

the

# thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

March 2011

## Land of My Fathers

by: Ian Skone-Rees



I am often teased about my Scottish ancestry being diluted with a large dose of Welsh blood. A fact that neither distresses or embarrasses me in the presence of my kilted friends. I regard myself as a Celt and there is no denying that the lineage of the Welsh and Scottish people stems from the ancient Celts. However while reading a history of Wales I was excited to discover that Scotland has reason to be thankful to the land of my birth. It seems the Welsh Dragon breathed some fire into Scottish development.

In 1294 a general rebellion broke out in Wales against the English oppressor Edward I. It was a national insurrection and in one day there were attacks on castles as far part as Caernarfon and Denbigh. Caernarfon was captured and the sheriff of Anglesey killed. A large part of the countryside was occupied and Madog announced he was now the Prince of Wales. There is no doubt that Madog's success inspired the Scots who rose

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



**Where do you stand on evolution? No, I'm not trying to reenergize an old**

**debate once fought in Dayton, Tennessee between Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan.**

That one will not be revisited, at least not on these pages. There is no debating the evolutionary process we are talking about today, however, as it is so evident around us and through us. It is the arrival of a breed known as the American Scot. This American Scot very definitely has Scottish roots planted deep and watered well and will be proud to tell you all about them. But, he/she is so independently American and could probably never live under the

auspices of a Clan Chief neither even under a Clan Council. As the state of mind of this "evolved" person is unique, so is everything else about them from their manner of dress—how they do or don't choose to wear Highland gear, to what they eat and drink and quote.

Yes, quote. A case in point is Robert Burns' poems and songs. We have recently celebrated Burns' birthday and I cannot tell you how many Burns Birthday Bashes I have attended where someone has attempted to "simplify" (Americanize?) the words of this master of the English language. From his "Address to a Haggis" to "Tam O'Shanter" or just To a Louse, a Mouse or to a Sweetheart—all have been simplified, Americanized or, sadly,

Please see **Message**, page 6

## Burns Night 2011

**The La Cañada Thursday Club was again the venue for our acclaimed Burns' night celebration.**

This year's event was held January 29, long regarded as Burn's actual birthday, until a review of the Ayr parish records in 1803 revealed he was actually born on January 25. Our event proved as popular as last year and fifteen tables accommodated 120 guests bedecked in glorious tartan, elegant gowns, and tuxedos. The evening began with a hosted reception, and whisky tasting followed by the traditional parade of the Haggis through the dining room. *The Address to the Haggis* was impeccably performed by our own Jim Bell. Master of

Please see **Burns' Night**, page 2

## In Gear Archie Scott Brown

**William Archibald Scott Brown, known as Archie, was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire May 1927. He was a British Formula One and sports car racing driver.** He participated in the British Formula One World Championship Grand Prix on 14

July 1956. He also attempted to qualify for the Italian Grand Prix in the same year, but was excluded due to his lack of the required International Licence. Away from F1, in his short career Scott Brown scored 71 wins, 15 of which came in international competition.



Archie Scott Brown at the British Grand Prix, 1956 held at Silverstone.

Please see **Scott Brown**, page 4



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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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## Queen Mary Highland Games 2011

### The heavens opened and the sun shone on the 2011 Queen Mary Games.

The rain that was forecasted did visit briefly but didn't put a damper on the crowds of enthusiastic Scots who piped, marched, and danced for a steady stream of folk anxious to witness the men in kilts and the ladies who love them. The Saint Andrews exhibit was one of the busiest on the clan deck and interest in our activities was morphed into membership by seven

individuals eager to be a part of our society. We will officially welcome them to our midst May 19 at the New Member Reception to be held at the home of Vickie Pushee. Please mark your calendar for this very special event.



L-R: Ian Skone-Rees, John Lowry, and New Member Stacey Hood. Stacey joined with her husband Steven (not pictured).



L-R: Rod Schreckengost, Ian Skone-Rees, New Members Cathy Pattinson and William Wagnon, Stuart Bird-Wilson, Dave Macpherson, John Lowry.



L-R: Dave Macpherson, John Lowry, New Life Member Alice Fairhurst.

## Calendar of Events

April 6, 2011  
**Tartan Day Dinner**  
Tam O'Shanter

April 30, 2011  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

May 14, 2011, 2:00 p.m.  
**New Member Reception**  
Home of Vickie Pushee

July, 2011 (Day TBA)  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Summer Garden Party**  
TBA

October 15, 2011  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

Oct. 23, 2011, 10:30 a.m.  
**Kirkin of The Tartans**  
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church

Jan 28, 2012, 6:00 p.m.  
**Robert Burns Supper**  
La Cañada Thursday Club

For further details log on

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



### Burns' Night, from page 1



ceremonies Norman Auslander then choreographed an evening of music, song, dance, and the traditional speeches. It was an evening of amazing entertainment and camaraderie made possible by the efforts of many volunteers, including: Norman Auslander, John Lowry, Nellie Lowry, Dave Macpherson, Pamela Marbel Lowry, Dave Moffett, Ian Skone-Rees. Special thanks also goes to Ray Pearson who hosted the whisky tasting, Peat Fire Flame, who provided the music, and Rod and Annie Shreckengost for lyrical interlude.

