

THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue VI

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Summer 2000

Red Wilson proclaimed Scot of the Year 2000

It was a grand affair. The eighth annual Scot of the Year and Tartan Day Celebration Dinner in April at the Granite Club went off without a hitch.

The Guest of Honour, Lynton "Red" Wilson, arrived on the scene in full Scottish regalia and made an excellent speech (details inside). Toronto's Granite Club was at its usual elegant self. The food and service were outstanding and the entertainment was terrific -- a great setting for a wonderful event.

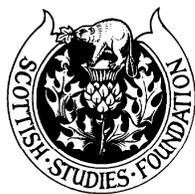
Speeches were short and to the point and the evening finished right on schedule. All in all, the dinner, sponsored by the Scottish Studies Society and hosted by the Scottish Studies Foundation, was one of our best. For this, thanks is due to co-chairmen Neil Fraser



Red Wilson and his wife Brenda in the foreground. At the rear (left to right), Cathy Spoel and her husband and former Scot of the Year Michael MacMillan, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski (University of Guelph President), Mrs. Rosanzki and Ed Stewart Chairman (Scottish Studies Foundation)

Scots Wha Hae

*a desire to nurture and
preserve
their heritage in Canada
are invited to join*



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION

*a charitable organization
dedicated to actively
supporting the
Scottish Studies Program*

at

The University of Guelph

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and John Macdonald along with our hard-working financial guru Alan McKenzie.

Wilson, one of the titans of the Canadian business world, joined an illustrious group of Canadians who have received the award since it was inaugurated in 1993. Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, The Hon. Bertha Wilson, Lloyd Robertson, Col. the Hon. Donald S. Macdonald, Col. the Hon. Henry N.R. Jackman, John Cleghorn and Michael MacMillan.

Jackman and MacMillan attended the dinner but several former *Scots of the Year* and many other business leaders sent their regrets --- they were in attendance at the Business Council on National Issues. The BCNI held an important session the same night at the Royal York Hotel with political and business leaders from across Canada at the meeting. Red, who was accompanied by his charming wife Brenda, was supposed to be at the meeting but nothing could keep him away from the *Scot of the Year* dinner.

Red is BCE Inc.'s Chairman of the Board and a director of numerous Canadian and

international corporations. However, a key factor in his nomination as *Scot of the Year* was his role in launching the HISTOR!CA Foundation of Canada, which is aimed at making all Canadians more aware of the history of their country.

Red personally donated \$500,000 to the launch. Charles R. Bronfman, another founder of HISTOR!CA, sent a note says he regretted that he was unable to attend the dinner honouring his close friend but by way of compensation, sent along a cheque for \$1,000 as a donation to the Scottish Studies Foundation.

The evening's entertainment was the best ever. George Walker gave a stirring "Address to the Haggis" while the Pipes and Drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and Sandra Bald Jones' Scottish Dance Company of Canada were outstanding with their stage presentations.

Watch this space for news on next year's dinner. It will be another "don't miss" event and we hope to attract as many Foundation members as possible.

Letter from the Chair



Dr. Edward Stewart
Chairman, Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear Fellow Members,

On June 1, the Scottish Studies Foundation held its annual meeting at the Arts & Letters Club in Toronto. While we had hoped for a large turnout for this event, I realized that many of our members would not find it possible to be on hand. I thought, therefore, that I might take this opportunity to convey to all the supporters of the Foundation the essence of what I reported to those who attended our annual gathering.

In the proverbial nutshell, the major themes of our organization, over the past year, have been membership and money -- building our membership numbers in a significant way and moving more rapidly toward our goal of two million dollars required to endow a Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

The two go hand in hand although not perhaps in an obvious way. For we know that it is not realistic to expect that we will be able to raise such a large amount of money through our members alone. To succeed on the financial front we are going to have to elicit significant contributions from corporations, foundations and/or philanthropists who see the value of our efforts. We know, however, that it will be difficult to convince such individuals and organizations of the merits of our cause if we cannot demonstrate that Canadians of Scottish ancestry are behind us. Building our

membership, we believe, is the best way to do that.

As I have reported previously we have over the last year employed some targeted advertising to encourage new members to join our ranks. I'm not going to cite again varied vehicles we have chosen over others than to note as I hope you did our latest efforts that ran in the "National Personals" in the Saturday Globe & Mail throughout the month of April. A committee consisting of Christine Boyle of the University of Guelph and our Secretary David Hunter is currently reviewing what further steps might be taken.

