

the

# thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

September 2010

## Fishing for Young Members

All of us who have attended Saint Andrew's events can't help but notice the average age of our fellow members is steadily increasing. Nothing we can do about that. But if our society is to continue and to flourish we need to recruit younger folk too. Here is an approach SASLA member and Clan Matheson west coast lieutenant, Bob Matheson, is taking:



One of the smallest Highland Clans is Clan Matheson, and without

knowing any aunts, uncles or cousins, it was easy for Bob Matheson to grow up and never know anyone else named Matheson.

Discovering the Clan Matheson Society in *The Highlander* magazine in 1981 started Bob's own excellent adventure of discovering his family's past. After attending local Games and commenting to the Society that he never saw a Clan Matheson tent, he was appointed the USA Deputy Lieutenant for the west coast. Now Bob sees a Clan Matheson tent every time he sets it up! While Clan Matheson's participation in the Highland Clans DNA

See **Fishing**, page 6

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



Dear Members,

Loss is very much a part of living. We all know that and we all

experience loss from time to time. At the ninth anniversary of 9/11 the other day, we could all "re-live" the horrible emotions of that day whether we were affected directly or only as caring citizens of this great United States of America. Those horrendous sights and sounds will never leave us, will they.

But I am thinking today more of how we as a society (and, yes, this St. Andrew's Society) face loss and what we do about it. Tomorrow a Gordon Clansman and I will drive to the little town of Carefree, Arizona just to attend the Memorial of another fallen Clansman, Major

James C. Ledy II, USA (Ret.) Why? Because that is what we do. We honor and mark the passing of our friends and fellow travelers. Over the years your St. Andrew's Society has attended and even conducted memorials for those close to us. I just thought you would like to know that we care.

Now, if I have not chased you totally away, things are, in fact, looking up! The "Dog Days of Summer" are pretty much concluded and we are headed for Fall. What are the dog days? Well, during certain days of summer, Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (the big dog) rises and sets with the sun. It DOES whether you can see it or not! The ancient Romans, being slightly more superstitious than most Californians, believed that this very bright star added to the heat of the sun, making those hot

## Andy Murray



No this is not a repeat from last issue. Just an update on the Scottish number one and current number 4 in the world. The US

Please see **Andy Murray**, page 6

summer days even more uncomfortable!

As you will see elsewhere in the Thistle, our SASLA Fall Schedule is light but important with the Seaside Highland Games coming up in less than a month. Please make your plans to attend this constantly growing and improving Celtic Gathering. It' a

Please see **Message**, page 2

# In Gear

**Jackie Stewart** World Formula 1 Champion  
1969, 1971, 1973.

In a relatively short career, Scottish race-car driver Jackie Stewart, born in Milton Dumbartonshire in 1939, won 27 Grand Prix races and was Formula 1 world champion three times.

Stewart was also an early advocate of driver safety and worked tirelessly to improve the "diabolical" state of course and driver safety. He was the first to pioneer the use of safety belts and full-face helmets. Motor racing was not the first sport he



Sir Jackie Stewart, OBE  
The Flying Scot

Please see **Jackie Stewart**, page 4

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or

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## Letter from Edinburgh



Part two of Kenneth's honeymoon adventure. Part one was published in the June 2010 Thistle.


**W**e next took the road north along Little Loch Broom round Gruinard Bay which contains Gruinard Island famous for being the testing place of an anthrax bomb in WWII.

It was only recently that it was decontaminated and visitors are once more allowed. Then south by Loch Ewe for our next stop at the world famous Inverewe Gardens amid scenery of great natural beauty— an oasis of greenery and colour stretching as far north as Labrador in the west and St Petersburg in the east, warmed by the Gulf Stream it is able to sustain plants from many temperate regions of the world which were established over one hundred years ago by Osgood Mackenzie by excavating the glacial raised beach and importing soil for a vegetable, fruit and flower garden for his Victorian Gothic house completed in the 1870s.

On leaving there we went south along Loch Maree to Achnasheen through the forests to Achnashellach, (these two names being very familiar to me as it was known my father as a young man worked in that area in connection with his work for the Post office), and on by Lochcarron where my wife took a turn at the wheel and drove us across the new bridge "over the sea to Skye" to Kyle of Lochalsh, where I drove around dropping off our guests at various B&Bs. The day following after picking up our guests we drove to Talisker Distillery where we were shown how they make "usquebaugh" — the water of life!

