

THE SPECTATOR

April, May, June, 1997
Saint Andrew's Society
of Williamsburg



Christ Church Kirkin'

Saturday, April 26, was a beautiful Virginia spring day. It was a little cool, but considering the chilly weather we had been having, it wasn't at all cold. Several of the members of the Society motored up to Whitestone in the Northern Neck where rooms were waiting in the waterside resort at Windmill Point. By coincidence, a boat show was going on at the marina and the antique Packard automobile club was staying at the same resort.

Promptly at 5:00 PM local members from the area arrived in vans to whisk the party goers to the nearby waterside home of Jim and Dixie McCaig. Waiting there for all was a spread of tasty snacks which had been prepared by the Northern Neck group, along with a professionally run bar. Jim and Dixie seemed to enjoy showing their beautiful old home and grounds to the gang of visitors. Of special interest to many was the pretty herb garden.

After the cocktail party, the group was ferried back to the resort, where a fine buffet was ready. After dinner, President Jack Robinson started the entertainment off which included songs and pipes along with some pathetic jokes. In all, it was a grand evening.

Next morning, the group motored to Christ Church where they met with an even larger group that had come from the Peninsula and Richmond. A coffee and rolls breakfast was served in the church hall and preparations were made for the procession to the church. The tartans, banners and Claymore were conducted into the church where the hymns with the sermon by Dr. John Turner were enjoyed by all. A solo by Mrs. Turner was a special treat.

After the service the colors and the pipers led a wee parade around the church grounds with numerous cameras working away. At that point the crowd moved to the church hall where a catered luncheon was all laid out. As usual among Scots, numerous conversations went on. The crowd thinned as folks left to head for home.

Many kudos went to Jack, the McCaigs and the Northern Neck members for putting on such a delightful Scottish weekend.

Balmoral Society

Invitations to join the Balmoral Society have been sent to members throughout the local Scottish community. The Balmoral is dedicated to supporting the annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival, in which our Society takes an active role.

The festival is not a profit-making event, so it needs financial support in addition to funds derived from admission fees. Serious attempts have been made to find an outside sponsor but the Balmoral Society remains an important source of assistance, hence this reminder that, if you can, your own individual support through the Balmoral is appreciated.

The Spectator

The Spectator is published periodically by the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Virginia
President: Col. Jack Robinson
Contributors: Don Dixon
Editor: Tom Nichols
Doug McLean

June Luncheon

What a delightful luncheon we had on June 16 at the Country Club in Williamsburg! Chuck Hunter and Tom Sale had put together a fine menu and program that was enjoyed by all who attended. By the way, the attendance was very good at this event.

Everyone had a chance to greet the Scots among us; many just returning from vacation trips and others planning to travel soon. Lively conversations could be heard throughout the room. Several noted the absence of Bob Flinn who frequently attends and provides us with the tinkling piano music in the background, but Bob has quite a distance to travel from Alberta, Virginia, so he can't make 'em all. The bright shiny day made the room bright and cheerful which added to the pleasantness of the occasion.

A highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of our Past President, Jim Anthony, who had just recovered from surgery necessitated by a recent serious problem. All were pleased to see him at his old bouncy self again.

The program was a talk by Mrs. Virginia Rollins on "Searching for Your Scottish Ancestors". She is a geneologist at the Family History Center of the LDS Church. She told us how to access the various sources available to us to do family research not only in Scotland but locally through the Center in Newport News. Mrs. Rollins also distributed data sheets that could assist in developing a systematic search through the files of the Mormon Church family records.

The program was well received and all present lauded the efforts of Chuck Hunter and Tom Sale in arranging the luncheon.

Williamsburg Festival Sept. 27

September in Virginia can be lovely: not too hot and not-yet-cold. Sometimes there is rain, but what is that to a hardy Scot?

We are fortunate to have, in our area, The Williamsburg Scottish Festival during September. Other areas have theirs in June, July or August.....not the best time for woollens!

So, on September 27th, a Saturday, we'll gather at the Williamsburg Winery for the annual Festival and games. There will be all the trimmings: pipers, Scottish snacks, trained border dogs, dancers, traditional games and the ever popular march of the clans. All this plus the ceremonial opening and closing.

