



Calgary Claver

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I approach the end of my term as President, I am pleased to say that the Club has accomplished much in the past year! The Singers completed the production of Ay Waukin' O and it was available for distribution before Christmas. St. Andrews Day was celebrated with another enjoyable event at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club. We had a successful Burns Supper at the new/old venue, the Westin Hotel, where we were welcomed back after many years' absence. There were some transitional issues which have been addressed for next year's event, wherever it might be. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in ensuring that all these events happened and for their success. Plans are now under way for a return trip to Scotland in 2021 with performances by the Singers in a number of venues.

Our Club is recognized worldwide for its enthusiasm, activities, talent and hospitality; however, we face a number of challenges in the future and this is shared by many Burns organizations, not the least of which is our aging demographic and difficulty in finding members to serve in key positions. Times are changing and we must be prepared to follow suit.

The major challenge that we are now facing is COVID-19 and how this will impact us in the near and distant future is impossible to predict and things will have changed between the time that I write this, and you read it. This is having a definite effect on our spring activities including our meetings and most notably, the AGM. We are looking at all options to try to make it happen in whatever form it might take. Stay tuned to the website for updates.

Scotland produces a wonderful COVID-19 medicine, it's not great on surfaces though it works very well when taken internally but please enjoy responsibly! We actually don't have a lot of choice!

I wish everyone the best in these difficult times and hope that you are able to stay well. Remember to stay in, social distance, wash your hands often and don't touch your face!

Paul

Dr. C. P. Armstrong
President
Calgary Burns Club



1. Stormy Arbroath
2. Carluke Sunset (Elizabeth Morrison)
3. The Brow Well near Dumfries

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RBWF President's Message	2
RBANA President's Message..	3
Burns World.....	4
CBC 2020 Dinner	4
Membership News	5
Singers 2021 Trip Update.....	6
The CBC Singers	6
CBC Website	6
CBC Communications.....	6
The Carnie Group	7
Dr Alexander Paterson	8/9
Willie Nichol (Part 1)	10
Donna Burns	11
Tam The Shanker.....	12/13
History of Scotland (Part 2) ...	14/15
Burns Wordsearch 1.....	16
Burns Wordsearch Solution ...	17

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Board of Directors	7
Future Events	7
Future Speakers	16
In The Next Edition.....	16

RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (BRIAN GOLDIE)



Henry Cairney delivering
The Immortal Memory at
Fauldhouse & Crofthead BC

BURNS POEM

Tragic Fragment (Unconfirmed Date)

All devil as I am- - a damned wretch,
A hardened, stubborn, unrepenting villain,
Still my heart melts at human wretchedness;
And with sincere but unavailing sighs
I view the helpless children of distress:
With tears indignant I behold the oppressor
Rejoicing in the honest man's destruction,
Whose unsubmitting heart was all his crime.
Ev'n you, ye hapless crew! I pity you;
Ye, whom the seeming good think sin to pity;
Ye poor, despised, abandoned vagabonds,
Whom Vice, as usual, has turn'd o'er to ruin.
Oh! but for friends and interposing Heaven,
I had been driven forth like you forlorn,
The most detested, worthless wretch among you!
O injured God! Thy goodness has endow'd me
With talents passing most of my compeers,
Which I in just proportion have abused- -
As far surpassing other common villains
As Thou in natural parts has given me more.

(I found these words very poignant in our
pandemic world!)
Henry Cairney



I am delighted to once again have the opportunity to address our friends, the members of Calgary Burns Club, through the pages of the Claver. It is a far cry since my last appearance in your publication and of course the circumstances could not be any different from the convivial evening we spent with you only a few short months ago during which we enjoyed good company, entertainment and the opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with those of your members who attended the RBWF conference in Glasgow.

We live in different times, however, with the emergence of COVID-19. The world seems to have been turned upside down by this virus, so indiscriminate in its nature and already taking its grim toll on many people, including some of our members. It is with great humility that I acknowledge the recent passing of two federation Past Presidents, John Morrison and more recently Bob Dalziel, we will sadly miss them both. Our office manager's father has also fallen victim to the virus and I have no reason to believe that will not continue.

Joyce and I have been at a bit of a loss for the past few months as all of our events, club and committee meetings, schools competitions and even the RBANA conference have been cancelled.

We were particularly disappointed from the perspective that I had really wanted to attend as RBWF president while at the same time applauding Burns' federation JVP Henry Cairney as he was promoted to his new role as president and we especially looked forward to meeting up again with Tony and Sheila, Jim and Joyce, Paul and Anne, Henry and Shona and the other Calgarians. I enjoyed an evening with Henry during his recent visit home and had hoped to reprise the conversation over a few drams but we'll just have to wait for another opportunity.

We took the decision to close the office in Kilmarnock around four weeks ago, the safety and well being of our staff, as well as that of the directors who attend regular meetings, uppermost in our thoughts. While we endure this period of uncertainty, our newly appointed admin assistant is waiting in the side lines until the restrictions are lifted and we can get back to a full management program. The business of the RBWF has to go on and with the benefit of technology we are still able to conduct our normal board meetings. Which enables our office manager, Anne, to work from home in a safe environment.

The most disappointing restriction is the closure of schools in the UK. I have a healthy relationship with local education chiefs who value our input to the 'Burns' classes in poetry, singing and, of course, the production of the annual Burns' suppers and recital competitions. I am, however, confident that when we get back to normal we will make up the lost ground as we head further into 2020.

We are establishing new ground and contacts which include a membership enquiry from South Africa. The Knights of Pendragon, a local rotary group who held their first ever Burns' supper in February, have invited me and past president Bill to attend their gathering next year. One of their members, The Marquis of Tullibardine whose father, the Duke of Atholl, is resident in Johannesburg, was instrumental in running the event to raise funding for a childrens unit in a local hospital.

Joyce and I send our continued best wishes and while we offer our condolences to everyone who has lost a family member to this affliction, we continue to hope that you all keep safe and well and that we will see you at some time in the future.

Faternally Yours,

Brian Goldie
President RBWF

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (KEN MONTGOMERY)



As I write this message, this being one of my final messages as president of RBANA, getting geared to finish my 2 year term. The business my wife Brenda and I own is now pretty well closed, excepting certain files we still have ongoing and must maintain. We are still in quarantine and practicing social distancing. We just finished watching a news update on the horrible and senseless tragedy that just occurred in Nova Scotia. I can however tell you that Brenda and I are happy, content and doing well. Our (3) adult sons are also doing well, considering all said and noting that my oldest boy is a Mountie in BC.

This is a very tough time to remain cheerful and optimistic but one of the nice things about getting older and being privileged for that, is to believe we will weather the storm and survive. I also now have a better appreciation of what people, including my parents and grandparents, went through during WWII, with curfews and rationing. One thing I would very much suggest one does with all this down time, other than clean the house and yard, or sort through old papers and photographs, is to relax and seriously take the time to read or re-read Burns. I started doing this and found I am getting a new or better appreciation of Burns and his works, especially poems such as 'Man Was Made to Mourn', that I feel is most especially relevant these days.

As a result of my involvement with RBANA I have also been very fortunate to have met many wonderful people and I am especially grateful for the support I have received from my many friends with the Calgary Burns Club (CBC). I also note that the CBC, through many of its members, has for many years contributed to the interests of RBANA. I believe this started back in 1992 when the CBC sent Jimmy Osborne to Atlanta and AGM of the North American Association of Federated Burnsians (as RBANA was then called) as its representative. Jim's main objective was to attempt to hold the next AGM in Calgary along with the World Federations AGM. At that time RBANA had membership issues, it is apparent they were not aware of the many Western Canadian Burns Clubs that existed, and it would be Jim Osborne who used his connections to turn things around. Prior to the next AGM he formally had the CBC become a member. He also signed up other Burns Clubs including Schiehallion (Calgary), Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Vancouver Burns Clubs.

I further note that where Tony Grace has served as one of RBANA's three Canadian directors, and is now taking a well deserved break, Brian Cumming is now coming on board as his replacement. Further, RBANA's next president will be my very good friend, Henry Cairney. With Henry's additional involvement with the Burns World Federation, the CBC will continue to be very well represented in the international Burns community for some years to come. That is something all CBC members should be proud of.