The next day we left Skye and paused at Eilean Donan castle, then on by Loch Duioch passing the Five Sisters mountain tops through Glen Sheil and south by Loch Lochy and Spean Bridge where we visited the Commando Monument. This is a large three-figure bronze statue commemorating the service and sacrifice given by thousands of Allied troops during World War II. Each Armistice Sunday a memorial service is attended by veterans and their families with locals and visitors. Then on to Fort William where we stopped overnight, and treated our guests to a performance of Scottish music and dance along with a good meal.

We were now on the homeward stretch back to Edinburgh. Along the final road we drove through Glencoe, called in at Doune castle, where I viewed the Wallace monument, then on to Stirling castle, Bannockburn and the giant statue of Robert the Bruce.

Truly a tour de force and a comprehensive introduction to Scotland for our wedding guests! 

Next issue Kenneth will give his personal commentary on this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

## Calendar of Events

### Seaside Highland Games

Oct 8, 9 &amp; 10, 2010

### Kirkin of The Tartans

Oct. 24, 2010, 10:30 a.m.

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church


### Robert Burns Supper

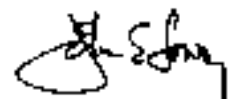
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## Message, from page 1

grand celebration of your heritage—come on out! Then, on a bit more somber note is our much anticipated annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans service at the beautiful Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. The announcement of our luncheon destination will be made at that time. Isn't that exciting?!

One of my goals as President is a return to some celebration of the life of our namesake, Saint Andrew. A Saint Andrew's Society should honor its creator! I don't know if that will be possible this year but when it is, you will be the first to know! A modest gathering of remembrance, perhaps, with a more elaborate gala dinner dance in the not-too-distant future. How does that sound? Good, I hope, and I hope you will all stay in close communication with us and with each other. Our strength is in our numbers and our numbers must include you. Thanks and always know there is more to come. 



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



## Word Power

Which of these is not a continuous flow of water?

A Burn

B Stream

C Creek

D Rill

E Brook

[Click here for the answer.](#)

# 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.*

## David Bremner Henderson 1804–1906



**S**cotland's contribution to American politics is impressive, and contains some notable firsts...

David Bremner Henderson remains the only speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from Iowa. He was also an amputee.

Born in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on March 14th 1840, David emigrated with his family to the USA when he was

just six years old. Although the Henderson family initially settled in Illinois, David's parents, Thomas and Barbara, eventually chose Fayette County, Iowa as their home.


Incredibly David would marry at the tender age of 16 to a local girl, Augusta. The couple would have three children, Donald, Belle, and Angie.

David enlisted in the Union Army September 15 1861, as a private in Company C, Twelfth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry; he was elected and commissioned first lieutenant of that company and served with it until discharged, following the loss of a leg at the Battle of Fort Donelson, February 26, 1863.

The fiery Scot decided to study law at Upper Iowa University and was admitted to the bar in 1865. He opened his practice in Dubuque, Iowa.

David's successful career in law inspired his political aspirations, and he was elected as a Republican to the Forty-eighth and to the nine succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1883 – March 3, 1903). He served on numerous committees including: Committee on Militia (Fifty-first Congress) as chairman,

Committee on the Judiciary (Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Congresses), Committee on Rules (Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses). He was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives (Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses) but declined to be a candidate for renomination in 1902. The Aberdeenshire lad would be the first, and to date, the only Iowan Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives – the 39th Speaker during Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt's administrations. During David's four year tenure as Speaker, he was lobbied to run for President, but the U.S. Constitution forbade David to run because he was not born in the United States.

After leaving Congress, David practiced law in New York City. David Bremner Henderson died in Dubuque, Iowa, February 25, 1906 aged 65, and was interred in Linwood Cemetery, Dubeque. His portrait hangs in the Speakers' Room in the U.S. Capitol. 

