



the

thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

**Tartan Day
Dinner
April 5, 2010**

April 2010

National Tartan Day was established in 2005 by the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the mighty contribution Scots have made to the growth of the United States.

Our own celebration of Tartan Day will again be at the Tam O'Shanter Inn in Los Feliz. Your invitation and reservation form is inside this newsletter. Fill it out and send it in to reserve your place. Seats are limited, so do it **NOW!**

Calcutta Cup

RBS 6 Nations

For many of you the above headline will be unfamiliar. For Scots and English rugby enthusiasts however, it is the annual competition between the two countries to secure the possession of this ancient award for the ensuing year. On Christmas Day 1872, a game of rugby, between 20 players representing England on the one side and 20 representing Scotland, was played in Calcutta, India.

The match was such a success that it was repeated a week later — the game of rugby had reached India. These lovers of rugby formed the Calcutta Football Club in January 1873.

The Calcutta Club joined the Rugby Football Union in

Please see Calcutta Cup, page 2

a message from John E. Lowry, FSA Scot President.



Dear Members,
Outgoing President John L. Benton M.D. reported quite modestly to the assembled

members at the recent AGM in citing the accomplishments of his administration. He and the outgoing Trustees are to be thanked most heartily for their work and dedication to the Society for the past two years—and so many more years for some. We, myself and the newly elected Board, are taking on the tremendous responsibility of leading this venerable eighty-year-old organization, but we do so with a feeling of confidence and clear purpose to achieve the goals we have set and are just now setting, for ourselves, for you the Membership, and for the good of the Society.

First and foremost, we dedicate our service to you, our members, our most important asset. No amount of activity on our part means anything if we are not properly representing you.

Conversely, we need your support. We selfishly seek your continued review and approval of our plans for your Society and, naturally, as with any organization, it is the voices of "members in good standing" that will be heard. Yes, we are at the middle of March but it is not too late to pay your 2010 dues and get involved. There are committees to be named, some for specific duties and some standing (ongoing) committees that will all make a difference in the direction and purpose of our Society. Please let us know that you are willing and able to serve.

As I think of the amount of talent pooled together on this new Board, I am in awe of the knowledge and experience they bring to the table. There is still a deep reservoir of SASLA know-how and, having served as V.P. to two very capable men in Messrs. Benton and J. Howard Standing, I plead guilty to inclusion in this venerable lot. But the newer members with widely divergent skill and knowledge will keep us sharp and quick!

In Gear

The regular article on SASLA members' cars is suspended for this issue. Instead, this short article will serve to introduce a new series devoted to Scottish Motor Racing Legends. As those of you who follow motor sport will already know, there are many of them. Perhaps two of the best known are

Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart. Both won the Formula 1 World Drivers Championship multiple times. Clark put the now famed car Lotus on the map for designer Colin Chapman, while Stewart was the mainstay for BRM and after 1967 for Tyrrell, with whom he won his three F1 driver's

Queen Mary Games February 13 and 14, 2010

See page 6 for review.



L-R: Rod Schreckengost, John Benton, Annie Schreckengost.

Now, the SASLA calendar becomes a blur of activity starting off with this year's Tartan Day Dinner on April 5 at the Tam O'Shanter Inn. Look for the insert in this *Thistle* and make your reservations for a great evening of all things Scottish! And keep watch for all further communications concerning this season's activities. Stand with us as we take the Society to the forefront of Southern California Scottish organizations. It may be a wild ride but you won't regret it! Thanks and there's more to come.

Contact John Lowry via email at: jemmettlowry@aol.com



championships. Clark and Stewart were the trailblazers but many more boy, and girl, racers were to follow in their footsteps cementing Scotland's place as a fertile breeding ground for motor racing talent.

The Thistle will introduce them to you over the coming issues.

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The Thistle is the official publication of the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. It is published four times a year. Deadline for each issue is the first day of March, June, September & December. Submit articles, photographs, and address changes to the editor at: rees1@mac.com.

or
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The publisher accepts no responsibility for the opinions expressed, accuracy of information, or similarity of names submitted by authors.

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Letter from the Editor



This space is normally reserved for the Letter from Edinburgh, penned for the last eight issues of *The Thistle* by Kenneth Stewart, the Secretary of the World Federation of Scottish Societies in Edinburgh.

As I announced at the annual general meeting (AGM), March 6, Kenneth is currently battling health-related challenges, including a temporary vision impairment, which have prevented him from writing his regular personal view from Scotland. I have sent Kenneth, on behalf of the entire membership, our best wishes and prayers for an early return to his normally robust health.