My last official comments relate to the future of all Burns related organizations. Times are changing, especially now with the COVID 19 challenge, many organizations have and continue to struggle, and many clubs or other service groups have experienced challenges, especially with declining membership, maintaining interest and involvement, attracting new members and, most especially, future leaders. The reality is that with changing times there must be changing attitudes about how we operate and do business and what we must do to properly survive, move ahead and exist in the future. To me, failure to appreciate and accept what must be done and do is inexcusable and would be a disservice to Burns and his legacy.

Another reality is that being involved with a Burns club is something that should not only involve a sincere desire to preserve and promote the works and memory of the Immortal Bard but something that should always be fun and enjoyable, just like a real good Scotch. Best regards to you and yours, please stay safe.

Yours in Burns,
Ken H Montgomery, President, RBANA

BURNS EPISTLE Epistle To Hugh Parker (1788)

In this strange land, this uncouth clime,
A land unknown to prose or rhyme;
Where words ne'er cross't the Muse's heckles,
Nor limpit in poetic shackles:
A land that Prose did never view it,
Except when drunk he stacher't thro' it;
Here, ambush'd by the chimla cheek,
Hid in an atmosphere of reek,
I hear a wheel thrum i' the neuk,
I hear it - - for in vain I leuk.
The red peat gleams, a fiery kernel,
Enhusked by a fog infernal:
Here, for my wonted rhyming raptures,
I sit and count my sins by chapters;
For life and spunk like ither Christians,
I'm dwindled down to mere existence,
Wi' nae converse but Gallowa' bodies,
Wi' nae kenn'd face but Jenny Geddes,
Jenny, my Pegasean pride!
Dowie she saunters down Nithside,
And aye a westlin leuk she throws,
While tears hap o'er her auld brown nose!
Was it for this, wi' cannie care,
Thou bure the Bard through many a shire?
At howes, or hillocks never stumbled,
And late or early never grumbled?-
O had I power like inclination,
I'd heeze thee up a constellation,
To canter with the Sagitarre,
Or loup the ecliptic like a bar;
Or turn the pole like any arrow;
Or, when auld Phoebus bids good-morrow,
Down the zodiac urge the race,
And cast dirt on his godship's face;
For I could lay my bread and kail
He'd ne'er cast saut upo' thy tail. -
Wi' a' this care and a' this grief,
And sma', sma' prospect of relief,
And nought but peat reek i' my head,
How can I write what ye can read?-
Tarbolton, twenty-fourth o' June,
Ye'll find me in a better tune;
But till we meet and weet our whistle,
Tak this excuse for nae epistle.

Robert Burns.

OLD SCOTS PROVERB

"A fule may gie a wise man counsel. "

Translated means: A fool may give a wise man counsel.



2020 Supper Members and Speaker Photo



Major Andy Harrower main Dinner Speaker



Major Andy Harrower Receiving his white hat from Elaine Baumann at the President's Reception

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

The Robert Burns World has been drastically impacted by what is going on with the current pandemic which has put many of life's little treats and adventures on hold.

Firstly the RBANA Conference originally planned for Atlanta at the end of April has been postponed. We will have to wait to see when the current restrictions are lifted in order for the Conference to be re-scheduled. Provisional plans for the 2021 Conference were to hold it in Calgary hosted by the Calgary Burns Club. Depending on what happens over the next weeks we will be told what the new plans are for both the 2020 and 2021 Conferences.

At this time the RBWF Conference is still planned to be held in Renfrew, Scotland at the Glynhill Hotel and Leisure Club from September 4th – 6th 2020. Reservation forms are available for those wishing to attend. Remember our own Henry Cairney is due to assume the position of Senior Vice-President of the Federation at this Conference. Of course it is possible that the current pandemic could affect this event, but only time will tell.

Nearer to home our own Club's plans for the AGM are still up in the air. It will definitely not be held on May 12th 2020 as currently scheduled. We are looking to delay the actual AGM until later and meanwhile trying to find the best way forward to continue the running of the Club without running afoul of the Societies Act of Alberta and our own Bylaws.

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

2020 DINNER (HENRY CAIRNEY)

On Thursday January 23rd the President's reception was held in the downtown Westin where Major Andy Harrower was presented with his White Hat by Calgary Tourism representative Elaine Baumann. It also coincided with our President, Paul Armstrong's birthday that weekend. A very pleasant and social evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our 2020 44th Burns Supper was held in the Westin downtown on Friday January 24th. We had the usual bill of fayre for the evening for our 452 guests. There was a number of other changes this year, apart from the venue, with a new Haggis Supplier and Photographer.

I carried out my duty of MC for the first half of what was a very entertaining evening comprising our Calgary Burns Club Singers led by Ron Pratt, Jim Hope-Ross said the grace, the traditional "Removes" before each dinner course delivered by Andy Burnett and Jim Hutchens, the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band, the Address to the Haggis delivered by Dr Sandy Paterson, The Loyal Toast was delivered by Bill Laing and finally the poem "To A Mouse" orated by Ron Pratt.

After the head table was piped in, I handed over the MC duties to Paul Armstrong. Paul then introduced Major Andy Harrower from Ontario, who delivered an entertaining Immortal Memory, The Toast To The Lassies by Gordon McCulloch, The Calgary Fiddlers and finally the Toast To Absent Friends by Paul Kane.

Apart from those named, many others contributed to the success of the event including procurement of goods, logistics, suggestions and the entertainment itself. I would like to re-thank everyone involved once again.

The evening was generally a success, but there are area's to work on for next year and the board will take this into account for next year.

Financially the event was a good and a surplus was achieved again due to generous donations and the Westin negotiations, to which I again give my thanks on behalf of the club members to all concerned.

Henry Cairney, 1st V.P. & 2019 Burns Supper Convener

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (JIM HUTCHENS)

The Calgary Burns Club current membership is as follows:

Member Class No.

Life Member	13
Ordinary Member	37
Associate Member	8
Associate Member (Out of Town)	5

Total 63

Interest in our Club continues to grow and this is evidenced by the addition of three new members in the past few months.

Andy Kirk joined us in November 2019. He was born and raised in Scotland, holds a Ph.D and works in the oil industry here in Calgary. Andy is married with three young children. Originally from Dunfermline, Fife, Andy came to Calgary in 1991 to study for his Ph.D in chemistry at University of Calgary, and is a research chemist (self-employed) focusing on oil upgrading and heavy oil analysis/separation. He has always had an interest in poetry and enjoys the works of Walter Scott, Robert Burns and other Scottish authors.

David Currie joined the Club in December 2019. He was born and raised in Ayrshire, Scotland along with his wife and four children David made the move to Canada in 1999. With a background in heavy-duty equipment he now holds a management position with a national equipment supply company. David enjoys traditional Scottish songs and is looking forward to widening his knowledge and perspective of Robert Burns.

Charlie Malone is our newest member. Charlie was born in Perth, Scotland and spent his formative years living in Kirkcudbright just a stone's throw from the Selkirk Arms where Robert Burns wrote "Selkirk Grace". He graduated from the University of Strathclyde in Metallurgy. Following international working experience in the oil industry, Charlie came to Calgary in 2005. He is married with two sons and has enjoyed hosting Burns Dinners in his home and now is looking forward to dedicating more of his time to enjoying Burns and his Scottish culture.

As we welcome these three gentlemen into our Club we look forward to getting to know them further as they participate in Club activities and meetings.

Bill McLauchlan and Allan MacRae, two long serving members of The Calgary Burns Club very graciously changed their status to Associate Members. This paved the way to allow us to confer Ordinary Membership status to these three new members.

On a sad note, Faith Young, the widow of deceased and loved member Bob Young passed away in March. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family.



Andy Kirk



David Currie



Charlie Malone

FUTURE EVENTS

(TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

T.B.A. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

President: Paul Armstrong

1st VP: Henry Cairney

2nd VP: Brian Cumming

Secretary: Tony Grace

Treasurer: Paul Kane

Non-Executive

Past President: Jim Hutchens

Communications: Trekker Armstrong

Director At Large: Rob Pinkerton

Ex-Officio

Entertainment: Jim Little/Maurice

MacAtamney

Steward: Don Humphreys



Andy Kirk and Charlie Malone receiving their Calgary Burns Club Members Shields

SINGERS 2021 TRIP UPDATE (HENRY CAIRNEY)

I was in Scotland during February and again met with the Poosie Nansie Burns club members and the Kirkcudbright Tattoo organizers to discuss further our trip planned for August 2021. Both meetings were very productive in terms of logistics and dates.

