



# THE SCOTTISH CLUB OF FORT SMITH



May 2011-2nd qtr

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## JAN 8TH SCOFS MEETING —

Charlie and Jeri Moffett spoke of the history of the Scottish Club in Fort Smith since 1995. Charlie is the SCOFS President for 2011. They were the leaders of all things Scottish in 1996. Yea, Charlie & Jeri.



The Fort Smith Firefighters Pipes and Drums Corps made their 1st public appearance outside of Fire Department functions. There's Ryan and Tery. Love the Uniforms. Cheers! Dudes!

## FORT SMITH'S BURNS NIGHT SUPPER—Feb

*19th* Wow! Everything that could go wrong did. It was scheduled for Feb 5th. There was a snow storm. It was an iffy question if The Ozark Highlanders

could make it down the mountain from Fayetteville. Roger Graham was scheduled to come from Perkins Oklahoma and was snowed in.

Our Chairperson, Gaye Glenn made a command decision to postpone our Burns Supper for 2 weeks. The Holiday Inn agreed to that and it didn't cost anything extra.



From the painting by Nasmyth, National Portrait Gallery.

*Robert Burns*

for our assistance and encouragement.

Lastly, our own Nealsen Armstrong played Amazing Grace.

It was one of the best Burns Nights!

## MAR 12TH SCOFS MEETING

—Fr Jeff Champlin gave an excellent talk about the Scots Confession, a little about Knox, and the theology of the church contained in the confession (with a wee bit about predestination just so it sounded Presbyterian!)

## ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE — MAR 17TH

Sorry I missed this parade. Moira and I were in Scotland. Only one SCOFS member made it other than the Firefighters, Bob Cole. Bob had His horse, Sam decked out with a Tartan and the SCOFS banner, which Nita Newman made for him.

The Ozark Highlanders looked super, with their St Patrick's Day decorations on their pipes, etc.

Also the Fort Smith Firefighters Pipes and Drums Corps made their 1st official parade. I am not a secret member of the Fort Smith Firefighters Pipes and Drums Corps, but I beat their drum.

There was a Scottish Club before, that most people do not know about. The Holiday Inn has a record of a Burns Night Supper in 1991. Barbara Smith said Harry Smith was very much involved in it. Yea, Harry Smith.



## OZARK HIGHLANDERS BURNS NIGHT SUPPER—Jan 22nd, at ST Paul's Church in Fayetteville.

The Highlanders looked and sounded good. Jack McFadyen is still going strong.

A group of SCOFS members went to Fayetteville for the Ozark Highlanders Burns night Supper. It was a very good night.

We did a lot of telephoning to people with tickets and there was no bad complaining. The Highlanders agreed to play and take up the slack for Roger Graham.

The Irish dancers were very good as always and had no problem postponing two weeks.

Sandy Sanders, Fort Smith's new Mayor, and his wife Sandy Sanders were the Guests of Honor.

**APR 6TH —TARTAN DAY**

Tartan Day was celebrated in Little Rock with Governor Mike Beebe’s declaration ceremony. Some members of the North West Scottish Society attended.

**911 HONOR FLAG, APR 7TH**—The Fort Smith Firefighters Honor Guard, The Army, and the Fort Smith Fire-



fighters

Pipes and Drums Corps honored the “First Responders” of 911 with a ceremony raising the 52 x 30 foot 911 Honor Flag. The Flag is traveling to all 50 states before Sept 11.

On hand at the ceremony were SCOFS members, Wild-horseman Bob Cole, and Jimmie and Runelle Davis. Also present were Mayor Sandy Sanders and Chief Mike Richards.



Thanks to Runelle Davis and Bob Cole for the pictures.

**APR 9TH SCOFS MEETING —**

Jim Glenn gave a talk on Flora MacDonald. About her life and times. How she was involved with Bonnie Prince Charlie. He dressed up like a woman and acted as Flora’s maid. Imagine that.



When the Royalist were cutting Jacobites heads off Flora MacDonald never ratted anyone out and no one ratted her out. Flora ended up immigrating to the New World. There she got in the middle of the American Revelation. Then she went back to Scotland where her wealthy son took care of her.

**TALES OF THE CRYPT**—May 1st. We had about 12 people scheduled to act as guides. Due to the rain, Charlie Moffett said we only had about 6. No one sent me any pictures or gave me a write-up so...you know.

**NEXT SCOFS MEETING**—May 14th The talk will be about Bagpipes.

The theme will be Mexican food in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Someone told me it was a holiday invented by a Mexican beer company to sell more Mexican beer.



Humm, Dos Equis is pretty good...

not as good as Belhaven, but pretty good.



Actually, the Mexicans kicked the French out of Mexico with a little political and military help from the USA, after the French had invaded Mexico City and set up Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico. Remember Zorro fighting the French? It is a complicated story.