While recruiting new members in significant numbers is important, equally important is the need to retain, on an ongoing basis, those who have already joined our ranks. The Board has discussed this challenge on a number of occasions in an attempt to devise ways and means by which we retain your support.

On the money front, I have mentioned in previous newsletters the commitment on the part of the University of Guelph to give Scottish Studies a prominent place in its upcoming fundraising drive and to direct funds raised for Scottish Studies to the Foundation and its proposed endowment. In late March, Alastair Gillespie, one of our most helpful directors and I met with Mordechai Rozanski, President of the University of Guelph and other officials of the University to discuss how we might go forward. As a result, a preliminary plan was devised and, hopefully, will be executed over the next months. We have, I believe, reason to be very encouraged by these developments and while plans cannot be taken as "money in the bank," I am hopeful that before our next year is concluded we should be able to report that we have reached our target or have come very close thereto.

Finally, as we come to a close of another year of activity and, hopefully, progress it seems appropriate to give a deserving vote of thanks to those who have contributed considerable time and effort to our cause. As I have stressed in the past, we are an organization made up entirely of volunteers. This means that every undertaking, from membership administration through the preparations of this newsletter to special events such as the Annual Sailpast and Tartan Day Dinner, is carried out by one or more of our members, usually from among the Directors of the Foundation or our sister organization the Scottish Studies Society. Meriting special attention in this regard are Dr. Paul Thomson, who is stepping down as

Chairman of the Membership Committee, Alan McKenzie who contributes his valuable service as our Treasurer, David Hunter our Secretary and Editor of this newsletter and John Macdonald and Neil Fraser who under society auspices carried the heavy load of organizing both the Sailpast and the Tartan Day Dinner. A thousand thanks to you all.

Now on to another year during which we shall try to report to you regularly and hopefully with positive results.

With thanks for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Ed Stewart

Wide variety of talks featured at Spring Colloquium

This year's Spring Colloquium which took place on March 18, was sponsored by the Scottish Studies Foundation and held in conjunction with College Royal at the University of Guelph. College Royal is the annual open house of the University, and gave participants the chance to see what else the University does besides Scottish Studies! The Colloquium featured a wide variety of talks from students, faculty and graduates of the program.

Janay Nugent, MA 97 and now a doctoral student in the program spoke on *Youth in Early Modern Scotland*. Her stories of scandals uncovered by prying servants entertained the audience.

Tolly Bradford, a graduate of Scottish Studies who is now doing an MA at McGill, took us to Africa with his story of the Church of Scotland Mission School in South Africa.

Faculty member Elizabeth Ewan tried not to be too scandalous when talking about *Defamation and Insult in Sixteenth-century Scotland*.

Next we visited the world of the fairies with Scott Moir (Ph.D. candidate) and his *Supernatural Scotland*.

The day concluded with Jackie Fairgrievies, a visiting Ph.D. student from Glasgow, and her fine analysis of *Consider the Lilies*, a masterpiece of modern Scottish Literature.

One highlight of the day was the presentation by Harry Ferguson of the Clan Fergusson Travel Scholarship to Shannon Creps, Ph.D. student in the program. Shannon will use the scholarship for travel to Scotland next year to do archival research on her thesis on Women in the Scottish Reformation.

A second highlight was Dr. James Conner's display of three of the fine Scottish books from his collection, including a beautiful Coat of Arms from the early nineteenth century with hand-coloured plates. Dr. Conner has generously offered to

gift these books to the Scottish Studies Collection at Guelph, where they will be preserved for all to enjoy.

The Fall Colloquium on *The Scottish Family* will take place on October 14 at the Ontario Veterinary College Lifetime Learning Centre (same place as last year's Fall Colloquium). Lunch will be provided in the cost. Be sure to mark this date in your diary!

Our featured speaker will be Dr. Lynn Abrams of the University of Glasgow, author of *The Orphan Country. Children of Scotland's Broken Homes from 1845 to the Present Day* (1998). This book includes stories of these Scottish orphans sent to Canada.

There will also be a booksale by the University of Guelph library.

Annual Tall Ship Cruise date set for September 4

It's the best bargain in town. For \$15, members of the Scottish Studies Foundation have the opportunity to enjoy a cruise on Lake Ontario on the three-masted schooner *Empire Sandy*, Canada's largest sailing ship, on Sunday, Sept. 3.

