

The Whistle

Fall

October-December 2007



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From the Desk of the President



Since our last newsletter The Scottish Society of Indianapolis (SSI) was very active at The Columbus Games and The Irish Festival in Indianapolis. At Columbus many of our members setup their own clan tents and many helped at The SSI booth. We signed up 9 new members. At the Irish Festival we again had a good turn out of members and they roped in 13 new paid members, (included in this were 15 to 20 children/teenagers). This highlights the need to continue our wonderful young peoples program, which is currently being run by Trustee Rebekah Lawson.

It was fascinating to watch people's expressions change when they read the comparison between The Declaration of Arbroath (1320); the movie; "Braveheart" depicts that time period; and The Declaration of Independence (1776) and The Preamble to The Constitution (We The People...). They are always amazed and often comment, "I never knew that"! Also when they walked away, they had found something about their Scottish heritage and how it was influential in the shaping of the country with its democratic principles and freedom. They learned how "The Renaissance" and the subsequent enlightenment opened up the western world to expanding its ideas, so that Quantum and such, was able to be uncovered. The Scots challenge authority. They formed The Presbyterian Church and in so doing put into effect an effective democratic process; 22 of 56 signers of the US Declaration of Independence were Scots/ Irish. They were the backbone of the American troops challenging the authority of King George. They were merchants and craftsmen and obviously were very influential in what is now a great democracy within a constitution, modeled on Scottish Principles.

The Society provides us the opportunity to get together monthly and learn how the Scottish thought has been the basis of making life worth living, as illustrated above. We also learn about Scottish Dancing; Highland and Country (Strip the Willow etc). There is also the opportunity to uncover the mysteries of Scottish food and Whisky as well as learning about The Highland Hospitality and its rules. We go over some of the unique customs and explain The Celtic influences that are often the basis for these traditions. For example on Wednesday October 10th at The Latvian Center we shall be learning, how having a wart on your nose and cooking strange things could get you viewed as a witch and we will find out what makes a "Good" as opposed to a "Bad Witch".

Why not come and join us, bring friends and enjoy Scottish Hospitality?

Slainte! Gordon

The Hammer of the Scots

by Susan Walker

The summer of 1307 brought an event of great joy to the people of Scotland; King Edward of England had died. While planning another summer campaign to conquer Scotland, he succumbed to a lengthy fever at Burgh-by-Sands (across the border in Cumberland) and died on the 7th of July. He had been born 68 years earlier on June 17, 1239, at Westminster. He was the eldest of nine children of Henry III of England and Eleanor of Provence. Only four of their children survived to adulthood: a daughter Margaret who married Alexander III of Scotland, another daughter Beatrice who married the Duke of Brittany and a son Edmund the Earl of Leicester and King of Sicily.

Edward, named for the Saxon King Edward the Confessor, received a disciplined education—reading and writing in Latin and French, with training in the arts, sciences, and music. He also greatly admired the writings of Julius Caesar and would later try to model his campaigns upon Caesar's. He was also taught the art of war, beginning at a very young age, becoming quite accomplished with both sword and lance so that by the time he was a young man he was considered the best man with a lance in Europe. Edward's early years also taught him harsh lessons in how not to be a king. His father, Henry III, had ruled by conciliation and compromise and as a result Edward ended up a hostage to his godfather Simon de Monfort. Edward's character developed as a direct result of the events of his upbringing. He was ambitious, impatient, and treated rebels and other foes with great savagery.

Edward grew up to be a very handsome young man; he was six foot two inches tall with long blond hair and bright blue eyes. The ladies found him hard to resist, by the time he was fourteen he had already fathered at least one son. At this point a marriage was arranged to Princess Eleanor of Castile. He was 15, she was 14, and they would come to love each other deeply. Over the next 36 years the marriage would produce sixteen children. After her death in 1290, he would erect the "Eleanor crosses," one at each place where her funeral cortège stopped for the night. His second marriage to Marguerite of France produced 3 children.

After his first marriage Edward's political ambitions continued to develop. In 1269, he participated in the 8th Crusade along side Louis IX of France, however by the time Edward arrived in Tunis, Louis of France had died of plague and the French went home. The English crusaders went on to liberate Acre in what would become the 9th Crusade, but the death of his father would call Edward home to England to take the throne.

