to shake or to wobble
- **Sleekit:** sly or cunning
- **Weesht:** to call for silence or to be quiet



*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 it electronically to [gracenotes@memphisscots.com](mailto:gracenotes@memphisscots.com). *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. Due to time constraints, the editor cannot accept handwritten submissions.

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*to foster education  
and promote understanding  
of things Scottish*

Please address all postal correspondence to:

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Germantown, TN 38183

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Memphis Pipe Band**  
Mondays 6:00 - 9:30 pm  
Kenny Hiner, Pipe Major  
901-616-1564  
[info@MemphisPipeBand.com](mailto:info@MemphisPipeBand.com)  
[www.memphispipeband.com](http://www.memphispipeband.com)

**Phoenix Pipe Band**  
Douglas Dauson, Pipe Major  
[ddauson@gmail.com](mailto:ddauson@gmail.com)  
[www.phoenixpipeband.org](http://www.phoenixpipeband.org)

**Collierville Pipes and Drums**  
Kenny Hiner, Pipe Major  
901-616-1564  
[www.colliervillepipesanddrums.com](http://www.colliervillepipesanddrums.com)

**Memphis Scottish  
Country Dancers**  
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Riveroaks Reformed  
Presbyterian Church  
1665 S. Germantown Road  
Contact: John Schultz  
901-359-4900

**Memphis Scottish Society  
General Meeting**  
Third Monday of the month  
6 pm to eat, 7 pm for meeting  
Perkins Restaurant  
1340 S. Germantown Pkwy.

**Board Meeting**  
Last Monday of the month  
at 7:15 pm  
Via ZOOM

## Danny Boy: the lyrics & history behind the traditional song?

As our fellow Celts celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month, I thought it would be nice to introduce a little Irish spirit to this month's newsletter.

Over a century has gone by since ink was put to parchment, and today *Danny Boy* continues to stir up deep emotion and feelings of Irish national pride.

But while it might feel like the traditional song or even the national anthem of Ireland, the lyrics were written in 1910 by an English lawyer — Frederic Weatherly.

A few years after he put pen to paper, Weatherly's Irish-born sister-in-law sent him the tune *Londonderry Air*. The lawyer, captured by the sweeping melody, tweaked his lyrics and set them to the music.

There are a few theories about the origins of *Londonderry Air*, but the most popular one states that in 1851, a woman called Jane Ross heard an unnamed fiddler playing it in Limavady, Ireland.

Ross asked if she could transcribe the music for her friend in Dublin, who was trying to preserve the ancient music of Ireland. The fiddler, whose name has sadly been lost in the annals of time, agreed.

And the rest, as they say, is history!



## Danny Boy

*Oh, Danny boy,  
the pipes, the pipes are calling  
From glen to glen,  
and down the mountain side.  
The summer's gone,  
and all the roses falling,  
It's you, it's you  
must go and I must bide.  
But come ye back  
when summer's in the meadow,  
Or when the valley's  
hushed and white with snow,  
It's I'll be here  
in sunshine or in shadow,  
Oh, Danny boy,  
oh Danny boy, I love you so!*

*But when ye come,  
and all the flowers are dying,  
If I am dead,  
as dead I well may be,  
You'll come and find  
the place where I am lying,  
And kneel and say  
an Ave there for me.  
And I shall hear,  
though soft you tread above me,  
And all my grave  
will warmer, sweeter be,  
For you will bend  
and tell me that you love me,  
And I shall sleep  
in peace until you come to me!*



**Next Monthly Meeting — Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Perkins Restaurant at the corner of Germantown Pkwy. & Wolf River Blvd.**  
**Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00**  
**Regular MSSSI Board Meeting — last Monday of the month @ 7:15 pm via ZOOM**



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