



The Victor

The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

www.grandprioryofthescots.org



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Celebration of Christ's Birth



"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

~ Luke 2:11



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Yule



Faither Christmas



Hogmanay

A guid New Year tae ane an' a',
An' mony may ye see;
An' during a' the years tae come,
O, happy may ye be.
An' may ye ne'er have cause tae mourn,
Tae cry or shed a tear;
Tae ane an' a', baith great an' sma',
A hearty guid New Year!



Gosh! It is December and Christmas is just around the corner. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since my last report, I have travelled to Mississippi and Southern California to attend a workshop for the Priory of St. Columba and a Convent/Investiture for the Priory of Robert the Bruce.

We had a very successful meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, and created a Preceptory within the Priory of St. Columba. The Prior, Neil Johnson, will work with the members and get everything on track. I want to thank Neil and his officers for all the work they have done and continue to do to make the Priory of St. Columba very successful. Neil is working with other Commanderies and Preceptories making sure they are getting all the help necessary for the future.

The Priory of Robert the Bruce held an investiture/Convent in Anaheim, California, which was very well attended. Chev. Butch and Dame Teresa McMillan attended from Mississippi as did yours truly.

Both Priors will be in touch with their membership over the next few months letting them know their plans and ideas.

Chev. Joseph Blaylock has been acting as Treasurer since last July and has done a fantastic job, but this was on an interim basis. Chev. Butch McMillan will take over as Treasurer for the Bailiwick on January 15th. Butch is looking forward to his new position and I know he will do a great job. A Special Order will go out to the membership at the end of January with all the new changes. A special thanks to all who have been so helpful over the last few months.

Please remember that we need to be thinking of attending an Investiture in Scotland in 2021. The Privy Council will make a decision next year as to the date and a formal invitation will be sent to the membership. In the past, we have always done this during the last week of August, but we will be change that month in 2021 to perhaps the end of June or the beginning of July.

Flowers of the Forest – We lost two very special members in 2019. Chev. John McKay died in May and Chev. James Walters died in August. They will be missed so much. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, keep our Grand Prior and Dame Peggy Ferguson in your prayers asking for their health to be restored.

Just a reminder, Joe Blaylock has the Scottish Knights Templar tartan and ties and Dan Harrison has the lapel pins. Please contact them if you need to purchase anything.

Allen Cummings is doing a fantastic job running the website and newsletter. He is always in need of articles, pictures and other items for inclusion into his endeavors. Allen recently sent out a roster to all members and if you see any changes, do let him know.

Please keep up the good charity work. Dame Cheryl Cook and Chev. Neil Johnson are guests at every Privy Council meeting and present their reports which includes all the outstanding charitable work.

Thank you all so much,

Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ
Grand Bailiff

In Remembrance



James "Jim" Garvis Walters, age 72, a native of Montgomery, AL and a resident of Gulf Shores, AL passed away Saturday, August 24, 2019.

Mr. Walters graduated from Cottonwood High School in 1965. He always loved music and during his high school years he and three other friends formed a band called The Chevelles. He was an Eagle Scout and earned his Business Degree from Auburn University in 1971. Jim served in the U.S. Navy, active and reserve for 5 years. He was a career professional with the Boy Scouts of America for 27 years. During that time he was awarded the Boy Scouts of America Medal of Heroism for saving the life of a fellow traveler. Jim truly loved people and had a huge network of friends, both in the U.S. and in other countries, including

Scotland, England, Germany, and Asia. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church Gulf Shores, participating in church activities, particularly the choir. Jim was a lover of history all his life, was very active in the Scottish Community and was a Fellow of The Society of Antiquaries, Scotland, and a member of the Scottish Knights Templar. Jim was also known for The Caledonian Kitchen Premium Quality Haggis. After retiring to Gulf Shores he enjoyed boating, fishing and spending time with friends.



Jim was preceded in death by his father, Garvis Archie Walters and his mother, Alice Elizabeth Dawson Walters

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Gay Ann Walters, of Gulf Shores, AL, two brothers; Glenn Alan Walters (Jimmie Sue) of Perdido Key, FL., Brian Roger Walters (Bonnie) of Huntsville, AL, aunts, uncle, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Chevalier Jim Walters – 2007 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

In Remembrance Continued



Mr. John Pendrey McKay Sr., of Fullerton, California, born on July 27, 1940 in Oakland, California, passed away at age 78 on May 10, 2019 in Fullerton. After graduating from Garden Grove High School (1957), he received a Bachelor's degree from California State University Fullerton (1963) and a law degree from Pepperdine University (1968). John McKay had a successful career as a trial attorney that lasted over 50 years. He was Senior Partner at McKay, de Lorimier & Acain in Los Angeles.

