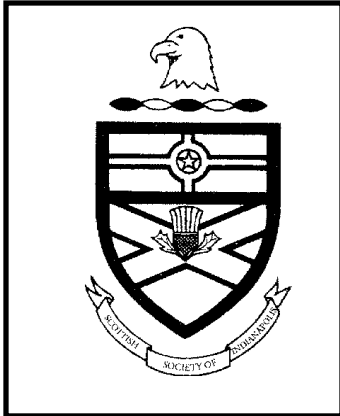


The Whistle

Fall

October—December 2006



SSI 2006 Board of Trustees

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Newsletter Editor:
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From the Desk of the President



September was the opportunity for us to get out and show ourselves to the community. The Columbus games, the Irish Festival and FedEx Diversity Fair gave us the chance to educate as to how the Scots contributed to the government and customs of the United States. We also were successful in having people sign up as new members.

November gives us the opportunity to show our colors at the Kirkin' and then the following week the Annual Dinner at Murphy's Steak House where we will be

electing officers for the next year. Kristy Byers, our current treasurer, will be stepping down after four years on the Board. We will miss her detailed record keeping and reports, as well as hearing about her latest adventure to different parts of the world. I have never known someone who can accomplish so much on her nickel as she can, a true Scot and one that we will miss at our Trustee meetings.

This leads me to point out that we will need a new treasurer and that anybody can "volunteer" for the roster for elections in November; all you need to do is let Jack Davidson know of your interest.

We are also looking to set up committees and /or representatives to go to the various organizations in this area and present the Society's Scottish interests, groups such as the Nationalities Council of Indiana and the Irish Festival. Both of these give us a chance to show our stuff to the community.

Our community outreach was a success because many of you took the time to be at our tents and booth (in Scottish attire) and were led by the trustee who pitched in with humor and stories and I am very grateful to you all for helping the Society present such a welcoming atmosphere.

Don't forget to let us know which of the two proposed tartans you favor prior to the Annual Dinner, as we are looking to give a proposal to the State Legislature early next year so that we can have an Indiana Tartan agreed upon by the next "Tartan Day, April 6th".

Slainte, Gordon

2006 SSI Calendar of Events

October

6-7th—St. Louis Scottish Games--Forrest Park, St. Louis, MO

7-8th—Feast of the Hunter's Moon—West Lafayette

6-8th—Tennessee Highland Games—Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

11th --SSI Meeting-6:30 PM: Program: Susan Walker—Scottish Ghost Stories.

Meat provider—Cookout

21-22nd—Stone Mt. Highland Games—Atlanta, GA

November

2-5th—Indianapolis International Festival—Indiana State Fairgrounds—Indianapolis, IN

12th—Kirkin' o' the Tartan—Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ

18th—Founder's Dinner—Murphy's Steak House

December

13th—SSI Meeting. Program—TBA Meat provider—Davidson



Pictish Stones

By Kathryn Davidson

The Picts lived mostly in Northern and Eastern Scotland from the 3rd to the 9th Century. We know very little of their history, as few written records have survived and none in the Pictish language. There are a few inscriptions that suggest they spoke a language closely related to both Welsh and Gaelic. From the writings of classical authors we know that by the 4th century they were the predominate people in northern Scotland. They intermarried with the Irish Scots and jointly they raided Roman Britain.

Pictish stones, found mainly in Northern and Eastern Scotland, are the main remnants of Pictish art and provide a lot of what we know of their history. The largest collection has been found in Easter Ross and the Black Isle regions. The stone sculptures date from the 5th to the 9th centuries. The earliest incised stones at Rosskeen and Nonakin near Invergordon date from the early 5th or 6th century. Masterpieces of the 7th and 8th century exist at Nigg, Shandwick and Hilton of Cadboll. Others followed at Kincardine, Edderton and Tarbat. Samples may be found at Aberlemno, Portmahomack, Rosemarkie, Strathpeffer and Dingwall. While no one knows what the common Pictish symbols mean, but there has been plenty of conjecture. Joseph Anderson and Romilly Allen classified the stones of the Picts into 3 groups about 60 years ago.

