



the scottish society of louisville, inc

NEWSLETTER

Vol. VII, No. 2

www.ScotsOfLou.org

February 2000

Burns Night 2000

Burns Night Celebration 2000 was the biggest and best ever! The Scottish Society Burns Night planning committee put together a perfect evening ceilidh. The Olmstead at the Masonic Home was beautifully decorated and Masterson's catering provided a tasty Scottish meal of marinated chicken, salmon, succulent vegetables, salad and dessert. Along with the meal, everyone was entertained by the singing group Coterie, and Silver Arm Celtic music band. This year's biggest social evening began with the Society color guard piped in by Carolyn Cook. The Procession of the Haggis followed and toast by Doc Ritchie. Brown-Forman provided the single malt Scotch which everyone enjoyed as they toasted several times through the evening. David McCreath, our president welcomed members and guests. A special treat of the Haggis was prepared by Patty Hughes and her assistants and was delicious. Rev Georgene Buckwalter delivered the Selkirk Grace and the meal began. Hardin Gregg, commissioner of member services gave a toast to the United States and to Kentucky. A bit later, Vice President Carolyn Marret delivered the Toast to the Flower of Scotland. While desert was being served, Howard and Patty Hughes delivered the Toast to the Lads and Lasses. President David McCreath introduced Mark Johnson, commissioner of programs and education who delivered the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Coterie and Silver Arm performed during the evening along with the Louisville Pipe Band under the direction of Pipe Major Robert Caudil and Drum Major Rick MacKenzie. The Royal Scottish Country Dancers under direction of Joyce Deddens performed several dance numbers and invited those attending to join in. Door prizes were given out as Silver Arm performed during the rest of the evening. At the end of the celebration all were gathered in the center area and sang Auld Lang Syne to declare the new Millennium. Many thanks are due to Pat Schweitzer, who planned most of the evening, to Connie Fry and her group who decorated the hall, to Patty and Howard Hughes for making such a delicious Haggis and giving the toast to Lads and Lasses, and to all who contributed time and effort to making the evening such a grand success!



Tour of Scotland 2000

Annie Bolger who planned the tour of Scotland in June 2000 for Louisville Scottish Society members announced that 35 people have signed up for the tour. There are still 5 places available, but you must hurry as the cutoff is February 15, 2000!

The tour features 8 nights in good quality hotels, a tour of Glasgow, the Ballachulish area, Nairn, Perth, and Edinburgh, a cruise Loch Lomond, visit Eilean Donan Castle, Hector Russell Kiltmaker, Balmoral Castle, Scone Palace, Glenlivet Distillery, St. Andrews Castle and Cathedral, and Edinburgh Castle. Cost of the trip will be about \$1900.00, and includes all airfare (except for Louisville to Baltimore), breakfasts and dinners, accommodations, baggage transfers and entrances to the several sites we will visit. Lunches are ours, and tipping of our guides is recommended. There will be time to shop.

A valid passport is required. For more information, call Annie at 1-800-747-2522. Don't miss out! Send your deposit today!

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following Society members; Howard & Patricia Hughes, Janet H. Marshall, Rupert H. Furgerson, William Hockensmith, Jeanie Cummings, Sandra Donaldson, James Erskine, Matthew Elliott, Shirley Dillon

Happy birthday to you all!

If your name was not included in the list, your date was not listed in the society roster. Call or write to Commissioner of Member Services, The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc., PO Box 32248, Louisville, KY 40232-2248.

Book Club

The Scottish Society Book club has not been reorganized to date. Watch for the announcement of its 2000 start-up in the newsletter.

The Heritage Fund Opened

Patty Hughes, treasurer of The Scottish Society of Louisville, announced that the Heritage Fund is officially opened. This fund is to be used for grants to those who are wanting to study dancing, harping, piping and drumming and special projects and events related to Scottish and Scottish-American heritage. See the Presidents Comments in this newsletter for a full report on this fund.

The Kentucky Tartan

At 2:00 p.m. Thursday, 20 January 2000, the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives enacted the KENTUCKY TARTAN RESOLUTION. This effort was begun and ushered through by our own Rupert Furgerson II, to insure that Kentucky Scots will have their own tartan to display. Thanks Rupert! The Kentucky Tartan proclamation event is scheduled (tentatively) to take place in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, April 5, 2000 at 11:45 a.m. Watch the newsletter for further announcements and changes of schedule.

