



# The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Summer, 2004

## From the President

Fellow lads of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg...

Here is the second edition of the revised "Spectator". I hope you enjoy reading it and having it revived as much as I. I personally cannot say enough about the great job done by Marshall Thomas in bringing this about. The whole society should give him a hearty thank you. *"Great job, Marshall."*

In an effort to save the society funds, I have asked Marshall to email the Spectator to all those members who have email capability. That leaves only a third of the mailing to be done via the post office and also eliminating the cost of printing. This measure will save the Society just short of \$100.00 with each issue. Marshall is planning on four issues a year, so that will cut our cost by \$400.00 annually. The Society has not had an increase in dues and none is planned, but like everyone else costs have gone up, so we need to find ways to do our job as a Board better and wiser. I hope all who have given us their email addresses will understand and will print this off. The Spectator is the #1 tool we have to keep you, the St. Andrew's members, informed on what the Society is doing. Therefore, it is extremely important that all members let the Board know when you change your email address, mailing address or your telephone number.

This Fall, St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg will hold three great events that all of the Society members should make a real effort to attend. First, on



Saturday, September 25 we will sponsor a Society Social Tent at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival. This is not going to be one of those rinky dink little clan tents, but a 20 x 20. There will be food, entertainment (Rita Hamilton has agreed to play the Celtic harp and we hope to have a piper), beer, soft drinks and some fine single malts. A bottle of McClellan will be given away to some lucky Society member, as everyone who attends will have a chance to win. This is a great opportunity for the Society to meet new people and bring in new members. There will be tables to display items, so bring memorabilia, scrapbooks of trips to Scotland, books, genealogy material, maps, etc. – the more there is on display the better. The Festival this year will be held at Jamestown Beach Campgrounds across from Jamestown Settlement and will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 25. Plan to be there.

In October the Society will hold its annual Members Night. Elections for Board members will be held then. Details of time and place will be forthcoming soon, so as soon as that is mailed out put it on your calendar.

Next, Jack Kane, Jim Anthony and John Sim are working on a Fall Kirkin' to be held at Bruton Parish Church followed by a piped procession down Duke of Gloucester Street and lunch at King's Arms Tavern. The date and time will be settled soon and a mailing and registration will be mailed out in mid September. Last year's Kirkin' was really special and Jim Anthony, along with his Barbershop Quartet, provided really great entertainment during lunch at the Tavern. I personally hope Jim will oblige us with his fine voice again this year. I would like to say that I would try to twist his arm, but since he has had surgery on his shoulder I don't think he would appreciate any arm twisting.

I hope all are having a safe and healthy summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Scottish Festival and at the Kirkin' this Fall.

Yours Aye,  
Wil Phillips

### **From the Editor**

The editor wishes to extend his personal thanks to Jim White for his invaluable assistance in getting the Spectator up and running. Jim provided

his expertise and practical experience in publishing a newsletter. Thanks are also due to Wil Phillips and to all SAS Board members for their support and assistance, as well as Byron Adams, Doug McLean, and numerous others. I am very lucky to have met such a fine group of people and I hope to see you all again at the Scottish Festival.

### **Event: Quarterly Luncheon at the Pints and Pipes Pub of July 19, 2004**

Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg was again able to fill the Pints and Pipes Pub for the quarterly luncheon of July 19. Although there was no formal agenda, it was an occasion for good friends to meet together in convivial surroundings. The Pints and Pipes is the ideal site for an SAS meeting, and the proprietor, SAS member Jeff Mitchell and his staff provided soup, sandwiches, and life-sustaining brew to fuel the event. Below are some photos taken during the gathering. All photos taken can be found in the on-line photo gallery at <http://www.mstomas.com/spectator.htm>

A warm refuge for wandering Scots







Why aren't you drinking, lads?



Time for another beer!





... and a fine meal was had by all!



What? I thought a haggis was a real animal!

## **Upcoming Event: The Scottish Festival**

September 25 – The Scottish Festival! Don't miss this one! Bring the whole family to this fun and festive heritage fair. Howard Topp is organizing this important event for SAS, and we need to give him as much help as possible to ensure it is a rousing success. If you can help, please call Howard at 565-2738 or e-mail him at [topp072972@cox.net](mailto:topp072972@cox.net). The new site will be at the Jamestown Beach Campground. Please see the website at <http://www.wsfonline.org> for more information on this outstanding event. Volunteers can choose from the following activities:

### **Volunteer Support (VP – Business Area of Responsibility)**

- Corporate Sponsorship solicitation
- Publicity/Print/radio/TV Media coordination
- Radio/ Print advertising coordination
- Program preparation
- Program ad sales
- Main Gate Ticket Sales staffing
- Balmoral Society support (reception/hospitality tent)
- Information tent staffing
- Saturday night Ceilidh support (Tickets, food and beverage sales, etc.)