The occasion is the annual Scottish Sailing Cruise to commemorate the arrival of the "Hector" in Canada in 1773. The "Hector" carried the first wave of Scottish immigrants to Pictou, Nova Scotia. In later years, that first wave became a flood of Scots to Canada.

Alas, after dropping off her passengers at Pictou, the "Hector" sailed away and was never seen again. In September, a replica of the "Hector" will sail again when the new Hector is launched in Pictou Harbour. The replica has been a decade in the building. Hopefully, unlike the original the new Hector will return to port!

There will be two voyages by the *Empire Sandy* on Sept. 3 --- the first at 11.30 a.m. (boarding at 11 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m.) and the second at 2.30 p.m. (boarding at 2 p.m. and returning at 5 p.m.). Both departures will be from Pier 27, just east of Yonge St. on Queen's Quay East. There is ample parking and there is bus service almost to the front door.

Tickets are \$15 per person if purchased in advance, \$20 if purchased at docksides on the sailing day. Children are \$8. To order tickets, send a cheque payable to the Scottish

Studies Society to Alan McKenzie, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON, L6K 2M6 or e-mail Alan at alanmck@cgoable.net

For further information, call John Macdonald at (416) 756-0345.

It will be a festive occasion, with the bagpipes, Scottish dancers and singers all taking part in these short but memorable voyages. Those who are sailing that day are encouraged to wear the tartan -- kilts, tams, bonnets, shawls, skirts, trews or whatever. But bear in mind the weather can be cool as we sail through the Toronto harbour and out into Lake Ontario.

Order your tickets now to support the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society -- and have a fun day!

Foundation's funds continue to grow by Alan McKenzie

In the dozen years or so that I have been involved with the Scottish Studies Foundation our constant struggle has been to try and raise money. After all that is what the Foundation is here to do. The aim has been defined quite clearly over the years and it is perhaps timely to give a report on where we stand and what is left to do.

The financial goal of the Foundation is to raise \$2 million for three main objectives. The first (and most expensive) is to fund in

perpetuity the Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. After all, Guelph is the one place you can go to in North America to get a Ph.D. in Scottish Studies. We want to be in a strong financial position to be able to pay for the Chair in the event of a funding crisis in our universities. We cringe at the thought of people in high places saying, "If something has to go at Guelph, why do we need a Scottish Studies Programme?" At the present time, we



Mairead Boyd on the Empire Sandy

estimate that we need \$1.5 million to fund the Chair in perpetuity.

Aside from the Chair we also want to help the Scottish Studies Program in other ways. The second priority is to raise about \$500,000 to help build that amazingly valuable Scottish Collection in the library at Guelph. Indeed, it is so valuable that the government of Canada has deemed it a "Collection of National Importance". Students and professors and members of the

general public come from all over the world to access the rare books and archives. I will remember the Head of the National Library of Scotland looking at some of the manuscripts in the rare book room at Guelph snorting something about "stealing Scotland's National Heritage"! Well I guess with some three million people of Scottish descent in Canada that was another aspect of Scottish heritage that was purloined as well!

Last, but by no means least, we shall need funds to help students with grants from time to time.

All of this has taxed the minds of the governors for many years and we have struggled hard for a long time to try and raise the funds to do these good things. As a registered charity we can give a tax receipt. But in our early days, with not much money in the bank, personal donations were hard to come by as we had such little credibility. The big breakthrough came with the Government of Ontario's move to allow gaming in the province and with charities being able to access some of the proceeds. From the very beginning as soon as the governors heard of this opening we were soon in possession of four outlets in shopping malls in the province -- selling Nevada Lottery tickets. We do not actually sell these tickets ourselves, we merely collect the net revenues after the payment of prizes and the expenses of printing and distributing tickets.

At the same time we were able to join with other charities to participate in bingo games at "Keele Street Bingo Country" in North York. I went to one of these games to help out in the early days and was surprised to see hundreds of people buying thousands of cards for these games. Our charity usually has a share of profits from two bingo sessions allocated to us in any one month and we have to provide a team of volunteers to help the manager of the bingo hall.

Although the revenue from these sessions is tending to decline now that there are easier ways to throw your money away at the casinos, nevertheless, they do give us a fine and steady income. In fiscal 1999 we netted \$31,000 from bingo and a further \$31,000 from Nevada ticket sales. In 1998 the amounts were \$22,000 and \$34,000 respectively and in 1997, \$25,000 and \$46,000.