At this time both events are to plan, but may have to be re-visited due to the Covid-19 outbreak and International restrictions which could impact travel etc., if further waves of the Pandemic linger into 2021.

There will be further information on both events in the coming editions.

THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The past five months saw representation from our group entertain at some 28 functions, almost two thirds of which were in the month of January. In November, at the Field of Crosses, we participated in two sunrise services and also the Remembrance Day service. In December, we were pleased to be again invited as guest participants for the three performances of the Big Rock Christmas concert in Okotoks. As with our previous visit in 2013, it was a wonderful experience and the finale truly magical. We also paid a return visit to the Fanning Centre where we provided a one-hour Christmas concert to each of the two wards on the second floor. January was as usual our busiest month with entertaining at 15 seniors' residences, almost all of them being repeat visits. A guest appearance was also made at Grace Presbyterian Church on the Sunday following our Club dinner. February included our participation in the service for George Milne and our last performance was in mid-March at the Watergrove Community Centre. It was a good ending to our year as the event was sold out, the dinner was very good and the evening very enjoyable and successful.

Future performances and practices will only be considered as and when social mixing again becomes the status quo. In the meantime, now is a good time to sing along with CDs, or to practice a poem or song or a story for some future presentation.

Keep your health in mind and have a good summer.

Respectfully.....Ron Pratt

THE CBC WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club website exists as a portal for information regarding the Club and has both public and Members Only areas. It provides valuable information regarding Robert Burns, Club events and Club information. We hope that Club Members, in particular, will find it useful for the dissemination of relevant and timely information regarding activities and Club business and this is limited to member access only.

We are pleased that it is visited regularly by many people. The activity is fairly constant but always peaks in January, for obvious reasons. The Carnie Group is particularly active in providing interesting and informative articles and these can be found under the Papers tab. We thank them for their contributions. Because of our current crisis, COVID-19, we are trying to keep the website current with up-to-date information regarding the Club and its activities. Members are encouraged to check it regularly. All the best to you all, stay well!

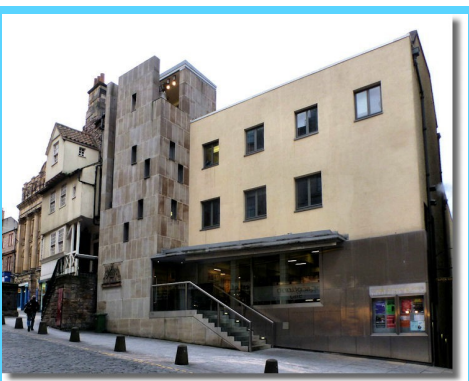
Dr. C. P. Armstrong
Webmaster

COMMUNICATIONS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The Club email address calgaryburnsclub@gmail.com. This is the main hub for both internal and external communications and is linked to the Contact Form on the website. The communications Convener will distribute anything received as appropriate to the members or Board. There has been an increased use of the e-mail through 2019 and the first quarter of this year, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and increased electronic mail and meetings.

Protection of the members is the main priority and all communications are monitored for appropriate content, and the President will be contacted in the first instance if external or internal messages need a decision. This also includes the members list and personal details which will not be shared, unless the owner provides permission. I would also request that members keep the Communications Convener updated if any changes occur in their contact details

Trekker Armstrong
Communications Convener



EDINBURGH

The CBC singers are booked to go to Scotland in 2021, all being well and the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh is the first venue for the trip. The house used to belong to John Knox who was a Minister, theologian and writer who was a leader of Scotland's Reformation. He was the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.



KIRKCUDBRIGHT

The old town of Kirkcudbright is the second venue of the trip. The town is finely situated on the estuary of the River Dee, and is the county town of the County or Stewartry of Kirkcudbright in South-West Scotland. Kirkcudbright is first recorded with Royal Burgh status as far back as 1455, but may have had this distinction even earlier. Royal Burgh status gave the town authority to trade with ports outside of Scotland and reflected the security of its position, and importance of its fine sheltered harbour. The original town was built around the old High Street where many old town-houses still survive. With its castle, harbour and mote, it was protected on all sides by the tidal waters of the River Dee and has prospered over many centuries since.

Copyright free from the website:
<http://www.old-kirkcudbright.net>

THE CARNIE GROUP (IAN DENNESS)

The Slave's Lament written in 1792

It was in sweet Senegal that my foes did me enthrall
For the lands of Virginia-ginia O;
Torn from that lovely shore, and must never see it more,
And alas! I am weary, weary O!
Torn from that lovely shore, and must never see it more;
And alas! I am weary, weary O!

All on that charming coast is no bitter snow or frost,
Like the lands of Virginia-ginia O:
There streams for ever flow, and there flowers for ever blow,
And alas! I am weary, weary O!
There streams for ever flow, and there flowers for ever blow,
And alas! I am weary, weary O!

The burden I must bear, while the cruel scourge I fear,
In the lands of Virginia-ginia O;
And I think on friends most dear, with the bitter, bitter tear,
And alas! I am weary, weary O!
And I think on friends most dear, with the bitter, bitter tear,
And alas! I am weary, weary O!

What I find interesting initially about this song/poem is that it was written in 1792 and yet Burns' decision to go to Jamaica was made in 1786 when Jean Armour's father, James, had made it clear that Burns and Jean were no longer to be an item. What happened in the intervening 6 years to cause Burns to "change his mind" about working on a slave plantation in Jamaica to writing such a song as if he were a slave?

But back to 1786, Burns is probably feeling pretty desperate at this time. The woman he "married" is pregnant, but her father has made it clear that they cannot marry. He's signed over the family farm at Mossgiel to his brother, Gilbert. He's on the rebound from Jean with Highland Mary, what else was a young man to do. It would be interesting to think about what might have happened had he gone to Jamaica. Would he have made light of the slavery situation and come back to Scotland years later as a wealthy man: or would he have taken one look at the plight of the black slaves, rebelled and come home on the next ship. Obviously, we'll never know. Suffice to say the Kilmarnock Edition happened and the rest is history.

So how did he come eventually to write the Slaves' Lament? Carruthers and McGinn categorize the song as 'insipid' and 'not in the first rank of his talent'. Were there events happening elsewhere that started him thinking about 'chains and slavery' (Scots Wha Hae, written in 1793) and 'man to man shall brothers be' (A Mans a Man, written in 1795). Perhaps the French Revolution of 1789-1792 was prominent in his mind? Or philosophers and politicians like James Beattie (1735-1803) and William Wilberforce.

Of note most recently, is the unpublished letter, discovered through the Scottish Heritage Lottery Fund project on 25 January 2013. Burns wrote a letter in 1794 to an English actress, called Elizabeth Kemble, who was a great supporter of the anti-slavery movement. Evidently she is best known for her performance in Inkle and Yarico, an anti-slavery play, popular with radicals at that time.

It's interesting to note that although the song has been described as weak and insipid there is quite a number of singers putting their slant on it. Everyone from Dougie MacLean, Battlefield Band, Glasgow Parsonage Choir and a version by Kevin Thompson sung to the tune of Bonnie Lass of Fyvie O.

Prepared for the Carnie Group by Ian Denness, 2014

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME (UNLESS IT'S HAME)

Original Poem penned by Jim Hope Ross
(Spring 2019)

Ye set yersel' upon a stane.
Ye know ye won't be back again.
Ye bend yer collar 'gainst the rain;
Pull yer bonnet o'er yer ears
On the inside feel the pain
So bid adieu to those lost years.

Thinking back, was nae sae bad.
There were good times that we had.
Ye were nae mair than a lad
When first ye climbed upon a horse.
Yer mither thought we baith were mad
And she was right, of course.

Then lassies garnered oor attention:
Too many we can scarcely mention.
Wooing was a new invention
Ye had to try out every lay.
I'll confess some apprehension
That some you laid would gang astray.

Life goes on and I recalled when
I bought a bonnie butt 'n ben.
I thought you'd settle, ah, but then
You caught a sloop; set out to sea.
I tried to stop you: "Stay, ye ken!"
Ye grinned and simply laughed at me.

Now you're asked where you call hame.
You dinna answer "whence you came",
Nor yearn for mamma's hearth and flame.
No. You sit a while upon the stoop
Then give the answer; still the same:
"Home is where you go to poop!"