Many of you I am sure tuned in to the ABC television network Sunday March 7th to watch the annual Oscar award ceremony. **The Hurt Locker** garnished no less than six Oscars, including Best Picture, an amazing achievement for a low budget film, competing with the likes of Avatar. As it is also the least commercially successful winner in Academy history it is likely that many of you have not seen it. The film received a lot of negative criticism in the weeks leading up to the award ceremony, mostly from military veterans who disliked the alleged inaccuracy of the detail portrayed in the film. I cannot confirm or deny whether they are correct or not, but I certainly tend to believe that their criticism is justified. For me, however, and many other people I have spoken to from a wide age group, it doesn't matter. The film reminded me of the fact that men and women in the military are putting their lives on the line every day. Whether you believe the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are right or wrong, justified or not, soldiers do not have that luxury. Sitting in our comfortable homes, the reports on the news often seem distant and unconnected with our lives. **The Hurt Locker** is a reminder that for those in uniform war is all too real. A reality that for many means physical disablement or death. If you haven't seen it, think about doing so. It deserves commercial success as well as critical acclaim. 

Calcutta Cup, continued from page 1

1874. Despite the Indian climate not being entirely suitable for playing rugby, the club prospered during that first year. However, when the free bar had to be discontinued, the membership took an appreciable drop. The members decided to disband but keen to perpetuate the name of the club, they withdrew the club's funds from the bank, which were in silver rupees, had them melted down and made into a cup which they presented to the RFU in 1878, with the provision that it should

be competed for annually. As of 2010, 117 Calcutta Cup matches have taken place. Currently, this game is the annual match between the two nations in the Six Nations Championship. The ground alternates between Murrayfield Stadium in Scotland (on even years) and Twickenham Stadium, England, (on odd years). March 13, 2010 the two sides competed to a 15 point draw. As England won the cup in 2009 it remains in the hallowed halls of Twickenham for another year. 

Saint Andrew's Society Los Angeles Calendar of Events

April 5, 2010

Tartan Day Dinner

Tam O'Shanter Inn, Los Feliz

May 29 & 30, 2010

ScotsFest, Costa Mesa

New Member Reception

Date TBA

Garden Party

Date TBA

Ceilidh

Date TBA

Kirkin of The Tartans

Date TBA

Oct 8, 9 & 10, 2010

Seaside Highland Games

For up-to-the-minute news and information about current and future activities, check the society website.

www.saintandrewsla.org



In Memoriam

Lennis "Bud" Bartlett, passed away February 8, 2010. Born December 27, 1937 in Los Angeles to Larry & Dot Bartlett, Bud graduated from Mark Keppel HS in 1955 and served in the US Navy 1956-1962. A graduate of Cal State LA, he taught science at Arcadia High School for 31 years. Bud had many hobbies: Model A motor cars, trains, and Scottish heritage. He is survived by wife Vicky of 45 years; son, Kynn; daughter Denise Fournier (Kevin); grandsons Pdraig, Liam, and Colin. A service was held February 20 at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and was attended by John Lowry and other representatives of the Saint Andrew's Society. Bud had been a member of SASLA since 2005.

Scotland's Influence in the United States

A series of articles prepared by David Cargill

The Scots were a valuable addition to a developing world. Their past experience of working in the harsh conditions of rural Scotland, combined with their hard-working Presbyterian upbringing, made them an ideal people to help build America in its formative years.

The Scottish emigrants of the 18th Century were an educated group due to the Scottish Reformation, which had stressed the need for education, so every Scot could read the Bible.

Education has always played an important part in Scottish

society, and these Scots played a crucial role in the early development of the New World. Most headmasters of the schools in the new colonies south of New York were Scottish or of Scottish ancestry. These establishments were fundamental in the education of America's future leaders; both Thomas Jefferson's and John Rutledge's tutors were Scottish immigrants.

In this continuing series of articles we will introduce Scots or persons of Scottish descent who have left their indelible mark on the American landscape – Ed.

Andrew Carnegie



The 19th century 'captain' of American industry, Andrew Carnegie, represents the real life rags-to-riches rise from abject poverty to the richest man in the world!

Carnegie was born in 1835 in Dunfermline. As the son of a weaver, he was expected to follow in his father's footsteps working in the handloom linen industry, but hard financial times in Scotland forced the

Carnegie family to emigrate to Pennsylvania USA.

At the young age of 13, Andrew's first job was as a bobbin boy changing spools of thread in a cotton mill for twelve hours a day, six days a week. Andrew's mother, Margaret, worked binding shoes, and his father William and brother Thomas, both worked weaving and peddling linens.

