

# DALKEITH REMEMBERED

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## KEEP PASSING IT ON!

Welcome back for the second issue of the Wisconsin in Scotland Alumni and Friends Newsletter. The response from our first newsletter was wonderful. We heard back from many of you; some who had received the newsletter in our original e-mail, and some who had it forwarded to them by a friend.

In preparation for our 25th reunion, we are working hard to update our database with all 3,000+ alumni and friends. Unfortunately, because our program predates the widespread use of e-mail, and most alumni are now living at different addresses than they did during their time in college, we are faced with a lack of contact information for many of our alumni. It is our goal to establish an extensive and accurate alumni database and, in doing so, ensure that all alumni and friends get an invite to the big reunion.

Please help us by passing this newsletter on to any WIS alumni that you are still in contact with. We know many of you have already done this and for that we are very appreciative; keep passing it on!

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

As alumni and friends of the program, we would like to hear your stories about your time at Dalkeith House and how Scotland changed your life. What did you do? Where did you travel? How are you different today because of your experiences abroad?

We'd love to hear from everyone who has been affected by the program; from students to faculty (and their children/spouses) to resident directors.

If you are willing to share your experiences, please e-mail Kelsey McLean at [kelsey.mclean@uwrp.edu](mailto:kelsey.mclean@uwrp.edu) so that your story can be included in future publications of the Dalkeith Remembered Newsletter.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE WIS OFFICE:

- **Brent Greene:** WIS Program Director / Director of International Education Programs at UWRF
- **Sonja Johnson:** WIS Program Associate
- **Kelsey McLean:** WIS Program Coordinator
- **Patty Watters:** Resident Director of Operations at Dalkeith House

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## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

[HTTP://WWW.UWRP.EDU/WIS](http://www.uwrp.edu/wis)

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

WISCONSIN IN SCOTLAND—  
OUR SECOND HOME

“I REMEMBER WILLIE” BY MICHAEL PADGETT

*A trek into the Wisconsin in Scotland archives...please enjoy excerpts from a remembrance written in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of WIS' operation by Michael Padgett. Michael Padgett was the first Resident Director of the Program and his reflections highlight not only the immense difficulties he faced in getting WIS operational, but also the rewarding relationship that he built with caretaker, Willie Grainger, in the process.*

*For those of you who were lucky enough to have known Willie, I hope Michael's memories help you reflect on your own fond memories of Willie and his impact on your life.*

The preparation for the first group of students and faculty is forever engraved in my memory. When I arrived in June, I found the house completely empty of furniture and under construction by the Buccleuch's. . . . I could not even move into the Palace due to construction and was asked to sleep on a mattress on the floor of a “Computer Building” on the Palace grounds. I lived this way for over a month until the water could be connected in the main house. Because I had no control over the construction I focused my attention on other essential issues. Eighty single beds, ten double beds, dozens of wardrobes, chests of drawers, classroom furniture, kitchen equipment, lamps, chairs, etc., etc., etc. The lists of needed items continued to grow as I walked about the empty house trying to determine what we would need for basic operations. I didn't know where to go to find the necessary items, I did not have a car, and didn't know anyone in the area.

Enter, Willie Grainger!

. . .

An early example of “Willie to the rescue” follows. After I'd spent several days of taking buses and walking throughout Edinburgh to secure bids for needed items, it started to dawn on

me that the advanced funding, provided by the consortium, would not begin to purchase all that we needed if we purchased new items. My natural love of second hand shops and antiques led me to ask Willie about the availability of such goods around Dalkeith. Wouldn't you know Willie had once operated his own second-hand shop in Dalkeith and knew many of the dealers in the area. He provided me with a myriad of options and offered to take me around to several locations in his car. By that time the luxury of riding in a car was something I appreciated more than one might imagine.

“HIS OUTWARD  
PRESENCE IS  
TYPICALLY SCOT, A  
BIT MACHO AND FULL  
OF BRAVADO.  
HOWEVER, AS MANY  
OF YOU KNOW, HIS  
TRUE GENTLE NATURE  
AND WARM  
PERSONALITY BREAK  
THROUGH AS HE  
STARTS TO TELL ANY  
ONE OF HIS MANY  
STORIES.”

One afternoon Willie suggested we travel to Samuel Burns Second hand store in Preston Pans (whose current proprietor was John Burns). Much of what John had simply sat outside and as we walked around the yard and wandered through the buildings I saw a host of items which would serve us well. The problem was, nothing had a price tag on it and I feared the worst. Willie said we needed to talk with the owner to find out prices. He suggested I not speak directly to John Burns since he would recognize my accent as American and not bargain as reasonably as he would with a Scot. Willie said, “Leave the talking to me.” I

positioned myself out of the way and let Willie start the negotiations. Willie started by talking about everything except the wardrobes; the first item on my list. Because I'd spent the previous few days looking at new wardrobes I knew anything below sixty or seventy pounds would be a savings. Ever so gradually (and astutely I might add), Willie came to the point, “By the way John, what do you want for this old wardrobe?” Burns replied “A fiver”. Now, remembering I was relatively new in the country my understanding of dialogue between two Scots was less than perfect. I wasn't sure what was being said, but I could not really believe I had heard five pounds. Willie pointed to another and said “What about that ‘un’.” John replied “A fiver.” I concluded that my hearing had been right and my heart skipped a beat with excitement when I learned I could purchase wardrobes for only five pounds each. Willie glanced in my direction for some indication that I felt the price was acceptable. I nodded yes and we proceeded around the yard looking at several others. After we agreed to purchase six or seven wardrobes John finally let his curiosity show; “What are you two up to with all these wardrobes?” I broke out in a smile and when Willie smiled we told him about the Wisconsin project.

