

the

# thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

June 2010

## Blà Allt a'Bhonnaich

The Battle of Bannock Burn (Bannockburn)



Robert a Bruis (Robert the Bruce) King of Scotland 1306-1329

**June 24, 1314** marked a significant victory for the supporters of Robert the Bruce against the English King Edward II.

Despite overwhelming odds Bruce inflicted an uncompromising defeat to Edward that greatly strengthened his position in Scotland. However, as with the battle which was to take place 430 years later, it would be naive to suppose that this was a battle between Scotland and England. As at Culloden there were a significant number of Scots, with different interests to Bruce, fighting for Edward.

The causes of in the middle ages, can often be traced to individual or family instinct for

See **Bannockburn**, page 6

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



**Dear Members,**

I am pleased to report that Past President John Benton has breezed through heart surgery and is back home in Pasadena making a nuisance of himself with poor Cynthia. A mitral valve and heart pacer may not make him a new man but will return the one we know and love to further service among us. Welcome back, Dr. John!

Aren't we fortunate to live here in SoCal where there are diversions to occupy our time every day and twice on Sunday?! If your commitments are like some of my own, too many clubs and societies only want one thing—100% of your time! They want it ALL. Well, the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles is not like that. We plan a few

worthwhile activities spread carefully, we hope, throughout the year when the majority of you can join in and pursue those interests you indicated as new members. You know what they are and when they are from the Events Calendar elsewhere in this issue. Having just overseen (with a fine volunteer crew) two of those SASLA events, I am able to make some timely observations. The New Member Reception held recently at the lovely home of Mrs. Victoria Pushee was a great success with but one omission—some new members! We certainly know that one can be caught with a chock-a-block schedule as we, ourselves, were with an emergency trip to Michigan forcing us to be among those absent. Please don't give up just because you missed "your" NMR, however, as each calendar event

## Andy Slammed



Scot **Andy Murray** exited from the French Open Tennis Championship at Roland Garros May 30 and his goal of lifting a

Please see **Andy Murray**, page 6

is planned as a warm and welcoming Society outing.

The other recent event was the Costa Mesa Scottish Festival (currently called *ScotFest*) where the Society marquee was nobly manned by Trustee Stuart Bird-Wilson with the able assistance of Clans Moffat and MacPherson (our stalwart Daves) and Ian Skone-

Please see **Message**, page 6

# In Gear

**Jim Clark** World Formula 1 Champion 1963, 1965.

**Jim Clark** was born in Kilmarnock, in the county of Fife to a Scottish farming family, roots that would stay with him for the rest of his life. He was the only son in a family of four daughters. His early racing exploits were initially met by family disapproval, not the sort of activity suitable for someone expected to take over the family

farm. Clark, undeterred continued to race in rallies and other local races under the guidance of his close friend Ian Scott-Watson. Later he joined a team run by Jock McBain known as the Border Reivers named after raiders who plagued the border regions between Scotland and England during the 13th-16th centuries.



Jim Clark, OBE

In 1959 Clark signed a Formula 2 contract with Colin Chapman's Lotus team. In Formula 2 Clark enjoyed immediate success and signed on with Lotus for their

Please see **Jim Clark**, page 4

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or  
The Editor

Saint Andrew's Society, Los Angeles  
12925 Riverside Drive  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423  
www.saintandrewsla.org

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**CONTRIBUTORS**

John E. Lowry, FSA Scot  
David Cargill  
Kenneth Sinclair Stewart  
Ian J. Skone-Rees, FSA Scot

**PUBLISHER  
EDITOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Ian J. Skone-Rees

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Ian J. Skone-Rees  
David Moffett

**PRINTING**

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## Letter from Edinburgh



**It is generally regarded as a joke if after the wedding one takes the mother-in-law with one on the honeymoon but that is what my wife and I did when we married on 1st June 2002.**

Not only did she accompany us but so did her sister-in-law, my wife's aunt, two other relations and five of my wife's friends. As many of my wife's guests came from overseas, we decided to offer them a tour of Scotland following our wedding, and this is what we did!

