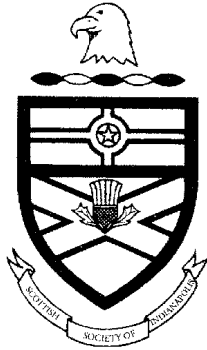


# The Thistle

Fall

October—December 2005

## A Few Thoughts from the Editor



### SSI 2005 Board of Trustees

Jack Davidson, President  
317-255-7841

Gordon Inglis, VP  
317-849-7841

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317-541-1390

Judith Bastin, Sec.  
317-858-1607

Ed Adams  
317-587-0097

John D. Dockery

George McMath  
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Ron Walker  
317-859-8163

**Have you missed us? We've missed you.** If you haven't been to a meeting lately, now is a good time to come back and join us. We have a great meeting site, plenty of room, with the I-465 connection, it is easy to get to and the Sterrett Center is easy to find with lots of convenient parking. There is always a good meal with lots of food and a chance to chat with old friends and make new ones. The programs always provide the opportunity to learn a little more about our Scottish heritage, our clan, or some other information about the Scots and Celts.

Judith Bastin, who will be talking about Samhain and Halloween, will present the program for October. December's program will give us more insight into the Scottish celebration of New Year's as Gordon Inglis presents Hogmanay II.

As it traditionally is, the November meeting will be the Founder's Dinner and the election of the Board of Directors. Earlier in the year the membership was surveyed and as a result of the survey, this year's Founder's Dinner will be a catered buffet dinner. The cost for the Dinner will be \$25 per person. Last year's Dinner was originally planned to be a catered dinner, but due to the low number of reservations, it was changed to a carry-in dinner. Of course, a catered dinner is more costly, but it is rather nice for the opportunity to dress up a little more and to have someone else do the work, and all we have to do is show up and enjoy ourselves. Reservation forms and the address to send them are on the last page of the newsletter. **The last date to make reservations will be Friday November 4. No reservations will be taken after that date.**

Also, I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind everyone that Trustee Ed Adams is working on changing the tax status of the SSI so that contributions to scholarship funds would be tax exempt and that VP Gordon Inglis is still working on a program to establish piping scholarships for aspiring pipers in our area.

At this time I have two dates for the 2006 Burns's Nights from our neighboring Societies. The Scottish Society of Louisville is on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006 at Masterson's Restaurant, Louisville. Tickets are \$37.50/person. Contact Patty Hughes, 102 Bald Knob Rd. New Albany, IN 47150, phone 812-945-7601. I believe that the Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington's Burns Supper is Sat. Jan. 21, 2006.

I would also like to remind you that if you have any thing that should be included in The Thistle, ideas for articles, Flowers of the Forrest, events, ideas for programs, suggestions for improvements, comments about the newsletter or the SSI in general, or just information that should be shared with the membership, contact a Board member or drop me an email at [paladin42@insightbb.com](mailto:paladin42@insightbb.com). All help and suggestions are appreciated.

Ron

## **Calendar of Events**

### **October—2005**

7-8<sup>th</sup>—St. Louis Scottish Games—St. Louis, MO  
11<sup>th</sup>—SSI Meeting. Program: Bastin--Samhain and Halloween. Meat provider—TBA  
15-16<sup>th</sup>—Stone Mountain Highland Games  
Now—Oct. 23 (weekends only) Ohio Renaissance Festival—Harveysburg, OH

### **November—2005**

3-6<sup>th</sup>—International Festival  
13<sup>th</sup>—Kirkin’o’the Tartan—Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ 4 pm  
19<sup>th</sup>—Founder’s Day Dinner—7:00 PM  
26<sup>th</sup>—St. Andrew’s Day Celebration of the Caledonian Society of Cincinnati

### **December—2005**

13<sup>th</sup>—SSI Meeting. Program: Inglis--Hogmanay II  
Meat provider—TB

#### A Scots Accent is Best

If you want to progress up the career ladder, speaking like the Queen is not beneficial, according to the recent survey by Aziz Corporation, a British communications consultancy. In fact, nearly half of the business leaders polled felt that an upper-class accent was detrimental to success. “It creates the impression of someone who is bumbling and quaintly old fashioned,” said Professor Khalid Aziz, chairman of Aziz Corporation. On the other had, the survey found that Scottish accents convey an impression of honesty and trustworthiness, and 40% of Britain’s business leaders felt people with a Scottish accent were hard-working and reliable. However, Prof. Aziz also notes that first impressions are just that, and ultimately other factors will determine a person’s long-term success. ( Scottishlife—Summer 2005) p.9



This past August,2005, the City of Aberdeen, Scotland marked the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of William Wallace. Wallace’s status as a hero of Scotland still remains unquestioned. Unlike some of the Scottish nobles who worked with the English for personal gains, Wallace never

sought personal fame, nor benefited from it. Wallace united the Scots, commoners and knight, rather than the nobles, to fight for Scotland’s independence.