Class I comprise designs which are incised into natural (roughly dress) rocks. There are no Christian symbols, but they have animals, either real or mythical, and are usually carved on one side only. Other early stones contain crescents and disks. Some of the more intricate stones have what appear to be tools such as cauldrons, tongs and a mirror and comb.

The Eagle stone at Strathpeffer is a Class I stone dating from the 7th century. It stands on a small, probably artificial mound. On the front is a decorated horseshoe symbol above and eagle. The stone was originally situated in the lower valley and was thought to mark the graves of Munro clansmen killed in battle.

The Dingwall stone had been used as a lintel over the doorway of a church built in 1801. It was identified in 1880 and is now erected in a base in the churchyard opposite the entrance gateway. It is a rectangular slab of mica schist and bears the double disk and 2 crescent and V rods on the front. The back has 3 circles and the crescent and V rod, as well as 16 cup marks (round disk like depressions).

Class II stones are typically a heavy upright stone slab, with Christian carvings on one face and Celtic and Pictish designs on the other side. The edges are usually covered with intricate patterns. The Picts were converted to Christianity by St. Columba, after a visit in 565 A.D. Subsequent carvings tended to have elaborate Christian carvings on one or both sides, mostly stories from the Bible.

Jack and I found our first Pictish stone on our way back from Stirling. We saw a sign indicating there was a standing stone off to the right. One of my major quests was to find standing stones, stone circles, and Pictish stones. So we turned on to the smallest road I have ever seen. At the end of that farm road there was a sign that said the stone was at the top of the hill. I had been expecting a plain standing stone on top of the hill, but what I found was a very elaborate Pictish stone encased in glass. The Dunfallandy stone is about a far south, as you will find Pictish stones. It is a Class II stone with a cross on the back and 2 crescents, and V rod

symbols, 2 elephant (or what has been called and elephant) symbol, 2 seated figures that appear to be church men, an anvil, a hammer and tongs. The border has 2 elongated beasts with fish tails.

Class III stones are similar to Class II but without pre-Christian designs and tend to be more elaborate, basically if the stone doesn't fit easily into the other two classification, it is assigned to Class III.

The Hilton of Cadboll stone is a Class III, from the 8-9th century. It is one of a group of spectacular stones in the Easter Ross peninsula. They are carved in relief with Pictish symbols, Christian crosses and biblical and mythological figures, as well as intricate patterns. This stone has a unique carving of a female aristocrat on horseback, which may indicate the status of women in Pictish society. It used to stand on the ruins at the chapel north of Hilton. It was later removed so that it could be inscribed as a headstone, but it never was. Later it lay near the sea until 1811, when the stone was placed in the garden at Invergordon castle as a decoration. In 1922, it was given to the Museum of Scotland. A replica is in the process of being created by Barry Groves, from the original over a 1000 pieces that it was found in. The replica is in the original site on the Black Isle.

The largest single collection of Pictish stones can be found in the museum at the old school house in the village of Meikle, Perthshire. Meikle was a center of some importance in the Pictish world and was possibly associated with King Pherath or Urad, who ruled the Picts from 839 to 842. Whatever the reason for their being such a large concentration, most of these stones came from the churchyard behind the schoolhouse. When the church built in 1793 burned down in 1869, at least one stone stored in the church was destroyed. However, previously unknown Pictish stones were discovered built into the structure of the church. The most spectacular stone is #2. It is 2.5 meters tall and originally stood near the entrance to the churchyard. There is an imposing cross carved on the face. The back contains a series of figures, mostly on horseback at the top, and mythical animals on the bottom. In the center of the rear is a panel that has been interpreted in two ways. One is it is a picture of Vanora or Queen Guinevere of Arthurian legend. The story goes that Queen Guinevere was kidnapped by the Pictish King Mordred and held near Meikle. When she was released, it is said the King Arthur had her put to death by being pulled apart by wild animals and her remains buried at Meikle. The more straightforward version is that this is a

picture of Daniel surrounded by four lions. The carvings, although faded look much more like lions than anything likely to have been found in the dark ages in Scotland.

