



# The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

ESTABLISHED IN 1863

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## Reverend John Thomson

### From Wikipedia

**The Reverend John Thomson (1 September 1778 - 28 October 1840) was the minister of Duddingston Kirk near Edinburgh, Scotland and a distinguished amateur landscape painter.**

### Early life

The youngest of eight children, Thomson was born in Dailly, Ayrshire, the fourth son of the local parish minister. From an early age, he displayed an aptitude for drawing and painting and, inspired by the Ayrshire countryside, developed a love for landscape painting. In 1791 he enrolled at Glasgow University to study law and theology, and in 1793 he transferred to Edinburgh University to

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*Distant View of Edinburgh by John Thomson*

# A Message from Our President

## The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA  
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(415) 885-6644  
Editor: William Jagers  
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### Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments served after the meeting.

### Officers of the Society

John G. Allison, President  
James S. Beatty, First VP  
David McCrossan, Second VP  
Jacob Kyle, Treasurer  
Norma Dahnken, Secretary  
Roger Weed, Librarian  
Charles Syers DDS, Physician  
Elly Sturm, Chaplain  
Mary Gilbert, Bard  
Jack Cunningham, Piper  
Gerard S. Sample, Historian

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Bruce McMillan  
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William Cummings, Jr.  
Fiona Allan



St. Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco

Dear Members and Society  
Friends:

We had a pleasant Members' Dinner at our March meeting, during which we were entertained by Calum Lancaster from Scottish Development International, SDI. He enlightened us on Developing Scottish Technology, and then followed up by telling us about the heroics of the famous McCrae's Battalion from Edinburgh in World War I.



On Friday, April 1, 1<sup>st</sup> VP James Beatty and PP Gene McCracken visited the Marines' Memorial Hotel to get the details confirmed for this year's Banquet and Ball. To celebrate Scotland Week, SDI invited 300 for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and whiskey tasting at the residence of the British Consul General, Thursday, April 7.

Our St. Andrew's Society was well represented at the Caledonian Club's Tartan Ball on Saturday, April 9. It was a great party, with entertainment by Prince Charles Pipe Band and highland dancers, and a dance band as well.

John Muir Day is on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. Here's a bit of Scottish history for you: John Muir sailed on the same steamer from Greenock as Andrew Carnegie. They were so poor, they had to travel steerage, but didn't they come a long way? We will have the Society's tent pitched and manned at this prestigious event. We also will make a donation to the John Muir Foundation, to support their summer camp which benefits needy children.

Hope to see all your bright and shiny faces at Green Street.

Aye,

John Grant Allison

President

### John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration

#### John Muir's 173rd birthday and the 41st Anniversary of Earth Day

Saturday, April 16, 2011

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come rain or shine!

Admission and parking are FREE!

John Muir National Historic Site

Call the John Muir NHS for more information:

(925) 228-8860

#### St. Andrew's Society of SF & Related Calendar of Events for 2011

Membership meeting  
April 18th  
Patrick Alexander  
Celebrating The Royal  
Wedding

Membership meeting  
May 16th  
Calum Lancaster  
The Story of McCrae's Battalion

Membership meeting  
June 20th  
Scottish Engineers  
The Scottish Engineer: the  
greatest generation pre-  
serves the Jeremiah O'Brien  
for future generations

July 18th  
No Meeting this month

August 15th  
No Meeting this month

Membership meeting  
September 19th  
Clark Chelsey, Ph.D  
Scottish Philosophers and  
the Founding Fathers

Membership meeting  
October 17th  
To Be Confirmed

Membership meeting  
November 21st

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**By Iain MacDonald**

I was thinking the newsletter might want to have a “Scots Should Know” article highlighting something of Scottish history, folklore, etc. that is part of every Scott’s heritage. Here is an example of what I have in mind:

## **Scots Should Know**

In my years of attending meetings at the Firehouse I heard a lot about the famous Scottish battles such as Bannockburn, Culloden, Glen Coe, but never about what is considered to be the first decisive battle of Scottish history, Mons Graupius, considered “decisive” in that it put an end to Agricola’s plan to subdue the tribes in the country we now know as Scotland. It is believed to have been fought in the year AD 83 in the Northeast part of Scotland – the exact location is still a matter of debate. The Caledonian General was Galgacus.