Plans are already underway for next year. Mark January 28, 2012 on your calendar, **Haste ye back!**

Rev. Chuck Robertson leads Carol Auslander a merry dance to the traditional Scottish music of Shauna Pickett-Gordon (piano) and Colyn Fischer (double base) of Peat Fire Flame.

## Word Power

Which of these is not a name for a mountain?

**A** Ben **B** Munro **C** Corbett **D** Nuttall **E** Furth

Click here for answers.



# 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.*

## Archibald Gracie 1755–1829



**O**ne of New York City's most historical and impressive landmarks is the Gracie Mansion, located in Manhattan's Carl Schurz Park at the East River overlooking the infamous Hell Gate.

The Mansion was built in 1799 by Scottish shipping magnate Archibald Gracie. The Scot was


born in Dumfries, in the lowlands of Scotland, on June 25th 1755. His parents were both weavers and provided the young Scot with the opportunity for a solid Scottish education. Archibald repaid their trust by graduating and moving to Liverpool, then onto London to work in a shipping firm. The canny Scot saved up his earnings and invested in a merchant ship. This prudent investment would yield instant dividends, providing Archibald with funds to move to America in 1784, and invest in several NYC mercantile companies. Within years, Archibald created his own shipping company called Archibald Gracie and Sons, East India Merchants and invested in banking and insurance industries, resulting in his appointment as an incorporator of the Eagle Fire Insurance Company and a director for Bank of America. Archibald would also co-create the New York Evening Post with fellow Scot Alexander Hamilton.

At the age of 29 Archibald married Esther Rogers. Sadly, Esther would die young, but Archibald would remarry Elizabeth Fitch, fathering ten children between his two marriages.

Archibald's family would have colorful lives: his daughter, Sarah would marry Congressman James Gore King; his grandson Archibald Gracie III became a general in the Confederate Army for the 43rd Alabama regiment and his great grandson Archibald

Gracie IV survived the sinking of The Titanic.

In 1823, at the grand old age of 68, Archibald decided to sell Gracie Mansion. The two story wooden mansion, designed by Ezra Weeks, the architect of New York City Hall would fetch top price as several families moved in until 1896 when the city seized the property. In 1942 Gracie Mansion became the official residence of the mayor of the City of New York.

Archibald Gracie would die in 1829 aged 74: he is buried within the Gracie family plot at Woodland Cemetery in the Bronx. Archibald notably served as the 18th president of the St. Andrews' Society of New York from 1818–1823. 

### How well do you know Scotland

The Falkirk Wheel is a...	boat lift	sweet pastry	dance
In Scotland Prince Charles is officially referred to as...	Chuck	Duke of Rothesay	Lord of the Isles
Edinburgh was the first city in the world with a...	public library	prison	fire brigade
Which of the following were NOT Scots?	David Hume	John Stuart Mill	Alexander Flemming
Which of the following actors have Scots ancestry?	Fred MacMurray	Billy Wilder	Ben Affleck
When did the King of England become the King of Scotland?	1603	1707	1746

[Click here for answers.](#)

## Piper Bill Millin

**Bill Millin**, who died on August 17, 2010 aged 88, was personal piper to Lord Lovat on D-Day and piped the invasion forces on to Sword Beach; unarmed apart from the sgian dubh in his stocking, he played unflinchingly as men fell all around him.



Millin began his apparently suicidal serenade immediately upon jumping from the ramp of the landing craft into the icy water. As the Cameron tartan of his kilt floated to the surface he struck up with *Hieland Laddie*. He continued even as the man behind him was hit, dropped into the sea and sank.

Once ashore Millin did not run, but walked up and down the beach, blasting out a series of tunes. After *Hieland Laddie*, Lovat, the commander of 1st Special Service Brigade (1 SSB), raised his voice above the crackle of gunfire and the crump of mortar, and asked for another. Millin strode up and down the water's edge playing *The Road to the Isles*.

Bodies of the fallen were drifting to and fro in the surf. Soldiers were trying to dig in and, when they heard the pipes, many of them waved and cheered.