### **Volunteer Support (VP - Production/Operations Area of Responsibility)**

- A Coordinator for Volunteer Support
- Field preparation, set-up, and disassembly
- Distribute straw
- Place trash containers around field and line with bags
- Collect trash during day
- Rope off field and parking lot
- Set up 20X20 tents
- Set up 15X15 tents
- Set up 10 X 10 Clan tents
- Unload storage shed and load truck
- Distribution/redistribution of chairs, tables around the field
- Pick-up/return of rented equipment to local firms (tents, radios, etc)
- Placement of directional signs, both external and internal to the field
- Gate guards/Security
- Field Marshal support (Ceremonies field guides, marshals, etc)
- Masters of Ceremonies at entertainment tents
- Family tent / and children's games workers
- Movement of clans/vendors/attendees' impedimenta to the field
- Assist folks in from parking lot and handicapped area
- Pick up trash and insert new trash bags
- Roll up tents and load truck
- Take down fencing and field stakes. Load on truck.

Stack up tables and chairs under Pub Tent and other sites

**Support for Competitions and other Williamsburg Scottish Festival activities**

Piping and Drumming Competition  
 Dancing Competition  
 Athletics Competition  
 Trophies, medals  
 Treasurer support  
 Clan Coordinator support

The above list covers activities before, during, and following the festival, allowing you to volunteer for that which is most convenient for you and your own busy schedule. You would receive free admission to the event as a measure of our appreciation to you for contributing your time. During the festival itself, you would be expected to work a two-hour shift in some capacity and then have the rest of the time to enjoy the festival. If it is more convenient, we need “set-up” workers on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday prior to the festival and you would receive a pass for such work, as well. This tends to be “physical” labor, as you will note from the list. Another, less “strenuous” contribution could be in soliciting local firms and businesses to become corporate sponsors or advertise in the festival program. The latter could be as inexpensive as a \$25 “business card” ad and would be included in the program .... 4,000 copies of which will be given free to attendees. Please contact me by e-mail or phone if you would like to assist or talk about our volunteer service needs. The selfless contributions of dozens of people like you will make possible the continuation of our celebration of Scottish and Celtic heritage and culture.

Yours aye, Howard S. Topp, Clan Sutherland President, WSF&CC 1 (866) 445-2738

**Rob Roy**

The June 2004 issue of *The Scottish Banner* has an interesting article on the legendary Scottish hero Rob Roy, entitled: *Rob Roy – Hero or Villain?* The article brings out some negative aspects of Rob Roy's history that do not conform to the popular myth, and is based on the recent book by Professor David Stevenson of St. Andrew's University, *Rob Roy: The Man and the Myth*. Although he may have been "a bit of a rogue," Rob Roy's story captures the popular imagination, and the 1995 Hollywood epic on him was

well worth seeing (*Rob Roy*, MGM, starring Liam Neeson). Although the events in the film are largely imaginary, I very much enjoyed it. It had one of the most memorable and hateful bad guy characters ever portrayed on film, as well as some spectacular but highly realistic sword fight sequences. If you haven't seen this film yet, I recommend it – even if it's only to see such an awesome villain! MST.

### **The Knights Templar in Scotland – A Spiritual Quest**

Jim and Joyce White recently visited Scotland. Following is Joyce's account of their fascinating journey into the past.

#### THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN SCOTLAND

A recent trip to Scotland proved to be a journey of discovery. We had three goals: (1) to investigate the Templar presence that supposedly came to the Western Highlands in the 14th century following the Templar expulsion from France; (2) to study Rosslyn Chapel; and (3) to investigate the little known village of Temple, located seven miles south of Rosslyn Chapel on land given to the Templars by David I in 1128.