© Jim Hope-Ross 2019

DR ALEXANDER PATERSON (HENRY CAIRNEY)



SANDY PATERSON

Dr Alexander Paterson (Sandy to his friends and colleagues) has been a member of the Calgary Burns club for 28 years which included becoming President of the club in 1996. Married to Wendy with four children and nine grandchildren with sailing and writing as his main hobbies. He is a prominent and well respected member of the club with his tremendous sense of humor and debating skills. Sandy is also a member of the Carnie group, the CBC singers and plays the fiddle. Sandy was our dinner speaker in 2004 and 2014, and also spoke at many other occasions including RBANA which the CBC hosted in 2015. The following is transcribed from Sandys distinguished career.

Dr Alexander Paterson

M.B., Ch. B., M.D., FRCP, FACP, Medical Oncologist, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Professor Emeritus, Department of Oncology, University of Calgary.



ST BARTHOLOMEWS HOSPITAL LONDON

Sandy was born in Calcutta, India where his father was a mining engineer running coal mines in Bengal. After Indian Independence, the family moved back to Scotland. He was educated at Gullane Public School and then George Watson's College, Edinburgh (including a marvelous time for 3 months at the Lycee Henri Quatre in Paris.). Sandy was interested in all aspects of biology and the new science of cellular biology, but also loved and enjoyed British and World Literature, including Poetry. Those boyhood interests have sustained him in his career in Oncology.

Sandy trained at Edinburgh University Medical School in the sixties (earning good money playing folk music in the great bars and clubs of Edinburgh) and after being thrown into the real world of Surgery and Medicine in Roodlands Hospital, Haddington and Milesmark Hospital Dunfermline and he stated ***"Believe me I did everything there including manually doing some of the white cell counts and some biochemistry, intubating and putting overdose patients on ventilators, and at nights taking the X-rays"***

Sandy then drove down to London to study the emerging specialty of Oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital where he completed a doctorate in tumour-seeking radionuclides.

Sandy was a medical oncologist at the Cross Cancer Institute for 12 years before coming to Calgary as Head of the Division of Medical Oncology for 10 years. his full-time practice as a medical oncologist at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary, was mainly in patients with carcinoma of the breast and other endocrine malignancies. Although currently in "semi-retirement", he assists in performing part-time locums when a need arises, for example in Medicine Hat, Red Deer, the Cross Cancer Institute and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

He has completed clinical research in melanoma, gynecological malignancies, phase I/II and III clinical trials in breast cancer, the natural history of breast cancer, prognostic factors in breast cancer, patho-physiology and treatment of bone metastases, malignant hypercalcemia; and prevention of bone metastases with bone active agents. He also participated in clinical research in palliative care medicine, prevention and treatment trials in breast cancer (with the US based NSABP), and is currently an investigator with the U.S. based National Research Group (NRG) and collaborates with researchers in Barcelona, Spain in a project studying the genetic determinants of bone metastasis development and treatment.

Sandy was on the Board of Directors of the U.S. based National Surgical Adjuvant Breast Project (NSABP) 2000-2018, Chaired the Alberta Breast Cancer Programme 2002-2010 and Chaired the Breast Cancer Society of Canada Alberta Division 2000-2018.

He is currently Chair of Health Canada's Scientific Advisory Committee on Oncology Therapies and has written a regular column for "Alberta Doctors' Digest" on medical and general topics from 2006 up till now and says: ***"Maybe its getting near time to lay down the pen!"***

He was privileged to give lectures in many countries but it was being invited to lecture in Southern and South-east Asia and South America that he became acutely aware of the huge disparities in health care between our life in the West and the third world.



THE TOM BAKER CANCER CENTRE

DR ALEXANDER PATERSON (CONTINUED)

This came home to him when he was invited to Bombay (now Mumbai) on a “Technology Transfer” and was busy teaching about our latest cancer therapies. This was at the Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Mumbai, and one afternoon, after visiting their Bone Marrow transplant unit, decided to walk back to the luxury Taj Mahal Hotel and states: *“My path took me through slums of the most abject poverty I had ever seen. It seemed ridiculous that I was transferring expensive medical treatments in the presence of such awful poverty. I remember watching one sari-clad woman diligently sweeping dust with a fistful of twigs from in front of her cardboard box of a “home” and knowing that when the monsoons arrived in a few weeks, this pathetic shelter would be swept away. But she had status - others were living like animals in holes dug into the ground.”*

Up until this year, Sandy has tried to spend 2-4 weeks in our winter months helping in the teaching of medical skills to students and residents. One fairly successful program was at the Zamboanga Medical School in the Southern Philippine island of Mindanao, a region where kidnap and ransom is rife and security is always an issue because of Islamist terrorists. He says: *“A group of us teach physical examination and we consult on basic start-up specialty programmes (for example, working to get opiates like oral morphine available for palliative care.) One of my regrets is that conditions are too risky to bring medical students and residents to learn about diseases like malaria, rabies and dengue fever - diseases that they will rarely see in the West. A friend, the Dean of the Ateneo de Zamboanga Medical School devised a curriculum specific to conditions in Mindanao and the islands and consequently most of the students on graduation remain to practice in that region rather than trying to emigrate to the West (as happens with the curricula taught in Manila and Cebu where the majority of graduates – both Medical and Nursing end up in the USA, Europe or Canada.)”*

Another “Ah-hah” moment in Sandy’s life came when he was talking to medical residents in Zamboanga a few years ago about the treatment of curable advanced lymphoma in a 23 year old woman whom they had just seen. *“It turned out she could only afford one cycle of a needed four cycles of drugs and had returned to her village on one of the islands without completing treatment. At the same time, I had a copy of the International Herald Tribune with a photograph of an orang-utang at a Florida zoo surrounded by two doctors and four nurses that was receiving chemotherapy for a lymphoma.”*

“In the islands here, we are not as valuable as that monkey,” said one resident laughing.

Because of family reasons and an easier time zone, Sandy is now focusing with a group of like-minded friends on Nicaragua - a poor Central American country with a Communist dictatorship - where the University of Managua has asked for their help. They are collaborating with teaching – both visiting Managua to teach, and bringing junior consultants and senior residents to study here in Calgary. *“The doctors in these places are smart and know what they should be doing but lack the funding for the kinds of equipment and medicines we take for granted in North America and Europe. For example, we have 12 linear accelerators for radiotherapy in Calgary for a catchment population of 1.6 million; in Zamboanga they will soon be getting 1 accelerator for a catchment population of 8 million. In Nicaragua they have just commissioned 1 linear accelerator for 6.5 million people.”*

“The medical projects ongoing there are an effort to eradicate carcinoma of the cervix (an exceedingly common condition in Nicaragua and other parts of Central America) using a simple technique of diagnosing the disease by colposcopy and acetic acid (vinegar) staining with immediate laser treatment; setting up a pediatric cardio-vascular surgical programme and establishing (with help from Rotary Clubs International and other funds) a second medical school in a smaller city.”

“I’ve been privileged to see cancer treatment move from treating acute leukemia in young people with prednisone and having nothing available for young men with testicular carcinomas when I was a student in Edinburgh, to curing the majority of those people and participating in bringing in curative treatments for lymphomas, certain types of breast cancer, childhood malignancies, and good palliative treatments for many others.”

PHILIPPINES PHOTOS



Mountain village clinic,
Mindanao.



Fetching water for the village
in Mindanao.



Ward teaching with residents
in Zamboanga



Rad Centre Co-60 in
Managua

WILLIE NICHOL PART 1 (1744 – 1797), (STEPHEN NICHOL)



Sophie Bonner (17) and her brother Jack (snare drum) are members of the Otahuhu and Districts Highland Pipe Band, in Auckland, New Zealand. When this photo was taken, Sophie was playing “The Green Hills of Tyrol”. Sophie’s father is the cousin of Calgary Burns Club member, Stephen Nichol

BURNS POEM

Hey The Dusty Miller
1788

Hey, the dusty Miller,
And his dusty coat,
He will win a shilling,
Or he spend a groat:
Dusty was the coat,
Dusty was the colour,
Dusty was the kiss
That I gat frae the Miller.

Hey, the dusty Miller,
And his dusty sack;
Leeze me on the calling
Fills the dusty peck:
Fills the dusty peck,
Brings the dusty siller;
I wad gie my coatie
For the dusty Miller.