It was now 1274 and Edward was ready to try his method of solving England's problems and first on his list to be dealt with was Wales. The Welsh "princes"

led by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Gwynne, did not attend his coronation and refused to do homage to Edward. There were also problems with Welsh raids across the borders into the lands south of Wales. In 1277, Edward's troops entered Wales and quickly defeated Llywelyn. However, the Welsh rose up again in 1282 and it was only the death of their leader in battle and the later execution of his brother Dafydd, after brutal torture, the following year that Welsh resistance came to an end. To consolidate his conquest, Edward commenced the construction of a string of massive stone castles encircling of Wales. To achieve this he spent more than £80,000 and employed over 3,500 men. Some of these fortresses such as Conway and Caernarfon still remain today, although in somewhat ruined states. The campaigns in Wales and the program of castle building left the English treasury empty, with no new ways to fill it.

Second on Edward's list of problems was Scotland—it was to overshadow the rest of his reign. In 1290, the heiress to the Scottish royal house, Margaret the "Maid of Norway", granddaughter of Alexander III, was pledged in marriage to Edward's young son, Edward of Caernarfon. She died on her way from Norway to Scotland and in the absence of an heir to the Scottish throne the Scottish lords ask Edward to determine the succession. To gain acceptance of his authority, Edward sought and obtained recognition, from the rival claimants, that he had "sovereign lordship of Scotland."

In November 1292, Edward gave the whole of Scotland to John Balliol, who duly swore loyalty to Edward and was thus crowned at Scone. Edward insisted Scotland was not independent and that he was Balliol's overlord. Unhappy with this, some of the Scottish nobles decided to seek allies and concluded the "Auld Alliance" with France which would influence Scottish history for the next 300 years.

In March of 1296, the English sacked the city of Berwick on Tweed, giving no quarter to man, woman, or child. Edward himself ordered the attack and it was so vicious that the blood ran knee deep through the streets and the dead were not buried for months. It was to Berwick Castle later that year that all the nobles of Scotland were called to sign the infamous Ragman's Roll (Those who had land in Scotland had to sign their names in a list to show that they recognized Edward as their king. If they refused their lands were confiscated. This list of names is called "The Ragman's Roll" and still exists. It has about 2000 names, including Robert Bruce). The fall of Dunbar and Edinburgh combined with the removal of the Stone of Destiny to Westminster Abbey should have ended the Scot's resistance, but it did not.

Edward's plan to quickly subjugate his neighbors to the north by planned terror was not a success; with nothing left to lose the Scots began to fight back and what was to be a single summer's campaign dragged on for seven bloody years. John Balliol renounced his throne in April of 1296 and spent the next three years in the Tower of London and the rest of his life in France. A trio of Englishmen was appointed to run Scotland and as a result the common people began to band together under William Wallace. Battles were won and battles were lost, but a national spirit was born. Edward was not hammering Scotland in obedience but into nationhood.

By the time Wallace was executed in London following his capture in 1305, he had become a hero and a martyr to the cause of Scottish freedom. Now, Robert the Bruce would take up this cause. The change in leaders only increased Edward's determination to crush the Scots. The years were passing and his goal still remained out of reach. At least a dozen Scots' nobles were executed for treason like Wallace, including Bruce's brothers. Some of the noble's wives would hang in cages from the walls of various castles as a lesson to those who opposed Edward. Did it stop the fighting? NO. The resistance increased. The Scots united—there was a common enemy, England and Edward and a common prayer, "God Save Scotland." The prayer seemed to be answered when on the night of July 7, 1307, the most hated man in Scotland died, and for a time at least the wars stopped.

Edward's last wishes were for his body to be boiled and his bones carried on further campaigns until Scotland was conquered. Instead his body was buried in Westminster Abby in a plain black marble tomb which in later years was painted with the words "Scottourm malleus", which is Latin for "The Hammer of the Scotts." He was buried in a lead casket wishing to be moved to the usual regal gold casket only when Scotland was fully conquered and a part of the kingdom of England. The rest of the story is: Scotland was never conquered, Edward still lies in his lead casket, and a descendant of Robert the Bruce sits on the throne of England.