As we started to accumulate a decent amount of cash in the bank the governors decided to invest part of these funds in the stock market in the same way that a pension fund builds up the funds required to pay future pensions. In our case we will be paying the salary of the Chair of the Scottish Studies program, but the similarity to a pension fund is clear. We decided that one half of available bank balances should be so

invested and the remainder be placed on deposit at banks at interest. The timing three years ago was good and the portfolio has grown by over \$70,000 as a result of the stock market increases over that time.

At the time of writing, the total portfolio of stocks and cash at banks is rapidly approaching \$500,000. It is still a long way to go to our \$2 million target but we are definitely moving ahead rapidly. Donations and membership incomes are also growing. We are seeing some much larger donations from individuals and a large proportion of members add a little something to their dues when they renew and we send a tax receipt. The infection is catching! In 1999 we had revenues totaling \$141,000. Membership dues and donations came to over \$33,000, a figure we would never have believed possible ten years ago.

But we are not just hoarding money. We also spend a great deal on charitable activities. Last year we completed a three-year pledge totaling \$30,000 to the University of Guelph and this was match funded by the Ontario Government towards student grants. We fund an office at the university to answer the hundreds of questions from the public about Scottish history and other Scotland related topics. We pay a grant to one of the graduate students to look after these enquiries. We paid \$5,000 to the University for funding the twice yearly Colloquia which are so popular with students and the public alike. And we have spent well in excess of \$20,000 buying books for the Scottish Collection which have been requested by the library. Included was a collection of 1,000 volumes of fiction by secondary and less well-known Scottish writers. Members will be aware that we also fund the yearly production of *Scottish Tradition* which is sent to each member. We also make a couple of cash grants to worthy graduate students in Scottish Studies as recommended by the professors.

So we try to balance immediate cash needs of the Scottish Studies program with the future needs of the Chair and the Scottish Collection. We are at last making excellent progress. Long may it continue. And to all our members -- our grateful thanks for your support.

Editor:

Since this article was written the Scottish Studies Foundation has received two large donations -- \$10,000 from our 2000 Scot of the Year, Lynton "Red" Wilson and a further \$100,000 from The Harold E. Ballard Foundation. This latter donation is the single largest donation ever received by the Scottish Studies Foundation and the capital of the SSF is now very close to \$600,000! Our sincere thanks to these two important donors and to all members who have been so generous with donations.

Proud and Prominent-- The Scots role in Canada

On April 4, Toronto's exclusive Granite Club came alive to the skirl of the pipes as Lynton "Red" Wilson was proclaimed "Scot of the Year 2000" at the Scottish Studies Society's eighth Annual Tartan Day Dinner. As Chairman of Bell Canada Enterprises (BCE), Wilson is one of Canada's most respected business leaders. He is also a keen history enthusiast donating \$500,000 of his own money to launch HISTOR!CA, a foundation with a goal of raising \$50 million to establish an endowment to generate income for future generations to teach and learn about Canadian history. This transcript of his speech at the Dinner gives a strong sense of this.

I am indeed honoured to have been selected as Canadian Scot of the Year. It is also a pleasure to celebrate Tartan Day this evening to recall the thirst for freedom in the Declaration of Arbroath of 6 April 1320.

Scots have taken a proud and prominent part in the development of Canada - far beyond their strength of numbers. Scots have helped shape our national character, our traditions, and to build our national institutions. Scottish success is reflected in every aspect of Canada's history - business leaders such as Strathcona, Renfrew and Simpson, educational leaders such as Grant, and political leaders such as Brown, Macdonald, and Mackenzie. In the head offices of railways, banks and insurance companies, you were certain to find Scots hunched over desks hard at work, or gazing out onto the harbours and rivers, dreaming of commercial empires yet unborn.

Nor was it limited to men in top hats! Scottish artisans, with their unshakable faith in craftsmanship, shaped much of Canadian industry. And Scottish Canadian women would also make their mark, first as anchors of hearth and home, and then as they took their rightful place in the wider world, as demonstrated by our 1994 Scot of the Year, my namesake, the Hon. Bertha Wilson.

May I also say how pleased and proud I am to stand before you this evening representing the Wilsons - the eighth most common name in Scotland, I am told by Neil Fraser. I wish that I could say, representing the "Clan Wilson", but alas, as you know, the Wilsons, although numerous, are a sept of the Gunn Clan. In fact, many Wilsons were not particularly distinguished or successful, other than as sheep rustlers or troublemakers, which I suppose, is why so many of them left Scotland for England, or Canada, or Australia, or the United States. Wilson, by



Red Wilson is presented with a personal birthday cake at the Tartan day Dinner

the way, is one of the two or three most common names of Scottish or English origin in the world.

