



The Scottish Connection

Newsletter of the Scottish Heritage Society of North Central West Virginia



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‘ROBERT BURNS’ TO APPEAR AT JANUARY 31 SUPPER IN HIS HONOR



from “The Broons Burns Night” publication, D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd.

2009 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, Scotland’s national poet. With this as inspiration, special arrangements have been made for the upcoming Robert Burns Dinner to have as its special guest ... Robert Burns himself! Well, at least an actor portraying Scotland’s Bard, on Saturday, January 31st at Via Veneto Conference Center. The cash bar opens at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6 p.m. It will be an evening full of toasts and tributes, fun and frivolity, music and entertainment and above all, delicious Scottish fare prepared by chef Nunzio Bonamico - all this amid a myriad of tartan banners and flags and tables adorned with thistles and heather..

The ceremonial presentation of the haggis by Chef Bonamico, led by Pipe Major Joe Quick, and the traditional Burns *Address to the Haggis* by Drum Major Curt Mitchell follows a few ‘wee drams’ and sets the scene for the evening’s activities.

A sumptuous feast featuring Cock-a-Leekie soup, Collops of Beef with Sauce or Chicken with Leeks and Cream, Rumbledethumps, Green Beans and the divine Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce precedes Ann Watson’s Burns Medley on the Scottish Smallpipes. The highlight of the evening, under the direction of Joann Siegrist, Professor of Puppetry and Creative Dynamics at West Virginia University, will be the appearance of the evening’s honoree, Robert Burns himself who was (oops – for this purpose “is”) a handsome devil and we all know about his success with women (I meant the plural). Mindful of Robert’s amazing success with women, we have limited the attendance of women, whether single or married, to no more than 100. We also strongly encourage husbands to attend with their

wives.

Come join us – this should be a very special program. Tickets are \$38 each and can be arranged with Bill or Eleanor MacLean. If you lost your reservation, you can send them a check at 225 Maple Lake, Bridgeport, 26330. If you have any questions, email them at macleanbe@earthlink.net or call them at 842-0370.

2009 FESTIVAL EARNS SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

For the *third* time, the Scottish Festival has been named a **TOP TWENTY EVENT IN THE SOUTHEAST US** by the Southeast Tourism Society. The prestigious Top Twenty designation is awarded annually by the Southeast Tourism judges who choose the best 20 events held in their 12-state region for each month of the year. Their Top 20 Events publication is sent to over 1,600 media outlets. This designation is good not only for the festival, but for the city and the CVB, as well and will help to bring people from across the southeast to Bridgeport where they will stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores.

Tim Brady, director of the Greater Bridgeport CVB, who nominated the Festival for the Top Twenty designation, also was responsible for the Festival receiving the **TOP 100 EVENTS IN THE US FOR 2009** designation by the American Bus Association which is made up of motor coach and tour operators. This award is a significant honor that will possibly result in some bus tours being organized to bring people for the festival weekend.

All of this makes us very proud and encourages us to keep going in the same direction, hopefully getting bigger and better each year.

(some excerpts from an article by Lynn Vance in *The Bridgeport News*)





Festival News and Notes

The buzz word for the 2009 Festival is BANDS bands, bands and more bands.....because we're staging the first ever WEST VIRGINIA PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP! But since it's our first try at band competition, we're going to limit the competition entries to 12 this year. Still, that means that we'll most likely have a total of 15 bands making up the Massed Band when you add the non-competition bands that have been with us every year and will continue to be invited to participate in the Massed Band and do walk-arounds. If you thought our Massed Band was impressive in the past, this one should be awesome!

The pipe band competition will begin on the main field at 2 PM, following the completion of the solo piping competition (fingers crossed). We've hired an additional piping judge, Scott Walker, to help accomplish the timely finish of the solo events and to sit on the band judging panel. That brings our piping judges to 5 - Alasdair Gillies, Ed Neigh, Sandy Jones, Jimmy McIntosh and Scott - a premier panel if there ever was one!

We'll go into the details of pipe band judging in the next newsletter so everyone will be able to understand what's going on as they watch the competition.

The list of entertainers is exciting.....Laura Risk and Paddy League (Scottish fiddler and guitar), who were with us several years ago, are coming back as is Alasdair Gillies; world renowned Scottish storyteller/guitarist, Colin Grant Adams will be here for the first time and the explosive, lively celtic rock band, Tartanic, from Houston is coming.....check out the videos on their website, www.tartanic.net.....you won't believe your ears!!!!

