

# The Tartan Telegraph

## Burns Recapped -- Bottles Uncapped

### SSAS 2008 Robert Burns Supper

By Parnell Raycroft

The 2008 Robert Burns Supper went off with out a hitch January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hawthorne Park Hotel in Springfield. Some eighty admirers of Scotland's poet laureate turned out for the evenings fare. Alcohol flowed freely from flask and cask as society President Suzanne McClure welcomed merrigoers into their revelry. Many new faces dotted the room as well as a few old ones, whom upon missing last years festivities sat with books of poetry marked and brogues at the ready. Greetings were read from other Burns Societies world-over, and then things really got rolling.



Pipes a' blaring and flanked by swordsmen as if some levitic treasure, the haggis was brought forth and presented. This year husband and wife

duo Mark and Adele O' Dell did an explanatory, give and take "Address to the Haggis" which brought many laughs and was heartily enjoyed by



all. Toasts to the United States (Raymond Purdom), The Queen (Nancy Piston) and Scotland (Gloria Purdom) were given and their respective anthems sung with great enthusiasm. Society Sennachie Todd Wilkinson gave this year's Immortal Memory. His depth and breadth of Burns knowledge is the envy of laymen and noted scholars alike, and should someone dare to listen and not learn something they are all the less for it.

Next the Toast to the Lassies was given by Mrs. Angie Herren: Mrs. Herren commented that her husband has a very dirty mind and she is taking way his fountain pen and paper. Her reply was worthy of a \$3.00 Hallmark greeting card

*Continued on Page 5*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar Now!

#### Every Monday 7-9 pm

Galloway Crossing, Open Celtic Music session  
Galloway Station

#### Feb. 7, 2008

Natalie MacMaster at Hammons Hall

#### March 14th, 2008

Galloway Crossing  
St. Pat's Concert  
Library Center 7-9 pm.

#### March 15, 2008

St. Patrick's Parade  
Downtown Springfield on the Square

#### April 7, 2008

Kilt night and ceilidh  
Galloway Station 7-9 pm.

Happy **Imbolc, Candlemas, Midwinter, Groundhog's Day** or *whatever-you-please* on February 1-3!!!

The **Louisiana** tartan, featured in the title bar above, consists of four colors:

- \* Blue for the sky, lakes, bayous, rivers and waterways
- \* Green for agriculture and forests
- \* White for rice, sugar cane, cotton and the magnolias
- \* Black for petroleum and natural resources

# MHAF WinterStorm Returns to Kansas City

By J. Beau Buffington



**Fred Morrison**

The annual WinterStorm competitions, workshops and concert took place on January 11-13, 2008 at the Kansas City Plaza Marriott, Best Western Inn and the Community Christian Church. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the event, which has been expanded each year by the Executive Board of the Midwest Highland Arts Fund into one of the premiere Scottish piping and drumming events in the country – if not the World.

Competitors from all over the United States, Canada, and even Ireland and Scotland took part in the competitions on Friday. Saturday hosted some of the world's greatest pipers and drummers in workshops that taught music, technique and performance aspects of the highly technical Scottish idiom to students from all over the U.S. and Canada. As one piper from Ohio commented in Fred Morrison's Reelpipe class, "Since Fred was going to be this close, I knew it was something that I couldn't miss."

Joining WinterStorm as piping instructors again this year were the highland piping dream team of Gold Medallists including Angus MacColl, Fred Morrison, Stuart Liddell, Colin MacLellan, Mike Cusack, John Cairns and Jack Lee with Chris Armstrong, Pipe Major of ScottishPower, joining for the first time.

The workshops focused mainly on equipping students with competition-standard tunes and traditional technique except for Fred Morrison's Reelpipe class, which focused on the bellows-driven border pipes and Scottish smallpipes. Drumming workshops were equally staffed with a superlative collection of drumming gurus including J. Reid Maxwell, Drew Duthart and Norman "Haggis" MacLeod.

The concert Saturday evening was, once again, a highlight for the entire weekend. The opening soundtrack and march of the drummers set the perfect mood for the concert as the martial rhythm of drums has done for generations. Several outstanding performances include Fred Morrison on the Reelpipes and low whistle, Stuart Liddell playing Gordon Duncan's "Thunderstruck" on the highland pipes, Chris Armstrong / Barry Wilson's bewitching rhythmic dual on the pipes and drums and the 78th Fraser's brilliant arrangement of pipes and drums on "Trip to Skye".

Performers, competitors, judges and audience alike were equally **wowed** by another successful WinterStorm weekend. As Ken Eller, the always dignified and masterful master-of-ceremonies commented, "As a piper and a composer, I thought of a new tune name 'Awestruck on Thunderstruck!'" The same awe could be felt during the entire concert. Event organizers have set next year's date of January 9-11, 2009. More information about can be found at [www.winterstorm.net](http://www.winterstorm.net).



Highlights of the concert can be viewed on [celtoria.blogspot.com](http://celtoria.blogspot.com), courtesy of YouTube and the many amateur filmmakers present at the concert.