John is survived by his wife Terry, his sons, John Jr. and Daniel; daughters, Sallyanne, Lara, and Jennifer; sister, Penelope Gooch; and grandchildren, Connor, Heather, Donovan, Sean, Gabriel, and Hailey.



Family Names (Septs) Associated with Scottish Clans

While researching the family names Landrum and Lendrem for association to Clan Cumming, it is noted that since I started the project, both names **now** appear on with Wikipedia page for Clan Cumming; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clan_Cumming .

It is noted that there are no references for sept names there or on any other Wikipedia Clan information pages.

It is also noted that when I requested the reference used for associated families/septs names from a few Scottish websites that publish a list of Clan Septs, the lack of response was deafening.

Per my request regarding the same from the Office of the Lord Lyon, their secretary referred me to the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. The response from Donald MacLaren of MacLaren: "*Sept names are simply known by tradition. There is no authority body of any kind with regards to associated family names to Scottish Clans.*"

Imagine that.

Regards,
The Auld Yin Hisel



Cardhu Whisky



Cardhu is a Speyside distillery near Archiestown, Moray, Scotland, founded by the whisky smuggler John Cumming, and his wife Helen Cumming in 1824. The distillery is run by Diageo and the distillery's single malt Scotch whisky makes up an important part of the Johnnie Walker blended whiskies.

Jackson, Mississippi Convent

The Priory of St. Columba held a Convent in Jackson Mississippi on November 9th. This event was the first of a series of meetings that are intended to expand the Priory and to involve those members that are located in areas of the Priory that have not had an opportunity to attend events because of the distance involved. Attending from the local area were Hubert McMillan and Xerxes Harrington as well as the Priory Chancellor, Christopher Cummins. Eliana Cummins and Teresa McMillan could not attend because of family commitments. In addition, we had two guests, Maria Harrington and her sister Paola.



Standing – left to right: Chev. John Peterson, Chev. John Burroughs, Chev. Xerxes Harrington, Chev. Christopher Cummins and Chev. Butch McMillian

Seated – left to right: Dame Patricia Tennyson-Bell, Grand Bailiff and Chev. Neil Johnson, Prior of the Priory of St. Columba.

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Jackson, Mississippi Convent Continued



The Grand Bailiff and our new Postulant, Maria Harrington

We were joined by the Grand Bailiff, H.E. Patricia Tennyson Bell and there were three of us that traveled from Minnesota to assist with the ritual, John Peterson, John Burroughs and myself, Neil Johnson. Besides the ritual portion of the meeting the intent was to gather enough members together to assist the Order in establishing a Preceptory in Mississippi, something we have been discussing for several months. In the initial discussion we were assisted by Jim Walters and we observed a moment of silence over his passing. He was missed at the meeting but those present were determined to begin the process of setting up the Preceptory. We have established a guideline of next steps and believe that the core of people there will continue to develop this Preceptory and that we will have an active nucleus of Scottish Knights Templar in the area. During the Convent, we were able to bring a new Postulant forward in Maria Harrington and hope to add some additional Postulants over the next year as we move forward.

This is very important and exciting for me personally as it shows that, with some initial work, we can successfully expand our Order in the South and Southeast. I hope that we will be able to continue our expansion into the South/Southeast in the future.

We need someone who is willing to spend some phone time to gather together those members that exist in a close geographic area. With our "flying squad" from Minnesota we will then be able to host a convent in the area and begin the process of expanding our Order.

By Chev. R. Neil Johnson, GOTJ
Prior of the Priory of St. Columba



British Home Tea

On October 19, 2019 several member of the Priory of Robert the Bruce and some additional guests provided entertainment and desserts to the seniors who reside at the British Home in Sierra Madre. Dame Sandra Moffett, DCTJ was the mistress of ceremony and kept the flow running very smoothly. Dear Sophie, whom is now 110 year young, was still there to enjoy the entertainment. Richard Strayer KCTJ opened the event playing the bag pipes. Sandra had all of the Templar's and postulants march to the front of the room and we each explained the tartans we were wearing and the clan that they represented and the region of Scotland we were from. Scott Luekens, KCTJ played his mandolin and sang "These are my mountains" which was warmly received by the guests. Sandra played the piano and did a quiz on the origins of some songs. Mark Duncan told a story on the origin of the history of Jack-o-lanterns that was very educational as well as entertaining.

