

Calgary Claver

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope this finds you and your loved ones, safe and well. As we work our way through the fourth wave of the Covid pandemic, I believe that the recent changes to pandemic restrictions will allow us to resume most of Calgary Burns Club activities by November 2021 while following these new Covid protocols

Since our successful first Virtual AGM, in May 2021, your new Board, with the assistance of many other Club members, has worked hard over the summer planning upcoming events with the expectation that we would be able to have physical members meetings starting in the fall. We are planning to hold an in-person meeting at the Danish Canadian Club in November, with all attendees having to provide proof of double vaccination. We are planning for our Burns Supper in January 2022 in a similar format to what we have had in the past.

In Aug-Sept 2021 I attended the RBWF conference in Paisley with Henry and Shona Cairney and there is a more detailed report contained in this edition.

International travel under Covid restrictions is certainly not for the faint of heart!

Between the 4 PCR Covid tests, 11 days of isolation at the Glynhill hotel in Paisley and the online forms and apps we had to fill and provide the UK, Canadian and Dutch officials to fly to the UK and return to Canada the trip had its fair share of challenges.

I am very glad I was able to attend the RBWF conference both to support incoming RBWF President Henry Cairney and to meet RBWF members I have only ever seen on Zoom meetings, as well as acquaint with those I have met when they came over to our shores. Even with Covid concerns there were 85 attendees at the conference.

While we were away, Paul and Trekker Armstrong made 68 statues for the big dinner and finishers have been recruited and are ready to start sanding.

Congratulations to Jim Osbourne, who was honoured to be Chieftain of the Canmore Highland Games in September.

I have created a Covid subcommittee who will advise the Board on protocols and member Covid safety until May 2022, as keeping all of us safe during our events is a prime concern of the Board for the rest of the year.

Many thanks to Jim Little and Maurice McAtamney for putting together the excellent entertainment programs which have allowed us to continue to have enjoyable virtual meetings for the past 18 months.

Finally, my sincere thanks to you, the members, who continue to hold the Club together by participating and attending our virtual events, through these challenging times.

Kindest regards

Brian R. Cumming
President Calgary Burns Club



1. Northern Lights Calgary 2021
2. Fall Calgary 2021
3. Pomeroy Burns Statue, Paisley

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RBWF President's Message.....	2
RBANA President's Message.....	3
Singers 2022 Trip Update	3
Burns World	4
CBC Website	4
CBC St Andrews 2021	4
CBC Burns Supper 2022.....	5
Membership News	5
The Carnie Group	6/7
CBC Communications	7
Burns and Scottish Ministers.....	8-11
Ron Budd.....	12/13
RBWF Conference 2021	14
Anna Laurie.....	15-18
Whisky Problem.....	19
Strange Scottish Words	19
Burns Wordsearch 4	20
Burns Wordsearch 4 Solution.....	21

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Future Events.....	4
Board of Directors.....	5
Sandy Paterson Poem.....	8
Future Speakers	20
In the next edition	20

RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (HENRY CAIRNEY)

BURNS POEM

It Is Na, Jean, Thy Bonie Face (1788)

It is na, Jean, thy bonie face,
Nor shape that I admire;
Altho' thy beauty and thy grace
Might weel awauk desire.

Something, in ilka part o' thee,
To praise, to love, I find,
But dear as is thy form to me,
Still dearer is thy mind.

Nae mair ungenerous wish I hae,
Nor stronger in my breast,
Than, if I canna make thee sae,
At least to see thee blest.

Content am I, if heaven shall give
But happiness, to thee;
And as wi' thee I'd wish to live,
For thee I'd bear to die.

BURNS SONG

I'll Aye Ca' In By Yon Town (1795)

Chorus-I'll aye ca' in by yon town,
And by yon garden-green again;
I'll aye ca' in by yon town,
And see my bonie Jean again.

There's nane sall ken, there's nane can
guess,
What brings me back the gate again,
But she, my fairest, faithfu' lass,
And stownlins we sall meet again.
I'll aye ca' in, &c.

She'll wander by the aiken tree,
When trystin time draws near again;
And when her lovely form I see,
O haith! she's doubly dear again.
I'll aye ca' in, &c.



Hi everyone, I hope this finds you and your loved ones all safe and well in these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

I firmly believe I will have a quieter year than most RBWF Presidents prior to the pandemic, but I am at least hopeful I may get to visit some events but not as many as I would have planned for. The various rules and regulations in each country vary enormously and trying to navigate their websites requires a rocket science degree, but I will attempt to get some Ambassadorship visits in when and where it is safe to do so.

The board is settling into a new year of working for the membership and at the last board meeting, the following changes were discussed at conference: we welcomed Beth Kerr as the new Schools Convener; Professor Moira Hanson who is looking after Adult Education (Role Title and mandate to be confirmed by the board); Ian McIntyre Events Convenor and Peter Pringle, who has joined the board as a Director at Large as per the Articles [32(c)] and who will be responsible for some necessary and important RBWF projects – Peter's mandate will also be confirmed by the board at the next meeting; Bill Dawson who is responsible for the Archivist role will report through the Heritage convener John Hannah and not directly to the board.

Similar to the Calgary Burns Club, during my presidency I hope to keep the RBWF functional when we cannot meet face to face. This may entail online meetings such as the Quarterly Meetings. My expectations are that the individual conveners are responsible for working through with their committees, all actions required, and then setting regular meetings with them, prior to reporting to the board and the quarterlies.

We also must be financially stable, and there are several sponsorship changes, taking place over the coming months, which are presently being actioned by the Sponsorship convener Neil McNair.

One change I can report is the sponsorship by Arran Distillers who have decided to end the relationship and I can only thank them for their past contributions. We will advise progress in the other areas when signed.

One such initiative is the exposure we shall gain by attending the Tartan Week celebrations in New York during April 2022.

I have been invited to, and will be attending, the Greenock Burns Club's celebration of Colin Rae Brown's bicentenary on November 13th and I look forward to attending this truly historic event celebrating the man who, above all others really drove the founding of the RBWF.

I am personally, and I know many others are also, disappointed that we have had to rethink the RBWF 2022 Conference in Calgary, but we just could not schedule it in logistically. There are areas of interest, due to feedback we have received, which we will be looking at as a board - this will include a revamp of the website, The Thomas Tunnock Learning Unit and various event possibilities such as presentations and children's concerts, to name but a few, and all will be in keeping with the memory of Robert Burns. This takes a lot of involvement from the membership to help keep the RBWF moving forward.

Henry Cairney,
President of the Robert Burns World Federation

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (HENRY CAIRNEY)



Henry again, but this article is a more focused view of North America. We are seeing some clubs attempting to meet face to face once again, including here in Calgary. I can only hope the trend continues and we can resume some form of a return to normality, which I am sure will never be exactly the same. We had a full membership 'Virtual' AGM in the summer where our revised bylaws were accepted, also our chain of office was officially approved to be replaced with a new standardized ribbon designed by Ken Montgomery. All Directors also received new position medals. We were delighted to add a new speaker to the RBANA Academy of speakers who is Phyl Smith a very accomplished lady speaker from the USA. That makes a total of 6 recommended speakers in the Academy; Jane Brown, Les Strachan, Ronnie O'Byrne, Andy Harrower, Henry Cairney and Phyl Smith. We are hoping to have a physical Conference/AGM on May 13/14th in Calgary, but the Pandemic will deem whether that will go ahead

Henry Cairney,
President, RBANA

SINGERS 2022 TRIP UPDATE (HENRY CAIRNEY)

I am still in contact with both the Kirkcudbright Tattoo organizers and Irvine Burns Club who are hopeful we can make it over in 2022, but this depends on the world Pandemic and no final decisions have been made yet. Both towns have cancelled their events for this year past. There is also some interest from the RBWF Conference early September, and the Glasgow Burns Association for possible venues if we come over. I will keep you all posted on the status as we go forward.

CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The singers resumed their weekly recreation sessions in July and we are averaging attendance of 8 to 10 singers on a regular basis. These sessions are held in the Langdon IOOF Hall each Saturday from 10:00am to noon. We are indeed fortunate that this facility is available as there are no encouraging signs of any activity start-up from the Kensington Legion. Our sessions will enable us to be prepared for upcoming events which we feel will start before too long.

The Field of crosses has asked us to participate in the sunrise service on Sunday November 7th and we also have tentative bookings for a Christmas concert in December and a Burns/Scottish concert in January. We have started recording a 'Remembrance CD which will be available in 2022.

As before, future performances and practices will depend on the health rules in place.

Respectfully.....Ron Pratt

BURNS SONG

Song Composed in August (1783)

Now westlin winds and slaught'ring guns
Bring Autumn's pleasant weather;
The moorcock springs on whirring wings
Among the blooming heather:
Now waving grain, wide o'er the plain,
Delights the weary farmer;
And the moon shines bright, when I rove at night,
To muse upon my charmer.

The partridge loves the fruitful fells,
The plover loves the mountains;
The woodcock haunts the lonely dells,
The soaring hern the fountains:
Thro' lofty groves the cushat roves,
The path of man to shun it;
The hazel bush o'erhangs the thrush,
The spreading thorn the linnet.

Thus ev'ry kind their pleasure find,
The savage and the tender;
Some social join, and leagues combine,
Some solitary wander:
Avaunt, away! the cruel sway,
Tyrannic man's dominion;
The sportsman's joy, the murd'ring cry,
The flutt'ring, gory pinion!

But, Peggy dear, the ev'ning's clear,
Thick flies the skimming swallow,
The sky is blue, the fields in view,
All fading-green and yellow:
Come let us stray our gladsome way,
And view the charms of Nature;
The rustling corn, the fruited thorn,
And ev'ry happy creature.

We'll gently walk, and sweetly talk,
Till the silent moon shine clearly;
I'll grasp thy waist, and, fondly prest,
Swear how I love thee dearly:
Not vernal show'rs to budding flow'rs,
Not Autumn to the farmer,
So dear can be as thou to me,
My fair, my lovely charmer!

CANADIAN PROVERB

"Once the last tree is cut and the last river poisoned, you will find you cannot eat your money."

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)



2014 CBC AGM Physical Meeting
(A Distant Memory?)

The Calgary Burns Club has been forced to start their new season in September by continuing to hold virtual meetings using Zoom. The Board recognizes the wishes of the Members as well as themselves to resume the normal live, face-to-face meetings as soon as possible and as soon as Covid restrictions allow and the members are comfortable, that will happen. Plans were in place to celebrate St. Andrews day at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club on Friday November 26th 2021, but unfortunately due to lack of numbers, this formal event is now cancelled. Plans for the Annual Burns Dinner planned for Friday January 21st 2022 are being finalized. There will be discussions and consultation with the Club members on whether to proceed with the event with a decision being made towards the end of the year.

May of 2022 will see the completion of Henry Cairney's two-year term as president of RBANA, and the occasion will be marked at the annual RBANA Conference which will be held between May 13th and 15th 2022 in Calgary, this is the weekend immediately before our own AGM slated for Tuesday May 17th 2022; please mark these dates on your calendar! The Board has already set up a committee to organize the event and will shortly be requesting interest from local hotels in hosting the conference.



