



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Fall 2006

From the President

Dear Members,

Our turn out for Members Night was very small. We had approximately twenty two members present plus fourteen proxies for a total representation of thirty six. In order to abolish SABA we needed fifty six people present or proxies in hand, therefore SABA is still with us. Since you didn't want it abolished we will have to come up with a board of directors to run it. Since we can't get you out to vote we will have to appoint a board of directors. You folks that could not attend the meeting or send in proxies can expect to be tapped for these five positions.

The second part of our meeting was a little more successful in as much as we didn't need as many people to conduct our business. The amendment to our constitution and by-laws to admit female members passed with only two dissenting votes. So far we have received two inquiries and one application which was approved unanimously by the board at our last meeting. Four new board members were elected. They are Jim Anthony, Mike Elmore, Bill Monroe, and Everett Tucker.

On Sunday November 26 we held Kirkin' O' the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, with thirty eight people present for the service, and thirty five for the luncheon. These numbers include members and their guests,



which means we only had about eighteen members present.

If you have never served on the board, you don't realize how much time and work goes into planning these events. In addition to our monthly board meetings which usually last about two hours, the committees spend many hours planning the events and trying to make them a pleasant experience for members and guests. In addition to this the board spends hours on the telephone contacting the general membership to make sure they have gotten the information on the upcoming event. Some of these calls are long distance and we make them at our own expense; the Society does not pay for them. If you have not received a call, please contact us and make sure we have your correct phone number.

Our next event coming up will be Burns Night on January 20, 2007. The event will be held at the Williamsburg Country Club, on route 143. This event is usually well attended, so be sure to get your reservations in early. I believe we have seating for about 110; last year we had 107 people present.

We need your participation if we are to continue as a Society.

Yours aye,
Taylor C. Fraser, Jr., President

SAS Welcomes Women

The November 8 2006 Members Night meeting was held at the Powhattan Secondary Club House on Charter Road. During this historic meeting Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg voted to change the organization's by-laws to admit women. The SAS Constitution was amended to read membership will be henceforth open to all men *and women* of Scottish descent. The proposal was passed overwhelmingly in contrast to the March 2004 vote which was narrowly defeated. Welcome to the 20th Century! (Give us time – we'll be focusing on the 21st Century a little later.) The SAS Board and membership hereby welcomes new female members of Scottish descent. We hope you will revitalize our cozy, semi-dormant men's club and maybe wake up some of the members.

Four new board members were elected to the Board during Members Night – Jim Anthony, Mike Elmore, Bill Monroe, and Ev Tucker. Welcome!



SAS President Taylor Fraser addresses SAS members, flanked by Bob Young and Dave Lowery (above). Members prepare to welcome women to the SAS (below). The vote was overwhelmingly in favor.





Members celebrate the vote while awaiting the buffet.

SAS's First Female Member

Following the recent decision by the membership of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg to admit women as members, we received several applications from women. The first to be admitted was Jamie Griffin. Jamie is a member of Clan McAllister (her maiden name is Alexander). She is the sister of Joyce White and Zane Alexander. Jamie is a 1970 graduate of Old Dominion University's School of Dental Hygiene. She worked as a hygienist in Williamsburg 17 years for Dr. Marvin West. After Dr. West's retirement Jamie continued with Doctors Boxx, Blaney and Lachine for another five years. She also served as President of the Peninsula Dental Hygienist's Association and Chairman of the Dental Education Committee. Jamie completed a graduate program in Peridontics at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. Jamie is Married to Robert Griffin, has two grown children and four grandchildren. She enjoys photography, Scottish and Bluegrass music, and is looking forward to learning more about Scotland.

Jamie has been the photographer at many SAS functions. A hearty welcome to our newest member! OK gentlemen, no more cussing or dirty jokes.



Jamie Griffin

2006 Kirkin' o' th' Tartans

The 2006 Kirking of the Tartans was celebrated November 26 at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on a bright, crisp day. A large delegation from Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg showed up in highland dress and tartans. Pastor Patrick Wilson led the service in which SAS members presented the tartans while former President Lynn Newcomer played stirring tunes on the the bagpipes. Following the service members gathered at the Westpark Hotel for a good lunch and fellowship. The meal was excellent and the company was a delight. Following are a few photos taken at the kirking and the lunch. Please see the gallery for all the photos.



