



October 2005

Saltire Sentinel

Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, www.standrewssociety.org

Calendar

Oct. 12 St. Andrew's Society Meeting will be held at **Topeka's SteakHouse N' Saloon** located at 1776 Parham Road near the intersection of Parham Road and Three Chopt Road in Henrico County; (804) 346-3000. Members will start gathering about 6:30 PM and everyone should order their meal by 7:00 PM. We will be honoring two founding members of the Society who are still very much active in the group's activities: Charlie Scott and Jeff Kelso.

The Society has a room reserved within the restaurant and we will order off the menu.

There is a nice selection of entrees, including not only steak prepared to order, but also large salads and baked sweet potatoes. Don't forget to ask for a bucket of peanuts on the way to your table. Typical prices range from about \$9.00 to \$13.00. Separate checks will be allowed. This is our opportunity to socialize with each other and have a great time! Hope to see you there!

Oct. 22-23 Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival at Richmond Raceway Complex 9 am - 5 pm; Advance one Day \$13, Advance weekend \$24
www.richmondceltic.com

Nov. 9 St. Andrew's Society Meeting at **North Park Branch Library**, 8508 Franconia Road; (804) 262-4876. For directions see
<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/library/NPdir.htm>
Our program will be on Scots in the Civil War; presented by Jim Cochrane and Tim Batten.

Dec. 14 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting TBA.

SMAsquerade: Speakeasy

Andrew's Buddies Annual Benefit Gala is October 21 at 7:30 pm at the Science Museum of Virginia's Thalheimer Pavilion. The evening promises to out-do past events (if that's possible) with sultry jazz, secret passwords and hidden agendas. There will be fabulous food from Mosaic Café, music by Chez Roué and a live auction with such spectacular items as a week in a private villa in France, an interior home design package featuring a consultation with nationally renowned designer Vern Yip and a fabulous trip to Chicago. Tickets are \$125 per person (partially tax-deductible). Make checks to FightSMA/Andrew's Buddies, 1807 Libbie Ave., Suite 104, Richmond VA 23226. For more information, contact Heather Lennon at 804-515-0080. www.FightSMA.com

2005 Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival Oct. 21-23

The 2005 Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival begins Friday evening, October 21, and runs through Sunday, October 23. Again this year it is being held at Richmond International Raceway (the State Fair grounds for you old Richmonders). A detailed schedule should be available at the Games' web site (www.RichmondCeltic.com); although as of this writing it was not available.

Friday evening is mostly for the participating Clan Societies members. There will be a ceremony with the Calling of the Clans and a bonfire. Later there will be a Ceilidh at a time/place to be determined. Again, check their web site for the schedule.

Saturday and Sunday is when the real action is. The St. Andrew's Society of Richmond

will have a tent there in the Clan area. Be sure to stop by and at least say “Hello” before you begin your wanderings. You may use the tent as a meeting place for friends and family, drop off for folding chairs, purchased goodies, food, etc. There will be food provided for members and guests (you are welcomed to bring your own food offerings, similar to our famous “Celtic Buffet” at our regular meetings).

Dress in layers. It is late October and the weather can be anything from very cold to very hot ... on the same day! It is not unusual for people to buy sweaters from vendors in the morning because it is so cold and then leave the same sweater at the tent when it gets warm in the afternoon. Good shoes are also advisable since you will probably do a lot of walking. And, as always, wear your tartan. This is one event where men not in kilt feel self-consciousness.

If you have never attended a Scottish Games, you are in for a treat. The concept of the Games goes back to ancient Scotland where there would be competitions between members of a clan and sometimes between friendly, neighboring clans (unfriendly clans would just fight). The competition was not just athletics: singing, dancing, poetry, and music were all part of the games. That tradition continues today at the Scottish Games. Plus we have Clan Tents (not needed in ancient times), food booths, demonstrations (sword fighting, military reenactments, birds of prey, British dogs and cars), and merchandise vendors. Most vendors will accept credit/debit cards and checks but you will still want to bring folding cash.

Author’s note: I did the web site for the 2000 Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival. I have posted on our St. Andrew’s Society web site (www.standrewssociety.org) pages from the old site, which explains in some detail the various competitions.

-- **Jeff Kelso**

Jim Malcolm concert

On October 22nd, award winning Scottish singer Jim Malcolm will perform at Grove Avenue Coffee and Tea, as part of their “Folk in the Grove” series. Jim is the lead singer for the well-known Scottish folk group “Old Blind Dogs” but will be appearing in Richmond as part of his solo tour.