The Robert Burns World Federation had asked the Calgary Burns Club to host their annual Conference in Calgary in the fall of 2022, and our membership agreed. However recent events concerning some people's availability as well as the fact that it looked like the event could only be held on Thanksgiving week end in October, caused a re-think. Accordingly the Federation has decided to hold the 2022 Conference in Scotland at the usual date – the second week end in September 2022. Being President of the World Federation and residing in Calgary is not easy on our Henry Cairney and he will be travelling a lot – in particular he will be travelling to the UK before Christmas for important Burns events.

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



RBANA Conference 2015

Top: Ron Budd in shop
Bottom: The Grand March

THE CBC WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The last year and a half have been difficult for everyone including the Calgary Burns Club and, as I write this, ICUs in Alberta are nearly full of largely unvaccinated COVID patients and most elective surgery has been postponed. Through this period the website has provided a portal for up-to-date information regarding the Club and its activities particularly with respect to the minutes of our virtual meetings, the activities of groups such as the Carnie Group and Upcoming Events that may, or may not, take place.

We welcome submissions from Members, particularly in the form of papers on Robert Burns or Scottish culture. However, to be published they must be presented at a Club meeting. We also welcome comments and suggestions

We look forward to the resumption of more normal Club activities and hope to continue to provide a valuable service to the Club and provide information to the public.

Dr. C. P. Armstrong, Webmaster

CBC 2021 ST ANDREW'S (ROB PINKERTON)

Unfortunately due to the results of a Members Poll, our St Andrew's event in November has been CANCELLED. We are provisionally re-booked for November 25th 2022

Rob Pinkerton
2nd VP Calgary Burns Club

FUTURE EVENTS

*** St Andrews Event CANCELLED for November***

Possible Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper January 21st
All government requirements will be adhered to.

CBC 2022 DINNER UPDATE (CHARLIE MALONE)

As I write this article plans are afoot for the 2022 Burns Dinner that is scheduled for Friday 21st January 2022. Based on the positive service experience from the previous dinner in 2020, the Calgary Westin Hotel has been secured again as the venue. With the venue secured the fine details are being worked for a successful dinner. The fine details are in themselves all individually essential, and need meticulous planning to interface seamlessly around the programme of events for the evening. The 2020 dinner set a very high standard of how a dinner should be delivered, as it should be, as the CBC Burns dinner is one of the most highly regarded and respected dinners not just locally, but internationally. I can vouch for this latter point as I am currently in Scotland as I write this and have family connected to Burns clubs across the length of the country from Castle Douglas to Elgin who know of our "Big Dinner". Against this backdrop of planning the fact that the 2021 dinner last January could not proceed as normal, due to Covid-19 measures and restrictions, cannot be ignored. This was a huge disappointment for all those concerned as a tremendous amount of time and effort was put into planning the 2021 dinner. In the end it was the right decision as the health and safety of our membership and dinner guest attendees was our highest priority, and this still remains very much the case in the planning for the 2022 dinner. It may appear very hard to see any positives from the 2021 dinner, but if there is one, it is the fact that a lot of learning was gained. This learning included contingency planning on dinner alternatives and minimising impacts to the CBC, both reputationally and financially.

Looking forward the dynamic and evolving situation of Covid-19 is being monitored very carefully in terms of planning the 2022 dinner. Robust oversight and steer from the CBC Board of Directors (BoD) is regularly being sought on the dinner planning, and associated contingency plans and alternatives. This regular engagement with the BoD will continue throughout the months of October, November and December. At each of these engagements the health and safety, reputational, and financial impacts will be front and centre in any decisions considered to be made regarding the planning of the 2022 dinner. In turn the best interests of the CBC membership and guests shall be intrinsic to any decision made on the way forward for the dinner, and it shall be done in a timely manner.

Here's hoping for a safe and healthy 2022 dinner, and contrary to the phrase "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft agley" hopefully things do not go askew, and we can have a healthy, safe and memorable evening.

The expectations to continuously improve on the previous dinner are there in the menu, the entertainment and many key interfaces such as the provision of Audio/Visual (A/V) services.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (HENRY CAIRNEY)

Membership has not changed much since the last report in April. Andy Kirk resigned his membership, and we had a few members and family with health issues which I sent best wishes and a small gift on behalf of the club membership to them. We also have a potential new member seeking to join soon. I also contacted our local Associate Members to see if they wished to move to full membership, all declined the offer. Our membership presently stands at:

34 Full Members
13 Life Members
1 Honorary Member
5 Associate Members
5 Out of Town Associate Members
TOTAL= 58

Henry Cairney Immediate Past President



**Calgary Burns Supper
(circa 1978)**



'Hopefully' Table Set 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020/2021

Executive

President: Brian Cumming
1st VP: Charlie Malone
2nd VP: Rob Pinkerton
Secretary: Tony Grace
Treasurer: Stuart Chalmers

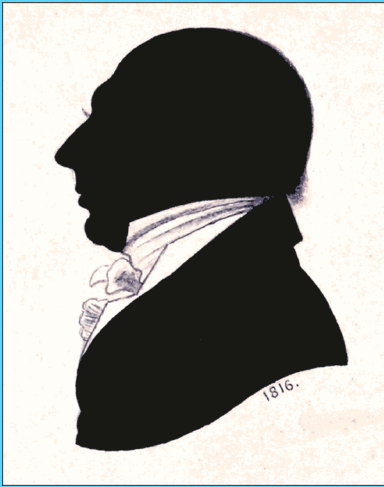
Non-Executive

Past President: Henry Cairney
Communications: Trekker Armstrong
Director At Large: Sandy Paterson
Director At Large: Gerry Wood
Director At Large: Hugh McFadzean
Director At Large: David Currie
Director At Large: Kyle Scott

Ex-Officio

Entertainment: Jim Little/Maurice MacAtamney
Steward: Don Humphreys
Website: Paul Armstrong

THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)



GILBERT BURNS
(National library of Scotland
silhouette)

Burns The Man

Much has been written about the poet Robert Burns, particularly in his various biographies, yet on the topic of how he was as a person there has been little direct focus. So, what was he like as an individual, including his overall personality, his foibles, his temperament - good and bad - and many other such measures we might apply to any individual today? It would be difficult to make such assessments so long after his death, except that many of the eyewitness accounts provided by his contemporaries are available to us. Some of these are coloured by the stifling mores and prejudices of the time, but fortunately many of the impressions offered do have a ring of credibility and they form a store of precious insights that we lack for other greats of literature, such as the enigmatic William Shakespeare.

Robert's upbringing, and that of Gilbert and his other siblings, was austere, and that almost certainly had some influence on the man he became. Life at the Mount Oliphant and Lochlie Farms was isolating and, as the eldest son, at a very young age he was required to take on much of the heft required of a seasoned farm labourer. Gilbert believed that the hard labour and 'sorrow of this period' caused the many bouts of depression that his brother experienced throughout his life, often accompanied by headaches, heart palpitations and other effects. The inevitable lifelong consequences might help to explain a sullenness of demeanour that was often remarked upon later.

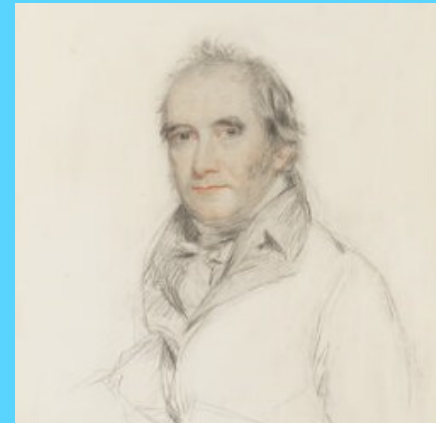
Gilbert also observed that up until about his middle teens Robert 'was bashful and awkward in his intercourse with women', but he soon overcame that and regularly lost his heart to one 'fair enslaver' after another. This coincided with a time when he began to broaden his social relationships and rapidly developed a marked self-confidence, co-founding the Tarbolton Bachelors' Club and being recognized among his young peers in the Mauchline and Tarbolton districts as a natural leader and role model. Almost as an aside, Gilbert alludes to his brother's later reputation as an excessive drinker but makes it very clear that at least until about the time he became a celebrity, he never witnessed his brother being intoxicated, ending assertively with: 'His temperance and frugality were everything that could be wished.' This important point - contradicting the assertions of early biographers - was supported by others closely acquainted with him.

Following publication of the Kilmarnock Edition of his poems and the resulting apotheosis that was thrust upon him by members of Scotland's social elite during his first sojourn in Edinburgh, we have available a number of quite detailed impressions recorded by those who met him during that time. One such gentleman, Dr. Robert Anderson, met Burns in Edinburgh at a dinner put on by David Ramsey, the purpose of which was to introduce the newly-minted Ayrshire prodigy to a large gathering of distinguished guests. He observed that Burns did not present as almost everyone expected - as a rough-hewn rustic - 'but manly and pleasing' and evincing 'a strong consciousness of intellectual excellence'. Anderson hints that Burns acquitted himself exceptionally well in the crowded assembly that included many of Edinburgh's Who's-Who of privilege and learning, in whose company he seemed surprisingly at ease. On the subject of his verbal communications, 'No words can do justice to the captivating charms of his conversation. It was even more fascinating than his poetry. He was truly a great orator.' Anderson went on to level some serious criticisms, most of which were almost certainly based on uninformed hearsay, but concluded with: 'Though proud and revengeful, he was naturally generous and compassionate; zealous in serving those he loved, and always ready to perform offices of kindness and humanity.'

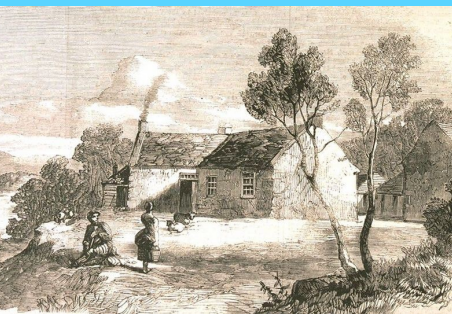
Another observer, Sir Samuel Brydges, who visited the poet at Ellisland in 1790, was clearly impressed by the poet's 'amazing acuteness of intellect'. His overall impression included these comments: 'His great beauty was his manly strength, and his energy and elevation of thought and feeling. He had always a full mind and all flowed from a genuine spring. I never conversed with a man who appeared to be more warmly impressed with the beauties of nature, and visions of female beauty and tenderness seemed to transport him.' He was, Brydges implies, a poet through and through, possessed by his Muse.

There were many other contemporaries who offered similar observations about Burns' physical, intellectual and temperamental persona, but I will fast-forward to a young woman - Maria Riddell - who knew him intimately, although, unfortunate for Burns, only platonically. Following Burns' death, Maria composed a 'Sketch' for the Dumfries Weekly Journal in August 1796 that described the man she had known, respected and admired. She did not shrink from admitting his failings and peculiarities of temperament, but acknowledged his outstanding genius and his humanity. As other observers had noted, she asserted that, compared to his poetical talents, Burns was far more impressive in his 'fascinating conversation, the spontaneous eloquence of social argument, or the unstudied poignancy of brilliant repartee.' She remarked on how animated his eyes became immediately before coming out with some brilliant observation or wounding comment, but in a voice 'that could improve upon the magic of his eye; sonorous, replete with the finest modulations...'

