

History of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit: 1849 to 2000  
By Fred Dunbar Wessells

## The Founding

"For the relief of the indigent and unfortunate of our Countrymen, and for the promotion of harmony and good feeling amongst ourselves, we the undersigned Scotchmen and Descendants of Scotchmen, with Benevolence for our motto, do unite ourselves into a Society and agree to abide by the following Constitution of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit."

With this preamble, written by Hugh Moffat, who would become President of the Society in 1856-57, the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit was formed by 35 men on November 30, 1849, at a meeting called by William Barclay, proprietor of Barclay & Carey, a produce merchant located at the foot of Randolph Street. [Mr. Barclay was born on May 24, 1808, in Ayrshire, Scotland, and resided at the time of the founding on the northeast corner of John R and Farrar streets.] A committee was assigned to write a Constitution and Bylaws, and at a second meeting held on December 16, 1849, in the Merchants Exchange Hotel, 18 members signed those documents, including Mr. Moffat, Mr. Barclay and James L. Lyell, who was elected the first President of the Society.

Similar societies already had been founded in Philadelphia, Boston and New York, led by the great number of Scots who emigrated to the mid-Atlantic states. But in the 1800s, faced with oppression, religious intolerance and prospects of a better economy in the U.S., Scots continued to emigrate but now were moving into the midwest. Detroit, founded in 1701, was an established city with growing industrial roots, even before the automotive industry took it over in the early 1900s. The appeal of reasonably civilized prosperity began a large and strong Scottish community that continues to grow and flourish to this day.

The Merchants Exchange Hotel, owned and operated by John Moore, was located on the west side of Griswold Street, between Woodbridge and Atwater streets, on the site of Cadillac's first camp. At the time, Detroit had fewer than 15,000 residents. Hugh Moffat, who wrote our preamble, was a business and civic leader who was elected Mayor of Detroit from 1872-75. He lived on the southeast corner of Fort Street and West Grand Boulevard. Mr. Moffat made his fortune in the lumber industry and ran a lumber company located on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Orleans.

The founding members of this honorable Society were, in the order they signed the original registry book: (1) James G. Lyle; (2) Ebenezer Anderson [residing at Congress and Shelby streets]; (3) James Black [forwarding merchant]; (4) Andrew Reeky [clerk]; (5) John Douglas; (6) John Coats; (7) John Moore; (8) Thomas Carswell; (9) George Kennedy; (10) John Stuart; (11) John Thomson; (12) Alex Davidson [resided in the Biddle House at Jefferson and Randolph and was proprietor of Davidson & Holbrook]; (13) George McMillan; (14) Hugh Moffat; (15) Robert Linn [grocer residing at the southeast corner of Macomb and Randolph]; (16) Thomas Fairbairn; (17) William Barclay; (18) Alex Cameron; (19) Thomas Sims [from Glasgow]; (20) Colin Campbell [proprietor of Campbell & Linn on the east side of Randolph between Gratiot and Harriet]; (21) J. Hilson [from Fife, Scotland]; (22) R. A. McDonald [resided in Mrs. E. Doty's Boarding House, Monroe between Farrar and Farmer, and was proprietor of R.A. & D. McDonald, Dry Goods Merchants, located on Jefferson between Griswold and Woodward]; (23) Duncan Stewart [J.L. Hurd & Company, Lafayette between Fourth and Fifth streets; he became Society President in 1853]; (24) N. Brodie Jr., M.D.; (25) Allan Cameron; (26) William Cowles [from Perthshire]; (27) Robert W. Baird [a painter, residing at the northeast corner of Madison and John R]; (28) James Brown [an attorney, living at the southwest corner of Rowland and State]; (29) George Common; (30) signature illegible; (31) William Adair; (32) Alexander Ralston [co-owner of Hopkins & Ralston, Painters]; (33) Hugh McRae [clerk]; (34) Duncan McRae; (35) Alexander Paton [grocer, grain and produce dealer with two stores, one at the northeast corner of Lafayette and Shelby and a second on Michigan

Avenue between Woodward and Griswold].

In the early days, meetings were held three or four times a year, usually in the homes or businesses of members. During the 1850s, new members first began giving places of origin other than Scotland, including Montreal, Port Sarnia and Detroit, although the majority of the 409 members initiated through 1893 were from Scotland. From 1864 to 1894, the membership register included occupations, and the Society was rich with stonecutters, boilermakers, bookkeepers, carpenters, machinists, tinsmiths, clerks, grocers and blacksmiths. For the good of the Society, there were several physicians and liquor dealers and one undertaker.

## **The Early Years**

By the end of 1860, 98 members had been initiated. The Scottish community in that day was a very strong and close-knit group, and as the concept of a Scottish Benevolent Society slowly unfolded, more men began to join, in a lot of cases decided by periods of war, industrialization and other such factors. There were more hotels in downtown Detroit in the 1860s than there are today, at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There also were a plethora of boarding houses. Most of the men initiated in the 1850s were tradesmen, but there are some notable exceptions. Member 56, for example, was John Braidwood Wilson, owner of Wilson Foundry, born in Glasgow on October 5, 1821, president of the Society in 1865-66. His grandson, John Wilson Nicklin, was member 2241; and his great grandson, William Butler Nicklin, died in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1995. Although not a member of the Society, William Butler Nicklin provided the author with substantial and significant information that greatly aided in the preparation of both this history and the genealogical history.

There were only 69 members initiated from 1861 through 1868, in large part due to the Civil War and its aftermath. But the list of various occupations is a fascinating look at the time period: dyer, intelligence officer, machinist, boilermaker, grocer, saloonkeeper, painter, ropemaker, pastor, blacksmith, laborer, land dealer, bookkeeper, ship carpenter, wood dealer, lawyer, carpenter and tailor. Besides the great number of self-owned companies, two of the largest employers at the time were the Michigan Central Railroad and the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad.

As the Society grew, its members began looking for more desirable quarters. It appears the first permanent location was the southwest corner of Woodward Avenue and State Street. Formerly the Central M.E. Church, in 1866 it was rebuilt for commercial purposes. The Society took over the third floor, which became St. Andrew's Hall from 1867 until 1883 when the building was demolished. That site later housed the B. Siegel Company.

Through August 1883, the Society had initiated 282 members. Some were well known in their day; others demonstrate the continuity in membership the Society has enjoyed since its founding. In 1862-63, George Taylor Gray (born in 1835) was initiated as member 119. His son, James Taylor Gray (member 304), is the first recorded instance of a member's son joining the Society. George's great grandson, Robert Grant Gray, is member 3422, and his great great granddaughter, Katherine Gray, is member 3488. On February 1, 1869, Duncan Campbell, a carpenter from Fife, Scotland, was initiated. Mr. Campbell is the great great grandfather of current member Barbara Ann Barrett McKissack, who was initiated on October 6, 1997, as member 3495. As we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these three current members link us back to the very beginning of the Society. Member 184, Charles Cameron, initiated in April 1873, achieved some notoriety as a purveyor of seeds, trees, plants and other such goods for the William A. Dair Company. James Cameron, member 237 initiated in April 1875, was a noted shoe manufacturer and owner of Cameron, Lyons & Harriman.

