

The Whistle

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

Winter Edition, January-March 2012

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From the Desk of the President

Last year was a great year. We celebrated who we are in great style and grace as we put on our 2nd Indianapolis Highland Games and Festival, we showed off our heritage at the Ball State International Festival and the Indianapolis International Festival (Where we won a ribbon for 1st runner up in Quality), had a wonderful Founder's Day dinner, and had a great representation at the Indiana Highland Games, Indianapolis Irish Fest, several other Highland Games, and the 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade. It is now time to prepare for the parade again. It is time to mark our calendars, and prepare to dress up in our best Scottish attire, bring out our flags and swords, and represent our clans. Mary Queen of Scots and her entourage will be joining us again this year, and we have a special event planned for after the parade that every one of all ages can have a blast at.



This is a new year and there is a new president in office. Most of you know me since I have been with you for 7 years. I am Rebekah Lawson. In the life of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis I started and ran the youth program for over 5 years (With help from so many wonderful people), maintained and added onto the website for the past 3 years, sat on the Board of Trustees for the Scottish Society for 4 years and on the Board of Trustees for the Games for the past 3 years, and have been involved in and helped create the musical group Celtic Rain which was created by members of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis and has performed and both of the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festivals. This group, we included plays out at places like the Claddagh and other Celtic events. I am a wife to Samuel Lawson, a mother to Tyson G. Lawson, and a musician and minister in the Presbyterian Church USA.

I want to let everyone know that this is going to be a year of building our community by building up the relationships within our organization and the community at large by reaching out a hand of opportunity and friendship. We can start this process at our dinner meetings. When you come in, look for people you do not know and introduce yourself. Then sit with someone you may not know. We are so good at telling people about ourselves and our organization. Now we need to look around at who we have invited and get to know them. We are already starting to reach out our hand to the community. We are participating in the 2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade, just as we have for years now. After the parade we always try to find a place we can all go to celebrate and we have done several things throughout the years. This year we have been asked to be a part of a St. Patrick's Day Family party at the City Market, downtown, following the parade. Celtic Rain, our in-house band, will be doing the Ceilidh at the Family Fun Party. We are asking you and yours to think about sharing a poem, song or toast that you would like to give at the Ceilidh. There will be games, drinks, family fun, and great food. If you have an other idea of how to reach out to our community, just let me know. Remember it must somehow be educational.

Also, if we are speaking of educational we must speak of our new foundation. This Foundation is a 501c3 and is a great way to give this community a foundation in education. Underneath the Foundation is the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, the George McMath Scholarship, and all of the extra curricular education any of our society members do outside of the monthly meetings. Most of you may know that a great husband, father, friend, and Scotsman died a few years past and a Scholarship was set up in his honor. The George McMath Scholarship was founded and there have already been 2 scholarships that have been given out. Our Games are 2 years strong and we are now planning for the third. And the rest is up to you. If you have done anything that can be considered educational and is Scottish in nature, we want to know about it. We have to have a record of those events yearly so that we can show the government that we are who we say we are, an organization founded on education.

This year is going to be such a great one. Help me make this the best year ever. Because this society is nothing without its members. Thank you
-Rebekah Lawson
President, Scottish Society of Indianapolis

Bulletins

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Parade will be on March 16th this year, since the 17th will fall on a Saturday. We will be meeting at the Elbow Room as normal.

The Third Annual Scottish Highland Games and Festival will be held at the German Park on October 13th, 2012. The Games will include Scottish heavy athletic competition, bagpipes, Celtic bands, authentic food, drink, and appropriate vendors.

Indianapolis Highland Games:

We had a great turnout for our second annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. Good time was had by all, including the mayor of Indianapolis. There was an issue with

room for the field, so this year we will be at German Park. Come, be involved, and be a part of this years games.

Articles Needed for the Thistle

The editor wishes to thank to everyone who is contributing articles for the SSI Newsletter. The Feature Article, Clan Spotlight, and most of the short articles and notices are contributed each quarter by our members.