The literature on Robert Burns often includes references to Willie Nicol. These references date back to Robert Burns’ childhood when Willie Nicol undertook tutoring work and Robert Burns was one of his pupils. Willie Nicol would have been one of the first of Burns’ contemporaries to recognise his unique mind and skills with language.

Willie Nicol was able to influence Burns with his views on the social structure of Scotland in the 1700s and the impact of the church on their way of life. He was also able to encourage Burns with his writing, both in the Lowland Scots dialect and with the English language. Nicol’s life was an unhappy experience, as Nicol appears to have made poor choices. It could be said that Burns and he were a poor fit with the times in which they lived, with the rigid social hierarchy and lack of civil rights. Our contemporary society would have been more to their liking.

James Adair, a young doctor, who accompanied Robert Burns on the Scottish Lowland tour, would comment about Nicol and Burns: “the same wit and power of conversation; the same fondness for convivial society and thoughtlessness of tomorrow”.

Willie Nicol was born at Dumbretton near Annan, a short distance southeast of Dumfries. Some publications suggest his birth date was 1744 but his christening record indicates 9/04/1749. The difference in the dates may be due to the vicars’ infrequent visits to Dumbretton. In the 1740s, Dumbretton was a farm operation which would have had limited community services. Later in Willie Nicol’s childhood, his family moved a few miles north to Ecclefechan, where his father, Christopher, worked as a tailor. Ecclefechan would have enabled Willie to have access to schooling and for Willie to begin his formal education. As Willie became educated he started a school in Ecclefechan and provided an early education to the young children within the area of Ecclefechan. His father died early and this school would have provided an avenue of support for his mother.

In 1924, the Rev. Dr. James King Hewison wrote a short account of Willie Nicol’s life and made reference to his wife, Janet Cairns. Researching Willie’s family would appear to have been a straight forward exercise, but when the exercise was attempted, like Willie Nicol, it was anything but straight forward. Willie Nicol spent much of his adult life in Edinburgh, but the record of his marriage to Janet Cairns indicated that it occurred in Stirling on 28/05/1780. In this Willie refers to himself as John, which added to the difficulty of finding the marriage record.

Willie and Janet had four children; three daughters and one son. In their christening records Willie continues to refer to himself as John Nicol. The first two children were christened in Glasgow, Lanarkshire. The first was (Margaret McBride) Nicol christened 26/05/1781

In the original birth record the given names of the child are omitted and the record indicates that the child was a male. The suggestion here is that Nicol provided misleading information for the birth record, (A marriage record exists for Margaret McBride Nicol/William Aitken, dated 04/01/1802, at Edinburgh. James Nicol was christened 12/10/1784.

The last two of their four children were christened in Stirling: Ann Nicol christened 14/10/1787
Agnes Nicol christened 25/07/1790

It appears that Willie was trying to hide something and it occurred that he may have had another marriage. After a search over a long period of time, a record of an earlier marriage was found, along with the record of the christening of two sons. A marriage was recorded on 3/12/1769 at Applegarth Town, Dumfriesshire but the bride’s name was omitted. The record notes the groom paid a one shilling marriage registration fee. At registration, the fee (the “vicars tax”?) may have been more important to the presiding vicar than the bride’s name as she may not have been present. It is possible that their marriage was an informal arrangement and the couple did not involve the church.

Their two children’s christenings were recorded: Father, William Nicol; mother, Margaret Johnston Robert Nicol christening 28/12/1775 at Kirkmichael, Dumfriesshire. (Robert would emigrate to the new world as a young adult and would make a name for himself during his adult life.)

Thomas Nicol christening 10/12/1778 at Dryfesdale, Dumfriesshire

The existence of this earlier marriage to Margaret Johnston helps to explain why Willie Nicol changed his name to John when he married Janet Cairns in Stirling and when he registered the births of the children he had with her. It is not clear where Willie’s four children he had with Janet Cairns were born, but it may have been in Edinburgh. Willie Nicol’s attempts at hiding his second marriage and the births of his four children point to Willie’s tensions with the church. It would be of interest to know how the church in Scotland handled divorce in informal marriages during the time when Nicol and Burns were alive. Willie also may not have wanted Margaret Johnston to know about his marriage to Janet Cairns.

Willie Nicol’s involvement as a tutor of Robert Burns is not well documented. A clue occurs when Robert Burns made his first visit to Edinburgh on 28/11/1786. In 1774, Nicol had become a classical master at the High School, Edinburgh. Prior to this date, Nicol had studied at Annan Grammar School and Edinburgh University (the ministry and medicine).

(Part 2 will be in the Autumn Claver)

DONNA BURNS (RON BUDD)

A Conversation with Donna Burns, a descendant in a branch of the Burness family

A week or two ago a friend told me about Donna Burns and the fact that she believed that she was a descendant of the Alloway Burns family. My friend gave me the phone number and I called and talked with Donna for a half-hour or so. A bright lady in her seventies, her story went something like this. –

Her forebear, Walter Burness was born in Scotland, possibly in Kincardineshire, (on the east coast, south of Aberdeenshire) about 1778 and arrived in Canada in 1820 with his family, aboard the SS Commerce. Walter and his brother, John, are on record as getting land grants in the Ottawa Valley in 1821. Walter (Burness 1) stayed there, farming as did his son, Walter (Burness 2) and his family Walter(?) (Burness 3). From Burness 3, came (Burness 4) whose name I didn't get but who had the urge to come west and homestead in the Pincher Creek area. In 1887, (Burness 4) wrote the first account of the settling of Pincher Creek, including a note on his son, Alexander (Burness 5) who grew up there.

Alexander, I understand, may have been the first of this line in Canada to change his name to Burns as the Bard had done in his time. He was the one who would become Donna's grandfather. He stayed in Pincher Creek where he married a lady from a Crawford family with a forebear who was a prominent leader among the Empire Royalists of an earlier time. Their son, James Crawford Burns (Burness 6) was Donna's father. Donna has five brothers in Western Canada and Walter (Burness 1) was their four-greats-grandfather.

A search of Burness genealogy in the 18th Century is like looking for a Smith in the Phonebook. There were at least four Robert Burnesses alive in Ayrshire in 1760, including the Bard, along with eight William Burnesses and these are on one family tree. There are no less than fifteen other family trees of Burnesses. Robert Burns had some ninety cousins and half-cousins. The family tree on which William Burness and Agnes Brown, Robert's parents, are located reaches back to one Walter Burness, born in 1615. In four generations this Walter had an aggregate of 190 descendants and not one of them was a Walter

There are numerous Walters scattered through the index of names, however, with locations on other trees but there was only one, recorded as baptised in 1780 and who might be match with Donna's relative born about 1778. I drew blank on a limited search for further information on this gentleman but I was satisfied that he does not belong on the Alloway tree but on one of the others. Perhaps going back to old Walter of 1615, a common link can still be found among his many descendants.

Ron Budd

For those interested in more information on Robert Burns descendants, the RBWF has a book which can be purchased from their online store at:

http://shop.rbwf.org.uk/product_info.php?products_id=274

Genealogical Charts of the Family of Robert Burns & descendants

Also the families of Gilbert Burns and Isabella Burns. Researched by Lawrence R Burness F.R.G.S., F.S.A.Scot. Edited and compiled by Peter J. Westwood Ever since the death of Robert Burns over 200 years ago there has been published from time to time an assortment of genealogical charts on the family of the poet, many of which being incomplete and far from accurate. In an endeavour to rectify this, and to bring the information up to date, the Burns Federation decided to publish its book based on researches by Lawrence R. Burness, a distant relative of Robert Burns, and leading authority on the genealogy of the poet and connected families.

Henry Cairney for RBWF

THERE IS A HAPPY LAND

(Traditional Rhyme submitted by
George Muir)

There is a happy land
Down in Duke Street Jail,
Where a' the prisoners stand
Tied tae a nail.
Ham an' eggs they never see,
Dirty watter for yer tea;
There they live in misery--
God save the Queen!"