At Agricola, the Roman Governor had sent his fleet ahead to panic the Caledonians and, with infantry enforcements reached the site and found it occupied by the enemy. The battle took place in a Northeastern corner of Scotland. The Caledonians had been avoiding conflict with the Romans, but were now forced to join battle with when Romans marched on the main granaries of the Caledonians which were apparently bursting with grain from the recent harvest. The Caledonians had no choice but to defend their granaries or starve over the next winter.

The interesting, if not amusing, thing about all of this is that the only account of the battle is that of Tacitus, the son-in-law of Agricola, who reports that 10,000 Caledonian soldiers were killed and only 360 Roman troops. This is reminiscent of the reports that we used to receive from the Vietnam War.

Following this battle, it was proclaimed that Agricola had finally subdued all the tribes completely, which was not strictly true because the Caledonians and their allies remained a threat. Agricola was recalled to Rome and the conquest was not ever pursued. One author has suggested that the claims of victory were fraudulent and therefore Agricola was never appointed to another post. It has been said that “Tacitus never let the truth get in the way of a good story.” He was obviously bias because Agricola was his father-in-law.

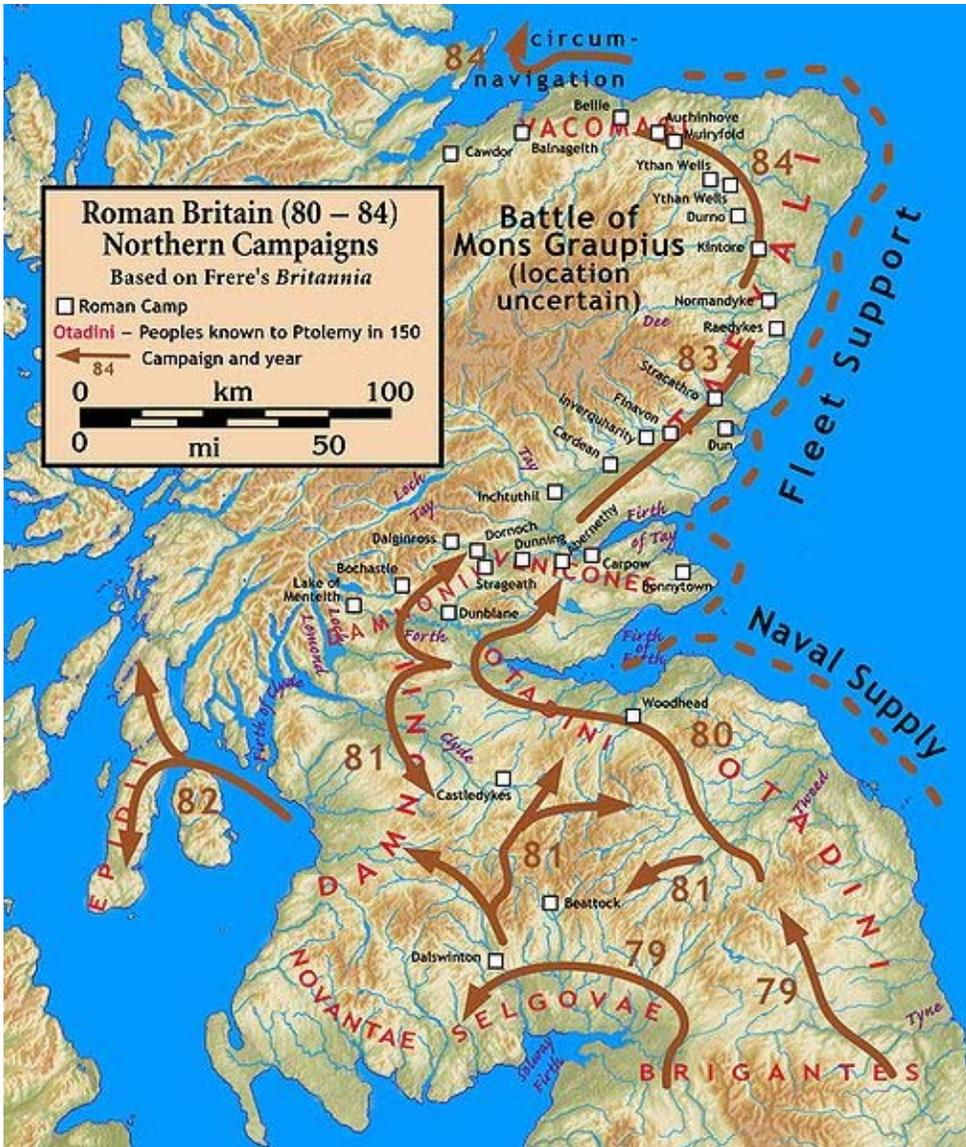
There has been considerable debate and analysis of where the battle exactly took place. Most of the sites span Perthshire to north of the River Dee, all in the Northeast of Scotland.