Anyone attending Scottish, clan or related events is encouraged to write a brief article describing the event and to enclose a photo or two. Feature articles are also needed, 3/4 page (600 to 700 words) plus a graphic or photo. These can be about any Scottish social, historic or cultural topic. We are also happy to include favorite Scottish recipes. Send to indyscot@gmail.com.

Local Scottish Events

October Dinner Meeting

Mark Lawson gave us a presentation about the Uster-Scots and the Scottish Migration.

November Dinner Meeting

We had a great time at our Annual Founders Day Dinner, which was at the Latvian Center. The Tommy Thompson for 2010 was presented to Gary Davidson and Julie Davidson for all their work getting the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival up and running. The George McMath Scholarship went to Hannah Thompson to go to Scotland as an exchange student. Gary Davidson gave a State of the Society Report. Our new board of trustees was elected: President: Rebekah Lawson, Trustees: Greg Bowers, Ron Elliot, Robin Jarrett, Terry Miller, Ken Morgan, and Mark Lawson.

December Dinner Meeting

Former President Gordon Inglis gave an entertaining presentation on Hogmanay new years celebration. We had several people give Scottish toasts and we sang Auld Lang Syne.

Results of Annual Elections

Annual Election Results for 2012 as reported by Trustee Mark Lawson (Elections Chairperson)

President Rebekah Lawson
Vice President Greg Bowers (Newsletter Editor)
Secretary Terry Miller
Treasurer Ron Elliot
Trustee Mark Lawson
Trustee Ken Morgan
Trustee Robin Jarrett

Per the Society Constitution, President Lawson appointed the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as Newsletter Editor, Youth Program and Website Manager. Please join Rebekah in congratulating our new officers for 2012 and saying thank you to Gary Davidson and Walter Sherman as they leave the board.

Clan Elliot



THE ELLIOTS

The Story of a Border Clan

MOTTO: Fortiter Et Recte
(Boldly and Rightly)

The Elliotts

Outside the small circle of the nobility and great landed families, few individuals or their kin are well recorded in Scottish medieval history, but the obscurity surrounding the origin of the Elliotts, who suddenly make their appearance as a distinct clan with a chief in the fifteenth century, is unusual even by the sparse standards of such records. This lack of information can probably be traced by the destruction of the old castle at Stobs in a fire in 1712, when all the family documents, with a single exception, were burnt.

According to family tradition, the Elliots (as the name was then spelt) came from Angus at the foot of Glenshie, and moved to Teviotdale at the time of Robert the Bruce.

It is true that to move from the north to the Borders, as suggested by the Elliott tradition, would be considered as exceptional. However, in 1320 there occurred in Liddesdale an event of some note that might lend credence to the tale. In that year, William de Soulis, one of the most powerful nobles in Scotland, whose family had for nearly two hundred years held the Lordship of Liddesdale, was convicted of treason against Robert the Bruce and imprisoned for life. All his lands were forfeited. Two years later Liddesdale, together with the great Border's fortress of Hermitage Castle, was made over to Bruce's illegitimate son, Robert. On the occasion of so sudden and dramatic a change in the Lordship, it would scarcely be remarkable for Bruce to ensure his hold on the strategically important frontier region by encouraging the settlement of a loyal and tested clan - such as the Elliots - in the district.

It is known from Berwickshire pedigree that Elliot of Redheugh was living in the early 1400's. John Elwalde of Teviotdale is recorded in 1426. Robert Elliot of Redheugh appears as the tenth chief in 1476, and from that time the formal history of the clan can be said to

have begun. In 1470 he built a strong tower on the cliff overlooking the ford on Hermitage Water. This was one of about one hundred strong towers belonging to the Elliots which were dotted around Liddesdale, which they shared with the Armstrongs, another of the great Borders riding clans.

