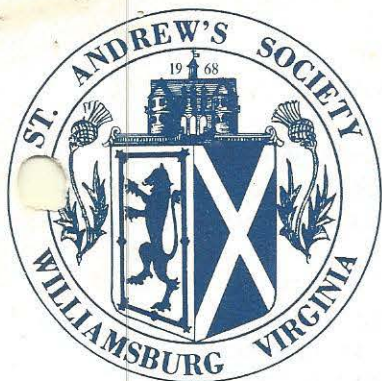




Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

Quarterly News Letter, No. 4

June, 1969

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN SERVICE DRAWS 29 MEMBERS TO WORSHIP

Twenty-nine members, 15 in kilts, attended the Society's first Kirkin' o' the Tartan service May 25 at the Williamsburg Baptist Church.

Led by the Pipes and Drums of the Warwick High School Grenadiers of Newport News, the members marched as a group into the church to sit in a reserved section at the front of the sanctuary. Wives and other guests were seated in another section.

The Rev. Walter P. Kennedy, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Newport News, was guest preacher and spoke on "The Spirit of Saint Andrew." The Rev. Thomas Pugh, the church's pastor, conducted the regular service of worship which concluded with the presentation of tartans by President Robert A. Duncan and Vice President David M. Shepherd, to Mr. Kennedy for the blessing.

Following the service, a reception was held in the church, arranged by Mrs. Ed Riley.

Special tartan sashes, sewn by Mrs. Shepherd, were worn by members who had no kilts. The sashes have been purchased by the Society for use on other special occasions.

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SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS INTERESTED IN BOOKS ON SCOTLAND, ITS CULTURE

In addition to a number of volumes available at the College's Earl Gregg Swem Library to the public, Howard Topp will loan two 19th century works: Poetical Works of Robert Burns, and Margaret MacArthur's History of Scotland.

Do other members have books they will loan? Let the editor know.

MEMBERS URGED TO DONATE A YARD OF THEIR CLAN TARTANS FOR DISPLAY

The Society's Board, at its May meeting, agreed to request members to purchase a yard of tartan material representing their Clans, which will be used by the Society at its various functions.

The plan calls for creating "pennants" from each tartan to represent the Clan membership of the Society. The pennants will be displayed between the Coats-of-Arms of Clans being painted by Gerald Finn as a gift to the Society.

It was suggested that when Clans are represented by more than one person, the yard of material be purchased jointly to avoid duplication.

SECOND TARTAN BALL SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 29; NEW LOCATION SOUGHT.

Directors have set Saturday, November 29, as the date for this year's Tartan Ball. This will be on the eve of Saint Andrew's Day the world over.

At the suggestion of several persons, Entertainment Chairman Duncan M. Cocke was asked by the Directors to investigate possible use of the Cascades Meeting Center or the Williamsburg Lodge, for the affair.

It was pointed out that the improved facilities would be more attractive, and only slightly more expensive, than alternative local accommodations.

The Board also approved a proposal by several members that some monthly social function be held for those who are interested. These would include picnics, ceilidh, etc., and those interested in more frequent Society activities would make the necessary arrangements for them.

The Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg is to be published quarterly. News, interesting information and requests for copies should be addressed to Ross Weeks, Jr., 200 Harrison Ave., Williamsburg, editor.

DIRECTORS VOTE TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS EVERY SECOND MONTH

Members of the Board of Directors will now meet regularly on the second Thursday of each even-numbered month.

The decision to hold regular meetings was made to permit more efficient handling of membership applications and other Society affairs. Until now, the Board meetings have been at the call of the President.

In other action, the Board voted to nominate the Rev. Walter P. Kennedy as the Society's first Honorary Member. He was speaker at the Burns' Night Dinner in January, and preacher at the Kirkin' o' the Tartan service May 25. He is the minister of First Presbyterian Church, Newport News, and a native Ulster Scot.

