

Volume 1 Issue Number 5 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section 2 October 2007

John Shaw 1000th MacBubba member

John Shaw, from near Greenville, South Carolina became the 1000th "Big, bad and plaid" Clan MacBubba member when he joined the group at the 2007 Charleston Highland Games September 15th during the annual Clan MacBubba Homecoming there. The MacBubba group is sponsored by Caberdancer Graphic Design, Inc. Shown on theright is Ron Wright, president of the company.

Shown also on this page is the 2007 group photograph of Clan MacBubba.

Anyone may join this group regardless of any other affiliation. Clan MacBubba is simply for fun and does offer membership both to those of Scot-Continued on page 2





The first of every month a new BNFT! http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft





See more Charleston photographs on pages 27-30!



MacBubba, continued from page 1

tish heritage - but also those who do not have a Scottish background - but who feel an affinity for Highland Games, music, traditions and culture.

Members of the group include Scottish Chiefs, those who have a diverse ethnicity and people from every possible economic and social strata.

If you'd like more information on Caberdancer Graphic Design, Inc., or Clan MacBubba, just visit http://www.caberdancer.com

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clan macneil.net

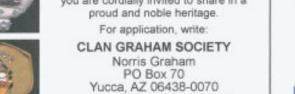


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PO Box 70 Yucca, AZ 06438-0070 www.clan-graham-society.org





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Robert J. Skeens, 2 VP & Membership Chairman 1705 Woodruff Street Bethany, MO 64224 Email: rjskeens@grm.net



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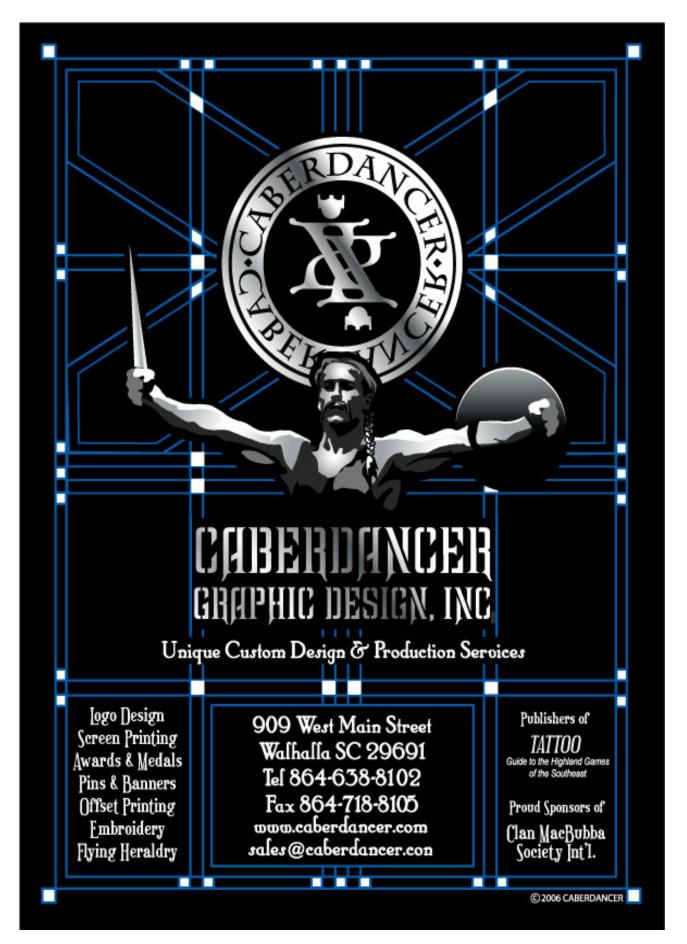
Web: www.tartansauthority.com

