



The Dallas Scotsman

Official publication of *The Scottish Society of Dallas*



Sharing Scottish History & Culture with North Texans since 1963

January 2016

President: Larry Duncan (214-497-3857)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Ceud mìle fàilte,

I love the holidays when friends and family gather to celebrate together. I hope all of you had as good a time as we did. Now it is time to build a great 2017.

Our January meetings will feature Lynn Witherspoon's presentations on "Two Places Set Apart: Iona and New Lanark." That will be followed in the next two months by Highland Games and Scottish Country Dancing, respectively.

The highlight will when we join in with Scots all over the world to celebrate at the Robert Burns Dinner Dance presented by the Dallas chapter of The Daughters of Caledonia. It is amazing that this will be the 113th time the Daughters have hosted this grand event. We are honored to be able to work with such a venerable institution.

We will round out the first quarter by participating in the Scottish Village at the North Texas Irish Festival in Fair Park, Dallas and the inaugural Sherman Celtic Festival and Highland Games. This is one of the biggest crowds to which we have access. It is a wonderful opportunity to share our Scottish heritage and traditions as well as to recruit new members.

Frequently the Society's material portrays a thistle, the national symbol of Scotland. This harkens back to 1263 when invading Vikings from Norway landed on Scottish shores. Legend has it that these Vikings tried to surprise a group of sleeping Scots. In order to move more stealthily under the cover of darkness the Norsemen removed their footwear. But as they crept barefoot one stepped on a thistle and yelled. Thus warned the Scots defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Largs, thus Scotland. In recognition the thistle was chosen as Scotland's national emblem.

Contact Us:

Newsletter/ Comments:

Linda Means:
linda.j.means@gmail.com

Circulation Questions/ Membership Chair:

Mark Clark:
mclark5060@yahoo.com

SSOD Dues/Questions:

Scottish Society of Dallas
c/o Mark Clark
7484 Pudín Hill Road
Aubrey, TX 76227

Meeting Location

The Garland Women's Activi-
ties Building
713 Austin St.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the President....	2
Legend of Robert Burns.....	3
Christmas Party	3
Recipes.....	6
Scottish Phrases	4
Scots Are Cookin,' Aye!.....	4
Calendar of Events.....	4

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

Larry Duncan
larryduncan2001@hotmail.com

Vice President

Larry "Max" Maxwell
max@maxlaw.com

Treasurer

Margaret Aitken
aitken.j@att.net

Secretary

Fiona Alpaugh
dancingkilts@hotmail.com

Membership

Mark Clark
mclark5060@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Linda Means
linda.j.means@gmail.com

Trustees

Myra Ballantyne
Gene Teakell
Jean Siegel
Christa Davis (IPP)

Web Masters

Scott & Becky Fischer
scottwfischer@yahoo.com
bfischertx@gmail.com

"Sunshine"

Eileen Duermeyer
scottishlass1@hotmail.com

Refreshments

Jean Siegel
scotlullaby@att.net
Bonita McInroy
bonita@printelectric.com

Auditor

Michael Elliott

Photographer

Gene Teakell

THE LEGEND OF THE BURNS SUPPER

In 1801, on the fifth anniversary of the death of Robert Burns, nine men who knew him met for dinner in Burns Cottage in Alloway to celebrate his life and works. The Master of Ceremonies was a local minister a liberal theologian and an equally liberal host. Hamilton Paul and his guests shared Masonic brotherhood with Rabbie and Paul devised an evening which looked a bit like a lodge ceremonial, centered on a fine fat haggis; with recitation and singing of Burns' works and a toast (in verse) to the memory of their friend and hero.

It was such a jolly evening, all agreed to meet again the following January for a Birthday Dinner for the bard, little knowing that they had invented a global phenomenon that we know as the BURNS SUPPER which still broadly follows the Reverend's original plan.

Burns' popularity grew rapidly after his untimely death and the idea of meeting annually to share his poems and songs in the bonds of friendship caught the public imagination. Some Ayrshire merchants in Greenock followed with the first Burns Club Supper in January 1802 and the West coast towns with strong links to Rabbie reached out and joined in the new festival: Paisley, Irvine, Kilmarnock and Dumfries.