On 3rd June eight of us set off in our rented people carrier followed by three guests in their car. We passed by Loch Leven castle where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, only to be released by young Willie Scott who cleverly acquired the keys of the castle and rowed her across the loch. Our first port of call was at Branklyn Garden in Perth which was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland. It was an interesting place to see standing on the side of a steep hill where we enjoyed our picnic lunch of sandwiches left over from our wedding reception! We then travelled north on the A93 driving through bonnie Glenshee which is celebrated in the duet song The Crookit Bawbee. We stopped in the Spittal of Glenshee for a cup of coffee and then continued past the ski slopes through the mountains to Braemar where we stayed overnight. The next day we visited Balmoral Castle the summer home of the current monarch. I had been given permission to park near the castle as we had my mother-in-law who was in her nineties. We then took the famous Cock Bridge to Tomintoul road (which is always the first to be closed with the winter snow) towards Inverness, on the way visiting the Culloden battlefield. We stopped at the fascinating Clava Cairns – three enormous stone rings believed to be the remains of Bronze Age circular chambered tombs consisting of a corbelled passage grave with a single burial chamber linked to the entrance by a short passage and covered with a cairn of stones.

On 5th June we changed our planned route as a Swedish guest wanted to visit Loch Ness hopeful of seeing Nessie! So we drove down the side of the loch to Drumnadrochit and turned north past Beauy along the side of the Cromarty Firth to Tain, on the Dornoch Firth, past Glenmorangie Distillery to Bonar Bridge, then northwest along Loch Shin to Laxford bridge, turning south to Ullapool where we stayed overnight in the Riverside Hotel, a welcome stop.

The next day took us on a very interesting part of our tour along the breath-taking mile long Corrieshalloch Gorge, which is one of the finest examples of a box canyon two hundred feet deep, where the river plunges one hundred and fifty feet over the Falls of Measach. There is a suspension bridge a little way downstream from the falls built by John Fowler (1817-1898) who was also a joint designer on the Forth Railway Bridge (on which my engineer great-grandfather George Charles Brettell worked).

The story of Kenneth's unique honeymoon tour of Scotland will continue in the next issue of the *Thistle*. Although Glenmorangie was passed by in this episode, Talisker is not!

## Calendar of Events

### San Diego Highland Games

June 26 &amp; 27, 2010

### Garden Party

July 10, 2010

### Board Meeting

July 17, 2010

### Kirkin of The Tartans

Date TBA

### Seaside Highland Games

Oct 8, 9 &amp; 10

### Robert Burns Supper

Jan 29, 2011

[www.saintandrewsla.org](http://www.saintandrewsla.org)

## In Memoriam

### Carolyn Groff Moffett



**Carolyn Moffett** passed away the morning of Monday, April 12, 2010 in the presence of her family. Carolyn was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Lawrence Lyle and Frances Groff. Carolyn is survived by her by loving husband David Moffett. They were married on September 4, 1965 in Ohio and settled in Southern California in 1970. Services were held Friday, April 16, at the Church of the Angels, Pasadena.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a memorial donation in Carolyn's name be made to either of the following:

- City of Hope for the support of Bone Marrow Transplant Research.
- Raul R. Mena, MD, Endowment Fund for treatment, education and research of cancer.

# 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.*

## Sir James Matthew, Baronet Barrie — James Barrie

**"When the first baby laughed for the first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies." (from Peter Pan)**



**J**ames Matthew Barrie was born in the Lowland village of Kirriemuir, in Forfarshire (now Angus). His father, David Barrie was a handloom weaver, and mother, Margaret Ogilvy, the daughter of a stonemason. They had ten children, and Barrie was the ninth. Jamie, as he was called, heard tales of pirates from his mother, who read her children adventure stories in the evenings.

