

Calgary Claver



April 2019
Volume 4, Issue 1

Calgary Claver

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello all.

Dear Friends

Here we are, spring at last. Yes, it has been a long winter but still the time has passed very quickly.

Our Dinner this year was again a great success. We had in attendance special guests, Ken Montgomery the President of RBANA and Andy Harrower the President of The Medicine Hat Burns Club. I must thank all the members of the Club for their hard work and especially Jim Hope-Ross for arranging and emceeing a fantastic night. We now look forward to 2020. Though attendance was down from previous years, the evening was still a tremendous success.

As my year as President comes to a close at the Club's AGM in May, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the entertainment at our monthly meetings and to this year's Board for all their hard work.

Wishing everyone a warm and wonderful summer.

Jim Hutchens

President

Calgary Burns club



 GEORGE ANDERSON PAST PRESIDENT & HON. PRESIDENT 2017 - 2018	 JAMES MACINTYRE HON. PRESIDENT 2012 - 2013	 ROBERT KANE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2016 - 2017	 IAN MACINTYRE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2017 - 2018	 THE SANDFORD & CORNWALL CLUB WELCOMER ALL	 ABERDEEN BURNS CLUB 1872 BON ACCURS	 JAMES MACINTYRE HON. PRESIDENT 2012 - 2013	 ROBERT KANE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2016 - 2017	 IAN MACINTYRE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2017 - 2018	 THE SANDFORD & CORNWALL CLUB WELCOMER ALL	 ABERDEEN BURNS CLUB 1872 BON ACCURS	 JAMES MACINTYRE HON. PRESIDENT 2012 - 2013	 ROBERT KANE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2016 - 2017	 IAN MACINTYRE PRESIDENT HON. PRESIDENT 2017 - 2018	 THE SANDFORD & CORNWALL CLUB WELCOMER ALL	 ABERDEEN BURNS CLUB 1872 BON ACCURS
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1. Singers at ProArts 2019
2. RBWF Friendship Tiles
3. A Wee Beastie Fae Hame!

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THE UNICORN

SCOTTISH FACT!

The official animal of Scotland is the **Unicorn**.

BURNS ODE

DELIA, AN ODE (1789)

Fair the face of orient day,
Fair the tints of op'ning rose;
But fairer still my Delia dawns,
More lovely far her beauty shows.

Sweet the lark's wild warbled lay,
Sweet the tinkling rill to hear;
But, Delia, more delightful still,
Steal thine accents on mine ear.

The flower-ennamour'd busy bee
The rosy banquet loves to sip;
Sweet the streamlet's limpid laps,
To the sun-brown'd Arab's lip.

But, Delia, on thy balmy lips
Let me, no vagrant insect, rove;
O let me steal one liquid kiss,
For Oh! my soul is parch'd with love

RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (BILL NOLAN)



LOOKING FORWARD TO RETURNING TO CANADA

I'm writing this on a gey dreich and stoury Sunday morning in Scotland having spent a weekend immersed in Robert Burns and without having had to leave Irvine, my adopted hometown where Burns lived for almost a year in 1781/82. It was during his time in Irvine that two local men, Captain Richard Brown, a sea-faring man, and Willie Templeton, a local bookseller, changed the life of the young Ayrshire farmer for ever. Burns, then 22 years of age, came to Irvine to learn flax-dressing but illness, combined with a disastrous Hogmanay fire in the flax heckling shop where he worked, brought that adventure to a sudden end. He could easily have returned to the farm at Lochlea but chose to remain in Irvine enjoying town life in the Royal Burgh which was also then the third largest port in Scotland.

As Burns later announced in a letter to him, Brown provided the encouragement and aspirations for Robert Burns to have his poems published while Templeton exposed the embryonic poet to the Scots writings of Edinburgh-based Robert Fergusson who had died a few years earlier. Brown provided the aspiration and Templeton the inspiration to the young Burns who came to Irvine, in the words of my good friend Professor Gerry Carruthers of The Centre for Robert Burns Studies, as an Apprentice Flax-Dresser and left Irvine as an Apprentice Poet. No one can ever challenge the simple fact that Burns the Child was born in Alloway but there is now a much wider acceptance of the precept that Irvine was the Cradle of the Poet.

Yesterday, I witnessed how much Burns still means to young people when I was very impressed by the quality and depth of talent that was evident within the corridors of Irvine Royal Academy, of which your own Henry Cairney is a former pupil, when 110 young people from Senior Schools all over Scotland competed in the National Finals of the RBWF Scottish Schools Competition. The youngsters, aged between 12 and 18, competed in Verse-Speaking, Singing, Musical Instrument playing, and Piping with some talented individuals appearing in two and three of these categories. I've said previously that we are simply the custodians of the heritage left to the world by Robert Burns, and from the quality that I heard yesterday, his musical and poetic legacy are in very good hands for the next generation.

Time flies faster when you are enjoying doing something and that certainly applied to me when I realised in March that I was half-way through my term as RBWF President. At times, it has been challenging but I have been fortunate in having an active Management Board with members pulling in the same direction with a commitment to making progress in not only stabilising but also growing the Federation. As a result, I was able to present a very positive Half-Year Report to last month's Quarterly Plenary meeting of the Council and Committee members which showed that we were moving in the right direction in every way. When I became RBWF President, I promised the members that we were there to serve the Federation and work on its behalf and our Management Board has certainly done that. We made a commitment to achieving certain goals, one of which was to get people working together and the other was to chart a course that would lead to financial stability and eventually to fully sustainable growth with a customised Business Plan covering everything from Marketing to Heritage, and from Education to Literature. We have exercised budgetary control within all disciplines and, with enhanced fund-raising projects already bearing fruit, we are confidently predicting being able to show a profit at the end of the RBWF's current Financial Year at the end of April. A wide range of fresh marketing initiatives are coming into play including our popular Friendship Tiles and we are grateful to the early support of this scheme by Calgary Burns Club and by individual members within the Club. We are also using social media channels like never before and in doing so have managed a series of awareness messages and fraternal greetings around the world covering St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay, St Valentine's Day (with Red, Red Rose) and one in which we invited clubs and members to Back Burns on his Birthday by making birthday gifts to the RBWF; this particular marketing initiative generated several sizeable donations being received and still being received two months later.

Membership fees, especially from Individual Members, remains as our main income generator and we are constantly trying to encourage new members from within our global family to join up and become involved in supporting the Federation in protecting and promoting Robert Burns and his works.

LOOKING FORWARD..... (CONTINUED)

The financial uncertainty that has been created via Brexit across the UK has not helped with commercial sponsorship programmes though our good friends at Isle of Arran Distillers have continued to support us in both cash and in product and those of you attending this year's RBANA Conference will hopefully be able to taste and enjoy some of the latter!

