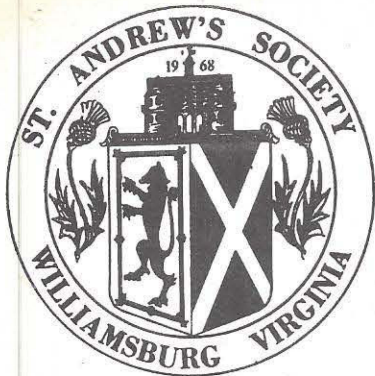




THE SPECTATOR
JULY-AUGUST 1991
SAINT ANDREWS SOCIETY
OF
WILLIAMSBURG

XX

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My thanks to all members who attended our Spring Ceilidh at Kingsmill on Sunday, May 5th. We had a great day, an excellent location, good food and drinks, outstanding Scottish entertainment, and, best of all, a grand opportunity for fellowship. Special thanks and appreciation is due Byron Adams, Don Dixon, Russ Scott, and all others who worked to plan, arrange, and make the Ceilidh a success!!

As announced, a special general membership meeting was held during the Ceilidh. The members present voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Directors to separate the Charitable and Educational (C&E) Fund from our society and create a new organization encompassing the purposes and objectives of the current C&E Fund. In addition, the members voted to give the Board the authority to prepare and execute a constitution and by-laws for the new organization. These actions were taken on advice of the Internal Revenue Service as steps that must be accomplished if our C&E Fund is to be granted tax-exempt status. Following the Ceilidh, the IRS confirmed that the two organizations must be separated. Therefore, I appointed a committee chaired by Henry Wann with Byron Adams and Taylor Fraser to prepare the constitution and by-laws for the newly created "Saint Andrew's Benevolent Fund". This committee did an outstanding job in short order to meet the IRS deadline. On June 3rd, these papers were forwarded to the IRS for their final review and "hopefully" approval of tax-exempt status.

My apologies at being so "long Winded" about the C&E Fund, but that is a very important issue to our Society.

All of you should have received a flyer announcing our luncheon on Monday, July 15th. Please plan to attend. I'm looking forward to an interesting presentation on Scotland by Mrs. Scottie Haviland.

In addition, our plans for this year's Tartan Ball have been firmed up. It will be held on Friday, September 27th at 9:15 PM, Holiday Inn Patriot, following the Williamsburg Scottish Festival's Balmoral Reception. The ball will feature both Scottish entertainment and regular dance music. The cost is \$10 per person. Hope to see you there!!

Ev Tucker, President

SCOTTISH TRADITIONS AND FESTIVALS OF SUMMER

Midsummer's Eve and Midsummer's Day--In northeast Scotland and in Orkney and Shetland, midsummer festivals have long persisted. This is probably due to their Scandinavian past. The Feast of Baldur at midsummer's eve marked the approach of harvests and the oncoming darkness of winter. Bonfires were lit and lovers leapt through the flames hand in hand to call for good luck in their future marriage. The fishermen of the east coast lit small bonfires outside their front doors on June 29, St. Peter's Day, to honor the fisherman-apostle. And the dew of midsummer morning, believed to have healing properties, was gathered to make bread for sick folk. St. John's wort, a highland herb, if gathered on midsummer eve or morning, would keep away witches and the effects of curses.

SCOTTISH SUPERSTITIONS IN SUMMER

The symbol of summer, of course, is the sun, and in Scotland it attracted some interesting superstitions. Lucky would be the bride that the sun shines on; she would be fruitful like planted fields. And whoever did a sunwise turn before starting a new project could have good luck. But don't point at the sun, that encourages disaster. One must make a 'deisel' turn- towards the sun's path-on one's heel for success. To go 'widdershins'-against the sun's path-encouraged the powers of darkness. Sailors of old always passed the port clockwise or 'deisel'.