Richard Strayer KCTJ and Chrisy Orcholski DTJ and did a mock haggis presentation. Mark Duncan did ode to the haggis Gaelic with the English translation given by Jonathan Todd Raines; Postulant read the ode to the haggis.

We were able to provide a large variety of homemade desserts and some store bought goodies as well. The guests of the home were very engaging and we were able to sit with them while the deserts were served by the staff and have great conversations. The facility has new rules with the serving of the goodies and they have the staff serve so that the residents do not get to much sugar. This was accompanied with Coffee and Tea.

A huge thank you goes out to Dame Sandra Moffett, DCTJ our Protocol officer for coordinating the entertainment. This event is always very heartwarming as we get to spend time with the residents of the British Home. It was great to hear from those in attendance about the conversations that they had with those they sat near. I was bless to sit buy a Woman who had trained pilots here in the states during WWII on the planes that were left here so they could be ready when they shipped out. What they had to train on was old and not in very good shape, she had to take the planes up first alone to see if they were safe before she could start training in them. She was a woman of great courage; we are to be proud of her and her service.

All of the photos provided by David Cook Postulant thank you for capturing the moments for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Dame Cheryl Cook, GOTJ
Prior of the Priory of Robert the Bruce



British Home Tea Photographs



Robert the Bruce Investiture & Conclave

Warmest greeting to everyone. I am writing to let you know about the most recent event in the priory. On Saturday November 16th at Noon we had Investiture/ Conclave, at the First Presbyterian Church in Anaheim California.

We brought in two new members, Jonathan "Todd" Raines and David Karl Cook.

Jonathan lives in Laguna Beach, CA with his wife and is retired from the Navy. He is still an active pilot and performs Honor Flights. This is an amazing program that gives Veterans from WWII the opportunity to travel to Washington DC to see the memorial. He is also in charge of the Costa Mesa, CA Games over the Memorial Day weekend and is doing a fantastic job.

David is my husband and we live in Garden Grove. David has been active with the order since I became a member as he has attended almost every event with me. I am glad that he decided to make it official. The Grand Bailiff also presented a Plaque to Dame Nellie Lowry, DCTJ, for her many years as supply officer. Nellie has been in this position for many years and has done a fantastic job.

Each of my Commanders gave a report on the events from the last year. And our Charity Coordinator Dame Christine Orcholski, DTJ gave us a report of the priory events that we had this last year.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to those who served as my officers for the fantastic job you did to make the event run so smoothly. And to those who attended the event it made it very special to the new members that you were there.

We were joined by several spouses, family and friends of members as well. The photographer Jennifer Thomas, who graciously offered to take the photo for the event did a fantastic job. She is my friend and boss. She is very generous with her time and talents.

After the event, we all went out to TJ Schmid's Restaurant for a great lunch and fellowship. We held a silent auction that raised \$732.00 for Mary's Kitchen in Orange. This facility serves meals to 200 to 250 people daily, offers many additional services such as Clothing distribution, Laundry service, mail services for those who are applying for jobs so they can get back on their feet and many other services as well. We had time together and to honor our new member, and to enjoy fellowship with one another.

We are scheduled to have our Priory Christmas party on Saturday December 7th at the home of Patrick & Sandra Moffett. They are generously opening up their home for us join together to enjoy a potluck dinner and celebrate the holiday season. We will be collecting items this year to donate to The House of Ruth a shelter for Battered Women & Children that was robbed and need to restock their supplies as well as gather gifts for the women and children staying there. Photos and article of this event to follow in the next issue.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dame Cheryl Cook, GOTJ

Prior of the Priory of Robert the Bruce

Robert the Bruce Investiture Photographs



Christmas in Scotland

Although Christmas and its customs were in disfavor for only a short time in England (during the reign of Cromwell), Scotland ignored the holiday far longer. Bear in mind that "Christmas" is "Christ's Mass" and mass was banned in Scotland. There are records of charges being brought against people for keeping "Yule" as it was called in Scotland. Amazingly, this dour, joy-crushing attitude lasted for 400 years. It has only been in recent years that the Scots observed December 25 as a special day at all. Until the 1960s, Christmas Day was a normal working day for most people in Scotland. So if there is a specifically "Scottish" aspect to Christmas it is that it was not celebrated!

Christmas in Scotland is now a time for going to church, food, presents, parties, holidays and all sorts of other good things. It's a time for celebration because it's the birthday of Jesus.