The schedule of events for the 2009 Festival is almost complete....pending review by the Festival Planning Committee at its meeting on January 25th. When finalized, it will be put on the website, and will also be available from Ann Watson. Entry forms for the piping, drumming and dancing competitions will be mailed to eligible potential competitors in mid February.

The full Festival Committee will hold its first meeting of 2009 at 7:00 PM on Sunday, January 25th in the parlor of First Presbyterian Church. Any members who are interested in helping are invited to come and join in the planning as a matter of fact, we're looking for help writing some of the feature articles for the media packet - maybe one on the various workshops or the children's activities or the animal exhibits or all the bands....etc. Interested? Get in touch with Ann Watson (842-3457 or scotfestchief@yahoo.com). We're also looking for help with the ceilidh and tickets.....

Festival brochures are back from the printer and available to anyone who would like to help distribute them at various locations around the state as you travel to and fro....and to those who know of venues that would like to have quantities of them available to interested folks (libraries, professional offices, etc.) We'll have them at the committee meeting on January 25th and at the Burns Supper, so feel free to take as many as you can give away.

The website has been constantly updated in an effort to

keep all the info current. So now, not only can you find photos and results from last year, you can also download a 2009 brochure, a flyer that features the 2009 headline entertainers, and all the competition entry forms (we already have received several entries and they all have come from the website). So if anyone asks for information on the upcoming festival, just direct them to the website (www.scots-westvirginia.org)

Bob Upton has been hard at work contacting 2009 sponsors; ad contracts for space in the Souvenir Program have been mailed to past and potential advertisers. Because the copy deadline for the program is March 1, it is important that both of these areas be finalized as soon as possible so that all listings and layouts can be included in the program.

Help from the membership in contacting potential new sponsors and advertisers is always appreciated and will go a long way toward assuring the continuance of the Festival. Contact Bob (1203 Maplewood Drive, Bridgeport; phone 842-2179) or Ann Watson for ad contracts and sponsorship applications

I almost forgot.....big news.....WALKERS Shortbread and Cookies has joined our Festival family. We'll have WALKER shortbread and cookies for sale at the Society tent on Festival day and we'll have samples at the Ceilidh on Friday. And they will be with us from now on....a very special addition....it wouldn't be truly Scottish without WALKERS!

WHERE IN SCOTLAND ARE WE?

by Bill MacLean

(Hint - it is on top of a large hill of solid granite ... not far from Glasgow)



This is the William Wallace National Monument. It is on a granite hill not far from Dumbarton Castle, and is the hill on which Wallace hid his troops before one of his successful fights against

an English army. The walk up the hill is brutal, but there is a free shuttle bus from the entrance. The walk is also brutal up the stairs, and the holes you see at the left are open to the air, which allows wind to whistle through the structure – pretty eerie.

Among other things, the monument holds Wallace’s claymore.



Monongalia County at one point included the area that was later carved out to form Marion and Harrison Counties.

We don’t have a good way to loan books out, but I will bring these to the Burns Dinner and also have them at the Genealogy booth at the Festival. If you want me to look for references to family names or specific individuals give me a telephone call (842-0370) or email (macleanbe@earthlink.net) with the names of interest and any details that might help, as in any family memories as to the community in which your ancestors lived.

Bill MacLean

WHAT DID ROBERT BURNS REALLY LOOK LIKE?

Only six authenticated portraits of Roberts Burns have come down to us. A number of others exist, but are known to have been done using other portraits of Robert as their model rather than Robert himself. In the days before film or digital cameras, that is actually more than exists for most people that lived in the latter half of 1700’s. He is said to have gotten his “gypsy good looks” from his mother, but the portraits we have don’t suggest a swarthy complexion that we then might expect.

One is a silhouette and doesn’t give us much of an idea. One is of him as a young man that masks some of his face and does not give us much facial detail either.

Society Library Acquisitions

The Society has recently added some West Virginia county history books to its library. Most of the books were originally published in the late 1880’s and early 1900’s. Our acquisitions are reprints. The county histories often include background on early pioneers and this can be helpful for genealogy research.