The Brexit debacle - and that is not a political statement - may have created uncertainty across Europe but hasn't prevented a resurgence of interest in Robert Burns with added growth happening in Russia and in Ukraine and with new memberships being taken up by national and local bodies in Luxembourg, Austria (in Vienna) and Norway (in Oslo). Burns remains a global icon for universal humanity.

I never cease to be amazed at the number of Burns' statues, plaques and monuments that exist around the world and I have been privileged to have visited sites in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA. Most of the activity surrounding the creation of Burns' statues was manifest in the late 19th and early 20th Century with the statue outside The Fairmont MacDonald in Edmonton being a notable exception. I had assumed that such activity was firmly in the past so you can perhaps imagine my surprise when I recently received a letter from a group of Burns' enthusiasts in Germany seeking advice and support from the RBWF over a Burns-related monument based around Tam O' Shanter that they wish to erect next year in Uetze, a small town near Hanover!

When I heard of this I was immediately reminded of the generosity of another Calgarian, Eric J Harvie who funded the magnificent statue of Robert Bruce from Bannockburn that Trekker showed me last year during my all-too-brief visit. I'm sure that Colin Garriock who is leading this project in the name of The Clansmen Burns Club would be delighted to hear from any members of The Calgary Burns Club who might be interested in offering support; Beverly at RBWF Headquarters could provide further information.

I'm already looking forward to returning to Canada in early May for the RBANA Conference in Niagara Falls and to spending some time in Toronto and Guelph (founded in 1826 by Irvine-born author and pioneer John Galt). Mary will be accompanying me on this occasion and she too is looking forward to meeting up again with those from Calgary Burns Club whom she met in Irvine last September.

Best wishes to everyone in Calgary Burns Club.

Bill Nolan

President

Robert Burns World Federation.

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (KEN MONTGOMERY)



It was again a privilege to attend Calgary's 2019 Burns dinner; As usual and as expected, a great show was put on by all involved, and I know all attending, including myself had a grand time. Here in Medicine Hat we hosted another great evening, and I am told Edmonton's function was also a success.

I am now preparing to attend the 2019 RBANA AGM that will be held the first weekend in May. This one will be held in Niagara Falls, Canada and where the entertainment program will include talent from the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF), including Jane Brown your guest speaker from 2017, it will also feature that of members from the Halton Regional Burns Club and South Jersey Celtic Society.

Registrations can still be made and all CBC members and their significant others are welcome to participate. If interested check out the RBANA website.

I also plan to attend the RBWF AGM in early September and that's another grand event that CBC members may be interested in. The 2019 function will be held in Glasgow.

Other than that, its nice to see the sun and some warmth has finally returned. Enjoy the spring and upcoming summer, and as usual I wish you all the best.

Yours in Burns,

Ken Montgomery, President, RBANA

BURNS POEM

CASTLE GORDON (1787)

Streams that glide in orient plains,
Never bound by Winter's chains;
Glowing here on golden sands,
There immix'd with foulest stains
From Tyranny's empurpled hands;
These, their richly gleaming waves,
I leave to tyrants and their slaves;
Give me the stream that sweetly laves
The banks by Castle Gordon.

Spicy forests, ever gray,
Shading from the burning ray
Hapless wretches sold to toil;
Or the ruthless native's way,
Bent on slaughter, blood, and spoil:
Woods that ever verdant wave,
I leave the tyrant and the slave;
Give me the groves that lofty brave
The storms by Castle Gordon.

Wildly here, without control,
Nature reigns and rules the whole;
In that sober pensive mood,
Dearest to the feeling soul,
She plants the forest, pours the flood:
Life's poor day I'll musing rave
And find at night a sheltering cave,
Where waters flow and wild woods wave,
By bonie Castle Gordon.



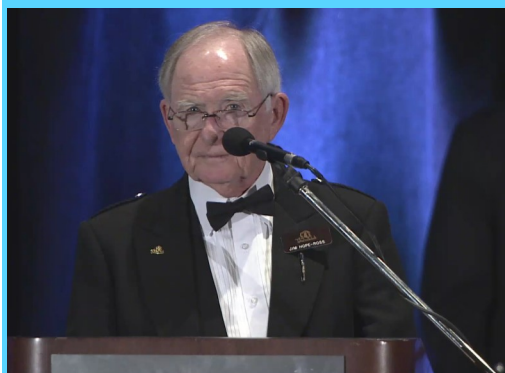
SKARA BRAE

SCOTTISH FACT!

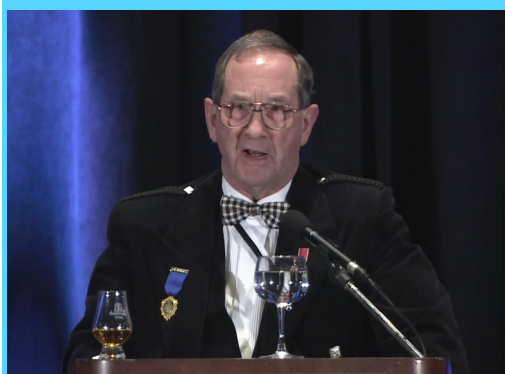
- **Britain, dating from 3100 BC.**
- The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae (pictured above), on the island of Orkney, is the **oldest building in Britain,**

BRIEF NEWS

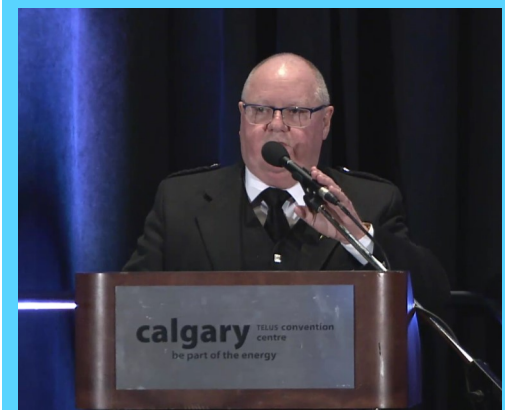
The CBC Singers will be recording their 6th CD in June 2019, watch this space!



JIM HOPE-ROSS



DR PETER HUGHES



JIM HUTCHENS

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

As the Club's year approaches its end we have the AGM to look forward to. It will be held at the Danish Canadian Club on May 14th, 2019 starting at 8.00pm. A full information package will be distributed to all members at the beginning of May. Members are reminded that a jacket and tie are traditionally worn by all members attending – please respect this custom. Prior to the meeting a meal is available for members as part of a socializing time starting at 6.00pm. There is a cost for this meal.

Before this event, the Robert Burns Association of North America is holding its own AGM and Annual Conference at the Hilton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of May, 2019. This is a fun event with two great evening functions – one informal and one formal. On the Saturday afternoon the annual quiz tests your knowledge of Robert Burns followed by what is usually an enlightening talk on a relevant subject. Of course there is also the opportunity to spend more time in the area which offers a vibrant wine industry as well as the lively Niagara on the Lake which is a complete contrast to Niagara Falls itself.