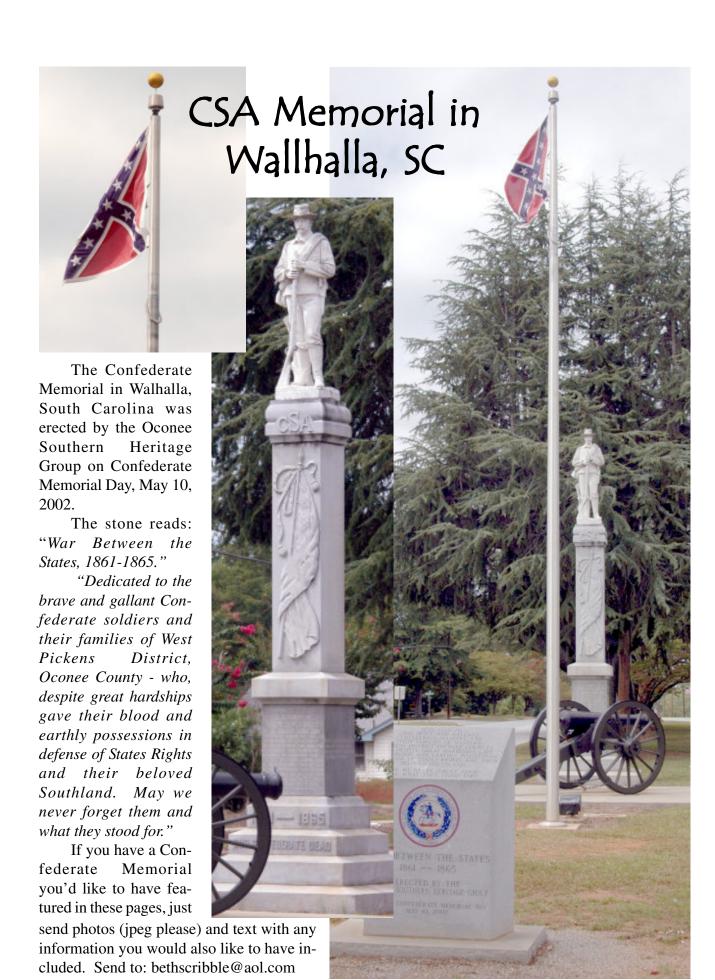
Scottish Clans & Organizations!

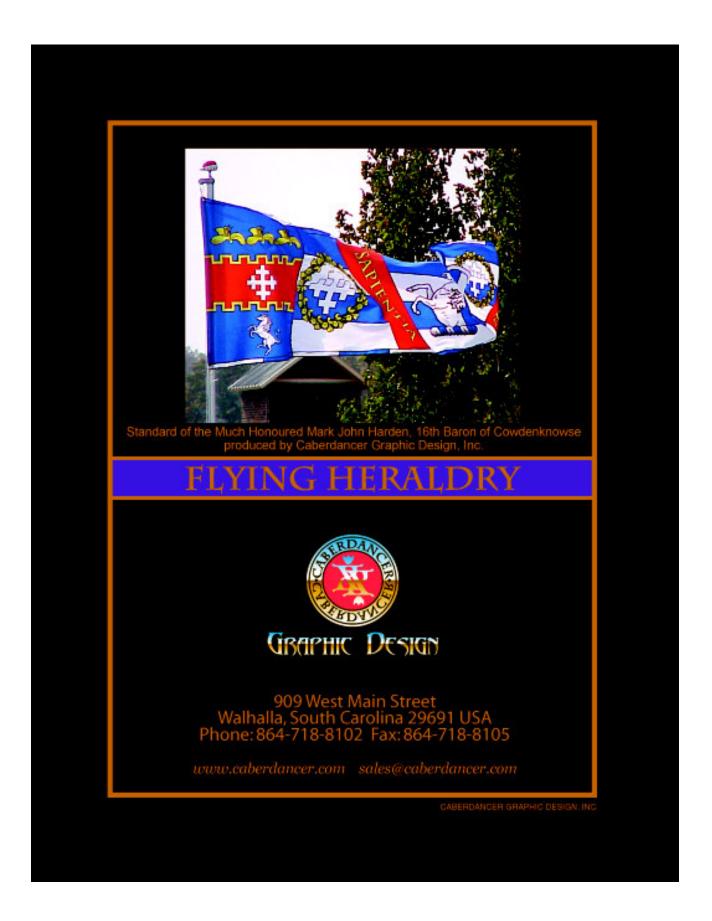
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Please send name and billing address and your ad copy. If you wish to send a business card and a check, just mail to: Beth Gay, 347 Rocky Knoll Rd., Walhalla, SC 29691. Makes checks to Beth Gay, please.