Maria had much to say about his caprices of temperament. His passions usually tended to one extreme or the other, either to opening his heart, or 'often hating where he ought only to have despaired...' This tendency seems to hint at occasional poor judgement in reading the intentions of others which could be attributed to that overabundance of passion and a quickness to take offence. But in instances of expressed acerbity or ill-will, his generosity of spirit usually caused him to reconsider 'on the return of calmer reflection.' at which time 'He was candid and manly in the avowal of his errors...'



SIR SAMUEL BRYDGES
(National Portrait Gallery)



ELLISLAND FARM (CIRCA 1790)
(Scotiana)

THE CARNIE GROUP (CONTINUED)

In summary, the picture we have of Robert Burns 'the man' from numerous contemporaneous sources is of someone who as a friend was loyal, and warm and generous of spirit. His conversational and oratorical skills were exceptional, and even in elevated company, he displayed a dignified self-confidence. He was possessed of a passionate nature - as one might expect in a poet - that came with a temperament that was easily roused, sometimes for good, but occasionally revealed in ways that did not endear him to those who felt the barbs of his wit or his satire; as a result, he did make enemies. Most often he was kind, but he could also be cruel. He did bear grudges, and could act vengefully, sometimes even with juvenile spitefulness. He often retreated into dark moods, although he could not be blamed for what was, almost certainly, a psychological condition. He was very respectful of women in general, and treated them as equals, but was notorious for his excesses in his numerous romantic affairs. Many view that as a serious failing, but in this, he was far from alone. When his amorous exploits resulted in an unwelcome surprise, unlike many 'gentlemen' of the time, he never attempted to deny his paternity, and in virtually all such events (usually with the generous help of Jean Armour) he took on the care, or much of the financial burden of providing for the child.

He was a good man, a good father, a hard-working and conscientious provider and a loving husband. It is something of a testimonial in itself that despite his many extra-marital adventures, Jean stood by him staunchly to the end. Our admiration of the great works that Robert Burns bequeathed to the world need not be tainted or diminished by doubts about the man himself. He was flawed, as most humans are, but he was possessed of so many redeeming virtues. Scotland can be justly proud of its Immortal Bard, the poet Robert Burns.

Prepared for the Carnie Group by Jim McLaughlin

CBC COMMUNICATIONS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The Communication Convener is now utilizing the Club's YouTube [Robert Burns] account for videos that were once sent by email. YouTube also provides a platform for the Calgary Burns Club to leverage Social Media, not only for its members, but also abroad.

Congratulations to Calgary Burns Club Past President Henry Cairney. Retired Director of Engineering and avid Burnsian Henry Cairney has been installed as the new President of the Robert Burns World Federation. In that capacity, on Saturday, September 4th, 2021, The Lord Lyon presented a redefined and augmented coat of arms to The Robert Burns World Federation at its annual conference held in Renfrew, Scotland. President Brian Cumming was also in attendance at the conference representing the Calgary Burns Club.

The Robert Burns World Federation petitioned Dr Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon, King of Arms, to grant a posthumous Coat of Arms (ensigns armorial) to the Federation, to honour Burns' memory and the role he continues to play in Scotland's culture. Burns was interested in heraldry and had designed his own coat of arms featuring a holly bush, a shepherd's pipe and crook and a woodlark, with the motto 'Better a wee bush than nae bield', but his arms remained unregistered upon his untimely death in July 1796.

A copy of the Arms for Robert Burns – Certificate is available on the RBWF website (<http://www.rbwf.org.uk/arms-for-robert-burns-certificate/>).

As Communication Convener, I am tasked to schedule, and technically host the monthly members' get togethers. As well, the Club's Carnie group embraced virtual meetings which the Convener assisted in scheduling and initiating hosting.

I appreciate the members patience and co-operation as we developed the necessary protocols to conduct successful virtual gatherings. It has been a learning process, including for this Communication Convener.

The Calgary Burns Club email distribution list is maintained electronically whose source is from our Membership list. Please ensure that your membership information is correct, and the appropriate email is recorded on the published club website Membership list, to receive the Club communication.

The Club maintains a generic email address [calgaryburnsclub@gmail.com] as well as a Contact Form on the website [www.calgaryburnsclub.com]. We receive submissions to both sources, and these are forwarded to the appropriate person for action. Members can send items, that may be of interest to the Club, to the above email address for the Communications Convener to distribute. The Communication Convener reserves the right to decide the appropriateness of these and if there is any question they will be forwarded to the President for a decision.

Trekker Armstrong
Communications Convener



Robert Burns in a 'dark mood'

(By kind permission from Duncan Brown
a good friend and Scottish artist)

BURNS ECTEMPORE

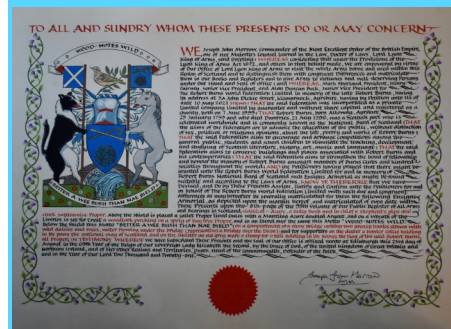
Extempore In The Court of Session
(1787)

Lord Advocate

He clenched his pamphlet in his fist,
He quoted and he hinted,
Till, in a declamation-mist,
His argument he tint it:
He gaped for't, he graped for't,
He fand it was awa, man;
But what his common sense came short,
He eked out wi' law, man.

Mr. Erskine

Collected, Harry stood awae,
Then open'd out his arm, man;
His Lordship sat wi' ruefu' e'e,
And ey'd the gathering storm, man:
Like wind-driven hail it did assail'
Or torrents owre a lin, man:
The Bench sae wise, lift up their eyes,
Half-wauken'd wi' the din, man.



The Coat of Arms of Robert
Burns

BURNS POEM

Wandering Willie (1793)

Here awa, there awa, wandering Willie,
Now tired with wandering haud awa
hame;
Come to my bosom, my ae only dearie,
And tell me thou bring'st me my Willie the
same.
Loud blew the cauld winter winds at our
parting;
It was na the blast brought the tear in my
e'e:
Now welcome the Simmer, and welcome
my Willie,
The Simmer to Nature, my Willie to me.

Ye hurricanes rest in the cave o'your
slumbers,
O how your wild horrors a lover alarms!
Awaken ye breezes, row gently ye billows,
And waft my dear laddie ance mair to my
arms.
But if he's forgotten his faithfulest Nannie,
O still flow between us, thou wide roaring
main;
May I never see it, may I never trow it,
But, dying, believe that my Willie's my ain!

The Mouse's Wife's Reply to Robert Burns.

See you, ye gommeril sweet-tongued gowk,
Ye've wrecked oor hoose and hurled us out.
We're fech'd o' hearin' a' yer talk,
Just when oor loan was a' pay'd out,
Ye clod-hoofed human.
Nae policies cover dreamin' bards
And acts o' ploo'men.
Tonight ye'll sit with quill and then
Wax eloquent on Mice and Men.
And best laid schemes that gang agley
While we've tae beg for fresh-cut hay,
Fae cousin Nell.
And one mair thing I've got tae say,
Before I curse ye aff tae Hell.
"Breed like mice," y'say, how daur ye?
You and a' yer houghmagandie.
Wad some Pow'r the Giftie gie ye
Tae see yersel as beasties see ye,
Ye dandy dresser.
You're no sae different like yersel'
Mister Professor.

**Alexander Paterson ©
(From an idea by Frank
Richards.)**

BURNS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS PART 2 (IAN DENNESS)

(Continued from the 2021 Claver Spring Edition)

'New Licht' Ministers

Reverend William Burnside (1751 - 1806)

Minister of the New Church in Dumfries, he moved to St Michael's in the same town in 1794. Burns in his letter to William Nicol from Mauchline, dated 18th June 1787, described the minister as: 'a man whom I shall ever gratefully remember'. Burns then goes into eulogies over Anne, the minister's wife; 'and his wife, Gude forgie me! I had almost broke the tenth commandment on her account. Simplicity, elegance, good sense, sweetness of disposition, good humour, kind hospitality, are the constituents of her manner and heart: in short — but if I say one word more about her, I shall be directly in love with her.'

Burnside later wrote a history of Dumfries, part of which was incorporated in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account.

Bishop John Geddes (1735 - 1799)

John Geddes was Roman Catholic Bishop of Dunkeld, who first met Burns at the house of Lord Monboddo in Edinburgh during the winter of 1786-7. Geddes took an interest in the poet's work, and was responsible for getting 5 Catholic Seminaries, including that of the Scots College at Valladolid, of which he had once been Rector, to subscribe to the Edinburgh Edition of 1787. Burns took Geddes's own copy, bound with blank sheets at both ends, with him on his Highland tour, and delayed returning it for almost 2 years. Writing to Geddes from Ellisland on 3rd February 1789, the poet apologised for having kept the book so long: 'You will see in your book, which I beg your pardon for detaining so long, that I have been turning my lyre on the banks of the Nith. Some larger poetic plans that are floating in my imagination, or partly put in execution, I shall impart to you when I have the pleasure of meeting with you...'

Reverend William McGill (1732 - 1807)

William McGill was educated at Glasgow University, licensed to preach in 1759, and appointed assistant to the minister of Kilwinning. McGill was ordained to the charge of Ayr in 1760 and was a friend of William Burnes, resulting in Burns and his Father approving of his New Licht doctrines.

When his essay, *The Death of Jesus Christ*, published in 1786, was denounced by 'Auld Licht' minister William Peebles of Newton-on-Ayr, McGill published a defence, *The Benefits of the Revolution*, in 1789. The charge was that, while receiving the privileges of the Church, he was at the same time plunging a dagger into her heart. In May 1789, the General Assembly ordered an inquiry into the affair. The Ayr magistrates published their appreciation of McGill's services, but McGill brought the proceedings to a close by offering an apology to the court, and the case was dropped.

McGill, however, was a timid man for all his liberality, 'a mixture of simplicity and stoicism' that resulted in Mrs. Dunlop calling him 'a poor little white rabbit'. An explanation of the timidity is to be found in the letter Burns wrote to Graham of Fintry, in December 1789:

'I think you must have heard of Dr. McGill, one of the clergymen of Ayr, and his heretical book. God help him, poor man! though he is one of the worthiest as well as one of the ablest, of the whole priesthood of the Kirk of Scotland,

To the Reverend John Logan, (1748—88) Burns had written in 7th August 1789: 'If I could be of any service to Dr. McGill, I would do it though it should be at a much greater expence than irritating a few bigotted Priests.'

Reverend John McMath (1755 - 1825)

John McMath, ('Guid McMath') was assistant to Dr. Peter Wodrow at Tarbolton Parish Kirk, and later Dr. Wodrow's successor. McMath was a 'New Licht' liberal, who supported Gavin Hamilton in that lawyer's conflict with the kirk authorities. In his middle years, however, he took to drink, and had to resign his charge in 1791 and died in retirement at Rossul, Mull.