Then on September 6th – 8th, 2019 the Robert Burns World Federation is holding its AGM and annual Conference at the Hallmark Hotel in Glasgow. This is always a lively event with two fun evenings as well as the more serious business of the AGM. Anyone planning to be in Scotland at that time should consider attending; they will find a welcoming crowd of Burnsians who know and respect the name of the Calgary Burns Club.

More information is available through their respective websites – www.rbwf.org.uk and www.rbana.com.

2019 DINNER REPORT (JIM HOPE -ROSS)

In the last edition of the Claver, I reported, with anticipation, the planning for the 2019 Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper. The program as outlined in that earlier edition of the Claver was put in motion in the next ensuing months, culminating in the holding of the 43rd annual Robert Burns Supper, on January 25, 2019, the exact 260th anniversary of the birth of the Bard.

Under the coordination of President Jim Hutchens, with assistance from myself, 1st Vice President, Jim Hope-Ross:

- New managers at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre ("CTCC") required relationships to be established and orientation to the dinner's objectives be explained.
- The configuration of the room was changed.
- A new head chef was provided with recipes and areas of emphasis.
- FMAV, a new CTCC video contractor, was introduced.
- New whisky & wine suppliers were recruited.
- A new printer was engaged for the tickets and the program.
- Delivery of the haggis from the Medicine Hat vendor was improved upon.
- A new sponsorship package was introduced, which attracted 2 non-club member sponsors for the first time.

From the sonorous tones of Hugh McFadzean reciting Grace Before Meat, through the hilarity of Gordon McCulloch's and Brian Cumming's removes, to Merv Howitt's Loyal Toast, the addresses matched the unsurpassed quality of the traditional supper of smoked Atlantic salmon, cockaleekie soup, roast beef, neeps n' tatties, haggis wi' a' the trimmings, and Scotch trifle. The highlight was Jim Osborne's Address to the Haggis. The courses were interspersed with songs of Burns performed by the Calgary Burns Club Singers under the able direction of Ron Pratt and the piping, drumming, and dancing of the perennial favourite Calgary Police Service Pipe Band.

After the interval, President Jim Hutchens introduced his head table and the guest speaker of the evening, Dr. Peter Hughes, O.B.E., who proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. George Muir proposed a humorous and heartfelt toast to the Lassies, and Dr. Paul Armstrong proposed the toast to Absent Friends. Through gaining the cooperation of practically everyone down the line and much cooperation from those involved in the program and those who stepped up when asked, the evening met all of its objectives and did so within 3 minutes of its scheduled time frame under the detailed itinerary.

Once again we encountered falling numbers in both members and guests, but we still had a good turnout in spite of the economical climate in Calgary, and everyone on the night had a great time as always. The membership's feedback, through a questionnaire circulated and analysed by Past President Trekker Armstrong and at a subsequent debrief meeting, was wonderful and heartening for me to hear. Conservatively, the Supper received an approval rating of 80%.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Hope-Ross, 1st V.P. & 2019 Burns Supper Convener

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club current membership is as follows:

Member Class	No.
Life Member	13
Ordinary Member	37
Associate Member	5
Associate Member (Out of Town)	5
Total Members	60

Guests

The Calgary Burns Club had a number of guests attending recent meetings.

- Andy Kirk (3rd visit) and David Currie (2nd visit) were guests of Allan MacRae.
- Lanny Prout (1st visit) was a guest of Trekker Armstrong.

After attending three meetings a Visitor can express his desire to become a member through submitting an application to the Membership Director in accordance with the Club's Membership and Procedures Policy.

Arrivals

After nearly 4 years living in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, Life Member Stuart Chalmers and wife Anne have decided to return to Calgary this year to be closer to their ever-expanding Calgary and UK Chalmers families.

We look forward to Stuart once again being active in the Calgary Burns Club.

Departures

Our membership remains unchanged with no departures to report.

Best Wishes

A number of our members have spent time convalescing since our last Claver edition. The Club extended their best wishes to Henry Cairney, Bruce Gordon, Bill Laing and Brian Lunan.

If I have missed any membership news, please let me know and we will be pleased to include this news in the next edition of the Claver.

THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The past four months saw representation from our group entertain at some 18 venues including communities, hospital wards and retirement homes. Virtually all of our entertainment was provided by an average number of 6 singers with the notable exception of the Club's January Dinner where our participation this year was 20 singers. Our present complement numbers 25 singers.

In mid February, our participation in the ProArts concert series was well received.

Practices are continuing every Saturday at the Kensington Legion including preparation for the recording of our next CD, with the recording sessions set for June 29th and 30th at the Jack Singer rehearsal room.

Respectfully.....Ron Pratt

BURNS SONG

COMPOSED IN SPRING (1786)
(AS MAUN I STILL ON MENIE DOTE)

Again rejoicing Nature sees
Her robe assume its vernal hues:
Her leafy locks wave in the breeze,
All freshly steep'd in morning dews.

Chorus.-And maun I still on Menie doat,
And bear the scorn that's in her e'e?
For it's jet, jet-black, an' it's like a hawk,
An' it winna let a body be.

In vain to me the cowslips blaw,
In vain to me the vi'lets spring;
In vain to me in glen or shaw,
The mavis and the lintwhite sing.
And maun I still, &c.

The merry ploughboy cheers his team,
Wi' joy the tentie seedsman stalks;
But life's to me a weary dream,
A dream of ane that never wauks.
And maun I still, &c.

The wanton coot the water skims,
Among the reeds the ducklings cry,
The stately swan majestic swims,
And ev'ry thing is blest but I.
And maun I still, &c.

The sheep-herd steeks his faulding slap,
And o'er the moorlands whistles shill:
Wi' wild, unequal, wand'ring step,
I meet him on the dewy hill.
And maun I still, &c.

And when the lark, 'tween light and dark,
Blythe waukens by the daisy's side,
And mounts and sings on fluttering wings,
A woe-worn ghaist I hameward glide.
And maun I still, &c.

Come winter, with thine angry howl,
And raging, bend the naked tree;
Thy gloom will soothe my cheerless soul,
When nature all is sad like me!
And maun I still, &c

FAMOUS QUOTE

"I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

Abraham Lincoln



QUEEN VICTORIA

SCOTTISH FACT!

Queen Victoria is reputed to have smoked cigarettes during her visits to the Highlands of Scotland to keep away midges.

BURNS WORK

TO THE MEMORY OF
ROBERT RIDDELL (1795)

To Riddell, much lamented man,
This ivied cot was dear;
Wandr'er, dost value matchless worth?
This ivied cot revere.

THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)

Sonnet on the Death of Robert Riddell

Very shortly after Robert Burns moved to take over his farm at Ellisland near Dumfries in mid-1788, he was introduced to the local Laird, Robert Riddell. Riddell inherited the Glenriddell estate from his father upon the latter's death in 1788, although soon after he sold off most of the lands, retaining the family's Friar's Carse mansion and some surrounding acres that adjoined Ellisland farm. He also retained the territorial title as Robert Riddell of Glenriddell.

Riddell was a man of modestly distinguished breeding and education, an antiquarian of some renown and a fairly accomplished musician, which in itself would have tended to draw the two Roberts together. In any case they did very quickly develop a firm friendship. Burns was soon being invited to social gatherings at Friar's Carse, and through that he would have rubbed shoulders with many of the local who's who of Dumfriesshire's gentry, and became well acquainted with the laird's wife Elizabeth, his brother Walter, and Walter's young wife Maria.

Riddell had built a small summer house - The Hermitage - on the grounds of his estate bordering Ellisland farm. Not long after their becoming acquainted, he gave Burns a key to this small retreat so that he could indulge his Muse in its quiet, sylvan setting.

Burns seems to have had little more than a casual relationship with Elizabeth and Walter Riddell (whom he held in poor esteem), but Maria was a whole other story. They likely first met towards the end of 1791, shortly before she and her husband Walter bought a home close by. She was a beautiful young woman with intellectual and other accomplishments to match, one of which was her eminence as a writer and poet. Burns was drawn to her like a moth to the flame, and she was sufficiently flattered and intrigued by him to be open to a close platonic friendship, as well as accepting his mentorship and encouragement in her literary endeavours. We can assume that Robert would have welcomed a more intimate association, but no doubt understood very well the virtual impossibility of that prospect. However, we know he did flirt with Maria in their exchanges of correspondence from time to time, so a spark may have kindled some measure of censorious affection at some point, if not its actual manifestation.

Burns's involvement with the Riddell family, and his close friendships with Robert and Maria, continued until near the end of 1793 when an unfortunate incident - with Burns cast as the villain - took place at Friar's Carse during the course of a dinner party. This topic has been dealt with previously in a thorough, analytical treatment by Carnie Group member Ron Budd, but suffice to say that it imputed socially scandalous behaviour on the part of the poet during an improvised and drunken re-enactment of the rape of the Sabine women from Roman mythology. Whether or not he deserved the ignominy that followed, we cannot really know because all of the facts surrounding his alleged misconduct are now lost in time. But it resulted in his immediate expulsion from the Riddell home, and an imposed estrangement by all of the family members.

He did compose an apology addressed to the host of the evening, Elizabeth Riddell, but its tone was flippant, with clumsy attempts at humour that would only have served to further antagonize the straight-laced recipient, so, she ignored it. He also made overtures to Maria, but she adhered to the family's solidarity in snubbing all of his attempts at reconciliation, as did his erstwhile friend, Robert Riddell. The shame and mortification felt by this proud and emotionally vulnerable man following his agonizing attempts to restore his dignity and reputation resulted in an outpouring of invective that was surely unworthy of the icon we now celebrate as Scotland's national bard. The principal focus of his rage was Maria, no doubt because she was the one protagonist whom he most expected to show sympathy and forgiveness. They were close, after all, with attachments that went beyond mere friendship. When she disappointed him in her continuing rebuff, he embarked on a campaign of malevolent, public denunciation in verse that is still distressing to read.

As far as is known, Burns never again spoke or communicated with Robert Riddell, which would suggest an ongoing mutual antipathy right up to the time of Riddell's death, but upon hearing of the laird's untimely passing just a few months after the Sabine women incident, Burns was genuinely devastated. Almost immediately he composed a tribute to his former friend entitled 'Sonnet on the Death of Robert Riddell':

THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN CONTINUED)

No more, ye warblers of the wood, no more,
Nor pour your descant grating on my soul!
Thou young-eyed Spring, gay in thy verdant stole,
More welcome were to me grim Winter's wildest roar!
How can ye charm, ye flowers, with all your dyes?
Ye blow upon the sod that wraps my friend.
How can I to the tuneful strain attend?
That strain flows round the untimely tomb where Riddell lies.
Yes, pour, ye warblers, pour the notes of woe,
And sooth the Virtues weeping o'er his bier!
The man of worth - and 'hath not left his pier'
Is in his 'narrow house', for ever darkly low.
Thee, Spring, again with joy shall others greet;
Me, memory of my loss will only meet.

The sonnet was published in the Dumfries Weekly Journal on the day following Robert Riddell's death.

There is every indication from other recorded sentiments expressed by Burns to acquaintances, and in some of his subsequent poetical tributes, that the feelings and the sense of mourning expressed in these verses were genuine, and that despite Robert Riddell's continuing disaffection, Burns did not seriously waver in his esteem and respect for his former friend. But we are still left with the curiosity that even after composing this sonnet that we might have expected would temper Burns's anger and indignation, he continued to vilify the young Maria Riddell in verse. Fortunately, she seems to have been at least partially unaware of his insults, or chose to ignore them. He and Maria did eventually re-establish a moderate friendship, but only very close to the time of the poet's death.

Delivered by Jim McLaughlin, Carnie Group meeting - October 16, 2017.

Acknowledgements:
A Biography of Robert Burns by James Mackay
The Burns Encyclopedia

CLUB MEMBER NATIONAL AWARD (HENRY CAIRNEY)



On March 29, 2019 Allan MacRae received an award from Queen's Engineering 125th Awards. The March 2019 award is one of several Queen's Engineering 125th Awards, marking the most notable achievements of Queen's University Engineers over the 125 years of the Faculty of Engineering:
Allan M. R. MacRae, P.Eng., has conducted significant energy business on all six inhabited continents.
Congratulations to our fellow club member on his diligence and subsequent award.

BURNS POEM

JERUSALEM TAVERN DUMFRIES (1795)
INSCRIPTION ON A GOBLET

There's Death in the cup, so beware!
Nay, more-there is danger in touching;
But who can avoid the fell snare,
The man and his wine's so bewitching!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

President: Jim Hutchens
1st VP: Jim Hope-Ross
2nd VP: George Muir
Secretary: Tony Grace
Treasurer: Brian Cumming

Non-Executive

Past President: Trekker Armstrong
Communications: Paul Armstrong
Director At Large: Jim Osborne
Director At Large: Henry Cairney

Ex-Officio

Sponsorship: Mark Rowe
Entertainment: Gordon McCulloch
Steward: Don Humphreys



FORTINGALL YEW

SCOTTISH FACT!