In my own case, my father came from Kent County in England to Canada as a young man of 16 in 1912. I have traced his ancestors - my ancestors - back as far as the mid 17th century - all residents of Kent County - and it would appear that the Scottish link came with William Wilson who settled near Maidstone, Kent at that time.

My father signed up with the Canadian army in 1914 and spent four years in France and Belgium with the Royal Canadian Artillery, returning to settle in Port Colborne in 1919. Port Colborne was an industrial town, and many of the leading families were, of course, Scots - MacGillivrays, Craigs, Moffats, McKellars, Miseners - all strong supporters of the First Presbyterian Church, as were the Wilsons.

I attended McMaster University (even though it was a Baptist institution) founded, of course, by a Scot; - married a beautiful young lady, the former Brenda Black with good Canadian Scottish roots; and during my business career, worked for four Canadian institutions all founded by Canadian Scots - McMillan Bloedel, Redpath Industries, the

Bank of Nova Scotia and Bell Canada Enterprises. In fact, I was privileged to serve as Chief Executive of two of those companies: Redpath Industries, founded by John Redpath, a Scottish stone mason; and Bell Canada Enterprises, originally incorporated as the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in 1880 by Alexander Graham Bell and his father, Alexander Melville Bell.

So I have enjoyed a lifetime of Canadian Scottish associations and influences.

Now, both John Redpath and Alexander Graham Bell left huge legacies of achievement and, since time does not permit me to do justice to both, I have chosen to concentrate a few remarks on Bell.

The English-speaking world encounters his family name countless times a day at home, at the office, or on the trading floor, 80 years after his death - And the world of telecommunications which he pioneered - and its most recent incarnation, the internet - is today ushering in a new age - the information age - with revolutionary implications. Let me therefore tell you a bit about this amazing Scot, Alexander Graham Bell - or Aleck Bell as he was known. Most know him only for his work before his 30th birthday. Some parts of his story may be new to you.

Aleck Bell's life reflects elements of both our own personal histories as Scottish descendants, and the history of our hemisphere. His outlook was naturally shaped by broader Scots values - emphasis on family, clan, and community; education - especially self-teaching; enterprise; and perhaps above all, a pragmatic worldview closely tied to the needs of people and contemporary society.

As an inventor-entrepreneur, Aleck Bell's experience nicely captures the fluid nature of the movement of people, markets and ideas in the 19th century North Atlantic world.

Aleck Bell's life was very much lived on that larger canvas. As most of you know from family experience, the Scots have always been a mobile people who traditionally looked beyond their own borders for opportunities, advancement and employment. So it was in the life of Aleck Bell and his family.

Aleck Bell was born in Edinburgh in 1847 into a family of shoemakers who hailed from Fife. Yearning for a life beyond cobbling, first his grandfather, Alexander, then his father, Alexander Melville, had become self-taught elocutionists. Both senior Bells developed quite a business in teaching people how to speak properly. Eventually, they devised an ingenious system of symbols called Visible Speech to help the deaf

communicate. As it developed, the system sought to map every conceivable variety of vocal sound to help the eye understand what the mouth was saying. These methods would later find great success in North America.

The science of speech would become Aleck's magnificent obsession beginning in high school, and blossoming into professional pursuit. He was an average student; but when it came to experimenting with how things worked, his appetite was insatiable.

Along with his brother Melly, he fashioned a working model of a human skull, complete with a mechanical tongue and soft palate. Melly would work the bellows while Aleck manipulated the lips and tongue - enough to produce the sound of a baby's voice calling "Ma-ma". Being adolescents, they did this over and over and over again until one of the tenants downstairs in the Bell

ran deep, and the old man was pretty insistent, and so off to Canada it was. In late summer of 1870, the Bell family arrived in southern Ontario, and bought a house near Brantford.

So Aleck came to Canada out of a sense of family duty, not desire, and definitely not because he pined for the delights of Brantford, Ontario.

To his great surprise, Canada agreed with him, and so did Brantford. His sometimes frail health improved, for one. Besides, how bad could a country be with a Glaswegian Macdonald (John A.) as Prime Minister and a Highlander Macdonald (John S.) as Premier of the Province? That summer he met the Edinburgh-born George Brown of the *Toronto Globe*. Most excitingly, he began to record the exotic languages spoken by the Six Nations first peoples near Brantford for his work on speech.

