

the

# thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

June 2012

## Annual Garden Party July 14, 2012

The Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles is hosting its annual Garden Party on Saturday July 14th.

The venue will be the lovely home of Terry and Frances Buchanan who have for the second year graciously invited us to enjoy their wonderful home with its spectacular view. The event will feature musical entertainment, a no-host bar, appetizers and dinner, and the company of some of the finest Scots and near-Scots as you can find anywhere. This will surely be a splendid time as always!

Here is some key information you should take note of. The party will be held at the Buchanan's home located at 1611 Glenmont Drive in Glendale California. Parking is at a premium so please car pool if you can. There will be a drop off location near the house for those who need special access. Invitations will be mailed and you are encouraged to RSVP early in order to avoid disappointment.

For more information please contact Rod Shreckengost at 661-435-5141 or Dave Moffett at 626-304-9755.

a message from J. D. MacPherson, *President.*



Since our last Thistle we held our new member's reception on May 5th at Vickie Pushee's beautiful home in west Los Angeles. Twenty-five new members attended with members of the Board of Trustees. It was a wonderful party with Chris Carson as our piper. Chris played both the small fireside pipes and the great highland pipes. Refreshments were supplied by members of the board. This is a unique way for Board members to meet and get to know the new members in a small pleasant party atmosphere. I presented the new members with their membership certificates.

On May 20th I was honored along with Ian Skone-Rees and Stuart Bird-Wilson to place a wreath for our society in memory of the fallen British Commonwealth troops from World War I (The Great War - the war to end all wars) and World War II. There is a large memorial in Inglewood Park Cemetery placed there by the Women's Canadian Club of Los Angeles where a service is held every year on Sunday a week before our Memorial Day. As I am writing this Corkie and I are getting ready to attend the United Scottish Society's ScotsFest (aka Costa Mesa Highland Games ). The next event for our Society is the Garden Party. It will be held at members Frances and Terry Buchanan's fabulous home in Glendale on July 14th. Please plan to join us there.

Dave

Contact J. D. MacPherson via email at: [jdmacpherson@att.net](mailto:jdmacpherson@att.net)



### Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles MISSION

The mission of the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles is to preserve the history, traditions and unique flavor of Scotland through education, social interaction and philanthropic participation within the community.

### Website Update



The website project continues to progress and will deliver many new features which will make it a far more valuable resource for our members and it promises to be a cutting edge Internet site. We are still on track for a mid-year launch.

# In Gear

## Argyll Motors 1899-1932

Alex Govan founded The Hozier Engineering Company in 1899, and it was at this factory that the first Argyll Voiturette was produced; copied from the contemporary Renault, it featured a 2¾ hp de Dion engine and shaft-drive.

1901 models had an upgraded engine of 5 hp; cars made in 1902

were upgraded even further, using 8 hp units. Soon there appeared a 10 hp twin with radiator tubes forming the sides of the hood; in 1904 the company introduced a range of front-radiated Aster-engined cars. One of these was a 10 hp of 1985 cc; others were fours of 3054 cc, 3686 cc, and 4849 cc. All cars



Argyll Flying 15 (1910)

featured Govan's rather awkward gearbox, which had a T-shaped gate and separate reverse and change-speed levers. Argyll had now become Scotland's biggest marque and soon moved from its premises in Bridgeton, Glasgow to

Please see Argyll Motors, page 6

## Bakersfield Games

Annie and Rod Shreckengost host Clan Macpherson's tent



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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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Ian J. Skone-Rees

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Dave Moffett  
Ian J. Skone-Rees

**I**t was a beautiful but unexpectedly warm day in Bakersfield, California when the Kern County Scottish Society hosted their 16th annual games at the Kern County Museum on April 21st.

The setting was the back lot of the museum that is replica of historic Bakersfield. The many buildings and displays, gave the games a "village" feel that gave this gathering a unique atmosphere. However the design of the layout took some time to survey to determine where everything was located. The clan tents were located off the beaten path a bit so we didn't benefit from the amount of foot traffic we are used to at other events. This made for a relaxing day and once the temperatures hit the high 90's most conveners were content to sit, drink cold refreshments, and try to stay cool.

The Macpherson tent was between the Wallace and Henderson tents so we shared resources (including a wee dram of course) and commiserated throughout the day. One interesting visitor, who was a judge in the athletic competition who was I believe a member of the Duncan clan, regaled us with the story of the 30 and 30 battle with great vigor.

We were able to visit with several friends throughout the day. It was good to see Robert MacPherson who traveled a good distance to be at the games.