The Romans remained in Scotland until AD 213, influencing every

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part of Scotland while they were there. The Romans gave Scotland the name Caledonia. After the battle of Mons Graupius the Romans abandoned their territorial gains and returned to a line south of what became Hadrians' Wall. Roman commanders subsequently made various attempts to conquer territory north of this line, but by the close of the Roman occupation the Picts had emerged as a dominant force in Northern Scotland.





### scotsman.com News - Headlines

#### SCOTTISH INFANTRY REGIMENT IN FIRING LINE FOR MORE CUTS

Published Date:

05 April 2011

By David Maddox, Political  
correspondent

CONCERN is growing over the fate of two Scottish infantry battalions, after defence chiefs outlined the first round of cuts in army and navy personnel.

Over the next year, there will be 1,600 Royal Navy redundancies and 1,000 in the army, including 150 Gurkhas.

While infantry battalions were protected in yesterday's announcement, it was confirmed the next three tranches of redundancies will result in a cut in their numbers once withdrawal from Afghanistan has begun.

Clive Fairweather, an honorary colonel with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, told *The Scotsman* he had seen papers and been involved in discussions that suggest up to two battalions in the Royal Regiment of Scotland may go, once the withdrawal from Afghanistan begins in the next year.

The scale of the planned cuts sparked concerns that Britain would

*(Continued from page 1)*

continue his studies for the ministry. Whilst there, he met many people who were prominent in Edinburgh artistic circles, including Sir Walter Scott, and Alexander Nasmyth, the latter of whom who gave him art lessons.

After graduating, Thomson returned to Ayrshire and was licensed as a preacher of the Gospel, and subsequently ordained as minister of Dailly in 1800. He later moved to Duddingston near Edinburgh and became the most famous minister of the local Kirk, holding the post from 1808 to 1840. Whilst at Duddingston a very fine portrait of him was painted by Robert Scott Lauder.



#### Later career

Thomson had a studio at the foot of the manse garden on the shore of Duddingston Loch. Later, this was replaced by Duddingston Tower, a structure designed for Duddingston Curling Society in 1825 by William Playfair. The Society used the ground floor as their clubhouse, and Thomson used the upper floor of the tower, known today as "Thomson's Tower", as his studio.

The move to Duddingston allowed him to renew his acquaintances with men of influence in artistic circles and develop his art. Like his early teacher, Naysmith, Thomson believed in working outdoors, observing directly from nature. Influenced by the techniques of Rosa, Lorrain, Poussin, Raeburn and renowned English landscape artist Turner, he developed a broad Romantic style, and became a landscape artist with an established reputation. This allowed him to augment his small stipend and become quite wealthy through the sale of his paintings.

In addition to Scott, Naysmith and Raeburn, Thomson was friendly with writer and fellow amateur artist, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, and such was Thomsons reputation that in 1818 he entertained Turner at his studio, who is said to have remarked of the outlook over the Loch: "By God sir, I envy you that piece of water." Thomson went on to collaborate with Turner in producing engravings to illustrate Walter Scott's *Provincial Antiquities and Picturesque Scenery of Scotland*, published in 1826.

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Recognising his talent, Thomson's congregation nominated him to become a member of the Association of Artists in Edinburgh. He went on to receive honorary memberships of the Royal Institution for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts in Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy. Thomson died at Duddingston in 1840, having spent forty-one years in the ministry.

## Anecdotes

In addition to being known for his landscape paintings, Thomson is often credited with giving rise to the famous Lowland Scots adage "We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns", which as early as 1847 was described as "an expression of mutual good fellowship very frequently heard in Scotland." However, there is some evidence that it may predate John Thomson, and there is also a Scottish Gaelic version.

One version attributing the origin of the adage to Thomson is that his first wife died after they had five children, he then married a widow who already had five children, and this second marriage produced another four children. When his wife then made introductions to visitors and tried to explain which family the various children belonged to, Thomson would interrupt her with the statement that "They're a' Jock Thomson's bairns". [2]

To ensure privacy to paint in his studio, Thomson named the Tower "Edinburgh", in order that casual visitors to the Manse could be informed by his staff that he was unavailable, as he had gone to "Edinburgh". [3]

Duddingston Loch has a long historical connection with curling and skating and is the setting for the iconic painting, *The Skating Minister*, by Thomson's artistic acquaintance, Sir Henry Raeburn. The subject of the painting is not Thomson however, but the Reverend Robert Walker, minister of the Canongate Kirk.