St. Andrew's Society of Detroit invites to you meetings & grand events!

you to their "Sunday Dinner Our with the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. It's Sunday, October 7, 2007 at 4:00 PM at Jack's on the Waterfront, 24214 Jefferson Ave., St. Clair Shores. Please

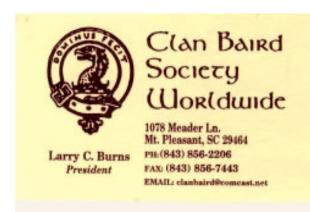
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit invites RSVP to Mary David at 734-454-7521 or mbdbee@aol.com by 3 October and please wear your tartan!

> November 5th, the group will have their monthly meeting at the Commonwealth Club with the Social Hour from 6 - 7 PM and the meeting at 7 PM. Kincaid Scholarship recipients will perform.

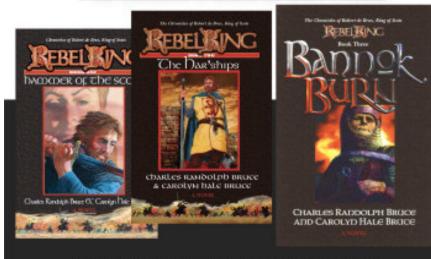
> December 1st, you're invited to St. Andrew's Night Supper at the Indianwood Country Club. Doors open at 6 PM.

> New officers were recently installed with Scott David serving as president, 1st Vice President is Rod Harris, Secretary, Helen Brisson, Membership Secretary, Mary David, Treasurer, Andrew

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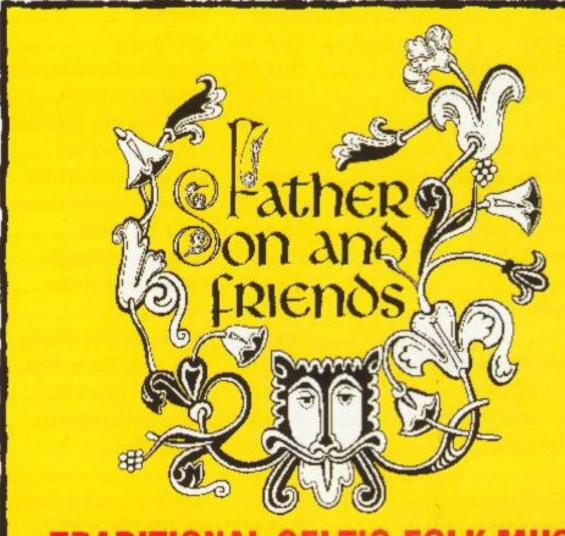
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Family history and genealogy are the merging interest of the day. You can barely read a magazine or newspaper without encountering the topic. We are fortunate to have in our city, organizations that meet the need of our increasing community.

One such assembly is The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc., organized in 1964, a non-profit group headquartered at 6215 Sauterne Drive. They offer family tree climbers a privately held library with a large collection of materials, including books, microfilm, maps, family files, and quarterlies from throughout the United States and CDs of census records and other resources with this facility exceeding 6000+holdings.

Almost maximizing the library for holdings, meeting space is limited and the SGES is growing each month with new members. It was necessary to address this issue.

After the SGES board brainstormed, they made an exciting announcement to the member-

ship. SGES will acquire a meeting place outside the facility and they will rotate meetings throughout the city. This will give more exposure within the city and make it equally convenient for all members to attend meetings.