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Columbus Scottish Festival 2007

While it looked like rain and was very humid, the rain held off and at least most of us did not get wet at this year's Columbus Scottish Festival. The 2007 honored clan was Clan MacDuff and the well deserved winner of the best clan tent award sponsored by Clan Davidson and the Indianapolis Society was Clan Cunningham. Proving once again that "Real men do wear kilts," there were the heavy athletic competitions, with some outstanding athletes in attendance. The Festival also featured highland dance competition as well as an excellent presentation of Scottish Country

Dancing featuring the Bloomington Scottish Country Dancers.

The pipe bands in attendance this year included the Southern Indiana Pipes and Drums, the Louisville Fire and Rescue Pipes and Drums, the Indiana Caledonia Pipe Band, the Murat Highlanders, and The Pipe Band of the Fountain Trust. The Pipe Band of the Fountain Trust won the award for the Best Band for the 2007 Games. This was her first Highland Games and my two year old granddaughter could not get enough of the pipe bands and drummers.

Clan Desdin was on hand to provide a look into 17th and 18th century Scottish and American history and provide some insight as to how people of those times lived. 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, much to the enjoyment of the spectators, especially the young people. Mike McClellan provided a program on Scottish swords and knives, about growing up in medieval Scotland and learning to become a swordfighter.

This year's musical offering included the return of Celtic balladeer Collin Grant-Adams. Hogeve Navy, back for their second year, provided a selection of acoustic, singing of shanties, drinking songs, and ballads from Scotland, Ireland, England, and North America that kept the crowd roused and in good spirits. Natalie Jean Grimes, a young lady of only 15 years, showed her talent with the fiddle as she played some excellent Celtic music for the audience. New to the Festival this year were The Hooligans, a five member Celtic rock band from the area of the mountains of Western North Carolina.

New Celtic Song Book Available

Laura Robinson Hiner of Highland Fling has a new book out called *Travel My Way*. It recounts some of Laura's travel experiences and some great photos, as well as providing some useful tips for travelers to England, Scotland, and both Irelands. The book is expected to go on sale in August/September and will be available from the author, amazon.com, bookshops, and at Highland Festivals. Dates and locations for signings at local shops and festivals will be announced at a later date. Laura also has another book called [Highland and Fling Songs and Dance Music of Ireland and Scotland](#). This book has 52 songs and tunes and is notated for instrumentals and vocals, and includes chord names. For more information contact Laura at highlandlaura@hotmail.com or visit Highland Fling's website www.angelfire.com/music/wenches.

Tax Deductible Memberships to National Trust for Scotland

Some members of the SSI already belong to the National Trust for Scotland, but if you do not belong yet; this is a good time to join the National Trust for Scotland. With the establishment of the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA your membership dues not only allow free entry to the National Trust for Scotland properties and provide you with the Trust's regular magazines, but they are now tax deductible. The National Trust Foundation's website is www.ntsusa.org; the email is mail@ntsusa.org; and the phone is 617-227-7500.

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New Scottish Dance Group

If you are interested in learning to dance, there is a new Scottish country dance group starting in Indianapolis. The yet unnamed group (possibly the Hoosher Haivers) meets on Monday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Broad Ripple Masonic Hall, 1716 Broad Ripple Ave.(E. 62nd) Indianapolis. Weekly sessions will include a warm up, then footwork and figure practice, but most of the evening is dedicated to teaching and dancing. Old dances will be practiced and new ones will be learned. There will be a \$4.00 fee to help defray expenses, but first time visitors are free. You don't have to have a partner to join the group, but you do need to wear some soft flexible shoes if you have them. More information is available at www.rscrcincinnati.org; www.rscds.org; or www.indyscot.org. You can also email Laura at lhatain@yahoo.com or Morgan at morgan.ken@mac.com.

Irish Fest 2007

September 14, 15, and 16 brought the annual Irish Fest to Indianapolis' Military Park and the weather could not have been better, cool to the point of nippy in the morning and warm in the afternoon which brought out a good crowd on Saturday.

There was an opportunity to see and pet a variety of Irish breed dogs close up, and once again Jim McEwen brought his border collies to show off their herding talents as they herded sheep and ducks much to the enjoyment of the spectators. This year's athletic events included, traditional rugby, the 2007 tournament once again was hosted by the Royal Irish Rugby Society; the 4th boys and girls high school annual soccer tournament; the 5k run and walk; and of course the kilted mile. That special touch was provided by the pipes and drums of The Fountain Trust Pipe Band and the Emerald Society Pipe Band during the weekend.