They fought at Flodden where Robert, 13th chief, was killed along with James IV and the flower of Scottish nobility. In 1565 a deadly feud developed between the Elliots and their neighbors, the Scotts. Scott of Buccleuch, ancestor of the present duke, executed four Elliots for the minor crime of cattle rustling. Three hundred Elliots rode to avenge their kinsmen. The losses on both sides were heavy, but the Scotts thought better of matters, and came to terms with the Elliots. Their next opponent was James

Hepburn, the great Earl of Bothwell and future husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. In a skirmish around Hermitage Castle Bothwell was wounded, and in reprisal a royal force of nearly four thousand men devastated the lands of the Elliots and their neighbors in 1569.

The Union of the Crowns in 1603 marked the beginning of the end for the border reivers. There were many summary executions, and around this period many Borderers accepted the offer of a new life in Ulster during the plantation, when much of the province was colonised. Robert Elliot of Redheugh went into exile in Fife, leaving his broad lands in Liddesdale. It was around this time that the 'i' was introduced in the name of Elliot.

By the sixteenth century the border clans collectively had gained the reputation of being 'the finest light cavalry in all Europe' and the Elliots were prominent in the bloody battles and tortured politics of those times. Later generations were to produce Lord Heathfield of Gibraltar, Lord Minto of India, and a large number of prominent soldiers, sailors and statesmen. Branches of the clan are now to be found all over the world: there are few clans larger than the Elliots, and none with a more spirited history. The present Chief of the Clan is Margaret Elliott of Redheugh.

Sources: Primarily compiled from Clan websites.

Robert Burns

Robert Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) was a Scottish poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a "light" Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland. He also wrote in standard English, and in these his political or civil commentary is often at its most blunt.

He is regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement, and after his death he became a great source of inspiration to the founders of both liberalism and socialism and a cultural icon in Scotland and among the Scottish Diaspora around the world. Celebration of his life and work became almost a national charismatic cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has long been strong on Scottish literature. In 2009 he was chosen as the 'Greatest Scot' by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish television.

As well as making original compositions, Burns also collected folk songs from across Scotland, often revising or adapting them. His poem (and song) *Auld Lang Syne* is often sung at Hogmanay (the last day of the year), and *Scots Wha Hae* served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country. Other poems and songs of Burns that remain well-known across the world today include *A Red, Red Rose*; *A Man's A Man for A' That*; *To a Louse*; *To a Mouse*; *The Battle of Sherramuir*; *Tam o' Shanter*, and *Ae Fond Kiss*.

Burns was born two miles (3 km) south of Ayr, in Alloway, South Ayrshire, Scotland, the eldest of the seven children of William Burnes (1721–1784) (Robert Burns spelt his surname Burnes until 1786), a self-educated tenant farmer from Dunnottar, The Mearns, and Agnes Broun (or Brown) (1732–1820), the daughter of a tenant farmer from Kirkoswald, South Ayrshire.

He was born in a house built by his father (now the Burns Cottage Museum), where he lived until Easter 1766, when he was seven years old. William Burnes sold the house and took the tenancy of the 70-acre (280,000 m²) Mount Oliphant farm, southeast of Alloway. Here Burns grew up in poverty and hardship, and the severe manual labour of the farm left its traces in a premature stoop and a weakened constitution.

He had little regular schooling and got much of his education from his father, who taught his children reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and history and also wrote for them *A Manual Of Christian Belief*. He was also taught by John Murdoch (1747–1824), who opened an 'adventure school' in Alloway in 1763 and taught Latin, French, and mathematics to both Robert and his brother Gilbert (1760–1827) from 1765 to 1768 until Murdoch left the parish. After a few years of home education, Burns was sent to Dalrymple Parish School during the summer of 1772 before returning at harvest time to full-time farm labouring until 1773, when he was sent to lodge with Murdoch for three weeks to study grammar, French, and Latin.

By the age of 15, Burns was the principal labourer at Mount Oliphant. During the harvest of 1774, he was assisted by Nelly Kilpatrick (1759–1820), who inspired his first attempt at poetry, *O, Once I Lov'd A Bonnie Lass*. In the summer of 1775, he was sent to finish his education with a tutor at Kirkoswald, where he met

Peggy Thomson (b.1762), to whom he wrote two songs, *Now Westlin' Winds* and *I Dream'd I Lay*.