One of the most impressive Pictish stones is the Sueno's stone, located at Forres in Moray, which is west of Inverness. It is from the 9th century and stands a massive 20 feet high. It is the largest known Pictish sculptured stone. On one side is a large cross. On the other side are scenes of fighting and killing, dead and decapitated bodies, almost 100 figures in all. In an effort to protect the stone, it is encased in a glass and supporting structures, to aide in repairs, which makes it difficult to take pictures.

There are 302 known Pictish stones ranging from the Thief's stone that has no visible carvings and is located in a farm field, to the Sueno's stone, one of the most elaborately carved and the largest stone that is being cared for by the state. There is a lot of controversy among Pictish stone fans, as to the best way to preserve and show these stones. Some favor placing them in museums so they are accessible to a large number of people and have maximum protection. Others want them in their original site, but encased in glass to protect them. Many believe that the glass detracts from their impact and beauty. When we were on the Black Isle (following the Pictish trail), we went to see the Shandwick stone. The stone is supposed to be encased in glass, but the door had been left open (probably inadvertently), we were very quick to go inside the glass case to touch this several thousand-year-old stone. So I guess I would be happy to have them available, but a lot of people can't get to the sites to see them in their original locations. Should they be made available to everyone and protected for the masses? Or do we keep them in their natural sites? If they are protected in museums or glass cases we prevent people from truly experiencing the awe and majesty these stones project.

Why Scotland is a Grand Place

In the beginning, The Lord God Almighty, sitting on His throne on high, turned to His mate, the Archangel Gabriel and said "Gabby, today I'm going to create Scotland. I will make it a country of dark beautiful mountains, purple glens and rich green forests. I will give it clear swift flowing rivers and I will fill them with salmon. The land shall be lush and fertile, on which the people shall grow barley to brew into an amber nectar that will be much sought after the world over. Underneath the land I shall lay rich seams of coal.

In the waters around the shores there will be an abundance of fish and beneath the sea bed there will be vast deposits of oil and gas".

"Excuse me Sire", interrupted the Archangel Gabriel, "Don't you think you are being a bit too generous to these Scots"?

"Not really", replied the Lord, "wait 'til you see the neighbours I'm giving them." (Electric Scotland)



Greyfriars Bobby Terrier on Endangered List



The Skye terrier was immortalized in the story of Greyfriars Bobby, the small dog who faithfully watched over his master's grave until his own death. But according to the Kennel Club of Great Britain, the breed has fallen out of favor with the British public and just 30 puppies were born in the

U.K. in 2005. Paul Keevil, a member of the Kennel Club's vulnerable breed committee, said Skye terriers are a very difficult breed to train so owners gravitate to lower-maintenance animals. "The Skye terrier is the one giving us the greatest concern," he explained. "Compare 30 of these puppies born last year against 45,000 Labradors and you can see the problem." While some are predicting the breed will disappear within 40 years, Mike Taylor, secretary of the Skye Terrier Club, is more philosophical. "I don't know why they have fallen out of favor, but breeds do come and go in popularity." (Scottish Life Autumn 2006)

Columbus Scottish Festival

The Columbus Scottish Festival provided a nice weekend of Scottish fellowship and entertainment with Clan Lockhart being the honored clan. There were of course the pipe bands to enjoy, other entertainment in the pavilions, heavy athletic competitions, highland dance competitions for all levels of dancers, and sheep dog trials, and last, but certainly not least a great example of Scottish country dancing provided by the Bloomington Scottish Country Dance Group.

For its fifth year, the Society for Creative Anachronism provided an interesting look into the period 600-1600 A.D., complete with armour, weapons and knights to use both. Another group of re-enactors, Clan Desdin was on hand to provide a look into 17th and 18th century Scottish and American history as we wandered through their campsite got some insight how people of those times live and chatted with some of the re-enactors.

This year's musical offering included Jerry Brown singing the classic favorites from Scotland and Ireland mixed with a little history thrown in for good measure. Hogeve Navvy provided a selection of acoustic, singing of shanties, drinking songs, and ballads from Scotland, Ireland, England, and North America. For those who like their Celtic music with more of a rock beat there was Highland Reign, a Celtic rock band from Indianapolis. Using bagpipes, guitars, screaming electric leads, and drums, they provided a blend of traditional Celtic music and rock for their fans to enjoy.

