



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Winter, 2004

Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year

From the President

To all the Lads and Lassies of St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg!

First of all let me take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. I hope that the good Lord has kept each of you safe and near this past year, and I sincerely wish that He will continue to do so in the coming year.

As the end of the year draws near it is a good time to sit back with a wee dram and think of all that has gone on in the past year, personally and with the St. Andrew's Society. I personally think we have made great progress in revitalizing the spirit of the Society. The Board that I have worked with in the past months has worked hard to put on events, gatherings and especially the re-establishment of the Spectator by Marshall Thomas, have gone a long way to bring this about. Each member of the Board has spent countless hours (giving up personal time) to bring these much needed changes in direction about. But the real credit really belongs to each of you "the MEMBERS". Your participation and support is what really matters, without each of you and your fellowship none of these would mean anything.

I have been greatly honored having been asked to serve as President of St.



Andrew's Society for the past two years. It has been a rare privilege to meet so many of you and been able to make some very special friends that I would not have been able to make otherwise. The coming year looks to be even more exciting with events such as our luncheons at the Pints and Pipes, two kirkin's, the tent at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival, the quarterly luncheons with speakers, Members Night, and Burn's Night. There is also discussion going on to try to put together a mid-summer picnic which can be especially nice to fill that midsummer gap.

Burn's night will see the installation of the new Board and a new President Lynn Newcomer. I hope that each of you will give Lynn the support and encouragement that I was honored to receive.

Thank you again for your friendship,

Yours, Aye
Wil Phillips, President

EVENTS

Members' Night

Members' Night was October 14 at the Williamsburg Country Club, a very good venue. Attendance was good and it was wonderful to see so many old friends. Byron Adams did a terrific job organizing the function. Lynn Newcomer stirred our blood with his bagpipe melodies, and Clement Brown educated our palates with his delicious wines. I now know the difference between sherry, Madeira and port, but they were all so good it would be hard to choose a favorite. John Sim, Taylor Fraser and Colin Gavon fascinated us with stories about Scottish ancestors and childhood adventures. If Clement Brown could bottle those stories they'd certainly sell! MST



Lynn Newcomer mesmerizes the Society with traditional tunes at Members' Night

You don't want to challenge these gentlemen to a drinking match.





Members' Night

SAS Fall Luncheon

The SAS Fall Luncheon of October 25 was a festive occasion at the Pints & Pipes Pub. John Mitchell, visiting from Scotland, treated us to some excellent guitar playing and traditional Scottish song, while Jeff Mitchell kept us well-fed and watered with soup, sandwiches, beer and scotch. Elizabeth Monroe, the archaeologist daughter of SAS member Bill Monroe, treated us to a fascinating slide show on the archeology of Orkney. One of the sites she visited was the standing stones of Stenness, mentioned in the article below on standing stones. Our thanks to the Pints & Pipes for this excellent venue – it's the SAS home away from home.



Satisfied customers try the cuisine at the Pints & Pipes



The SAS Politburo plots the future



Guest speaker Elizabeth Monroe (left) & Party



Visiting musician John Mitchell quickly rethinks his plan to return to Scotland

Kirkin' o' th' Tartan at Bruton Parish Church

On Sunday November 14 the Bruton Parish Church welcomed the Saint Andrew's Society Kirkin' o' th' Tartan. It was a blindingly bright, crisp and cold morning, a glorious day. The church was full and the service was moving and inspiring. The Reverend Neil Alan Willard gave a thoughtful sermon and the tartans were blessed. With bagpiper Nick Willey in the lead, SAS members departed the church for the march down Duke of Gloucester Street to the King's Arm Tavern for a hearty 18th Century lunch. The many tourists seemed to enjoy our little procession and took plenty of photos of this historic occasion! Our thanks to everyone who arranged the Kirking and the lunch.



Bruton Parish Church



Our Grand Parade

Christmas Luncheon

The SAS Christmas Luncheon was held at the Raddison Fort Magruder Hotel on December 6 and was very well attended. Bob Flinn played the piano and all the attendees had a great time. The venue meeting room had a large Christmas tree and fireplace. This was another in a series of recent SAS events that have further cemented the spirit of fellowship in our little band of brothers (and sisters!)

Standing Stones

For those of you who are interested in ancient history, especially prehistory, your editor recommends a fascinating web site entitled *Stone Pages*. Click here for the link: <http://www.stonepages.com/home.html> This site is maintained by a couple of fanatic Italians, Paola Arosio and Diego Meozzi, who are fixated on stone circles, dolmens, standing stones and other remnants of Europe's megalithic past. What does this have to do with

Scotland? Well, Arosio and Meozzi have visited, documented and photographed 597 of these sites, and many are in Scotland. Others are in England, France, Ireland, Italy and Wales. One reason I recommend this site is that their photographs are exquisitely beautiful and capture perfectly the cold, wind-swept, deserted aura of these silent delegates from the distant past. The web site is a delight, over 2,000 pages of fascinating photos, historical detail, and maps, and exceptionally easy to navigate. Following is a sample of the photography. MST



Stones of Stenness (Stenness, Scotland), 2970 BC.