On 17th September 1783, Burns sent McMath a copy of 'Holy Willie's Prayer', and with it an 'Epistle' addressed to McMath. The 'Epistle' is important in that it sets out clearly Burns' attitude to sectarianism and to religion. Confessing his own weaknesses frankly, the poet pays homage to Religion, 'maid divine', but says he would rather be an atheist than use the Gospel as talking of Mercy, Grace and Truth while at the same time ruining, pitilessly and hard-heartedly in the name of religion, an innocent man.

Reverend John Skinner (1721 - 1807)

John Skinner was the author of the song 'Tullochgorum' and was born at Balfour, Aberdeenshire. He was educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and took orders in the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1742. He spent two years in Shetland as preceptor in the Sinclair family of Scalloway, returning to Longside, Aberdeen, to minister for the rest of his life.

BURNS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS PART 2 (CONTINUED)

Burns was disappointed that he did not meet Skinner on his Highland tour, having unwittingly passed only four miles from the minister's home. Skinner wrote Burns a long verse epistle - 'by far the finest poetic compliment I ever got' said Burns, who answered on 25th October 1787, 'in plain dull prose'. Burns asked Skinner to send him any songs he had that would be suitable for inclusion in the Scots Musical Museum, telling him that 'Tullochgorum', 'John of Badenyon' and 'Ewie wi' the Crookit Horn' were going into the second volume. Burns later sent Skinner the second volume of the *Museum* from Edinburgh on 14th February 1788: 'as a mark of the veneration I have long had, and shall ever have, for your character'

He was the author of an *Ecclesiastical History of Scotland* and many other theological works, as well as 'Tullochgorum' and other Scots' songs. His song 'Tullochgorum', was described by Burns as 'the best Scotch Song ever Scotland saw'.

Reverend George Smith, (1748 - 1823)

George Smith was Minister at Galston, Ayrshire from 1778 until his death. and was also a great-grandfather of R. L. Stevenson.

Burns would appear to have been quite conflicted in his dealings with Smith. In 'The Holy Fair', Burns apparently meant to compliment him for the rationalism of his preaching though his friends regarded the lines in question as having injured his popularity. Angered by the criticism of his lines on Smith in 'The Holy Fair', Burns did not spare him in 'The Kirk's Alarm'.

"Cessnock-side, Cessnock-side, wi' your turkey-cock pride,
O' manhood but sma' is your share;
Ye've the figure, 'tis true, even your faes maun allow.
And your friends daurna say ye hae mair,
Cessnock-side! And your friends daurna say ye hae mair.'

Later, in 'The Twa Herds', Burns suggested that while pretending 'New Licht' sympathies, he was not to be trusted:

"An monie a ane that I could tell,
Wha fain would openly rebel,
Forby turn-coats amang oursel;
There's Smith for ane -
I doubt he's but a grey neck still
An' that ye'll fin'."

Conclusion

The conclusions that can be reached when reviewing Burns' relationship with various ministers is that he wasn't 'anti-religious' as has often be stated. In my opinion, it is clear that any 'anti-religious' views Burns held on the Calvinist aspects of religion were solely related to the many religious hypocritical aspects as was demonstrated by the 'Auld Licht' ministers that he saw and heard in Ayrshire in his time. Burns was not an enemy of religion, nor an overly pious Presbyterian as can be seen from his embracing of the 'New Lichts', but we can be sure from the satire contained within his poems e.g. in 'Holy Willie's Prayer' that he was concerned for the injustices that he saw in the society and remained outspoken until the end of his days.

He believed in the power of good works to determine salvation and sincerely believed that all humans were to be treated with dignity and equality. Where he suspected insincerity, want of charity or bigotry no mercy was shown in his poems or letters to the offender, no matter who.

We can acknowledge the great service he rendered to Scottish religious life when we look at the quote from 'The Unco Guid' which, conveys what to him were the essential components of religion.

Then gently scan your brother man
Still gentler sister woman,
Tho' they may gang a kennin wrang,
To step aside is human

(Continued on page 10)

BURNS EPITAPH Epitaph on Holy Willie (1785)

Here Holy Willie's sair worn clay
Taks up its last abode;
His saul has ta'en some other way,
I fear, the left-hand road.

Stop! there he is, as sure's a gun,
Poor, silly body, see him;
Nae wonder he's as black's the grun,
Observe wha's standing wi' him.

Your brunstane devilship, I see,
Has got him there before ye;
But haud your nine-tail cat a wee,
Till ance you've heard my story.

Your pity I will not implore,
For pity ye have nane;
Justice, alas! has gi'en him o'er,
And mercy's day is gane.

But hear me, Sir, Deil as ye are,
Look something to your credit;
A coof like him wad stain your name,
If it were kent ye did it.



Hellfire and Brimstone Minister.

BURNS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS PART 2 (CONTINUED)

Burns and the Ministers

Name	Connection
Auld Licht	
1. William 'Daddy' Auld 1709 - 1791	Minister at Mauchline and minister to Elder William Fisher and Burns
2. William Dalrymple 1723 - 1814	Mentioned in the 'Kirk's Alarm' and 'Twa Herds'. Baptised Burns
3. James Mackinlay 1756 - 1841	Mentioned in 'the Ordination'. Written by Burns as 'Rob Rhymer'
4. Alexander Miller 1804	Mentioned in 'Holy Fair' as 'Wee Miller'
5. Alexander Moodie 1722 - 1799	Mentioned in 'The Twa Herds' as 'Singet Sawnie'
6. James Oliphant 1734 - 1818	Mentioned in 'the Ordination'
7. William Peebles 1753 - 1826	Mentioned in the 'Kirk's Alarm' as poet "Willie" and In 'The Twa Herds' he is described as 'Peebles shaul' (shallow).
8. John Russell 1740 - 1817	Mentioned in 'Holy Fair' as 'Black Russell', 'wordy Russell in the 'Twa Herds' and 'Rumble John' in the 'Kirk's Alarm'
New Licht	
1. Hugh Blair 1718 - 1800	Made a number of suggestions for changes to Burns' poems, including 'The Holy Fair'
2. William Burnside 1751 - 1806	Wrote history of Dumfries for Sinclair's 'Statistical Account'. Burns fancied his wife
3. William M'Quhae 1736 - 1823	Mentioned in 'Twa Herds' as that 'cursed rascal ca'd M'Q'
4. William McGill 1732 - 1807	Wrote an essay called 'Death of Jesus Christ'
5. John (Guid) McMath 1755 - 1825	Minister at Tarbolton and supported Gavin Hamilton in his conflicts
6. Hamilton Paul 1773 - 1854	Strong defender of Burns' satirical poems
7. John Skinner 1721 - 1807	Burns very impressed by his poem 'Tullochgorum'
8. George Smith 1748 - 1823	Mentioned in 'Holy Fair', 'Twa Herds' and the 'Kirk's Alarm'
Other Ministers	
Thomas Reid (1710 - 1796)	He was author of <i>An Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense</i> (1764) which purported to answer the scepticism of David Hume.
Thomas Blacklock (1721 - 1791)	A blind minor poet who played a major part in making Burns change his mind over going to Jamaica and instead, go to Edinburgh



**REV. WILLIAM AULD
GRAVE**
(Mauchline, Scotland)



**REV. WILLIAM BURNSIDE
GRAVE**
(Dumfries, Scotland)



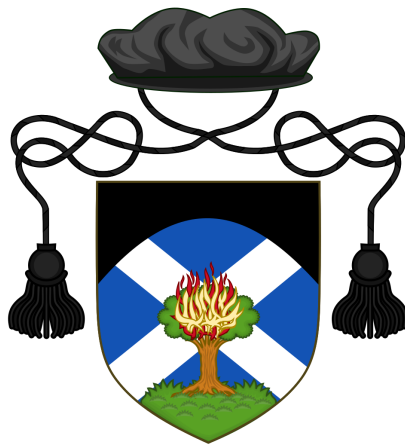
REV. THOMAS BLACKLOCK
(Edinburgh, Scotland)

BURNS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS PART 2 (CONTINUED)

Listing of Poems with References to Ministers

Poem	Minister references – ‘New Licht’
Holy Willie’s Prayer	Elder William Fisher
The Holy Fair	Alexander Moodie of Riccarton; George Smith of Galston William Peebles of Newton-upon-Ayr; Alexander Miller, of Kilmaurs
The Ordination	Alexander Moodie of Riccarton; James Oliphant of Kilmarnock; John Russell of Kilmarnock; Robert Duncan of Dundonald; William Peebles of Newton-on-Ayr; William McGill; William Auld of Mauchline; William Dalrymple of Ayr; Andrew Shaw of Craigie; David Shaw of Coylton; Peter Wodrow of Tarbolton; John McMath; George Smith of Galston
The Kirk of Scotland’s Alarm	William McGill of Ayr; William Dalrymple of Ayr; John Russell of Kilmarnock; James Mackinlay of Kilmarnock; Alexander Moodie of Riccarton; William Peebles of Newton-upon-Ayr; James Young of New Cumnock; David Grant of Ochiltree; George Smith of Galston; John Shepherd of Muirkirk; Andrew Mitchel of Monkton; William Auld of Mauchline
The Twa Herds	Alexander Moodie of Riccarton; John Russell of Kilmarnock; Robert Duncan of Dundonald; William Peebles of Newton-on-Ayr; William Auld of Mauchline; William McGill; Andrew Shaw of Craigie; David Shaw of Coylton; Peter Wodrow of Tarbolton; John McMath; George Smith of Galston; William M’Quhae
Epistle To James Tennant Of Glenconner	Thomas Reid of New Machar;
Letter to William Nicol	William Burnside of Dumfries
Second Commonplace Book	Hugh Blair of Edinburgh

Contributed by Ian Denness



Here are the Arms of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Copyright Free Wikipedia Commons)

Henry Cairney

BURNS EPISTLE

Epistle To John Goldie, In Kilmarnock (1785)

O Gowdie, terror o' the whigs,
Dread o' blackcoats and rev'rend wigs!
Sour Bigotry, on her last legs,
Girns an' looks back,
Wishing the ten Egyptian plagues
May seize you quick.

Poor gapin', glowrin' Superstition!
Wae's me, she's in a sad condition:
Fye! bring Black Jock, her state physician,
To see her water;
Alas, there's ground for great suspicion
She'll ne'er get better.

Enthusiasm's past redemption,
Gane in a gallopin' consumption:
Not a' her quacks, wi' a' their gumption,
Can ever mend her;
Her feeble pulse gies strong presumption,
She'll soon surrender.

Auld Orthodoxy lang did grapple,
For every hole to get a stapple;
But now she fetches at the thrapple,
An' fights for breath;
Haste, gie her name up in the chapel,
Near unto death.

It's you an' Taylor are the chief
To blame for a' this black mischief;
But, could the Lord's ain folk get leave,
A toom tar barrel
An' twa red peats wad bring relief,
And end the quarrel.

For me, my skill's but very sma',
An' skill in prose I've nane ava';
But quietlins-wise, between us twa,
Weel may you speed!
And tho' they sud you sair misca',
Ne'er fash your head.