At the age of 13, Barrie left his home village. At school he became interested in theatre and devoured works by such authors as Jules Verne, Mayne Reid, and James Fenimore Cooper. Barrie studied at Dumfries Academy at the University of Edinburgh, receiving his M.A. in 1882. After working as a journalist for the Nottingham Journal, he moved in 1885 with empty pockets to London as a freelance writer. He sold his writings, mostly humorous, to fashionable magazines, such as *The Pall Mall Gazette*. In his mystery novel, *Better Dead* (1888), Barrie made jokes of well-known people. Barrie knew such great figures of literature as G.B. Shaw, who did not like his pipe smoking, and H.G. Wells, and could surprise them with his remarks. Once he said to Wells: "It is all very well to be able to write books, but can you waggle your ears?" When a friend noticed that he ordered brussel sprouts every day, he explained: "I cannot resist ordering them. The words are so lovely to say." With his friends, Jerome K. Jerome, Arthur Conan Doyle, P.G. Wodehouse and others, Barrie founded a cricket club, called Allahakbarries. Doyle was the only

member who could actually play cricket.

Peter Pan, the work for which Barrie is best known, was first performed in 1904 at the Duke of York Theatre. However he produced a large body of literary work including novels and two other fantasy plays. Several of his works were adapted for the silver screen. Unlike most of Barrie's works Peter Pan gradually evolved from stories he told to Sylvia Llewelyn Davie's children. Barrie formed a long friendship with Sylvia, to the displeasure of her husband, novelist George Du Maurier.

In 1913 Barrie was made a baronet and in 1922 he received the Order of Merit. Barrie's penthouse at Adelphi Terrace was visited by ministers, duchesses, movie stars, such as Charlie Chaplin, and a number of admirers, whom he occasionally helped with money or advice. Even in his old age, Barrie could play enthusiastically Captain Hook and Peter Pan with the son of his secretary, Lady Cynthia Asquith. Barrie was elected lord rector of St. Andrew's University and in 1930 chancellor of Edinburgh University. Barrie died on June 3, 1937. 🇬🇧

### How well do you know Scotland

<b>Population (millions):</b>	3M	5M	7M
<b>Official National Anthem is:</b>	Flower of Scotland	God Save the Queen	Auld Lang Syne
<b>Longest river is:</b>	Forth	Tay	Spey
<b>Largest lake (loch) is:</b>	Lomond	Ness	Awe
<b>Official animal is:</b>	Lion	Unicorn	Stag
<b>Which city has Scotland's only underground railway?</b>	Glasgow	Edinburgh	Aberdeen

[Click here for answers.](#)

## ScotFest 2010

www.saintandrewsla.org



Saint Andrew's tent at ScotFest 2010

L-R: Bob Matheson, Stuart Bird-Wilson, Ian Skone-Rees, Dave Moffett, and Dave Macpherson.

### The Scottish Highland Games and Gathering now known as ScotFest was held over Memorial Day weekend May 29-30, at the Orange County Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa.

The Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles was in attendance and our tent on clan row attracted its fair share of activity. Newly elected trustee Stuart Bird-Wilson has taken on the duties of coordinating our attendance at games and festivals and he, with the able support of Daves Moffett and Macpherson and your editor (when his own clan Currie responsibilities would allow), fielded questions and gave the uninitiated some background on the establishment of Saint Andrew societies in the United States and ours in particular.

The weather over the two days was kind and a breeze kept the temperatures at a tolerable level. However, arriving home Sunday night it was clear that a more liberal application of sun block would have been advisable!

One of the main reasons for our attending and exhibiting at these events is to make ourselves more visible in the Scottish community and to attract new members. I am very happy to report that over the two days three new members completed applications to join our ranks.

So these games were measurably successful. However it is only because of hard work from a small group of members that the society was able to attend ScotFest and the same is true for the other games we participate in. We need more people to be involved. In addition to transporting, erecting, and merchandising the tent we need members to donate an hour or two of their time to staff the tent and be the face of our society. The next games we will attend will be the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura. If you are willing to assist please contact Stuart Bird-Wilson. 

Stuart Bird-Wilson:  
stuartbw@msn.com



## Scotch Corner

**WHISKY giant Chivas announced June 4 that their Glenlivet distillery is to receive a £10 million revamp.**

The owners of the Speyside distillery say the investment will contribute to their aim of making Glenlivet the number one selling single malt in the world. The extension represents a 75% increase in production capacity. To celebrate the opening, 1,824 limited edition bottles of Glenlivet Founder's Reserve will be released, reflecting the year of the distillery's foundation.