This Society has had a great number of attorneys as members. Robert Laidlaw, initiated June 11, 1876, as member 242, was the Society's first attorney. More important, he also was one of the first members

to emigrate from Canada, having been born in London, Ontario. On January 4, 1878, the Society initiated its first journalist—W. Leslie Thom, of Detroit, who worked as a reporter for the *Evening News*. Members came from every part of Scotland and represented virtually every trade. From the beginning, the Society was a very egalitarian organization, consisting of members who were tradesmen, businessmen and professionals in every field. The only common bonds were those that still exist today: Scottish birth or heritage, a belief in God and the desire to serve as a member of a benevolent society.

## Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Late in 1883, the Society moved to the Masonic Hall, located on Jefferson Avenue immediately east of Shelby. In the early 1890s, the Society moved to the Merrill Block, which extended from Jefferson to Larned on the east side of Woodward Avenue, the present site of the City-County Building. In 1895 or 1896, the Society moved to 12 Woodward Avenue, an eight-story building, now demolished, that was the home of the Detroit United Railway.

Around 1900, the Society met at what was 44 Grand River Avenue, the northwest corner of Grand River and Times Square, then known as Park Place. The Society next moved to what was then 95 Fort Street West, which was on the south side of Fort Street between Wayne and Cass. By this time, however, the Society was beginning to grow in numbers and permanent housing became an issue.

Membership records only show that 95 members were initiated between August 1883 and the end of 1892, without giving specific dates. Member 319 was Alexander William Blain Jr., born in 1840 in Quebec, Canada. Mr. Blain was a very noted landscape gardener, superintendent of Elmwood Cemetery and Park Commissioner for the City of Detroit. Mr. Blain had seven children, the last being Alexander William, born in Detroit in 1885. Two grandsons of Alexander William were and are noted members of the Society. Alexander W. Blain III, born in Detroit in 1918 and died in 1997, was a noted surgeon and professor. His brother, Donald Gray Blain, currently resides in Cody, Wyoming, and is still a practicing physician. Donald was born in 1924 in Detroit, and also was a noted surgeon and professor.

When you read the history of the members itself, you can almost feel the industrial revolution unfolding before you during this time period. The membership still had an abundance of tradesmen, but from the mid-1880s to 1900 you start to see more professionals, more members involved with the fledgling transportation industry, photographers, more proprietors and the like. The other thing that is most noted is how close the Scottish community was in those days. Of course, Detroit hadn't begun to expand too much past the downtown area, so many members lived together in various boarding houses scattered through the immediate area.

There were a lot of firsts in the ranks of members during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, indicating an impending change in our city and technology. Robert Burns of Forfarshire, member 277, was our first shoemaker. There's no particular wonderment over that, other than his proud name. But we do begin to see both the change in types of industries and occupations as well as the very beginning of the move outward from downtown Detroit. Other than a few Canadian members who resided in Windsor, our membership lived downtown. But when the Detroit Street Railway became motorized at about this time, it allowed individuals to live farther away from center city and take the trolley between work and home. Its predecessor had been founded in the 1860s by George Hendrie [member 97, initiated November 5, 1860] as a horse-drawn coach system under the name of Hendrie & Company. Now new horizons were looming.

The first Realtor, Nelson Riddle, member 327, joined around 1890. The first travel agent, John G. Hutchins, member 351, joined soon after. John Cockburn of Edinburgh, member 386 initiated in 1893, was the first marine engineer. An interesting note, by author prerogative, is member 405, Donald C. Dunbar, initiated in 1893. One of only three Dunbars ever initiated into the Society (including the author),

he was the bookkeeper for the J. L. Hudson Company. There were two distinct groups of Dunbars emigrating to Michigan. One settled in northern Michigan in lumber country around West Branch, the other branch came directly to Detroit. The most notable of that particular branch, though regrettably he was never a member of the Society, is David Dunbar Buick, founder of the Buick Motor Car Company.

William Hamilton, member 409 initiated at the end of 1893, was the first undertaker. Thomas Swan, member 450 initiated December 15, 1894, was the first restaurant proprietor. The first life insurance agent was John MacFarlane, member 481, who was initiated on October 1, 1897. The first cigar manufacturer was Alexander Gordon, member 531, initiated on November 7, 1898. And opening a whole new means of transportation, Donald D. McVicar, member 535 initiated December 5, 1898, was the first bicycle sales and repair person. On December 11, 1899, one member was initiated, the last of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. William L. Symon, member 618, was foreman of the Solvay Process Company in Detroit.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Society initiated 618 members, all of whom resided in Detroit, save the few from Windsor. The two most notable occurrences at the end of the century were that few members were initiated in the last five years of the century, possibly due to the war at the time; and members are just beginning to live and work in far-reaching areas. One physician, for example, who lived downtown, had his office on Woodward Avenue and Alexandrine Street, about four miles due north of downtown. Indeed, a great change is about to unfold.

## **The Society Enters the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

The great industrial changes that occurred in this city were just about to manifest themselves, turning Detroit into the automotive capital of the world. Names still famous today dotted the Detroit landscape at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Historians credit J. Frank and Charles Duryea of Springfield, Massachusetts, for producing more than one car from the same design. In 1896, they unveiled their four-horsepower, one-cylinder vehicle. Charles Brady King, however, was one of the early pioneers in the 1890s in Detroit. King's car was built in the workshop of John Lauer, great grandfather of current member Randall Cain. Lauer's workshop was located at 112 St. Antoine, at Congress, and on March 6, 1896, King drove his car out of that workshop. Lauer even built the steering mechanism for Barney Oldfield's famed 999 race car. Later John Lauer was approached by the Dodge brothers and offered 50% of their stock to help them build a car. Unfortunately, he saw no future in the automobile and decided to return to making artificial limbs. Horace and Victor Dodge ultimately formed their own company in 1913.

[As an aside, Charles Brady King's grandfather, Louis Davenport, operated the first steam ferry on the Detroit River, the *Argo*, in 1830. The newspapers reported that many people lined the riverfront, waiting for the boat to explode.]

Scotsman Alexander Winton had the first long-distance automobile trip on record in 1897, when he drove from Cleveland to New York in 10 days. Ransom Eli Olds produced his first automobile in 1895 and was making cars long before Henry Ford organized his company. Henry Leland began making transmissions for Ransom Olds in 1899, and the 1901 curved dash runabout was hugely popular, a seven-horsepower, one-cylinder vehicle, with a two-speed transmission, that sold for \$625.

The car was made famous by Roy D. Chapin, who drove it to the second annual New York Auto Show, after which it became the most famous automobile in America. With 3,300 orders in 1902, the Oldsmobile became the world's best-selling car and the first to go into mass production. Engines for the car continued to be developed by Leland as well as the Dodge brothers. Leland eventually created the Cadillac, and other names entered the scene, including David Buick and Louis Chevrolet.

Henry Ford built his first car in June 1896, and by 1899 had built two more cars. He and five other

investors started the Detroit Automobile Company in 1899, but it closed on February 1, 1901. He then started the Henry Ford Company, on November 30, 1901, with five other investors, but was soon forced out of the company—which was reorganized by Henry Leland into the Cadillac Automobile Company. On October 15, 1902, Ford's 999 racers, driven by Barney Oldfield, set a new American speed record of just under 60 miles per hour. Earlier, on August 10, 1902, Alexander Malcomson entered into a partnership with Ford and formed the Ford and Malcomson Company Ltd. That led to additional investors and the incorporation of the Ford Motor Company on June 16, 1903. Not long thereafter, Malcomson left to return to the coal business, and by 1919 Henry Ford was the sole stockholder of his company. Alexander Malcomson was the grandfather of current member Sara Malcomson Ralph.