It accepted the membership proposal of Capt. Lloyd V. Young, USN (Ret) of 181 West Queens Drive, and tabled the proposal of Robert J. MacGregor of Washington, D. C.

LOCAL SOCIETY IS REPRESENTED AT TWO MAJOR SCOTTISH EVENTS

President Robert A. Duncan extended formal greetings on behalf of the Society at the annual Gathering of the Clan MacMillan, held in Williamsburg June 22-24.

Duncan presented a special scroll designed by Gerald Finn, and delivered remarks describing the growth of Williamsburg and historical elements of interest to Scots. The Clan Chief, Gen. Sir Gordon H. A. MacMillan, presided over the Gathering.

The Society's Flags will fly at the July 12-13 Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain. Duncan will hoist them over his family's tent, which will also serve as a headquarters for Society members who attend the Games. At the Board's request he will also investigate the Society's sponsorship of the Games on a regular basis.

EVEN ANN LANDERS LIKES MEN IN KILTS... (Reprinted from her column)

Dear Ann Landers: Thank you for not saying anything against the young man who wore a kilt. His girl was shocked and her mother almost fainted, but they were ignorant people who didn't know anything about the kilt's great tradition of manhood and courage. Those of us who live in Racine, Wisc., are proud of our Drum and Bugle Corps. They won the National VFW Championship in 1964 and again in 1968.

It's a glorious sight to see those handsome lads marching along with their bagpipes, wearing kilts. Those of us who know, consider kilts not only snappy-looking but a darned sight more respectable than trousers that are so tight a kid can't sit down in them. Sign me--Highland Fling.

Dear High: I've seen the Racine Drum and Bugle Corps and they are as inspiring a group as ever tootled its way to the top. Cheers!

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AMERICAN SCOTS

- July 1 - Highland Dancing, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Scottish Games, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Gathering of the Clans, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada
- July 12 - Grandfather Mountain Games, Linville, N.C., also July 13; Highland Games, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.
- July 17 - Highland Games, Ocean City, New Jersey
- July 18 - Antigonish Games, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
- July 19 - Highland Games, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada
- July 26 - Strawberry Festival & Games, Montague, Prince Edward Island, Canada; Highland Games & Tattoo, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
- July 27 - Port Credit, Ontario, Highland Games & Ontario Pipe Band Championship
- Aug. 2 - Annual Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ont., Canada; North American Pipe Band Championships
- Aug. 3 - 1000 Islands Games, Collins Landing, N.Y., International Pipe Band Championships
- Aug. 9 - Central N.Y. Games, Griffin Field, Syracuse, N.Y.
- Aug. 10-16 - Nova Scotia Gaelic Mod, St. Ann's, Nova Scotia, Canada

Editors' Note.....

Contributions from members of the Society are solicited for the News Letter. When you come across an interesting newspaper item, magazine article or an article of your own, please send it along.

The News Letter particularly needs biographical sketches of Society members; fewer than a dozen have been published as the result of the original solicitation by the Directors.

We would be interested in continuing the proposal by Howard Topp on the first page, namely that members list the names of books on Scotland and its culture which they would be willing to loan other members to promote interest in Scotland and knowledge of history and customs.

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BANNOCKBURN---The national song, "Scots wha hae"

Submitted by Howard Topp, taken from the book "The Poetical Works of Robert Burns," published by Hurst and Co., N.Y.

Robert Bruce's Address to his Army

Tune: "Hey tuttie tattie"

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led;
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to glorious victorie.

Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See the front o' battle lower;
See approach proud Edward's power --
Edward! chains and slaverie!

Wha will be a traitor knave?
Wha can fill a coward's grave?
Wha sae base as be a slave?
Traitor! coward! turn and flee!

Wha for Scotland's King and law
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
Free-man stand, or free-man fa'
Caledonia! on wi' me!

By oppression's woes and pains!
By your sons in servile chains!
We will drain our dearest veins
But they shall - they shall be free!

Lay the proud usurpers low!
Tyrants fall in every foe!
Liberty's in every blow!
Forward! let us do, or die!

