

## President's Message

**D**ear Members,

Well, our St Andrew's night was a bigger success than I expected. We had over 100 participants and the food and entertainment provided for a good night! Our budin' celebrity, Alex Sutherland did a great job of keepin' the program moving right along, and the pipers and the dancers just set the whole thing off. And then there was the impromptu dancin', a wee bit crazy perhaps, but never the less a bit o' clean fun! It looked like everybody had a full evening and enjoyed themselves. Let's not forget to thank Denise for a' the arrangin' an-nat, y'no.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

The arrangements for the Christmas party are all made and I understand the location is excellent - hope to see you there. We just had it confirmed that Santa will make it!

## Back in the early days...

**T**owns did not exist in Scotland before the days of the House of Canmore. Neither did money, and simple barter served the people well. Then came trade, including foreign merchants, and new changes in society. David I (1124-1153) issued charters establishing Royal Burghs which, for the first time, involved elementary marketing conditions, duties, and the rewards of sales: ie profit. These Burghs, along with associated castles and churches, also provided the first "employment" for the abundance of natural talent in the country (other than living off the land or as a warrior). Of course, the Royal treasury took a cut of the proceeds via rent, tolls, taxes and duties!

We are also in full swing on the Burns night and have included information in this Thistle Times outlining "Oor big do" Better get yer' reservations in early as this was a sell-out last year and is again full of Scottishness.

Just a final note to wish you all the best for the Christmas season, have a guid New Year and lang may yer lum reek, wi' ither folk's coal.

Aw-ra-best, Keith

## inside...

*Events Program*

*What's in a Name?*

*Caledonia Corner & "Dance"*

*Toasts & Things*

*Other really good stuff!*

# Events Program. Come along and enjoy...

**S**t. Andrew's Day was celebrated in grand style in St Louis. The dinner-dance at the MAC turned out to be a super night. "MC" Alex Sutherland directed the evening in fine manner, and we were entertained by the Invera'an Pipeband and Dance Caledonia - both put on a great show in front of an excited crowd. With the evening still young, the foot-tapping turned to fancy footwork and twirls as a good old Scottish dance erupted. Aa lot of behind-the-scenes effort went into this event - it was worth it folks.

*A big thank you to everyone who participated in making this a great night!*

**We still need  
volunteers to  
help make this  
exciting program  
happen.**

**Please call:**

**D. Duffy 532-7587  
or  
P. Gowran 968-5429**

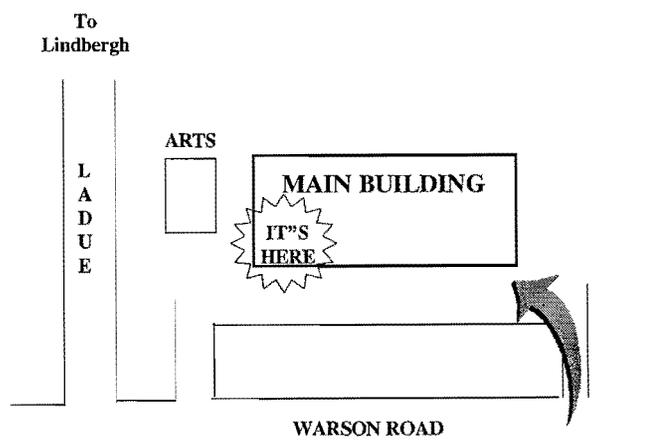
**December 19th, @ 6:30pm: Christmas Party.** Country Day School.

The Christmas Party will start with a dinner to get us all in the festive mood, followed by Christmas Carol singing. The "big fat fellow" with the red suit and a team of reindeers has promised us a visit with goodies for all those children who attend. The Society will provide the main course and beverages.

**WE NEED YOU TO BRING THE FOLLOWING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME.**

- A to G ..... Salad (enough for 8 people)
- H to N ..... Vegetables (enough for 8 people)
- O to Z ..... Delicious desserts (enough for 8 people)

**Please call Kathleen Parle with your reservation and headcount, and names and ages of children who will attend, by Dec 16th, at (314) 537 9463.**



**MAP TO COUNTRY DAY  
SCHOOL FOR THE  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**January 28th: The Burns Dinner.** At Missouri Athletic Club.

**SEE THE FLIER ATTACHED TO THISTLE TIMES**

**Guest entertainer, Christina Harrison form Scotland, concert performer with several albums of Celtic songs and ballads.**

# What's in a Name?

**D**epends on who called you the name! Surnames as we use them today were unknown in Scotland before the 17th century. People took their names from associations: from the terrain where they lived, from their craft, or from their family. Sometimes even from their appearance, for example: Dow from *dubh* (black), Roy from *ruadh* (red), or Begg from *beag* (little). "Mac" means "son of" and both "Mac" and "Mc" are used in Scotland (contrary to some opinions held in the US, there is not a particular association of these with Ireland, ie. both are used in both countries).