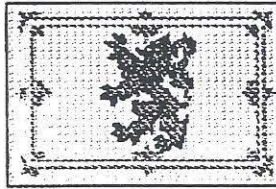
Keep the date in mind. September 27 at the winery near Williamsburg. A great place to meet other Scots and perhaps chat with other members of your clan!

Benevolent Association

The Saint Andrew's Society Benevolent Association is the charitable arm of our Society. Its purpose is to contribute to the preservation and appreciation of Scottish history and customs. A primary objective is to assist worthy students who are encouraged to take college courses in subjects which enhance their understanding of Scotland and its people. This can be done by assisting American students attending school in Scotland, or Scottish students coming to USA, particularly to William and Mary.

Our Society members can aid the effort with special gifts or bequests, but a particular need is for the Board of Directors to receive recommendations or nominations of worthy candidates for scholarship assistance within the Society's guidelines.

Our Scottish Heritage!



The Battle of Worcester, 1651

September 5, 6 & 7 1997

Museum of American Frontier Culture

Staunton, Virginia.

Announcing a special program scheduled for September 5th-7th, 1997. The City of Staunton, Virginia will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary throughout 1997. This will be the cornerstone of their calendar of events. The Theme is "*Our Heritage of Liberty, Our Scottish Heritage!*", the highlight of the weekend will be an exciting reenactment of the Battle of Worcester which took place during the English Civil War in 1651. The battle will take place on Saturday & Sunday on the grounds of the Museum of American Frontier Culture.

This event is expected to be the

Largest 17th century reenactment ever held in North America.

Up to 1,000 authentically dressed participants, including members of the Sealed Knot Society from Great Britain will join hundreds of volunteer re-enactors from across North America to re-create the infantry, cavalry and artillery actions of a 17th century battle. The public will hear the drums beating, the cannons firing, units of infantry carrying 14-foot pikes simulating the "push of pike" together with musketeers firing and cavalry charges.

For More information Please contact:

William H. Craig Jr. Executive/Project Director. HOL Planning Committee, 103 Gray Fox Square, Taylors, South Carolina, USA, 864-244-0850. Fax: 864-292-1250

What are Clanns?

The word clan is English in origin and means, simply, a social grouping associated with Scotland. To be sure, that definition is a gross over simplification. So let's put the record straight.

The foundations for the English definition owes more to 19th and 20th century attempts to rationalize clan society for the masses and exploit the commercial side of Scotland's history rather than historical reality. Edward Dwelly (who considered himself an authority) considered clan to be children or descendants or a tribe. He was arguably more than a little vague.

Clanns, for that is the true Gaelic spelling, can best be understood with a brief look at three different types of clann. Firstly there are the type which formed major groups within Scotland. Secondly, slightly less influential and smaller clanns. And finally, the smallest type of clann which denotes little more than immediate family groups.

Major power holders in clann history are exemplified by the Campbells, Donalds, Gordons, Mackenzies and Clann Chatten. All of these clanns dominated vast tracts of Scotland, crushing and absorbing smaller clanns and exercised a large degree of influence on their neighbours' affairs. However large these clanns became they were still based originally on family connections. In political terms a small oligarchy with a, sorry ladies, male chief at the head.



The Frasers, Gunns, MacPhersons and MacLeods are good examples of the second category. These clanns held influence in much the same way as the major powerholding clanns, but over smaller areas and over less people. However, the patriarchal basis of the clann was unchanged.

The third category refers to family groups. This category never held, or aspired to, political influence and in a Scottish context gave meaning to what sociologists now call self supporting kinship groups. Quite simply, an extended family. An excellent example would be Clann na H'Oidche - Clan of the Night, a family of Morrisons who lived on Mull. Perhaps some readers familiar with the Hindu caste system are by now drawing a comparison. If so, then sorry, you are wrong.

Clanns were not, are not based on a single religion. Nor, was it impossible to raise ones status within a clann. Similarly, a comparison with a simple feudal society is inaccurate because individual clanns had a centralized decision making mechanism and can all claim different ethnic ancestors. Picts, Britons, Normans, Irish and Dalriadic Scots are among the originators of the clanns. Professor T.C. Smout of St. Andrews University suggests that clanns in the Highlands were based on kinship tempered by feudalism. Sorry Professor, still a little vague.