His casual love affairs did not endear him to the elders of the local kirk and created for him a reputation amongst his neighbours for dissoluteness. His first child, Elizabeth Paton Burns (1785–1817), was born to his mother's servant, Elizabeth Paton (1760-circa 1799) while he was embarking on a relationship with Jean Armour, who became pregnant with twins in March 1786. Burns signed a paper attesting his marriage to Jean, but her father "was in the greatest distress, and fainted away." To avoid disgrace, her parents sent her to live with her uncle in Paisley. Although Armour's father initially forbade it, they were eventually married in 1788. Armour bore him nine children only three of whom survived infancy.

Burns was in financial difficulties due to his want of success in farming, and to make enough money to support a family he took up a friend's offer of work in Jamaica, at a salary of £30 per annum. The position that Burns accepted was as a bookkeeper on a slave plantation. This seems inconsistent with Burns' egalitarian views as typified by *The Slave's Lament* six years later, but in 1786 there was little public awareness of the abolitionist movement which began about that time.

At about the same time, Burns fell in love with Mary Campbell (1763–1786), whom he had seen in church while he was still living in Tarbolton. She was born near Dunoon and had lived in Campbeltown before moving to work in Ayrshire. He dedicated the poems *The Highland Lassie O*, *Highland Mary* and *To Mary in Heaven* to her. His song "Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, And leave auld Scotia's shore?" suggests that they planned to emigrate to Jamaica together. Their relationship has been the subject of much conjecture, and it has been suggested that on 14 May 1786 they exchanged Bibles and plighted their troth over the Water of Fail in a traditional form of marriage. Soon afterwards Mary Campbell left her work in Ayrshire, went to the seaport of Greenock, and sailed home to her parents in Campbeltown.

After giving up his farm he removed to Dumfries. Burns described the Globe Inn (still running today) on the High Street as his "favourite howff" (or "inn").

It was at this time that, being requested to write lyrics for *The Melodies of Scotland*, he responded by contributing over 100 songs. He made major contributions to George Thomson's *A Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice* as well as to James Johnson's *The Scots Musical Museum*. Arguably his claim to immortality chiefly rests on these volumes, which placed him in the front rank of lyric poets. Burns described how he had to master singing the tune before he composed the words:

“ My way is: I consider the poetic sentiment, correspondent to my idea of the musical expression, then chuse my theme, begin one stanza, when that is composed - which is generally the most difficult part of the business - I walk out, sit down now and then, look out for objects in nature around me that are in unison or harmony with the cogitations of my fancy and workings of my bosom, humming every now and then the air with the verses I have framed. when I feel my Muse beginning to jade, I retire to the solitary fireside of my study, and there commit my effusions to paper, ”

swinging, at intervals, on the hind-legs of my elbow
chair, by way of calling forth my own critical
strictures, as my, pen goes.

—Robert Burns

Burns also worked to collect and preserve Scottish folk songs, sometimes revising, expanding, and adapting them. One of the better known of these collections is *The Merry Muses of Caledonia* (the title is not Burns'), a collection of bawdy lyrics that were popular in the music halls of Scotland as late as the 20th century. Many of Burns' most famous poems are songs with the music based upon older traditional songs. For example, *Auld Lang Syne* is set to the traditional tune *Can Ye Labour Lea*, *A Red, Red Rose* is set to the tune of *Major Graham* and *The Battle of Sherramuir* is set to the *Cameronian Rant*.

Burns's worldly prospects were now perhaps better than they had ever been; but he had become soured, and moreover had alienated many of his best friends by too freely expressing sympathy with the French Revolution and the then unpopular advocates of reform at home. As his health began to give way, he began to age prematurely and fell into fits of despondency. The habits of intemperance (alleged mainly by temperance activist James Currie) are said to have aggravated his long-standing possible rheumatic heart condition. His death followed a dental extraction in winter 1795.