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THE GARB OF OLD GAGS...The President's Remarks of The Scottish Tartans Society, reprinted from the June, 1968 issue of the Society's Proceedings. (Members interested in the Tartans Society's work may write to the organization at the Old Tolbooth Stirling, Scotland. Membership fees are nominal.)

Harry Lauder, Tommy Lorne, in twice-nights long ago, Harry Gordon nearer, Andy Stewart tonight--these and a gaggle of others have strutted and frittered their hour upon many stages, clad in the kilt. Sometimes the kilt-comic (mini or maxi), sometimes with funny adjuncts (clown's gloves for Lorne, corkscrew stick for Lauder), sometimes modish, sometimes moorish, but always in association with Scotch jokes and jingles. The pawky (Gordon), the cocky (Stewart)--whatever the style, the image is kilted.

It's been a long and unfortunate association, based on a debased view of the kilt as a slightly ludicrous male skirt, arousing speculation in a high wind ("Ah'm cauld wi the kilt an' Ah'm kilt wi the cauld")--not a garment to be taken seriously, as apparently the Army has now decided.

Why should it be considered almost obligatory so to underline a comedian's nationality? Irish Blarney Boyos are surely no longer knobkerrying; it's of an era when the Lancashire Lad went into a clog routine to finish his spot. Does the Scotch comic really mean to underline his nationality, or merely to underpin his thin material? "If I wear a kilt I'll get away with it."

It's part of the funny post-card bang-goes-saxpence image which the Scottish Tartans Society must counteract if the Kilt and the Tartan are to be fully restored to the dignity they deserve as a vital, living part of our national heritage.

Time, one hopes, will erase the Sandy MacTavish image: a new generation of entertainers may realise that the kilted comic has been corny for the last half century. A Government in Edinburgh will doubtless restore the kilt to Highland regiments and, without being pompous, possibly proscribe it for such as purvey pawkiness in public.

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LIST OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ETC. AVAILABLE FROM THE TARTANS SOCIETY

Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands," Frank Adam, revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms. Pub. W & A K Johnston, \$6.60 + 42¢ postage and packing

"Map of Scotland of Old," John Bartholomew, by Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Bart. Ph.D., Albany Herald and Don Pottinger, M.A., D.A., Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms, Cloth, 90¢ + 27¢ postage and packing. Shows clan and family Highland Chiefs and Lowland heads of families, with nearly 200 coats of arms and crests, in full color.

"The History of Highland Dress," by J. Telfer Dunbar F.S.A. Scot., pub. Oliver & Boyd, \$12.60 + 42¢ postage and packing

"Tartans & Highland Dress," by C. R. Mackinnon of Dunakin, F.S.A. Scot., pub. Collins, 60¢ + 39¢ postage and packing

"Scottish Clans & Their Tartans," W & A K Johnston, pocket ed., \$1.28 + 14¢ postage and packing. 96 plates of tartan and Clan story

"The Highland Clans," by Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Bart. Ph.D., and David Hicks, pub. Barrie & Rockliff, \$7.50 + 42¢ postage and packing. A book about the heritage of the Highland Scots, strongly recommended by the Tartans Society.

"Clans and Tartans of Scotland," by Robert Bain, revised by Margaret Macdougall, pub. Collins, \$1.50 + 21¢ postage and packing

CLAN GREGOR

The following, contributed by Robert A. Duncan, is copied from The Highlanders of Scotland, Their Origin, History and Antiquities, by William F. Skene, FSA, Scot., Volume II, pages 244 and follow, published in 1837:

A great deal of romantic interest has of late years been attached to the history of this clan, from the conspicuous part which it performs in many of the productions of the inimitable author of the Waverly Novels, by which their proscription and consequent sufferings have become familiar to everyon-. But in the following short sketch, I shall only attempt to throw together as many authentic facts regarding their early history as are still to be traced. The earliest possession of this family appears to have been the District of Glenurchy in Lorn, and from that District, all other septs of the Clan Gregor proceeded, for the common ancestor of all these clans is in tradition styled Ey Urchaych or Hugh of Glenurchy and his Epithet of Glenurchy apparently points him out as the first of the Clan who took possession of that district. Glenurchy forms a part of those territories in Argyll which were forfeited by Alexander II, and given to the principal chiefs in his army. As the Earl of Ross had in particular joined him with a considerable force and obtained no inconsiderable extent of territory in consequence, it is probable that Glenurchy was given to the Chief of the MacGregors, at that time a vassal of the Earl of Ross.

Glenurchy appears among the possessions of the Argyll family as early as the reign of David II, and afterwards settled upon a second son of that family, who became the founder of the House of Bradelbane. But notwithstanding that the Campbells had thus a legal right to the district, the MacGregors maintained the actual possession of it as late as the year 1390, for in that year there is mention of the death of John Gregorii de Glenurchy, and from the earliest period in which this clan is mentioned, their whole possessions appear to have been held by them upon no other title than that of the "Coir a Glaive," or the Right of the Sword.

Prior to the death of John MacGregor of Glenurchy, we are not acquainted with anything more of their history than the mere genealogy of the family: John MacGregor, who died in 1390, appears to have had three sons, Patrick, who succeeded him; John Dow, ancestor of the family of Glenstrae; and Gregor, ancestor of the family of Roro. Patrick appears, in addition to his lands in Glenurchy, to have possessed some property in Strathfillan, but the Campbells, who had obtained a feudal right to Glenurchy and reduced the MacGregors to situation of tenants at will, were apparently determined that they should not possess a feudal right to any property whatever. Malcolm, Patrick's son, was in consequence compelled to seell the lands of Auchinravach in Strathfillan to Campbell of Glenurchy, who in this manner obtained the first footing in Bradelbane, and after this period, the MacGregors did not possess one acre of land to which they had feudal title. As long as the Clan remained united under one chief, they were enabled to maintain possession of their ancient estates by the strong hand, but the policy of the Argyll family now occasioned the usual disunion among the various families of the Clan. The Chief of the MacGregors, with the principal families, had been reduced to the situation of tenants on the land of the Campbells of Glenurchy, with one exception, namely, the family of Glenstray, which held that estate as vassal of the Earl of Argyll. From Glenurchy, the MacGregors experienced nothing but the extreme of pressure. The Argyll family, however, adopted the different policy of preserving the MacGregors on their property in a sufficient state of strength to enable them to be of service to these wily lords in annoying their neighbors. The consequence

of this was that the Chief was for a time in no situation to protect his clan, and that the Glenstray family gradually assumed their station at the head of the Clan, with the title of Captain, which they afterwards bore. The state of the principal branches of the Clan now presented too favorable an opportunity for expelling them from the lands to be neglected, and accordingly the Glenurchy and others who had acquired a claim upon the Chief of MacGregor's lands and were in partial possession of them appear at this time to have commenced a system of annoyance and oppression, which speedily reduced the Clan to a state of lawless insubordination, and obliged them to have recourse to a life of robbery and plunder as their only means of subsistence. It is not unnatural that a spirit of retaliation should direct their attacks against those who thus acquired possession of their lands, but this conduct, though natural, considering the country and the time, was studiously represented at court as arising from an untamable and innate voracity of disposition, which it is said nothing could remedy "save cutting off the tribe of the MacGregor, root and branch." And, in truth, the treatment they had received had so utterly exasperated this unhappy clan that it became the interest of those barons to extirpate them all together, for which purpose every means was used to effect their object under the color of law.