"end up with a Danish-style defense force, not an army".

Speculation is mounting over the future of the Highlanders, currently based in Germany, and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who are stationed in Canterbury.

Particular concerns have been raised over the Highlanders, 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, who will shortly have to be re-based, as Britain seeks to withdraw its troops from Germany. They have recently been retrained from a heavy armour battalion to more flexible light infantry.

The Argylls are the most junior of the five battalions and survived previous cuts only because of the Northern Ireland troubles.

The five battalions of the Royal Regiment of Scotland have between 500 and 600 personnel each.

Mr Fairweather said: "It looks like six battalions across the whole army are under threat and one or two of those will come from the Royal Regiment for Scotland. Certainly, my contacts and papers I have seen suggest that this might be the case.

• [Analysis: PM seems determined to stick to his guns but Libya may change all that](#)

• [Cameron under pressure over cuts as RAF chief says it is at breaking point](#)

"Unfortunately, as the Highlanders and the Argyll and Sutherland battalions are the two most junior, they are most at threat.

More info:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/Scottish-infantry-regiment->

## Jock Tamson's Bairns

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns" (Northumbrian English and Lowland Scots for we're all John Thomson's children) is a popular saying in Scotland and the far north of England, and is known in other parts of the world. Nowadays, the phrase is often used to mean "we're all the same under the skin".

It has been suggested as a euphemism for God, so the saying could mean "we are all God's children". The expression "We're a' the bairns o' Adam", conveys exactly the same meaning, see Freedom Come-All-Ye a song written by Hamish Henderson. Scottish Gaelic also has the shorter saying "Clann MhicTamhais" (Thomson/MacTavish's children/clan). This is a common egalitarian sentiment in Scottish national identity, also evident in the popularity of the Robert Burns song A Man's A Man for A' That.

Although Jock Tamson's Bairns is used as a personification of the Scots nation, it is also used to refer to the human race in general.

It is also used when people think one of their number is showing off, or considers himself better than his peers: "Who does he think he is? We're all Jock Tamson's bairns."

One explanation of this phrase (as recorded in the His-

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Above:

*Elegantly framed poem "Jock Tamsons Bairns" presented to the St Andrews Society of San Francisco at the Caledonian Club of San Francisco at the 2011 Tartan Ball on April 9th. President John Allison, presented this to the ,Chairman of the Board John McCorkindale on behalf of the Society.)*

## ST. ANDREW'S HONOR ROLL (\$1000 to \$5000)

Thomas E. Kasinger

## ST. ANDREW'S SPONSOR (\$500 to \$1000)

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Fred S. Nagle

Maria and John R. Pitcairn

Rosie and Donald M. Sanford

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Marilyn Van Story

Lucille and G. Russell Wiley

## Patron Life Members

Life Members who have elected to make additional contributions for 2010.

Wade Hughan

John Lord

Gerry Sample

Don Sanford

Brian Tulloch

Jim Campbell

*(Calendar of Events for 2011  
Continued from page 3)*

British Consul General  
Scotland and the UK: an-  
nual review from the British  
Consul General

Membership meeting  
December 19th  
Erskine Trust-supporting  
Scotland's Heroes  
Erskine: Meeting Yester-  
day's and Today's Needs.



*(Jock Tamson's Bairns; Continued from page  
8)*

tory of Duddingston Kirk) is that the Reverend John Thomson (Jock Tamson, Thamson), minister of Duddingston Kirk, Edinburgh, from 1805 to 1840, called the members of his congregation "ma bairns" (Standard English: 'my children') and this resulted in folk saying "we're a' Jock Tamson's bairns" which gave a sense of belonging to a select group.

"Jock Tamson" (John Thom-son) would have also been a very common Scottish name, and would have been equivalent to such phrases as "John Doe", "John Smith", "Joe Bloggs" etc.

There's a Scottish Folk band named "Jock Tamson's Bairns".