However, over the next five years, Andrew moved from weaving into the telegraph industry. At the same time Andrew was attracting the attention of Thomas A. Scott, the owner of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the eighteen year old Scot was offered the chance of a lifetime, Superintendent of the entire Pittsburgh Division.

Andrew seized the opportunity, confident this would create a better life for himself and his family. The ambitious teen requested access to Thomas A. Scott's large personal library of books, reading volumes on management, cost controls and investments. Before long, the canny Scotsman was accumulating personal capital and invested in steel, ironworks, and oil with millions of dollars in cash dividends.

As Andrew's business acumen grew, he attracted the attention of not only successful American businessmen but also U.S. Presidents. The Scotsman was mixing with the richest men in America.

By 1880 aged 45 years, Andrew was writing his own books, buying up multiple newspaper companies worldwide and

controlling the entire iron and steel production in the USA. In 1881 Carnegie took his family back home to Dunfermline where his 70 year old mother laid the foundation stone of a new Carnegie Library. More generous gifts to his home town would follow: Carnegie Hall Theatre, Carnegie Swimming Baths, and the purchase of an entire expansive city park for the residents.

In 1886 Andrew married Louise and they had one daughter, Margaret. As Andrew focused more on his family, he was preparing to retire and concentrate his efforts assisting worldwide charities and learning institutions. Eventually, Andrew sold his business empire to financier J.P. Morgan for \$380 million; Morgan said to Carnegie "you are now the richest man in the world."

As he entered his sixties, Andrew stated, "the man who dies rich dies disgraced." True to his word, the millionaire funded 3000 libraries in 47 US states and throughout the world, with considerable donations for theatres, libraries, schools, and universities. He also funded multiple world peace initiatives, including the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands.

Carnegie died on August 16th 1919 of bronchial pneumonia in Lennox, Massachusetts. By the time Andrew's life was over he had donated \$350 million dollars of his wealth and also left \$125 million to the Carnegie Corporation to support benefactions after his death. 🇨🇦



Statue of Andrew Carnegie, Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland

In the Dog House



The 2010 Westminster Kennel Club Best In Show Trophy was awarded to "Ch. Roundtown Mercedes Of Maryscot," a.k.a. "Sadie," a Scottish Terrier.

A Scottish terrier named Ch. Roundtown Mercedes Of Maryscot, Sadie to her friends, has won Best in Show following her win in the terrier group at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. 🐾

How to get to Heaven from Scotland...

I was testing children in my Glasgow Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting into heaven.

I asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big jumble sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?" "NO!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?" Again, the answer was "No!"

By now I was starting to smile.

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?" Again, they all answered "No!"

I was just bursting with pride for them.

I continued, "Then how can I get into heaven?" A six year old boy shouted, "Yuv goat tae be bloody deid." Kinda brings a wee tear tae yir e'e...

The Knights Templar and Scotland by Robert Ferguson

Published by The History Press
The Mill, Brimscombe Port,
Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2QG, UK.
Publication Date 25 January 2010.



This Book started out as a question in the author's mind and has ended up as a extensive study of the Knights Templar in Scotland. The question was "Is the phrase 'Scotland – The Unbroken Templar Link' true?" This leads to many more questions and resulted in three years of research and writing.

This book is interesting and

informative as well as enjoyable to read and any reader or student of Scottish or Templar History will want to have a copy of this book in their library. 🐾

Full review by James Nethery, FSA Scot is available online at www.saintandrewsla.org. Robert Ferguson and James Nethery are both SASLA members. *Ed.*

www.saintandrewsla.org

Scotch Corner

Those of you who attended Burns' Night January 30 had the opportunity to taste a unique single malt – The Balvenie Madeira Cask, aged 17 Years.

Here is a brief reminder of this distinctive limited bottling.

The Balvenie Madeira Cask was aged exclusively in traditional American oak whisky casks before being transferred to barrels previously used in the production of fortified Madeira wine.

NOSE: Rich, deep and complex. Spicy, earthy oak notes with subtle

hints of vanilla and honey. Soft fruit aromas, a slow baked apple infused with cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg.

TASTE: The deep, luxurious aromas translate into an equally rewarding flavour. Initial sweet vanilla oak notes gradually develop into rich spices and dried fruits (apricots, figs, dates).

FINISH: Exceptionally long and an intriguing balance of sweetness and dry oakiness.



Farmer Fleming

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer.

One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the

nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill...

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill. Someone once said – *What goes around comes around.* 🐾

Robert Burns Dinner - 2010

see www.saintandrewsla.org for a complete photo gallery.

One Hundred and ten tartan clad members and their guests filled the main hall at the La Cañada Thursday Club January 30th, 2010 to celebrate Robert Burns' birthday.