However, not long after he had arrived in Canada, he felt the pull of the Republic to the South. How very Canadian! In 1871, Aleck was offered a teaching job at a school for the deaf in Boston. He would continue to spend his summers and holidays in Brantford, but Boston became his base.

Boston was a city famous as much for its universities and libraries as for its commercial life - brash, enterprising Yankee businessmen with brains totally hard-wired to turn innovation into profit. Through his work with the deaf, Aleck met Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a Yankee businessman with an interest



The entry of the Haggis at the Tartan Day Dinner

in having his young daughter Mabel, deaf since childhood, educated. Hubbard's great fascination was with the telegraph, and especially on ways to improve it and make money in the bargain. The two made an odd couple, but a good team. Other partners would later join them.

household came up to see "what can be the matter with that baby?" They knew the experiment had succeeded. In his haste for absorbing everything there was to know about speech, he applied his shaky high school German and his scant knowledge of electricity to an article about a breakthrough machine invented by a Berlin professor that could electrically transmit vowel sounds. Or so he thought. In fact, he completely misunderstood the article - the professor had invented no such thing. But based on that happy misunderstanding, Aleck reasoned that electricity could perhaps be made to transmit speech. This big mistake would later set this 20 year old Scot on the back road to a major discovery. He then moved to London and began to make a name for himself as a teacher of the deaf.

After the untimely and devastating death of his two brothers from tuberculosis in the late 1860s, Aleck's parents insisted upon moving the rest of the family to Canada and a healthier climate. Young Bell wanted desperately to stay in London, but family ties

Between his summers in Brantford and his work in Boston, Aleck put together his expertise in teaching the deaf, and what he had been able to figure out about sending multiple tones along wires, and came up with the basic concept of the telephone. After six hard months of working late into the night with his assistant Thomas Watson, finally, on June 2nd 1875, Bell succeeded in transmitting a sound - as complex as human speech. At each twist and turn for the next eight months, circumstances seemed to conspire against Bell. He had to work on the telephone against advice from Hubbard, who was needling him to continue work on the potentially more lucrative multiple telegraph. But the main reason for the delay was that he

fell hopelessly in love with Mabel Hubbard, his student and his partner's daughter. After a few months of sheer Victorian melodrama complete with breathless letter, meddlesome parents, nights of worry, refusal and then, surrender, Mabel eventually accepted and they made plans to wed.

By January 1876, he was getting closer and closer to transmitting human speech. The time had come to secure the patents, or lose the race to rival devices.

When Bell learned that in order to have a British patent on his telephone it was necessary to file in London first, he asked the London-based George Brown of the *Toronto Globe*, with whom he had been discussing the foreign rights to the telephone, to do so. In exchange for the costs of taking out and defending these rights, plus a payment of \$50 a month for six months, Brown was offered a half interest in the foreign patent rights to the telephone. Brown paid the first \$50, then lost interest in the patent on the strength of expert British scientific opinion. It would be neither the first nor the last time that the *Globe* would get a big story wrong, but this was perhaps the most costly.

Worse, Brown didn't bother to inform Bell and his attorneys in America that he didn't even file the application - they were waiting to secure the London patent before going ahead with the American one. While Bell waited, his partner Hubbard directed his lawyers to file the telephone patent in any case, which they did early on February 14, 1876.

Later the very same day, Elisha Gray, backed by Western Union, appeared at the US Patent Office and filed a caveat for a similar device, though he had not yet built one. Who would get the patent? After two very anxious weeks passed, Bell was awarded quite possibly the most valuable patent ever to have been granted, on March 7, 1876, a few days after his 29th birthday. Three days later, he transmitted the first clearly intelligible sentence - "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you," and Bell heard Watson clearly ask, "Mr. Bell, do you understand what I say?"

However, what followed was a protracted fight to defend the patent. After trying to steal the device from Bell, Western Union, the great telegraph company, retained a team of lawyers to try to defeat the Bell patents. The case eventually collapsed in 1879, leaving Bell Telephone shareholders to hold title to a successful monopoly with fourteen years left to run. The Bell company would have to defend its patent in court over 600 times in the next 14 years - until the patent expired in 1893.