Typically, a dozen or more men sat down to dine - as often working men as the middle classes - sometimes in a bar Rab had frequented. But the real link was his poetry with its message of love, freedom and the essential value of humanity. Many early suppers were organised by Burns Clubs who exist today, but a big boost in participation came with the big literary Burns Suppers, the original organised by Sir Walter Scott in Edinburgh in 1815 with Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd giving the Immortal Memory.

GOING GLOBAL

The first Supper outwith Scotland was at Oxford University in 1806 (hosted by a few Glasgow students) with London seeing its first Bard-day party in 1810. Wherever there were Scots merchants trading in the English county towns, festivals sprung up over the next twenty years.

The format was popular - whether as part of a wider club or an annual combination of party and poetry. In those days many Scots received a good education at home then packed off to foreign climes to seek a fortune (or at least build the empire) and the Burns Supper followed them. Army officers held India's first supper as early as 1812; traders travelled about the same time to Canada and were Addressing the Haggis in a colder January wind than they'd remembered back home; merchants and ministers (and maybe even a few convicts) carried Burns' works to Australia with Festivals from 1823 and the first formal Burns Supper in 1844; while the poets own nephew helped found the city and Burns Club of Dunedin in New Zealand.

It would be wrong to see the Burns Supper as a purely imperial story. From the early publication of Rabbie's works in Philadelphia, America had warmed to his talent and a philosophy which chimed with the new-born Columbia thus bringing the Burns Supper to a wider range of people than just the Diaspora. Similarly, in the twentieth century, Burns and his supper jumped the wall into the two communist superpowers as China and particularly Russia embraced a herald of the poetical red dawn. Even today, Russian Januaries abound with exuberant Burns Suppers! And in terms of cross cultural fertilisation, the modern invention of Gung Haggis Fat Choy combining the Scots and Chinese heritages of Vancouver would be a party that Burns would certainly smile at!

THE LEGACY OF THE BURNS SUPPER

It is a unique legacy. No other poet is fêted across the world on his birthday and it is spontaneous - no central body writes the rules, or organises the speakers, or sets the tone. Like Rabbe, the Burns Supper is totally open to all.

In 2009, the Homecoming year - his 250th anniversary - saw hundreds of Burns Suppers as an important part of the special celebration's programme so visitors and residents could join in the fun and festival which is the basis as the First Minister said: to honour Burns himself as well as those who keep his legacy alive in Scotland and across the world today.

So however you celebrate Burns Night, whether you host a grand banquet, or even just have a few friends around the kitchen table: take your haggis, relish his poems and, of course raise a generous toast to his genius and you're sharing in a gift that Scotland has given the whole world - which started simply with nine men in a cottage and now resounds throughout the globe!

(Article published in scotland.org/features/the-legend-of-the-burns-supper)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES

This year's was a complete success. Many thanks to those who brought their wonderful food. There was dancing and even our own Scottish Santa showed up with a sack full of gifts for the little lads and lassies.



Gaelic Proverbs

(hp.europe.de/kd-eurotravel/gaelic/proverb.htm)

An nì chì na big, 's e nì na big.

What the little ones see, the little ones do.

Cha deoch-slàint, i gun a tràghadh.

It's no health if the glass is not emptied.

Cha bhi fios aire math an tobair gus an tràigh e.

The value of the well is not known until it goes dry.

Cha dèan 'Tapadh leis an fhìdhlear' am fìdhlear a phàigheadh.

A 'thank you' doesn't pay the fiddler.

Cha b'è là na gaoithe là nan sgoib.

The windy day is not the day for thatch-wattles.

Bidh an t-ubhal as fheàrr air a'mheangan as àirde.

The best apple is on the highest bough.

Ge milis am fion, tha e searbh ri dhiol.

The wine is sweet, the paying bitter.

Fear sam bith a loisgeas a mhàs, 's e fhèin a dh'fheumas suidhe air.

Whoever burns his backside must himself sit upon it.

Gluais faicilleach le cupan làn.

Go carefully with a full cup.

Is e 'n t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach.

The learning in youth is the pretty learning.

An làmb a bheir, 's i a gheibh.

The hand that gives is the hand that gets.

Chan ann leis a'chiad bhuille thuiteas a'chraobh.