The SGES will come to you!

The first meeting place of rotation will convene in the Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road to be held Saturday, October 13th, 2007 at 10:15 A.M. and will remain at the Mandarin Library for three months. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The speaker for October is Lyn Corley addressing "The Jean Ribault Celebration" and why we should celebrate. Ms. Corley is a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society and serves on the Board of Directors. She speaks concerning the remarkable history of Jacksonville's first European settlers. For more information contact the SGES library at (904)778-1000 or e-mail:President@sgesjax.com



I thought that some of our BNFT readers might be "hungry" to see some photographs of flowers and beautiful places in Scotland. Here are a few taken in the summer of 2005. Please enjoy.

Here are your families...and how to contact them!

Clan MacCord Society



Invites for membership all spelling varia-tions and descendants of: McCord(a)(e)(y), McCourt, McChord, McCoard, Cord(e), McCart, McCort, Cort(e)(s), Flynn, McFettridge and Kane.

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Clan Blair Society

www.clanblair.org



Shawn R. Blair, President 40 Pearl Street South Portland ME 04106-2734

Robert I. Blair, Membership Chairman 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Mesa AZ 85207-1110

Email membership a clanblair.org

Clan Home Society (International)

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For membership information, contact. 347 Rocky Knoll Rd. Walhalla, SC 29691 bethscribble@aol.com

Clan Wallace wins 12th Tug o' War at Glasgow, Kentucky this year!



For the 12th aconsecutive year, Clan wallace captured the Tug o' War at the Glasgow, Kentucky Highland Games this past June. (Your editor was once present at the Murphreesboro Highland Games in Tennessee, when the Clan Wallace Tug o' War team outpulled a John Deere tractor! It's true!) Congratulations!!!

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit,

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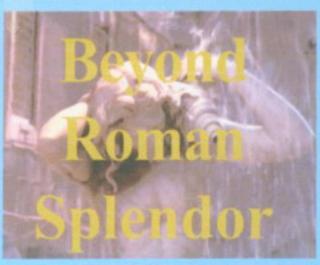
Munro and Society Piper, David Martin. Trustees for 2007-2008 include the Chairman Ian Hunter, and Secretary Frank Hasse. Members of the Board of Trustees include Jody Batten, George Boyd, Ron Cunningham, Harry Daniels, Bob Giles, Murray McDonald, July Zvoch, Scott David and Andrew Monro.

Visit www.highlandgames.com or contact the St. Andrew's Society Office at 30161 Southfield Rd., Cranbrook Center, Ste. 112, Southfield, MI 48076.

Get Well Jeri!



Your editor's long-time and wonderful friend, Jeri Daniel Martin has been hospitilized for several weeks near Lebanon, TN. Prognoses is good, but right now, Jeri isn't feeling so well. You may sent email to her daughter, Susan, at PartykaS@aol.com.



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Spey 2007

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It's been a busy month for the Scotland on TV team, but we have to confess it doesn't always feel like work! To be paid to travel the length and breadth of Scotland in search of great video material for the channel is a real privilege. So what were the highlights of the last few weeks?



The **Cowal Highland** Gathering, 2007

They say it's the biggest Highland Games in the world - the Cowal Highland Gathering, held in Dunoon from the 23rd to the 25th August. As the crow flies it's not that far from our Glasgow office, but we're not crows. So it was either a trip aboard the ferry from Gourock or a long and winding road journey around Lochs Lomond, Long and Eck. Our video reporters, Nigel Buckland, Richard Stewart and

Flora Munro opted for the ferry, along with many a pipe band and thousands of visitors.

Saturday the 25th was the big day. And we covered as much as could – from Heavy Athletics to Highland Dancing, and, of course, some of the 150 pipe bands which were taking part too. You can see all the videos we shot on the event by visiting this webpage www.scotlandontv.tv/cowal_gather.html



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And then Nigel and Flora were despatched to visit the Balvenie distillery Dufftown, Speyside (about 60 miles east of Inverness), where they

had a great two days (and came back sober!).