On the morning of 21 July 1796 Robert Burns died in Dumfries, at the age of 37. The funeral took place on Monday 25 July 1796, the day that his son Maxwell was born. He was at first buried in the far corner of St. Michael's Churchyard in Dumfries; his body was eventually moved to its final resting place in the same cemetery, the Burns Mausoleum, in September 1815. The body of Jean Armour was laid to rest with his in 1834.

His widow, Jean, had taken steps to secure his movable estate, partly by liquidating two promissory notes amounting to fifteen pounds sterling (about 1,100 pounds at 2009 prices). The family went to the Court of Session in 1798 with a scheme to support his surviving children by publishing a four-volume edition of his complete works and a biography written by Dr. James Currie. Subscriptions were raised to meet the initial cost of publication, which was in the hands of Thomas Cadell and William Davies in London and William Creech, bookseller in Edinburgh. Hogg records that fund-raising for Burns' family was embarrassingly

slow, and it took several years to accumulate significant funds through the efforts of John Syme and Alexander Cunningham.

Burns was posthumously given the freedom of the town of Dumfries. Hogg records that Burns was given the freedom of the Burgh of Dumfries on 4 June 1787, 9 years before his death, and was also made an Honorary Burgess of Dumfries.

Burns is generally classified as a proto-Romantic poet, and he influenced William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Percy Bysshe Shelley greatly. His direct literary influences in the use of Scots in poetry were Allan Ramsay (1686-1758) and Robert Fergusson. The Edinburgh literati worked to sentimentalise Burns during his life and after his death, dismissing his education by calling him a "*heaven-taught ploughman*". Burns would influence later Scottish writers, especially Hugh MacDiarmid, who fought to dismantle what he felt had become a sentimental cult that dominated Scottish literature.

An example of Burns' literary influence in the U.S. is seen in the choice by novelist John Steinbeck of the title of his 1937 novel, *Of Mice and Men*, taken from a line in the second-to-last stanza of *To a Mouse*: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men /Gang aft agley". Burns' influence on American vernacular poets such as James Whitcomb Riley and Frank Lebby Stanton has been acknowledged by their biographers. When asked for the source of his greatest creative inspiration, singer songwriter Bob Dylan selected Burns's 1794 song *A Red, Red Rose*, as the lyric that had the biggest effect on his life. The author J. D. Salinger used protagonist Holden Caulfield's misinterpretation of Burns' poem *Comin' Through the Rye* as his title and a main interpretation of Holden's grasping to his childhood in his 1951 novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. The poem, actually about a rendezvous, is thought by Holden to be about saving people from falling out of childhood.

Join Us for Scottish Country Dancing!

Like to dance? Want to learn? Just want to get some exercise? Join some of the Society members most Mondays for traditional Scottish country dancing. Society Trustee Ken Morgan leads beginner and experienced dancers in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. You'll be having too much fun to feel self-conscious.



New Location:
Northwood Christian Church
4550 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46205
7:30 - 8:00 PM Beginning Dance lessons
8:00 - 9:00 PM Social dancing
9:00 - 9:30 PM Advanced dancing

All are welcome. No partner needed. Call Ken Morgan at 317-260-1828 for more information. It's a good idea to call ahead to make sure we are dancing.

Scottish Recipe

Scotch Eggs



Ingredients

6 Eggs
340g (12oz) Sausage Meat
110g (4oz) Dried Breadcrumbs
1 Lemon, grated zest only
1 tbsp Parsley, chopped
½ tsp Basil, Marjoram or Savory, chopped
1 Egg, beaten
Pinch Grated Nutmeg
Salt and Pepper, to taste
Oil for deep frying

Cooking Directions

Boil the eggs for 10-12 minutes, cool under cold running water.
Peel and reserve the eggs.
Place the sausage meat, lemon zest, herbs, nutmeg and seasoning into a bowl and mix thoroughly.
Divide the mixture into six portions.
Coat each of the boiled eggs with a portion of the sausage meat mixture, (wet hands make this easier).
Roll each of the coated eggs first in beaten egg, then into the dried breadcrumbs.
Heat the oil to 180°- 90°C (350°-375°F).
Carefully add coated eggs to oil, being careful not to overcrowd.
Fry for 4-5 minutes, until golden brown.
Remove from the oil drain and dry on kitchen paper.
Serve cool, sliced lengthways with a green salad.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Note that Scottish Society of Indianapolis (SSI) sponsored events are indicated in **bold**.