The minority of King James IV having thrown the power of the state into the hands of the principal barons, they appear for the first time to have obtained this object by means of the enactment obtained in the year 1488 "for sconcing of Phiftreif and other enormities throw Realme" and among the barons to whom powers were given for enforcing the act, we find Duncan Campbell of Glenurchy, Neill Stewart of Fortingall, and Ewine Campbell of Strachur. This act must have fallen with peculiar severity upon the Clan Gregor, and, of course, must rather have aggravated than alleviated the evil apparently sought to be remedied. But in numbers the MacGregors were still a powerful clan. The chieftainship had been assumed by the Glenstray family, which was descended from John Dow, second son of John MacGregor, and still in some degree maintaining their footing in Glenurchy. Besides this, a great number of them were now settled in the Districts of Bradelbane and Atholl, among whom were the families of Roro, descended from Gregor, third son of John MacGregor, and those of Brackly Ardchoile and Glengyll, the only remaining descendants of the ancient chiefs; and those families, although they acknowledged Glenstray as a chief, yet by distance and jealousy, discovered from that sept.

In order to reduce these branches, Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurchy obtained in 1492 the Office of Baliary of the crown lands of Disher and Toyer, Glenlion and Glendochart, and in consequence of his obtaining this office speedily shewed themselves, for in 1502 he obtained a charter of the lands of Glenlion, and he seems to nearly have accomplished the extermination of the other families of MacGregor in this neighborhood. From this period, the history of the MacGregors consists of a mere list of acts of Privy Council, by which commissions are granted to pursue the plan with fire and sword, and of various atrocities which a state of desperation, the natural result of these measures, as well as a deep spirit of vengeance against both the framers and the executors of them, frequently lead the Clan to commit. These actions lead to the enactment of still severer laws, and at length, the complete proscription of the Clan.

The slaughter of Drummond of Drummondernoch in the year 1589 and the conflict of the Glenfruin in 1603 are well-known to everyone; the first affording a foundation for the incident detailed in Sir Walter Scott's Legend of Montrose, and the latter being the result of the remarkable raid of the MacGregors into Lenox, and they were opposed by the Colquhouns, whom they defeated with great slaughter. Previously to this latter event, the King, despairing of being able to reduce the Clan, had constituted the Earl of Argyll King's lieutenant and justice in the whole

bounds inhabited by the Clan Gregor and this appointment was the means of at length effecting the utter ruin of the Tribe; for that politic nobleman, instead of driving the MacGregors to desperation, determined to use them as troops for executing his own vengeance on any of the neighboring families who had the misfortune to offend him.

There seems to be little doubt that almost all the incursions of the Clan, after this period, may be traced to that Earl as their cause. But when the conflict of Glenfruin drew the attention of government once more upon them, the Earl deemed it time to sacrifice his unfortunate instruments to the laws of his country. The Chief of the Clan Gregor was at this time Alaster MacGregor of Glenstray, and the Earl of Argyll having inveighed him into his power by a promise that he would convey him in safety to England and plead his cause at court, proceeded with him as far as Berwick; but having crossed the border, he declared that he had to the letter, now fulfilled his promise, though not to the sense. He forthwith conveyed his victim back into Edinburgh, and after the form of a mock trial had him hanged along with seven of his followers. But unfortunately for the fame of the Earl, MacGregor had, before his death, made a declaration, which affords so curious an exposure of that nobleman's policy, that we shall subjoin an extract from the document as printed in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Volume II, Page 435:

"I, Alaster MacGregor of Glenstray confess heir before God, that I have been persudit, movit, and intycit, as I am now presently accusit and troublit for; also gif I had usit counsall or command of the man that has entysit me, I would have done and committit sindre heich murthouris mair. For trewlie syn I wes first His Majesty's man, I could never be at ane eise, by my Lord of Argyll's falshepe and inventiones, for he causit MacKline and Clanhamrowne commit hership and slaughter in my roum of Rannoche, the quhilk causit my pure men there efter to begg and steill, also therefer he movit my brother and some of my friendes to commit baith heirschip, and slaughter upon the Laird of Lues, also he persuadit myself with message to weir angaines the Laird of Boquhanene, whilk I did refuse, for the whilk I was contenuallie bostit that he would be my unfriend, and when I did refuse his desire on that point, then he entysit me with other messengeris, to weir and truble the Laird of Luss, quhilk I behuffit to do for his false boutgaittes; then when he saw I was in ane strait, he causit me to trow he was my gude friend, etc., but with fair wordes to put me in ane snare that he might get tre lands of Kintyre in feyell fra his Majesty, beganne to put at me and my kin. The quhilk Argyll inventit maist shamfullie, and persuadit the Laird of Ardkinglass to dissave me quha was the man I did maist traist unto; but God did releif me in the meantyme to libertie maist narrowlie, etc. I declare befoir God that he did all his craftie diligence to intyse me to slay and destroy the Laird of Ardinkaiple MacKally for ony ganes kyndness or friendship that he might do or give me. The quhilk I did refuse to respect of my faithful promise maid to MacKallay of befor; also did he all the diligence he culd to move me to slay the Laird of Ardkinglass in like manner. Bot I never grantit therto. Throw the quhilk he did ervey me gretumly," etc.

The result of the representations which were made to the King against the MacGregors on account of this conflict were the Acts of Proscription.

By an act of the Privy Council dated 3rd April 1603, the name of MacGregor was expressly abolished, and those who had hitherto borne it were commanded to change it for other surnames, the pain of death being denounced against

those who should call themselves Gregor or MacGregor, the names of their fathers.

Under the same penalty, all who had been at the Conflict of Glenfruin, or accessory to those other marauding parties charged in the act, were prohibited from carrying weapons except a pointless knife to cut their victuals. By a subsequent act of the Council, death was denounced against any persons of the Tribe formerly called MacGregor, who should presume to assemble in greater numbers than four. And finally by an act of Parliament in 1607, c. 26 these laws were continued and extended to the rising generation, in respect that great numbers of the children of those against whom the acts of the Privy Council had been directed, were stated to be then approaching to maturity, who, if permitted to assume the name of their parents would render the Clan as strong as it was before. The execution of these severe and unjustifiable acts having been committed principally to the Earl of Argyll, with the assistance of the Earl of Atholl in Perthshire, were in force with unsparing rigor by that nobleman, whose interest it now was to exterminate the Clan; and on the part of the unfortunate MacGregors were resisted with the most determined courage obtaining sometimes a transient advantage, and always selling their lives dearly.

After the death of Alaster of Glenstray, that branch of the MacGregors remained nominally captains and chiefs of the Clan, with little real power over the other houses of the Clan, until the end of the 17th century, when they appear to have become extinct; although when Montrose raised his Highland army, greater part of the Clan Gregor joined him under command of Patrick MacGregor of Glenstray. The Brackly family, however, seemed constantly to have asserted their right to the chiefship, and at length, when the Clan obtained full redress from the British Government by an act abolishing forever the penal statutes which had so long been imposed upon this race, they entered into a deed recognizing John Murray of Lanrick, afterwards Sir John MacGregor, Baronet, representative of this family, as lawfully descended from the ancient stock and blood of the Lairds and Lords of MacGregor, and therefore acknowledged him as their chief. This deed was subscribed by 826 persons of the name of MacGregor capable of bearing arms, and in this manner the descendant of the ancient chiefs of the Clan again assumed the station as head of the Clan which his ancestors had possessed and to which he was entitled by the right of blood.

Their claim, however, is opposed by the Glengyle family, to which branch belong the celebrated freebooter, Rob Roy, whose deeds have been lately brought so conspicuously before the public.

ARMS - Argent, a sword in Bend Azure, and a fur tree eradicated in Bend Sinister, Proper; in chief, a crown gules.

BADGE - Pine.

PRINCIPAL SEAT - Glenorchy.

OLDEST CADET - The MacGregors of Glenstray were oldest cadets and captains for a period of two centuries.

CHIEF - Sir Evan MacGregor Murray, Baronet.

FORCE - In 1745, 700.

A note from the contributor of this article promises a continuation of it in future editions of the News Letter.