

Volume 5, Issue 7

May 2004

Newsletter Editor-Douglas N. Burns

#### Officers

Chieftain-Aaron Buchanan  
Sub-Chieftain-Cheryl May  
Sergeant-at-Arms-James Monteith  
Secretary-Sharon Monteith  
Treasurer-Robert Moore

#### Committee Chairs

Sunshine - Eileen Moore  
Membership - Eileen Moore  
Past Chieftains - Paul Ross  
Burns Supper - Walter May  
Publicity - Melvyn Douglass  
Program - Cheryl May

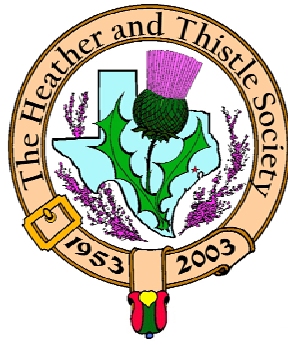
### ***Upcoming Texas Scottish Events***

Texas Folklife Festival  
June 3-6, 2004  
San Antonio, TX  
itcweb@utsa.edu  
(210) 458-2300  
[www.texasfolklifeFestival.org](http://www.texasfolklifeFestival.org)

Texas Scottish Festival &  
Highland Games  
June 4-6, 2004  
Maverick Stadium  
Arlington, TX  
800-650-1918  
[www.TexasScottishFestival.com/](http://www.TexasScottishFestival.com/)

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# The Houston Scot

## ***Chieftains Letter***

Greetings,

This past month has been so busy for me, as my wife Sharon and I are planning a trip to Scotland this summer and I've been working on the itinerary. One week in Scotland just isn't enough time to see it all, but we are going to try to see as much as we can, as well as meet up with some old and new friends.

I want to thank everyone for coming out to help at our society's booth at this year Houston Highland Games and Celtic Festival. As usual our society tartan banners were placed around the grounds, looking impressive as they always do. This year we also had an advertisement for the society in the program.

We have found our new newsletter editor, Sergeant - at - Arms, Jim Monteith. If there is something you want to see in the upcoming issues please send him the information. [jmonteith@ev1.net](mailto:jmonteith@ev1.net).

I want to thank Wayne and Brenda Barton, for there help in setting up an e-mail account for me that will be easy for everyone to remember, and easy for me to access. So if you want to contact me with any questions, or concerns please e-mail me at [chieftain@heatherandthistle.org](mailto:chieftain@heatherandthistle.org) or you can call me at (281) 376-7947.

Last months meeting was so wonderful and informative, it was such an honor to meet Mrs. Mary Metz, and share in her celebration of her Investiture into the Order of Member of the British Empire (MBE).

The Meeting this month will be an extra special treat, as Sub-Chieftain Cheryl May has planned for us a Highland Dancing demonstration by some of the girls of St. Thomas. I hope to see you all there. In the usual place (the Theatre), Monday, May 24th, 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal School.

Chieftain Aaron C. Buchanan

## ***Upcoming Programs***

May 24, 2004 – Highland Dancers from St. Thomas School.

June 28, 2004 – The Texas Wildflowers sing a variety of old Country Western and patriotic songs written by women. Presented by HLS&R Speaker's Committee.

July – August – No meeting, enjoy the Summer

September 24, 2004 - TBA

# Heather & Thistle Society - Minutes

## March 2004



### ***I Bet You didn't Know This...***

~~~~~  
Q. There are more collect calls on this day than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day

~~~~~  
Q. What trivia fact about Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) is the most ironic?

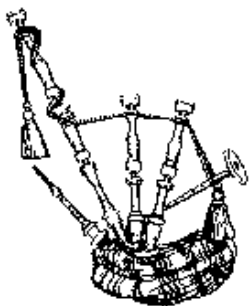
A. He was allergic to carrots.

~~~~~  
Q. What is an activity performed by 40% of all people at a party?

A. Snoop in your medicine cabinet.

~~~~~  
In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight." (Don't let the bedbugs bite.)

~~~~~  
4000 years ago in Babylon: it was the accepted practice that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month. We know it today as "the honeymoon".  
~~~~~



Meeting called to order by Chieftain Buchanan at 7:31PM on April 26, 2004 in the theater of St. Thomas Episcopal School.