Balvenie's Global Ambassador, David Mair, generously explained the entire malt whisky-making process, which, in turn, we have turned into a short series entitled 'The Making of Malt Whisky'.

Click on to the Food & Drink Channel of www.scotlandontv.tv to watch the first epi-

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sodes.

Whether or not whisky is your tipple of choice, it really is a fascinating process. It's the very special air and water of the region which allows Speyside to claim Dufftown as the malt whisky capital of the world.

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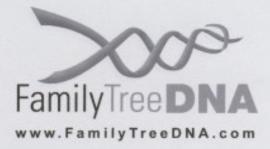
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DNA — Another Look at Using DNA for Researching Armstrong History

Milton Armstrong

In the April, 2006 Newsletter, I presented a brief overview of DNA being used in genealogy and family research. In this issue, I would like to provide some information on current use of DNA in discovering Armstrong and other surname beginnings.

There is a project called Armstrong Y-Chromosome DNA Project being run mainly by John Armstrong who lives in Alaska and by David Strong who lives in Texas. They use the web site called "roots web.com" for their information and data as well as another website specially for this project. In addition, the Armstrong project is closely associated with the Elliot DNA project coordinated by Jim Elliot. We all know that the Elliots and Armstrongs were closely aligned on the Scottish Border. Another associated project concentrates on all the Border Reivers DNA. There has been a tremendous amount of work done on these projects. For additional information on these projects, please go to the following web sites:

The web site for the Armstrong project is: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~gallgaedhil/haplo_armstrongs.htm

The following web site provides a partial index to the overall project:http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~donegalstrongs/reiver_families.htm

Dave Strong also constructed and maintains the Armstrong DNA study web site at:http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~donegalstrongs/armstrong.htm

There are several companies providing DNA research for families and the above projects use $\hat{a} \cdot \alpha = 0$ FamilyTreeDNA company located in Houston, Texas. There web site is www.familytreedna.com/public/armstrong/. It is reported that this company handles about 90 percent of family DNA projects.

The following information comes from the Armstrong project web site.

Project Surnames:

Armistrang Armstrang Armstrong Fairbairn Fairburn Fortinbras Hamstrom Harmstrang Harmstrong Trainor Traynor Treanor Trenor Treynor

Project Background:

While a surname itself may give us incomplete or misleading or, at best, only general information about the origin of a family, DNA-testing can give us concrete evidence for identifying and separating family lines. Y-chromosome DNA testing is especially helpful because the male Y-chromosome is handed down, father to son, unchanged through the generations, except for rare mutations which, in themselves, can be helpful indicators of branching. The accessibility and affordability of family DNA testing is doubtless the greatest technical advance in the history of genealogical research because — at long, long last — we have a tool to break down those brick walls!

Project Goals:

The goal of the ARMSTRONG Surname Project is to distinguish between ARMSTRONG ancestral lines, worldwide. Any reasonable spelling variant is included (please feel free to suggest a variant you feel I have missed).

Please notes that, at the outset, it makes sense to "cast the net widely." As the number of individuals tested increases and various lines become well defined, I will be more than happy to turn over these lines to other researchers specializing in them. I don't recommend splitting-up the project at the outset because I have a feeling we are in for some surprises with regard to where the divisions belong.

Join the Armstrong DNA project by followint the menu at:

http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=P54686&special=True

One final note - it has been reported recently that there has been some information theft from some of these sites. I would not be surprised if viruses show up also. So, be cautious when using any web site.

Let me know if any of ACS members have participated in any DNA projects. It may be of interest to other members.



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When I have everything arranged and in order and taped as I want I visit the local office supply store and they - for just few dollars - will bind the magazine pages into a real magazine that you can carry about to read at your leisure.