**... considered themselves to be part of the great Clan Donald...**

Often names were taken through links with powerful chiefs, their families and supporters giving rise to the clan associations. However, many families retained a surname which was itself distinct from the clan to which their allegiance lay. For example, the records show many 17th century tenants living in Kintyre who considered themselves to be part of the great Clan Donald - yet none of them were called MacDonald (son of Donald, or in the gaelic *Mac Dhomhnuill*). A few examples from names in our own Society: Duffy - Clan Macfie, Bain - Clan Mackay, Beggs - Clan Drummond, Masterson - Clan Buchanan.

A Clan (*clann*) itself is not necessarily a group of people with the same surname: it was rather a group of people following the same chief, only some of whom would have the same surname. The situation became more confused due to the early regiments: in Prince Charlie's jacobite army, the Clans MacColl, MacLaren, Carmichael, MacIntyre, MacCormack and Livingstone fought under the regimental banner of Stewart of Appin.

Of course, as Gaelic was replaced by Scots and writing became more widespread, variations in spelling became as common as ticks in a Missouri meadow. The name MacKenzie (*MacChoinnich*) meaning son of Kenneth, itself having a root *cann* (fair or bright), shows up with over thirty different spellings.

The map (it's Scotland!) shows a selection of Clan names: from a quick piece of research, I believe this covers a significant number of the members of our Society, either directly or as associated Clans. I do have a poster-size map with 174 Clan badges and locations if anyone wishes to see more detail. (Author remains anonymous!)



**..the map covers a large number of our own members....**

# CALEDONIA CORNER

**E**very golfer dreams of playing at St Andrews, the official “home” of golf. Can you imagine the tales that surround such an historical, yet currently fashionable, place. One particular story reveals much about the place, and the Scottish character.... A very rich Swiss gentleman, called Paravicini, who had been naturalised in England, went up to St Andrews to play for the first time. He strode up to the starter’s box and commanded, “Put me down for ten o’clock to-morrow morning. The name is Paravicini.” The old Scot who was on duty as starter didn’t raise his head. Paravicini, accustomed to having people jump at his word, repeated his demand twice more in an irritated voice. Then the old Scot raised his head and said, “Ye’ll come the day efter the morn at eleeven, and ye’ll answer tae the name o’ McLeod!”

**I**n Scottish Church circles, it was not uncommon for a minister to conduct “guest” services in parishes other than his own. One such minister, about to preach in a strange (new to him) Church, asked the beadle before the morning service, “At what point in the service do we usually give out the intimations?” “Well”, said the beadle, “around here we give out the intimations at the evening service.” So, the morning sermon proceeded, and just after the hymn singing the beadle approached the pulpit with some papers and whispered, “ye’d better gie oot the intimations.” The minister, taken aback, whispered, “I thought you only gave them out at the evening service.” “Aye”, replied the beadle, “but I hae some doot there’ll no be much o’ an evening service the nicht!”

## Wha wad ken?

**F**irst to answer all three wins one of the Society flag pins.

1. What are “Berwick cockles”?
2. Name Scotland’s highest mountain.
3. Who was the world champion racing driver born in Dumbarton, 1939.

All replies to Jim McLaren  
2214 Stoneridge Terr Ct,  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
or phone: (314) 532-5986

Congratulations to Carrie Sutherland,  
for being first to answer correctly:

1. Dashing White Sergeant.
2. Winnie Ewing led the Scottish Nationalist Party, won Hamilton MP seat in 1967.
3. Sean Connery was Scotland’s actor who gained fame and fortune as “James Bond”.

Please send in any interesting questions, with your name / phone number.

**F**ollowing the article, last month, on the Stone of Destiny, I heard about the John McEvoy song called “The Wee Magic Stane”:

*Oh, the Dean o’ Westminster was a powerful man,  
He held a’ the strings o’ the State in his hand,  
But with all his great business it flustered him nane,  
Till some rogues ran away wi’ his wee magic stane.*

*So, he quarried a stane o’ the very same stuff,  
An’ dressed it a’ up till it looked like enough,  
Then he sent for the Press and said that the stane,  
Had been found and returned to Westminster again.*

*Noo the cream o’ the joke still remains tae be telt,  
Fur the bloke that was turnin’ them aff on the belt,  
At the peak o’ production was so sorely pressed,  
That the real yin got bunged in along wi’ the rest!*