E'en swinge the dogs, and thresh them
sicker!
The mair they squeel aye chap the thicker;
And still 'mang hands a hearty bicker
O' something stout;
It gars an owthor's pulse beat quicker,
And helps his wit.

There's naething like the honest nappy;
Whare'll ye e'er see men sae happy,
Or women sonsie, saft an' sappy,
'Tween morn and morn,
As them wha like to taste the drappie,
In glass or horn?

I've seen me dazed upon a time,
I scarce could wink or see a styme;
Just ae half-mutchkin does me prime, -
Ought less is little-
Then back I rattle on the rhyme,
As gleg's a whittle.



Anstruther



St Andrews University



Austrian Alps



Ron and May



**Ron and Sons (From left:
Roy/Ron/Ian/Tom)**

RON BUDD (HENRY CAIRNEY)

It is my great pleasure to introduce Life Member Ron Budd who has been a member of the club for 29 years. Ron was born in 1928 in Anstruther, which is the largest town in the East Neuk of Fife, Ron said: *"It was referred to by a Middle-Ages king as 'a beggar's Mantle' (scenic but with poorly- paid land workers) with a 'fringe of gold' (sandy beaches beside prosperous fishing villages.)"* Starting school around 5 years of age in a one-room, one-teacher co-ed school with four grades and each seated making up one side of a square and facing inwards. His middle school was a bike ride away at the start of the World War and carried his gas mask everywhere in case of an 'Air-raid Drill'. He completed his schooling at Waid Academy Anstruther and at that time of life, earned a little extra pocket money at Neuk farms harvesting grain and potatoes.

At 16 Ron joined the Air Cadets and flew as often as he could from the Naval Air Station at nearby Crail, a training base for bombing and torpedo runs. Ron stated: *"Trainees were 18 – 20 years old and we were restricted to flying with the instructors, old guys of 21 or so, who had failed tests in fitness for combat. The casualty rate amongst trainees and instructors too was terrible. We led charmed lives and never lost a cadet though we all came away with near misses and other stories to tell."*

After the war and schooling, Ron applied for University where the entry was offered to all servicemen and women who were being rapidly 'demobbed' and nearly 75% of the spaces available at St Andrews were filled this way. Ron felt he was lucky enough to be accepted. He and his friends all headed into the Science faculty which was not a direction he particularly wanted to go. When he faced the entrance exam, with weeks to go he switched from his bogie subject, Chemistry, to English dumping the Chemistry and earned his degree in Math and Geology. Ron said: *"At the graduating ceremony in 1950, unknown to each other and not to meet for more than forty years, Bob Carnie was seated a few rows from me and received his degree in Arts an hour or two from when I got mine in Science."*

Ron then faced a choice between getting his call-up papers or flee the country, he did his calling. Although his father was a badly wounded World War I veteran, he chose to join the Royal Engineers and on 'foreign' service in the south of England. Ron proudly said: *"A highlight of that was playing as scrum-half in a 1st XV match for United Services Chatham v United Services Portsmouth. They had two international wing forwards; end of story."* Ron's next assignment was with an RE Work Station with the Occupation Force in Klagenfurt, Austria, where he became recorder for fuel supplies to the British Forces in Austria. He spent the summer in the mountains and winter skiing. The ski Instructress was a member of the Austrian National team where he trained and competed with Ski troops.

While in Austria Ron took the opportunity to spend his 'leaves' in Italy and Switzerland until his demob in 1952 where the available jobs in the UK were work in the coal mines, taking extra university qualifications and join the Geological Survey, or teaching which would certainly require further degrees for any advancement. He decided to go back University and enrolled again at St Andrews. His first project was some field work in Argyllshire, which sounded interesting, but when he got installed in Inverary it was raining as he set out to find the area he was to examine. Ron tells the story: *"It was still raining when I set out the next morning to start the search for particular rocks. I searched and made pencil notes and it rained. It was still raining when I got back to my digs and set about trying to dry and read my notes. It rained all of the next day and the day after that by which time I had partly dried notes mostly unreadable, sodden gear and little enthusiasm left."* His second project was to examine an abandoned mine to see if its mineral content might prove economical to resurrect. Ron states: *"I entered the dry adit (mine walk-in entrance), pleased to get out of the rain and walked down the slope, noticing the water steadily rise, finally seeing in the light of my miner's lamp the water ahead reached the roof at which I reversed out of the mine, and headed for home, stopping only to settle my landlady's bill, buy a paper and get on the Glasgow bus!"*

The front page of the paper was full of Canada and the burgeoning oil and gas industry which was calling for engineers and geologists so when Ron arrived in Glasgow before getting the train to Fife, he found a small Canadian Government office, and was advised, wrongly, that October would not be a good time to go since the oil industry shut down for the winter and that he should wait for the spring when there would be plenty of jobs available.

Ron decided that was what he was going to do and went teaching Science and Mathematics in Methilhill in Fife to under 15 yr olds for several months glad that he hadn't selected that as a career. He then sailed for New York from Southampton on April 1, 1953, had a brief stay with an uncle and cousins in Trenton, New Jersey and then by train entered Canada at Niagara and headed West for Calgary.

RON BUDD (CONTINUED)

Calgary was already a busy place of 165,000 population and he took an offer from Pacific Petroleum and was assigned to Fort St John in northeast BC as a wellsite geologist. Ron said: *"The living style was pretty primitive but the job paid well and seemed secure so I told May with whom I was corresponding regularly that things were OK for her to come out from Scotland as we had agreed and that I would write her father (whose permission was still to be obtained by many in those days). I did and he wrote back saying that 'yes, I could have her but he was not going to send her and I would have to come and get her.'"* Ron did and they were married in April, sailed for New York on the QE2 and flew to Calgary later that month, arriving in 3 inches of snow, Ron said: *"This didn't go all that well with my inducement of 'Canada's so nice in the spring' or May's high heels!"*

They spent two years of moving around with the rigs and then a house by Charlie Lake, five miles up the Alaska Highway from Fort St John, when he became District Geologist. Fort St John had less than 700 residents when they were first there and then around 2,000 when they moved into the town's new housing scheme. Ron said: *"We saw good lighting installed along the main street along with rumours of hard-surfacing. My early thought was that a wild west film could have been shot along Main Street with removal of only a few half-ton trucks."*

Their eldest son was born in Fort St John and the three of them were transferred to Calgary in the summer of 1958, a day before the impressive Peace River bridge near Pacific's Taylor Flats Gas Plant collapsed. By the end of July they had bought a house in Kingsland in the southwest though they nearly didn't take it because it was so far out of town with the last houses at 82nd Avenue or Heritage Drive as it is now known and lots of green space nearby. It proved a good choice with shopping areas within walking distance, lots of schools, medical services, sports fields and easy exit to the south, east and west. Ron and May had 3 boys, and he now has three granddaughters Caity, Teagan and Leah, one grandson Ryan and Elune his great granddaughter.

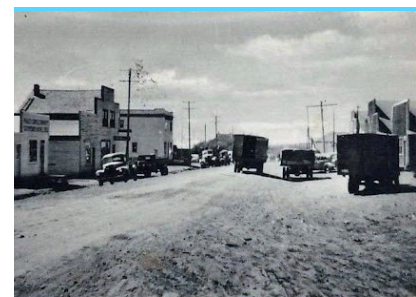
Ron spent time with the Community Association and starting a badminton Club but his main interest was in getting Minor Soccer going. He was involved from the start in 1961 and saw it rise with boys' teams in all four quarters of the city first and by then there was enough interest to form teams for girls too. Ron formed the Calgary Minor Soccer Association, the Alberta Association and represented the Province in Toronto for the founding of the Canadian Minor Soccer Association. Ron said: *"It pleases me to see that now in Canada, there are more kids playing soccer than any other organised sport. I belonged to the Calgary Petroleum Club for fifty years and our growing family had three sons who thoroughly enjoyed the Club Christmas Dinner. I was active in the Alberta Geological Society though I preferred my accreditation from the American Association."*

Ron left Pacific Petroleum in 1959 and worked for a while with a small Manitoba Company called Security Freehold until it was gobbled by Hudson Bay. He then joined Champlin, an American company and worked there as Chief Geologist and then Exploration Manager. His last move was to set up his own company as a consultant which led to a two-year contract onshore UK in the late 1970s. After returning from England he had contracts with several companies before fully retiring in 1994.

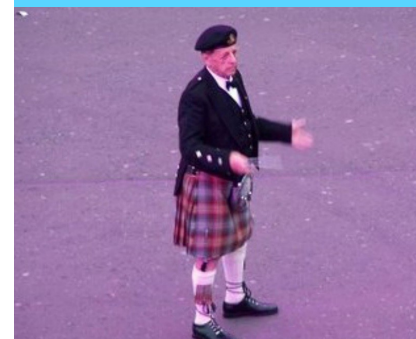
Ron explained his early days with the Calgary Burns Club: *"Though I found that I knew several of the members when I joined the Calgary Burns Club in 1992 I was not aware of the Club until Wally Hunter invited me to his table for the dinner that year. I got my letter written and joined the Club in December 1992. As befalls many a new member I found myself working, as treasurer first. When we lost the company Boardroom in which meetings were held even better rooms were found in the abandoned Officers' Mess on the Reserve where the Casino is now. We soon lost that too and settled in at the Rose and Crown. Meetings at the Officers' Mess became disruptive and poorly organised such that one night the individual responsible for that night's entertainment failed to show and I inherited the job. I enjoyed the task and in 15 years only had one member say 'no' when I asked him to do something. I usually managed to have everyone up at least once every year. After arranging items like 'Willy Brewed' and 'Twas the Scots' I got a half dozen members to come to my house for breakfast on the Saturday before the monthly meeting of the Club and we would plan some musical entertainment. Before long we had not enough room for breakfast and instead came down to the Rose and Crown where The Calgary Burns Club Singers began in earnest."* Ron passed the 'Baton' for the singers to Ron Pratt after the marvelous and successful Edinburgh Tattoo event in 2009.

"When Bob Carnie passed, the Club lost one of our Burnsians and at a Club meeting in 2007 I proposed a literary group to study Burns and other Scottish writers for the purpose of bringing their findings for presentation at Club meetings and I thought it should be called The Carnie Group. This is in memory of Bob and his contribution and inspiration to the Club in a way that I'm sure would have pleased him as it benefits the Group and all our Club members."

Now that Ron's active part in the Club is slowing down he is pleased the Singers and the Carnie Group are still thriving. I will give you Ron's thoughts: *"And the Club. We should remember we did not get a group together so that the business may be great, but that the business is there solely that we all may enjoy the entertainment."*



Fort St John (circa 1900's)



Edinburgh Tattoo 2009



Ron and 'Great Granddaughter Elune

RBWF 2021 CONFERENCE REPORT (BRIAN CUMMING)

The RBWF 2021 Conference was held in Paisley September 3-5, 2021, and the fact it was held at all in the second year of Covid is a testament to the herculean efforts of the Events Committee.