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A Chat with Eileen Doris Bremner

Compiler of The English Poetry of Robert Burns (1759 - 1796)

Frank Shaw, Atlanta, Georgia jurascot@earthlink.net

Q: The word "English" in your book title intrigues me as I'm sure it will others who study Burns. What made you decide to publish this wee book of his poems that were entirely in English?

A: My attention was drawn specifically to Burns' English poetry by a radio programme, not a Scottish programme. The broadcast was to the whole of the U.K. It was January and close to the poet's anniversary. The English presenter men-

tioned this and spoke very pleasingly about our Bard. "But," he said, "what a pity we can't easily understand his poetry as he wrote it all in the Scots dialect." This made me prick up my ears because I knew that there were some poems in English. I decided to investigate, and to my surprise, I found over 100 poems written entirely in English. Then I decided to make a selection of these gems and put them into a little gift book. This is the first ever compilation of his English work.

Q: The Kilmarnock edition of Burns' poetry in 1786 made him an instant celebrity in his homeland. The title is Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect. Why do you think he insisted on writing his poetry for the book in the Scottish dialect rather than in English alone?

A: Robert Burns had a fierce love of Scotland and the Scottish tongue. It was the language that he spoke, and so the poems came naturally in that dialect.

Q: Many readers will be surprised to learn that Burns wrote over 100 poems in English. Having insisted on writing in the Scottish dialect while being encouraged by others to leave that language behind (Dr. Moore comes to mind) and write in English, why do you then think Burns eventually wrote so many poems in English?

A: I think people encouraged him to write some poems in English because they recognized the genius of the man and wanted that genius to be appreciated by non-Scots. "The Lounger" magazine, the 18th century weekly, wrote in Burns' own lifetime, "In English (his poetry) cannot be read at all without much constant reference to a glossary, as nearly to destroy that pleasure." Burns was not too happy about being asked to write in English. I

truly think that when he did write in English, it just came out that way. I don't think that when taking up his quill he thought, "I'll do this one in English". Some of his earliest poems are in English, long before he visited Edinburgh where he was advised to do this.

Q: Even after studying Burns for a few years now, I personally keep The Concise Scots Dictionary close at hand while reading or writing articles on him. I noticed that you printed these poems in English "exactly

as he wrote them" and that "no verses have been omitted". Do you feel more people will read the English poems rather than those he wrote in the Scottish dialect, of which he was so passionate? If so, please explain.

A: I hope that this little book will make available to a whole new readership the beauty and wisdom of Burns' words. There will always be a number of non-Scots people who enjoy reading poetry but who could not be bothered looking up the meaning of every other Scot word. This is bound to delay the flow of the poetry. Perhaps having read the English poems, they may then be enticed to try the Scottish ones.

Q: Is there anything you wish you had done

Continued on page 23

differently in publishing your book on Burns? Will future editions contain more English poems?

A: I have published this book myself. I did try a few publishers but none accepted. As I had a gut feeling that this book would sell, I took the gamble (not really like me!) and had it printed myself. I have not thought yet of doing a second book with different English poems. I need to sell more of these first. One the whole, I'm quite pleased with how it has turned out. People have been very complimentary about it.

Q: I really appreciate your categorizing the poems in your book by topics such as nature,

women and love, advice, religious nature, autobiographical, and death. Why did you specifically select these topics?

A: The selection gives a good cross-section of the poet's work and it makes the sock "tidy". I chose this way rather than listing the poems alphabetically. I do wish there could have been a category for "humorous poems". I was disappointed that there are no English poems showcasing this side of Burns. As you know, many of his Scottish poems display his brilliant humour, fun and

mischief. There is only one short stanza - one of his mock epitaphs which he wrote about people who were still alive! – "Epitaph for Mr. Walter Riddell". However, "The Belles of Mauchline" has a gentle humour to it.

Q: You have selected more poems about "Women/Love" and "Death" than other topics. In fact, these poems make up almost one-third of your book. Why is this, and I must ask humorously, of course, if there is a correlation between the two topics?