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Scottish Folk-tales and Legends

"MacCodrum of the Seals"

Before the first sailors turned the prows of their ships seawards to discover what lay beyond their own homelands, the King and Queen of the sea dwelt below the waves in peace and happiness. They had many lovely sea-children, brown-eyed and straight of limb, who spent the day playing with the wild sea-horses and swimming through the groves of purple sea-anemones that grow on the ocean bed. They loved to make music, and wherever they went there was a sound of singing like the laughing of the waves.

But one day a great sadness came to the King of the sea and his children, for the Queen fell ill and died and was buried with much sorrowing among the coral caves of their kingdom. And when she had gone, there was no one to look after the sea-children, to comb their beautiful hair and lull them to sleep with soft sea-music. The King heard them tossing restlessly at night when they could not get to sleep, and thought to himself that he should find a new wife to care for his children.

Now in the dark sea-forest there lived a strange sea-witch, whom the King asked to be his new wife, although he felt no love for her, for his heart was buried in the coral caves where his dear Queen lay. The sea-witch thought that it would be a fine thing to be Queen of the sea and rule over such a vast kingdom; and so she consented to marry the King. But she was a bad stepmother, for when she saw the brown eyes and straight limbs of the sea-children, she was jealous of their beauty, and resentful that anyone more lovely should dwell in the sea.

One day she went back to her dark sea-forest and picked the evil yellow berries of the sea-grape that grew there, and distilled a magic potion, and wished a cruel enchantment upon the sea-children. She wished that they should lose their straight-limbed bodies and be changed into seals. As seals she wished that they should swim through the sea forever, except one day each year, when they could regain their own shapes from sundown to sundown.

This magic came upon the sea-children as they played and wandered about on the ocean floor. Their lovely arms turned into clumsy flippers, and their fair skins were overcast with silken coats of grey and black and brown. But they still kept their soft brown eyes, and still were able to make the music that they loved.

When their father discovered what had happened, his anger was great against the wicked sea-witch, and he banished her to live in her dark sea-forest for ever. But he could not undo the magic she had wrought. Then the seals who had once been sea-children sang their lament that they could no longer stay with their

father in the place where they and once been happy, and sorrowfully the old King watched them swim away.

It happened that there was once a fisherman called Roderic MacCodrum, who lived by himself on the Isle of Berneray, in the Outer Hebrides. One day he was walking along the shore where his boat lay when he heard a sound of singing coming from a among of rocks near by. Cautiously he approached the rocks and peered over the top. There before his eyes were several sea-children playing until the sun went down for the second time. Shortly after sundown, Roderic heard a strange sad noise outside the door. When he looked out, he saw a fair woman with straight limbs and eyes brown and soft. 'Oh, help me, mortal man,' she pleaded. 'I have lost my silken seal skin, and may never return to my brothers and sisters until I find it again.' Roderic said he could not help her, but she could stay as long as she liked and become his wife.

For many years Roderic MacCodrum and his sad wife lived by the sea, and had many children, all with gold-brown hair and soft voices for singing. And the people who lived about that lonely isle called Roderic 'MacCodrum of the Seals' because he had taken a seal woman to be his wife; and his children were called 'the Children of MacCodrum of the Seals'.

from 'Scottish Folk-tales & Legends', by
Barbara Ker Wilson



Bits and Pieces

• A **Nominating committee** was formed to find persons for jobs. Howard Hughes, Judy Keown, Jack Bowling, Mark Johnson and Art Stead have agreed to 'man' the committee. They will be finding new board members for the Commissioners and members-at-large positions. Also a new Hospitality chair will be found.

• A **Sadie Hawkins** dance is being given by the Louisville Contra Dance group. It will be on Feb 28th at the St Andrews Episcopal Church on Woodbourne. The dance will start at 8pm. Women are encouraged to wear their best man betting bonnet (or wench dress) and the men are to wear their best running away shoes. It should be fun for all.

• April 1st the Pipe Band will host a Celtic festival at the Clifton Center from 7:30 until ? The ticket will be \$10.00 each.

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2000

Tuesday, February 8 -- SSL Board Meeting, Strathmoor Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25 -- SSL Monthly Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Program: "Border Ballads: The Growth of The Tradition" presented by Mark Johnson.

Monday, February 28 - Sadie Hawkins dance at the St Andrews Episcopal Church on Woodbourne at the St Andrews Episcopal Church on Woodbourne at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14 -- SSL Board Meeting, Strathmoor Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28 -- SSL Monthly Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Program: "Starting Your Geneological Research" presented by Minnie Hamilton.