It is home to the **oldest tree in Europe** (pictured below), a twisted yew which has stood in Fortingall for 3,000 years. According to local legend, Pontius Pilate was born in its shade and played there as a child

DEDICATION TO GEORGE ROSE (JACK WHYTE)



BEN NEVIS

SCOTTISH FACT!

The highest point in Scotland is **Ben Nevis**, (pictured below) at 4,406ft (1343m) .

FAMOUS QUOTE

“Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.”

Joshua J. Marine



EDRADOUR DISTILLERY

SCOTTISH FACT!

Scotland's smallest distillery, Edradour in **Pitlochry**, has 100,000 visitors per year but produces just 90,000 litres of malt whisky.

This is a letter to George Rose, of Brae Glen, Braeside Drive, Calgary, written early in 1977, soliciting the use of his beautiful, exclusive and luxuriously appointed premises at the Brae Glen Club in Braeside, South Calgary, where both Graham Underwood and I lived for a time, for the monthly meetings of the Burns Club. We had staged our first, formal, black-tie dinner at the Calgary Inn that year and were already meeting more regularly than we had earlier, though still no more than once or twice a quarter, but our numbers and our associated activities were already expanding. We had, as I recall it, already lost one of our original seven, Alistair Sinclair, whose company had transferred him to Ontario, and we had been joined by Andy Gibson and Jock Thompson, expanding our membership to eight, with more waiting in the wings, but we had no place that we could formally call Home.

George Rose, who owned the private, Brae Glen Club--one of the earliest high-end residential complexes in Calgary at the time--was one of those Wannabee Scots with lots of money but alas, no Scots blood worthy of notice. He loved being around us all, though, and really enjoyed sitting in on our meetings, and so I had the idea of writing him a formal letter in the Burns Stanza style, requesting his patronage at the time in the form of providing a central set of premises for the Club and its gatherings. George loved the proposal, together with the idea that accompanied it--the notion of being recognized as a bona fide Scot--and he made Brae Glen freely available to us for several years thereafter, though we did provide him with a rental fee of Five Pounds...

Dear George:

Nae doubt ye maun be wondering who
Would write like this, in verse, to you...
In proper, Burnsian stanzas, too,
And for what reason?
I hope that when you've read this through,
Ye'll find it pleasin'.

My fellow members thought it might
Be fun for their Bard, one Jack Whyte,
To strain and strive wi' words—to fight
Time and again—
To write a Burnsian letter, bright
And brief, ye ken?

We have a problem, Mr. Rose,
Thornier than one might suppose,
(One, I must add, who little knows
Of Clubs and meetings,)
For as a healthy, fine Club grows,
There's aye the seating!

For while eight members may foregather
In ae small room an' crack thegither
Wi' ne'er a thought o' wind or weather,
Eight's still a wheen!
But a sma' room shrinks like a singed feather
When there's sixteen!

We havena' got the room now, George,
To meet in comfort for to forge
Our Club's way forward — we'd engorge
A living room,
And halls for rent are a' too large
And cauld's the tomb!

So we wad like to make Brae Glen
Our Club's official hame, ye ken?
There's muckle room for eighteen men
To meet at ease
On Sunday mornings, now and then,
Tae shoot the breeze.

Our Business Meetings hence would be
Confined to one month out o' three;
One Sunday, when the room is free.
We'll keep it clean,
And when we're gaun, nane will e'er see
Whaur we ha'e been.

We'd like to have a copy made
O' our Club Charter, and displayed
Expensively, wi' Class, (gowd braid!)
Upo' your wa'.
We're proud o' it, when all is said,
Baith great and sma'.

Our Club memorabilia
Would soon become familiar,
'Though we'd no gild the lily, or
Abuse your trust
By showing aething silly or
Just gathering dust.

This then, George, is our Club's request:
We think your Lounge would suit us best;
It's airy, clean an' finely dressed,
A fitting hame
For Calgary's Burns Club to attest
To the Bard's name.

DEDICATION TO GEORGE ROSE (CONTINUED)

So, if ye would, please, gi'e some thought
As to whether we may, or not,
Make use o' that delightful spot
And call it hame.
We'd bring renown, as like as not,
To Brae Glen's name!

So now I'll thank ye in advance.
I hope that you'll no' look askance
On this request, nor let your glance
Frown to a glower?
Call me, or Graham, and give's the chance
To talk it ower.

And if the problem's one o' rent,
I think the coin might worse be spent.
Though guid Scots broadcloth might be rent
Wi' thrift-born grief,
The thought o' meetings in a tent
Defies belief!

I'm finished now, I've had my say.
I'll send this and await the day
I hear from you; meantime, I'll pray
You'll see the proof
The Calgary Burns Club should stay
'Neath Brae Glen's roof.

Cordially, Jack Whyte, Calgary Burns Club.

© Copyright Jack Whyte, Calgary, Alberta, August 17, 1975

COMMUNICATION & WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club website experiences approximately 40 – 50 visits per day and this increases in January when it peaks at > 400 visits on January 25th. The Club also receives regular email submissions to its email address (calgaryburnsclub@gmail.com) and these range from requests for information on Robert Burns, the Club itself and membership information to legitimate offers for articles for sale, usually books. We also receive our share of spam as well.

We receive regular news from both RBWF and RBANA which is then circulated to the membership. This year we received a number of Fraternal Greetings mostly in the form of digital messages and we received only 2 physical cards. We, too, send our greetings electronically through RBWF who chose this year to amalgamate them into a list a link for which was then sent to all affiliated Clubs.

The website has both public and private pages and we were successful in instituting a member specific password system this year. Every effort is made to keep the information on the website current and regular visits are welcomed. We would like to remind Members of 2 upcoming events. First, the AGM, on May 14, 2019 at the Danish Canadian Club. There will be a meal for which there is a fee and Members are asked to let Dan Humphreys (Club Steward) know of their attendance. The Business meeting will follow, and regrets must be sent, in writing, to our Secretary, Tony Grace in advance of the meeting. The second event is the annual golf outing on Sunday, July 21, 2019 at Woodside Golf Course in Airdrie. Full details of both of these events can be found on the website under the Upcoming Events tab.

BURNS EPIGRAM

MARIA RIDDELL (1793)

"Praise Woman still," his lordship roars,
"Deserv'd or not, no matter?"
But thee, whom all my soul adores,
Ev'n Flattery cannot flatter:

Maria, all my thought and dream,
Inspires my vocal shell;
The more I praise my lovely theme,
The more the truth I tell.



EDINBURGH

SCOTTISH FACTS!

The capital of Scotland, **Edinburgh** (**pictured above**), is only its second largest city, after Glasgow.

Edinburgh was the first city in the world which had its own fire brigade. Like Rome, Edinburgh was **built on seven hills** and the capital has more listed buildings than anywhere in the world

Edinburgh was home to Skye terrier **Grey Friar's Bobby** (**picture below**), who captured the hearts of the nation by sitting on the grave of his dead owner for 14 years.