Loch Leven

(Submitted by Jim Hope-Ross)

Mountain peaks in the Scottish Highlands look dramatic all on their own, but throw in a reflective sea loch and the picture is complete. Here on Scotland's jagged west coast, sea meets mountains at Loch Leven, a saltwater inlet whose shores have witnessed the fall of heavy industry and the rise of tourism. At the dawn of the 20th century an aluminum smelter, now closed, was built at the head of the loch. The village where our image was captured, Ballachulish, was the site of large slate quarries from the late 1600s to their closure in 1955. Now, Loch Leven's main draw is its peaceful surroundings and natural beauty.



BURNS SONG

FAREWELL SONG TO THE BANKS OF AYR

(1786)

The gloomy night is gath'ring fast,
Loud roars the wild, inconstant blast,
Yon murky cloud is foul with rain,
I see it driving o'er the plain;
The hunter now has left the moor.
The scatt'ered coveys meet secure;
While here I wander, prest with care,
Along the lonely banks of Ayr.

The Autumn mourns her rip'ning corn
By early Winter's ravage torn;
Across her placid, azure sky,
She sees the scowling tempest fly:
Chill runs my blood to hear it rave;
I think upon the stormy wave,
Where many a danger I must dare,
Far from the bonie banks of Ayr.

'Tis not the surging billow's roar,
'Tis not that fatal, deadly shore;
Tho' death in ev'ry shape appear,
The wretched have no more to fear:
But round my heart the ties are bound,
That heart transpierc'd with many a wound;
These bleed afresh, those ties I tear,
To leave the bonie banks of Ayr.

Farewell, old Coila's hills and dales,
Her heathy moors and winding vales;
The scenes where wretched Fancy roves,
Pursuing past, unhappy loves!
Farewell, my friends! farewell, my foes!
My peace with these, my love with those:
The bursting tears my heart declare-
Farewell, the bonie banks of Ayr!

TAM THE SHANKER A CAUTIONARY TALE (SANDY PATERSON)

When gowfin' foursomes leave the Links
Clean oot their lockers, air the stinks
Of socks forgotten, trousers squashed
Muddy shoes and shirts unwashed
And while they howk and store their clubs
And caddies lurch frae pub to pub
Some still go gowfin' on the Links,
Still knock back alcoholic drinks.
They think na of the next day's work
And Sundays? De'il tak the Kirk!
They dinnae mind those left at hame
The wife, the dug, the cat, the wean,
Who've suffered ower mony abuses,
The fibs, evasions, lame excuses.
For golf's an unco strong addiction
A dreadful, chronic deep affliction.
And learned doctors ken for sure,
For junkie gowfers, there is nae cure!

And so a certain Tam the Shanker,
To play guid golf – oh, he did hanker.
E'en in November's rain and sleet
With shots of whisky taken neat
He practiced on the putting green,
And on the driving range was seen
Striking balls with fierce resolve
Hoping his shanking might evolve
Into a ball flight straight as an arra'
Doon the middle o' fairways narra'

Oh Tam, how could you waste time so
You're nae cut oot tae be a pro.
But such is the stubborn pride o' Man
He thinks he'll beat Great Nature's plan.
Folk shook their heads and watched him flailing
At practice balls and each time failing
To hear that click – the perfect shot
That means you've found the club's sweet spot.
But worse than trying to outwit Fate
Tam's flaw – he would exaggerate!
Tam would fib, miscount his score,
Shift the ball and much, much more.
On putting greens his ball he'd lift,
And on his breeks, gi'e it a dight.
Then – no concern for's immortal soul --
He'd place it nearer to the hole.
He'd cut a sneg in's trooser pocket
When ball was lost, doon leg he'd drop it.
And mony other tricks unlawfu'
That honest golfers find quite awfu'

So to our tale – ae cloudy day,
November's nip was here to stay.
Tae Gullane on the Number One,
Tam had slunk on, fifteen he'd done.
Lost ten balls and torn his jaiket
Any chiel would say he's crackit.
And in the air a dreich, cold smirr
That threatened lightening, storm and wor'.

He reached the hole called Traprain Law
(Traprain you hardly saw ata')
That ancient Pictish Burial ground
A hazy, ghostly, far-off mound.
And then a line – a long white bar
Rolled o'er the hill – an East Coast haar.
Tam couldnae see a bluidy thing
E'en's hands were lost at top of swing.
Picked up his ball and bagged his club
And thought he'd make it to the pub.
The grulie weather grew mair awfy:
He might not make it to the bothy.
That hut at fourteenth hole -- a haven
That's been there since the Emperor Hadrian.

Strugglin' thus through whin and bramble
Through rough (now mire) he had to scramble
Till looming up he saw the shelter
Through the mist a helter-skelter.
Of swirling haar and peltin' rain.
Bravely he hummed a light refrain --
An auld Scots tune ca'd "De'il's Awa,"
That Rabbie Burns had penned n' a.

He made the hut in fading light,
And Wow! Tam saw an unco sight:
Inside the hut a fire was bleezin'
Red lights, thick rugs (jings! Tam was freezin')
And sunk in centre deep in chair,
A red faced loon wi' jet black hair.
Beside him was a dark haired hizzie,
Who introduced herself as "Lizzie"
A short, tight skirt, a fulsome chest,
Wi' ample bosom -- size D Tam guessed.
Silk stockings made of fish-net lace
Long lanky legs and saucy face.
A trifle auld but flashing eyes,
That said tae Tam "Try me for size."

"Sit doon auld friend and ha'e a dram.
The name is Nick and you'll be Tam.
I see you've hit on Bonnie Lizzie.
Weel done son. Aye, she'll keep you busy."

TAM THE SHANKER (CONTINUED)

“Come doon by me and be my chum”
Says Lizzie, shifting ower her bum.
Tam slugs his drink. “Man that’s the best”
Liz pushes up against his chest.
A swelling bosom, enchanting smell,
Tam was in heaven – or maybe Hell.
In flickering light he could discern
Things it’s best you shouldna learn:
A liar’s tongue nailed to the wall,
A special shoe for shifting your ball.
Twa span lang, fresh chunks o’ turf,
Howked from the sacred links of the Firth.
A broken driver snapped in ire,
Illegal irons forged in fire.
Woosnam’s bag wi’ fifteen clubs!
Cheaters score cards complete wi’ stubs.
And balls that wobbled – a joker’s jape
Weighed on one side wi’ a piece o’ tape.
A towel that penalized a walrus
A score card – De Vincenzo’s loss!
Welly boots of Van de Velde’s
That in Carnoustie’s burn had dwelled.
A contract for promoting Hooters –
John Daly’s – and his line of shooters.
A jar o’ sand frae the Road Hole bunker
That caused Jack Niclaus’ hopes tae clunker.
And Stuff I canna e’en confide
The Paraphernalia of Golf’s Dark Side!

Nick pours anither, a stiff Black Label,
Tam knocks it back and feels quite able,
For anything that comes his way
De’il tak the hindmost, as they say.

Lizzie whispers in his lug
“Come hame wi’ me and walk the dug.”
She rests her hand high on his thigh
A squeeze, a kiss and then a sigh.
Auld Nick cries oot: “Tam you’re nae dud.
Oor Lizzie’s kens a right good stud.”
“A’right,” says Tam “but just one thing,
Correct my follow-through and swing.”

So up he stands and swings like Snead
But knocks our Lizzie on the heid.
Her wig falls off, Tam stands appalled,
For Lizzie’s heid’s completely bald.
Then she bends ower to get her wig
Our Liz needs more than leaf of fig.
From clarty knickers, peeping out,
A hairy testicle -- nae doubt!
And something else that needs divulging --
Hanging down, a gey queer bulging!
A passing golfer might have heard
Tam shouting wildly “You’re no a bird!”

Goats and Monkeys! Liz’s a Man
And dashing oot the door runs Tam
Into the wet and foggy night

He grabs his clubs and takes to flight.
Followed close by Liz, now Les,
Behind him, Nick keeps up the pace.
Wild Tam rushes o’er fairway nine.
He hears a hissing “Mine, he’s mine!”
Then doon the seventeenth’s long slope
Running wild he feels a grope
That spurs him on, he jumps the Bunker
Where mony a ball has deeply sunk in.
The eighteenth has a wee bit burn
Tam hopes that that will serve his turn.
Crossing the tiny bridge of wood
He turns to see if he’s pursued.
And Les is there just right behind him
Reaching out wi’ rope to bind him.
Tam swings his bag and whacks Big Leslie,
Right in his nuts – it makes him dizzy.
Les reaches out and grabs his putter
Tam jumps the burn, lands in the gutter.
But now he’s safe, crossed running waters
Along the road he weaves and totters.
Was it a dream? Hallucination?
A Nightmare? Real? Imagination?