<http://www.mexonline.com/cinco-de-mayo.htm>

**SCOFS Club meeting Days—**  
6:30 PM, St Bartholomew's Parish Hall.

Mark Your Calendar. I will not be calling

May 14th, Talk of Bagpipes

June 11th, no picnic, pot-luck Social.

Sept 10th, To be announced.

Oct 8th, To be announced.

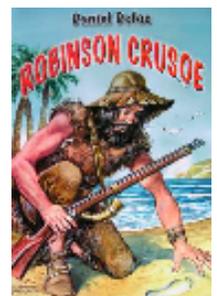
Nov 12th, To be announced.

Dec 10th, Christmas Party.

mayo.htm

**ROBINSON CRUSOE**

Daniel Defoe wrote of the adventures of Alexandria Selkirk (1676-1721), a Scottish born British seaman. In 1705, while serving on a privateer, Selkirk got into a heated argument with the captain about the seaworthiness of their vessel and asked to be marooned on Juan Fernandez Island, located in the South Pacific, about 400 miles off the coast of Chile. For the next four years, Selkirk survived on vegetables and fruits and wild goats until he was rescued and joined a new crew. In 1711



he returned to England and told his story. Defoe heard it and published the fictionalized account of Selkirk's ordeal in "Robertson Crusoe"

**SCOTIA'S POET**—Guess who we ran into at the bottom of the Royal Mile on our way to the Huntley House Museum in Edinburgh Scotland.

Moira and I made a quick trip to Scotland in March. We wanted to see some of the Gray Friar's Bobby things in the Huntley House Museum, actually it is the 'Museum of Edinburgh', housed in the 16th century Huntley House. Don't confuse it with the Edinburgh Museum.

After checking out the ancient water pipes made of logs and some first Fire Department equipment, old cudgels (badges of office), some old Roman stuff, etc we went across the street to the Canongate Kirk. There we met Robert

Ferguson.

Funny looking Dude. Moira and I both have seen this statue many times but never thought to much about who it was. We knew that Robert Burns greatly admired Robert Ferguson,

but did not know where he was buried. We decided to see if he was buried in the Canongate Kirkyard. Sure enough he was.

When Burns came to Edinburgh he looked up where Robert Ferguson was buried and found him in a paupers grave. Burns was not a wealthy man, but he had Ferguson dug up and moved to the Canongate Kirkyard in 1787 and erected a monument commemorating Ferguson as 'Scotia's Poet'.

Robert Ferguson was born of Aberdeenshire parents in Cap-and-Feather Close, in Edinburgh's Old Town, on September

5th, 1750. The street has since disappeared, having been demolished during Fergusson's lifetime to make way for the North Bridge.

After primary education in Edinburgh, Fergusson entered the city's High School in 1758, attaining a bursary to attend the Grammar School in Dundee in 1762. Two years later, he enrolled in St. Andrews University. As a student, Fergusson became infamous for his pranks, having once come close to expulsion. Despite this riotous reputation, the poet's education stayed with him: the influence of his schooling in Latin and Greek, and of his friendship with the author of *The Epigoniad* (1757), Professor William Wilkie, is evident throughout his poetry. While at St. Andrews, legend has it that he began a tragedy on William Wallace, but abandoned the project when hearing of another play with the same theme

Fergusson's father died in 1767, forcing the poet home to support his family. Back in Edinburgh, he began work as a copyist for the Commissary Office. Perhaps to alleviate the drudgery of his position, Fergusson became a vivacious participant in Edinburgh club life, being a member of the Cape Club and the Robinhood Society.

Fergusson's main concern was, of course, poetry, and on 7th February 1771, he anonymously published the first of a trio of pastorals in Ruddiman's Weekly Magazine, entitled 'Morning', 'Noon' and 'Night'. Fergusson subsequently enjoyed two years' patronage from the Ruddimans, and submitted the periodical's first Scots poem, 'The Daft Days', printed on 2nd January 1772. From that moment, vernacular Scots had a poetic voice in the magazine's pages. Fergusson's *Poems on Various Subjects* appeared in 1773.

Towards the end of 1773, Fergusson was afflicted by depression, which beset him until his death. Biographers have described his condition as 'religious melancholia', an illness in which sufferers psychotically ponder religious doctrines. Whether or not this is the case, his disorder forced him to withdraw from his work.

Following a short recuperation, Fergusson experienced a violent and ultimately

fatal blow to the head falling down a flight of stairs. After his fall, the poet was deemed 'insensible', and when his mother's attempts to care for him failed, he was transferred to Edinburgh's Bedlam madhouse. Probably as a result of his injury, Fergusson died, incarcerated, on October 17th, 1774, aged twenty-four.

**THE OLDEST LIVING THING**—Guess what it is. Yew might be right.

Moira asked me what I would like to see in Scotland this time. Several years ago I wrote an article about the Fortingall Yew. I told her that's what I wanted to see. I have been through a tunnel in the Antonine Wall at the Falkirk Wheel. And I have walked on the top on Hadrian's Wall, so I wanted to see the oldest living thing.