Shona and Henry Cairney, and I, travelled over from Canada and had to quarantine for 10 days at the Glynhill Hotel prior to the conference weekend. Thanks to the kindness of those who dropped off supplies to the hotel and our occasional 'Exercise Yard' walks in the parking lot, we all made it through isolation, and on top of that, Shona and Henry are still happily married!

A lot of hard work and effort went in to making this successful conference happen, and thanks must go out to the events committee, led by Marc Sherland, the RBWF office staff and the Glynhill Hotel staff for all their efforts.

Most guests began to arrive on the afternoon of Friday 3rd September, where registration took place in the RBWF shop. This went very smoothly, due to the efforts of Jane Brown, Margaretann Dougall, Jim Thomson, Jean Abdulrahim, Lorraine Cheyne, Enez Anderson, Marc Sherland, and Neil McNair. The welcome and hospitality I received from everyone at the conference was much appreciated.

Friday evening's emceeing was professionally executed by Jim Thomson, and we were excellently entertained by the irrepressible Alastair McDonald. This was followed by numerous and impressive guest-performances of poems, stories, and songs. Covid protocol was strictly observed by all attendees.

Saturday saw several excellent lectures from Alan Beck ('A Sincere Disciple': Colin Rae Brown), Professor Kirsteen McCue's lecture based on her book (Robert Burns' Songs for George Thomson), Rt Hon Lord Lyon the Reverend Canon Dr Joseph Morrow (The Coat of Arms of Robert Burns) and Professor David Thomson (The Globe Inn and Annandale Distillery).

The Annual General Meeting, which took place in the afternoon, carried out the business of the RBWF and was also transmitted via Zoom technology to allow our overseas members, who could not travel, to take part. Although there were a few technical issues, the meeting was carried out as per the RBWF constitution.

The evening's Inauguration Dinner, which had an attendance of 86 guests, commenced with a drinks' reception, and was followed by the procession of dignitaries. Again, all was carried out with attention to Covid protocols, as per regulations. Jim Thomson was once again the emcee and did a wonderful job.

The exchange of chains of office then took place in the following order: Neil McNair JVP; Alan Beck SVP; Henry Cairney President and Marc Sherland Immediate Past President. The evening program began with the Lord Lyon presenting the grace before dinner, followed by a four-course dinner.

As President, Henry Cairney had the honour to propose the Loyal Toast and this was followed by the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, Colonel Peter McCarthy, who read a message to the RBWF from Her Majesty the Queen - this was a lovely letter which Henry received from Buckingham Palace, congratulating him on becoming RBWF President. Then SVP Alan Beck gave the Toast to International Members which was replied to by me, as Calgary Burns Club President. The Lord Lieutenant then toasted the RBWF, and Henry gave the reply. JVP Neil McNair gave the Vote of Thanks. Finally, the Lord Lyon presented the posthumous Coat of Arms of Robert Burns to its new guardians: the RBWF, and President Henry Cairney had the honour to accept it on behalf of our organization. The night was completed with Ceilidh dancing to the music of the band Reel Stramash. A wonderful time was had by all.

On Sunday September 5/21 there was a service at Paisley Abbey where Marc Sherland and Henry Cairney gave a reading, followed by wreath laying at the Pomeroy Burns statue in Fountain Park, Paisley, where wreaths were laid on behalf of RBWF, RBANA and the Calgary Burns Club.

I look forward to attending another conference in person in 2022.

Best regards,
Brian Cumming
President Calgary Burns Club



"Freedom" Day



**President Henry Cairney
and IPP Marc Sherland**



Coat of Arms Presentation

(From Left: IPP Marc Sherland,
JVP Neil McNair, The Lord
Lieutenant Colonel Peter
McCarthy, RBWF President Henry
Cairney, The Lord Lyon Dr Joseph
Morrow, SVP Alan Beck)

ANNA LAURIE (1682 – 1764) (STEPHEN NICHOL)

ANNA LAURIE (1682 – 1764) AND THE SONG THAT IMMORTALISES HER - 'ANNIE LAURIE'

The life stories of Robert Burns and his friend Willie Nicol lead to Glencairn parish in Dumfriesshire, Scotland near where both owned farms. In Burns' case, it was Ellisland (in Dunscore parish) and for Nicol, it was Lagganpark (in Glencairn parish). This was the same locality where Anna Laurie had been born earlier and where she lived.

Anna Laurie is immortalised by the song "Annie Laurie". It is of interest to look at this association between the Robert Burns story and its connection with Anna Laurie and the song that has kept her name alive long after her death.

Anna Laurie was born on the 16th December, 1682 in Glencairn parish. Her childhood was spent at Maxwelton Estate, which was the ancestral home for the Baronets of Maxwelton. Her father was Sir Robert Laurie (1628 – 1698) and her mother was Jean Riddell (1658 – 1716). Sir Robert Laurie had an earlier marriage to Mary Dalzell. They had two daughters and Mary predeceased him. Jean and Robert Laurie had eight children, though not all appear to have survived past their childhood. Anna was one of Jean and Robert's four children to survive.

COVENANTERS

Sir Robert Laurie was a Royalist and persecutor of the Covenanters who were against the imposition of the English form of Protestant religious practice in Scotland. Glencairn parish was known for being the home for several Covenanters. Some were prosecuted and executed for their beliefs. Within the parish (even as recently as 1910) are memorials erected by the community to remember those who had been martyred. An example follows.

*HERE LYES JOHN GIBSON MARTYR SHOT TO DEATH
BY COL. DOUGLAS AND LIVINGSTONS DRAGOONS AT ENGLSTON IN GLENCAIRN
FOR ADHERING TO THE WORD OF GOD CHRIST'S KINDLY GOVERNMENT IN HIS HOUSE:
AND THE COVENANTED WORK OF REFORMATION AGAINST TYRANY PERJURY AND PRELACY
APRIL 28 1685*

While still a teenager, Anna Laurie had a suitor, William Douglas (1672 – 1760). William Douglas was known to be a Jacobite, a soldier of fortune and supported the Royal Stuart family line. When William Douglas requested Sir Robert Laurie's approval of his marrying Anna, Sir Robert Laurie refused to give his approval. William Douglas' family had an estate located at Fingland and this eventually passed to William. His parents were Archibald Douglas of Morton Castle and Marion Kennedy of Auchtyfardel. Morton Castle is about 15km north east of Maxwelton and Fingland is located about 17km west of Maxwelton. The Douglas family's Fingland estate in the Craigdarroch valley, west of Craigdarroch House, would have made it convenient for the couple to meet at Maxwelton.

Clearly, the political positions of the time taken by Douglas and Laurie put them on opposing sides. This would have been difficult to achieve a mutually beneficial marriage arrangement. In addition, William Douglas was about eleven years older than the teenage Anna - which may have influenced her father's marriage disapproval, although Sir Robert Laurie was 30 years older than Anna's mother, Jean. A Dumfries newspaper editor William M'Dowall (1815 – 1888) would write that Anna Laurie grew up "to be the most beautiful Dumfriesshire lady of the day".

ANNA MARRIES SOMEBODY ELSE

Anna Laurie eventually favoured a young man from Glencairn parish, Alexander Fergusson (3/11/1685 – 17/03/1749), the 14th Laird of Craigdarroch. A marriage between Alexander Fergusson and Anna Laurie was celebrated at Tron Kirk, Edinburgh on 29th August, 1709.

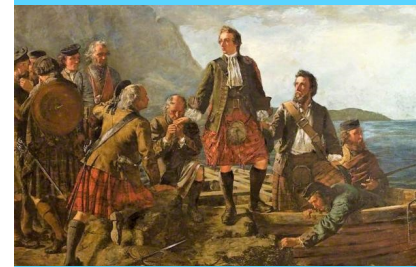
William Douglas, disappointed in his love for Anna Laurie, is thought to have written a two verse poem lamenting the rejections of his overtures for her hand. Eventually, these verses made their way into print and would appear in Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe's Ballads Book (1832). (*See Side panel*)

Notes that accompany the written version of this original version provide a translation of the parts of the poem that are in the Lowland Scots language and are included here:

"She's backit" means "She's endowed with a back(side)"; "She's breistit" means "She's endowed with a breast"; "jimp" means elegant or slender; "ye weal may span" means that her waist could be encompassed with the span of two hands; "a rolling eye" is a "come hither" look.



Anna Laurie (circa 1695)



Jacobites
(The National)

Anna Laurie Verses (1832)

She's backit like a peacock,
She's breastit like a swan,
She's jimp about the middle,
Her waist you weill may span,
Her waist you weill may span,
And she has a rolling eye;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay down my head and die."

"Maxwelton banks are bonnie,
Where early fa's the dew;
Where me and Annie Laurie
Made up the promise true;
Made up the promise true;
And never forget will I,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay down my head and die."

ANNA LAURIE (1682 – 1764) (CONTINUED)



Morton Castle
(William Douglas's Home)

Annie Laurie Verses (1853)

Maxwelton's braes are bonnie,
Where early fa's the dew,
Twas there that Annie Laurie
Gi'ed me her promise true.
Gi'ed me her promise true –
Which ne'er forgot will be,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me down and dee.

Her brow is like the snaw-drift,
Her neck is like the swan,
Her face it is the fairest,
That 'er the sun shone on.
That 'er the sun shone on –
And dark blue is her e'e,
And for Annie Laurie
I'd lay me down and dee.

Like dew on gowans lying,
Is the fa' o' her fairy feet,
And like winds, in simmer sighing,
Her voice is low and sweet.
Her voice is low and sweet –
And she's a' the world to me;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me down and dee.



The Covenanters Ferguson
(Copyright Free Wikipedia Common)

The authorship of this poem is uncertain. William Douglas appears to be the originator of the poem, but it may have evolved from Douglas's original version as time passed. In the 320 years since Anna Laurie was a teenager, it is worth looking back on this poem and contemplating the state of Scottish society when it was actually written. At the time that Anna Laurie was a young woman, women were legally considered chattels of their fathers or husbands.

POEM AUTHORSHIP

The question that lingers over these two verses being attributed to William Douglas, is whether they were written prior to him requesting Anna's hand or whether they were written after he had received his rejection from Sir Robert. It should be kept in mind that Anna's "promise" was not Anna's to give. In the conventions of their day, it was her father's right to offer his daughter's hand in marriage. The wording in the second verse comes across like some farmer judging his farm stock. Was William using his two verses to express his objections to how he had been rejected by Anna's father?

It needs to be noted that Sir Robert Laurie died in 1698 when Anna was 15 years old. William Douglas's poem, if written after Sir Robert's passing, would have been more likely to have escaped the scrutiny and objections of the Laurie family. The original verses were not committed to print until after the deaths of Anna and William.

When balancing the issues, events and timing surrounding this version of William Douglas's verses for "Annie Laurie", it does point to the poem coming into existence after Sir Robert Laurie's rejection of William Douglas as a suitor for his daughter. If this is the case, the later appearance of the verses suggests William Douglas had some hard feelings arising from Sir Robert's rejection of him as a suitor for Anna.

It is not surprising that Lady John Scott (1810 – 1900) (nee Alice Ann Spottiswoode) would rework the poetry for "Annie Laurie". This occurred in the 1800s and Lady John Scott's version consists of three verses and was put to music. Towards the end of her life, in a letter to the "Dumfries Standard", Lady John said that around 1834-5 she had encountered the earlier version of the "Annie Laurie" poem in a library collection of "Songs of Scotland" (1825) by Allan Cunningham.