It is not with the first stroke that the tree falls.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

This year's was a complete success. Many thanks to those who brought their wonderful food. There was dancing and even our own Scottish Santa showed up with a sack full of gifts for the little lads and lassies.





What's in a Name?

Texas County Names in "Tartan for Me" (... Continued)

In Nov. 2015, we began an etymological journey through the list of 112 Texas counties (44% of the state's 254 counties) whose names appear in the book: *Tartan for Me*. We continue now with **Cass**:

Cass County (Tartan = Paisley District) Located east of Dallas, between Interstates 20 and 30, with its eastern border touching both Arkansas and Louisiana, the history of the county's name is an interesting one. It was originally named in honor of **Lewis Cass**, a US Senator from Michigan of all places! The honor was originally bestowed upon this Yankee, because he had favored and supported annexation of the Republic of Texas, in the mid-1840s...however, the **secession crisis** still loomed ahead. In 1857, President James Buchanan selected Senator Cass to serve as the 22nd *Secretary of State*. Cass resigned his post on 13-Dec-1860, when President Buchanan refused to defend the federal forts in Charleston, SC. Previously viewed by many Southerners as a Yankee with Southern principles, Cass's stance regarding the forts at Charleston, altered that opinion and Cass County was renamed shortly thereafter to Davis County, in honor of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy. A republican-controlled state legislature would put things back in order in 1871, by reinstating the Cass name. The city of Linden, the county seat, sits at the intersection of US-59 and state highways: 8, 11 and 155. Atlanta, northeast of Linden, is county's largest city. A predominately agricultural county, the cash crop well into the 1900s was cotton, while corn and hogs served as the primary food products. As with so many Lone Star counties oil would eventually surface as an additional source of revenue and employment in the 1930s and -40s. Oil revenues are no longer what they once were, but the county has added natural gas to the list of items that is offered for sale. Today,

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes...it is that time again: time to think about renewing your membership for the 2017 calendar year. Dues officially come due on the 1st of January of each year.

For membership questions, please contact Mark Clark at either mclark5060@yahoo.com or mail at the address listed below.

Please send your \$25.00 membership payment to:

Scottish Society of Dallas
c/o Mark Clark
7484 Pudis Hill Rd.
Aubrey, TX 76227

SCOTS ARE COOKIN', AYE!

With the weather in Texas not making up its mind, here are a few desert recipes to cool off when it's a bit warm and to stay warm when it is a bit chilly outside. Enjoy! These recipes are from rampantscotland.com

Drambuie Ice Cream

Drambuie is supposedly made to a recipe which the fleeing Bonnie Prince Charlie gave to the Mackinnons of Strathaird as thanks for looking after him. It was made in small quantities by the MacKinnons until the start of this century when an astute member of the clan started making it in larger quantities for sale. The name comes from the Gaelic "an dram buidbeach" or "the drink that satisfies". It is possible to just pour Drambuie liqueur over ice cream or sorbet and obtain a lovely dessert but here is a recipe for making home made ice cream flavoured with Bonnie Prince Charlie's personal liqueur.

Ingredients:

4oz/125g caster sugar (fine granulated sugar)
6 tablespoons water
6 egg yolks
7 fluid ounces (210ml) double cream, lightly whipped
3 tablespoons Drambuie

(Note: In Britain a tablespoon holds 17.7 ml while in America it holds 14.2 ml; all measurements in this section are in British values.)

Method:

Bring the water and sugar to the boil in a small saucepan and then set aside. Whisk the egg yolks over a bain marie. Once they are light in colour, add the water and sugar mixture and whisk until it forms a ribbon. Then remove from the heat and continue to whisk until it is cool. Add the Drambuie and the lightly whipped cream. Freeze overnight. Serve with soft fruit or apple pie.

Apple Butterscotch Pie

Butterscotch is a brittle sweet (candy) made from sugar and butter which has long been popular. This pie is not brittle - but it's just as tasty and has meringue on top!

Ingredients:

A 22cm/9" pastry lined flan case
Eating apples to fill the flan case completely
3 ounces (100g or scant \square cup) demerara (light brown) sugar
4 ounces (125g or two-thirds cup) granulated sugar
2 tablespoons plum jam
2 level tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons cream
3 eggs (one complete and two egg whites)
Small pinch of salt

Method:

You can use a ready-prepared pastry flan case or make your own (see the [Flan Case](#) recipe page). Thinly slice the apples and fill the case completely.