The diffusion of the telephone took place with virtually lightning speed across North America, and they were commercially available within two years of their first

manufacture in all major North American cities. Bell had the good sense to leave the business end of things to others. At almost the first opportunity, Bell sold his patents, however, retaining shares in the enterprise, but thereafter paid only passing attention to the management of the corporation that bore his name.

But his interest in inventing things never flagged. Four years after developing the telephone, he was able to transmit his favourite song, *Auld Lang Syne*, about 200 metres solely by using light waves. Here, Bell was ahead by almost a century - the commercial transmission of voice and data over light waves could not be realized until digitization and the development of fiber optics in the 1980s.

And the photophone was only the beginning. He invented the dictaphone, and improved Edison's phonograph to the point where it could be used commercially.

In medicine, he devised a metal detecting probe that saved countless lives, in war and peace.

When his little baby boy died in 1881 because he could not establish regular respiration, despite his overwhelming grief, Bell came up with yet another first - the 'vacuum jacket' which was also put to widespread use before the iron lung was perfected in the 1920s.

Working with a team of ambitious thinkers and dreamers, in the 1890s, Bell began aviation experiments twelve years before the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, and completed over 1,200 experiments over the next two decades. Bell's group developed the *Silver Dart*, which was destined to make the first airplane flight in Canada in January 1909, reaching 30 feet and 40 miles an hour.

We find Bell doing the most unlikely things after 1880 - co-founding the National Geographic Society and its magazine, for instance, or supporting Italian educator Maria Montessori's teaching methods, and establishing the first Montessori school in Canada, or designing a fast boat in wartime that would go over, instead of through, the water - a hydrofoil - that would reach speeds of 70 miles an hour. He was deeply involved in environmental concerns - somewhat remarkable for that time - and coined what is today a household term - 'greenhouse effect' - to describe climate changes as a result of pollution.

In the 1880s, Bell discovered something else that would change his family's life: Cape Breton Island. He came upon it by accident - literally. The Bells were shipwrecked near Newfoundland and made their way home via Cape Breton. They were so enamoured of this find that the Bell clan eventually built a large house near Baddeck, named it *Beinn Bhreagh*, Gaelic for *Beautiful Mountain*, and divided their time between

Baddeck and their American home in Washington, DC. Bell's favourite painting, a portrait of the Scottish poet Robert Burns, still hangs over the fireplace in Beinn Bhreagh's library. Bell was always rejuvenated by exercise and the fresh air of Nova Scotia, and loved to swim in the buoyant salt water, usually, I might say, with a cigar in his mouth.

Bell did visit Scotland one last time, returning to a hero's welcome clear across the country.

The day he died, August 2, 1922, every Bell and AT & T telephone in North America fell silent for one minute - a fitting tribute. Here was a man, born a Scot, buried in Canada, whose epitaph read, "died a citizen of the United States".

It is perhaps for his work on behalf of the hearing-impaired that Bell's name most deserves to be honoured. Throughout his life, Bell crusaded for the welfare and education of the deaf. The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf is now the world's leading body in this field.

For many years, the photograph of Alexander Graham Bell as the old, gray-haired, bearded, Santa-like figure has dominated our image of him. An equally telling image should remain in our collective memory: an inspired, black haired Scotsman of twenty-eight on the eve of marriage, vibrant and alive with new ideas, hard at work on his new device to help the hearing impaired. I think this is how he saw himself right to the end.

And that's the image I find most compelling - of a remarkable man who, by combining Scottish ingenuity, a solid Canadian base, and American enterprise was able to transform the lives of millions around the world.

As a postscript, for those of you with an interest in business history, Bell's father tried very hard to sell the Canadian patent rights to the telephone in 1879 to Canadian investors for \$100,000 - and got no takers. The American Bell company eventually bought those rights and established the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in 1880. The American Bell Company eventually became AT & T, of course, and since Bell Canada grew from the outset by raising capital in Canada, AT & T's ownership interest in Bell was progressively diluted. When AT & T finally disposed of its remaining interest in Bell Canada in 1975, it was down to less than 2%. With deregulation in 1992, AT & T and Bell Canada, partners for more than 100 years, became competitors.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken far too long, so let me express my appreciation for this great honour which you have bestowed upon me - by assuring you that I will do my best to live up to the high standards set by previous "Scots of the Year." ■

From our Readers

Scots Wha Hae

A short time ago I received with my quarterly B.C. magazine, one of your folders "Scots Wha Hae." Although not of Scottish background I was pleased with the folder and had photostats made so that I could pass them on to relatives and others, hoping they might join.