She had revised this copy into the version that we most often hear today. The earliest known version of "Annie Laurie" by Lady John was published by James Lindsay of Glasgow when, at the same time, she provided other of her songs for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the soldiers who had died in the Crimean War (October 1853 to February 1856).

Again, notes that accompany the written copy of this version provide a translation of the parts of the poem that are in the Lowland Scots language and are included here:

"Braes" are a sloping bank of the river or sea-shore; a hill-slope; "bonnie" means pretty; "fa's" means falls; "gi'ed" means gave; "dee" means die; "snaw" means snow; "e'e" means eye; "gowans" are daisies; "o" means of; "simmer" means summer; "a" means all.

THE COVENANTERS AGAIN

When Anna Laurie and Alexander Fergusson made their decision to marry, there were "external" factors that would have had to be addressed for them to proceed with their marriage. At the time of Anna's birth, her father, Sir Robert Laurie was active in the movement to suppress the position taken by the Covenanters. This involved bringing the notorious Covenanters before the military court that was setup to "try" these subjects of the King, who were resisting the King's will. This court sentenced to death many who were brought before the court. Over a 25 year period from 1660, eighteen thousand Scottish subjects were executed. They would become known as "the martyred".

As Anna's father was a Royalist and supported the King. He had been involved in the trying of the notorious Covenanters in Glencairn parish. This would have created difficulty when Anna was organising her marriage. Anna's relation, Sir Robert Grierson, 1st Baronet of Lag and Rockhall was appointed to prosecute the Covenanters who were to be tried for not following the King's will. He became known to the people of Galloway as "Cruel Lag" and is still remembered by this name today. It is recorded that Covenanters being tried in the court of "Cruel Lag" and who made a request for time to pray, would have their request denied. "Cruel Lag" must have understood a distinction between "justice" and "efficient justice". He was also known to pass sentences that did not provide the condemned with a quick end.

ANNA LAURIE (1682 – 1764) (CONTINUED)

The Church system at this time in Scotland's history was in disarray as many of the church ministers were leading their church members in resisting the King's will. This resulted in the wholesale dismissal of ministers and a ban on gatherings at church facilities. It would have made it difficult for Anna Laurie and Alexander Fergusson to have their wedding at their local church in Glencairn parish, even though almost 30 years had passed since the height of the Covenanters' activities.

The couple decided to have their marriage performed in Edinburgh and as previously noted, Alexander Fergusson and Anna Laurie married on 29th August 1709, at Tron Kirk in Edinburgh. It should also be noted that once Sir Robert Laurie died in 1798, Anna's "chattel" status would have changed and would have depended on the terms of her father's will. When Anna married, she was 26 years old and appears to have become a "free-agent" and had not been "bonded" by the terms of her father's will.

After her marriage to Alexander Fergusson, 14th Laird of Craigdarroch, Anna moved to the Fergusson estate home at Craigdarroch, Glencairn parish and would remain there until her passing on 5th April, 1764. Anna appears to have inherited money, and was able later in her marriage, along with her husband, Alexander to make extensive modifications to the home and its gardens at Craigdarroch. In 1726, they commissioned William Adam, father of Robert Adam, who was one of Scotland's most well-known architects, to build the new house on the location of the original Craigdarroch home.

The cost of the work was estimated to be £526 2s 9d (worth approximately £171,000 in today's terms according to William Adam's handwritten quote. The work was completed in 1729, according to the date over the front door and the work included a fireplace in the hall which Robert Adam designed and constructed with guidance from his father. Later, Anna Laurie designed and re-established gardens around the house.

In later years, after the death of Anna Laurie, Robert Burns (1759 – 1796) was known to have visited the house when he was in the locality.

There is a birth date and christening date record for the first three of Alexander's and Anna's children, which indicates the christenings occurred at a church in Glencairn parish, Dumfriesshire. Alexander actively supported King William in William's stand against the Stuarts and he served as the Member of Parliament for the Glencairn parish area from 1715 until 1722. Alexander died in 1749 and left Anna an early widow, but Anna was able to continue living at Craigdarroch House without needing the support of another husband.

Alexander's father, Colonel John Fergusson (1661 – 1689), the 13th Laird of Craigdarroch, took part in the Battle of Killiecrankie on the 17/07/1689 where he died aged 28 years. It is also suggested in the records that John Fergusson had been a covert supporter of the Covenanters providing shelter for those who were being pursued by the King's forces. William Smith, whose parish memorial is included with this paper, was thought to have been employed on the Craigdarroch Estate.

HOW ANNA BECAME 'ANNIE LAURIE'

The version of "Annie Laurie" by Lady John was written after the 1830s, well after the end of Anna Fergusson's (nee Laurie) life in 1764. Would Anna Fergusson have approved this more recent version? This version is most tasteful and gently speaks of love that was never fulfilled. It is a fitting memorial for Anna's life and captures her youthful attractiveness.

Robert Burns had written his "Ae Fond Kiss" in 1791. Lady John Scott may have been familiar with this poem dealing with this same theme. As people experience life, they come to know the emotion of unfulfilled love and both Lady Scott's and Robert Burns' works succeed in catching their audience's attention by writing about this particular emotion. The survival of these pieces for over 200 years is a further testament to this power.

The reader is encouraged to compare these two pieces. Although they are dealing with the same emotion they are quite different in how they express the pain of unfulfilled love. Another poem from that time, John Keats, wrote on the same theme with his "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (1819) and this piece is again different from those of Burns and Lady Scott. It is suggested that Keats piece could be a more fitting description for William Douglas's encounter and his experience with Anna Laurie. William Douglas would likely be able to relate to the last three verses of this poem by Keats:

William Douglas, after his disappointment wooing Anna Laurie, would go on to live to 88 years. In 1706 he married Elizabeth (Betty) Clark, daughter of Captain Alexander Clark of Glenboig. William's interest in Fingland farm would pass to his brother. By 1722, it was no longer owned by the Douglas family. The Douglas families of Witham, Essex and Salwarpe are William's descendants. The grave sites for Alexander Fergusson and Anna Laurie have been lost over the years. They may have been buried at Glencairn Church at Kirkland where Anna was a lifelong worshipper or at Craigdarroch House. Given the political divide in Glencairn parish and across Scotland during Anna Laurie's lifetime, it is possible that Anna left instructions for Alexander's and her final resting place to be left unmarked.



Craigdarroch House
(Taken from a 1907 postcard)



Anna Laurie and Alexander Fergusson (circa 1725)

Anna and Alexander's children:

Jean : 29/05/1711 – 8/09/1792; married Robert Riddell 29/05/1731; at Glen Riddell, Roxburghshire

James : 10/01/1713 – 19/12/1771; married, 1st Euphemia Nesbit 1743, 2nd Eleanor Dalrymple, 12 children; 15th Laird of Craigdarroch

Elizabeth: 4/04/1714 (died during her childhood)

Robert : 1715 – 14/06/1798; married, first Mary Cuthbert, second Clementina Douglas, 4 children

John Keats Verses

I saw pale kings and princes too,
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all;
They cried-'La Belle Dame sans Merci
Thee hath in thrall!'

I saw their starved lips in the gloam,
With horrid warning gaped wide,
And I awoke and found me here,
On the cold hill's side.

And this is why I sojourn here,
Alone and palely loitering
Though the sedge is withered from the lake,
And no birds sing.

ANNA LAURIE (1682 – 1764) (CONTINUED)

BURNS POEM

**Duncan Gray
(1792)**

Duncan Gray cam' here to woo,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't,
On blythe Yule-night when we were fou,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't,
Maggie coost her head fu' heigh,
Look'd asklent and unco skeigh,
Gart poor Duncan stand abeigh;
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Duncan fleech'd and Duncan pray'd;
Ha, ha, the wooing o't,
Meg was deaf as Ailsa Craig,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't:
Duncan sigh'd baith out and in,
Grat his e'en baith blear't an' blin',
Spak o' lowpin o'er a linn;
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Time and Chance are but a tide,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't,
Slighted love is sair to bide,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't:
Shall I like a fool, quoth he,
For a haughty hizzie die?
She may gae to - France for me!
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

How it comes let doctors tell,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't;
Meg grew sick, as he grew hale,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.
Something in her bosom wrings,
For relief a sigh she brings:
And oh! her een they spak sic things!
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Duncan was a lad o' grace,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't:
Maggie's was a piteous case,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't:
Duncan could na be her death,
Swelling Pity smoor'd his wrath;
Now they're crouse and canty baith,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

THE WHISTLE

On 16/10/1790 Robert Burns marked the occurrence of a drinking contest that was held at Friars Carse, the prize at stake being a whistle. The participants were Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwellton, Robert Riddell Esq. and Alexander Fergusson Esq. of Craigdarroch. These three personalities, all being descendants of Anna Laurie, would continue drinking until only one of the three remained capable of blowing the whistle. This participant would be the winner and would receive the whistle as the prize.

On this occasion, Robert Burns attended as an observer and saw Alexander Fergusson become the winner. Burns would mark the event by writing his poem "The Whistle" and in the last verse; Burns paid tribute to the contestants' family line:

"Thy line, that have struggled for freedom with Bruce,
Shall heroes and patriots ever produce:
So thine be the laurel, and mine be the bay;
The field thou hast won, by yon bright god of day!"

Time has erased Anna Laurie's family line from the Glencairn parish region; the banking enterprise that had been created using some of the family's capital failed and the lands that the family once held, are now in the hands of new proprietors. Many of the family's descendants have travelled to the New World, where they are unconstrained by the past and its rigid ways, unshackled from the harsh Scottish history that was made during Anna Laurie's time.

The last word should belong to Robert Burns, who in 1788 was in the Friars Carse Hermitage, wrote on the *meaning of life*. He scratched on the window glass the first two verses of the piece he had composed:

Thou whom chance hither lead,
Be thou clad in russet weed,
Be thou deckt in silken stole,
Grave these maxims on thy soul.

Life is but a day at most,
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;
Hope not sunshine every hour,
Fear not clouds will always lour.

Written by Stephen H. Nichol, April 2021

Edited by James M. Bonner, June, 2021

Further Editing by Ron Budd

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"The Whistle" By Robert Burns
"Written In Friars-Carse Hermitage" by Robert Burns

WHISKY PROBLEM

A shocking problem has been revealed in the world of whisky. The beautiful Scottish island of Islay, famous for its whisky distilleries, has been struck unlucky by an accidental discovery, which suggests its peat could run out by 2021. A moment of silence for the terrible news please.

This all started with a feasibility study, conducted by a company looking into opening a new distillery on the island. From the study, a significant drop in peat beds was discovered. The last survey was conducted in 1980 but there is a possibility that several mistakes were made as various assumptions were concluded from only a few core samples. This made the recent study even more shocking for many in the industry.

Why should Islay whisky lovers be worried? What does peat have to do with whisky in the first place? If you're not a whisky connoisseur, these are valid questions. Well, peat is influential in the taste of many whiskies. But what is peat?