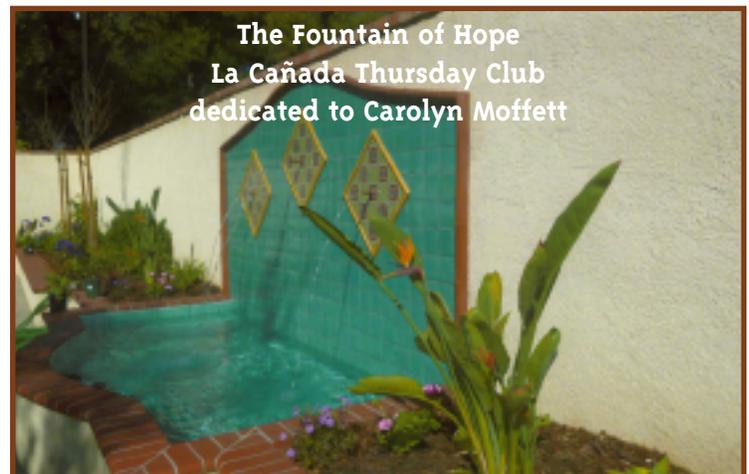
We were also pleased to have on display a beautiful Celtic cross that was hand carved by my good friend Louis Stearns. It



Annie Shreckengost looking after the Macpherson tent at the Bakersfield Games.

was the target of several conversations about Celtic art, ancient crosses and so forth. It is carved out of black walnut and has gold leaf gilding around the edges. The cross is a replica of the Killamery high cross in Kilkenny, Ireland.

It was an enjoyable day at the one-day games in Bakersfield. But I have to say that the air conditioning felt really good on the way home! 



### The Fountain of Hope La Cañada Thursday Club dedicated to Carolyn Moffett

On Thursday May 17, The Thursday Club of La Cañada dedicated the Fountain of Hope in its newly established Centennial Garden. The fountain serves as a symbol of hope to all who struggle with serious illness and brings a sense of peace and tranquility to all who visit the Centennial Garden. It was Carolyn Moffett's dream that this shrine be established and is a memorial to her life and her courage during her long battle with cancer. A Donor Wall of hand-painted tiles is being planned to recognize benefactors and will prominently feature a tile dedicated to Carolyn Moffett.

## Scotland's Influence in the United States

*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.*

### Johnny Cash, 1932 – 2003

#### "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash."



The man in black made that introduction a trademark of his performances and it was invariably followed by a rendition of his standard "Folsom Prison Blues," originally recorded in the prison itself in front of an audience of convicted felons who no doubt associated with many of the words in that famous song.

Cash made his distinctive black clothing a hallmark of his persona and while there is no record of him wearing a kilt, Cash did trace his ancestry back to Scottish roots. He learned upon researching his heritage that he was of Scottish royal descent on his father's side, traced back to Malcolm I of Scotland. After meeting with now-dead laird Major Michael Crichton-Stuart of Falkland, Fife, Scotland, Johnny traced the Cash family tree to eleventh-century Fife; Cash Loch and other locations in Fife bear the name of his family.

Cash retained a deep concern for people less fortunate than himself: the poor, the beaten down, the prisoner, and those who cannot read and who never listened to the words Jesus said. He expressed his feelings in his smash hit "Man in Black."

Although he is primarily remembered as a country music icon, his songs and sound spanned many other genres including rockabilly and rock and roll—especially early in his career—as well as blues, folk, and gospel. This crossover appeal led to Cash

being inducted in the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Cash was known for his deep, distinctive bass-baritone voice; for the "boom-chicka-boom" sound of his Tennessee Three backing band; for his rebelliousness, coupled with an increasingly somber and humble demeanor, and for providing free concerts inside prison walls.

Much of Cash's music, especially that of his later career, echoed themes of sorrow, moral tribulation and redemption. His signature songs include "I Walk the Line," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Ring of Fire," "Get Rhythm," and "Man in Black." He also recorded humorous numbers, including "One Piece at a Time" and "A Boy Named Sue;" a duet with his wife, June Carter, called "Jackson;" as well as railroad songs including "Hey, Porter," and "Rock Island Line."

Cash, a troubled but devout Christian, has been characterized as a "lens through which to view American contradictions and challenges." A Biblical scholar, he penned a Christian novel titled "Man in White", and he made a spoken word recording of the entire King James Version of the New Testament. Even so, Cash declared that he was "the biggest sinner of them all," and viewed himself overall as a complicated and contradictory man. Accordingly, Cash is said to have "contained multitudes," and has been deemed "the philosopher-prince of American country music."

From his early days as a pioneer of rockabilly and rock and roll in the 1950s, to his decades as an international representative of country music, to his resurgence to fame in the 1990s as a living legend and an alternative country icon, Cash influenced countless artists and left a large body of work. Upon his death, Cash was revered by the greatest popular musicians of his time. 