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS:** We began our graveyard search at Kilmartin, generally known as the Templar center for this area. It was here that we first noticed that the ancient gravestones are flat or table stones with faded carvings of plain swords or skull-and-crossbones, while the more recent 17th century stones stand upright and have clearer markings. Easily readable dates in the 1600's place them in the early Freemason era. The grave markings that indicate a Templar or Freemason burial include skull-and-crossbones, the Templar cross, a plain sword, a floriated cross and sword, galleys, and a square and compass.

Also at Kilmartin is a collection of carved slabs of the Western Highland School of Carving, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. Historians have been puzzled as to why this art form is so localized to the Isles and Argyll. Surely it is reasonable to link it with the arrival of the Templars in the 14th century and their skills in stone carving. The Templar presence, however, is still not acknowledged by the locals. A bookstore owner in Lochgilphead told us that the business about the Templars having been in that area is all a hoax.



That statement spurred us on as we drove south to Knapdale and Kintyre, seeking secluded sites that offered possibilities. The results were astounding. We found clear markings on carved slabs at Killberry, and grave markings at Kilmory, Saddell Abbey (a Cistercian abbey), Skipness Castle graveyard, and Killean. Saddell Abbey, founded by Somerled, King of the Isles, is a place of indescribable beauty--ancient ruins and graves surrounded by rhododendron trees overlooking a bubbling brook in the glen below. Driving back north, we explored an amazing collection of ancient Templar stones and Freemason stones at Ardchattan Priory near Oban.

Based on what we found and photographed, there is an undeniable record in stone of an early and widespread Templar presence in the Western Highlands.

While in Knapdale, we departed briefly from our gravestone quest to seek out Castle Sween, a 12th-century castle ruin. Believed to have Templar connections, this massive fortress sits on a promontory on the western side of Loch Sween. Accessible only through a trailer park, once found, it conjures images of an age long past.

ROSSLYN CHAPEL: All who visit Rosslyn Chapel experience it as a marvel--an effort to lead the hearts and souls of all religious people toward spiritual fulfilment. The grave of Sir William Sinclair with its floriated cross and sword bears the inscription:

WILLIAM DE ST. CLAIR  
KNIGHT TEMPLAR.

TEMPLE: We became curious about the village of Temple, also known as Balentradoch, because we had not been able to find much written about it before our trip. With no signs of any sort that this was a place of historical interest, we wondered at first why we had bothered to go there. The current village is made up of one street of small Scottish houses on either side of a parish church. Before giving up, however, we noticed a turn-off that looked promising. There we found the well-preserved ruins of an ancient church and graveyard adjacent to a 16th century manse undergoing restoration. We knew we had found something special when we read the historical information displayed

inside the church ruins:

"It was in the year of 1128 that David I by Royal Decree granted the 'Chapelry and Manor' of Balantradach (ancient spelling) to the 'Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ' better known as the 'Knight Templars.' History shows that this charter gave the Templars their first and chief Preceptory in Scotland. In this sheltered beautiful vale, worship, prayer, study of God's word and preparation for crusades to the Holy Land were to be conducted. On visiting the site there is an acute awareness of its history and holiness. It is, as we discover, one of these strange places where the 'Veil' between Heaven and Earth is thin. Given time to quietly contemplate the surrounds, you can almost enter its spirituality."

Below the old manse lie the foundations of a 13th century building, which was part of the claustral buildings of the preceptory. The current owner, Crispin Phillips, has recently funded underground scientific studies by the University of Glasgow, which have revealed skeletons in armor far below the basement level. Although Mr. Phillips admits no interest in the Knights Templar, he showed us an ancient Templar shard found during recent excavations.

We also learned of an original stone gate, which was the gate to the Templar barracks. With nothing more than a picture and a copy of an 18th century hand-drawn map we found at Gorebridge Library, we set off to find this ancient relic. Thanks to Jim's sense of direction, we located the gate standing alone in a pasture facing the harbor of Edinburgh in the distance.

The highlight of our trip was a 2-hour visit with John Ritchie, Scottish Commander of the Priory of Balenradoch and Media Officer for the Militi Templi Scotia of the Scottish Knights Templar. A journalist in Edinburgh, he proved to be an incredible source of information on the Knights Templar then and now. He patiently answered question after question, and shared his belief that the purpose of the order is and always has been a spiritual quest.

Jim and Joyce White  
May-June, 2004

Campbell Castle, Inverary, West Highlands. Jim White photo.



Old stone gate – entrance to Templar barracks. Jim White photo.







Piper. Jim White photo.