As usual there was a wide variety of music something for everyone's taste, from hard driving Celtic rock to shanty songs to more the traditional Irish music. Among this year's performers were Highland Reign, Siochain, Hog Eye Navy, and Alair all from Indianapolis as well as 7 Nations, Glengarry Bhoys, Brigids Cross, and Gael Force just to mention a few extensive list of musicians and dancers at the Festival.

There was the usual wide selection of Celtic merchandise and this year there seemed to be even more choices in both the number of food vendors and their offerings than in past years. For those who survived Saturday night and could make it Sunday began with the traditional Celtic Mass followed a full Irish breakfast to start the day.

Celtic Cooking

Scottish Toffee

2 cups Sugar
1 cup Butter
2 tbsp Vinegar
1/4 cup golden syrup
1/4 cup Water

Instructions

Combine all ingredients in large saucepan.
Bring to a boil, stirring until all dissolved,
then boil without stirring until the mixture is dark golden.
Test by spooning a few drops into a cup of cold water.
The toffee is done when it hardens at once into a crisp ball.
Take off heat and pour into a flat oiled pan to make a layer about 1/2 inch thick.
When toffee is tepid, score into squares,
and when cool break with a hammer and store in an airtight container.
Makes about 1.5 pounds.

2007 SSI Calendar of Events

October

5th-6th —St. Louis Scottish Games--Forrest Park,
St.Louis, MO

5th-7th —Tennessee Highland Games—Middle
Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

10th—SSI Meeting:Program—Becky Dockery:
Scottish Witch Trials. Childrens Program-Scottish
Folklore Meat provider—Cornelius

12th-14th—Feast of the Hunter's Moon—West
Lafayette, IN

November

10th—Founder's Dinner

15th-18th—Indianapolis International Festival—Indiana
State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN

December

12th—SSI Meeting: Program—Party/Social Toasting
Contest Children's Program Scottish Christmas
Party Meat provider—Walker



Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye (or maybe it was Neil McNeil from Barra, but anyway..) went to study at an English university and was living in the hall of residence with all the other students there. After he had been there a month, his mother came to visit him (no doubt carrying reinforcements of tatties, salt herring, oatmeal and whisky).

"And how do you find the English students, Donald?" she asked.

"Mother," he replied, "they're such terrible, noisy people. The one on that side keeps banging his head on the wall and won't stop. The one on the other side screams and screams all night."

"Oh Donald! How do you manage to put up with these awful noisy English neighbours?"

"Mother, I do nothing. I just ignore them. I just stay here quietly, playing my bagpipes."

This year's Founder's Dinner will be held at George's Neighborhood Grill located at 6935 Lake Shore Drive (71st and Highway 37, Binford Blvd. on Saturday November 10th. All reservations must be made received by Saturday November 1, 2007. Remember you need to show up and help to elect the 2007 Board of Trustees for the SSI, but if you can't attend you may vote absentee, contact Jack Davidson.

24th Founder's Day Dinner Reservation Form George's Neighborhood Grill Saturday November 10th

All reservations must be made received by Saturday November 1, 2006.

Checks for the proper amount should be sent to:

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

Please reserve me _____ tickets at \$26 per person for the Founder's Day Dinner

Total amount enclosed \$_____.

Name_____

Social Hour 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00PM

Dinner includes Soup, Salad, Potato, Vegetable, Entrée, Dessert, and Soft Drink

Please choose one entrée for each person coming and indicate the number needed:

Salmon_____ Chicken_____ Beef Medallions_____

Meeting Schedule: October—December 2007

October

Date: Wed. Oct. 10
Meat Dish: Cornelius

Program: Becky Dockery--
Scottish Witch Trials

Children: Scottish Folklore

A-E—Salad

F-N—Dessert

O-Z—Veggie

Social Hour 6:30 p.m

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Program 8:00 p.m.

November

Date: Sat. Nov. 10

Founder's Dinner

George's Neighborhood
Grill -6935 Lake Shore Dr.
(71st & Hwy 37, Binford Blvd.)

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

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

December

Date: Wed Dec. 12
Meat Dish: Walker

Program: Party & Social
Toasting Contest

Children: Scottish
Christmas Party

A-E—Dessert

F-N—Veggie

O-Z—Salad

For more information contact
Gordon Inglis 317-849-7871
or any Board member.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

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Member of COSCA