



CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY
Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264
NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

Chief Peter Ross
3 Welgelee Road
Constantia Hills, 7806

Secretary Narina Gilder
PO Box 946
Howard Place, 7450

Treasurer Lance Wiseman
9 Albert Road
Mowbray, 7700

Scribe Margaret Currie

Hon Padre Myra Horn

021 689 9450 (W)

021 689 9240 (F)

021 712 2506 (H)

021 531 1820 (H & F)

Email: narinag@netactive.co.za

021 689 2235 (H)

021 686 7104 (W)

021 686 7300 (Fax)

021 671 3674 (H & F)

021 558 4045 (H & F)

Dear Member

*Or did misfortune's bitter storms
Around thee blaw, around thee blaw.
Thy biield should be my bosom
To share it a', to share it a'.*

Robert Burns

And *blaw* it certainly has here in our city – and much more to come, I'm certain. However, even the bleakest of days can be lightened by sharing a smile or a kind word with a friend or a passer-by. So we reach out and share with you, dear friends!

RELAXING ON THE FRONTIER (cont)

By Keith McLeod

However, apart from evidence of an emphasis on '*good living*', the centre piece of the exhibition showed that religion had a vital part to play in the often lawless and violent history of the county.

Pride of place went to the mysterious **Cumbusnethan Stone** found in an old churchyard in the 1890s. Little is known of its origins although it is believed to date from the tenth century and the worn carving is thought to depict Jesus as a child lost in the temple.

The Director of the Exhibition, **Isobel McDonald**, commented, "*around the time the stone was made what is now Lanarkshire formed the eastern edge of the Kingdom of Strathclyde, with the capital seated at **Dumbarton**. The people were Celtic but were referred to as Britons. With regards to the artefacts we believe that the Roman legionnaires viewed this area as an unpopular posting as it was at the northern extremity of civilisation as far as they were concerned, cold and barbaric with the warlike **Picts** just to the north. The items on display show that it was important to make sure the soldiers had something to occupy them when they were not on patrol. The historical heritage in the area is a rich and ancient one, reaching far back into the mists of time.* (Finale)

I received a most interesting call from **Isobel Reuels**, who grew up in the **Motherwell** area and has revisited it relatively recently. I am hoping she will supply us with a few thoughts on Lanarkshire today. Thanks, Isobel.

FROM THE CHIEF

I often tell my fellow councillors that my main reason for joining the Society in the Eighties was that I ardently hoped at the time that it would satisfy my genealogical appetite (which is strong and healthy, believe me) and that it would be beneficial to making further discoveries about my Scottish heritage. Well I have been disappointed to date as we do not appear to have any genealogists – amateur or expert – amongst our members. In spite of this, my family tree has grown enormously with the research I have done over the past two decades.

While the Rosses are traditionally a Highland clan (from Ross & Cromarty, north of Inverness), our family found their way down to a croft called "Great Laws" in Skirling Parish near Biggar. In those days people did not move around the way we do now – the family lived on the same croft for about 250 years from the early 1600's! Perhaps they moved to escape the harsh rugged environment and climate of the north preferring the beautiful rolling green hills and pasture lands of Peeblesshire. Thanks to the research I had done, I had the good fortune to visit with my family in 2004 the exact spot where our ancestors lived. It did not take much persuasion to get a number of my "British" cousins, most of whom I had never met before, to join us. What fun we had together knowing the same blood was coursing through our veins! We were so busy getting to know one another, there was no time for any feuding! I brought back a good chunk of the ancestral hearthstone wrapped in my whatsits which caused a huge excess in my baggage allowance.

Well if you have a family story from yester-year which you would like to share with us, please drop us or email us a line. If it is of broad interest and limited to a few paragraphs we can add your submissions into our newsletters. Come on let's hear from you!

Do remember to come to the AGM and show your support for the Society – see insertion below. You will be receiving your formal notice in the next week or so. And remember to promote the Society with your friends! Come on Scots lets stand together! Our failure to do so will have consequences too ghastly to contemplate....

Yours aye,
Peter

FUNCTIONS

A small group of 13 met on a dull and blustery, but fortunately dry, day for a tour of **Groote Schuur Estate** on 17 June. What a wonderful experience we had. Najwaa was an excellent guide, being very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about all that is on display, the history and development of the estate and who contributed what when. We were lucky enough to peek into some magnificent Moroccan leather-bound books collected by Cecil John Rhodes – she used special gloves and gentle care to turn pages. A magnificent spread for tea was produced by the kitchen staff. Truly a memorable morning.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date Saturday 26 July 2008

**Venue Claremont Congregational Church,
Main Road**

Time 10:00

The AGM will be preceded by a **Special General Meeting at 09:30** to finalise constitutional changes.

We hope to see a good turnout of members at this most important meeting. As mentioned by our Chief recently, your Council is on the lookout for dynamic new councillors to keep

the wheels turning and bring a breath of fresh air. Apart from the satisfaction of performing a service, the personal contact engenders a feeling of belonging and enjoyment. We look forward to welcoming you into the inner circle.