Sub-Chieftain Cheryl May gave a preview of tonight's program. Announced plans to have Highland dancers for next months program and in June a singing group called the Texas Wildflowers have been invited.

Treasurer Dr. Robert Moore announced a balance of \$1,338.48 as of 03-31-04. Also advised that the latest bank statement was mailed to the wrong address.

#### Committee Reports:

- Burns Club: No report. Next meeting 2nd Thursday at 8PM at Jack Hume's home.
- Burns Supper: Adams Mark Hotel site of next supper. 680 tickets probably available.
- Past Chieftains: They're keeping tabs on things.
- Sunshine: Sent Paul Ross a sympathy card on death of his Aunt. Jack Hume was sent a get-well card. Cheryl & Walter May received congratulations for the birth of grandbaby.
- Membership: 121 family, 63 single, 37 life, 4 complimentary, 40 exempt, for a total of 265 members. There are 184 members paid up and 181 not paid up. 90 members are delinquent. Received one renewal at meeting. Notices will be mailed out.
- Grampians: Offshore Technology Conference coming up at Doubletree Post Oak Hotel. British Consul General will be there.
- Houston Highland Games: H&T will have a tent and volunteers needed. Fiddling competition on evening of May 14th at Holiday Inn at Hwy 6 and IH 10. Fund raiser this coming Friday at Sam's Irish Pub.
- RSCDS: No report.
- Houston Highlanders: No report.

Sergeant-at-Arms reported 22 members present and two guests.

Old Business: Jack Hume turned over the financial records of the Robert Burns bust effort to Chieftain Buchanan. Discussion was held concerning archiving of these records.

New Business: Chieftain requested members present to look over the minutes from the last meeting as published in the April 2004 newsletter. Discussion was held about costs of publishing the newsletter and the desire of editor Douglas Burns to pass on the duties of editing and distributing the newsletter.

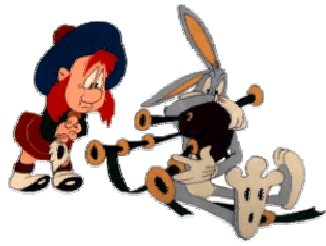
Jack Hume gave a presentation on the Declaration of Arbroath and the Declaration of Independence documents. He reminded everyone that April 6 is Tartan Day established by Congress to honor the contributions of Scottish Americans.

Minutes of the March 2004 meeting were accepted as published in the April newsletter.

Meeting was recessed for refreshments.

Sub-Chieftain Cheryl May introduced Mary Murray Metz and members were treated to a video of the Investiture at Buckingham Palace in which Mary was awarded Member British Empire by the Queen honoring her charitable accomplishments in life. Photos of the ceremony were also available for members to view.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.



### **New Newsletter Editor**

This will be my last issue as editor for The Houston Scot. During the past year I've enjoyed my term as editor but other commitments require my attention. However our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Jim Monteith, has graciously agreed to take over editorial duties.

I know Jim is eager to take over and wants to hear from our membership. Send any comments, articles, pictures or stories to Jim Monteith at [jmonteith@ev1.net](mailto:jmonteith@ev1.net). Deadline for the next issue will be June 7, 2004.

### **Help Save H&T Dollars**

Currently it costs the Heather & Thistle Society about \$1 per issue to print and mail a copy of the newsletter to every member. With our current membership, that's in excess of \$200 per month.

You could save the society \$10 a year per membership by receiving the newsletter electronically. To have the newsletter emailed to you instead of receiving a printed copy send your email to the new editor Jim Monteith at [jmonteith@ev1.net](mailto:jmonteith@ev1.net).



## Membership Information & Renewal

Membership in the Heather & Thistle Society is open to all with an interest in Scottish Heritage and Culture. Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual membership and \$20.00 for a family membership (husband, wife, and all children under the age of eighteen). Completed applications and correct membership fees should be mailed to:

Mrs. Eileen Graham More  
8910 Sandstone  
Houston, TX 77036-6132

For information please call Eileen at (713) 774-0314.