A: As you know, Burns was a legendary lover. A very large number of his poems are about love and, therefore, that is why there is a higher ratio of poems in that category in the book. Hopefully there is not a correlation between women/love and death! Like many artistic people, Burns fell victim to some very gloomy moods. He had a deep religious con-

nection - quite unconnected to the kirk. He wrote to Mrs. Dunlop, "A mathematician without religion is a probable character; an irreligious poet is a monster". He brooded terribly at times and wrote a lot about death. He also had a peculiar preoccupation with winter - Scottish winters, of course - and wrote a great deal about that, usually during his gloomy moods. No English work on this subject, however.

Q: How is your book selling and how can readers buy a copy, perhaps by email? I understand a lady from Idaho bought 24 copies while visiting Scotland recently? Please give us an address, as

well as the cost for the book plus shipping to America.

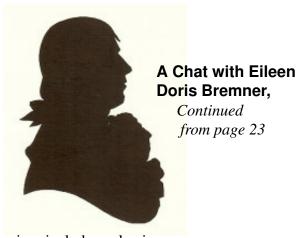
A: I'm glad to say it is selling well. The first thousand have gone, and I've just had another thousand printed. It is rather costly to do this, and so I just included the poems I liked best. Also I wanted to keep the retail price down. At 3.50 pounds, it is an attractive price and makes a nice little gift or keepsake for tourists to take home. It sells well at National Trust properties, garden centers and, of course, at the

Burns venues. Yes, a lady from Idaho bought 24 copies via her visit to Glamis Castle gift shop. Also, 40 have gone to Russia, given as gifts to Russian visitors on a trip to the Burns country from St. Petersburg. The overseas convener of the Burns Federation wanted them to give one to each of these visitors.

Books can be bought from "Bookspeed" in Edinburgh. They are book distributors. Their email address is sales@bookspeed.com (www.bookspeed.com). They can also be bought directly from me at my home address (Thornton House, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 0JX, Scotland). No email just yet, but soon!

Each book costs 3.50 pounds sterling. The 24 sent to Idaho cost 9 pounds by sea or 18 pounds by air. One book goes airmail at 2 pounds. All these *Continued on page 24*





prices include packaging.

Q: Ken Simpson, one of the foremost Burns scholars in the world, referred you to me. I now see that you are listed as a speaker at his 2007 annual conference in Glasgow. How do you know Ken Simpson?

A: I have only spoken so far to Ken Simpson on the telephone. I look forward to meeting him at the January conference. West Kilbride in Ayrshire, where he lives, is very near Largs in Ayrshire where I was brought up. My late father was mayor of Largs. I was born in Ayr - proud to share my place of birth with Robert Burns! Dad was a keen Burnsian, so I was brought up with a love of Burns' work. I plan to move back to Largs in a few years time.

Q: Will there be another book coming from your pen sometime in the future? If so, do you care to comment on its subject?

A: Not planned at the moment. All my life I worked in television, the last 15 years as a producer. I compiled a 7-part mini-series "A Letter from Robert Burns" which was transmitted each evening of Burns week. This was a long time ago. His letters - now there's another whole subject - and all in English. But lots have been done about them.

Q: In a recent letter to me, you stated you had "advanced from quill to fountain pen". Do you think you will advance from pen to computer and email?

A: I have just acquired a computer. So the answer is a definite "yes". I'm so sorry that my not being on email yet has caused so much trouble to your good and patient self.

Q: Thank you for your promptness and courtesies in both our phone conversations and written communications. Is there a last word that you would like to share with our readers?

A: Just to give them my good wishes. The fact that they are reading this article means we have all something in common – the love of Robert Burns' work. I hope that my little book will add to this readership and spread appreciation of his words. Hidden away in a corner of the treasure chest of his precious Scottish poems lies a jewel box containing the gems he wrote in English. I have opened this box and by so doing shown what a craftsman Burns was with the English language as well as with the Scots.