# Rededication of Robert Louis Stevenson Monument



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rededication of the Robert Louis Stevenson Monument

May 7, 2011 • 1:00 p.m.  
RLS State Park



March 24, 2011

Dear Friends,

*"The scene...is on a high mountain. There are indeed many higher; there are many of a nobler outline. It is no place of pilgrimage for the summary globe-trotter; but to one who lives upon its sides, Mount Saint Helena soon becomes a center of interest."* - Robert Louis Stevenson, from "The Silverado Squatters"

A hundred years ago on **May 7, 1911**, the residents of the Napa Valley joined historians and naturalists to partake in the celebration of the place on Mount Saint Helena where Robert Louis Stevenson "squatted" back in 1880. Even by then, the Silverado Mining town had long disappeared as had the bunkhouse in which Stevenson and his new bride Fanny had their honeymoon. This group honored the great Scottish author and his book "The Silverado Squatters" by erecting a memorial at the site of that bunkhouse.

This year marks the **100th Anniversary** of the installation of the original memorial on this site which has since become incorporated into the Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. **The Napa Valley State Parks Association, in conjunction with the Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum, invites you** to join the Centennial Celebration of the memorial on **Saturday May 7**, by attending a **Rededication Ceremony** at the site of the historic monument in RLS State Park.

Like the original dedication ceremony, we will honor the memory of this great writer **whose** inspiring words elevated our understanding and appreciation of the natural beauty of the Napa Valley environment. We will also rededicate ourselves to a commitment to the principles of land preservation, conservancy and stewardship in order to sustain these values for the next one hundred years.

The **1:00 PM event** will feature words from notable locals and Stevenson scholars alike and will be **followed by an informal catered reception and guided hikes** to historic places mentioned in Stevenson's book. **Tickets** can be purchased for **\$25 per person**. Reservation **Cut off is April 29**. Transportation and parking information will be conveyed following your reservation. **Reservation form enclosed. reservations.**

So whether you want to climb to the monument (a 100' steep climb) or simply celebrate history and literature at the base of the trail, we invite you to help us honor Robert Louis Stevenson.

**We would be honored if you would join us in this celebration.**

Sincerely, The Rededication Committee

Dorothy Mackay-Collins, Co-Chair  
from RLS Silverado Museum  
**(707) 963-3757**

Ken Stanton, Co-Chair  
from Napa Valley State Parks Association

Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Dorothy.



Phone (707) 963-3757  
FAX (707) 963-0917

1490 Library Lane  
St. Helena, CA 94574

rlsnhs@netwiz.net  
www.stevensonmuseum.org

# Rededication of Robert Louis Stevenson Monument



## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REDEDICATION OF THE ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON MONUMENT

MAY 7, 2011 • 1:00 P.M.  
RSL STATE PARK



### REGISTRATION FORM

ORGANIZATION:	
CONTACT NAME :	
ADDRESS:	
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY DISABILITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION	

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

*Please make checks payable to:* Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum.

*Remit to:* 1490 Library Lane, St. Helena, CA 94571

	# Tickets	Price per	Sub-Total
<b>CEREMONY TICKETS:</b> <i>Includes light hors d'oeuvres &amp; beverages</i>		X \$25.00 per	= \$
<b>GUIDED HIKE WITH RLS SCHOLAR:</b> <i>Guided hike limited to first 25 people. Will last ~1hr &amp; cover strenuous terrain. Please dress accordingly</i>		X \$15.00 per	= \$
<b>Grant Total</b>			= \$

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- YES, I AM INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A CAR POOL CAPTAIN AND WILL HELP TRANSPORT OTHERS FROM THE CAR POOLING STATION TO THE CEREMONY SITE. PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!**

Phone (707) 963-3757  
FAX (707) 963-0917

1490 Library Lane  
St. Helena, CA 94574

rlsnhs@netwiz.net  
www.stevensonmuseum.org

# JOHN MUIR BIRTHDAY EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2011

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH**  
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**  
JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
4202 ALHAMBRA AVE, MARTINEZ, CA



[WWW.JOHNMUIRASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.JOHNMUIRASSOCIATION.ORG)  
Free parking at Alhambra High School and  
Martinez Adult School with shuttles available  
Call the John Muir National Historic Site for more  
information: (925) 228-8860

- More than 50 exhibitors—earth friendly information and hands-on activities for all ages. Rain or Shine!
- Live Music!
- Keynote Speaker Zara McDonald from Felidae Conservation Fund talks about wild cats!
- National Park Service-led programs and activities
- Recycled Fashion Show
- "John Muir" tells tales and shares his birthday cakes
- Silent Auctions
- Food and drinks available for purchase

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