January

January 11th: SSI Meeting: Program – Robert Burns Light Program, by Ken Morgan

January 19th: Celtic Rain Concert – 7pm – 9pm at the Claddaugh on 96th Street In Indianapolis, IN. All ages are invited.

January 28th: Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington Burns Dinner – The Irish Loin \$28.50 / ticket Contact Robert Pate 812-876-3406 www.ssgb.indianascots.org. Note the change in date and location

February

February 8th: SSI Meeting: Program Scotch Tasting

March

March 9th: SSI Meeting and Program. Begins at 6:30 PM with a pitch in style dinner at 7:00 PM. The program will be TBA at 8:00 PM.

March 16th: St. Patricks' Day Parade / City Market After Family Party, downtown Indy, to start at 11:30 am. Probably assemble in front of the Elbow Room Pub, details to be announced



2012 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership in the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Inc. as indicated:

Life \$250 Family \$35.00/yr Individual \$25.00/yr Student \$10.00/yr

Senior Family \$29.75/yr Senior Individual \$21.25/yr

Membership: \$ _____

I wish to make a donation to the George McMath Scholarship fund:

Scholarship: \$ _____

I wish to make a donation to the Indpls Scottish Highland Games and Festival:

Games: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

E-mail Addresses: _____

E-mail is used to send the SSI newsletter four times each year, as well as occasional announcements about SSI events. We do not sell or share e-mail with any party, and we prohibit any party from using this e-mail for any other purpose. Do not send the newsletter via my e-mail. Do not send SSI event information via my e-mail. Please send my newsletter via US postal mail.

Facebook Usernames: _____

Address: _____

Address information is used to send your membership renewal, will be used to send your newsletter to if you request it, but is not shared with any third party, sold, shared or rented.

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (cell) _____ (cell)

Note if you are a *new member*, your membership dues will be pro-rated for the number of months left in the year. If you are a past member, you have the option of renewing your membership at the annual rate any time during the year or attending as a guest for \$7/person as often as you like. Please make your check out to *The Scottish Society of Indianapolis* and mail it along with this form to: Rebekah Lawson, 9502 N County Road 300 W, Lizton, IN 46149 or bring it to the next meeting.

SSI Meeting and Side Dish Schedule

	January	Febuary	March
Date:	Wednesday, Jan. 11th	Wednesday Feb. 8th	Wednesday, Mar. 14th
Meat Dish:	Haggis w. Turnips and Potatoes & Hamburger and Cabbage	Fried Chicken	TBA
Program:	Burns Night Light by Ken Morgan	Scotch Tasting	TBA
Youth Program:	Hogmanay, First Footing and Robert Burns birthday	Imblc, Candlemas Day, & St. Valentines Day	Whuppity Scoorie & Easter
Side Dish to Bring:	A-F—Veggie/Casserole	A-F—Salad	A-F—Dessert
	G-McC—Salad	G-McC—Dessert	G-McC —Veggie/Casserole
	McD-Z—Dessert	McD-Z—Veggie/Casserole	McD-Z—Salad
<p>Bring a side-dish based on the first letter of your last name. Please bring at least 3 large servings per attending family member. Example: a couple would bring at least 6 large servings.</p> <p>If you invite guests, please bring their portions as well.</p> <p>Meeting Costs: Members \$4, Returning Guests \$7, First-Time Guests are free.</p>			

Meeting Agenda:

6:30pm—Social Time
 7:00pm—Dinner
 8:00pm—Program

Location:

All meetings take place
 at the Latvian Center
 1008 West 64th Street

For More Information

Contact Rebekah Lawson,
 (317)473-7305, indyscot@gmail.org
 Or contact any trustee

Visit us on the web at: www.indyscot.org

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

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