



June 2004

Saltire Sentinel

Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.

Calendar

June 9 St. Andrew's Society of Richmond Business Meeting & Annual Election at

The Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal) on Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd. We gather to socialize at 6:30pm and the meeting begins at 7pm. Celtic Buffet: If you would like, please bring desserts, munchies or beverages to share.

Please note: *This is our last meeting for the membership year. We will meet again on September 8th; second Wednesday of the month, as usual.*

Picnic Postponed

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the annual picnic is being postponed until September. More information will be sent out once the date is finalized

Election Day is Here!

We will have elections for two Board positions at our annual business meeting on June 9th. These are for three year terms beginning July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2007.

Board members are the backbone of the SASR. Their responsibilities include: chairing committees, planning events and helping with membership as well as other duties. They are expected to attend meetings of the board as well as general membership meetings as much as possible.

The nominations for the board so far include: **Darlene Curtis, Dick Harman, Charlie Keith, John LoRe and Chris Rapp. Nominations may also be made at this meeting and written in on the ballots.** Please do attend this important meeting and cast your vote!

Here's An Answer To A Question That You Have Probably Never Asked:

You may have noticed, as you motor along, spewing pollutants into the air and burning up the funds initially earmarked for your kid's educations, those unobtrusive "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" signs. As good Scots, you'll almost certainly have noticed that in the left hand corner of the Episcopal Church logo, there is a St. Andrew's Cross. Enquiring minds might want to know why? Or maybe not. Anyway, here's the story as to how The Saltire wound up on a Church of England (Anglican) background.

When our Revolutionary War was successfully completed, The Anglican Church in The US of A was without any bishops. The church had been 'run' from Great Britain and the Mother Country saw no need for bishops to be 'in country'. The system worked fine for them. Of course, after the war, American Anglicans could not do ANY of the things for which a bishop was needed (Confirmation, Consecration of priests & bishops, etc.). The answer looked simple enough so a priest from New England, Samuel Seaberry (a British supporter and British Army Chaplain during THE war) was sent to England to be consecrated as a bishop. He could then return home & go about his bishop-business. As it turned out, the Brits wanted Seaberry to swear allegiance to the British king, as he was Head of The Church of England. Even Seaberry, an ardent Anglophile, knew that this was a bad idea. After all, hadn't we just gotten rid of George? So Seaberry mucked around for a while and finally went to Scotland where, as luck would have it, he found a warm welcome among the Scottish Episcopalians. These guys also had had a problem swearing allegiance to The House of Hanover as they had previously sworn

allegiance to The House of Stewart and hadn't been let out of that oath. So, Seaberry's Consecration as a bishop was carried out by the Scottish Episcopal Church and, with certain provisos, he went back to America and did bishop-stuff, among which was the creation of The Episcopal Church in America. The St. Andrew's Cross in the ECUSA logo remembers the actions of Scottish Episcopal Church. The nine crosses in the Saltire commemorate the nine initial dioceses in the American Episcopal Church. Now you know..... even if you didn't want to.



--Gordon D. Duffus

Scottish News Website

Here is a link to an interesting Scottish news website. It even has a section written in Gaelic! <http://news.scotsman.com>

--Steve Bruce

Tannahill Weavers Concert

Planning to be in Scotland on August 14th?
Join us at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe!
The venue is the Reid Hall on Bristo Square. For information on the Fringe, visit <http://www.edfringe.com> and to book tickets from June 21, go to <http://www.edfringe.com/shows/>.
-- Tannahill Weavers
<http://www.tannahillweavers.com>



10th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival set for October 23 & 24

Plans are underway for the 10th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival. The annual event takes place **Saturday & Sunday, October 23 & 24** at Richmond Raceway Complex. Plan now for two days of music, dancing, athletics, pageantry, competitions, food and fun.

The gates open each day at 9 a.m. Admission is \$16 per person at the gate (children 10 and under admitted free) and \$12 in advance. A special weekend pass is available for \$22. Parking is FREE. Your dog is welcome at a cost of \$4. All dogs must show proof of rabies shots and be on a non-retractable leash. The Parade of Dogs of the British Isles is scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. and the Blessing of the Animals takes place at 2 p. m. on Sunday.

Heavy Scottish Athletics are scheduled for both days with the Professionals competing on Saturday and Amateur Competition on Sunday. Two stages will again feature top-flight entertainment. While the entertainment roster is still being filled, we already know that Charlie Zahm will be back, as will Uisce Bethea and a reunion of the Jeff Greer Band.

The location at Richmond Raceway Complex will be the same as last year with Clan and Society tents grouped around the athletic field. If your Clan or Society has not yet reserved a tent, please do so soon to ensure a choice location. If you have not received your Clan packet, please contact Dick Harman at 569-3228 or via e-mail at धारman@statefair.com.