The first initiation of the new century was on January 16, 1900, when the Society welcomed David Kilpatrick, member 619. In the Society, this was the beginning of an interesting phenomenon. Henry Ford had manipulated his way into the forefront of automotive history by now; his production line brought thousands of men and their families to this area, and a large number of those men joined the Society. To this day, 1903 still ranks as the year in which the greatest number of members were initiated into the Society. It appears the growing and influential Scottish community in the city and Detroit's own "industrial revolution" attracted fellow Scottish emigrants who, as we have seen, were quite knowledgeable in the trades.

From the founding in 1849 until the end of the century, 618 members were initiated. Member 1,000, C. S. Bruce of Military Street in Detroit, was initiated on January 16, 1905. Thus, in five years to the day, the Society initiated 382 new members. Until about 1890, virtually all members lived in an area bounded by the river to the south, where the Fisher Freeway is today on the north, Chene Street on the east and 12<sup>th</sup> Street on the west. At the turn of the century, with more immigrants coming from Scotland and with electric-powered rail transportation, people could move farther away from the bustling downtown district and still commute to work in a reasonably easy fashion. It appears, from the listing of member addresses, that one of the first rail lines was north along Woodward Avenue. Far more individuals were living in what would be the Cultural Center area today, or even farther north in the New Center area.

The second most notable area was known then, and still today, as Delray, a community located on the southwest side of Detroit. Men were coming to work at Henry Ford's Rouge Plant, the largest industrial complex in the world, were seeking residences near the plant and thus settled in the Delray section of Detroit. The first member to list Delray as his place of residence was Neil McMillan, member 677, who was initiated on May 7, 1900. Eventually, the inevitable happened. The Society initiated its first member who did not reside in Detroit (aside from those few in years past from Windsor). On December 3, 1900, member 703, Donald Campbell, of 123 Highland Avenue, Highland Park, was initiated into the Society. Henry Ford was opening his automotive plant in Highland Park, it was an absolutely stunning community at that time with beautiful homes and stores and landscaping, and it was directly north of downtown Detroit on Woodward Avenue, only about five or six miles north of the river. Thus it was easy to live there near work and still come downtown for social events.

On June 6, 1904, the Society initiated member 858, J. L. Watson, who was the first member to reside in Wyandotte, one of the Detroit area's fine Downriver communities. There is no record of what Mr. Watson did for a living, other than he resided at 67 Biddle Avenue, but the commute from downtown to Wyandotte was not a particularly easy one at that time. Until then, the expansion of membership residences had been mostly limited to the north, as far north as Highland Park, and just a little farther east and west of downtown itself—with the exception of those members who went to Delray and Mr. Watson of Wyandotte.

Suddenly it all broke loose, brought on by the just-beginning-to-boom auto industry and the related trades of the area. The population already had shifted north, but in late 1904 the Society initiated its first member who resided in Grosse Pointe, nearly 10 miles east of downtown, James Glen (member 904). In

the next two years, there was a profound expansion of residences west and east, and even one member who lived in Birmingham (Andrew Anderson, member 974, initiated December 5, 1904). Detroit commenced a tremendous industrial boom and quickly expanded and surpassed its former boundaries; members resided several miles distant from the city center, at all points of the compass from downtown.

By April 1906, 1,213 men had been initiated into the Society, almost double the number at the turn of the century, a mere six years earlier. Silas Palmer introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to search for a location appropriate for the Society. On August 3, 1907, the cornerstone was laid for the building known as St. Andrew's Hall, located at 431 East Congress Street. The first meeting was held in the new hall on January 18, 1908, at which time 1,411 men had been initiated into the Society. The cost of the land and construction of the building was under \$50,000, but the resulting new home was a thing of beauty. A large brownstone-type building, the main floor held a huge ballroom and stage and smaller meeting rooms. The basement also had a large room that could be used for informal entertaining, as well as several other rooms. On the second floor was the Burns Room, which was strictly for Society meetings and occasional meetings of groups to whom the hall was periodically rented.

Clearly, the membership of the Society wanted a sturdy building, in a good area of downtown, that would serve all their meeting purposes and last for many years. And it did just that. From 1908 until the building was sold in 1994, it was the home of the Society, rented out to various ethnic, labor and political organizations for their meetings and used for the Society's regular meetings as well as all its major social events. The Burns Dinners or St. Andrew's Day Dinners were held in the main ballroom, which could accommodate several hundred diners. However, demographic changes in the city brought about a situation in the late 1980s whereby the Society member rolls declined, possibly because members no longer felt safe coming downtown. The building was sold in 1994, just a few years before the General Motors Corporation relocated its corporate headquarters across the street.

The first Highland Games were held in 1850, marking the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Highland Games in August 1999. The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Annual Highland Games are the oldest, continually presented Highland Games in the western hemisphere. The earliest detailed Games records are for the Games held on August 17, 1905, chaired by Henry S. Gordon and held at Bois Blanc Park (Bob-Lo Island). The Detroit, Belle Isle and Windsor Ferry Company, which offered the steamers *Pleasure*, *Promise*, *Sappho*, *Garland* and *Fortune*, reported that 1,583 adult tickets and 242 children's tickets were sold for that day's event. The Games financial report for that year showed revenue of \$1,073.57 and expenses of \$626.51 for a net profit of \$449.06. The largest expense was for boat rental of \$436.05. Printing cost \$98.76, with other expenses being quite incidental, including \$31 paid to the pipe band.

On August 13, 1908, the Games returned to Bois Blanc Island and increased the profit to \$556.40. Times must have been a little tougher then, however. One disbursement noted a payment of \$12.75 for police protection on the grounds. On August 11, 1910, the Society moved the Games to Sugar Island, which lies in U.S. waters just southeast of Grosse Ile. There were 3,463 visitors who sailed on the Star Line to the island that day. Robert Schram, general chairman of the 1910 Games, wrote, "To officers and members of the St. Andrew's Society, Gentlemen: The Games Committee of 1910 begs to report a complete success for the Games this year, turning into the Society's treasurer \$777.48, representing full returns from all advertising and bills contracted by our committee. All tickets fully accounted for."

Frederick J. Mason, general passenger agent for the Detroit, Belle Isle and Windsor Ferry Company, lured the Society back to Bob-Lo Island in 1911. It was too good a deal to turn down. Tickets were sold for 35 cents for adults and 25 cents for children, and the Society would receive a 10-cent rebate on all tickets sold. In addition, the Society would receive 20 percent of the gross refreshment receipts from both the boat and island sales. Mason added, "The addition of a new steamer, the *Ste. Claire*, to our fleet enables us to give unequalled service."