Williamsburg Presbyterian Church



SAS members present the tartans to Pastor Wilson (above)

SAS ladies gather at the Westpark Hotel for lunch (below). Where's the white wine?





Former President Wil Phillips dazzles his audience with his witty repartee (above). Clarissa Young fascinates her table-mates with secrets we could not overhear (below).



Kirkin' o' the Tartan, by Howard Topp

What is the background of the 'Kirkin' of the Tartan?' Our own Howard Topp provides the following information:

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

There is no “formal” liturgy, though the one suggested by the St. Andrew’s Society of Williamsburg over the years is fairly consistent with those in other services held around the United States. The date that the St. Andrew’s Society of Williamsburg selected for holding the Kirkin’ was determined shortly after the society’s founding in 1968. The society designated that the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (Nov. 30th) would serve as the date for the Society’s Kirkin' o' the Tartan. Other Scottish Societies and churches hold the ceremony at other times of the year, frequently on Reformation Sunday.

The story of the Kirkin' o' the Tartan is actually a modern one. The term "Kirk" is a Scottish word meaning “church” and in Scotland the Kirk refers to the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian). The first recognized "Kirkin' o' the Tartans" was held on April 27, 1941 by Dr. Peter Marshall, the Chaplain of the United States Senate and minister of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. Over the years it has spread throughout the United States and Canada and become a festive and colorful occasion to celebrate Scottish heritage, the value family and culture, and the faith traditions of the Celtic and Scottish peoples. Although there is not a standard liturgy for Kirkin' o' the Tartans, the services usually include a creative blend of music and prayers from Scottish traditions as well as the blessing of the tartans of the clans.

One tradition has that the Kirkin' custom instituted by Dr. Marshall actually began in Scotland when the clans were called to war and assembled at the Kirk (the church) for roll call and a blessing before they left to engage in battle. Another origin of the custom is said to be related to the defeat of Scottish efforts to reclaim the throne at the Battle of Culloden in 1745. After the defeat, the wearing of the tartans and playing of bagpipes were banned. Tradition has that small scraps of Tartan were secretly carried by the Scots. These tokens of Scottish family and pride were kept in defiance of English rule and to preserve the Scottish heritage they represent. Regardless of the origin, the heart of the modern tradition instituted by Peter Marshall is the presentation of tartans by representatives of the Scottish clans for blessing.

Background information:

The Clan System

The Gaelic word "clan" signifies "family" or "tribe" in English. The Clan System in old Scotland was inclusive, rather than exclusive, since it gave a sense of belonging, protection and pride in each particular clan.

The Tartan

A Tartan is a pattern of colorful cloth woven in a "sett." Each sett is a particular thread pattern that is most frequently associated with a clan or family, but can also represent an organization or geographic district and is registered with the Lord Lyon at the Tartan Center in Scotland.

Kirkin' Procedures and Liturgy: The following is a generic representation of the procedures observed by the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg over the last 38 years.

A Procession of Bagpipes and members of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg: The members of the society, led by pipers process into the church. This may occur as part of the church's regular processional or immediately following as a separate procession. The particular practice to be followed is determined by the church hosting the Kirkin'. The Members then sit in the pews previously set aside for them.

Sermon: Some clergy have developed their sermons entirely around the blessings of the tartans ceremony. This seems to be most frequently the path followed by the Presbyterian ministers who develop the denomination's Church of Scotland origins. It allows them to cite John Knox, Andrew Melville, George Wishart and other leaders of the church during reformation. Others, particularly those in Liturgical churches like the Episcopal Church, followed the liturgy prescribed for that particular Sunday and only gave a brief explanation of the tartan blessing service and a welcome to the St. Andrew's Society members. Again, this is pretty much determined by the presiding minister.

Presentation of the Tartans: At the time in the service selected by the presiding clergy, the President of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg and several other representatives holding the clan tartans of the members of

the society are called forward. The president presents the tartans to the officiating pastor with these words:

“On behalf of all Scots away from Scotland, we present these tartans before Almighty God and ask His blessing on these His servants.”

The Blessing: This is pretty much left up to the presiding minister. However, here is a sample of one that was given some years ago:

“Gracious God, we pray you to bless these Tartans and the spirit of family which they represent. In your grace, link us with the rich heritage of the Saints who built the Kirk and left us an inheritance of faith and witness to your power in their lives.