After the death of the 7-year-old princess Margaret (the last the Celtic royal line), Edward I (Longshanks) of England was ask to arbitrate the claims of the three main candidates for the Scottish throne. Edward decided in favor of John Balliol’s claim to the throne of Scotland. Edward expected to be able to control John, but found that he was not able to do so easily. In anger, Edward invaded Scotland in March 1296, and defeated the Scots at Dunbar. John was stripped of his title, imprisoned, and Scotland became more or less a colony of England.

Wallace became a hero when he led the Scots in a series of raid against the English, culminating in the defeat of an English army at Stirling Bridge in 1297. After his victory at Stirling Bridge Wallace was made a knight and given the title “Guardian of Scotland and

Commander of its Armies, on behalf of the exiled King John Balliol”. Wallace’s victory was short-lived however. In July of 1298, Edward’s 90,000-man army attacked Wallace’s smaller force near Falkirk. As a result of the loss, Robert de Bruce and Sir John Comyn succeeded Wallace as guardian(s).

Outlawed for his activities, Wallace hid for seven years until his capture. Wallace, who was betrayed by a Scottish knight, was arrested near Glasgow on August 5, 1305. He was paraded through the streets of London where he was tried and condemned as a traitor to the king, even though Wallace correctly maintained that he had never sworn allegiance to Edward. On August 23, 1305, he was executed. He was dragged to the place of execution, hanged by the neck (but not until he was dead), and disemboweled (or drawn) while still alive. His entrails were burned before his eyes. He was then decapitated and his body was divided into four parts (quartered). Edward reputedly devised this horrific method of execution for Wallace. After his execution, his head was impaled on a spike at London Bridge, his right arm on the bridge at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, his left arm at Berwick, his right leg at Perth, and the left leg at Aberdeen.

However, instead of solving his problem, Edward had made Wallace a martyr to the Scottish cause and fired the Scottish people’s determination to be free of English domination. Robert the Bruce almost immediately revived the rebellion and went on to be crowned king of Scotland in 1306.

### **Pardons for the Prestonpans Witches**

A local historian in Prestonpans, East Lothian, has recently presented “evidence” in a baronial court, which has resulted in 81 pardons for women who were executed 400 years ago during the reign of King James VI. They were convicted during the Reformation for such crimes as owning a black cat or providing homemade medicines. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries more than 3,500 Scots, mainly women, were convicted by the courts of being witches during a period of extreme paranoia and suspicion. (The Highlander—March/April 2005)

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### **Glenturret’s Legendary Cat**

Towser the cat is a legend at the Glenturret Distillery near Crieff. In fact, there is a bronze statue of him on his favorite spot in front of the main building. During his 24 years as the distillery’s official mouser, Towser is said to have caught an average of three mice a day, or 28,899 in total—enough to put his name in the Guinness Book of Records. Some say he was a natural while others attribute his prowess to a nip of Famous Grouse whisky in his milk, but everyone agrees he was one of a kind. To prove the point, Amber who took his place in 1988, never produced a single mouse during her 16 years on the job. So now this spring with Amber’s passing, distillery managers are putting out a job description for a new cat...and hoping that lightning might just strike again. (Scottish Life Summer 2005 p. 11)



### **Scottish Humor**

An Englishman, roused by a Scot's scorn of his race, protested that he was born an Englishman and hoped to die an Englishman. "Man," scoffed The Scot, "hiv ye nae ambeetion?"

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Scottish preacher to his congregation: "I don't mind you putting buttons in the collection plate, but please provide your own buttons. Stop pulling them off the church cushions."