Each clann was effectively a small society with a different organization operating in a distinct geographical area. Perhaps now we're establishing a more accurate definition. A patriarchal oligarchy operating in a distinct area, with its own culture and history and with possibly expansive ambitions? Sorry for the technical terms but, what we've really described is a very large extended 'family' running a small country.

I'm going to blow my own trumpet and say "that's the best definition of a clann I've ever heard".

It also accounts for the strong allegiance clann members have for their clann. For example, I'm very proud of being Scottish, I know where Scotland is, I also know who is in charge - unfortunately since 1707 its been the English - and I know something of my history and culture. All of these things make me Scots, just as your knowledge and culture makes you American, Australian, Japanese or whatever. It also makes you a Campbell or a MacLeod if that is your name.

Clann membership does not simply give you the right to wear some fancy bit of tartan. It gives you the right to be associated with a piece of Scotland. It gives you the right to say I am descended from an ancient and proud people who once ruled their own small country, it gives you a history and culture of which you can be justly proud. All of which is easy to accept. Clann membership also gives you the obligation to defend your name, your family and your family's homeland. Perhaps, in these modern times not so easy to accept.

Find out who you are. Trace your ancestors' name. Find out where you came from.

When you have, be proud of your Scots descendants. They were.

By Highlander Web Magazine's Paul Monaghan.

New Canopy Tent

For years, the Society has been using a small sun shelter when our representatives attend the various festivals and games around the area. Last year the canopy proved that it was not "wind proof" at the Williamsburg festival. Our Board of Directors was moved to purchase a new canopy of more sturdy construction and the committee, under Jack Kane, has found a bigger, nicer, stronger tent that will have its first outing at the September games.

Come out and enjoy the camaraderie and hospitality under the NEW canopy!

New Member

The Board has approved membership for Dr. Marcus M. Key of Weems, Virginia. For those not familiar with Weems, it is on the Rappahannock River southwest of Kilmarmock. Welcome Dr. Key.

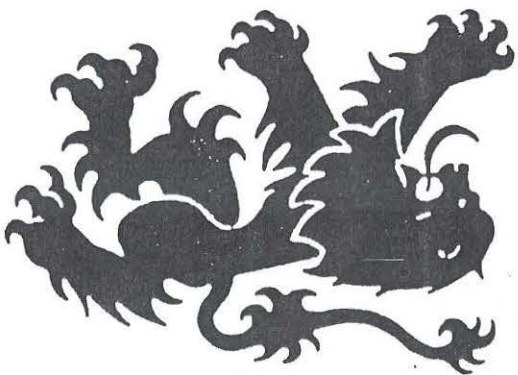
Some Committees For Your Information

President	Col. Jack Robinson	229 - 5020
Members Night Chairman	Jim White	220 - 0275
Fall Kirkin' Chairman	Jim Anthony	253 - 7966
Nominating Com. Chairman	Jack Kane	898 - 6953
Publicity	Jim White	220 - 0275
Memorial Com. Chairman	Zane Alexander	220 - 1829
SAS Luncheons Co-chairs	Dr. Tom Sale	723 - 8206
	Col. Charles Hunter	229 - 5868
Burns Night Co-chairs	Jack Rouzie	220 - 1151
	Bob Davis	229 - 5653

This is a partial list of committees only. See last issue for full list

News Bits

- Members Night is scheduled for October 16. Jim White is setting it up. If you would like to help, give him a call. A flier will be sent so reservations can be made.
- There will be another luncheon in August. Tom Sale and Chuck Hunter will be sending out announcements soon.
- See the note elsewhere about the Kirkin' at Bruton Parish in November. Jim Anthony and Zane Alexander are working on it.
- Foreign dispatches indicate that the Scottish National Party continues to push for independence.



St. Andrew's Society
P.O. Box 533
Williamsburg, VA 23187

St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg
Williamsburg Kirkin'

Sunday, November 30, 1997

11:15 Morning Prayer

(form for procession at 10:45)

Bruton Parish Church

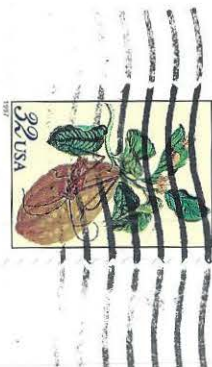
followed by

cash bar reception to 1:15

and lunch at 1:30 at

Kings Arms Tavern

Lunch: \$14 per person



MR. JAMES WHITE
116 PINEPOINT ROAD
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