Skipness Castle. Jim White photo.



## SABA

Bob Maccubbin, president of the Saint Andrew's Benevolent Association, reminds all members to please consider donations to the SABA. SABA needs more support if it is to succeed in its charitable mission of providing scholarships to students who wish to study in Scotland, and to help any SAS and SABA widows who are in severe financial need. We have several deserving students and they need your help.

The form is reproduced below:

### SABA Donations Form

Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Remit to: SABA / PO Box 2519 / Williamsburg, Va. 23187

Donations of any amount, less cost of any services accepted, are **tax deductible**. (An example of "services accepted" would be the cost of a ticket to a luncheon if you're a Highlander donating \$50 to \$99.)

#### **Designations and Benefits of SABA Donations above \$49**

##### *Highlander: \$50-99*

Recognition – one complimentary ticket to a St. Andrews Society Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$12.50)

##### *Council of Robert the Bruce: \$100-249*

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$25) and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*, courtesy of the proprietor

***Court of Jamie VI: \$250-499***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a St. Andrew’s Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$25), one complimentary ticket to Burns’ Night (value ca. \$37.50), and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

***Sodgers of Sir William Wallace: \$500-999***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a St. Andrew’s Quarterly Luncheon, two complementary tickets to Burns’ Night (value ca. \$75), and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

***Bairns of Robbie Burns: \$1,000 or more***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a Quarterly Luncheon, two complementary tickets to Burns’ Night, & a \$150 dinner coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

***!!!Thank you for your generosity!!!***

**Ancestors**

All members of St. Andrew’s Society are invited to submit old photos of their ancestors or historical photos of Scotland that may be of interest to the Society, for publication in this newsletter. Please include a few lines of text describing the photos. You may either scan the photos and send them to me in digital format as an attachment to an e-mail (.jpg is preferred) or send the actual photos to me in the mail, and I’ll promise to return them to you. My e-mail: [andrion2@earthlink.net](mailto:andrion2@earthlink.net). My address: Marshall S Thomas, 4929 Westmoreland Drive, Williamsburg VA 23188.

This issue we feature Byron Adams’ ancestors. Byron’s first ancestor to arrive in the U.S. was Alexander Adams, who left Scotland as a young man for Ballygan, near Ballymonmey, Northern Ireland. At age 40, in 1830, he left Ireland with his family for Bath, New York.

The photo below is of Daniel Adams, Alexander’s second son, and his wife Mary. The following article is from Family Histories – the Heritage of Bath, N.Y., 1793-1993.





## ADAMS

**A**lexander Adams (1791-1881) was the first Adams to come to this country and settle in Bath around 1830. The family is currently researching roots in Northern Ireland, Antrim County, to determine where Alexander was born and where his forebears originated. Alexander was a Scot as were so many of the people who lived in Northern Ireland. We can only speculate as to why he chose Bath to settle in, but he may have seen circulars advertising the area when settlers were solicited to develop this part of Steuben County. His wife Mary (1792-1875) was also a Scot and they had seven children: Simon, Daniel, John, Nancy, Rachel, Mary, and Matilda. He was about forty years of age when he emigrated with Mary and his six younger children.

Simon, the first born, died as a child. Daniel (1810-1896), Alexander's second son, remained in Ireland until about 1832 and then decided he would come to Bath to visit his father and determine if he would bring his family to Bath. Daniel decided that this

new country appealed to him very much, so he returned to Ireland to bring back his wife, Mary Ann Chestnutt Adams (1833-1892) and his little son John. Daniel and Mary had six children: John D., Mary, Alexander, Isaac, Elizabeth, and Rachel. Both Daniel and his father, Alexander, were successful farmers. John (1833-1917), Daniel's eldest son, was a teacher in the Bath area and he married Viorna Niles, also a teacher. They had three children: Jennie, John A., and Mabel R., all of whom are said to have been teachers. John was a graduate of Haverling Academy in 1885 and after ten years of teaching began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1897. He served in several positions in Bath. He was the Sheriff's Clerk, Justice of the Peace, and Police Justice. In 1904 he entered the U.S. Secret Service and settled in Utica, N.Y. Jennie married Henry J. Hallenbeck of Hammondsport and Mabel married late in life.