We thank you for the Kirk of Christ, and the pattern of living to which we have been called in Him. We gather as His family, with you as our Father and Jesus our brother. Overcome we pray you the differences and make us one in Christ.

In response to your love, we rededicate ourselves and our families to your Kirk to love and serve you and each other. Make us a ministry of reconciliation to overcome the wrongs of the world and live in the righteousness of the Kingdom and the glory and honor of our Christ and Lord. Amen.”

Hymns: The most frequent hymn associated with the Kirkin’ is “Amazing Grace.” However, there are many others associated with the Scottish and Celtic heritage that have been used during services.

Flowers of the Forest Roll Call: This is something that may or may not be a part of the service; again, it is the call of the hosting church. The Flowers of the Forest consists of the reading of the names of those who have died during the previous year, followed by the playing of a lament on a single bagpipe. It can incorporate only the mention the members of the St. Andrew’s Society, although some churches have also identified their own church members as well.

Scottish Blessing: Here is another example of a blessing given by a minister to the congregation to conclude the service. I’m not sure of its origins or the author.

“May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen”

I hope this information has been helpful. Please e-mail topp072972@cox.net or call me (565-2738) if you need additional information or clarification.

Howard S. Topp
Clan Sutherland
St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Congratulations to Taylor and Helen!

Our Politburo Chairman, Party Stalwart, Beloved Leader and Defender of the Realm Taylor Fraser is getting remarried and our congratulations are offered to the happy couple. His bride-to-be was present at the recent Kirking and the lunch at the Westpark Hotel. Our new First Lady's name is Helen Custer. Taylor has known her since 1939. Her first husband was best man at Taylor's first wedding back in 1951. She has two daughters, seven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. She grew up in Hampton and graduated from Hampton High School. She is a member of Memorial Baptist Church. Taylor has a son and a daughter, six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren of his own.

Helen and her sister Frances Torian are rather well known in musical circles. They have been singing duets together as the Messic Sisters since they were eleven and twelve years old. Helen sang in her church choir until she developed macular degeneration in her right eye and went almost totally blind

in her left eye. She has been getting shots in her left eye and regained quite a bit of her sight in the left eye but not enough so that she can read music. Taylor and Helen both love good music. Helen plays the piano and Taylor plays the organ and digital piano. He also sings in his church choir.

The wedding will be at 2 pm on January 13, 2007 at Memorial Baptist Church on Newport News Avenue in Hampton. The couple will delay their honeymoon until May when they will fly to Seattle, Washington and then take a cruise to Alaska.



Helen and Taylor

Celtic Music On-Line

For those of you who love Scottish, Irish, Celtic or American Country music there is an amazing website you may want to check out:

<http://www.shoutcast.com/directory/index.phtml> Once you get their homepage find the "search" box and type in "celtic." In a moment you will be rewarded with a whole page full of on-line radio stations around the world that specialize in Celtic music and want you as a listener. Click on any of them and you can listen live. The service is free. I'll admit that my soul has been improved by listening to these magical sounds from our ancestors. I'm listening to a wonderful Irish radio station as I type this. This website allows you to enter musical paradise directly.

The Scottish Regiments – The King's Own Scottish Borderers



Crest courtesy: <http://www.regiments.org/regiments/uk/inf/025KOSB.htm>

As noted in the last issue of the Spectator, I highly recommend the book *The Scottish Regiments – 1633-1996* by Patrick Mileham. For this issue we will look briefly at Chapter 6, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Our thanks to Patrick Mileham.

The 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment was formed in March 1689 by David, Third Earl of Leven, who led a contingent of Scottish expatriates in the invading forces of William of Orange. Despite an initial defeat at the battle of Killiecrakie, 25th survived when the rebel army disintegrated after the death of its leader Viscount Dundee. The Regiment remained in Scotland until 1691

when it was sent to Ireland to battle King James Irish forces. The regiment suffered high casualties at Limerick.

The 25th continued serving the Empire in the War of the League of Augsburg against the French (1692), Gibraltar (1791), the War of the Austrian Succession (1743), and back to Edinburgh for the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion and the Battle of Culloden where the Jacobites were defeated. Following that the regiment served in Europe, Ireland and Germany.