GREYFRIARS BOBBY

DUNCAN BROWN BIO (HENRY CAIRNEY)

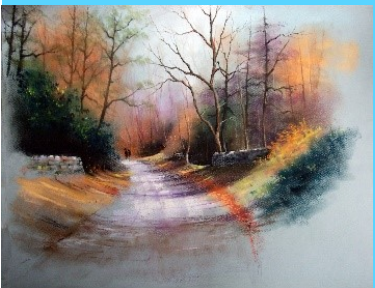


DUNCAN BROWN

TOP: With his book,

“My Hero My Soldier Laddie”

BOTTOM: Playing at a ceremony
in Glasgow



Ay Walking O

Here's a nice wee painting of a
Scottish woodland you can go for a
walk in...but you'll be watching out
for those wild beasties!

I heard about Duncan through a friend Lesley McDonald RBWF Schools Convener on social media, and was immediately struck by his talent and the diversity of his work, in particular to our bard, Robert Burns. I have included some of Duncan's work “with his comments” in this edition with his kind permission.

I intend to meet up with him on my return to Scotland later in the year. I will let Duncan's words explain his bio in his own inimitable way. Duncan has also granted us permission to use his work in the artwork for the CD6 being produced this year (Henry Cairney):

OK...a bio about me...I was born 1950 Left school at 15 years old and went to live in Canada for a couple of years, 67' / 68'. Returned to Scotland where I found my niche' in art, music and Scotland's history through my mentor and great friend, the Scottish author Nigel Tranter. He opened up the door for me in to the mystical world of our great past, which I have never left. I have painted hundreds if not thousands of paintings depicting our characters in one form or another.

Another great achievement for me was the discovery of 14 Victoria Cross winners from my home county of Lanarkshire. I wrote a book on each man's story, MY HERO, MY SOLDIER LADDIE (type it in to google) which was debated in Parliament and saw the book supplied to every school and library in Central Scotland. A campaign was run by the local press. On the back of an art exhibition I did of paintings of the men and the action that saw them awarded the honour in the first place. We eventually had a 10ft monument put up to the memory of these men where none existent before. If I never do another thing of worth in my life I will be happy with this one.

The attached photo is myself in front of the VC monument with my book. Two years ago I decided to try something on the life that I knew of Robert Burns. I had no idea where I was going with it, but just kept painting these pictures of incidents in his life. One every day for five weeks, (37 days.) I began to have double vision on the 37th painting, so had to stop painting to recover. Then a couple of days later it hit me...Robert lived till he was 37 and I wondered if I was meant to stop there anyway. So there it remained 37 paintings in 37 days on the life of the 37 year old Robert Burns. I felt as though he was telling me himself, "That will do big man. Leave it there." So, there it lay till some time later when a guy phoned me to tell me he wanted to buy the lot of them. He paid me with a large bag of cash and I knew I had given myself a chance to show Robert Burns to the world in a way that has never been seen before. I don't think I was wrong, but where will it take me now..?

I have given slide show talks on these paintings for a couple of years now to clubs and societies throughout Scotland. The other attached photo is myself a few weeks ago playing at a ceremony in Glasgow. I'll never weary.. Best of luck with this.

Duncan Brown

ALL RIGHTS PRESERVED DUNCAN BROWN ©

DUNCAN BROWN'S WORK (HENRY CAIRNEY)

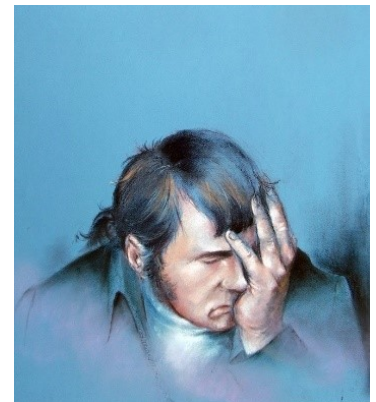


Burns Looking Over Scotland

On this grand day, 25th January,
here's Rab looking out over a mystical
Scotland with at least eight familiar
views of the country in it. I wonder
where he would stand on this Brexit
carry-on...! It's hypothetical anyway.

Burns Despair

Robert Burns was known to be prone to bouts of deep depression, but even today the world does not wish to hear about that side of him. It's not a positive thing to dwell on, so we brush it, and his misfortune aside as of no interest to us. What a tragedy, he had nobody to console him then either and remained in his dark world for long periods. Like it or not, this is an image of Robert Burns as he would have looked from time to time. A great shame.



DUNCAN BROWN'S WORK CONTINUED (HENRY CAIRNEY)



Auld Lang Syne

My latest portrait of Robert Burns. In the song 'For Auld Lang Syne', there is a line about him offering his hand in friendship, and for you to offer yours in return...As I look at it, I find myself stretching out my own hand toward him imagining I could grasp his hand to connect with him. That was the inspiration and thought behind this painting. Also there, is the old farm house of Ellisland and at the bottom right, the old Brow Well where he was advised to take the waters from this spring daily in the hope it would help with his ailments. It did not. I also copied his signature to sit above a shining star. What do you think..?



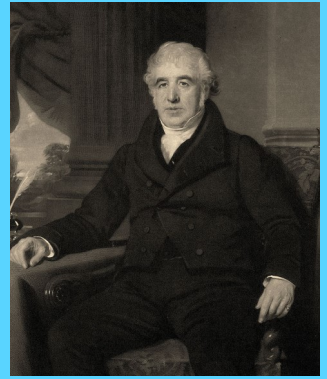
The Twa Dugs

THE TWA DUGS...Luath the farmer's collie dog, and Caesar the pedigree landowner's dog. A great poem about the two dogs who meet up and they discuss between them the futility and stupidity of the human race. I love how it ends with these words after they've discussed the subject at some length... "Then up they got, and shook their lugs...rejoiced they werena' men but dogs...and each took off his several way, resolved to meet some other day." I may be a painter with canvas, but Robert Burns was a painter with words. No doubt about it.



Burns Funeral

Robert Burns died in July 1796. My old grandfather, Cameron Highlander Samuel Clements used to tell me that people would pay me lots of compliments in my life about my art, but says he, "Compliments are like chewing gum son, enjoy it, but don't swallow it." and he would also say, "You're not as important in this life as you think you are, and the size of your funeral will depend on the weather." I loved him for things like that, but that last one about the size of your funeral being dependent on the weather, is quite something when you consider the funeral of Robert Burns when 10,000 people turned up, in the pouring rain to see that the poet was being given a full scale military funeral by the government. What a fantastic site that must have been. When you think on that, think about the finest qualities that any one human being could possibly possess, and think on... Robert Burns.



CHARLES MACINTOSH

SCOTTISH FACT!