(FRS: 12-22-06)

A Highlander and His Books

Eileen Bremner's

The English Poetry of Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

Reviewed by Frank R. Shaw, Atlanta, GA, USA email: jurascot@earthlink.net

Few topics on Robert Burns attract my attention as much as those who try to anglicize his writings. It always reminds me of the famous correspondence between Burns and Dr. John Moore.

It was Moore who urged Burns to concentrate on English since so few could understand the Scottish dialect. Thank goodness Burns turned a deaf ear to Moore and the others who criticized him for not writing in English.

In 1892, Alexander Corbet wrote a little book entitled Burns in English which was composed of select poems of Burns translated from the Scot-Continued on page 25

The English Poems of Robert Burns, continued from page 24

tish dialect into... you guessed it...English. I've never seen Corbet's book quoted in any of the 900+ books I have on Burns that I have either read or referenced. Others have translated Burns into English with the same result.

As my Mama used to say, "Some folks just won't leave well enough alone!"

Now, a very sweet, knowledgeable, and interesting Scottish lady, Eileen Doris Bremner from Inverurie in Scotland's Aberdeenshire comes along and turns the table on all of these writers who want to translate Burns into English. She applied a simple solution to what many had obviously overlooked and made a lot more difficult than necessary. Eileen did her research, determined that Burns himself had "written over a hundred poems in pure English", and she selected 42 of them for her wee book, being adamant about not leaving out any of the verses.

Some of us may tend to get a little restless sometimes in church when all verses are sung in the hymns, particularly if they have five or six. Take my word for it, those who love Burns or want to learn more about Burns will not get restless reading all the verses of these poems, mainly because they will understand them!

My favorite section of the book is "Poems about Women/Love". Under this category you will find a couple of my favorites, "Clarinda! Mistress of My Soul" and "Flow Gently Sweet Afton". Both are simply great love poems.

The section on Death is interesting from the standpoint that there are more of them than any other topic except the poems about women and love. Several of these stand out, one in particular since I lost my Dad at about the same age as Burns was when he lost his father. The son writes the epithet for his father's headstone which is located

in Alloway's auld kirkyard.

I have stood on that sacred spot, appreciative of what the poet said about the father he clashed with as he searched for his own identity.

Since the two topics of women/love and death account for about a third of the poems in Eileen's

book, I wonder, (humorously of course), if there is a correlation between the two. If you figure it out, email me and I'll share it with our readers.

I recently received my annual invitation to attend the 2007 Burns International Conference in Glasgow at The Mitchell. (They do not say "Library" - just "The Mitchell". I like that!)

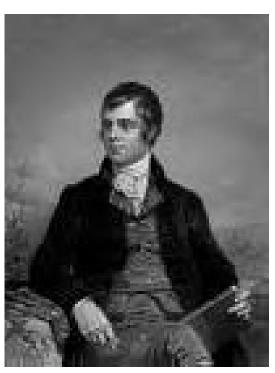
I've always wanted to attend one of these conferences and was even invited to speak a couple of years back by Dr. Kenneth Simpson, my friend and very much the kind of Burns scholar you'd love,

but a matter of an operation on my wife's torn rotator cuff seemed a little more important at the time, so I had to cancel a few weeks before the conference. I mention this only to say that one of the speakers for the 2007 conference is Eileen Bremner, right up there with all the Burns scholars, speaking on "The English Poetry of Robert Burns".

I'll wager that when all is said and done, the lights turned out, and the attendees make their way back home from "The Mitchell", the one speaker they will not forget will be Eileen Bremner and her remarks about Burns' poetry in English.

At least they will understand what she says! Today I ordered a dozen of these wee books to pass around to the usual suspects. They only cost 3.50 pounds plus a little postage. I promise you will never buy a book consisting of only 42 poems that you will enjoy as much.

(FRS: 12-22-06)





Please come and enjoy genealogical/Scottish seminars - FREE - if you are attending the Seaside Highland Games by your BNFT editor, Beth Gay. Look for signs and in the Games program!





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