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Another Scottish preacher is said to have prayed thus after a particularly unproductive collection: "We thank you Lord that the plate was returned safely." (Electric Scotland)

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### **Isaiah’s Cry Has a New CD**

Isaiah’s Cry, known to the SSI members as Samuel and Rebekah Lawson, have a released their first Jazz CD titled Send Me. If you have heard them you know they have a great sound. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the CD you can contact them by calling 217-1127 or by email at [vessel7productions@hotmail.com](mailto:vessel7productions@hotmail.com)

### **A Few Words About Mother**



If you are a fan of Celtic Rock you probably know about Mother Grove, the local group that already has a large

following of fans in the area. My wife and I saw them at Ft. Wayne and enjoyed the group and their music very much, as did the rest of the crowd. The group has created a sound they call “Kilt Rock”, original rock songs performed using traditional Scottish and Irish instruments such as the bagpipes, the penny whistle, and the fiddle. Their music has something for everyone ranging from ballads to raucous pub tunes with “rocked up” traditional songs thrown in for good measure.

The group consists of Brad Sprauer (vocals, guitars), Laura Adams (vocals, fiddle), Jim Farley (bass guitar), Ron Fife (drums, percussion, backing vocals), and Andy Kramer (Highland Bagpipes, pennywhistles).

They have released 3 CDs: Listen to Your Mother, Mother May I, and their latest CD, TRI, which is their first CD with the addition of Laura Adams on fiddle and vocals. The CD’s and information about the group and their play dates are available on their website at [www.mothersgrove.com](http://www.mothersgrove.com). It is great to have a local Celtic Rock group and we need to show our support by turning out for their performances when they are in the Indy area.

**Famous Quote**---"If all else fails, I will retreat up the valley of Virginia, plant my flag on the Blue Ridge, rally around the Scotch-Irish of that region and make my last stand for liberty amongst a people who will never submit to British tyranny whilst there is a man left to draw a trigger." George Washington, Valley Forge. (Electric Scotland)

### **Famous Scots:**

**Dr. Henry Faulds** defines the forgotten Scot, a scientific pioneer who changed the world by betting on a 64-billion-to-one chance that no two people have the same fingerprints.

**John Napier** a 16<sup>th</sup> century mathematician, philosopher and inventor from Edinburgh invented logarithms and the decimal notation for complex fractions.

### Addresses For Our Men in the Military

J. D. Dockery is currently in Iraq, and his email is:

[john.dockery@us.army.mil](mailto:john.dockery@us.army.mil)

or regular mail:

Sgt John Dockery

Aco 138sig 1plt

APO, AE 09381



### Did you Know

#### **Saighedean Deirge**

Did you know how English soldiers came to wear redcoats? It all started 1645, during the English Civil War. Things were not going well for the forces of Parliament. In an effort to improve morale, Oliver Cromwell instituted a program of increased training for his men. In addition he decided that uniforms would give them a sense of pride and comradre. Cromwell, being frugal man, found red dye to be the cheapest. As a result his troops ended up wearing red coats—a tradition that continues to this day.

**God Save the King** was first publicly performed in London in 1745, as Bonnie Prince Charlie's troops occupied Derby, about a 120-mile march from London. Verse six of the anthem went:

*Lord grant that Marshal Wade*

*May by thy might aid*

*Victory bring.*

*May he sedition hush,*

*And like a torrent rush,*

*Rebellious Scots to crush.*

*God save the King!*

### Blackwatch in Bloomington

Tickets for the Bloomington performance of the Blackwatch are available for \$37.50 each. They can be ordered online at:

<http://www.iauditorium.com/0506/blackwatch.asp>

They may also be available at regular ticket agencies such as Ticketmaster.

### Whiskey Cake

Recipe makes one loaf, for bunt pan you should double recipe.

1 ½ cups walnuts, chopped

½ cup raisins, chopped

½ cup currants

1 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

½ cup (1 stick) butter

1 cup sugar

3 eggs at room temperature, separated

1 teaspoon grated nutmeg

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/3 cup bourbon whiskey

Confectioners' sugar for dusting (optional)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Line the bottom of a 9x5x3 inch loaf pan with Waxed paper and grease the paper and both sides of the pan.

Place the walnuts, raisins, and currants in a bowl. Sprinkle over 2 tablespoons of the flour, mix and set aside. Sift together the remaining flour, baking powder and salt.

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks.

Mix the nutmeg, cinnamon, and whiskey. Fold into the butter mixture, alternating with the flour mixture.

In another bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff. Fold into the whiskey mixture until just blended. Fold in the walnut mixture.

Bake until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Let cool in the pan. Optional--dust with confectioners' sugar over a template.

For bunt cake bake about 1½ hours. Can be soaked with additional whiskey—1/2 cup per day. Note—if soaked with extra whisky don't sprinkle with powdered sugar or you may have a gummy mess. Store in a sealed container.