Now all of you who are inclined,
To wee short skirts are best to mind
That all that gleams may not be golden
Breasts might just be silicone moulden,
And all who think to wink at lasses,
And gawp wi’ lust at tits and asses,
And fling strong liquor doon your thrapple,
Mind now! Observe the Adam’s apple.
And shanking – It’s only Nature’s plan
To humbly challenge glaikit Man
Or fibs when you’re inclined to utter:
Remember! Tam the Shanker’s putter.

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BURNS SONG

WILL YE GO TO THE INDIES,
MY MARY?

(1789)

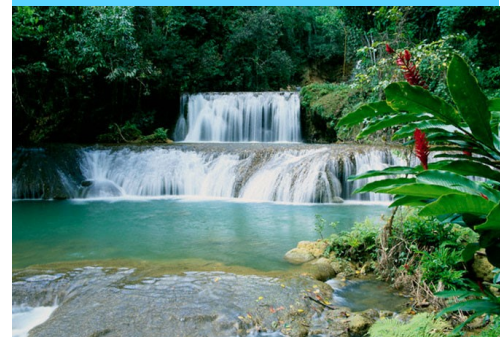
Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary,
And leave auld Scotia's shore?
Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary,
Across th' Atlantic's roar?

O sweet grows the lime and the orange,
And the apple on the pine;
But a' the charms o' the Indies
Can never equal thine.

I hae sworn by the Heavens to my Mary,
I hae sworn by the Heavens to be true;
And sae may the Heavens forget me,
When I forget my vow!

O plight me your faith, my Mary,
And plight me your lily-white hand;
O plight me your faith, my Mary,
Before I leave Scotia's strand.

We hae plighted our troth, my Mary,
In mutual affection to join;
And curst be the cause that shall part us!
The hour and the moment o' time!



Y.S. FALLS JAMAICA

THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND PART 2 (INSERTED BY HENRY CAIRNEY)

17th Century Scotland

However the Scottish Church was different in some of its doctrines and practices from the English Church. James's son Charles I (1625-1649) foolishly tried to bring the Scottish religion in line with the English religion. In 1637 he tried to impose a prayer book on the Scots. However, the Scots rejected it utterly. On 28 February 1638 and the following two days nobles and gentlemen in Edinburgh signed a document promising to uphold the 'true religion'. The document became known as the National Covenant and messengers took copies all over Scotland for people to sign.

Charles tried to force the Scots to submit and in 1639 he raised an army in England. However, he was desperately short of money and he made a peace treaty to buy time. In 1640 Charles raised another army but the Scots invaded England and they occupied Newcastle and Durham. They withdrew in 1641.

Meanwhile Charles managed to alienate his English subjects and in 1642 civil war began in England. At first, the Scots remained neutral. However, in 1643, the English parliament persuaded the Scots to join their side by promising to make England Presbyterian. In 1644 the Scots sent an army to England.

Yet not all Scots agreed with this decision. Some supported the king and in 1644 the Marquis of Montrose raised an army in the Highlands to fight for him. At first, Montrose had some success but in 1645 he was defeated at Philiphaugh. Meanwhile, the king was defeated in England and in 1646 he surrendered to the Scottish army at Newark. Montrose fled to Norway. However, the English now dragged their feet about introducing Presbyterianism. When it became clear they were not going to the Scots made a deal with the king. He promised to introduce Presbyterianism in England for a 3-year trial period. So a Scottish army invaded England in 1648 but it was defeated at Preston.

Then in January 1649 the English beheaded Charles I. The Scots immediately proclaimed his son Charles II king. Charles II like his father Charles I and his grandfather James VI was an Episcopalian. He believed bishops should govern the Church. Nevertheless to gain the support of the Scots he agreed to accept Presbyterianism in Scotland. In June 1650 he went to Scotland and he was crowned king at Scone in January 1651.

Meanwhile in July 1650 another English army invaded Scotland and occupied Edinburgh. In the summer of 1651, they defeated a Scottish army at Inverkeithing. A Scottish army then invaded England. They hoped English royalists would join them but they did not. The Scots were routed at Worcester in September 1651. Charles II fled abroad.

The English army then occupied the whole of Scotland. However, the English occupation ended in 1660 when Charles II became king of England and Scotland. Charles II restored bishops to the Church of Scotland. However, about a third of ministers resigned. Many Scots, especially in the southwest, held secret religious meetings called conventicles. Gradually the government treated them more harshly. Finally, in 1679 the Archbishop of St Andrews was murdered and unrest spread through the west. However, the government sent troops to quell it and the Covenanters were defeated at the battle of Bothwell Brig. Nevertheless, the Covenanters continued to resist and the government continued to persecute them. The 1680s became known as the killing time.

Charles II died in 1685 and his brother James became King James II. However James II was a Roman Catholic and both English and Scots feared he would restore Roman Catholicism. James II was deposed in 1688 and William and Mary became king and queen of Scotland. The Scottish parliament restored Presbyterianism.

However not all Scots welcomed the new monarchs. The Highlanders rose under Viscount Dundee. They won a victory at Killiecrankie in 1689 but their leader was killed and the Highlanders dispersed.

The government was determined to bring the Highlands to heel and they ordered the chiefs of all the clans to take an oath of loyalty to King William by the last day of 1691. However, the chief of the MacDonalds of Glencoe arrived late and only took the oath on 6 January 1692. Even though he was only a few days late the government decided to make an example of him. So troops led by Captain Robert Campbell of Glenlyon were sent to Glencoe and billeted in cottages there.

The MacDonalds treated them hospitably. However early in the morning of 13 February Campbell and his men fell on the sleeping guests. They went from house to house killing the inhabitants and then burning the houses. Altogether 38 people were murdered including the clan chief. This appalling massacre became known as the massacre of Glencoe.

18th Century Scotland

King William realised the deposed king, James II might go to Scotland and claim the Scottish throne. To try and prevent that he urged a union of England and Scotland. The next monarch, Queen Anne did the same. Scottish merchants saw economic advantages from a union and in 1706 they Scots agreed to open negotiations. The Scots wanted a federal union but the English refused. However, in 1706 a treaty was drawn up. The two nations would share a flag and a parliament. Scotland would keep its own church and its own legal system. The Scottish parliament accepted the treaty of Union in 1707. The United Kingdom came into existence on 1 May 1707.

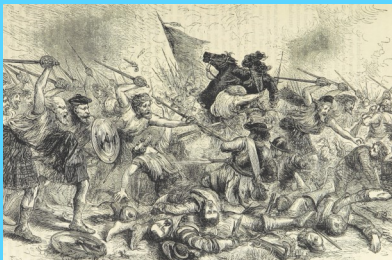
However the Act of Union was unpopular with many Scots and it soon became more so. Meanwhile, James II, the king who was deposed in 1688 died in 1701 but his son James Edward was keen to regain the throne. His followers were called Jacobites from the Latin for James, Jacobus. James had many supporters in the Highlands and in 1715 the Earl of Mar proclaimed him king. Lord Mar also denounced the Act of Union.



CHARLES I



THE COVENANTERS



KILLIECRANKIE



JAMES EDWARD

THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND PART 2 (CONTINUED)

Highlanders flocked to join Lord Mar and in September 1715 his forces captured Perth. However, towns south of the Tay stayed loyal to the government. On 13 November the Jacobites fought government troops at Sheriffmuir near Dunblane. The battle ended indecisively. However afterward the government army was reinforced. On 22 December 1715, James Edward landed at Peterhead but the government army advanced and the Jacobites withdrew from Perth. James Edward grew discouraged and on 4 February 1716, he and Lord Mar left Scotland. Afterward, the rebellion petered out. However, the Highlanders were by no means defeated and they remained a threat to the government. Still, the government took some measures to control the Highlands. Fort Augustus was built in 1716 and in 1725-36 General Wade built a network of roads in the Highlands to make it easier for government troops to march from place to place.