Who was the Patriot?



We all (Americans of Scottish descent) have a warm and fuzzy place in our hearts for Robert The Bruce..... and ever since the movie "Braveheart", we all now know who William Wallace was. But do we? Please forget what you 'learned' from the movie. It was an historical abomination..... but, and I am not the first to admit, it was totally thrilling! Thanks again Hollywood for taking a fantastic story and making it into ANOTHER fantastic story. The truth would really have been enough.

As we are coming up on the anniversary of The Battle of Bannockburn (June 24, 1314) it might be a good time to re-evaluate' some of the differences between Wallace & Bruce, this being the date of Bruce's greatest triumph and Wallace being.... well, dead.

Wallace was the son of a small land-holder (maybe) along Scotland's Border and was a supporter of the Scottish King John Balliol, now derisively know as 'Toom Tabard' or 'Empty Shirt' as he gave so much away to English Edward to become King of Scots. Bruce was descended from one of the 'Competitors' to the Scottish Crown (his grandpa). King John's strongest supporters (and relatives) were the Comyns who were all over the North of Scotland. The Bruces were a Lowland Norman Family and their strength was in the south west of Scotland with holdings in England as well. When Wallace 'came out' fighting, for whatever reason, it was the Earl of Murray (Moray) who supported him. Moray was a 'Comyn province' and strong for King John. The

Earl of Murray eventually died of the wounds that he had received at The Battle of Stirling Bridge and later, Bruce raised up his nephew to the position of Earl of Murray in his continuing attempt to do away with all supporters of King John. The Scottish Wars of Independence eventually became a civil war, fought amongst the factions vying for the Scottish throne. The English were just an extra-added-attraction and when they were no longer a threat, Scots fought Scots once again and Bruce and his nephew reduced all of the Comyn castles and holdings in The North. All gone... bye bye!

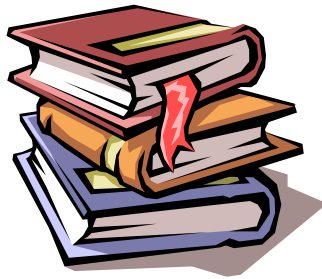
Anyway, Wallace fought the English for his king, John Balliol, and for Scotland's freedom (who's free under a king?). Bruce waffled back and forth, looking out for himself and his heirs, dealing with the Scots and then the English and back to the Scots again. It was only after Bruce murdered a leading Comyn chief in Dumfries, and then had himself crowned king to avoid prosecution, that he realized the fact that his lot was one with the Kingdom of Scotland. I believe that it was at this time that Bruce became a 'patriot', if there was such a 'thing' in 12th century Scotland. Sure, he was trying to save his own skin and certainly hoped that the Scots would follow him but there HAD to have been a deeper purpose there.... Somewhere. I think that this was THE time that Bruce came to 'see the light' and reached for a higher meaning. Had Bruce become a patriot? Yup. His fate was all tied up with the fate of the kingdom. Just prior to Bannockburn, Robert Bruce actually became King of Scots. He'd 'subdued' all of the families who were opposed to him and his throne looked secure..... except for Eddie the Two from England. When Eddie came north (as the English were prone to do at this point in time), The Scots, under Robert's command, whupped-up-on-'em in a two day fight within sight of Stirling Castle. Robert's victory at Bannockburn, though not ending the war with England, was certainly a turning point and the Scots started to cross The Border to bring the war to the English countryside.

Raid followed raid, battle followed battle but eventually, the English gave it up and recognized Scotland as again being an independent nation.

So who was the greater patriot, Robert the Bruce or William Wallace? I suppose it depends in which year you place them. Yup, cop out on my part. Y'all make up your own minds ☺

And who remembers King John Balliol? There is Balliol College in England.... 'cause John gave the 'start-up' funds for the place and saw it built. There is Scotland Yard (familiar?), the location where John stayed (and owned) when he came to London to 'pay homage' to King Eddie the One. John eventually died in France. But who remembers? Wallace would have! Bruce chose to forget!

-- Gordon D. Duffus



Some Celtic Book Reviews

OK, I'm the first to admit that most (if not all) books on The Celts (pronounced with a 'hard C' as in Kelts..... sorry Boston) have huge sections regarding their presence in Continental Europe and Ireland but little on the Celts in Alba (present day Scotland) except for the evangelizing Irish saints and Kenneth MacAlpin. This must be significant but I'm not sure why ☺. Also, except for the books that are written for scholars (not light reading), most others are almost always 'picture books' with notations. There are, however, many books on Celtic myths and stories which are quite good.... and a lot of fun to read and then you can tell the stories at parties (?). Books on Celtic Art are legion and rightfully so..... as Celtic Art is

magnificent! So, if you're interested in the people who eventually superceded the native Picts, Britons, and Northern Angles, The Celts 'r Us.