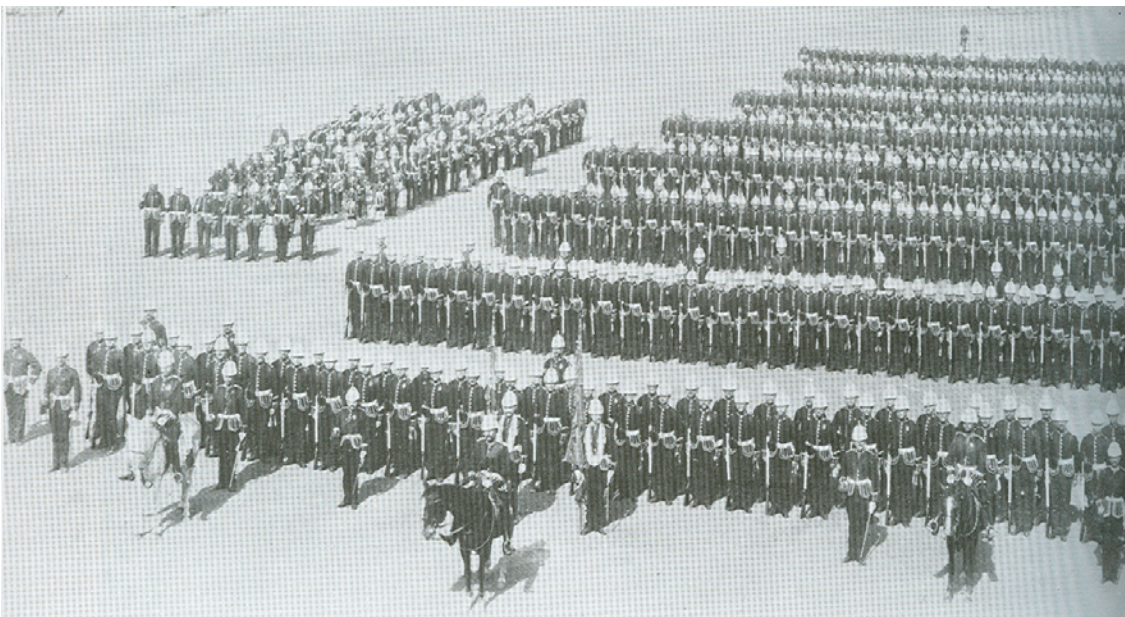
In 1805 the Regiment was designated the 25th King's Own Borderers, and by 1887 it became the King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB). The book gives great detail on the various campaigns the unit participated in for the Empire – there was plenty of work to be done suppressing uppity natives and other troublemakers. The KOSB fought in the West Indies, Ireland, The First Boer War, India, Ceylon, Gibraltar, Malta, Canada and the Second Afghan War with a particularly gallant action at Ft. Dakka. The Borderers were also sent to Burma, Egypt and the Sudan, the Northwest Frontier area of Afghanistan, and the Second Boer War, all involving heavy fighting.

The KOSB fought the Germans in World War I and participated in the agony of trench warfare and the action at Gallipoli. As World War II began it joined the retreat at Dunkirk and later fought in Burma against the Japanese. On 6 June 1944 the KOSB landed in France on D-Day and fought until Germany's surrender. The book gives great details on all the KOSB's campaigns and battles, most recently in Ireland and Aden.

The book is available from www.spellmount.com



**The 2nd KOSB on the Northwest Frontier, late 19th Century.
The 1st KOSB parade in Dagshai, India, 1884 (below). Source:
The Scottish Regiments.**





Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Application for Membership

PO Box 533, Williamsburg VA 23187

Full Name: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Schools/Colleges: _____

Business or Profession: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Names and Ages of Children: _____

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Years at Current Address: _____

Legacy Application? Yes or No _____

(A Legacy member is the son/grandson or daughter/granddaughter of an active member in good standing or of a deceased former member, who is age eighteen through twenty-one. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members; however annual dues are required.)

If Yes, Father/Mother or Grandfather/Grandmother's Name: _____

Membership in Other Professional or Social Organizations: _____

Nature of Scottish Family Connections (documentation not required): _____

Any Visits to Scotland – Frequency and Purpose: _____

General Scottish Interests – (History, Literature, Arts etc): _____

Clan Association(s): _____

Membership in Clan Organization or Other Scottish Society: _____

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 to membership in the Society. Applicant 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

Initiation and First Year's Dues (\$60.00) _____

Small Photograph suitable for digitization _____

Current local address and telephone number included _____

Verification of Legacy Member Eligibility _____