His worst moments were when he was among the wounded. They wanted medical help and were shocked to see this figure strolling up and down playing the bagpipes. To feel so helpless, Millin said afterwards, was horrifying. For many other soldiers, however, the piper provided a unique boost to morale. "I shall never forget hearing the skirl of Bill Millin's pipes," said one, Tom Duncan, many years later. "It is hard to describe the impact it had. It gave us a great lift and increased our determination. As well as the pride we felt, it reminded us of home and why we were there fighting for our lives and those of our loved ones." 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

A foundation has been formed in France under the leadership of Serge Athenour, President of the D-Day Piper Association to erect a life-size statue of **Bill Millin** near the very spot he set forth on Sword Beach. The foundation's goal is to dedicate the statue on June 6, 2011.

### Donors may send their gifts to:

The Clan Currie Society

P.O. Box 541

Summit, NJ 07902-0541



Make checks out to **Clan Currie Society - Bill Millin Statue Fund**. A list of all donors will be presented to the fundraisers.

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

## Scotch Corner

As you may be aware there are a great many vagaries in the pricing of single malt Scotch by various retail suppliers. As great a supporter as I am of buying local and supporting independent retailers I cannot justify, and I suspect neither can the majority of you, paying the premium often demanded by them. Good news then for those of us who betray the most common Scottish trait — pasimony! That doyen of big-box retailers, Costco, regularly offers a limited number of single malts at very attractive prices. Glenlivet 12-year old is regularly offered at \$22 and 18 year-old Macallan rebranded



under the Costco house brand Kirkland is just \$59.99. There are other great values too: a triple pack of Glenlivet 12, 15 and 18 year-old is currently priced at \$99. Other brands such as Oban, Laphroaig, and Caol Ila (one of the lighter Islay single malts) are also available.

Now for a couple of pronunciation lessons! The correct way to pronounce Oban is Obn. There is no emphasis on the *a*. The last syllable of Glenmorangie is pronounced as in the fruit *orange*.

Aye ~ Ian Skone-Rees 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

### Scott Brown, from page 1

As a result of German Measles during his mother's pregnancy, Archie was born with severe disablement to his legs and right arm. Tremendous determination and several operations meant that Archie was able to lead a normal life, although he never grew over five feet tall.

He took up motor sport early in life after his father built him a small car to aid his mobility. His first competitive race was in 1951, in his own MG roadster, bought using a small legacy. As his reputation grew, his name became closely linked with that of Brian Lister, initially driving Lister's Tojeiro special, and later in sports racing cars built by Lister himself, and bearing his name. Archie enjoyed much success driving Lister-Jaguars

— the famous *Knobblys*. Known for his courageous driving style, he was often to be seen in corners getting his Lister very sideways indeed. Asked about the possibility of the Lister's notoriously poor brakes failing completely, he responded that he would "carry on without them, old boy". Over the few years he was in the sport he developed a fierce but good-natured rivalry with rising American driving talent Masten Gregory.

He was mortally injured on 18 May 1958 during an accident in a sports car race at Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, driving a Lister *Knobbly* and duelling for the lead with Gregory. He died in hospital the following day, less than a week after his 31st birthday. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



# Burns Night, January 2011



## Poets' Corner

[www.saintandrewsla.org](http://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](mailto:rees1@mac.com)*

### About The Sheltered Garden Ground by Robert Louis Stevenson

ABOUT the sheltered garden ground  
The trees stand strangely still.  
The vale ne'er seemed so deep before,  
Nor yet so high the hill.

An awful sense of quietness,  
A fulness of repose,  
Breathes from the dewy garden-lawns,  
The silent garden rows.

As the hoof-beats of a troop of horse  
Heard far across a plain,  
A nearer knowledge of great thoughts  
Thrills vaguely through my brain.

I lean my head upon my arm,  
My heart's too full to think;  
Like the roar of seas, upon my heart  
Doth the morning stillness sink.

### Love For Love by Robert Burns

Itthers seek they ken na what,  
Features, carriage, and a' that;  
Gie me love in her I court,  
Love to love makes a' the sport.

Let love sparkle in her e'e;  
Let her lo'e nae man but me;  
That's the tocher-gude\* I prize,  
There the luvver's treasure lies.

\*tocher-gude = marriage portion

### Message, from page 1

pedestrianized. It was not that Burns could not speak and write in the "King's English," He could and did, see as an example his famous "My Heart's in the Highlands" for a clear and unambiguous modern message. He chose to write in the Auld Scots dialect for its beauty and historic significance. But enough of that.

These American Scots are simply trying to bring another phase of their heritage into everyday life. You might not think that food could be a dividing line but, trust me...We think we know all of the "quirky" things our Scottish cousins like to eat—haggis, steak and kidney pie, tatties and neeps and "sticky toffee pudding" (yum)—but it is the interpretation of foods that can catch us up. This past August a tour group we headed was invited, most graciously, to our Clan Chief's castle for a "barbecue dinner." We know what that is, don't we? Apparently not. The meal was held outdoors, as one might expect, and under a tent protected from the incessant rain. Well, the BBQ turned out to be quiche and broccoli. Not one pork rib to be seen! It was fine and we had a wonderful time and a good lesson in the process. Now that same chief will come calling at the next Seaside Highland Games this October

and guess what he will be served? Good old barbeque, American Scots style!