### How well do you know Scotland

<b>Number of Scottish islands:</b>	326	790	1,100
<b>Birthplace of Golf:</b>	St. Andrews 15th Century	Carnoustie 12th Century	Oxford 14th Century
<b>World's highest waterfall:</b>	Eas Coul Aulin	Niagara	Victoria
<b>Most common eye color for Scots is:</b>	Black	Hazel	Blue
<b>What has Edinburgh in common with Rome:</b>	Both built on seven hills.	Both home to the Chevalier.	Both have relics of St. Andrew.
<b>Which of these was NOT a Scottish invention:</b>	Whisky	Tartan	Bagpipes

[Click here for answers.](#)

## Enumclaw 2010

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The 63rd Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering were held this year at Enumclaw, Washington. Our own Dave Moffett attended to support his brother Don at the Moffett Clan tent (above). Don Moffett is third from the right. Dave is behind the camera lens!



## Scotch Corner

## Whisky producers outraged at Scottish Nationalist's proposal to introduce a minimum price for alcohol

The Scottish government has announced that it wants alcohol to be sold at a minimum of 45p per unit. The SNP (Scottish Nationalist Party) minimum price plan is an attempt to reduce consumption. Reduced consumption, it is claimed, would cut deaths, reduce health care costs, and hospital admissions related to alcohol related conditions. The minimum pricing move has received the backing of the British Medical Association in Scotland, the Royal College of Physicians and Alcohol Concern. But it has been criticised by some drinks companies and the

Scottish Retail Consortium, as well as opposition parties at Holyrood. Both Labour and Liberal Democrats have voiced opposition while The Scottish Grocers' Federation have welcomed the plan saying it would curtail "irresponsible selling" of alcohol below cost by large supermarkets and help level the playing field between small shops and big chains. They warned, however, if the proposals were not implemented across the UK they could create a cross-border and internet trade in drink. A return of *The Reivers* perhaps! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁳󠁣󠁴󠁿

## Jackie Stewart, from page 1

excelled at however. He was a talented clay target marksman. Competing in shooting tournaments in Scotland, he hoped to qualify to join Great Britain's 1960 Olympic team. His poor performance during the final round of the Olympic trials on his 21st birthday ended that plan, however, and Stewart returned home, believing he was destined to work at his father's garage. But in 1963 the Tyrell racing team, were sufficiently impressed by his driving skills to invite him to join their Formula 3 team. Jackie was soon beating allcomers and in 1965 was seeking a new challenge. BRM's (British Racing Motors) Formula 1 team beckoned and in his first race in South Africa Jackie came

in sixth and won his first Formula 1 point. Four years later he would win the event. At the end of the 1965 season Jackie was third in the driver's championship, behind team mate Graham Hill and fellow Scot Jim Clark (see *The Thistle*, June 2010).

Jackie stayed with BRM for three years but in 1966 an event occurred which would change the young Scots outlook on racing forever. Competing at the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa Jackie's car careened off the track during a sudden downpour. He was pinned behind the steering wheel soaked with leaking fuel. During the 25 minutes it took to release him he had time to reflect on the situation he was in. At that time, apart from a first aid station,

there was no emergency evacuation service or real trackside medical facilities. As it turned out his fractured collar bone was not life threatening, but his potential injuries could have been. From that time on Jackie worked to improve emergency services, better safety barriers, and the introduction of safety-related devices in cars.

Frustrated with the BRM Jackie reconnected with the Tyrell team in 1968 and the following year won the first of his three world champion titles. After a brief spell with the March team he again teamed up with Tyrell and won his second drivers' championship in 1971. In 1973 he won his third and final championship and also walked

away from the sport he had dominated and helped transform.

*"The key in life is deciding when to go into something and when to get out of it."*

In addition to his 40 years in motor racing, Jackie also served as a trustee of the Scottish Educational Trust, was a patron of the British Dyslexia Foundation, a board member of Moet Chandon, and chairman of the Grand Prix Mechanics Charitable Trust.

A beloved figure in Great Britain Jackie was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) and Knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

He left Formula 1 motor racing a far safer sport than when he entered it four decades earlier. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁳󠁣󠁴󠁿

# Summer Party, July 2010



## Poets' Corner

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

### My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson

*I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.*

*He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;*

*And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.*

*The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow*

*Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;*

*For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,*

*And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.*

*He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,*

*And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.*

*He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;*

*I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!*

*One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;*

*But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,*

*Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.*

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### Fishing, from page 1


Project brought in a steady stream of visitors, there was no rush of younger Mathesons. Not being satisfied with the attitude that "they'll come to us if they want to," Bob went fishing...for new, younger Mathesons.