Glenlivet is the top-selling single malt in the US and the world's number two, behind Glenfiddich. Earlier this year the Scotch Whisky Association reported healthy sales in the second half of 2009, which contributed to a record-breaking number of global exports for Scottish whisky for that year.

The shipment value of exports has risen by £977 million during the last 10 years, a 45% increase.

**Keep it up, our contribution is making a difference! Ed.**

**Jim Clark, from page 1**

Formula 1 efforts as well.

His first race for Lotus was at the Dutch Grand Prix in 1960, where he raced in place of John Surtees who was still racing motorcycles at the time. His race was pretty uneventful as he worked his way up to fifth place before he had to retire with a seized gearbox. The next race was at Spa in Belgium. This was the most dangerous course in Grand Prix racing, a 9 mile monster and in 1960 it took the lives of two drivers including Clark's teammate Alan Stacey. Yet in spite of this Clark would manage to finish fifth in his second Grand Prix.

In 1962 Lotus took the Grand Prix car to Indianapolis and tested it on the famous speedway while the track was closed. Clark soon had the car lapping at 140 mph. The Americans who were in attendance that day were catching a glimpse of the future. In 1963 Clark dominated the World Championship winning an amazing 7 out of 10 races, garnering 7 poles in the process.

At his first race at Indianapolis he finished second to Parnelli Jones.

The championship in 1965 was a duel between Clark, Hill and Surtees, but a fourth driver rose to the challenge the leading trio. His name was Jackie Stewart and the fellow Scot served notice that he would be a force to reckon with in the future. This year it was Clark's turn at the top rung and he included a win at Indianapolis for good measure. As an enthusiastic follower of motor sport in Britain Jim Clark was my idol. He raced in an era when cars still bore their country color, no advertising. Clark was not only an exceptional driver (some say the best there's been) he was the very best ambassador for the sport; soft spoken and courteous. In 1968 he was tragically killed in a Formula 2 race in Hockenheim, Germany.

Jim Clark is buried in the village of Chirnside in Berwickshire. A life size statue of him in racing overalls stands by the bridge over a small stream in the village of his birth, Kilmany in Fife. 

# New Member Reception, May 22

Once again members who have joined the society during the past year were recognized at a reception held May 22 at the home of Vickie Pushee. Dave Macpherson presented membership certificates to new members in attendance and officially welcomed them to our Saint Andrew's community.

Trustees and invited guests were regaled with music by award winning piper and Saint Andrew's member John Taylor and Vickie's dining table groaned with plates of delectable comestibles which, for those

inclined, could be accompanied by the traditional Scottish beverage—usige beatha (water of life)!

This event also saw the emergence of the recently rediscovered Saint Andrew's banner. The banner will be in evidence at future events and will be displayed in our tent at the Highland Games we attend and carried in the parade of clans and societies. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



L-R: Dave Macpherson, Norman Auslander, John Taylor, Carol Auslander, Bob Matheson, Robert Walters, Lucille Christie, Jeanne Waters, Ryan Waters, Mary Corcoran, Jack Christie, Marie Martin, Stuart Bird-Wilson, Caroline Brechin, Vickie Pushee, Coleen Robertson, Neil McLean, Robert Walters, Nellie Lowry, Joan Pohas, Corkie Macpherson, Chuck Robertson.

## Presentation of Membership Certificates by Dave Macpherson

Caroline Brechin

Marie Martin

Bob Matheson



Ryan Waters, Bob Matheson, Joan Pohas, Caroline Brechin, Marie Martin.

## New Members March 2009—March 2010

James	<b>Blair</b>	Nancy	<b>Martin</b>
Caroline	<b>Brechin*</b>	Marie	<b>Martin*</b>
Terry	<b>Buchanan</b>	Robert	<b>Matheson*</b>
Jonathan	<b>Carr</b>	Joan	<b>Pohas*</b>
Lea Ann	<b>Duncan</b>	Ray	<b>Tucker</b>
Roberta	<b>Fruchter</b>	Ryan	<b>Waters*</b>
Marie	<b>Jordan</b>		

• Attended New Member's Reception

## Memorial Day Service



A memorial service organized by the Royal Canadian Legion was held May 23 at Inglewood cemetery. The Saint Andrew's Society was represented by Stuart Bird-Wilson, Ian Skone-Rees, Caroline Brechin, Ilsa Wollman, and Vice President Dave Macpherson, who laid a wreath on behalf of the society.

