



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Winter 2005/2006

From the President

Dear Members,

We have started off the new year with a very successful Burns Night. There were 107 people all of whom seemed to have a good time. As usual Howard Topp did a fine job with Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The toasts to the Lads and Lassies by Beth and Allen Graham were delightful. Some of the events, like the presenting of the Haggis, you had to be there to see for yourself to appreciate.

We were very fortunate last year, we only lost one member to the Flowers of the Forest, Zane Alexander. We have had several members who did not renew their membership this year, stating health concerns and age as reasons. They will be missed.

Our new board this year is shaping up, and I believe we will have a good year. We hope to fill the committee positions with both board members and non board members. If you would like to serve on a committee, or would be willing to serve please contact me or any of the board members. You can reach me by E-mail at taydot@juno.com or by telephone at (757)-851-5730. By filling committee positions with non-board this will give us a base to select new board members for coming years. We will welcome you whether you are a long time member, or a brand new one. Looking forward to a great year.

Your President, Taylor C. Fraser, Jr.



The Black Watch

SAS didn't miss the recent Black Watch performance in Norfolk. Following are comments and photos from two of our members who attended.

From the Spectator's ace investigative reporter Jeff Mitchell: Several of our Society members attended the performance of the Black Watch Pipes and Drums and the Band of the Welsh Guards at the Constant Center in Norfolk, January 17, 2006. The venue was a great location for the performance and the local Tidewater society and various merchants had set up a Celtic display and sales area which featured a performance by a local Pipe Band in the lobby area prior to the concert. Several members of the 1st Battalion, RHR Black Watch had just returned from duty in Iraq, where one of the drummers was killed in action, and the show was dedicated to the commitment between our two countries in a common cause. As the budget cutbacks keep affecting the Highland Regiments, these US Tours by the surviving units are very special indeed.

From our senior correspondent Dave Lowery: Several brave souls from the Williamsburg Saint Andrew's Society ventured to Old Dominion University on 17 January for a delightful evening of military music from both sides of the Atlantic. For two hours the Welsh Guard band and the Black Watch pipe and drum corps thrilled the audience with a blend of Royal Military music from the isles and traditional patriotic American songs that stirred the audience to its core. Listening to the pounding of the drums and the call of the pipes it was easy to feel the emotion that stirred such valor in Scottish warriors to earn titles as "those skirted devils from hell" during the colonial French and Indian Wars and caused some during the American Civil War to say, "such soldiers would charge hell with a bucket of water and get away with it." Of modern note, a large percentage of band and corps members were wearing combat decorations received from joint operations with American combat units in various locations in the Middle East. Of particular note was the cooperation between the Black Watch and Marine units in the Falluja area of Iraq.



Black Watch Band (Jeff Mitchell photo, above)
Black Watch Band (Dave Lowery photo, below)





**Black Watch dancer
Dave Lowery photo**



**Welsh Guards
Dave Lowery photo**



Welsh Guard band (Dave Lowery photo)

Burns Night 2006

The St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg celebrated Burns Night with a gala dinner held on January 28 at the Williamsburg Country Club. Attendance broke all records with over a hundred guests. The Strath James Pipe Band, Pipe Major Kevin Macintosh, and SAS President Lynn Newcomer all entertained us with stirring ancestral music. Byron Adams alternately intimidated and praised the haggis before dismembering it, and Robert Lockwood did a spirited recitation of Burns' poem 'Tam O'Shanter.'

Jeff Mitchell toasted the President, Lynn Newcomer toasted the Queen, and Allen Graham toasted the Lassies. His wife Beth then toasted the Laddies in response. Kevin MacIntosh played 'Flowers of the Forest' to honor Zane Alexander and SABA President Robert Maccubbin introduced some students that SABA had sponsored to study in Scotland. A student spokesperson gave SABA and the SAS a delightful thank you for our support. Jamie Griffin took photos to memorialize the occasion. New Officers were announced for 2006 and Taylor Fraser is the new SAS President.

All in all it was a delightful evening. The meal of prime rib, crab cakes and haggis was quite good, and of course the haggis was superb!



SAS President Lynn Newcomer addresses a sellout crowd at Burns Night (left)

Byron Adams threatens the haggis with a knife (below) as his bewigged colleagues look on





Robert Lockwood recites 'Tam O'Shanter'

The Pipers serenade the crowd (below)



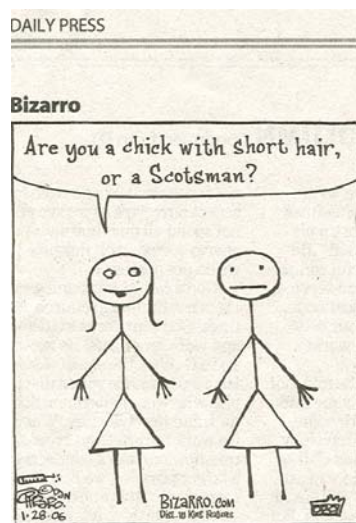


Carol Brinkley is awarded 'Scot of the Year 2005' (right photo by Jamie Griffin)

Recipe for Haggis

Wasn't the haggis delicious at Burns Night? From Bruce Schoch, here's the original recipe for the delectable dish that the poet Rabbin Burns eulogized in his immortal "Address to a Haggis."