The books we have acquired are:

History of Monongalia County, West Virginia (1883, Samuel Wiley)

The Monongalia Story – A Bicentennial History, Vol II the Pioneers (1976, Earl Core)

History of Barbour County (1899, Hu Maxwell)

History of Wetzel County (1901, John McEldowney)

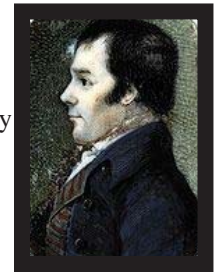
A History of Preston County, Part I (1914, Oren Morton)

Our Place in History, Southwestern Preston County (2005, Connie Lorraine Cox)



The most famous portrait is the one used for our program cover.

Two others are probably worth including. One shows him with more weight than any of the others.



The last we will look at is known to have been painted by Alexander Nasmyth in 1787 when Robert was 28.

by Bill MacLean

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 25, 2009 - Festival Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Parlor

January 31, 2009- Annual Burns Supper - 5:30 PM, Via Veneto

March 16, 2009 - Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 PM, Burnside Funeral Home

February 22, 2009 - Festival Committee Meeting - 7:00 First Presbyterian Church Parlor

March 29, 2009 - Festival Committee Meeting - 7:00 First Presbyterian Church Parlor

April 26, 2009 - Festival Committee Meeting - 7:00 First Presbyterian Church Parlor

May 1-3, 2009- Eighth Annual Scottish Festival & Celtic Gathering

May 17, 2009 - Annual Membership meeting, First Presbyterian Church McClelland Room

2009 Calendars Available



It's full of magnificent photos from the 2008 Festival taken by John Clemens and Judy Shanholtz and shows some of the many special and diverse events for which our festival has become well known. Important dates are noted in the appropriate months and there's plenty of space for you to add your own appointments and reminders. Buy one for your home, one for the office and another for a gift for a friend or relative.

We have a limited quantity available now and whatever remains will be available at the Burns Supper; but if we run out we can order another printing before the end of January. They're just \$16 each or 3 for \$47. To purchase, contact Ann Watson (304-842-3457; scotfestchief@yahoo.com); checks should be made payable to NCWVSHS.

IT'S DUES TIME.....

You will soon be receiving a dues billing for the Society's calendar year 2009 dues period. The dues period coincides with the Society calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Dues are as follows:

- \$15 regular
- \$50 Burns Circle
- \$400 Lifetime Member

The Burns Circle and Lifetime Member categories are completely voluntary. If you first joined the Society since July 1st, 2008, you will not be billed for a new dues period until 2010. Please call Bill MacLean (842-0370) if you have any questions about dues.

I'd like to support the Eighth Annual SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & CELTIC GATHERING by.....

a. becoming a Patron:

- \$5,000 Level - Solo Bagpiping/Drumming or Highland Dancing Competition (circle one)
- \$10,000 Level - Band Competition/Massed Band/Band Performances
- \$25,000 Level - Entertainment/Concert/Exhibitions
- \$50,000 Level - The Entire Festival

b. becoming a Sponsor:

- PLATINUM PLUS (\$1,500) - 10 free day & concert admissions, 5 programs & pins, Hospitality and a full page program ad
- PLATINUM (\$1,000) - 8 free admissions, 4 programs & pins, Hospitality and a full page program ad
- GOLD (\$500) - 6 free admissions, 3 programs, Hospitality and a 1/2 page program ad
- SILVER (\$250) - 4 free admissions, 2 programs, Hospitality and a 1/4 page program ad
- BRONZE (\$100) - 2 free admissions, 1 program, Hospitality and program listing

c. offering a prize for the band/solo bagpipe/drumming/highland dancing competitions

- WV Pipe Band Championship Trophy (\$100)
- Piper of the Day, Drummer of the Day or Most Promising Dancer Trophy (\$50)
- Medals for piping/drumming/dancing competitions (\$10 each)

d. placing an ad in the souvenir program:

- Outside back cover - color (\$500)
- Inside front or back cover (circle one) - color (\$350)
- Full page (B/W) (\$175)
- Full Page (color) (\$275)
- 1/2 Page (\$95)
- 1/4 Page (\$70)
- 1/8 Page (\$45)

*(Please include ad copy on the reverse side or on a separate page
Copy deadline is March 1, 2009)*

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amount enclosed _____