The **raincoat** was **invented** in 1824 in Scotland by Charles Macintosh (picture above), a chemist born in Glasgow. In Great Britain, the garment is still called a "Mac".

BURNS WORK

LINES INSCRIBED IN A
LADY'S POCKET ALMANAC
(1787)

Grant me, indulgent Heaven,
that I may live,
To see the miscreants feel the
pains they give;
Deal Freedom's sacred
treasures free as air,
Till Slave and Despot be but
things that were.

LORD DAER (GEORGE MUIR)

Lines On Meeting With Lord Daer 1786 A Poem

(Prepared by George Muir for the Carnie Group April 7, 2014)

The poem describes Burns' experience of a dinner hosted by Professor Dugald Stewart at his country home in Catrine, Ayrshire, not far from Mossgiel farm. Dugald Stewart was Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. Burns had met Stewart in 1784 in Tarbolton when Stewart was made an honorary Member of Lodge St. James, of which Burns was Deputy Master. Dr. John Mackenzie of Mauchline, another acquaintance of Burns had sent a copy of the Kilmarnock Edition to Stewart. Stewart being very much impressed by the poems invited both Burns and Mackenzie to dinner on October 23rd 1786. Present at this dinner was Lord Daer, who lodged with Stewart while attending Edinburgh University. The dinner was the poet's first meeting with nobility. It starts by describing his apprehension of dining with a member of nobility but then expresses his surprise at how down to earth Lord Daer is.

Some nine days later on November 1st, Burns sent a letter to Dr. Mackenzie enclosing his first draft of the poem.

This wot ye all whom it concerns;
I, Rhymer Robin, alias Burns,
October twenty-third,
A ne'er-to-be-forgotten day,
Sae far I sprachl'd up the brae
I dinner'd wi' a Lord.

I've been at drucken writers' feasts,
Nay, been bitch-fou 'mang godly priests-
Wi' rev'rence be it spoken!-
I've even join'd the honour'd jorum,
When mighty Squireships of the quorum
Their hydra drouth did sloken.

But wi' a Lord!-stand out my shin!
A Lord-a Peer-an Earl's son! -
Up higher yet, my bonnet
An' sic a Lord! - lang Scotch ells twa,
Our Peerage he o'erlooks them a',
As I look o'er my sonnet.

But O for Hogarth's magic pow'r
To show Sir Bardie's wilyart glow'r,
An' how he star'd and stammer'd,
When, goavin, as if led wi' branks,
An' stumpin on his ploughman shanks,
He in the parlour hammer'd!

To meet good Stewart little pain is,
Or Scotia's sacred Demosthenes:
Thinks I: 'They are but men'!
But: Burns;! - 'My Lord!' - Good God I doited,
My knees on ane another knoited
As faulterin I gaed ben.

I sidling shelter'd in a nook,
An' at his Lordship staw a look,
Like some portentous omen;
Except good sense and social glee
An' (what surpris'd me) modesty,
I marked nought uncommon.

I watch'd the symptoms o' the Great -
The gentle pride, the lordly state,
The arrogant assuming;
The fient a pride, nae pride had he,
Nor sauce, nor state, that I could see,
Mair than an honest ploughman.



(1794, John Brown)

Lord Daer

Basil William Douglas, styled Lord Daer, 1763-1794, Politician



**GAELIC SIGN
EXAMPLE**

SCOTTISH FACT!

Scotland has **three officially recognised languages**: English, Scots and Scottish Gaelic, with just one per cent of the population using the last.

LORD DAER (CONTINUED)

Then from his Lordship I shall learn,
Henceforth to meet with unconcern
One rank as weel's another;
Nae honest, worthy man need care
To meet with noble youthful Daer,
For he but meets a brother.

Lord Daer was born Basil William Douglas-Hamilton in 1764, presumably at Saint Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbrightshire, where his nine siblings (three girls and six boys) were born. He was the second son of the 4th Earl of Selkirk. The title, 'Earl of Selkirk', was created in 1646 but the rules of succession are very convoluted and will not be addressed here. He did much to improve the agriculture on his father's estates in the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright. He is probably better known for being liberal minded and through friends in France became an admirer of the French Revolution. He was a member of 'The Friends of the People' and a strong advocate of Parliamentary reform – as was his father and his younger brother.

Below is an extract from a letter written on 17th January 1793, a year before his death, to the prominent Whig MP Charles Grey about the State of Scotland under the union. You can see from this why he would be admired by Burns. "Scotland has long groaned under the chains of England and knows that its connection there has been the cause of its greatest misfortunes. Perhaps you may shrug your shoulders at this and call a Scot's prejudice, but it is time at moments like these when much may depend on suiting measures to the humour of the people, that you Englishmen should see this rather as it is or at least be aware of how we Scotsmen see it. "

Lord Daer died aged thirty and unmarried at Ivybridge in Devon and his remains lie in Exeter Cathedral. I think it's fair to say that the admiration that Lord Daer and many of his like-minded friends in the aristocratic circle offered some protection to Burns' for his liberal views, preventing him from being called to task for some of his works which ran close to being considered seditious.

Burns was to meet with the Selkirk family again. In the summer of 1794 he, in the company of John Syme, whose office was beneath Burns house in Wee Vennel, Dumfries, took a tour through Galloway and on to Kirkcudbright. They stopped at St. Mary's Isle, where they were invited to dinner by Lord Daer's father, the 4th Earl of Selkirk. Burns was asked to say grace and he recited the old Lallans 'Galloway Grace' but in Standard English. Why he felt it necessary to use the English version I do not know. Nowadays at Burns Suppers all over the world the Lallans version is used. Some years earlier in 1778 during the American War of Independence the US navy sloop under the command of John Paul Jones was cruising between Scotland and Ireland looking for prizes. Benjamin Franklin thought it might be a good idea to capture a member of the British nobility. Jones being familiar with the area around the Selkirk estates, having been born there, selected the elder Lord Selkirk as a potential hostage. He sent two of his officers and some sailors ashore to capture the Earl. A governess saw them approach and hid the children. The Earl was not at home and the sailors wanted to take the young gentleman (Lord Daer's younger brother) they had seen on their approach to St. Mary's Isle. After some negotiation Lady Selkirk was successful in convincing the sailors to accept some of the family silver in exchange for the young boy. The butler placed some silver on top of half a bag of coal, gave the sailors some whisky with which they toasted her ladyship and they left. Thus the future Earl of Selkirk and his siblings were spared. The silver was returned seven years later after protracted legal negotiations.