What I have been interested in finding out is -- what is the translation of "Scots Wha Hae"? None of my friends and relatives have been able to translate it for me. If you could help me, I would appreciate it.

J. Burn'ham Toft,
Calgary, Alberta

Editor:

Translated into Modern English this means "Scots who have." Putting this in the context of our folder it would read... "Scots who have a desire to nurture and preserve etc." We used the phrase as it comes from the first line of this famous poem by the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Scots Wha Hae

by Robert Burns

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led,
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victorie!

Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See the front o' battle lour;
See approach proud Edward's power -
Chains and slaverie!

Wha will be a traitor-knave?
Wha can fill a coward's grave?
Wha sae base as be a slave?
Let him turn and flee!

Wha for Scotland's king and law
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
Freeman stand, or freeman fa'
Let him follow me!

By oppression's woes and pains!
By your sons in servile chains!
We will drain our dearest veins,
But they shall be free!

Lay the proud usurpers low!
Tyrants fall in ev'ry foe!
Liberty's in ev'ry blow! -
Let us do - or die!

Orkney Islander

As a descendent of my great grandfather, James Sutherland, who sailed into Hudson's Bay on one of Franklin's expeditions, and who later settled in Upper Canada in 1832, I am delighted to support the Scottish Studies Foundation.

I am fortunate to have visited Orkney and the Island of Hoy where he was baptized.

In Canada he was a Great Lakes Captain and was involved in the MacKenzie Rebellion on the government side and was killed in the Desjardine Canal near Hamilton, Ontario where he is buried.

Mary G. Barnett,
Toronto, Ontario



The Old Man of Hoy, Orkney

Preservation of Heritage Important

Merely having Scottish ancestors does not assure a person of knowing Scottish history. When I moved to Hampton Roads, Virginia after my husband's death to be near my son, I began reading the history of Scotland hoping to pass on a pride in this heritage to my grandchildren.

The more I read, the more I discovered how little I knew. Both my mother and father had Scottish ancestors and I went from basic genealogical research into various histories -- then to clans and tartans, guide books and gazetteers and to William Anderson's *A-Z of the Scottish Nation*. The History Book Club helped me find good books -- most recently Thomas M. Devine's *The Scottish Nation* and Derek Wilson's *The King and the Gentlemen*.

As a person who worked for many years to preserve historical documents and history here in America and as a published poet and researcher of history I wondered what Canadians were doing. Our world is getting smaller in many ways as it becomes more inclusive. I am concerned that the number of scholars and preservationists continues to lessen as the population increases.

Ann White Ferris,
Hampton, Virginia

20th Century "Pioneers"

I am delighted to have been put in touch with the Scottish Studies Foundation as I believe it is extremely important for our Scots-Canadian heritage to be preserved.

I was born on the Island of Stroma, north of John o' Groats in Scotland. My father was a lighthouse keeper there, and he and my mother came to Canada with me when I was two years old.

Sadly, my mother died when I was in my teens in the 1930s but my father lived until he was in his 90s. For many years he was the superintendent of Dominion Bridge in Lachine near Montreal and had a staff of over 1000 employees. He also worked in Quebec City and Alberta -- in Cold Lake and in Edmonton. In Quebec he was involved in shipbuilding during the Second World War and in Alberta in the Air Force base at Cold Lake.

For a while we had a cottage on Lake Macdonald in the Laurentians and were very proud of the association that lake had with our first Prime Minister.

Looking back on it our family were, in a way, 20th century pioneers -- having been involved in building much of the infrastructure we now take for granted.

I wish you all the best in your efforts to raise money for the Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. Keep up the good work!

C. Farmer,
Montreal, Quebec

Scots Dogs

We were interested to hear of the Scottish Studies Foundation from the enclosure in *The Beaver*.

Your members may be interested to learn that the 4th issue of our newsletter *Beauty*

and the Beasts featured an article on Greyfriars Bobby as well as two extraordinary photographs, ca. 1895 from the Yerbury Collection in Edinburgh -- "A Scottish Eleven" and "Dogs of Loch Lomond."

As well, Landseer portraits of Queen Victoria's Skye terrier "Islay" and Sir Francis Chantrey's Dandy Dinmont terrier "Mustard" (a gift from Sir Walter Scott) were included.



Greyfriars Bobby

Mrs. Judith James
President, Canadian Museum of Animal Art
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