Planning for Christmas starts weeks before the events. Children are busy writing their Christmas lists for Santa Claus (Faither Christmas), parents are busy buying presents, cleaning the house and organizing food for the great day.

Houses are decorated with tinsel, holly wreaths candles and decorations. Mistletoe is hung to catch a kiss from anyone who stands under it. The Christmas tree, decorated with baubles, takes pride of place in any household.

On Christmas Eve, children prepare for Santa Claus by hanging up their stockings in anticipation of their being filled with presents while they sleep. They leave out a small glass of whisky or milk for Santa along with a mince pie. They also leave out carrots for the reindeer - particularly Rudolph - the red nosed reindeer that guides his sleigh through the dark skies. Then the children are ready to go to bed. In all the excitement children find it difficult to get to sleep. Some wake up VERY early in the morning.

Christmas day finally arrives and is marked by screams of delight at the surprises Santa has left. Once the presents are opened, many people get ready to go to church. Christmas carols are sung during the service.

On return, parents prepare the Christmas lunch while children play with their toys. Christmas dinner is a time when families get together; Grannies, Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. Once it is finished and the clearing up done, there is generally a party. People sing songs, dance or play games. All the preparation has been worth it. People go to bed happy, yet exhausted. Christmas is over for another year!

A traditional Christmas lunch will include - Starter: Scotch Broth. Main course - Roast Turkey, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Chippolata Sausages, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts. Dessert - Christmas Pudding and Brandy custard.



One Scottish Rendition of the Night Before Christmas

Twis the night afore Christmas,
an' a' thro' the hoose,
Nuthin wis movin', no even a moose,

The weans wur a' scrubbed, an' pit intae bed,
The hassle wis ower, an' we wur so gled,

The tramcaurs still runnin' ootside wi' a clatter,
We wur used tae thur noise, so it jist didnae matter,

Maggie was knittin' right there oan the couch,
Me in ma chair, bent ower in a slouch,

There wisnae a noise, it wis awfy quiet,
The nixt thing ah' thote, thur wis a big riot,

Two Wally dugs, hud fell aff the brace,
Broke intae pieces, a' ower the place,

Ah' jumped aff ma chair, right intae the lobby,
Leavin' behind a durty big jobby,

Ah' pult oot a flerrcloth, Fae unner the sink,
An' cleaned up that mess, 'cos thur wis such a stink,

We brushed up the dugs, an' ah' um no kiddin'
A' they wur fit fur, wis gaun in the midden,

The weans hud gote up, when they heard a' the noise,
Came intae the kitchen, an' seen a' the toys,

There wis Frances, an' Margaret, an' Iain, an' all
The lassies wur happy, 'cos they gote a doll,
An' Iain wis laughin' 'cos he hud his ball.

We telt thum whut happened,
An' they jist said "How come,?"
Ah' says it wis Santa, 'cos he fell doon the lum,

It still wisnae yet Christmas, an' ah' wis so gled,
The weans took thur toys, an' they went intae bed,

Back tae the silence, the gas oan a peep,
Baith Maggie-n-me, hud baith fell asleep,

The whole thing hud gied us, an awfy bad fright,
Noo that everyones sleepin' ah' wish ye
Goodnight.

Scottish Christmas Fairy

I am a little fairy
On tap o' the Christmas Tree
It's no' a job I fancy
Well how would you like tae be me

A'm tarted up wi' tinsel
It's enough to mak ye boak
An a couple o' jaggy branches
Rammed up the back o' your frock

An' these wee lights a'roon me
I canna get my sleep
An' there's the yearly visit
Fae Santa - Big fat creep!

On Christmas Day I'm stuck up here
While you're a' wirin' in
An' naebody says "Hey you up there
Could you go a slug o' gin?"

It's nae joke bein' a fairy
The job's beyond belief
You've got to go roon' the wean's beds
An' lift their rotten teeth

But o' a' the joabs a fairy gets
An' I've mentioned only some
The very worst is sitting up a tree
Wi' pine needles up yir bum

When a' the fairies meet again
By the light of' the silvery moon
Ye can tell the Christmas fairies
They're the wans that canna sit doon

The Christmas tree's a bonny sight
As the firelight softly flickers
But think o' me I'm stuck up here
Wi' needles in my knickers

So soon as Christmas time's right by
An' I stop bein' sae full o' cheer
I'll get awa back tae Fairyland
An' I'll see yous a' next year.

The Grand Bailiwick of the Scots - Privy Council

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