This was my first of many experiences with Willie which quickly made me realize the important role he would play in our program. He saved the West Central Wisconsin Consortium thousands of dollars through his assistance. His understanding of the house and its history as well as his familiarity with Dalkeith provided me with a resident resource I could not have imagined. I had, in fact, met Willie back in February 1986 when I made my first visit to look at Dalkeith. I should have recognized his value then, since most of the questions I asked the agent were answered by Willie who happened to be walking with us. Later on I learned that few people have the privilege of walking through Dalkeith Palace without the close supervision of Mr. Willie

(Continued) Grainger. Willie had grown up in Bonneyrigg, a neighboring town to Dalkeith and had lived in the area all his life. His outward presence is typically Scot, a bit macho and full of bravado. However, as many of you know, his true gentle nature and warm personality break through as he starts to tell any one of his many stories. His experiences are broad and his navy years provided him with a considerable amount of travel during the war. His careers as a miner, lorry driver, second hand store owner, security officer, and now observer of Wisconsin college students provide rich resources for his stories. He would often come and visit me as I worked late into the evening in the office. Working in the office at night became an important routine. It was hard to find time for the necessary paperwork while businesses were open, but more to my advantage was the fact that I could be in contact with the University since clocks were six hours behind Scottish time. Willie made his rounds nightly through the house to check for any problems and to see that all was secure. We would share a cup of late night tea; Willie having given up "the drink" several years prior; and he would generally use the "wee" hours to tell me one of his tales. I particularly remember his story of meeting Tarzan in Hollywood during the war. We talked of many things during those early months and I could almost set my watch by the sound of him whistling down the hall. He would walk in, sit down and I knew it was about time for me to sit back and try to relax. As I think about those visits now, a warm feeling comes over me. Those many hours we sat and talked provided the basis for our friendship. Willie was the main outlet for the stress and pressure I was feeling in trying desperately to put everything together by September. He would make me laugh and force me to stop and listen. Willie's delightful presence is very difficult to ignore. I personally benefitted from the deep and complex friendships Willie and I developed over the

years.

Willie and I bonded with the common goal of getting the house ready for the Wisconsin students.

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One afternoon Willie discovered a notice in the paper of a café being sold in North Berwick. We jumped into the car and went for a look. The place provided me with a gold mine of small



appliances, dishes, pans, silverware and other much needed kitchen items. I even purchased all their tables and chairs. By this time I was becoming well versed in the purchase of used items and could bargain regardless of my American accent. The owner tried to sell me the booths, as well as the tables, but since they were bolted down and seemed to require a great deal of work, I said "no." Willie grabbed my arm and suggested we could use these. I said "Where?" Certainly not in the dining room or anywhere else I could think of at the time. He didn't know where, but the price was so good we should not pass up such a deal. Finally, I agreed and we returned the next day with a rented lorry to haul our goods away. Eventually the booths found their way into a room off the back of the servery. The room was appropriately named "Willie's Café" and became one of the most frequently used rooms in the house.

*In memory of Willie*

*Special thanks to Michael and Deborah Padgett for graciously allowing us to use their writings for our newsletter.*

*Also for the contribution of Deborah's painting of Willie Grainger (left)*

## 25 YEAR REUNION...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Another reminder to save the date...

Wisconsin in Scotland 25 year Reunion:

**Saturday, August 13, 2011**

In River Falls, Wisconsin

For those interested in helping with reunion planning, become part of the committee! Please join us at one of our initial planning meetings on either:

*Wednesday, April 7th, 7:00-8:00 p.m. ~ OR ~ Thursday, April 8th, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
102 Hagestad Hall, UW-River Falls campus*

Unable to make a meeting but still want a say in the reunion? E-mail your suggestions to [kelsey.mclean@uwrf.edu](mailto:kelsey.mclean@uwrf.edu)

WISCONSIN IN  
SCOTLAND ALUMNI AND  
FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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## Follow the Adventures of Wisconsin in Scotland

Stay up to date with the adventures of current Wisconsin in Scotland participants by following the Wisconsin in Scotland blog at:

<http://wiscotland.wordpress.com/>



Fall 2009 students enjoy a knitting night, read more on the WIS blog!

Many things about the Wisconsin in Scotland program have changed through the years. Gone are the long lines at the pay phones; staying in contact with friends and family back home is easier than ever with the internet, Skype and program-issued mobile phones for each student. Gone is the local watering hole, Sam's (though it still welcomes Wisconsin students on its sign), and gone are many of the players that had become such cornerstones of the program. However, despite all these changes, one thing remains the same and that is the profound effect that this experience has on every new group of students. Follow along as they experience life at Dalkeith House and travel throughout Scotland and Europe...