WHISKY TASTING - GLENMORANGIE

Date Thursday 4 September 2008

**Venue Kelvin Grove, 144 Campground
Road, Newlands**

Time 18h30 for 19h00

Cost R40 per person for the tasting

This is an event which we are trying to make an annual feature. This year we have invited **Jack Hetherington**, Brand Ambassador for Glenmorangie, to present their exciting **range of malts** to us. The tasting will be hosted by your Society at Kelvin Grove who will also be promoting the event with their members. Glenmorangie is Gaelic for the "**Glen of Tranquillity**", so Jack, who is great fun, has promised you a tranquil evening of whisky tasting! Just to add to the atmosphere, we are trying to arrange a piper. A **plate of light snacks** will be served at the tasting and is included in the cost. You **may choose** to stay afterwards for a meal at Kelvin. We expect that there should be a good turnout so be sure to **make your booking early as numbers are limited. Bookings** can be made by calling Peter at work on 021 689 9450 or on his cellphone (083 302 3791). Alternatively Nicky on (021) 712 2506. **Please indicate** when booking **whether or not you intend staying for the meal.**

KIRKIN' OF THE CHIEF and CHIEF'S AT HOME

These are still being planned –more details in next newsletter.

The same applies to **St Andrew's Nicht!** Keep your eye on this space.

TRANSPORT

Should you require transport to functions, please telephone our Secretary, **Narina Gilder** at **021 531 1820** to arrange this.

PINELANDS SOCIETY

We do not appear to have received a newsletter from our kindred Pinelands Caledonian Society in the past month. Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to Anne Miller who is very ill and to her daughter and Chief of Society Shirley Miller who is permanently attending to her mother at present.

MEMBERS' NEWS

In keeping with recent trends we give you the **Clan Gordon** – that of **Mieke Gordon** and her late husband, **Allan**.

Septs: Adam, Adie, Edie.

The progenitors of the clan were Anglo-Norman and settled in the South of Scotland in the 12th century. **Adam de Gordon** was one of the Scots barons who joined **King Louis XI** of France in the crusade of **1270**. In **1826** the 5th and last **Duke of Gordon** died without issue and was succeeded by **George, 5th Earl of Aboyne**, as 9th **Marquis of Huntly** and Chief of the clan – and inherited the title of **Cock of the North Crest**.

Crest: a buck's head *affronté* proper, attired and issuing from a crest coronet, or (gold).

Supports: two deerhounds proper, collars gules each charged with three crescents, or.

Mottoes: *Bydand* (abiding or lasting) and below the escutcheon *animo non astutia* (by course and not craft) – *Lyon register* 1, 42: XXXVII, 147.

Welcome home to **Mary and Iain Moodie**, just returned from a grand holiday in the *Auld Country*. We know you enjoyed every moment and are happy to have you back.

Our heartfelt condolences are sent to **James Patrick** and his family on the death of his mother on Thursday afternoon, 26 June. We

are happy for him that he was able to go over for the funeral and to spend some time in Scotland before returning later this month.

COUNTRY DANCING

Maureen Lith, Country Dance Teacher

A few weeks ago an Inter-Provincial Highland Dance Competition was held at the Italian Club, Rugby. Port Elizabeth was unable to play host – so Cape Town took over. There were five teams of contestants – two from Johannesburg and one each from Kwa Zulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Province. We are very proud to tell you that, for the first time since the inauguration of the competition, Western Province won the cup. **Maureen's granddaughter, Nicolle van Driel**, was chosen as a member of the team for the third time and won two medals and three ribbons for Western Province. Congratulations to Nicolle and the team.

There will be a Teachers Highland Competition in Cape Town on 21 June when the team will be photographed with the cup. Great news! Thanks, Maureen. We send warm regards to you all and hope you are managing to fend off winter's ills. Remember *if Winter comes can Spring be far behind!*

GREAT SCOTS!

Courtesy of Ian McWalter

Golf was first played in Scotland, but the man to blame for it is unknown.

Artificial ice was first made by **Sir John Leslie** in Edinburgh in **1810**.

Circulating libraries – the first one was established by **Alan Ramsay** in Edinburgh.

Bicycles - credit for the invention of the bicycle has been given to two Scots – **Gavin Dalziel** of Lesmahagow and **Kirkpatrick MacMillan**, a Dumfriesshire blacksmith, in **1834**.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Mieke Gordon

Alexander Ronaldson MacDonnel, when visiting his friends in **Lochabies World March** from **Invergarry to Fort William** in full Highland dress with eagle feathers in his **Glengarry** bonnet, was followed by his tail (a body of a dozen or more retainers similarly clad). **Aileen Dall**, his family bard, in full professional costume, was prepared for a bardic oration at the end of the journey – what do they call them in Africa – praise singers?!

According to the **Dictionary of National Biography** he killed the grandson of **Flora MacDonald**, the young subaltern **Norman McLeod**, in a duel arising out of a fierce quarrel at a ball in Fort William

A SMILE

Jack, a believer in old customs, was giving directions for his own funeral.

“Noo” he said to his son, “ye’ll gae roon the entire company an’ see that they hae a dram – syne ye’ll gae roon and see that they hae anither.”

Then he sighed and added “As I’ll no be there mase!, I’ll just hae mine the noo!”

An Englishman, roused by a Scot’s scorn of his race, protested that he was born an Englishman and hoped to die an Englishman. “Man,” scoffed the Scot “hae ye nae ambeetion?”

FOR SALE

Girl’s McLachlin tartan skirt. Excellent condition. Price R200, ono. To enquire, please phone Nicky Ross at 021 712 2506.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council

*If happiness hae not her seat
An’ centre in the breast,
We may be wise or rich or great,
But never can be blest.*

The Bard himself

Keep warm and dry

And your scribe