1. Steal a sheep: from a neighbor if you must; from another clan if you have to; from a lowlander if the countryside has been stripped bare because you were too lazy to do it in a timely manner; from an Englishman whenever possible. {English sheep are fatter and better cared for}.
2. Once you have sold the wool for whiskey and butchered the beast for all the useable parts—chops, roasts, etc.:
 - a. Chop up all the intestines, lungs, organs, and other stuff that did not make it into your icebox.
 - b. Season heavily with salt. Pour a little whiskey into the mix, and a wee dram into the cook.
 - c. Raid the kaleyard [yours if you must; your neighbor's if you can] and gather up all available kale, onion, and other greens that are not actually noxious weeds. Chop up finely.
 - d. Mix the chopped greens into the mix. Season with more salt—if you have it. Pour a little whiskey into the mix and a wee dram into the cook.
 - e. Stuff the mix into the stomach [you didn't chop that up, did you?]. Sew tightly shut.
 - f. Boil until soft. Have a wee dram or two while the pot is boiling.
 - g. Serve with mashed turnips and a wee dram or two.





Culloden, from the Sons of Scotland.co.uk

Stand the Line

Dave Lowery passed on the following, which was read by an Irishman during a recent Memorial presentation for Police officers. According to the Irishman, who by the way is a piper, these stirring words relate to the unfortunate events at Culloden's Moor. If any of our SAS brothers can place these words in proper historical context, please do so.

WHEN I HEAR THE CALL OF THE PIPES
 AND THE TATTOO OF THE DRUMS AS THEY
 ECHO IN THE HILLS
 I WILL COME AND
 STAND THE LINE.
 AND YOU SHOULD KNOW
 THAT WHETHER YOU STAND WITH ME OR
 AGAINST ME
 I WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH.
 AND IF THE LORD SHOULD DECIDE
 TO TAKE ME BEFORE YOU
 YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS;
 MY BROTHERS AND SONS AND SISTERS

AND DAUGHTERS WILL PICK UP
 MY SWORD AND CONTINUE TO
 STAND THE LINE.
 FOR OPPRESSION, ANARCHY AND EVIL
 SHALL NOT PREVAIL,
 AS LONG AS
 I
 STAND THE LINE.



Illustration taken from:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/bwatch/bwcolors>

The Black Watch – Early History

As the English continue their efforts to erase Scottish history by dissolving the Scottish regiments, we might want to recall the proud past of Scottish soldiery. The following account of the origins of the Black Watch is taken from the website www.highlanderweb.co.uk/culloden/theduke.htm I found it so interesting that I reprint the first part here, and recommend the site to our members for further reading.

'The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) was the first kilted regiment in the British Army, and the first to introduce the bagpipe. It's the oldest Highland regiment and can trace a line back to 1624 when the government of the day started raising Independent Companies to keep a check on the wild clansmen.

It was a case of Highlanders keeping watch on Highlanders. The Highlands of Scotland at that time was a pretty wild and desperate place. Not many southerners had the nerve to enter the distant mountains and glens, each ruled by different clans.. It was a dangerous place where the only authority was the clan chief, and justice was delivered at the point of a broadsword and dirk.

Stealing your neighboring clans' cattle - and anything else for that matter - was a daily occupation which resulted in more than the odd bloody feud. That's where the Black Watch or the Independent Companies come in.

It was their job to police the Highlands, a case of taking a thief to catch a thief. The government thought their problems were over, until they realized their crafty Highland policemen were a pretty dab hand at the odd scam or two themselves, like letting their Highland brothers-in-crime go if the price was right.

Then came the first Jacobite uprising in 1715 and, in its aftermath, the Independent Companies were disbanded by George I. Laws were passed forbidding Highlanders to carry arms. Anyone caught with a claymore could be shipped overseas to serve in the red coated regiments.

Enter General George Wade, an Irishman, who was appointed in 1724 as Commander-in-Chief in Scotland and he began the task of pacifying the Highlands, building the roads and bridges so his troops could move swiftly to nip any other would-be rebellion in the bud.

He raised six Independent Companies of Highlanders from clans reckoned to be loyal to the government, some 500 officers and men, and they only were allowed the privilege of carrying arms. There were three companies of Campbells, and one each of Grants, Munros and Frasers.

It was around about this time that the Black Watch got its name. There are several stories about that, but the truth is no one really knows. Some say it was because of the dark tartan they wore and the watch they kept on the mountains and glens. Could be right, given that regular guardsmen stationed in the Highlands had just started wearing red. By comparison, the tartan must have appeared pretty dark. Another story says it was because of the 'black' Hanoverian hearts of the wearers, or perhaps because they were considered by rebellious clans to be 'blacklegs'.

Whatever the origin of the name, Highlanders of good quality and good family couldn't wait to join the Independent Highland Companies as they were called in 1725 - later they became the Highland Regiment of Foot - simply because of the status symbol of being allowed to carry arms. Each had its piper, dressed in the bright red Stewart or Royal tartan, because the Highlanders refused to march without the bagpipe.'

Contributions Welcome

From your editor: The Spectator welcomes articles and photos from all St. Andrew's Society members. Please send ancestry information, historical articles, book reviews, and anything else you think would interest our members to andrion2@cox.net Our members are a greatly talented bunch, and probably most of you have good Scotland-related information that would interest us all. Please take the time to write up a short paragraph or two and send it in, preferably with supporting photographs. I'm particularly interested in ancestry information as the stories of our ancestors reveal something about us all.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2006!

Marshall



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: _____

Wife'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 or grandson of an active member, in good standing, or the son or grandson 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's or Grandfather'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. 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

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 _____