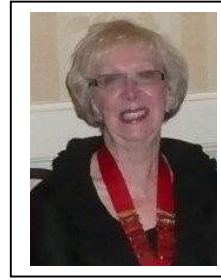


PRESIDENT'S BLOG

Greetings for St. Andrews day on 30th November.

*November chill blows loud wi' angry sough;
The short'ning winter day is near a close;*



To me November is a month full of remembrance:-

The fogs and rain, followed by coughs and bronchitis during my early years in Glasgow. Remembrance & Veterans Day ceremonies, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, which unites us all.

On the 5th the Atlanta Club celebrated the Centenary of the replica Burns Cottage {see the report in the 'News' section}.

American Thanksgiving at the end of the month is an opportunity to celebrate.

Those of us with Scottish blood look to St. Andrews Day on November 30th with pride.

We are stirred by Burns' patriotism, and the last two verses of 'The Cotter's Saturday Night' fill us with passion and, to a degree, longing.

*O Scotia! my dear, my native soil!
For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent,
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content!
And O! may Heaven their simple lives prevent
From luxury's contagion, weak and vile!
Then howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,
A virtuous populace may rise the while,
And stand a wall of fire around their much-lov'd isle.*

*O Thou! who pour'd the patriotic tide,
That stream'd thro' Wallace's undaunted heart,
Who dar'd to nobly stem tyrannic pride,
Or nobly die, the second glorious part:
(The patriot's God peculiarly thou art,
His friend, inspirer, guardian, and reward!)
O never, never Scotia's realm desert;
But still the patriot, and the patriot-bard
In bright succession raise , her ornament and guard!*

It is good to remember.

It is with a sad heart I have to report that Jock Smith's wife Donna passed away on Nov. 11th after a valiant battle with cancer. We all extend our sympathy and support to Jock as he too now faces his own fierce battle with myelomocytic leukemia. He is now home & welcomes calls.

I take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Ian Smith of Eyness Partners in Australia. Ian designed our website and maintains it in coordination with Ron Ballantyne, more on a volunteer basis than a business one, which makes this website a possibility for us.

Chris Ballantyne