And the wearing of kilts, that can't be open to local interpretation can it? Oh, I dare say that it can! At the huge Grandfather Mountain Games in Western North Carolina, the hill people come in wearing kilts and coonskin, tartan and tattersall. And it is beautiful. I am seriously part of this American Scottish movement. The evolution was swift and sure and the more we express our Americanism, the more we confirm the strong iconoclastic nature of those Scottish settlers of long ago.

So, come, enter into the flow of your Saint Andrew's Society's schedule of events and, if the spirit moves you to wear grandma's feather boa or grandpa's spats, be our guest! Keep an eye on the calendar page 2 of this issue and on our website, and be enthusiastic in expressing the personality that makes you YOU! Don't be afraid to show just who you are—a fully evolved American Scot!

Thanks for your support and know that there is always more to come!




Contact John Lowry via email  
at: [jemmettlowry@aol.com](mailto:jemmettlowry@aol.com)



### Land of my Fathers, from page 1

in rebellion under William Wallace two years later. Now we come to the interesting bit! Wallace, who came from Paisley, is thought by historians to be descended from the British of the Welsh-speaking kingdom of Ystrad Clud (Strathclyde). His name, which was sometimes spelt Walys or Walyes, was a term usually used by Englishmen for a Welshman or a Celt. Wallace inspired the Scots, or as an English chronicler put it, 'revived the malice of

that perfidious race.' The rest is history and ended with Edward removing the Stone of Scone to Westminster.

Celts, no matter if they're from, Wales, Ireland, Brittany, or Scotland have much in common in character and culture. These common characteristics are revealed in their history and their religion, their literature and their art. So ye canny Scots, remember it was Taffy initiative that helped stoke the Scottish fire of rebellion! 

# How well do you know Scotland

## The Thistle March, 2011

### Answers

The **Falkirk Wheel** is a rotating boat lift located in Scotland, connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal, opened in 2002. It is named after the nearby town of Falkirk which is in central Scotland.

His Royal Highness Prince Charles may be known as Chuck in some quarters but his official titles while in Scotland are **Duke of Rothesay** and **Lord of the Isles**.

**Edinburgh** was the first city in the world to have its own **fire brigade**.

**David Hume**, **John Stuart Mill**, and **Alexander Flemming** were all Scots.

Despite his seemingly Scottish name Fred MacMurray was not Scots. The only one in this list to have Scottish ancestry is **Ben Affleck**.

The King of England **NEVER** became the King of Scotland! In 1603 **King James VI of Scotland** became **James I of England**.

# Word Power – The Thistle March 2011

## Answers

**None of them. They are ALL names for mountains.**

### Ben

**Ben** or *beinn* is a common Gaelic word for mountain, as in Ben-Nevis (Scottish Gaelic: *Beinn Nibheis*).

### Munro

The **Munros** are mountains in Scotland over 3,000 feet (914 m). The list was originally compiled by Sir Hugh Munro in 1891, and is modified from time to time by the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC). Unlike most other lists, the Munros do not depend on a rigid prominence criterion for entry; instead, those that satisfy the subjective measure of being a "separate mountain" are regarded as *Munros*, while subsidiary summits are given the status of *tops*. There are 283 Munros and 227 further tops, all of them in the Scottish Highlands.

### Corbett

The **Corbetts** are peaks in Scotland that are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet (762.0 and 914.4 m), high with a relative height of at least 500 feet (152.4 m). The list was compiled in the 1920s by John Rooke Corbett, a Bristol-based climber and SMC member, and was published posthumously after his sister passed it to the SMC. 221 Corbetts, many of them in areas of Scotland with no Munros, include Moidart, Ardgour, the Southern Uplands and the islands of Arran, Jura, Rùm and Harris.

### Furth

The **Furths** are mountains in Great Britain and Ireland which, but for their ill luck in being situated "furth" of Scotland, would be Munros. The SMC will record the claims of those Munroists who go on to complete the Furths.

### Nuttall

The **Nuttalls** are hills in England and Wales over 2,000 feet (610 m) with a relative height of at least 15 metres (49 ft). There are 443 Nuttalls in total (253 in England and 190 in Wales). The list was compiled by John and Anne Nuttall and published in two volumes, *The Mountains of England & Wales*.

With the exception of Pillar Rock, a rocky outcrop on Pillar in the Lake District, the peaks of all of the Nuttalls can be reached without resort to rock climbing. As of December 2008, 163 people are known to have completed the list, though this includes some who did not climb Pillar Rock, which the authors permit.