A Disappointing Scotsman

An SAS member, who shall remain anonymous, was telling me about a conversation he had with a little kid at one of our recent events. Our hero was in full Scottish regalia with tartan kilt, sporran, Scottish cap set at a rakish angle, sgian dubh dagger in his socks, and a confident smile. It was a bright sunny day and he was on top of the world and looking good! A little

kid approached him, looking way, way up at him in goggle-eyed amazement. The following dialogue ensued:

Kid: “WOW!!! Are you really from Scotland?”

Member: “Um, well, no, I’m not really from Scotland. I was actually born here, in America. My parents were from Scotland.”

Kid (puzzled): “Where’s your bagpipe?”

Member: “I, uh, I don’t play the bagpipe. I don’t own one. I was thinking of learning, and buying one, but.. well, I don’t have one.”

Kid (still hopeful): “Do you dance?”

Member: “Dance? Uh, well, no, actually I don’t dance. It’s, uh, I never learned... no, I don’t dance.”

Clearly disappointed, the kid turned away without another word.

The Scots-Irish

The following article is by James Webb and is taken from the Parade Magazine of October 7, 2004. The information is so interesting that I have reproduced it in full. Our thanks to Mr. Webb and to SAS member Jim White who forwarded it to me.

‘Who Are The Scots-Irish?’

In the decades leading up to the American Revolution, as many as 400,000 immigrants left Ireland, Scotland and northern England for America. While some were Irish and some English, the majority were Scottish Protestants, mostly from Northern Ireland, where they had grown weary of the conflict between the Anglican English and Irish Catholics.

Variouly known as the Ulster Scots, the Scots-Irish and the Scotch-Irish, they traveled in family groups rather than as individuals and settled together on America's frontiers, where, because of interlocking family networks, their folkways became dominant. One group settled in New Hampshire, spreading out into Vermont and Maine, but the overwhelming majority— more than 95 percent—settled along the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania down to north Georgia and Alabama.

From there they migrated westward, forming the backbone of the rural South and Midwest, and then into settlements in Texas, Colorado and the Pacific Coast. They also moved north into the industrial areas of Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana.

It is estimated that there are more than 27 million descendants of the Scots-Irish migration now living in the U.S. Because people from this culture also identify themselves as of Scottish, English or Irish descent, the actual number is probably much higher. Which states have the highest Scots-Irish populations? Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, northern Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, northern {Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, southern Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and parts of California, particularly around Bakersfield. The north-central "factory belt" especially around Detroit, also saw a heavily Scots-Irish influx.'



Map from Parade Magazine

Dunure Castle

The following is from former SAS member Don Dixon. Thanks, Don!

I attach a picture of one of my favorite ruins, Dunure Castle on the west coast of Scotland near Ayr. I've watched it slowly deteriorate over the last 40 years, but it is still an impressive ruin and the view out toward Ailsa Crag and the Isle of Arran is always magnificent. One of my favorite pubs, The Anchorage, is situated on the harbor at the fishing hamlet of Dunure, not 50 yards away. The harbor was cut out of the rock. Dunure castle has been unoccupied for almost 300 years but for centuries was a stronghold of the Kennedies, a ruthless bunch. In the castle's black vault, the Commendator of nearby Crossraguel Abbey was tortured over an open fire into surrendering Abbey lands to Gilbert, Earl of Cassilis. Dunure Castle reminds me of Dunstaffnage Castle near Oban. It too was built on a huge rock.

Cheers, Don Dixon'



Dunure Castle - Don Dixon photo

Arrran

Don also sent a photo of Arran, where your editor's ancestors came from, and here is his comment:

I shot (this) in September from the shore at Dunure. Arran is a bumpy garden, floating in a sea of blue water, changing in aspect throughout the day, from misty shrouded mountains to crystal clear shoreline, with whitewashed cottages punctuating the rise of the high places. It is a mysterious jewel, awash in warm Gulf Stream water, blooming, and yet giving way to frost and snow covered peaks that catch the eye like a pretty girl.

All the best, Don.'



Arran - Don Dixon photo

Ceud Mil Failte

Congratulations to our newest member, Michael Elmore. Welcome to St. Andrew's Society!

Upcoming Events

The SAS Burn's Night Dinner will be January 22, 2005 at the Raddison Hotel Fort McGruder, starting at 6 PM. For a mere \$35 you get the Strath James Band, delicious food and drink and a whole lot of Christmas cheer and good fellowship with your fellow members. This could be the SAS highlight of the year – don't miss it!

Happy Birthday!

Former member Millard Mackinsey recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Congratulations to Millard! It just goes to show that Scots are tough and can live almost forever. I've heard that the ideal Scotsman dies at age 98, often shot to death by a jealous husband.

Merry Christmas ! ! ! !

SAS Membership Application



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: _____