The weekend also provides an opportunity to meet and chat with friends and to make new friends among the other clans represented at the festival. The winner of the best clan tent award provided by Clan Davidson and the SSI was Clan Irwin, congratulations on a job well done.

Indiana State Tartan

Robert Pate has done great groundwork, but the Society needs to locate sponsoring members of the State Legislature, House and Senate, to co-sponsor the bill. The survey is continuing as to which tartan, the Cardinal Red or the Indiana Flag blue, is preferred by the state wide Scottish community.

Highland Dance Classes

We have a new Highland Dance instructor in the Indy area, Maureen Bedell. New classes are now forming in the Noblesville/Fishers area for anyone interested in learning Highland Dancing. Maureen may be contacted at 317-201-5988 or email at gunnclan@hotmail.com

Indianapolis Irish Fest

September 15, 16, and 17 brought the annual Irish Fest to Indianapolis' Military Park and a grand time was had by all, and the Fountain Trust pipes and drums provided just the right Scottish touch, but if you missed it this year perhaps you might want to mark your calendars for next years Fest.

Athletic events included, traditional rugby and soccer matches; the 5k run and walk; and the kilted mile. This year, however, there was no tug of war between MacNivens and Claddagh

Again this year, the 35th Indiana Regiment re-enactors were camped at the Fest and were on hand all weekend to talk with visitors and share the experiences that the original First Irish Indiana Volunteers would have had during the Civil War.

There was an opportunity to see a variety of Irish breed dogs close up, and Jim McEwen brought his border collies to show off their herding talents as they herded sheep and ducks, wonder if they will herd geese?

There were several different musical tastes represented in our group, but there was a variety of music and we each found something for our taste. There were The Prodigals and Gael Sli from Ireland. Mother Grove and Siochair, from Indianapolis provided the hard driving rock sound that got the crowd excited and showing their appreciation for the great shows they presented. Others of us found the shanty songs of Hog Eye Navy and the traditional Irish music of Don & Alberta Lathan and Alair, all by the way, from Indianapolis very much to our liking, and to the liking of many others in the crowd, as well as what I think was a new group at the Fest, Three Men in Kilts, from the south side of Chicago, that my wife enjoyed and hopes to see return next year.

Just a reminder—The October meeting will not be at the Sterritt Center, but will be at the Latvian Center at 1008 West 64th Street. The SSI website has a map showing how to get to the Center. The web address is --- <http://www.indyscot.org>.

This year's Founder's Dinner will be held at Murphy's Steak House at 4189 N. Keystone Avenue on Saturday November 18th. All reservations must be made received by Saturday November 4, 2006. Remember you need to show up and help to elect the 2007 Board of Trustees for the SSI.

Founder's Day Dinner Reservation Form

Murphy's Steak House Saturday November 18th

All reservations must be made received by Saturday November 4, 2005.

Checks for the proper amount should be sent to:

**Judith Bastin
6610 East US 136
Brownsburg, IN 46112**

Please reserve me _____ tickets at \$25 per person for the Founder's Day Dinner

Total amount enclosed \$ _____.

Name _____

Social Hour 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00PM

Please choose one (by circling) of the following entrees for each person coming

Soup: minestrone or onion

Entrée: Pan Fried or Grilled Chicken Béarnaise Broiled Scrod Beef Fillet or NY Strip

Hot Salad and "Baked Potato; Beverages include soft drinks, coffee or iced tea

Meeting Schedule: October—December 2006

October

Date: Wed. Oct. 11
Latvian Center
1008 W. 64th St.

Meat Dish: Cook out
Meat provided by SS

Program: Susan Walker-
Ghost Stories

A-E—Salad

F-N—Dessert

O-Z—Veggie

Social Hour 6:30 p.m

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Program 8:00 pm

November

Date: Sat. Nov. 18

Founder's Dinner

Murphy's Steak House
4189 N. Keystone Avenue

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

All meetings take place at the
Sterritt Senior Center. Corner of
56th St. and Post Road on the
grounds of Fort Ben

December

Date: Wed. Dec. 13

Meat Dish: Davidson

Program: TBA

A-E—Dessert

F -N—Veggie

O-Z—Salad

For more information contact
Gordon Inglis 317-849-7841
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Member of COSCA