Applications for membership may be found on the web site (<http://heatherandthistle.org/documents/membership.doc>). Dues are due at the beginning of the fiscal year, March 1. To discover if your dues are current, please refer to your newsletter label. After your name there will be a date (year) and a letter—the letter "F" refers to Family Memberships; "S" Single Membership; and "L" life.

Membership Dues for 2004 are now due and payable.

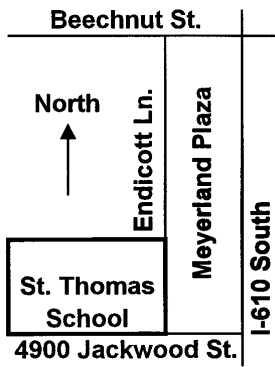
### ***The Bruce of the West!***

CAMERON, EWEN (1811?-1843). Ewen Cameron, participant in the Mier expedition, was born in Scotland about 1811. He was named for the Scottish hero Sir Ewen Cameron of Lockhart, laird of Clan Cameron and a staunch supporter of King Charles II. He traveled to Texas during the Texas Revolution and served two terms in the Texas army, the first from April 29 through October 21, 1836. On October 20, 1836, he reenlisted as a private in Capt. Clark L. Owens's Company A of Joseph H. D. Rogers's First Regiment, Permanent Volunteers. He served until the company was mustered out on December 31, 1836. For his service he received bounty warrants for a total of 1,920 acres, which his heirs later claimed in San Patricio County. In the period that followed the revolution he won renown as a leader of the "cowboys" prominent in frontier defense in South Texas. The Telegraph and Texas Register hailed him on September 14, 1842, as "a bold and chivalrous leader" who promised to become "the Bruce of the West."

On July 7, 1842, Cameron took part in the battle of Lipantitlán against Gen. Antonio Canales. Samuel H. Walker attributed much of the credit for the successful defense of the position to Cameron. At the battle of Mier, "The fearless Cameron, whose company garrisoned the back yard of one of the houses, being charged by an imposing force of the enemy, after emptying his rifles into their lines, beat off the foe until he could reload, with the loose stones in the court." At Pass Suarte, after Fisher and the staff officers had been separated from the command, the Mier prisoners unanimously chose Cameron as their commander. On Saturday, February 19, Cameron and about sixty men were recaptured by Mexicans and subjected with other groups to the Black Bean Episode. Cameron drew a white bean in the lottery, but was shot for a later attempt at escape. Cameron County is named in his honor.

"CAMERON, EWEN." The Handbook of Texas Online.  
<<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/CC/fca25.html>>

For any questions, comment or concerns email the Chieftain  
[chieftain@heatherandthistle.org](mailto:chieftain@heatherandthistle.org)



The Heather and Thistle Society was founded in 1953 by Scots living in Houston who wished to "cultivate an interest in and fond recollections of Scotland, its history and traditions, its literature and ideals, its minstrelsy and song, its customs and amusements; and to provide opportunities for good fellowship and social contact through typically Scottish functions, so that the blessing of our Scottish culture may never die in our new homeland".

The Heather and Thistle Society meets 10 times a year, September through June. Programs include "ceilidhs", lively lectures, slide shows and movies about Scotland. We are an organization that promotes our Scottish heritage, in various ways.

## Meeting Information

### Meeting Place:

St. Thomas Episcopal School  
4900 Jackwood  
Houston, TX 77096

### Date & Time:

4th Monday of the month  
7:30 pm

The Houston Scot is published monthly, September through June. Original articles are welcome and should be sent to Jim Monteith at 15703 Mound Rd. Hockley, TX 77447 or 936-931-2588 or [jmonteith@ev1.net](mailto:jmonteith@ev1.net).

Membership in the Heather and Thistle Society is open to all with an interest in Scottish Heritage and Culture. Annual dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Application and inquires should be made to Mrs. Eileen Moore, 713-774-0314

## We're on the Web

[www.heatherandthistle.org](http://www.heatherandthistle.org)



The Heather and Thistle Society  
P.O. Box 270030  
Houston, TX 77277-0030