Peat is a mixture of decayed vegetation. This could be anything from dead plants, moss, grass and other organic material that has built up over thousands of years. Before you can actually use the peat, it has to be harvested, dried and carved out into 'bricks'. These 'bricks' are no one trick pony. They can be used for cooking and domestic heating too. Peat is behind the smoky taste you might love in so many single malts. It is used in the process of drying the barley in many of the world's finest single malt whiskies. During the drying process, the smoke works into the barley taking on the characteristics of the peat, which is what you can taste in the final product.

The longer the barley grain, or malt, is dried over peat fire, the smokier the single malt whisky will be. Laphroaig dries its malt for around 18 of the average drying time of 30 hours, for example. For the big peaty hitters that are so popular around the globe, you can understand how much of a concern a lack of peat might be. There may not be any need to panic though. Our genius Islay distillers have been aware of this issue for a while and none of them are terrified by the news.

Laphroaig will be launching an unpeated whisky called Glan Muir. Bowmore are looking to put more emphasis on sherry cask whiskies. And Ardbeg have been working on a very exciting peated water process to combat the shortage. Of course, if you're not a fan of peaty whiskies then none of this will be of concern to you.

(A published article of interest suggested by Paul Armstrong)

Reference Source: <https://www.lockettbros.co.uk/a-peaty-problem-islay-peat-to-run-out-by-2021/>

STRANGE SCOTTISH WORDS (HENRY CAIRNEY)

WORD	Pronunciation	MEANING
Bairn	Bearn	Child
Barry	Ba-ree	Splendid
Bevy	Be-vee	Drink, alcohol
Crabit	Krab-it	Grumpy
Eedjit	Ee-jit	Idiot
Galoot	Gal-loot	Another word for Idiot
Gubbed	Gub'd	Well beaten
Haver	H-ave-r	Talk a lot of nonsense
Manky	Man-key	Filthy, dirty
Numpty	Nump-tee	Another word for idiot
Shoogle	Shoe-gull	Shake or unsteady
Sleekit	Slee-kit	Sly, cunning
Wheesht	Whee-sht	Silent, be quiet



Peat Cutting

BURNS SONG

**The Deil's Awa Wi' The Exciseman
(1792)**

The Deil cam fiddlin' thro' the town,
And danc'd awa wi' th' Exciseman,
And ilka wife cries, "Auld Mahoun,
I wish you luck o' the prize, man."
Chorus-The Deil's awa, the Deil's awa,
The Deil's awa wi' the Exciseman,
He's danc'd awa, he's danc'd awa,
He's danc'd awa wi' the Exciseman.

We'll mak our maut, and we'll brew our drink,
We'll laugh, sing, and rejoice, man,
And mony braw thanks to
the meikle black Deil,
That danc'd awa wi' th' Exciseman.
The Deil's awa, &c.

There's threesome reels,
there's foursome reels,
There's hornpipes and strathspeys,
man,
But the ae best dance ere came to the land
Was-the Deil's awa wi' the Exciseman.
The Deil's awa, &c.

BURNS WORDSEARCH 4 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2022 Ronnie O'Byrne Director RBWF
2023 Ian McIntyre Past President RBWF
2024 T.B.A.

BURNS POEM

Bannocks O' Bear Meal
(1794)

Chorus-Bannocks o' bear meal,
Bannocks o' barley,
Here's to the Highlandman's
Bannocks o' barley!

Wha, in a brulyie, will
First cry a parley?
Never the lads wi' the
Bannocks o' barley,
Bannocks o' bear meal, &c.

Wha, in his wae days,
Were loyal to Charlie?
Wha but the lads wi' the
Bannocks o' barley!
Bannocks o' bear meal, &c.

OLD SCOTS PROVERB

"Dinnae teach yer Granny tae suck
eggs!"

Roughly translated means: Don't try
to be smarty-pants with
someone who is an ex-

IN THE NEXT EDITON

1) Profile of Mr Gerry Wood

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.

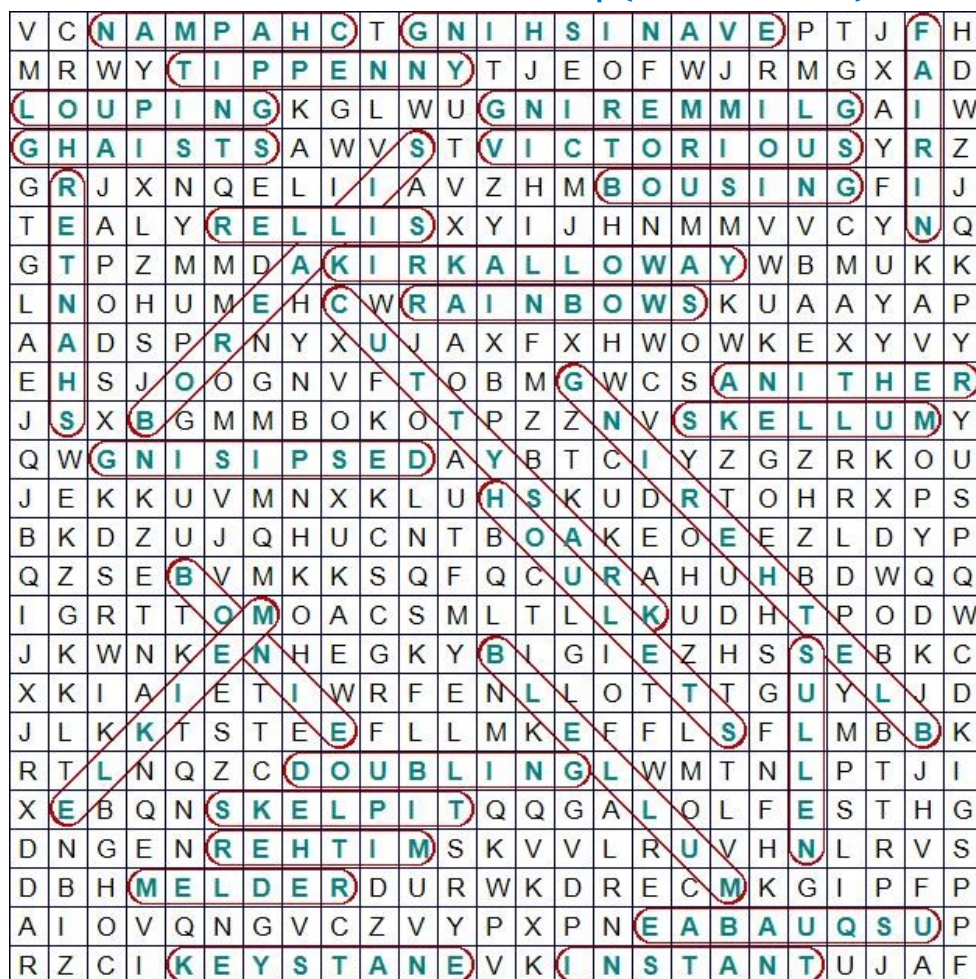
Henry Cairney

V	C	N	A	M	P	A	H	C	T	G	N	I	H	S	I	N	A	V	E	P	T	J	F	H
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L	O	U	P	I	N	G	K	G	L	W	U	G	N	I	R	E	M	M	I	L	G	A	I	W
G	H	A	I	S	T	S	A	W	V	S	T	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	O	U	S	Y	R	Z
G	R	J	X	N	Q	E	L	I	I	A	V	Z	H	M	B	O	U	S	I	N	G	F	I	J
T	E	A	L	Y	R	E	L	L	I	S	X	Y	I	J	H	N	M	M	V	V	C	Y	N	Q
G	T	P	Z	M	M	D	A	K	I	R	K	A	L	L	O	W	A	Y	W	B	M	U	K	K
L	N	O	H	U	M	E	H	C	W	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	S	K	U	A	A	Y	A	P
A	A	D	S	P	R	N	Y	X	U	J	A	X	F	X	H	W	O	W	K	E	X	Y	V	Y
E	H	S	J	O	O	G	N	V	F	T	O	B	M	G	W	C	S	A	N	I	T	H	E	R
J	S	X	B	G	M	M	B	O	K	O	T	P	Z	Z	N	V	S	K	E	L	L	U	M	Y
Q	W	G	N	I	S	I	P	S	E	D	A	Y	B	T	C	I	Y	Z	G	Z	R	K	O	U
J	E	K	K	U	V	M	N	X	K	L	U	H	S	K	U	D	R	T	O	H	R	X	P	S
B	K	D	Z	U	J	Q	H	U	C	N	T	B	O	A	K	E	O	E	E	Z	L	D	Y	P
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I	G	R	T	T	O	M	O	A	C	S	M	L	T	L	L	K	U	D	H	T	P	O	D	W
J	K	W	N	K	E	N	H	E	G	K	Y	B	I	G	I	E	Z	H	S	S	E	B	K	C
X	K	I	A	I	E	T	I	W	R	F	E	N	L	L	O	T	T	T	G	U	Y	L	J	D
J	L	K	K	T	S	T	E	E	F	L	L	M	K	E	F	F	L	S	F	L	M	B	B	K
R	T	L	N	Q	Z	C	D	O	U	B	L	I	N	G	L	W	M	T	N	L	P	T	J	I
X	E	B	Q	N	S	K	E	L	P	I	T	Q	Q	G	A	L	O	L	F	E	S	T	H	G
D	N	G	E	N	R	E	H	T	I	M	S	K	V	V	L	R	U	V	H	N	L	R	V	S
D	B	H	M	E	L	D	E	R	D	U	R	W	K	D	R	E	C	M	K	G	I	P	F	P
A	I	O	V	Q	N	G	V	C	Z	V	Y	P	X	P	N	E	A	B	A	U	Q	S	U	P
R	Z	C	I	K	E	Y	S	T	A	N	E	V	K	I	N	S	T	A	N	T	U	J	A	F

From Tam O' Shanter

ANITHER	GLIMMERING	SKELLUM
BLELLUM	HOULETS	SKELPIT
BLETHERING	INSTANT	SULLEN
BONIE	KEYSTANE	TIPPENNY
BOREALIS	KIRKALLOWAY	USQUABAE
BOUSING	LOUPING	VICTORIOUS
CHAPMAN	MEIKLE	
CUTTYSARK	MELDER	
DESPISING	MITHER	
DOUBLING	RAINBOWS	
EVANISHING	SHANTER	
FAIRIN	SILLER	

BURNS WORDSEARCH 4 (SOLUTION)



A Wee Glesga Poem

Slaggy Senga fell in love, she planned to marry Joe,
 She was so happy'bout it all, she told her faither so,
 Faither told her "Senga doll, you will huv tae find another",
 "I Dinna want yer maw tae know, but Joe is half yer brother",
 So Senga put aside her Joe, and planned tae marry Wull,
 But when she told her faither, he said there's trouble still,
 "Ye cannae marry Wull ma doll, and please don't tell yer mither",
 "But Wull and Joe and several mair, I know is half yer brither",
 But mither knew and said "My doll, just do what mak's ye happy",
 "Marry Joe or marry Wull, cause Faither's no yer PAPPY!!!!".

(Traditional, ANON)



THE CALGARY CLAVER

Thank you to all contributors.

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