**ROY GULLANE FROM THE TANNAHILL WEAVERS:  
THE CONVERSATION**

*This is the continuation of an article from the previous edition of the Tartan Telegraph. The interview originally took place at the 2007 St. Louis Scottish Games in Forest Park.*

**Beau Buffington:** You were talking about your grandfather onstage. Is music in your family?

**Roy Gullane:** Not really, when I mentioned my grandfather, it was more for his dialect. He spoke the language that we sing in.

B.B.: Broad Scots?

R.G.: That's right.

B.B.: Was music something that you did with your grandfather?

R.G.: No, but I learned the language through him, so I knew what I was singing about whereas people don't anymore, as if it's a dead thing. The younger kids speak what they learn on television.

B.B.: Would you consider yourself more of a songwriter, musician, or poet? Cause I know you've written a lot of songs.

R.G.: If anything, I'm not a poet. Anything I write that rhymes always ends up as a song! In broad terms, I suppose that I'm more of a musician than a writer, because I don't write prolifically.

B.B.: In terms of poetry, is that something that you are familiar with?

R.G.: Not really. For me poetry was something that we had to learn in school. That said, I appreciate it, but not when it got too academic.

B.B.: Well, I'm thinking of this song *Land of Light*. That was one you wrote, right?

R.G.: That's right.

B.B.: Where did *that* come from?

R.G.: The origins of that were we had been asked to do music for a movie. I went to meet the producer in London, and I wrote *Land of Light* on the train on the way back. Just wrote it in my head. It was one I made for a movie.



**The Tannahill Weavers**

B.B.: It really seems like a hopeful song.

R.G.: Yeah, it was kind of a finale. The story of the movie was it was about a guy named Sawney Bean, who was a factual Scottish character, and was the last person to be burnt for his crimes. He was a cannibal. He and his family lived in Ayrshire and they used to eat passersby. And the premise of the movie was that in the end, of course, they get caught and burned. And this was when the *Land of Light* came in.

B.B.: So was it used in the movie?

R.G.: The movie never happened. They never got the financing. But periodically, I see articles in the newspaper about people trying to revive this story and make a movie about it.

B.B.: It's sort of ironic that it's this hopeful, loving song but in terms of the context of the movie, it was a pretty dark subject! Maybe the light and dark go together.

R.G.: Yes, exactly! It's a song for the happy ending.

B.B.: Hollywood likes to do that!

R.G.: You've got to get an inspirational message at the end.

B.B.: A feature of your vocal-style is your range. I'm thinking of *Mary Morrison* where it goes way down and way up. Do you have a particular approach to your vocal style? Have you ever taken voice lessons?

R.G.: No, I just sing it and see what happens. It's trial-and-error. That's what I have and that's all I've got.

B.B.: Do you identify with the idea of being a troubadour? Like singing love songs and spreading good will?

R.G.: Not really. But, I do think in another era, in a different time, maybe. I'm just born for the traveling and the public appearances. I

don't entirely enjoy doing anything else.

B.B.: I know that you live in the Netherlands now. Is this a location that allows you to be more creative? If not, where is that place where you are the most creative?

R.G.: My favorite "location" for creativity is that place between waking and dreaming; alot of good ideas have come from that place like, "I'm not getting up today!" {laughing}

B.B.: How has technology changed the way that you approach music?

R.G.: Not a great deal. It's just that you expect to sound better. The equipment is so much better than it used to be, but the way we do it is the way that we'd be doing it around the table or the way that we'd be doing it on-stage. It doesn't make any difference to the way we'd approach it.

B.B.: I've been on your Myspace account and on a couple of different websites. Were those fans who set those up?

R.G.: The websites are something that we don't always know about. The Myspace is something we set up. My girlfriend set that up and takes care of it. It's her baby.

B.B. It's very content rich.

R.G.: Figure that you've got the capabilities there, why not try to make it as interesting as possible? You know, stick video and music on it so that people will come and see what's happening. They come and visit it quite regularly. Good marketing, that's the idea.

B.B.: I saw that the Dixie Chicks were your friends.

R.G.: Ahhhhh. {Quietly} We don't know them. But it looks good, doesn't it {laughing}?

B.B.: It does! You've got friends in high places.



## Sawney Bean: Man or Myth?

In a manner befitting a modern-day Hollywood horror film, the legend of Sawney Bean, with his clan of cave-dwelling cannibals from Ayrshire has existed in the Scottish psyche. Bean is reputed to have been a mass-murderer and cannibal, who lived with his family in a cave near Ballantrae, on what is now the Ayrshire coast, during the reign of James VI or of James I (of Scotland).

Versions of the tale proliferated in the 19th Century in books and magazines. However, in the 1930s the legal historian William Roughead wanted to include the case of Sawney Bean in his Notable British Trials series. Roughead reported that he had 'sought diligently for Sawney in the official records of the time in contemporary journals, diaries and memoirs, in the pages of gossiping annalists and of grave historians', but failed to find 'either in print or in manuscript the slightest mention of him', and concluded that Bean was a completely fictional character ...OR WAS HE?