# Memorial Day

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

We have recently observed Memorial Day. A time for remembering members of the armed forces, and particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. The Royal Canadian Legion held their customary recognition of these brave men and women at the Inglewood Park Cemetery on May 20. The service included an honour guard and rifle party made up of members of the Hawthorne High School Naval Jr. ROTC. Various organizations laid wreaths at the Cenotaph, including the British United Services Club, The Royal Society of St. George, and our own Saint Andrew's Society. The annual event is organized by The Royal Canadian Legion, Western Zone, under the direction of Saint Andrew's Society member, Robert B. Edmonds, MBE. Other society members in attendance were, John Massie, MBE; Kathleen Dunham; Stuart Bird-Wilson, TD; Society President Dave Macpherson, and Ian Skone-Rees. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



SAS President Dave Macpherson and Director of Communications Ian Skone-Rees in front of the Cenotaph, Inglewood Park Cemetery.



SAS President Dave Macpherson lays the wreath on behalf of the Saint Andrew's Society.



The Honour Guard and Rifle Party made up of cadets from Hawthorne High School Naval Jr. ROTC.

← Piper John Massie, MBE pipes the raising of the flags at the conclusion of the ceremony.

# New Member Reception

May 5, 2012



## Poets' Corner

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

Poet's corner this issue takes the spotlight off the more famous Scottish poets and in honour of Memorial Day shines its bright light on arguably one of the most famous and influential poems of the twentieth century. "In Flanders Fields" highlights perhaps more than any other poem of the time the futility of war and the plaintive cry of the flower of European youth as they were literally used as canon fodder, slaughtered at the behest of their leaders.



**John McCrae** was born in McCrae House in Guelph, Ontario, Canada to Lieutenant-Colonel David McCrae and Janet Simpson

Eckford; he was the grandson of Scottish immigrants. When the United Kingdom declared war on Germany at the start of World War I, Canada, as a Dominion within the British Empire, was at war as well. McCrae was appointed as a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery and was in charge of a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. McCrae's friend and former student, Lt. Alexis Helmer, was killed in the battle, and his burial inspired the poem, "In Flanders Fields", which was written on May 3, 1915 and first published in the magazine Punch. "In Flanders Fields" appeared anonymously in Punch on December 8, 1915, but in the index to that year McCrae was

named as the author. The verses swiftly became one of the most popular poems of the war, used in countless fund-raising campaigns and frequently translated. "In Flanders Fields" was also extensively printed in the United States, which was contemplating joining the war, alongside a 'reply' by R. W. Lillard, ("...Fear not that you have died for naught, / The torch ye threw to us we caught..."). On January 28, 1918, while still commanding No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, McCrae died of pneumonia. He was buried the following day in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of Wimereux Cemetery, just a couple of kilometres up the coast from Boulogne, with full military honours. His flag-draped coffin was borne on a gun carriage and the mourners – who included Sir Arthur Currie and many of McCrae's friends and staff – were preceded by McCrae's charger, "Bonfire", with McCrae's boots reversed in the stirrups. McCrae's gravestone is placed flat, as are all the others in the section, because of the unstable sandy soil. 

### In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)  
Canadian Army

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies  
grow In Flanders fields.



## Calendar of Events

July 14, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

### Annual Garden Party

For information contact:  
Rod Shreckengost  
[rod@shreckengost.com](mailto:rod@shreckengost.com)

October, 2012, 11:00 a.m.

### Kirkin' of the Tartans

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church  
505 N. Rodeo Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

July 11-13, 2014

### Gathering of the Clans

Stirling, Scotland

For further details log on

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

### Argyll Motors, from page 1

a grand terracotta factory in the suburb of Alexandria built for the company by now named Argyll Motors Ltd. This factory was never used to capacity, and the company began to decline after Govan's death in 1907 and, went into liquidation in 1908.

Production restarted in 1910, under a company now named Argyll Ltd., with a new range of cars including the famed "Flying Fifteen." Four-wheel brakes designed by J.M. Rubury of Argyll were available from 1911 on. Argyll changed hands in 1914 and the Alexandria factory was sold to the Royal Navy for torpedo production. Car production was resumed on a small scale in the original Bridgeton works under the control of John Brimlow who had previously run the repair department. The first product from the new company was a revival of the pre-war 1599 hp model, now with electric starter but few were sold. In 1922 it was joined by a 1½-litre sleeve valve model and in 1926 by the 12/40 sports.

The company made a final appearance at the London Motor Show in 1927 and the last cars were probably made in 1928 though still advertised until Argyll closed in 1932. 