"Atlas of the Celtic World"

John Haywood, 2001

Thames & Hudson Ltd., ISBN: 0-500-05109-7

Maps & charts showing Celtic spheres of influence from 'the beginning' to present day with commentary and some neat graphics. This is a good book!

"The Celtic World: An Illustrated History of the Celtic Race"

Barry Cunliffe, 1986

Crown Publishers, NY, ISBN: 0-517-61533-9

Lots of decent B&W photos of things-Celtic. A pretty good primer.

"Celtic Sacred Landscapes"

Nigel Pennick, 1996

Thames & Hudson, Inc., NY, ISBN: 0-500-01666-6

This book deals with sacred trees & stones, holy islands and supernatural beings..... but sadly mostly in Ireland (I told you so!). Other than that sad fact, this is a good look into the early Celtic religious beliefs and some of the places, still existing, which played such a large part in their everyday lives.

"The Gods of the Celts"

Miranda Green, 1986

Barnes & Noble Books, NJ, ISBN: 0-389-20672-5

A 'scholarly' book, which, if you can digest it all, has a lot of good info on Celtic history. Lots of B&W photos, which are boring.

"The Ancient Celts"

Barry Cunliffe, 1997

Oxford University Press, ISBN:0-19-815010-5

The author is a professor of European Archaeology & it shows ☺

The book deals mainly with the Celts in Iron Age Continental Europe and isn't something

likely to show up on your nightstand..... unless you're a serious student of the subject. It would be difficult to get through chapter one in one 'bathroom sitting'. Really good maps/charts & some nice photos.

“Heroes of the Dawn: Celtic Myth”

Barnes & Noble, 1996, ISBN: 0-76073929-3

A great 'coffee table' book full of some better-than-average color photos and some short renditions of Celtic myths. This is a worthwhile read and, if you're like I am, you'll go back to it more than once just to refresh your memory & have a goodtime.

“Celtic Fairy Tales” (And “More Celtic Fairy Tales”)

Collected by Joseph Jacobs, 1968 (1892)
Dover Publications, Inc, NY, ISBN: 0-486-21826-0

If you can get past the Gaelic pronunciations and the fact that most of the stories are Irish in origin, reading these two books is fun..... but not for the younger kids. Lots of blood and gore.

“Celtic Battle Heroes”

John Matthews, 1988
Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., NY ISBN: 1-85314-100-3

Some really lame 'color plates' (paintings) make this book less than it should be. Although the stories deal mostly (again) with Irish heroes, they're short enough not to be boring.... and the writing is pretty good.

“A Celtic Reader: Selections from Celtic Legend, Scholarship, and Story”

John Matthews, 1991
The Aquarian Press, ISBN: 0-85030-935-2
The title says it all. Each chapter is written by a different writer so some are better than others. All in all, not a bad book but not a great book either.

“The Chronicles of the Celts: New Tellings of Their Myths & Legends”

Peter Ellis, 1999
Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc, NY, ISBN: 0-7867-0606-6

This book is a lot of fun. It's written in 'the oral tradition' so reading it is almost as good as sitting on the floor listening to someone tell the stories. Of course, it has all of the 'old stand-by' stories (don't they all?) and if you own a couple of Celtic storybooks, you probably know the tales already..... but these are nicely told..... and there are some Scottish stories present ☺



Celtic Art

I love Celtic Art!!!! Having said that, here's some more reviews.

“Celtic Designs: CD-Rom and Book”

Dover Publications, Inc, 1997, ISBN: 0-486-99940-8

“Celtic Alphabets: CD-ROM & Book”

Dover Publications, Inc, 1998, ISBN: 0-486-99953-X

“Celtic Frames & Borders: CD-ROM & Book”

Dover Publications, Inc, ISBN: 0-486-99974-2

*The 3 books listed above are for 'doing'! Each one has almost 100 images which can be used anywhere you like. The images are all in B&W so feel free to color them if you print some out. I really like this series and have used it extensively.

Some more 'to do' books:

“Celtic Iron-On Transfer Patterns”

Dover Publications, Inc, 1989, ISBN: 0-486-26059-3

When I bought this book, I thought that I'd iron-on some Celtic designs to some t-shirts. Nope! The iron-ons are so you can then embroider the images on the fabric. There are some really beautiful designs & borders here but I don't sew.

“Celtic Cut & Use Stencils”

Co Spinhoven, 1992

Dover Publications, Inc, ISBN: 0-486-27238-9

61 stencils that can be mixed & matched. Of course, you have to cut 'em all out with an Exacto knife and then treat them in linseed oil before using any of them. I'm lazy so I bought the next book.....