*So if ever ye come on a stane wi’ a ring,  
Jist sit yersel’ doon and appoint yersel’ King!*

**..Till some  
rogues ran away  
wi’ his wee  
magic stane...**

# CALEDONIA CORNER

**S**cots love a good dance! The Romans noted this fact as they attempted to invade the land of Caledonia. A time-honoured fact that was clearly apparent at our recent St Andrew's dinner-dance in St Louis. This unbroken history has been kept alive, in the face of all oppression, by the clans, by the regiments, and by the ordinary people. Scottish dance is a live link with the romantic (and wild) Celtic ancestry. Yet, while Scottish Country Dancing has similarities with the form and patterns seen in other ancient Celtic and Teutonic countries, there is a distinct lively character which makes the Scottish dance unique. Whether it's Regimental dancing, Highland dancing, formal Country dancing, or participating in "social" dancing, there's no doubt that every Scot loves a good dance.

At many of our St Andrews Society functions we are entertained by a group of excellent young dancers, called **Dance Caledonia**. This group, under the direction of Sandy Brown, has achieved much success in competitions around the Nation. Locally, they delight spectators with beautiful performances of Scottish dance. At the same time, Sandy narrates the significance and history of each dance which adds to the enjoyment of the audiences. St Louis Dance Caledonia is a truly first-class competitive group with numerous medals being brought home from places such as Batesville, AR, Glasgow, KY, Carrollton, KY, Kansas City, MO, Chicago, IL, Columbus, IN, Nashville, TN, Tulsa, OK, Jackson, MS, and Grand Father Mountain, NC. Individual dancers advance to higher levels of standards and skill by placing in these competitions. In 1994, Beth Schlanker, Katy Dixon, Genevieve Harrison, and Annie Glasgow advanced to "Premier (open)", and Erin English moved up to "Novice" standard. Doing well at "Beginner" level are Catriona Harrison and Jennifer Hash: both are poised to move up to "Novice". Kimberly Campbell and Kieron McCaughan are currently in "Premier" level but have also attained the "adult" standard.

Workshops and medal testing are held each year. Betty Lawrence, a well known adjudicator who hails from Scotland and lives in Oklahoma City, represents the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing and gave the group a thorough evaluation. Gold medals were won by Beth Schlanker, Katy Dixon, Genevieve Harrison and Annie Glasgow, with a bronze for Erin English. Kimberly Campbell successfully passed as an Associate of the British Assoc. of Teachers of Dancing.

Dance Caledonia is led by Sandy Brown who is a full member of B.A.T.D., and was elected to President of Fed. US Teachers and Adjud. of Highland Dancing (SW Region). In addition to her dedicated efforts to these official bodies, and to her students, Sandy has been teaching Highland Dancing to The Ballet Conservatory in Clayton, and at Rossman School as an extra curriculum program. What a great job she does in promoting the Scottish heritage. Sandy is inviting members to send their children along to learn Scottish dance, at competitive level or otherwise. It's a great educational experience, as well as being fun.

*For more information call Sandy Brown at (314) 227-9375*

*..there's no  
doubt that every  
Scot loves a  
good dance....*

# TOASTS & THINGS

**B**eing the Holiday season, with Christmas and New Year just a few weeks away:

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***A Guid New  
Year to ane  
an' a....***

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Here's tae you and yours, No forgettin' us and oors,  
And if ever, you and yours, Come tae see us and oors,  
You and yours will be made just as welcome,  
As when us and oors came tae see you and yours.

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A Guid New Year to ane an' a',  
An' mony mae ye see,  
An' during a' the years to come,  
O happy may ye be.  
An' may ye ne'er hae cause to mourn,  
To sigh or shed a tear,  
To ane an' a' baith great an' sma',  
A hearty Guid New Year.

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**I**t has become obvious that many of you may not have realised that the payment of dues was changed to correspond with the activity year. The membership year runs from September through August each year. Our renewal period begins in September and members are considered delinquent in October. Any member not renewed as of the end of December will be required to pay non-member rates for the Burns Dinner. Please send your 1994-95 dues to: Peter Geery, 831 Westrun Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021. Tel:227-2785

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***You're making  
a difference...***

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**Thank you for your participation and help...**

**E**njoy reading our newsletter, the Thistle Times? We need you to continue sending in stories or jokes or even printed material of interest. Suggestions and ideas are also welcome — we want to do the best job possible for everyone!

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
or call (314) 532-5986.*

***Many thanks to those who've already sent me some excellent material.***

Articles in this edition were based on material kindly given to me by:

Annabel Blackiston, Sandy Brown, Winnie Shirreff, Peter Geery,  
Kathleen Parle, Jean Cobain, and Duncan Macpherson.