Then in August 1745 Charles Stuart, grandson of the king who was deposed in 1688 landed in Scotland hoping to reclaim the throne. 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' persuaded some of the Highlanders to support him and in September 1745 they captured Edinburgh. They then routed a government army at Prestonpans. The Jacobites then marched south and in December they reached Derby. However, the English failed to rise to support Charles and some of his Highland troops deserted. So on 6 December 1745, the Jacobites began a retreat. They retreated to Inverness but the government was busy raising reinforcements. On 16th April 1746, the Jacobites were totally defeated by a government army at Culloden. Charles Stuart managed to escape to France.

The commander of the government army was William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, known as 'Butcher Cumberland' because of his cruelty. After Culloden Cumberland ordered that the Jacobites should be given no quarter. Many wounded Jacobites were killed. Furthermore, 120 prisoners were executed and more than 1,000 were transported to colonies. Following the defeat of the Jacobite rebellion, the government passed laws to destroy the Highlanders way of life forever. In 1746 a law banned the kilt and the bagpipes. Lands owned by Jacobites were confiscated and the 'heritable jurisdictions' (the right of clan chiefs to hold courts and try certain cases) were abolished.

Despite the Jacobite rebellions Scotland's economy grew rapidly during the 18th century. Landowners were keen to improve their estates and new methods of farming were introduced. Turnips and potatoes were introduced into Scotland. Unfortunately, the Highland Clearances caused much suffering. From the 1760s landowners evicted tenant farmers and turn their land over to sheep farming. Many of the dispossessed migrated to North America. Others moved to the rapidly growing industrial cities.

In the late 18th century the industrial revolution began to transform Scotland. The linen industry and the cotton industry boomed. The iron industry also grew rapidly. Meanwhile, transport improved. Turnpike roads were built. (Those roads were privately owned and maintained and you had to pay to use them). In the late 18th century canals were built in Scotland.

Many Scottish towns grew very rapidly especially Glasgow and Paisley. Meanwhile, art, learning, and architecture flourished in Scotland and Edinburgh was called the Athens of the north.

19th Century Scotland

In the 19th century the history of Scotland merged into the history of Britain.

In the early 19th century the Highland clearances continued. Many Highlanders were forced to emigrate. Meanwhile further south Scotland's industries boomed. Coal and iron industries flourished. So did shipbuilding. Scottish cities continued to grow rapidly. However, housing conditions in the new industrial towns were often appalling. Disease and overcrowding were common. Still in the late 19th century conditions improved and living standards rose. Furthermore, at the end of the 19th century, Scottish workers began to form powerful trade unions.

Meanwhile in the mid-19th century railways were built across Scotland. In 1842 a railway was built from Glasgow to Edinburgh.

20th Century Scotland

Scotland suffered very high unemployment during the 1920s and 1930s. Traditional industries such as shipbuilding, mining, iron, and steel were badly affected by depression. The Second World War brought a return to full employment and the 1950s and 1960s were years of prosperity. However, recession returned in the early 1980s and early 1990s.

Nevertheless new hi-tech and service industries grew up in Scotland in the late 20th century to replace the old manufacturing ones and in 1990 Glasgow was made the Cultural Capital of Europe.

During the 20th century there was a growing nationalist movement in Scotland. The National Party of Scotland was formed in 1928. In 1934 it changed its name to the Scottish National Party. The first SNP MP was elected in 1945. In 1974 11 SNP MPs were elected. Finally, in 1999 Scotland gained its own parliament.

21st Century Scotland

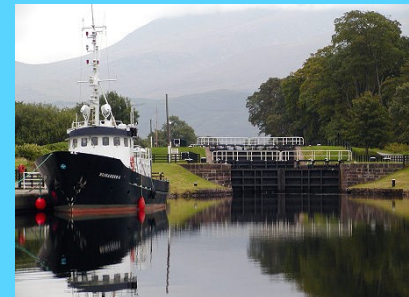
Then in 2011 the Scottish Nationalist Party won a majority in the Scottish Parliament. However, in a referendum in 2014, a majority of Scots voted against independence. Today the population of Scotland is 5.3 million.



CULLODEN



HIGHLAND CLEARANCES



CALEDONIAN CANAL



SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

BURNS WORDSEARCH 1 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2021 Ronnie O'Byrne Director RBANA
 2022 Ian McIntyre Past President RBWF
 2023 T.B.A.

BURNS POEM

To Dr. Maxwell on
 Miss Jessie Staig's recovery.(1794)

Maxwell, if merit here you crave,
 That merit I deny;
 You save fair Jessie from the grave!
 An Angel could not die!

OLD SCOTS PROVERB

*"He that keeks through a keyhole
 may see what will vex him!"*

Roughly translated means:
 Eavesdroppers hear no good of
 themselves.

IN THE NEXT EDITON

- 1) Profile of Club Bard Jim
 McLaughlin

APPRECIATION

I would like to give thanks to both
 Ron Budd and Ian Denness for their
 work in proof reading and feedback
 with this edition of the Claver. Ron
 and Ian have been very vigilant in
 ensuring the grammatical quality is
 kept to a high standard.

Henry Cairney

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ALLOA

AYR

BALLOCHMYLE

BARD

BURNS

CUMNOCK

DUMFRIES

DUNCANGRAY

EDINBURGH

ELLISLAND

EPISTLE

EXCISEMAN

HOLYWILLIE

HORNBOOK

IRVINE

JAMAICA

JEANARMOUR

KILMARNOCK

LANGSYNE

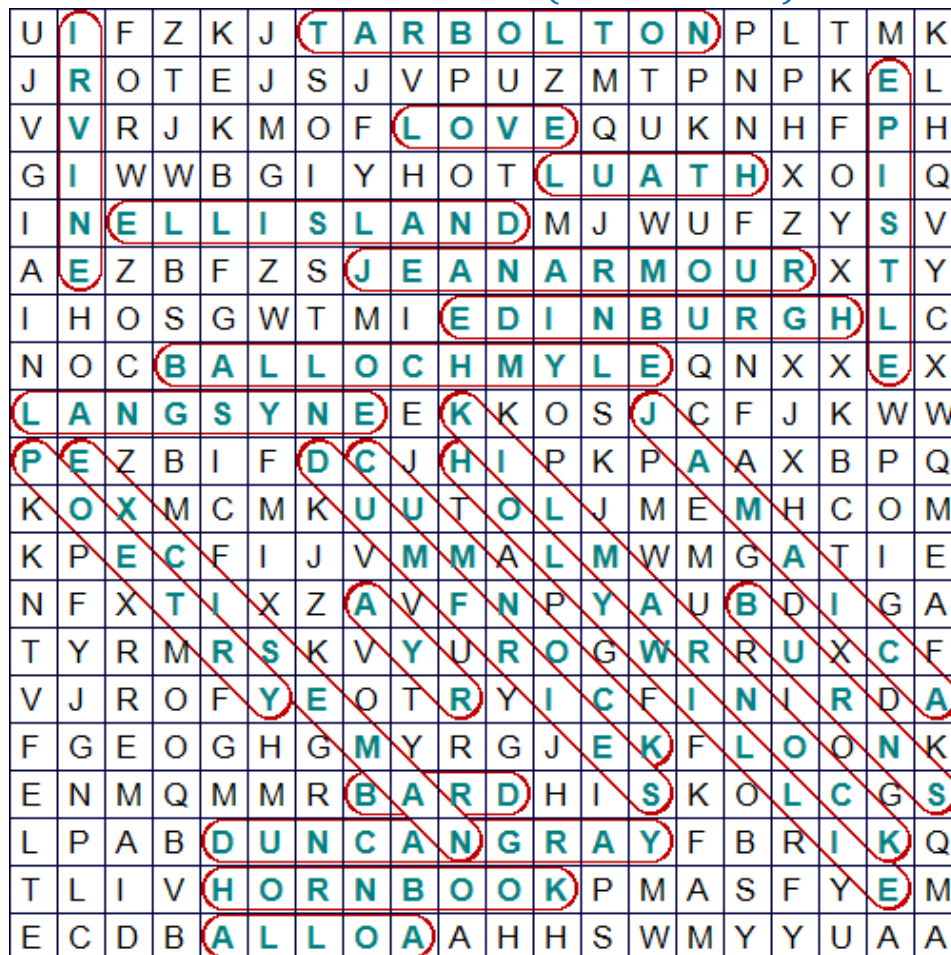
LOVE

LUATH

POETRY

TARBOLTON

BURNS WORDSEARCH 1 (SOLUTION)



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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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.

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