On Lewis in late summer, farmers would protect their cattle from sickness by paying a man to run three times around the herd while holding a lighted torch and running from east to west. A beast with an injured leg would be cured if led three times around an ancient stone. And in Lothian it was believed that if a man would run three times 'widdershins' round a church, he would see the devil leering at him from the porch. Perhaps that was done on a Saturday night.

Three is the magic number here, but not so secret. In medieval Scotland three became a favorite good number because of the trinity.

Bannockburn Eve/Day--The Scottish victory over the English on Sunday 23 June 1314 has become associated with patriotic festivals and customs since the Union of the Parliaments in 1707. As with other famous battles in Scotland Bannockburn is a symbol of nationalism. Now, usually on the Saturday nearest midsummer day, people gather at Bannockburn to celebrate.

Stirling Festival--In late July and early August concerts, sporting events, writers' festivals and guided walks take place in and around this historic and beautiful city.

Dumbarton District Festival--This includes Highland games, fetes, concerts of all kinds, tours, children's events and an international selection of folk customs.

Moffat and District Gala--Incorporating the 'Installation of the Shepherd and Shepherd's Lass' this gala is a time of sports, fancy dress parades, torchlight processions, dances and general merrymaking.

Other Galas having a variety of Scottish customs--

July Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire
 Rothiemay Gala, Banffshire
 Keith Gala, Banffshire
 Broughty Ferry Gala, Angus
 New Galloway Gala, Kirkcudbrightshire
 Thurso Gala, Caithness

August Dornie Gala, Ross and Cromarty
 Inverurie Town Gala, Aberdeenshire

Sept Lamblash Gala, Isle of Arran
 Dufftown Gala, Banffshire
 Kingussie Gala, Inverness-shire
 Nairn Gala, Nairnshire
 Wick Gala, Caithness
 Beaulv Gala, Inverness-shire

THE HAGGIS HUNT

As I mentioned last issue, the Dixons were off to Scotland for a month hunting antiques and the wild hairy haggis, that most elusive of Scottish myths. (There was one evening I thought I saw it in the vicinity of the Red Lion Hotel in Prestwick, but I might have been mistaken, I think it was something I drank).

The antique hunting took us far and wide. Headquartered on the west coast, we made many a foray into Glasgow and beyond. The search was difficult but not without its moments. In Kilmarnock one day I stopped to ask directions from a young man who had been stripped to his shorts, painted various bright colors and tied, sprawling on his back, to a lamppost. He couldn't answer because he had had such a good time celebrating his upcoming marriage. Ah, the traditions.

But the weather was marvelous for a hunt. (It hardly rained at all while we were sleeping). And as we wound our way through the New Galloway Forest, transfixed on the natural beauty of our surroundings, it took a while before we noticed that the ever present mist was the result of the van's radiator overheating. But no matter, there was food in the rucksack, wine, sandwiches, and savories, packed for our hillwalking expedition. And since it was raining too hard to see the hills, we had a picnic in the van while the engine cooled off.

But the golfing at Troon was champion. That day the

weather was glorious and the three brothers-in-law made their mark in the ancient game. I contributed much to the course as my woods steadily came apart with each ball I hit(so much for second hand clubs). And there were delays each time I returned to the club house to buy another bucket of balls.

Time and space does not permit me to cite all our adventures here, but soon our 40 ft container was full, our pockets were empty and we were experiencing the increased security at Glasgow Airport. My briefcase was radiated so much it still feels warm to the touch.

ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY LUNCHEON

On Monday, 15 July, 1991, the Society will hold its luncheon at the Mulberry Inn, 16890 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, at 11:30. By now you should have received your flyer so this is a last minute reminder. There is a super menu and a cash bar is available. Scottie Haviland will treat the noon celebrants to her own recollections of Scotland. Promises to be a good day, join us. Call Hunter at 229-5868 for details.

