

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

The past monthly meeting was a new idea —to try the indoor games night —and apparently it didn't work out well in terms of attractiveness. Those who did go along really enjoyed it, but the numbers were quite low. I missed it myself.

The Scottish
St. Andrew Society



Some of you may have already noticed that Society logo/seal (on the left) appears different from usual. It was brought to our attention that some aspects of our seal should be reviewed and, in doing so, we found no less than three different seals that had been used by the Society over the years. Moreover, the motto in the seal already belongs to, and is in use, by a particular clan.

The seal on the left is that being proposed for adoption by our Society. Notice that the lion has a particular stance: the body faces the same way as the flag but the head looks back over the shoulder (as in looking back towards Scotland). Among the changes, the motto has been changed and the word "Scottish" added. This is the black and white version. In the color version we suggest the lion should be red, the cross is blue and the small thistles are purple and green. Look it over and let us know what you think. If we have no serious objections, we will move forward and propose an official change for a vote by the members present at the next AGM (during the May picnic).

Back in the Early Days

We often have short stories about the many battles and social unrest of the early days, but what happened between all the periods of fighting? Actually, some remarkable developments.

As early as 1260, parts of Scotland had a network of roads, bridges and ferries. There were thriving industries in agriculture, salt extraction (from the sea), coal mining, and trade. Merchants and craftsmen began to develop some of the traditions that gave Scotland its rich cultural heritage. Those early business builders must have done a fine job — that's what made the place worth fighting over!

Our annual Ceilidh is just around the corner (April 26th, see inside for details) and it's grown into a favorite event for many. We'll be following a similar informal format as previously and will keep the audience participation parts —they're fun and we do have a talented group.

Hope to see you there,
Aw ra' best, Jim McLaren

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Event

April 26th, 7:30-11:30am: Ceilidh at Whispering Hills Clubhouse
 Tickets: \$15 regular member, \$10 seniors, \$5 children under 16.
 Refreshments will include beer, wine, soda, and snack food (including some stovies) SEE ATTACHED FORM. Limited to first 100 people.



the program for the rest of the year is:

Sunday May 18th, 1:00-7:00pm: Picnic & Scottish BBQ

This meeting will also incorporate the Annual General Meeting at around 2:30pm which will be held in the early Western style (outdoors).

To be held at **Vlasis Park in Ballwin** (Manchester and Holloway Road)

June: Pool Party & Games



ven in Scotland, there is some confusion as to the names and purposes of various pieces of clothing. Travelling around the world, Scots are often asked to explain some of these items. The definitions below might help, but the picture on the right may be also come in handy!

Kilt: an item of tartan cloth, also means to overturn, upset or hang a person.

Sgian Dhu (Skean doo): small dagger worn in the sock (usually by men). Symbolizes the "black" or "hidden" dagger once carried in the Highlands.

Jaikit: (jacket or anorak) is sometimes used in summer instead of the more common heavy coat. Just as the **Bunnet** (cap) might replace the **Balaclava** (woolly hat) — at least in July!

JABOT
for wiping porridge off chin

SGIAN DHU
emergency release in case of oversight garters



GLENGARRY
for essential writing materials

PLAID
for picnic

ANORAK
trad.

SPORRAN
for holding golf-tees

CLAYMORE
for cutting shortbread

BANDAGE LEGGINGS
to protect against nasty accidents during sword-dance

For those who may be interested, Alex Sutherland recorded a tape last year entitled "*Songs and Stories of Scotland - Alive in St. Louis.*" You can obtain a copy of the tape - a bargain at \$10 each.

Call Alex at (314) 771 0119.

Caledonia Corner

There's a song that goes *...the day we went tae Rothesay O'...* and provides cultural recognition for one of Glasgow's favorite holiday resorts. Rothesay is a lovely town on the Island of Bute which "guards" the Forth of Clyde on the west coast of Scotland. Although many many years ago, I can still vividly remember going as a kid — a great part of the fun and romance in the trip was sailing by steamer along the Clyde. The local terminology is for this event is "goin' doon the water!" Today, there is a car-ferry from Wemyss Bay.