The ancient yew tree that stands in the grounds of Fortingall church in Perthshire, Scotland, is between 2,000 and 5,000 years old, which makes it the oldest tree in Europe. One account I read said it was 8000 years old.

I went, I saw, I touched and even stole a few sprigs, which I lost. I'm

#### Bagpipe Joke

A Canadian officer, pinned down with his unit in Italy in 1944, urgently signalled his CO - "Need reinforcements to rescue us. Please send six tanks or one piper".

An old Scot, after living for many years in a far-away land, was dying. He called his doctor and asked for one last favour. The doctor agreed and the old Scot said he wanted to hear the pipes played one more time before he died. A piper was duly summoned and marched up and down the hallway playing mightily. In the morning, the old Scot was so invigorated he arose, dressed, and went home. All of the other patients were dead.

A man in a kilt walks into a pub with a plastic bag under his arms and the bartender asks, "What's that?" "Six pounds of Semtex", he answers. "That's a relief. I thought it was bagpipes."

What do you throw a drowning bagpipes player? His bagpipes....



sure I have contaminated North America with my plant smuggling.

In 1769, the trunk measured a massive 52 feet round, but is now split into several separate stems, giving the impression of several smaller trees. This is a result of tourists cutting out pieces of wood for



gall has a variety of prehistoric archaeological sites including *Càrn na Marbh*, a Bronze Age **tumulus**. The place-name and archaeological evidence points to an Iron Age cult centre at Fortingall, which may have had this tree as its focus.

The site



souvenirs (some things never change) and it can also be attributed to natural decay of the ancient wood. All of this reduced the center of the trunk to ground level, but the tree is still healthy and likely to last for many more centuries.

Scientists have taken cuttings from the branches to be grown by the Forestry Commission at Roslin, close to Rosslyn Chapel (eight miles from Edinburgh) featured in Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code" also has **ley** lines. The cuttings will be grown by the Forestry Commission and then planted in woods around the country. If the original eventually perishes, the clones will live for a long time..

The area immediately surrounding Fortin-

was Christianized during the Dark Ages probably because it was already a sacred place.

According to local legend, Pontius Pilate is said to have been born under the shade of its branches when his father was a Roman ambassador to the Caledonians (Scotland by the Romans). It has been said that at the time of Christ, Dun was the home of the Caledonian king Metallanus and the story is that Pontius Pilate was a relative.



Note: Some scientist claim there are bacteria that are perhaps eternal. Also there

is a Pub next door. Peter and I were able to procure a couple of Belhavens.

**NEXT YEAR**—This might not mean much to some of you, but next year Moira and I will not be taking any active part in SCOFs. We are retiring from any official position. Someone else will be needed for the Newsletter, Treasurer and Membership.

**Memorials may be made to Fort Smith Firefighters Foundation, c/o Tery Graves, 3309 London Derry Road, Fort Smith, AR 72908**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**April - Birthdays**, Harry Fentress - 4<sup>th</sup>, Peg Johnston - 15<sup>th</sup>, Jerry Houston - 26<sup>th</sup> **Anniversaries**, Kenneth & Wanda Steele - 7<sup>th</sup>, Mike & Rita Ferguson - 21<sup>st</sup>, Floyd & Sue Robison - 26<sup>th</sup>, Charlie & Jeri Moffett - 30<sup>th</sup>

**May - Birthdays**, John Boyd - 12<sup>th</sup>, Jeri Moffett - 23<sup>rd</sup>

**June - Birthdays**, Moira Bledsoe - 1<sup>st</sup>, Jimmy Davis - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mike Ferguson - 5<sup>th</sup>, Betty Boyd - 9<sup>th</sup>, Bill Johnston - 17<sup>th</sup>, **Anniversaries**, George & Carol Beattie - 10<sup>th</sup>, Jimmie & Runelle Davis - 18<sup>th</sup>, Wayne & Jennie Mathews - 19<sup>th</sup>

**July - Birthdays**, Caitlin Mathews - 12<sup>th</sup>, Wanda Steele - 20<sup>th</sup>, Charlie Moffett - 29<sup>th</sup>, Runelle Davis - 31<sup>st</sup>

THANKS so much for your input in this quarterly Newsletter. Please submit any article you would like to see printed of what is going on or of Scottish interest. Keep those cards and letters coming from out there in Newsletter Land. CHEERS! Charlie



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**2011 SCOFs OFFICERS**

President—Charlie Moffett  
Vice-President, programs—Charles Bledsoe, Secretary—Mike Ferguson, Treasurer—Charlie Bledsoe, Board Member, 3 yrs—Wayne Mathews, Board Member, 3 yrs—Jim Glenn

Board Member, 2 yrs—Francis Nelke  
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Board Member, 1 yr—Betty Boyd  
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Piper—Nealsen Armstrong  
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