The 1913 Games turned a tidy profit of \$8,880.83, and had a program whose advertisers read like a "Who's Who of Detroit." Some of the most well-known names included Detroit United Railway, Library Park Hotel, Lake View Hotel, John Henry Truck Company, J. C. Goss Company, Dime Savings Bank, Detroit Shade Tree Company, Detroit Savings Bank, White Sewing Machine Company, Union Trust Company, Michigan Stove Company, Detroit Creamery, Scotland Woolen Mills, Grinnell Brothers and more than 100 others. August 20, 1914, saw the Games back at Bob-Lo.

In 1915, Games chairman John Henry reported that program advertising totaled \$1,562.75. It is difficult to imagine what that might translate to today. Thomas Leadbetter, who passed away in 1992 at age 103, was vice chairman that year. Committee chairmen were typical of today's Games planning committees, except there were chairmen for the Tug of War, Quoits and Foot Ball.

By this time, several events had happened, which brought some dramatic changes to the city. First, of course, was the onset of World War I, which had a dramatic impact on the number of members initiated. Second, Henry Ford had begun his auto assembly line, which revolutionized the auto industry and brought thousands more men to the city, lured by Ford's offer of a \$5 per day wage, unheard of at that time and almost twice what workers at other automakers were receiving. The early part of the century is also when some of our more illustrious members joined.

Thomas Duncan Leadbetter, member 1325, was initiated on September 10, 1906. He lived in a rooming house at 922 17<sup>th</sup> Street, was born in Edinburgh on June 12, 1889, and lived until 1992. He eventually became the longtime Detroit City Clerk and a major politician in the city. James Stewart, a railway clerk born in Glasgow, was initiated on March 7, 1910. [The author acknowledges the assistance of James Stewart's son, William Stewart of Spokane, Washington, and his granddaughter, Beth Campbell Bonar of Warren, Michigan, who provided substantial genealogical information on James Stewart as well as historical information that contributed to this treatise.]

By now the sons of early members began joining the Society, as well as a significant number of fathers and sons joining at the same time. Harry Clisdal, member 1566, was initiated on January 5, 1914. He was a plasterer, born in Ireland in 1894, and would become a leader in the Society, particularly as Chairman for several Games. Although we were still initiating new members who were everything from undertakers to horseshoers, the times were changing. The auto industry was in full swing now, and we began to see far more machinists, millwrights, carpenters and other such related tradesmen joining the Society.

Member residences began to change in 1916, thanks in large part to the rise of the automotive industry. More and more members lived in Highland Park, River Rouge, Royal Oak and Ferndale. By the mid-twenties, the Society had members in Grosse Pointe and even Farmington. But in the worst war years, the Society initiated only 39 members. When the Roaring Twenties began, 1,702 men had been initiated into the Society.

To some extent Society membership through the first 70 years had mirrored the times. From the beginning through the first 10 years, there was considerable interest in such an organization. The 1860s produced few new members because of the Civil War, then membership increased again until the mid-1890s, when interest waned significantly. But after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the automotive industry just beginning to flourish, as Detroit's population increased substantially, so did the Society's membership. It stayed quite solid until World War I. But Detroit entered the post-war decade with great optimism. Model Ts were being cranked out of Ford's Highland Park plant at an amazing pace, the economy was booming, men were streaming into the city, either from overseas or from the south, and life in general just looked wonderful. The decade brought some changes in the Society's membership also.

Though the Society continued to initiate a constant flow of tradesmen, machinists, millwrights, plumbers, carpenters, boilermakers, stonecutters, sheet metal workers and others, more and more white-collar workers were entering now. In 1920 the Society initiated two managers, two clerks, a photographer, justice of the peace, Realtor, physician, bank manager, the first x-ray technician, the first stockbroker, an attorney, contractor, salesman, reporter and pastor. The Society also began to see a change in member backgrounds. A considerable number of Scots had emigrated to Canada and then chose to move to Detroit when the automotive industry began to boom.

For example, Richard Irvine, member 1757, initiated on November 15, 1920, was a foreman for Ford Motor Company. He was born in Chicago in 1885, his parents were born in Canada and his grandparents were born in Scotland. The next member, Robert Kerr, a production manager for the Kerr Machinery Corporation, was born in Montreal in 1876. His father had been born in Scotland, his mother in Canada and his grandparents in Scotland. An increasing number of members now were second-generation Scots living in the Detroit area; some were even third-generation.

Some names of 1920s initiates people might recognize include Charles P. Newberry (member 1816, initiated February 5, 1923), a well-known real estate magnate who ultimately would have a number of venues named after his family; Alexander H. Stewart (member 1823, initiated November 5, 1923), Deputy County Clerk; George A. Walters (member 1831, initiated April 7, 1924), Wayne County Sheriff; Guy A. Miller (member 1930, initiated September 12, 1927) and Ralph W. Liddy (member 1931), Wayne County Circuit Court Judges. There are undoubtedly many other notable members of the day, but the records don't indicate the positions they held.

When the Depression began, the Society had initiated 1,964 members. By the end of 1934, 2,034 members had been initiated; only 70 men joined the Society between 1929 and 1934, the heart of the Depression. Member number 2,000, James Marshall Heccleston Allan of Freeport Street in Detroit, was initiated on August 7, 1933. Our first librarian, William Smith (member 1988), was initiated on January 4, 1932. Our first musician and music teacher, Andrew A. Green (member 1992), was initiated on February 1, 1932.

One of the most notable men ever to join the St. Andrew's Society was Homer Ferguson (member 1982, initiated July 7, 1930). Born on February 25, 1889, in Harrison City, Pennsylvania, Mr. Ferguson attended the University of Pittsburgh and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1913. He was a judge on the Circuit Court from 1929 to 1942, a United States Senator from 1943 to 1955, Ambassador to the Philippines in 1955 and 1956, a federal judge on the U.S. Court of Military Appeals from 1956 to 1971, and then served as senior judge in the same court until 1976. He also taught at the Detroit College of Law from 1929 to 1939. Mr. Ferguson died at his home in Grosse Pointe on December 17, 1982, at age 93, and is interred in Detroit's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Wallace Temple (member 1996) was a young attorney from Keewenaw Bay, Michigan, when he was initiated on April 4, 1932. He later became very active in the Society, particularly at the Highland Games, and his son is a Life Member today. On February 6, 1933, Judge Joseph A. Gillis (member 1997) joined. As the Depression became a bad memory, more men began joining the Society again. On March 21, 1938, we initiated Judge Edward S. Piggins Jr. (member 2076) and Robert Scott (member 2081), Deputy Clerk of Records Court. Membership continued to be a constant mix of professionals and tradesmen. And then came 1939, known not only for the onset of World War II, but for the initiation of two very distinctive gentlemen. Dr. Milton Donald Vokes (member 2102), born in 1892 in Detroit, and his brother Judge David Cooper Vokes (member 2104), born May 21, 1905, in Detroit and a judge in the Detroit Common Pleas Court, were initiated.

As we turn now into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Dr. Vokes has since passed away. But David Cooper Vokes,

initiated on May 1, 1939, is still an active Life Member of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, by far the longest-tenured member of the Society, now entering his 62<sup>nd</sup> year of membership at age 94. Both men were active in the Society in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, but David Vokes was able to take a far more active role and was involved in running innumerable Highland Games and other events. He still attends an occasional event when health permits, but has brought us many, many fond memories of his years in service to the city, the Society and to the Masons, of which he is a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree member.

