

## THE ATLANTA BURNS CLUB, BURNS COTTAGE REPLICA CENTENNIAL REDEDICATION

The Year 2010 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the replica, in Atlanta, of the Cottage in which Robert Burns was born in 1757.

To mark that centenary the Burns Club of Atlanta struck a planning committee early in the year whose efforts resulted in the ceremonies on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the regular Club meeting, the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation, David Baird and James Shields, were the featured speakers. David (*right*) introduced himself by outlining his involvement in the Burns movement culminating in his election as President of the World Federation in Aberdeen in September. He then related how Burns' father travelled from the Mearns, near Aberdeen, by way of Edinburgh, eventually to Alloway, where, he built the "Auld Clay Biggin" with his own hands, the original of the much more substantial building they were then in. Jim Shields on the other hand told of the attempt by suffragettes to blow up the Burns Cottage in 1914 to draw attention to their cause



A rededication of the Atlanta cottage corner stone was celebrated on the fifth November, 100 years to the day from the original dedication in 1910. The rededication ceremony started at around 4.00pm outside

the cottage following an ancient Masonic ceremony, with assistance from B. Palmer Mills and a full retinue of Georgia State Masons. A Bronze plaque celebrating the event has been mounted above the original corner stone (*left*) Following the rededication there was a reception with canapés in the cottage, attended by about 80 members & guests, followed by speeches from invited guests; Annabel Malin the British Consul General in Atlanta,



Professors Ross Roy & Patrick Scott from the University of South Carolina. Richard Graham, Club Past President & Chair of the organizing committee, read a Proclamation by the



Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, commending the BCOA on over 100 years of existence and service. A beautiful scroll from RBWF was presented by the World Federation President David Baird and V.P. Jim Shields presented a certificate of congratulations from the Edinburgh & District Burns Clubs Association to Dr Morgan the Atlanta Club President (*shown right*).

The Atlanta Club records show that the original Cottage cornerstone contains a time capsule and accordingly, a 2010 time capsule was made and filled, It is set in a marble bench, or replica Scottish 'Kist', inside the Cottage, to preserve the numerous items provided by the event's attendees and well wishers, with some Burns Club of Atlanta artifacts. It is sealed for the next 100 years.

On the Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November David & Jim were Honoured Guests at the First Ladies Burns Luncheon.

In a talk to the ladies David again spoke about William Burness and the Auld Clay Biggin & while Jim was singing 'My Love is Like A Red Red Rose' David presented each of the ladies with a rose David and Jim were guests of the Atlanta Club from November 2<sup>nd</sup>. till the 8<sup>th</sup> and between engagements they visited several tourist highlights in Atlanta.



A view of the attendees with Prof Ross Roy & British Consul Anabelle Malin in the foreground.



Prof. Patrick Scott & Club member Frank Shaw



Richard Graham reading The Governors Proclamation