**The Ohio Renaissance Festival** will be open weekends through October 23. It is a re-creation of a 16<sup>th</sup> century English village. There are games, music, shows, vendors, jousting, as well as vendors and food. Oct. 8-9 is the Scottish themed weekend. The Renaissance Park is located on SR73 in Harveysburg, OH, 2mi. west of I-71, exit#45 or 15 mi. east of I-75 exit #38. (Northeast of Cincinnati) (Scottish Society of Louisville Newsletter)

### Columbus Scottish Festival

Pipe bands, highland and country dancers, heavy athletics, great singers, Celtic rock groups, re-enactor encampments, British car show, sheepdog competition, vendors and food, all crammed into two days and just a short drive from Indianapolis.

This year's Columbus Scottish Festival featured seven pipe bands from the area, and if you like the pipes, it was a great weekend and well worth the drive. The music "tent" had a good selection of music including several Celtic rock groups as well as the ballads of Colin Grant-Adams.

Clan Desdin from Cincinnati provided a glimpse of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish and American history for young and old alike. The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), from Columbus, brought its armour, weapons, and shields and took us back to the time between 600 and 1600.

The special guests included Patrick King who is involved in international broadcasting as a writer/director/producer. He was joined by Pipe Major John Spoore, the former personal piper the HM Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mother, and Isla St. Clair, one of Scotland's foremost singers.

Something new this year. Working with Clan Davidson, last year's winner, the SSI helped sponsor the award for the best Clan tent at the festival. This year's winner was Clan Baird..

### ~~Scottish Christmas with Bonnie Rideout~~ A Scottish Christmas with Bonnie Rideout

Bonnie Rideout will be presenting a Scottish Christmas at Emen Auditorium, Muncie, Indiana on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. Ben Lynch has seen a performance of A Scottish Christmas at the Kennedy Center in D.C. and thought it was excellent. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster—Main Floor \$32.00, first balcony \$32.00, second balcony \$32.00.

### Indianapolis Irish Fest

When talking about the Irish Fest it is hard to know where to begin. There is so much going on for the three days that it is impossible to even list all of the entertainers and activities. No article can do the festival justice, the only way to appreciate it is for you to come, see and enjoy it for yourself.

The sporting events included the traditional rugby and soccer matches, the 5k run and walk, the kilted mile and this year two new events were added, a dart tournament, and a tug of war between the Claddagh Irish Pub and MacNiven's Restaurant and Pub, with year long bragging right for the winner.

For those less athletically inclined there were the sheep herding exhibitions, Irish breed dogs to see, the cultural area sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society, the Clan tents, and the encampment of the 35<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment (First Irish Indiana Volunteers) who were Irishmen willing to fight for the Union and their newly adopted country. This year also the Fest also added a "toast competition" with the activities beginning the weeks before the Fest and the semi finals and finals were held at the Fest. The winner received round trip airfare for two to Ireland.

With four entertainment stages, there was always at least one stage providing music and dancing to please the crowd. I didn't get the opportunity to see all of the musical groups and dancers; there were so many great performers (about 20) and so little time, but those that I did see I enjoyed very much.

For those who still couldn't find enough to do at the Irish Fest, there were about 30 vendors with various Celtic wares and 8 establishments offering various kinds of food, not to mention the drinks available to put a glow on the evening.

### Founder's Day Dinner Reservation Form

**All reservations must be made received by Friday November 4, 2005. Checks for the proper amount should be sent to:**

**Scottish Society of Indianapolis  
2270 Van Ness Place  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-4703**

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 per person for the Founder's Day Dinner

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Hour 6:30 PM**

**Dinner 7:00PM**

**Meeting Schedule: October—December 2005**

<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
Date: Wed., Oct. 11	Date: Sat., Nov. 19	Date: Wed., Dec 14
Meat Dish: TBA	Founder's Day Dinner	Meat Dish: TBA
Program: Judith Bastin: Samhain and Halloween	Social Hour 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00PM	Program: Gordon Inglis: Hogmany II
A-E—Dessert		A-E—Veggie
F-N—Veggie		F-N—Salad
O-Z—Salad		O-Z—Dessert
Social hour 6:30 pm	All meetings take place at the Sterritt Senior Center. Corner of 56 <sup>th</sup> St. and Post Rd. on the Grounds of Fort Ben	For more information contact Jack Davidson 317-691-3078, or any Board member.
Dinner 7:00 pm		
Program 8: pm		

*The Scottish Society of Indianapolis*  
2270 Van Ness Place  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-4703

Member of COSCA