“Easy To Use Celtic Borders Plastic Stencils”

Co Spinhoven, 1995

Dover Publications, Inc, ISBN: 0-486-28635-5

While technically NOT a book, it does have plastic pop-out stencils, albeit only borders. These I HAVE used & they're easy. I need more!

“The Celtic Design Book”

Rebecca McKillip, 1981

Stemmer House Publications, Inc, ISBN: 0-916144-75-5

Some nice line drawings in B&W. It's too expensive for a coloring book so I assume that one copies the images & does what one does with copied images (?).

“Celtic Art: The Methods of Construction”

George Bain, 1973

Dover Publications, Inc, ISBN: 0-486-22923-8

Here it is! If you want to stop 'cutting & pasting' & learn how to actually make your own knotwork borders, knotwork panels, spirals, key patterns, lettering, zoomorphics, plant forms, & human figures (all Celtic), this book's for you! The learning may drive you crazy but at the end..... it'll be the end. This is a great book. Even if you don't intend to become a Celtic artist, at least

you'll know what they went through to produce what we look at today.

“Celtic Renaissance”

Alice Rican, 1982

Harper Colophon, ISBN: 0-06-090946-3

This IS a coloring book but at this price, my kids could have colored on the walls instead. Like the above mentioned Celtic Design Book, this one is useful for copying the images and then using them for something else. I used one for my youngest son's Baptismal invitations. There are some pretty intricate renderings here. Good stuff.

No more 'to do' books:

“The Celtic Art Source Book”

Courtney Davis, 1988

Blandford Press, ISBN: 0-7137-1982-6

This one has some really nice renderings in B&W and color. It's nice to look at and to see how Celtic art can be used in a modern setting.

“The Book of Kells”

Alfred Knopf, 1980, ISBN: 394-73960-4

This is NOT a copy of the entire Book of Kells. I saw one for sale once but couldn't afford it. Haven't seen one since. This one is 96 pages of B&W & color photos of some of the 'major' pages in the original. Along with the photos, there is a running history. For those unfamiliar with **The Book of Kells**, it was produced on Iona by the followers of St. Columba and is a beautiful illumination of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. I 'steal' images from this book.

“The Lindisfarne Gospels”

Phaidon Press Limited, 1981, ISBN: 0-7148-2148-9

Like **The Book of Kells**, this is also an illumination of the four Gospels but was produced on Holy Isle.... And written in both early English & Latin! Great photos and a good narrative.

-- Gordon Douglas Duffus

Who has too many books for my own good.

Remembering Our Troops

I am sure we are all remembering our troops overseas in our prayers, but would you like to help show them we care? I know someone stationed in Baghdad and she has provided me with a "wish list" of items that may be sent in a care package. I also have a list of names of people who have not gotten many (if any) packages since arriving in Iraq.

Please contact me for a list or items may be given to me to be sent. (My office sends packages periodically and one of the guys I work with sends a package to his daughter every week.)

-- Patti Stone

Email: Patti823@aol.com

Tunes of Glory

Every so often, we're reminded of the connection of the Great Highland Bagpipes and its' connection to the soldier. The bagpipes are not exclusive to the British Forces any more, even in the United States Armed Forces, the Pipes are making their mark.

The following pictures are of two fine men who have served our great nation in Peace and at War. The first photo is of Major Brian Johnson who has just been reassigned. The photo of Maj. Johnson is of him playing his pipes along with Donald McPhee of Scotland, when Brian relinquished Command in Germany.

Brian will be joining up with "Legion" when time permits, once he and his wife Kitty get settled into their new home in Stafford County.

The next photo is of Spc. Andy West while serving in Iraq this past year in the US Army in the 527th MP Co and the unit saw much action in and around Baghdad comprising up part of the V Corps.

Andy is now stationed at Ft Eustis, Virginia

and every Monday evening, duty permitting, is at band practice playing on his Pipes with fellow SALPD members.

One portion of Andy's bio (to the author of this article), kinda' makes ones' heart swell with pride and we salute these two fine men for their loyal devotion to our nation.

Andy West- "I must say I am very proud of serving with that unit and will never forget the fallen comrades. I now honor them by joining the St. Andrew's Legion, a Veterans and Family based Pipe and Drum Band."

To Brian and Andy, we salute you.
The St. Andrew's Legion and the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond

--Tim Batten





Prayers Please

The grandson of one of our members, **Frances McConnell**, is critically ill with cancer. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

Last Chance for Raffle Tickets!

The raffle for the *beautiful* Lion Rampant Pendant (made and donated by our own **Tom Blanton!**) will be drawn at the June meeting. So come early, cash in hand, to buy some tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



Contributions?

Please send any articles, music/book reviews or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Lennie Geipel** at geipel@geipel.info or PO Box 2663, Glen Allen VA 23058 by the beginning of August. Thank you.