## Poets' 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.

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

### Scots Wha Hae

Robert Burns 1759–1796

The lyrics were written by Robert Burns in 1793, in the form of a speech given by Robert the Bruce before the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, where Scotland maintained its sovereignty from the Kingdom of England. Although the lyrics are by Burns, he wrote them to the traditional Scottish tune *Hey Tuttie Tatie* which, according to tradition, was played by Bruce's army at the Battle of Bannockburn

*'Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,  
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led,  
Welcome tae yer gory bed,  
Or tae Victory.*

*'Now's the day, and now's the hour:  
See the front o' battle lour,  
See approach proud Edward's power -  
Chains and Slavery.*

*'Wha will be a traitor knave?  
Wha will fill a coward's grave?  
Wha sae base as be a slave?  
Let him turn and flee.*

*'Wha, for Scotland's king and law,  
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,  
Freeman stand, or Freeman fa',  
Let him follow me.*

*'By Oppression's woes and pains,  
By your sons in servile chains!  
We will drain our dearest veins,  
But they shall be free.*

*'Lay the proud usurpers low,  
Tyrants fall in every foe,  
Liberty's in every blow! -  
Let us do or dee.*

### Message, from page 1

Rees when his Clan Currie tent would allow. As we have made a commitment to maintain a St. Andrew's Society tent at the several SoCal Festivals, I simply want you to know that it is an open and inviting place to spend an hour or so and to, perhaps, allow Stuart and the crew a wee break in the action. And, you never know—you might just persuade a new friend to join us as a member of the Society! Volunteerism. Yes, it is a very satisfying way of serving and fulfilling your Scottish connections.

So, what is on the SAS horizon? Well, the San Diego Scottish Highland Games are June 26 & 27 but beyond that is the much ballyhooed 2010 SASLA Garden Party to be held on July 10 at The University Club at California State University, Northridge at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The chef and staff at this lovely facility are already planning a palatial dinner (to be served indoors in honor of our famous Valley summer temperatures) and will feature a number of authentic Scottish dishes! Don't fret—no one is required to have haggis! BUT...we hope that you ALL will set aside this special day to join us for fun and FUND-raising! This is our primary money-making event with a bit made from the Scotch bar and Society auction. Please contact us if you can contribute items to the auction and join us for this fine affair!

Thanks for reading this and know that there is always more to come.



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

### Andy Murray, from page 1

grand slam trophy remained just that. Queens Club is next, where he will defend his 2009 title, followed by Wimbledon. It's been 74 years since the last British player, Fred Perry, won Wimbledon. This year, with the diversion of World Cup soccer in South Africa, could be Andy's best chance. We're rooting for you Andy.  
***We know you'll give it your best shot!***

### Bannockburn, from page 1

survival, preservation of land holdings, or as in the case of Sir John Comyn of Badenoch (who rallied to Edward's side), revenge, (Bruce had murdered his father at Greyfriars Kirk, Dumfries in 1306).

Bruce however, through superior strategy and courage secured a decisive victory and Edward was never again to step foot in Scotland.

Scotland's unofficial national anthem, *Flower of Scotland*, refers to Bruce's victory over Edward at Bannockburn:

*O flower of Scotland  
When will we see your like  
again  
That fought and died for  
Your wee bit hill and glen  
And stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again.*

See also **Robert Burns' Scots Wha Hae** in Poets' Corner opposite.

  
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**How well do you know Scotland**  
**Quiz on page 3 of *The Thistle* June 2010**  
**ANSWERS**

Population of Scotland is approximately **5 million**.

The official national anthem is of course **God Save the Queen**.  
Flower of Scotland is the unofficial anthem commonly sung at major sporting events.

The longest river is the **Tay**, 120 miles from source to mouth.

The lake (loch) occupying the largest area is **Loch Lomond**, BUT  
Loch Ness contains the largest volume of water - nearly twice  
that of all the lakes in England and Wales combined!

The official animal is the **Unicorn**!

The city with Scotland's only underground rail system is  
**Glasgow**.