Beat together one egg and one tablespoon of cream. Mix this with the brown sugar, flour and pinch of salt. Spread this mixture over the apples and bake in a preheated oven at 220C/425F/Gas mark 7 for ten minutes. Then reduce the heat to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4 for a further 20 minutes or so, until the apples are soft.

Make a meringue topping by placing two egg whites in a dry bowl and beat with an electric whisk until firm peaks form. Add the white sugar gradually, beating constantly until the mixture is thick and glossy and all the sugar has dissolved. Spread the plum jam over the apple and then spoon the meringue over the filling. Swirl into peaks with a fork or flat-bladed knife. Bake for a further 20 minutes or so until the meringue is lightly golden. Serve cold.

Chocolate Fudge

Fudge (and tablet) is a popular form of sweet confection in Scotland - and it sells particularly well in tourist shops. It can have many flavours added to it, from various fruit essences to whisky. The one here uses vanilla but feel free to experiment! Unlike a number of fudge recipes, it does not involve boiling the ingredients.

Ingredients:

3 ounces (90g or \square stick) full fat cream cheese
2 ounces (60g) chocolate, chopped into pieces
10 ounces (275g) sieved icing sugar (frosting)
Salt to taste
Vanilla essence to taste

Method:

Beat the cream cheese until it is smooth and then beat in the sieved sugar. Melt the chocolate in a basin over hot water. Allow the chocolate to cool but while still liquid, beat in the cheese and sugar mixture, together with the vanilla essence and salt. Press the mixture into a greased tin (measuring about 6x4) and smooth the top. Chill until smooth enough to cut into rough squares.

many residents travel across county lines for non-agricultural employment at Lone Star Steel in Morris County or the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant in Bowie County.

Chambers County (Tartan = Cameron)
Chambers County lies immediately east of Harris County (ie: Houston) and the county includes Goat Island, which – together with Galveston Island – forms a natural, protective barrier for the waterway leading to the numerous ports for seagoing vessels in the greater Houston area. Water from the Trinity River, which has its start here in North Texas, flows through Chambers County and empties into Trinity Bay, eventually entering the Gulf of Mexico. As one might imagine, the county's climate is rated as subtropical and humid with a growing season that averages 261 days per year and annual rainfall that averages 49 inches. The county seat is Anahuac, situated at the intersection of SH63 and FM563. The county was named for Thomas Jefferson Chambers a lawyer and land speculator. Born in Virginia, in April of 1802, he was the 20th and youngest child of Thomas and Mary Chambers. (Mary was his father's second wife and he was her ninth child.) His father died when he was young and his mother relocated the family to Kentucky, to be near members of her family. After completing his basic education, he taught school while clerking for various judges in preparation for a career in the law. At one point he moved to Mexico for the express purpose of learning Spanish, and then settled in Texas – prior to Texas independence – where he earned a living translating for businessmen and teaching English. After obtaining certification as a surveyor, he was appointed surveyor general in 1829. Over the course of the next five to six years he would hold a number of influential positions within the (Mexican) state of Texas – including chief justice of the state supreme court. During the Texas revolution he was granted the rank of Major General in return for raising an army of men from his old home in Kentucky. Much of his later life, during the years of the Republic and the early years of US statehood, found him involved in various legal skirmishes over his land claims. He was a colorful character and made his share of enemies, but always remained well connected with men in a position of power ... thus keeping himself out of jail! In the end, he died at the hand of an assassin on March 30, 1865.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Burns Night Dinner & Dance

(Sponsored by: Dallas Chapter of The Daughters of Caledonia)

Saturday, January 28, 2017

Doors open at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m.

Note: Five of the last seven Burns Dinners sold out! Do not wait until the last minute to get your 2017 tickets!

North Texas Irish Festival

(Sponsored by the Southwest Celtic Music Association)

March 3-5, 2017

Fair Park in Dallas, TX

The Dallas Scotsman

3023 Ruidosa Ave
Dallas, TX 75228

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