

THE SPECTATOR

January, February, March, 1997
Saint Andrew's Society
of Williamsburg



Burns Night Saturday, Jan. 18

Plans are in the final stages for our Society's annual tribute to Scotland's Immortal Bard. Burns Night will be held on January 18 at the Fort Eustis Club. A fine dinner, with haggis, will be presented, and there will be pipers in attendance.

The "Ode to the Haggis" will be heard along with a tribute to Robert Burns. Announcement of the "Scot of the Year" annual award will be another highlight of the evening.

For the last few years, cooperative scheduling between our Society and the Tidewater Society on the south side has meant that we alternate with them so that every other year each club can hold the celebration on the Saturday closest to the traditional date of Burns' birthday: January 25th. Last year was our turn - this year it's their turn. This will enable several members of each Society to attend either or both celebrations.

The committee planning the 1997 event includes Jack Kane, Jim Young, Kent Brinkley and Bill Garrett. If you would like to help out, or check on details, give any of them a call. Get tickets early, and mark the date: Saturday, January 18.

Flowers of the Forest

The Society needs the help of all members to keep informed regarding "The Flowers of the Forest". With our membership living in a widespread area, and having varieties of friendships and associations, it is readily apparent that, occasionally, an important event could be overlooked. No one wants this to happen, and the Board of Directors is always looking for ways keep informed if a member or close relative should be taken by death.

With the approach of Burns Night, it is time to prepare the accounting of those who have gone from our midst so that they can be appropriately memorialized with the proper respect. For the present, if any reader knows of a loss during 1996, it might be appropriate to contact the Board to insure proper note. This year, Doug McLean is putting together the list of those who have passed. He can be reached at 258 - 0071.

As a continuing project among the membership, it should be kept in mind that the Board needs to know so that appropriate tribute can be made by the Society in time for funerals and memorial ceremonies. Contact any Board member if you have any doubts that the Society might not be aware of a member's passing.

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The Spectator is published periodically by the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Virginia
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The Benevolent Association

The St. Andrew's Benevolent Association is an adjunct body governed by our Board of Directors. The Association has at its disposal a modest endowment earning some interest and from which contributions can be made for worthy purposes. Those purposes, regulated by its bye-laws, are to promote education and training which contributes to the diffusion of knowledge of Scotland, its culture and traditions.

Financial support has been afforded from the Association to individuals and other organizations. We have assisted students attending Scottish Universities from America and Scottish students coming here from Scotland.

Benefits are normally requested by letter, giving detailed information and justification. Each request is carefully considered by the Board and formal responses are returned, with consideration being given to the size and timing of the support needed.

The endowment is supported by a part of our annual dues, but the Association is also pleased to accept donations and memorials. Contact any Board member if you are interested in arranging for a contribution to this worthy cause.

Society Board Members

The list of Board Members is published here so that if you care to have a say in Society affairs, you can call any of them with your suggestions or comments. Also, if there is a committee that you would like to help out on, give someone a call. The committee list for 1997 will be made in February, so a complete listing will be included in the next issue of "The Spectator".

James Anthony	253 - 0321	Kent Brinkley	220 - 7954
Robert Davis	229 - 5653	Ken Garrison	398 - 5350
Charles Hunter	229 - 5868	Jack Kane	898 - 6953
Douglas McLean	258 - 0071	William Monroe	868 - 9242
Jack Robinson	229 - 5020	Thomas Sale	723 - 8206
Everette Tucker	898 - 8151		

Nominated to take office for 1997:

Arthur Jensen	851 - 6789	Jack Rouzie	220 - 1151
William Stone	220 - 0025	James White	220 - 0275

Remember that the election of new officers and Board members will take place at the annual meeting just before Burns Night.

Castles of Scotland

Dunstaffnage Castle

Without a doubt this is one of the finest examples of strategic positioning in the Western Highlands, situated on a high promontory that is almost an island. Indeed, the word itself is Gaelic and means "the fort on the point of the steep rock." The early Scots brought the famous Stone of Destiny - which only recently has been returned to Scotland from Westminster Abbey - from Ireland to Dunstaffnage, its first resting place in mainland Scotland. In the 9th century the stone was moved to Scone near Perth, and it was there that the kings of Scotland were crowned for many years, until in 1296 Edward I came to the English throne and took the stone, along with the ancient records of Scotland, to London. In 1603 James VI of Scotland, son of Mary, Queen of Scots, succeeded to the united thrones of the two kingdoms as James I.

Originally a MacDougall castle, Dunstaffnage was taken by Robert the Bruce when he took revenge on the MacDougall clan in the Pass of Brander in 1308. Bruce made it a royal castle and put it in the care of the Campbells, whose chief was the Duke of Argyll. Dunstaffnage was enlarged greatly in the 15th century on the orders of Alexander II, for the attack against the Norse Hebrides.

The 13th century castle was roughly quadrangular with walls ten feet thick and round towers. The gatehouse tower was built in the 16th century and was the family home until it burned in 1810. They then moved into Dunstaffnage house, the factor's home. This, too, was burned in 1940 and Angus Campbell, Captain of Dunstaffnage, moved to a small cottage on the estate, where he lived until his death, with some of the family treasures and fine paintings he had managed to rescue.

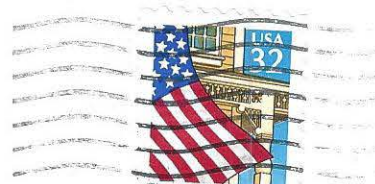
Dunstaffnage is on the road leaving Oban and is a "must see" for travellers in the area.

Quarterly Luncheon

Chuck Hunter and Dr. Tom Sale are putting together a quarterly luncheon for mid-February, 1997. These quarterly luncheons are an excellent opportunity to get together and meet fellow Society members and their wives. Yes, the ladies are definitely invited. There is usually an interesting speaker and the opportunity for stimulating conversation.

A publicity flier will be sent out in time to sign up for the luncheon, so watch for it in early February.

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