President's Comments

A new way to support Scottish arts and culture was introduced at the Burns Night celebration - "The Heritage Fund". It is a new fund, separated from our regular operating budget, and will be used for grants to people wanting to study dancing, harping, piping and drumming; it will be used for special projects and events related to Scottish and Scottish-American heritage. The responsibility for management of The Heritage Fund will be placed in a five-person committee. Two members of the committee will be from the Board of Directors, and three will be elected by the SSL membership. The committee will recommend grant awards to the Board of Directors, who will retain fiscal responsibility. The first grants will be awarded in 2001, in order to allow the fund to build up. It was begun with one fourth of the proceeds from the December auction. The money is currently in a savings account. The Heritage Fund will be an excellent way to honor friends and relatives who share an interest in Scottish culture. It will be an excellent way to support young people who need a bit of help in getting to piping and dancing workshops. It may be a way to bring instructors into Louisville for advanced training in dance or music or historical research.

I hope every member will make a contribution either large or small to The Heritage Fund. In that way we can fulfill one of the purposes of the Society to promote understanding of Scottish culture in Kentuckiana.

Geneology Group Planned

Minnie Hamilton has joined the Society and plans to start a geneology group. Call Minnie at 314-4496 or email: miane@igloo.com for more information.

Glasgow Ned Software

A few copies of the Glasgow Ned edition of Windows 98 may have accidentally been shipped outside Glasgow. If you have one of these you may need some help understanding the opening screen. If you have received a copy of this edition, you may return it to Microsoft for a replacement version.

Ceilidh Dancing for You

We are again advertising an event for our society members who enjoy Ceilidh dancing.

The Louisville Scottish Country Dance Society invites "you" for ceilidh dancing on Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church 2233 Woodbourne Ave, Louisville, KY. Instruction is provided for the group. Cost to the Scottish Society of Louisville members is \$2.00. Call Joyce Deddens at 584-5333 for more information.

Chieftains Performance

The Chieftains will have performance at the Kentucky Center for the Arts on March 3, 2000. Group tickets are available by contacting Pat Schweitzer at 423-0699.

Kentucky Tartan News

As the Kentucky general assembly met in February, one of the items on the agenda was the proposed Kentucky Tartan. Thanks goes out to Rupert Fergusson and Carolyn Cook for their diligence in this endeavor. Appreciation goes to Barbara Pierpont for weaving our idea into something tangible.

Ale Tasting & Dinner

The Bluegrass Highlanders invites you to attend a Scottish Beer and Ale Tasting reception and dinner Sunday, February 27 at Cafe Joseph-Beth in Lexington, KY, starting at 7:00 p.m. Call or write to Bill Gordon (606) 276-2674 PO Box 22772, Henry Clay Station, Lexington, KY 40522 for reservations or information. Seating is limited - make reservations early.

"Dinna gut your fish till ye get them"

(Don't count your chickens
until they hatch)

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TUESDAY, February 22, 2000 - at 7:30 p.m.

"Border Ballads: The Growth of The Tradition"

Presented by
Mark Johnson

Strathmoor Presbyterian Church,
2201 Hawthorne Blvd., corner of Bardstown Rd
across from Assumption High School
1/2 mile north of the Watterson (I-264)

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2248

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Minutes from January 2000

The meeting was opened at 7:30 by President David McCreath. Treasurer's Report: Bal 12/31/99 \$13,323.08, Income \$6,952.39, Expenses \$723.75, bal \$1,439.77, ckg bal \$19,487.46. (\$5,000 of which is in a CD). The long range planning committee is to be formed and headed by the Vice President, 2 members-at-large & 1 member from the general membership to plan the coming year. The Heritage fund was opened by the Treasurer, to help those who want to further their Celtic education. Current balance = \$651.76. No payouts until 2001. A Nominating committee was formed to find persons for jobs. Howard Hughes, Judy Keown, Jack Bowling, Mark Johnson and Art Stead have agreed to 'man' the committee. They will be finding new board members for the Commissioners, hospitality chair & members-at-large positions. Rupert Ferguson has worked to have the KY Tartan passed by the KY legislature.

External relations: Pat Schweitzer; Celtic Festival in Cincy in Oct. Chieftain tickets are on sale. A quarterly Celtic music night at the Ruyard Kipling is being planned. Dates to be announced. Friday, Jan 28, the Decorators will be meeting at the Olmstead between 5:00 and 5:30pm. Burns reservations cutoff is Thurs. Jan 27th.