A reception and whisky tasting provided by William Grant and Son kicked off the evening to a lively start and the proceedings gathered momentum from there. Music was provided by the award-winning trio Peat, Fire, Flame and the traditional presentation of the Haggis was heralded by our own John Taylor who piped the procession through the hall. World-renowned Burns presenter Andrew Weir then regaled us all with his trademark rendition of Burns' Address to A Haggis. Andrew refused a microphone and for good reason; his thunderous delivery could no doubt be heard throughout La Cañada!

Haggis aficionados were not disappointed and the nine pound beast was soon devoured with liberal libations of the traditional gravy (single malt).

Traditional toasts followed, including the toast to the lassies and the reply from our own Rod and Annie Shreckengost. Jack Dawson proposed the toast to The Immortal Memory and Andrew Weir rounded out the evening with a synopsis of Burns' life and the Scotland that gave birth to his genius.

This was one for the history books. If you missed it, there's always next year! 



Poet's Corner

www.saintandrewsla.org

Poets' Corner is the name given to a section of the South Transept of Westminster Abbey due to the number of poets, playwrights, and writers now buried and commemorated there, including Scotland's own Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Campbell, and Robert Adam.

The first person to be interred there was Geoffrey Chaucer. The erection of a magnificent

tomb by Nicholas Brigham to Chaucer in the middle of the sixteenth century and the nearby burial of Edmund Spenser in 1599 started a tradition that is still upheld. It is hoped that this column will become a similar tradition for *The Thistle*. Unlike the section of Westminster Abbey, it is not necessary that you be dead to be recognized here! 

Born in Glasgow, **Thomas Campbell** was the youngest son of Alexander Campbell, of the Campbells of Kirnan, Argyll. His father belonged to a Glasgow firm trading in Virginia and lost his money in consequence of the American Revolutionary War. Campbell, who was educated at the Glasgow High School and University of Glasgow, won prizes for classics and for verse-writing. He spent the holidays as a tutor in the western Highlands. His poem "Glenara" and the ballad of Lord Ullin's Daughter owe their origin to a visit to Mull. In May 1797 he went to Edinburgh to attend lectures on law. He supported himself by private teaching and by writing, towards which he was helped by Dr Robert Anderson, the editor of the British Poets. Among his contemporaries in Edinburgh were Sir Walter Scott, Henry Brougham, Francis Jeffrey, Dr Thomas Brown, John Leyden and James Grahame. These early days in Edinburgh influenced such works as "The Wounded Hussar," "The Dirge of Wallace" and the "Epistle to Three Ladies."

The Battle of the Baltic is the title of an upbeat, patriotic poem written in 1801 by Thomas Campbell. Its subject is the naval Battle of Copenhagen, fought earlier that year between the fleets of Britain and Denmark.

Its first lines run:

*Of Nelson and the North
Sing the glorious day's renown,
When to battle fierce came forth
All the might of Denmark's crown,
And her arms along the deep proudly
shone.*

In 1803 Campbell married his second cousin, Matilda Sinclair, and settled in London. He was well received in Whig society, especially at Holland House. His prospects, however, were slight when in 1805 he received a government pension of £200. In that year, the Campbells removed to Sydenham. Campbell was at this time regularly employed on *The Star* newspaper, for which he translated the foreign news.

The small production of Campbell may be partly explained by his domestic calamities. His wife died in 1828. Of his two sons, one died in infancy and the other became insane. His own health suffered, and he gradually withdrew from public life. He died at Boulogne in 1844 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. 

Please send your submissions of original compositions, or poems that have special meaning for you to the Editor via email: rees1@mac.com



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for your generous support of
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of Los Angeles.**

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Queen Mary, from page 1

The *Queen Mary* is a unique venue for a Highland Games. Not only because it is the only Highland Games hosted on board a ship. But what a ship! The *Queen Mary* is an authentic product of Scotland. Built at Clydebank on the River Clyde by John Brown & Co., this unique ship exemplifies the fine craftsmanship of Scotland. The Games celebrates this legacy each year with a festival of Scottish culture, music, dance, and an array of products to satisfy all Celtic needs.

The clans were located below the main vendor deck. SASLA was well positioned, as last year, between clan Macpherson and Moffett and across the aisle from the Seaside Games booth hosted by John and Nellie Lowry. Games everywhere are an opportunity to meet friends and exchange news, and the *Queen Mary* is no exception. Planning for the 2011 Games are already underway. If you haven't yet made it to this very special location mark your calendars and make a point next year to join in the fun and camaraderie, as well as witness the pipe band competitions, dancers, sheep-dog demonstrations that take place next to this majestic ship. 



Ian Skone-Rees and Bob Matheson buoyed up on board!