Mary, the second child of Daniel, married Frank E. Gillson of Bath. During the Civil War, Alexander, (third child) and his father, Daniel, enlisted in Captain Stocum's Battery E 1st New York Light Artillery in 1861. They fought side by side at the Battle of Williamsburg. Alexander was killed and was buried by his father where he fell. After the war, Alexander was reinterred in the Federal Cemetery in Yorktown, Va. Daniel served until July 17, 1862, when he was discharged at the age of 52. Isaac, Daniel's fourth child, also served in the Civil War in the 189th New York Volunteers. Isaac married Susan A. Townsend (1846-1898) and had two children: Byron A. (1875-1958) and Ella (1868-1960). Isaac was a farmer and later became a grocer in Bath, operating a store for many years with his son, Byron A. Susan's brother, Luther Townsend, was with the Twenty-second New York Cavalry, enlisting in Prattsburgh. He died as a prisoner of war in Andersonville. Isaac was active in the G.A.R. and served as commander of Custer's Post. He was also a member of Steuben Lodge No.





The grocery store on Liberty Street operated by Isaac and his son Byron A. Adams.  
From the collection of Robert Adams

112, Free & Accepted Masons (F.&A.M.).

Elizabeth, (Daniel's fifth child), married Lewis P. Brundage; and Rachel, the youngest, married Arnold Shults. As stated, Isaac's son was Byron A. Adams, who married Florence Sherman of Pine City, N.Y. Byron ran a grocery business on Liberty Street with his father, Isaac.

## Postcards from Scotland

SAS member Don Darymple has collected some beautiful postcards of Scotland. Following are a few examples:

Loch Tummel, near Pitlochry, Perthshire, by Edmund Nagele FRPS



SCOTLAND



Eilean Donan Castle & Loch Duich by Colin Baxter



The Forth Bridge by Colin Baxter



Glenfinnan Viaduct, West Highland Line, by Colin Baxter





## **Book Reviews**

We invite all members of St. Andrew's Society to send us book reviews with your comments and opinions about Scotland-related books you have read. Please don't be shy. Give us your opinions of the books, favorable or not. SAS members are in an excellent position to comment on books about Scotland, and if you read an outstanding book, or one that you feel was not worth buying, please let the rest of the membership know about it.

## **Photos**

Although only a limited amount of photos can appear in this newsletter, all SAS members can log onto <http://www.mstthomas.com/spectator.htm> under "Gallery" and view all the photos taken by your editor at each recent event. These digital photos can also be downloaded to whatever file you please, and printed out at your leisure. All photos are available free to all SAS members. We'll get these photos onto the SAS website, <http://scotsofwmbg.org/> as soon as possible.

## **Comments and Suggestions**

All SAS members should feel free to e-mail or snail mail me with their comments, concerns and suggestions relating not only to this newsletter but to St. Andrew's Society itself. We welcome all views and opinions.

## **Membership**

As President Wil Phillips noted in his letter above, this is an exciting time to be involved with Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg. The Williamsburg Scottish Festival, the Member's Night, the Fall Kirkin' and another Quarterly Luncheon will ensure that we are kept busy and entertained in coming months. Let's also remember to share our good fortune with the younger generation. SAS needs some new young blood, and current members should be alert to recruiting opportunities. If you know anyone of Scottish ancestry who is interested in his heritage and may enjoy the companionship of like-minded Scots, please ask them to consider membership. An application form is attached below.



# Saint Andrew's Society

Application for Membership

P. O. Box 533  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
23187

1. Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date and Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Schools/Colleges: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Business or Profession: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Names and Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Telephone [s]: \_\_\_\_\_
9. E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Years at Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Legacy Application? [Yes] [No] [If Yes, Father's or Grandfather's Name]  
*{A Legacy member is the son or grandson of an Active Member, in good standing, or the son or grandson of a deceased former member, who is age eighteen [18] through twenty-one [21]. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members; however, annual dues are required.}*

12. Membership in other Professional or Social Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Nature of Scottish Family Connections [documents not required]: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Any Visits to Scotland—Frequency and Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. General Scottish Interest [History, Literature, Arts, Etc.] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Clan Association[s]: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Membership in Clan Organization or other Scottish Society: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. What Tartan[s] do you wear? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character and is entirely suitable for membership in the Society. He will actively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously any duties undertaken.

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checklist: Check for initiation and first year's dues {\$60.00} \_\_\_\_\_ Small photograph suitable for digitization into Membership Directory \_\_\_\_\_ Current local address and telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Verification of Legacy Member Eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_