Lord Daer's younger brother Thomas Douglas, at the age of 28 years, became the 5th Earl of Selkirk on the death of the old Earl since his six elder brothers, of whom Lord Daer was one, were already deceased. As a young man at Edinburgh university Thomas had become acquainted with the plight of the crofters in the highlands who were being displaced by their landlords. When he inherited the estate he used his position and money to purchase land in PEI and Upper Canada to provide settlements for these crofters. He with Sir Alexander Mackenzie bought enough shares in the Hudson's Bay Company to let them control the land and they established settlements in the Red River Valley. The Earl is memorialized in the names of the City of Selkirk, the Village of East Selkirk and many other Manitoba landmarks. In present day Britain the heir apparent to the Selkirk estates is Lord Selkirk's eldest son, John Andrew Douglas-Hamilton, Lord Daer (born 1978).



SCOTLAND V ENGLAND 1872 (FINAL SCORE 0:0)

SCOTTISH FACT

The first official international football match was played at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick in 1872, between Scotland and England.

FUTURE EVENTS

(PAUL ARMSTRONG)

May 14th 2019 - Club AGM
June 2019 - Summer BBQ (T.B.A.)
Jan 24th 2020 - CBC Burns Supper



BALTIMORE INFIRMARY

SCOTTISH FACT!

The **first teaching hospital in America**, the Baltimore Infirmary was founded by a Glasgow surgeon, Granville Sharp Pattison, in 1816.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2020 Andy Harrower Director RBANA
2021 Ronnie O'Byrne Director RBANA
2022 Ian McIntyre Past President RBWF

IN THE NEXT EDITON

- 1) Profile of our own Bill Laing
- 2) Conference Reports
- 3) AGM Report

APPRECIATION

I would like to give thanks to both Ron Budd and Derek Larg for their work in proof reading and feedback with the previous years editions of the Claver. Ron in particular has been very vigilant in ensuring the grammatical quality is kept to a high standard.

Henry Cairney

BURNS CROSSWORD 6 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

All the answers are found in this edition!



ACROSS

- 3 Oldest building in Great Britain!
- 5 A wee nip here from a wee place!
- 8 Famous Scottish regiment home!
- 9 Murdered in a theatre!
- 11 An ODE from a shortened Tom Jones song title!
- 12 A founding member!
- 14 Old Bookseller from Irvine!
- 16 Burns first nobleman encounter!

21 Alberts Wife!

- 23 This US Infirmary was founded by a Glaswegian!
- 24 Big hill in Scotland
- 25 On top of old Smokey!
- 26 Some lines were inscribed here!
- 27 A loyal Dug!

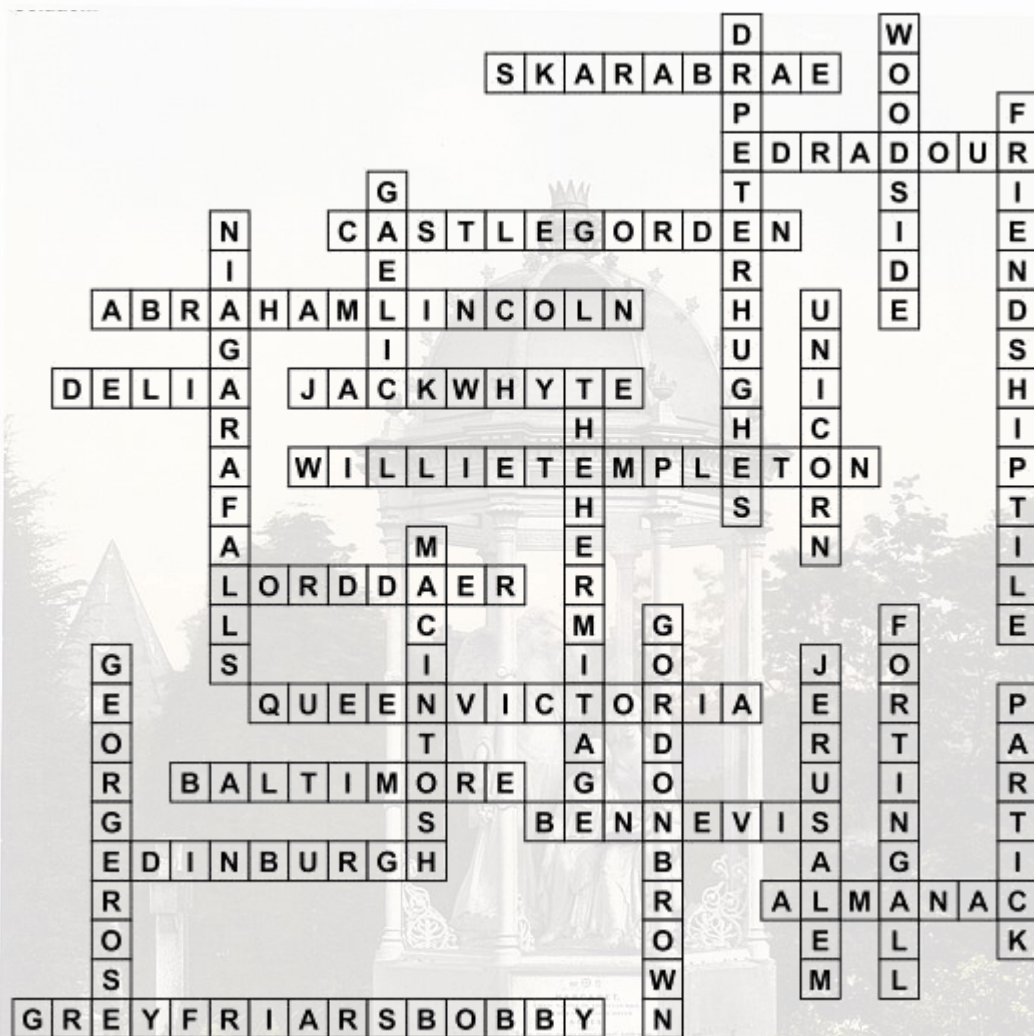
DOWN

- 1 Speaker 2019
- 2 Annual golf trip venue.
- 4 RBWF Wall initiative!

6 Sounds "Double-Dutch" tae some folk!

- 7 RBANA Conference Venue.
- 10 The Lion and The
- 13 Robert Riddles House!
- 15 A coat for all seasons!
- 17 Artist profile!
- 18 I remember YEW!
- 19 Brae Glen Club owner!
- 20 Pub in Dumfries!
- 22 Town who hosted the first Auld Rivals game!

BURNS CROSSWORD 6 (SOLUTION)



ACROSS

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CALGARY CLAVER

Thank you to all contributors.

If you have anything with a Robert Burns, or Scottish cultural interest you would like included in the newsletter, please e-mail Henry Cairney at:

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Deadline for the October edition of the Calgary Claver is:

****Sept 27th 2019****

Editor's Note

The views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editor, BOD or the Calgary Burns Club at large. Feel free to contact the authors directly for any clarification.

"Scottish Facts"

Credited to Hannah Furness
from the Telegraph
11th January 2012