CLAN BRUCE

The origin of the Bruce family is Normandy, in the Cotentin peninsula, their fief of Brix. They held that area at the time of the Norman conquest of England. David I granted to Robert de Brus (Brix), who had come to England after the Battle of Hastings, the strath of the Annan around 1124; thus the family acquired its Scottish link. Here the most famous branch eventually became earls of Carrick, and supplied two kings of Scotland, Robert I, and David II.

The exact connection between the Bruces who became kings and those who gained fame later is unclear, but it is likely that the latter were descended from a younger son of one of the 13th century lords of Annandale. They first appeared as the Lairds of Clackmannan around 1340, which continued in the male line until 1772. The mid 16th century laird Davie had two younger sons, one of whom was ancestor of the Bruces of Kennet. This family married into that of Balfour of Burleigh, a peerage created by James VI for a faithful servant and extinguished by the forfeiture of its Jacobite holder in 1714. However, Alexander Bruce of Kennet, in the late 19th century, managed to reverse the forfeiture. Ever since, the descendants of Bruce, of the Lords of Balfour, have contributed to the public life of Scotland.

The more famous Bruce line gave rise to a Scottish judge who became Master of the Rolls, and Lord Bruce of Kinross, whose son became Earl of Elgin in 1633. The third earl stood by James VII against William of Orange; he died in Brussels. The earldom of Elgin passed to the other descendants of the first Bruce line in the 18th century. The branch of the family was built on commerce and industry, but in 1647 gained an earldom, Kincardine.

The 7th earl of Elgin placed the Elgin title at the center of controversy which is still with us. He is the infamous person who removed the infamous sculptures from the Greek parthenon at Athens. He actually sold these 'marbles' to the British government and they can be seen today. Even Keats lauded these famous pieces.

J.M. BARRIE, PLAYWRIGHT

Who was Sir James Matthew Barrie? He was a strange man, very short, with a huge head, certainly an unhandsome physique. Born in Kirriemuir in 1860, he developed a compassion to write, even at childhood. He went to school in his native village, which he nicknamed Thrums, then went on to graduate from Edinburgh University, which he did with no effort, brilliantly.

But in his native village, he was not much liked. He could be nasty, and in his book, A Window on Thrums, he attacked the secrets and habits of the villagers. And like any small town, it held a grudge. When he died and his funeral procession went through his village, the villagers stayed away, never really forgiving him for his spying on them and telling the world.

But it was his flights of imagination, his dream-world which he could show in words that made him famous. After a brief time as a journalist in Nottingham, he went to London and fell in love with the theater. At 33, his first play, Walker, London, was a huge success. Then came Quality Street (1902), The Admirable Crichton (1902), and in 1904, Peter Pan. It was Peter Pan that assured his immortality. This was followed by several others, and in them all it was obvious Barrie was searching for the other world deep in our minds. His wild imagination always struck a chord in the dream-worlds of his audiences.

WIFE'S TALE

I met my pal coming out the butcher's. He said, "Jimmy, Ah just got a pound of mince for the wife." "By gum", I said, "You got a bargain there."

ALEXANDRIA CHRISTMAS WALK

It is difficult, as I sit here typing about a yuletide activity, while outside the temperature is climbing above 98 degrees, to picture such a scene. But unless this is accelerated global warming and dire events transpire quickly, Christmas will be here. So as in last issue, I'll summarize for you.

You don't want to miss this. Think of the things to do after the parade. Pubs? Try Gadsby's Tavern, or sample the wet stuff of The Irish Pub, Portner's, The wharf and Murphy's. Shopping? Buy gemstones and firearms, flowers and shortbread, or overdose on vegetables in the farmer's market in front of the courthouse. History? Experience the variety in hundreds of Colonial & Federalist period homes, some featured in tours.

Music? Be driven mad by the pipe bands on Friday and Saturday evening in the hotel courtyard. Food? Go eat.

Twelve rooms are blocked for Dec 6 & 7 for the Society at the Old Town Holiday Inn, \$85/night/room, sgl or dbl, \$15 for extra adult/room, under 18 free. Call 703-549-6080, (800-368-5047 outside Va.). Be sure to mention the Society and call Bill Weaver at 804-229-3432 if you reserve a room.