### *Land of Light*

O sleep in peace you valleys and hills

Be safe be free as the breeze

The north wind of fear like a banshee howled

And she drove you down on your knees to pray

She drove you down on your knees

Lift up your head to the morning light

The fight o'er darkness is won

And feast your eyes on the land you love

Its life returning with the sun behold

Its life returning with the sun

And the morning walks proud, shining out like a flame

No evil could subdue

You open up your arms in friendship and joy

To welcome in the new born day

To welcome in the new

May the spirit so strong in the shadow and storm

Hold fast to what is right

And surely as you breathe the gentle air of peace

This land shall shelter in the light of love

This land shall shelter in the light.

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## Burns Recapped

*(Continued from page 1)*



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

Monday, March 17th

### DUBLIN SUNDAY CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

5 pounds Corned beef brisket  
 1 large Onion stuck with 6 whole cloves  
 6 Carrots, peeled and sliced  
 8 Potatoes, peeled and cubed  
 1 teaspoon Dried Thyme  
 1 small Bunch Parsley  
 1 head Cabbage (about 2 lbs) cut in quarters

#### Horseradish Sauce:

1/2 pint Whipping Cream  
 2 - 3 Tablespoons prepared horseradish

Put beef in a large pot and cover with cold water. Add all other ingredients except cabbage and bring to a boil with the lid off the pot. Turn to simmer and cook for 3 hours. Skim fat from top as it rises. Remove the thyme, parsley and onion. Add cabbage. Simmer for 20 minutes until cabbage is cooked. Remove the meat and cut into pieces. Place on center of a large platter. Strain the cabbage and season it heavily with black pepper. Surround the beef with the cabbage, carrots and potatoes. Serve with horseradish sauce. Horseradish Sauce: Whip cream until it stand in peaks. Fold in horseradish.



and was the delight and thrill of all who heard it, both sexes were moved and women thinking of divorce and separation reconsidered; philandering husbands were brought back into the fold.....hats were removed.....what a glorious toast.

Poetry was read by various society members (one native son of Ayr wearing a kilt for the first time) and the evening of Burns fare was topped off by Tam O' Shanter presented by Mr. Mark O'Dell with two semi-drunken naughty boys, whose names shall not be mentioned, doing sound effects, and making ever merry portraying the unruly dead of Alloway kirkyard. Hats off to Mr. O'Dell for his gift of memorization and willingness to share this wonderful tale of witches, warlocks and Auld Nick!

On a final note the toast to absent comrades was given as a tribute to Alex Sutherland. A tribute was read by Todd Wilkinson and pipes were played by Dave Massey of the John Ford Pipe Band of St. Louis. Alex and his wife Carrie have assisted us many years with our events including the last seven Burns Suppers. It is a very true statement to say we would not be the vibrant society we are without his help guidance and leadership. Thank You Alex and we all miss you very much.

Sorry, you missed it? Don't Forget Burns Nicht 2009!

Special thanks to the the officers and volunteers of the SSAS for making this night of revelry so much damn fun. Thank You!

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

△ \$12.00 Individual Membership    ⬠ \$20.00 Family Membership    ⬡ Corporate Membership, TBD

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May we send your newsletter via your E-Mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: "The Scottish St. Andrew's Society of Springfield"  
and return to:

Beth Wiese  
3033 B South Manley Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65807

The Contributors

J. BEAU BUFFINGTON



On a challenge from his father to "earn" a bagpipe by learning how to play them, Buffington took up highland bagpipes at the age of 13 by teaching himself with a book and a tape. Many years and several bagpipes later, he has taken over piloting the *Tartan Telegraph*, literary steamboat for the St. Andrew's Society of Springfield.

PARNELL RAYCROFT



The scholar, the gentleman, the visionary. Mr. Raycroft's homespun wisdom and humor have made him friend to Warrior, Poet and Politician alike. A master of 7 languages, Mr. Raycroft's fluency in the Mongolian dialect was perfected in a 5 year

Peace Corps assignment living in a yurt in Ulan Bator. Always the model of good taste and propriety, Mr. Raycroft's brand of social commentary goes well with a white or burgandy, or his alcoholic beverage of choice, fermented yak's milk.

With contributions from Wick E. Padia, Sarah Bellam and Gray E. Matter.

**Imbolc** or February 1-3rd is traditionally a time of weather prognostication, and the old tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers came from their winter dens is perhaps a precursor to the North American Groundhog Day.

A Scottish Gaelic proverb is:

Thig an nathair as an toll  
La donn Bride,  
Ged robh tri traighean dh' an t-sneachd  
Air leachd an lair.

"The serpent will come from the hole  
On the brown Day of Bride,  
Though there should be three feet of snow  
On the flat surface of the ground."

**Bagpipe Class**

A beginners and intermediate bagpipe class will be taught by Beau Buffington at the Battlefield Community Room from starting Feb. 28, 2008. Contact Beau Buffington at 881-4138 for more information.