Because any Matheson looking for their Clan tent at previous Games never found it, Bob mails a promotional flyer to all Mathesons in the area prior to any Games he attends. A young Matheson from Utah saw the flyer for Costa Mesa while visiting his mother in Orange County. He couldn't make it to the Games, but he sure wanted a Clan T-shirt. Rather than just take the order and send the shirt, the inquiry was followed up by a phone call that led to a follow-up phone call with his dad. That call resulted in his dad and two brothers attending the Games in Payson, Utah, to visit the Clan Matheson tent (which otherwise would never have happened). The entire three families are now actively involved in their Scottish heritage. Extending a proactive approach to today's social networks, a friend emailed Bob an invitation to join Facebook. Having minimal exposure to social websites, Bob set up his Robert Matheson Facebook page. Now it was Bob's turn to invite someone to be a friend, but who? Using the "search" function, Bob sent a *Friend Invitation* to

everyone else on Facebook named Bob or Robert Matheson, and about 20% of them accepted his invitation. One young Bob Matheson in the UK even commented "It's nice to know there are other Mathesons around." The lesson learned is that we are invisible to all young Scots. They have no idea Clan Societies exist, and many know very little of their ancestry. It's up to us to find them and spark their interest in their Clan.

Some Facebook contacts can result in unexpected new and close friendships. The Bob and Robert Mathesons on Facebook often have Matheson friends, usually family relatives. Bob noticed one Matheson having a friend named Alejandro Guillermo Matheson in Argentina. Bob sent Alejandro a Friend Request and a message to learn more about his Spanish sounding name. It turns out that Alejandro Guillermo is Spanish for Alexander William. His ancestors left Scotland and settled in Canada, except one brother decided to go to South America. That was Alejandro's grandfather who married and raised a family, and who later taught Alejandro some Gaelic and whose Matheson tartan kilt Alejandro now proudly wears.

Alejandro is working his way through college by teaching English, and hopes to one day visit the United States. Using the free application *Skype* on their computers, Alejandro and Bob talk regularly, often an hour at a time. Bob is encouraging Alejandro to visit in mid-October so he can help staff the Clan Matheson tent at the **Seaside Games**.

Bob's suggestion to other Clans? Go fishing for young members! Fish aren't going to jump out of the water to join you, and neither are young Scots. **You need to go looking for them, engage them, and reel them in to your Society.** 

### Andy Murray, from page 1

Open is, as I write, entering its second week; not unfortunately with Andy. His tournament came to an end in the third round at the hands of Switzerland's Stanislas Warwinka. A tremendous upset for the Scottish star who was expected to be a likely prospect to wear the US Open crown this year. However Andy was not the only upset, Roger Federer fell to Djokovic who subsequently lost to Rafa Nadal in the final. On to Australia Andy!

# WORD POWER

September 2010

## ANSWER

- A** A burn is a red inflamed area of the skin caused by exposure to flame, heat or sun or to consume something by flame.

The same pronunciation is applied to **BOURN (E)**, which is a common Scottish name for a small stream or brook.

***GOTCHA!***



# How well do you know Scotland

September 2010

## ANSWERS

<b>Number of Scottish islands</b>	790 – 130 of which are inhabited
<b>Birthplace of Golf</b>	Golf has been played at St. Andrews since the 15 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>World's highest waterfall</b>	Eas Coul Aulin, in the county of Sutherland in Scotland, four times higher than Niagara.
<b>Most common eye color</b>	Seven out of ten Scots have blue eyes.
<b>What has Edinburgh in common with Rome?</b>	All of the above. The Chevalier is Charles Edward Stuart – Bonnie Prince Charlie.
<b>Which of these was not a Scottish invention?</b>	All of the above! Whisky was invented in China and first distilled by monks in Ireland in the early 15 <sup>th</sup> century before reaching Scotland 100 years later. Tartan was first found in early central Europe as were bagpipes.