Fortunately, he shared many of his memories with the Society during the 1990s. He is such an accomplished gentleman of such common heritage that he is an absolute delight to be with. Reprinted below is part of a speech he gave to the St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, on January 26, 1972, which will convey an impression of David Vokes.

The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns  
By Judge David Cooper Vokes

It is with great trepidation that I stand here tonight before this august body to speak to you about the immortal memory of Robert Burns. Yet, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I accept this opportunity to break bread with you and to live again for a little while some of the great moments of the immortal bard.

Robert Burns was born 213 years ago about two miles south of Ayr in the neighborhood of Alloway Kirk and the Bridge of Doon in a clay cottage constructed by his father. A week after his birth, the cottage was demolished by a violent wind, and Burns and his mother were carried to the shelter of a neighbor's dwelling. The most remarkable feature of his life and death is that which came later, the endurability of his timeless verse. His songs and poems will live forever. Here is a man, a rustic poet, who lived only a little more than four months past his 37<sup>th</sup> birthday, but he crowded into that short span a lifetime of activity surpassed by no centurian.

I have been going to banquets for over half a century, and I will now burden your ears with a sampling of Sandy and MacTavish as portrayed by many speakers of various and sometimes doubtful ancestry and lineage. I am certain you all know the Scotch cure for seasickness is to hold a half-crown between your teeth. And I know you must have heard of Sandy who discharged his doctor for prescribing 25 cents worth of castor oil for the son who had swallowed a penny.

The opening line of a suitor's conversation with a prospective father-in-law is, "Mr. MacGregor, I think I have a proposition for you that can save you some money." Then there was the salesman for the Edinburgh concern who died right here in Hamilton, and the manager of the hotel cabled his firm for instructions. By return wire he received this message, "Search his pockets for orders and mail back his samples."

MacIntosh took such long strides to save his \$10 shoes that he split his \$20 trousers. And the clicking noise in Stewart's pocket turned out to be his old lady's false teeth; she'd been raiding the refrigerator in his absence. The charity solicitor "Give until it hurts?" MacDuff said, "The very idea hurts." When MacDonald's son and heir ate a box of mothballs, the old man made him sleep in the clothes closet for a year.

A Scotsman had quite an altercation at the gate of heaven but finally proved to the satisfaction of St. Peter and his clerk that he had in his lifetime twice exercised himself in that noble virtue of charity, once in the sum of 10 cents and the other occasion he squandered 15 cents to alleviate the suffering of a hungry mother and her brood. Upon a direct question by St. Peter to his clerk as to the solution of whether this would allow the gentleman access to the heavenly kingdom,

the clerk replied, "Give him back his 25 cents and tell him to go to the other place."

But let us return to the mainline. William Burns, father of the poet, was a farmer, and far from a prosperous one. He married Agnes Brown in December 1757, and Robert was their first born. Burns' father, though not overly successful, was a good man and a proud one, and concerned with his family. When Robert Burns was six, he was sent to a school at Alloway Hill. The teacher left, however, and William Burns and some neighbors engaged Mr. John Murdoch to teach their children, with the parents taking turns boarding the tutor. He taught reading, writing, spelling and English grammar. Robert also came in contact with a certain old woman by the name of Betty Davidson, who had the largest collection in the country of tales and songs concerning devils, ghosts, fairies and other folklore. Robert gleaned from her much material that was used in *Tam O'Shanter* and *Addresses to the Deil*.

When Mr. Murdoch left, the education of the Burns family fell to the father, and he drilled them in arithmetic. He secured books from a book society, and occasionally Mr. Murdoch would stop in, spend the night and leave a book to be read. By his 16<sup>th</sup> year, Robert had read a goodly number of pieces of standard literature and was far from the country bumpkin or unlettered oaf that some have pictured him. At 17 he went to dancing school at Tarbolton and was never again quite the same. One biographer wrote, "Here he first felt the sweets of society and could assure himself of his innate sense of superiority. His days were spent in work, but the evenings were his own, and these he seems to have spent almost entirely in sweethearting on his own account or on that of others. His brother tells us that he was almost constantly in love.

He decided to become a flax dresser, but fire destroyed the establishment and ended that venture. He returned to farming. His friend John Rankin introduced him to St. Mary's Lodge in Tarbolton, and Robert became an enthusiastic Freemason.

In 1774, at age 15, he met Nelly Kilpatrick, daughter of the blacksmith, and to her afterward he wrote his first song and first effort at rhyme, "O, once I loved a bonnie lass." During this time he was reading books belonging to others and also building up a respectable little library. He was beginning to write, especially verses to the charming maidens he admired so much. The oldest of his printed pieces were *Winter, A Dirge, The Death of Poor Mailee, John Barleycorn* and three songs: "It Was Upon a Lammas Night," "Now Westlin Winds and Slaughtering Guns" and "Beyond Yon Hills Where Strinchar Flows."

In 1784 his father died, and he and his brother stocked a new farm. It was also when he met Jean Armour—"Bonnie Jean." By 1785 he was writing in earnest, and in 1786 reached Edinburgh and instantly became the lion of the season. His poems were published in August 1786 and were an instant success. By 1787 he had brought out a second edition.

I mention these early years to put the lie to those who have chronicled his life with a jaundiced and untruthful eye. Burns was a great man as well as a great poet. Principle Robertson of Edinburgh declared, "I think Burns was one of the most extraordinary men I ever met. His poetry surprised me very much, his prose surprised me even more and his conversation surprised me more than his poetry and prose." Eminent philosopher Dugald Stewart said, "From his conversation I should have pronounced him fitted to excel in whatever walk of ambition he had chosen to exert his abilities." The Duchess of Gordon said, "No man's conversation ever carried me so completely off my feet."

Alexander Findlater, supervisor of the Dumfries Excise District, where Burns spent many years as an exemplary employee, testified to Burns' habitual sobriety. Rev. James Gray, rector of Dumfries Academy, wrote, "It came under my own view professionally that he superintended the

education of his children with a degree of care I have never seen surpassed by any parent whatever." Professor Frankly Snyder of Northwestern University remarked, "One should remember the amount of literary works Burns accomplished at Dumfries, the excellent record he made in the excise and the success with which he cared for his family on an income that never exceeded 90 pounds a year. It is impossible to reconcile the alcoholic debauchee theory with these admitted facts."

In March 1787, Burns wrote to Mrs. Dunlop, "The appellation of a Scottish bard is by far my highest pride, to continue to deserve it my most exalted ambition." These statements are irrefutable proof he knew he was placing limits on the appreciation of his poetry and songs by using the Scottish Doric as the vehicle of his expression. He chose the Doric because he wished to be known as a Scottish Bard. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "Burns made the Lowland Scotch a Doric dialect of fame. It is the only example in history of a language made classic by the genius of a single man." While Professor Chandler of the University of Chicago stated, "It was worth all the time and trouble to master the entire Scottish dialect just to thoroughly appreciate one of Burns' poems."

The universality of the message of Robert Burns is one of the outstanding wonders in the history of the world. Burns was only out of Scotland once in his entire lifetime, and then only for a few days. When his Kilmarnock Edition was published in 1786, he had never been more than 25 miles from his birthplace. There were no paved or graveled roads in Ayrshire, no means of transportation except a heavy workhorse or two-wheeled cart.