Rothesay is a town of hotels, guest-houses, B&B's, and holiday camps but they are there for a reason: golf, bowling, sailing, scenery, swimming, Castle (which Bruce captured in 1313), seaside, and a wee bit o' night life in the summer at least. What brought this back to mind was the article in the Scot Magazine (March volume) about strange bye-laws in Scottish towns and Rothesay was featured showing how different things were in 17th century! Probably most towns in Scotland have some old and peculiar bye-laws. Anyway, here are a few examples from Rothesay....

In 1661, it was deemed that "...all persons found in other men's peas, or that cut the grass of other men's marches, or who trespass through other men's labored land, they, and the master of the house with whom they reside, shall pay 40 shillings Scots for each transgression!" Self-explanatory rule but somewhat stiff in the penalty imposed. Around the same time it was decreed that "...an oven on his own land was strictly

limited to the King's Burghers and no other!" I assume this may have been the key factor which lay behind the invention of the microwave.

In 1665, all Brandanes (term for people from Bute) were ordered to contribute to the cost of paving the streets, and the same year to pay for restoration of the harbour. This may have caused a Scottish equivalent of the Scandinavian lemmings!

One of the strangest bye-laws in Rothesay states that "...shoemakers are forbidden to buy skins on which ears and horns are not of equal length!" Definitely a killer rule for the growing trade, perhaps because nobody could figure out exactly what this meant. Then in 1678, it was laid down that "...the Public Drummer for his trouble get four shillings Scots out of each house in the town." Before it was a holiday resort, Rothesay probably had a high percentage of drummers in the population!

Would you believe that only the doctor, clerks and worthy burghers who paid ten pounds a year were allowed to keep bees! Talk about being stung!

We might speculate how many strange bye-laws there are throughout Scotland — and how many are still in official existence — independence could be fun!

Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three wins a Society flag pin.

1. What's the Queen's Scottish holiday estate called?
2. When was the battle of Prestonpans?
3. What did a Scot named Brewster invent?

All replies to Jim McLaren:

Phone: (314) 532 5986

Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct,
Chesterfield, MO 63017.

Nobody sent in all three correct answers last time. Answers were:

1. Fingal's Cave on Staffa
2. Culloden: April 16th, 1746
3. Telford built suspension bridges

Looking forward to hearing from you: answers or interesting questions welcome.

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W

e often think of of Sir Walter Scott as the great author that he was, and tend to forget his poetry...

*Come from the hills where your hirsels are grazing,
Come from the glen of the buck and the roe;
Come to the crag where the beacon is blazing,
Come with the buckler, the lance and the bow.
Trumpets are sounding, War-steeds are bounding,
Stand to your arms then, and march in good order;
England shall many a day, Tell of the bloody fray,
When the Blue Bonnets came over the Border.*

from "March, March, Ettrick and Teviotdale" by Sir Walter Scott



Lampits Ferry on the River Clyde between Pettinain and Carnwath, taken in 1902.

Notice the haystack in the background is on stilts. This practice was common along the main rivers to prevent loss in case there was a flood.

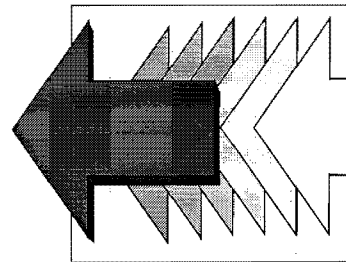


At the last count we had a total of 170 memberships.

(which translates to over 300 people in the Society)

Know anyone interested in joining, send us their number.

Dues & Leads To: Peter Geery, (314) 227 2785.



Thank you for your participation and help...

H

ope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the Thistle Times.

Comments, and new material to the Editor:

Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017

or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>