EPITAPH OF THE OAKFIELD WOODCUTTER

"The Lord saw good, I was lopping off wood
And fell down from the tree.
I met with a check and broke my neck,
And so death lopped off me."

CENSUS RECORDS

Interested in searching the family tree in Scotland? There is a new book out which is a survey of census and other records which helps to trace ancestors in Scotland and abroad. It tells which information is available and where it can be found. It is titled, Census Record For Scottish Families, by Gordon Johnson. The cost is 3 pounds sterling and is available at The Association of Scottish Family History Society, 152 King Street, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB2 3BD.

REALLY COLD

According to The Tablet of Memory, in the year 359 AD, a severe frost covered the whole of Scotland for 14 weeks.

ST. ANDREWS TARTAN BALL

From 9:15 p.m. to midnight a Tartan Ball will be held at the Holiday Inn Patriot on Friday, September 27, 1991. Sponsored by the St. Andrews Society in conjunction with the Williamsburg Scottish Festival, this affair features dancing, Scottish entertainment, and a cash bar. Appropriate attire is Highland evening dress, tuxedo, or dark suit for men, long skirt, cocktail dress, or evening gown for women. Plan to attend but reserve early. Write to : St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg
P.O. Box 533
Williamsburg, Va. 23187

"God knows I'm no saint, but if I could--and I think I do it as far as I am able--I would wipe away all tears from all eyes."

Robert Burns

WILLIAMSBURG SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

The 14th. annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival will be

held, with great ceremony and color, at the Williamsburg Winery on Saturday, September 28, 1991, 2638 Lake Powell Road. The honored guest will be Iain A. Gunn of Banniskirk, Commander of Clan Gunn, the honored clan at the festival. There will be special events, demonstrations of Scottish dancing and sheep herding, competitions, food and drink, and children's activities.

At 8:00 p.m. on the 28th at the Holiday Inn Patriot, a Ceilidh, that traditional Scottish party, will be held. Tickets are at the door at \$5.00 so come on out and have a good time.

SCOTTISH PROVERB

"Its folly to live poor to dee rich."

YEW TREES

In the middle ages, yew trees were planted near castles and in churchyards to supply the bows of soldiers and huntsmen.

A TASTE OF SCOTLAND- TROUT FRIED IN OATMEAL

I have had the distinct pleasure of eating this in a pub in the village of Kilmartin in Argyll and along with the fresh vegetables in season, new potatoes, and Balvennie neat, what more could a soul want?

Allow one large trout or two small ones per person. Clean the trout and split them open at the belly, then remove the backbone. Season some coarse oatmeal with salt and pepper, then roll the fish on both sides in it. Heat two tablespoons butter for each two fish, in a frying pan, and when bubbling, but not brown, fry the fish on both sides until golden. Drain, and serve garnished with parsley and wedges of lemon.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN:

Scottish country dancing-----Call Jack Kane at 898-6953

St. Andrews Society of Wsmbg-----Call Ev Tucker at 898-8151

Williamsburg Scottish Festival-----Call Bob Davis at 229-5653

Scottish American Military Soc-----Call Russ Scott at 887-2803

Scottish Highland Dancing-----Call Mary Adams at 220-0310

Piping lessons-----Call Jay Close at 564-0838

Scottish Antiques-----Call Don Dixon at 898-1404

Alexandria Christmas Walk-----Call Bill Weaver at 229-3432

Charitable & Educational Fund-----Call Henry Wann at 229-2686

THE SPECTATOR is published bi-monthly by the Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg. If you have a friend that you think might enjoy it, and who might be interested in joining the Society, call me, Don Dixon, at 898-1404 or 868-8745 and I will

get them a copy and an application. We welcome criticisms,
suggestions, requests, and flattery.

Saint Andrew's Society

P. O. Box 533
Williamsburg, Virginia
23187