Burns wrote of himself:

"I am nae poet, in a sense  
But just a rhymer like by chance.  
And hae to learning nae pretense,  
Yet what the matter  
Whene'er my muse does on me glance  
I jingle at her."

There was a bit more of Judge Vokes' speech, but this is the main of it, and gives a superb example of the type of research and knowledge our members conveyed. It is hard to fathom that David Cooper Vokes has been a member of this august Society for nearly 61 years, but when you look back at his public accomplishments and the many, many years of service he gave to the Society, you begin to understand.

Many other fine members joined the Society during this same time period, including Warren E. Bow (member 2116, initiated July 10, 1939), Assistant Superintendent of Detroit Schools; Frank Day Smith (member 2123, initiated November 6, 1939), Circuit Court Judge; Andrew Morrison (member 2126), architect; Thomas F. McMillan (member 2134, initiated January 8, 1940), Deputy Probate Register; Thomas J. Bagbie (member 2145, initiated February 5, 1940), head of maintenance for the Masonic Temple (the same mammoth structure at Cass & Temple in use today); Robert Bruce MacKay (member 2160, initiated May 6, 1940), Unemployment Compensation Commissioner; Andrew C. Baird (member 2209, initiated May 5, 1941), Wayne County Sheriff; and James Fairbairn Smith (member 2216, initiated November 3, 1941), Editor & Publisher of *The Masonic World*.

And then came World War II, and Detroit was turned upside down. At the end of 1941, there had been 2,219 members initiated into the Society. From January 1942 through 1945, only 21 members were initiated, including Frank B. Ferguson (member 2236, initiated October 2, 1944), Judge of the Common Pleas Court. None of the 21 members initiated during World War II were young enough to serve in the military.

## Post-World War II

Once the war, in which Detroit's manufacturing capability played an enormous role, ended men came home and the Society became more active again. From 1946 through 1949, 130 new members were initiated. One of the very first was Edmund Burke Montgomery (member 2243, initiated January 6, 1946). Edmund was the brother of Henry Montgomery (member 2152) and the uncle of Henry's sons, Lee Montgomery (member 2153) and John O. Montgomery (member 2676). The Montgomery family was extremely active in the Society, with John serving as Membership Secretary for years and his son Jeff (member 2848, initiated September 12, 1977) serving several terms as Society President. On November 7, 1949, the Society initiated Walter Greig (member 2353), president of Cleary College in Ypsilanti. It also initiated John W. Connolly (member 2356), who became Lieutenant Governor of Michigan. And at the end of the decade, on December 5, 1949, William Barclay Deyo (member 2363) owner of Deyo Ford, joined the Society. Mr. Deyo's grandfather was William Barclay, a Founding Member (member 17).

The 1950s, 1960s and 1970s were relatively slow years in terms of members joining the Society. One hundred and seventy-five men joined the Society in the 1950s, 180 men joined in the 1960s and 156 men joined in the 1970s. Now, however, we are beginning to see men from all walks of life, professions that didn't exist before the war, members living throughout the tri-county area, many well-known individuals and many gentlemen who are still members today, as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

One organization that was extremely active and a large part of the Society was the Ladies Auxiliary. Founded in 1910 as both a social group and, literally, an auxiliary group to help the Society itself, its members met regularly. The Auxiliary held separate fundraising events, helped with the Games and other major Society events, gave out their own benevolences, helped with managing the Hall and hosted receptions after Society meetings. The complete minutes of the organization are in our records at the Burton Historical Library.

The Auxiliary was a major force in the Society, and noted members included Mrs. John Henry, Mrs. Erskine, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. William Henry and many others from the early years. Later on, the Auxiliary was carried for years by the hard work of Greta McCrie and Eunice Turnbull, the latter of whom was elected an honorary member of the Society for her dedication and hard work and who is still active in the Society today. With the admission of women into the Society itself beginning in 1985, the need and desire for a Ladies Auxiliary essentially disappeared.

On September 11, 1950, Edward Bruce Dawson-Moray (member 2390), British Consul, joined the Society, as did Ivan C. Crawford (member 2393), Dean of the University of Michigan College of Engineering, and George Campbell Spencer (member 2394) who was a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*. On January 7, 1952, Walter S. Rose (member 2409) was initiated into the Society. Walter was a cutter/grinder by trade. Born on November 4, 1900, in Glasgow, he became the Pipe Major of the St. Andrew's Society Pipe Band. To this day, the band wears the Walter Rose Tartan in his honor.

After Judge Vokes, discussed above, the second-longest-tenured member of our Society is Grove S. Hatch (member 2436, initiated March 2, 1953). Born on September 7, 1933, in Wyandotte, Grove spent his career working in the law library at Wayne State University in Detroit. Next comes Dr. Donald Gray Blain (member 2509) of Cody, Wyoming, who is a Life Member and was initiated on February 4, 1957. On May 6, 1957, we initiated yet two more Circuit Court Judges, George E. Bowles (member 2515) and Horace W. Gilmore (member 2516). Our fourth-longest-tenured member as we enter the year 2000 is George Stephen Boyd (member 2560, initiated June 5, 1961). Born on June 1, 1938, George is a carpenter and is the son of John David Boyd (member 2250, initiated March 4, 1946).

On June 4, 1962, John B. Swainson (member 2569), Governor of the State of Michigan, joined the

Society. On that same day, we initiated our fifth-longest-tenured member, Marvin Edmund Campbell (member 2579), an accountant living in Livonia, Past President of the Society and still very active in both the Society and Clan Campbell. That initiation class also brought in Justice Blair Moody Jr. (number 2581), son of Senator Blair Moody Sr. Our sixth-longest-tenured member is yet another out-of-state resident, Donald Allan MacKenzie (member 2615, initiated February 4, 1963). Don is owner of The Expressway Company, a development company in Miami Springs, Florida. Number seven would be Edwin J. Rafferty (member 2641, initiated October 7, 1963), a travel agent and yet another Past President of the Society. Number eight is the aforementioned John O. Montgomery, currently residing in Grosse Pointe Farms. Number nine is John Wright Crawford (member 2706, initiated October 2, 1967), a salesman in Warren. Number ten is David B. Martin (member 2712, initiated October 7, 1968). David is a systems analyst by trade, and has been the Society's Pipe Major since 1972. This list includes all current members initiated before 1970.

In order to honor those current members who have belonged to the Society for at least 25 years, however, members who were initiated between 1970 and 1975 include: Donald Arthur Moffat (member 2729, initiated October 5, 1970), Warwick Sutton (member 2744, initiated June 7, 1971), Billie D. Moore (member 2765, initiated March 6, 1972), Douglas Crichton (member 2776, initiated December 4, 1972) and Charles Edward (Ted) Hopkins (member 2814, initiated October 6, 1975). Many other current members were initiated between 1976 and 1980.

## **The Modern Era**

As the Society entered the 1980s, two things happened. First, members started to more enthusiastically pursue their own genealogical histories, a movement that has only grown stronger at the turn of the century. This provides future genealogical researchers with a wealth of information that was not previously publicized. Thus, you have members such as Thomas E. Armstrong (member 2934, initiated April 1, 1985), who can trace his ancestry 15 generations back to Alexander Armstrong, 1<sup>st</sup> Laird of Mangerton, Liddesdale, Scotland, in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Second, after a change in the Society's Constitution & Bylaws, a major step was taken on June 3, 1985, when the Society initiated its first woman—Florence Margaret Michie Stahl (number 2938) of Grosse Pointe Farms. Florence was born on the Isle of Skye, as were her parents and their parents. It was a notable day for the Society. After initiating 2,937 men into the organization, the admission of women finally was permitted. At that, it still took two years before Ms. Stahl's application for membership was approved and she was initiated. Longtime traditions fall hard. As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are still St. Andrew's societies in the U.S. that do not admit women to membership.

In September 1996, Florence Stahl became the first female president of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. In September 1999, Jo Pattinson was installed as president, the second woman to hold that position. Through May 4, 1998, 218 women were initiated, and since that time several more have joined the Society. Current active membership of the Society at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is about 36% female.

Noted members who were initiated since the mid-1980s include Byron MacGregor (member 2951, initiated December 2, 1985), noted radio personality, now deceased; Norman W. Olmstead of Woodhaven, who was initiated on October 6, 1986, as the Society's 3,000<sup>th</sup> member; and Burt Middlemis (member 3079, initiated October 3, 1988). Burt, a Life Member, past Treasurer and Trustee, is noted not only for his many contributions to the Society, one of which resulted in the new benevolence program being named the Burt Middlemis Matching Gift Program, but also for his genealogical accomplishment. No other member of the Society has traced their genealogical history as far back as Burt, who takes us 45 generations to Constantine MacAngus, King of Caledonia, who died in 821! Burt is related to Kenneth MacAlpine (Kenneth I, first king of Scotland), King Constantine I, King Donald I, King Malcolm I, King

Kenneth II, King Malcolm II, King Duncan I, King Malcolm III, King David I, King Robert I (Robert the Bruce) and more Lords, Ladies, Princesses, Earls, Dukes than anyone could believe, including a distant relationship even to the beloved Robert Burns.

Through May 4, 1998, there were 3,525 members initiated into the Society. This author took it upon himself to compile a complete genealogical record of those men and women, and that task was finished in fall 1999. *The Complete (As Possible) Genealogical History of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit: November 30, 1849 to May 4, 1998* is available from the author for a nominal fee. At 262 pages, there is a wealth of information there, mostly derived from original membership registration books dating to the founding in 1849 and from original membership applications, dating to the late 1800s, as well—of course—to the wealth of material submitted by current members and friends.

### **Noted Society Events**

Benevolence has been the watchword of the Society since its founding, and records show that relief was extended wherever and whenever need was indicated. The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is the oldest benevolent society in the state of Michigan. It was natural for those of Scottish birth to find their way to St. Andrew's, where, being worthy, their need was the only measure of the aid granted. The zeal with which such matters were handled became well known in the community from the Civil War era to World War II to such an extent that all applicants to the public authorities, when found to be of Scottish birth or ancestry, were referred to the St. Andrew's Society.

From the founding of the Society in 1849, profits realized from the various events held over the years have been used to fund those benevolences. In the early years, the Society was one of the leading benevolent organizations in Detroit. Early records indicate funds were used to buy food, clothing, household goods and coal for hundreds of poor members, widows of members and other Scottish families in need. After the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1910, both the Society and Auxiliary held fundraising events and used the money for separate benevolent efforts, which became especially critical during the Depression years.

Over time, as more events were held and those events became more profitable, more funding for benevolences became available. This enabled the Society to expand its efforts to assist members by providing grants and loans for medical expenses and other such contingencies, as well as to establish a permanent scholarship fund at Alma College, in Alma, Michigan. The Society also began to reach out to the community itself much more in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Detroit-area charitable organizations such as the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Coalition on Temporary Shelter, Focus:HOPE and many others have benefited tremendously from the Society's benevolent efforts.

Perhaps the greatest benevolent effort, however, occurred just recently. On March 13, 1996, a lone gunman entered an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and began shooting. In this horribly tragic event, which stirred the entire world into action, 15 little children and one teacher were killed; more than a dozen other children were seriously injured. Randall Cain, Society president at the time, and Fred Wessells, membership secretary, set up a national clearinghouse to collect funds from individuals and organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Although many organizations were donating to the Dunblane relief effort, it was believed that the Society could take advantage of its many connections in Scotland to ensure the money was put to the proper use.

The response was overwhelming. Hundreds of stuffed animals and other toys were sent to the Society and were donated to the Children's Hospital of Detroit when Dunblane could not accept any more toys. Thousands of notes from children and adults were forwarded to Dunblane. Most important, perhaps, people sent money. Little children, other Societies, total strangers throughout North America sent money, and the response from the Detroit area itself was staggering. In all, the Society received more than

\$30,000 in donations and then added their own donation to the effort. In summer 1996, President Randall Cain went to Dunblane and presented its people with a check for \$35,000.

The Society has always celebrated the anniversary of St. Andrew's birth on November 30, with an event held as close to the actual feast day as possible. At times it has been a church service, other times a modest observance at a Society meeting, often a banquet. One memorable banquet was held on November 30, 1853, in the dining room of the Merchants Exchange Hotel, located at the southeast corner of Griswold and Woodbridge streets, which was owned by John Moore, one of the Society's organizers, and where the original Constitution and Bylaws were written.

In the mid-1800s there was an increasingly strong movement toward prohibition in the U.S. caused primarily by large groups of Irish immigrants who learned whisky was cheaper than beer and spent most of their weekends in drunken revelry with prostitution, gambling and other such interests being rampant. Maine was the first state to declare Prohibition, and Detroit was in the process of passing similar legislation. Scots in Detroit took the impending Prohibition by planning a banquet that would long be remembered. Twelve toasts were given and the affair concluded at 3 a.m. with all participants joining in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." *The Daily Advertiser* used four columns in reporting the event. As it turned out, Prohibition in Detroit was indeed passed, but not until May 15, 1855. And, as most Detroiters of today could imagine, the law was completely ineffective; Detroit bars were opened again at the end of June 1855.

From the early days, the Society has observed the birthday of Robert Burns by a concert or other event held as close to January 25 as possible. In the summer of every year, one day has been given to Scottish Games. For many of the early years of the Society, the Games were held on Bob-Lo Island (Bois Blanc Island). In prior times, the Games were held at Sugar Island, Grosse Ile, Hickory Island, Belle Isle, Slocum's Island (now known as Elizabeth Park) and at Recreation Park, a ball park at John R and Brady Street near Harper Hospital.

The first post-World War I Games of 1920 netted a profit of \$787.92, consistent with the past 15 years and quite good given the times. Tent rental cost \$21.75, and advertising in the three Detroit newspapers cost \$51.75. In the World War II era, the Games of August 17, 1944, were billed as "The Greatest Caledonian Games in the World." Held on Bob-Lo Island Park and chaired by Harry Clisdal, Games of this era focused on athletic and piping/dancing events. There were boys and girls races, from ages 6 to 15, and both the ladies race and the ladies novelty. Other athletic events included the 100-yard dash, running high jump, 56-pound weight, pole vault, 16-pound shotput, quoits and the caber toss. Highland events included the usual piping and dancing events of today, but there also were competitions for best-dressed girl and boy in Highland costume.

Harry Clisdal was Games chairman again in 1945. In 1948, a letter from that year's Games chairman, talking about the August 19 Games at Bob-Lo, said, "We are in a very happy frame of mind in telling you we are celebrating our 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Just imagine, one year under the century mark." Minutes from the Games committee meeting of May 29, 1950, indicate that each band member must provide their complete name, address and organization to the hotel in which they are staying to satisfy a city ordinance. One must wonder if all those "shady-looking" guys carrying black cases had the hoteliers worried. The minutes continued, "It was deemed advisable by the General Chairman to appoint Mr. John Henry, a Life Member, to make arrangements with the British-American Brewing Company to deliver refreshments to the rear of the hall for the party." Some Scottish traditions seem to carry on in perpetuity. The Games that year were held on August 13 at the University of Detroit stadium and chaired by Martin Thomson.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Highland Games were held on August 16, 1951, back at Bob-Lo Island. "Join us in the most gigantic gathering of Scots ever assembled!" read the brochure. Tickets were \$1.25 for adults and 60 cents for children. The Bob-Lo boats left from the foot of Woodward Avenue at 9 and 10 a.m. and 1

p.m. Requests for information that year were directed to Judge David Cooper Vokes. The athletic events added the Boys' Shoe and Barrel Race, and the prize money for the caber toss was increased to \$15.

The committee roster for the 104<sup>th</sup> Games held on August 20, 1953, reads like a history of Detroit and the Society. Some of the more notable persons included: Allan Farnham (field secretary), Wallace Temple (legal counsel), Judge David C. Vokes (announcer), Sheriff Andrew C. Baird (grounds marshal), Judge Ralph Liddy (dancing/piping steward), John Henry, Harry Clisdal and Water F. Hickey (president's tent), Dr. Alexander Blain (physician), Hon. Thomas D. Leadbetter, Hon. Albert E. Cobo, Hon. Andrew C. Baird, Dr. Robert Beattie, Hon. Homer Ferguson, Hon. Joseph Gillis, Hon. Ralph W. Liddy, Hon. Charles G. Oakman, Edward S. Piggins, Hon. David C. Vokes, Hon. James Sexton and Hon. Thomas A. Kenney (all of the reception committee).

[As an interesting aside, the father of Dr. Alexander Blain, noted directly above, Dr. Alexander William Blain (born in Detroit in 1885) performed experimental, life-saving surgery at Blain Hospital in the 1930s on Victor G. Dodge, the father of current member Lorelei L. Dodge Christy.]

On August 19, 1954, again at Bob-Lo, a beauty contest was added. Selection of the Tartan Queen offered a prize of a fall wardrobe valued at \$150. Advance tickets could be purchased at St. Andrew's Hall as well as Campsie & Sweeney on West Fort Street, Allan's Nash on West Warren, Cameron Laidlaw at Woodward, and Scotty Wood's two locations. The Games Committee added the Irish Jig to the dancing competition.

Bob-Lo Island remained home to the Games until the late 1970s. In the last two decades at that site, Games chairmen included Robert Carruthers (1955), Harry Clisdal (1956-58, 1961, 1965), John Brown Boyle (1959), William McCrie (1960), Aaron Easson (1962), Fred Kinwen (1963), Joseph Muir (1964), Tom Kennedy (1966), Frank Queenan (1976) and Dennis Barr (1977). In the late 1970s, the Games were moved to Historic Fort Wayne, located on the riverfront in southwest Detroit. Chairmen of the various Fort Wayne Games included Alec Bryce and John Montgomery (1980), Alec Bryce and William McCrie (1981), Richard Campbell (1985), Charles Low (1986-87), William Kincaid (1988), Dennis Barr (1989) and Arthur Cheney (1990). We remained there until 1991. Co-chairmen for that year's Games were Fred Dunbar Wessells and Stephen E. Baird.

In 1992, the Games were moved to the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Fred Dunbar Wessells was that year's chairman, assisted by Randall Cain and Stephen Baird. The first year's attendance of 7,800 adults set an all-time record, which was immediately broken each of the next five years. The 1993 Games were co-chaired by Thomas Bookless, Ruth Shulenberger, Robert Ramsay and Melissa Jenkins. In 1994 the Games chairman was Randall Cain, assisted by Stephen Baird and Fred Wessells. Stephen Woessner was chairman in 1995. The Society remained at the Ford House until 1996, when Bryson Sutton served as chairman; adult attendance exceeded 12,000, which forced the Society to find a new venue. The Society then moved to Greenmead, a historical village located in Livonia, which is the current Games home.

The first Games chairman at Greenmead was Lawrence Donaldson (1997). In 1998, the Games were headed by Charles Low, William Phenix and Alex Buchanan. In 1999, the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Highland Games was chaired by Alex Buchanan. The first Games of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to be held August 5, 2000, are being chaired by Robert Giles.

The modern Highland Games now attract a much larger audience and typically include nearly 20 pipe bands, more than 200 individual pipers and drummers, some 200 competing Highland dancers, professional and amateur athletes competing in the Scottish heavy events, 40 Clans, 30 vendors, food and drink tents, entertainment and a wide variety of exhibits, such as weavers, sheepdog herding, Highland cattle, re-enactments and other related events. The welcoming ceremonies at noon is a colorful

spectacle of massed bands, color guards, honor guards and thousands of visitors.

## **Conclusion**

It is believed the first St. Andrew's Society was organized on this continent, rather than in Scotland. The Scots' Charitable Society of Boston was founded in 1657, the Saint Andrew's Club of South Carolina in 1729, the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia in 1749, the St. Andrew's Society of Savannah, Georgia, in 1750 and the St. Andrew's Society of New York in 1756.

In 1994, with membership declining as more people were reluctant to come downtown, the one and only building ever known as St. Andrew's Hall was sold to its current tenant, a rock music promoter. The building is still in use today as the venue for a variety of alternative music concerts. Subsequently, the Society has met in various locations throughout the immediate four-county area. Regular business meetings are often held at either the Commonwealth Club in Warren, a British social club, or the White Heather Club in Ferndale, a Scottish social club. Initiations, which draw a larger crowd, usually are held at a local restaurant or dining hall. The Society currently rents an office in Southfield, which is used for smaller meetings, such as the Board of Trustees.

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is rich in history with many current members being second-, third- and even fourth-generation members. The original records of the Society have been donated to the Burton Historical Library in the Detroit Public Library. Those records are available to the public. Copies of the genealogical history have been donated to the Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, Georgia, the Mormon Family Search Centers in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Salt Lake City, Utah, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Allen County, Indiana, Library and Detroit's Burton Historical Library. They may be perused at any of those locations, of course, or purchased if you wish your own copy.

Three thousand, five hundred and twenty-five men and women initiated through May 1998, and perhaps another 200 since, have come together over the past 150 years with only one common bond—Scottish birth or ancestry. Taken in the context of the major world events that have occurred in this time span, as well as the technological advances and dramatic changes in our culture, one thing is very certain. The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit was founded with benevolence, patriotism and fraternity as its bywords, and with benevolence as its main purpose. Whether in 1850 or in 2001, the Society has always been there for Scots in need and for local charitable organizations.

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