He has been described as “One of the most outstanding talents to have emerged on the Scottish folk scene in years”. Unfortunately this falls on the same weekend as the Richmond Highland Games, but it might be a nice way to unwind with coffee, tea and mellow Scottish singing after a hectic day at the festival.

Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door, and can be purchased at www.richmondfolkmusic.org.

Doors open at 7:00, concert begins at 8:00 pm. Call 647-7856 for more information. www.jimmalcolm.com.

-- **Mary Smith**

Williamsburg Scottish Festival a great success

The St. Andrew's Society of Richmond furnished 23 volunteers to work the festival who were greatly appreciated. Final figures are not in yet but it looks like it was probably one of the most successful Games attendance-wise. New this year was a Friday night Ceilidh and also one on Saturday night. Our own Francis McConnell headed that up and did a wonderful job. Another of our members, Roscoe Porter (an ordained Anglican Steward), conducted the Kirking on Sunday morning and also did an outstanding job. I don't know if the Society is aware, but Roscoe being ordained as he is, can and has performed Weddings, and any other Church duties except the Lord's Supper. (I mention this about Roscoe for the membership's edification in case anyone feels the need for his services).

Will Phillips, President of The Williamsburg Scottish Games, told me Sunday morning that the liquid refreshment sales were almost double what they had been in the past so that was helpful toward total sales for the Games. (Don't know if that's something to proud of though.) I don't know if I've informed everyone or not but our Charlie Scott and Francis McConnell are members of the Board of The Williamsburg Scottish Games Inc.

-- Bob Maxwell



The Williamsburg Scottish Festival this year was well organized. The directions, parking and other aspects were all well orchestrated.

The attendance Saturday was good and folks had no trouble getting in and out and moving about. This was further enhanced by near perfect weather for the day.



The games were decent as well as the bands, but the vendors and food booths were a little on the short side. One main food tent and one for deserts and the baked good place was all there was for eating and many traditional foods just were not there. Overall it was a very good event but will need a few more years to grow and mature.

-- John LoRe

Heraldry program

At our first St. Andrew's meeting of the season, Jeff Kelso gave a very informative presentation on heraldry. A big thank you to

Jeff! Thanks also go to Glenn Mullins for providing the projector. The program's information is available on our website www.standrewssociety.org/. Click on the Regular Meeting link on the home page.

Olde Towne Scottish Walk

Modeled after Scotland's Hogmanay Festival, a day when townspeople honor their community and merchants and offer blessings for prosperity in the coming year. The Olde Towne Scottish Walk, a procession led by pipe-and-drum bands, starts at Queen and Washington streets in the parking lot of Monumental United Methodist Church and ends at High Street Landing. Enjoy walking, pipe music, caroling and mini-concerts at Olde Towne restaurants and pubs. Pipe bands are welcome to join. Come wear your warmest woolens and plaids and join in the fun. Past events have included ancient weaponry demonstrations, children's story telling, and free whiskey tastings.

The event is Saturday, December 31 from 3:30 - 5p.m. at Queen and Washington Streets; High Street Landing, Portsmouth VA 23707 More Info: Phone: 757-393-1812

<http://home.hamptonroads.com/calendar/details.cfm?eventID=42365>

Book Reviews

Before Scotland: The Story of Scotland Before History

by Alistair Moffat, Thames & Hudson (2005), ISBN: 0-500-05133-X

The title was beguiling... and sucked me right in. Who doesn't want to know stuff before there was stuff? I did! And then was actually surprised. The book started with the geographic make-up of Scotland and how it came to look the way that it does. The story of the people, starting in 3800 BC, who came to live there is also covered... all the way up through the Romans. The little vignettes on many of the pages are 'good'

stuff', and encompass the things which you'll be prone to remember. This is a good book, full of information, but not written in a stuffy style. You may even find yourself smiling a wee bit as you read it. The few photos (all color) in the book are magnificent. I like this one.

Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America

by James Webb, Broadway Books (2004)

ISBN: 0-7679-1688-3

This book was recommended to me...so I bought it. In my entire life... of buying, reading, and collecting books on Scottish history, this is the only book I've ever written in (aside from school textbooks). I just couldn't help myself 'pointing' out the errors. Webb's analysis of Scottish history is not only lame, it's incorrect. He draws conclusions where there isn't even a question. His knowledge of Scottish history is nil... and annoying! ... and gained from movies like 'Braveheart'. I have to admit to not knowing 'that much' about the Scotch-Irish in Ireland so can't comment on his history regarding them. But, when his prose brings his heroes into North America, he again 'makes up stuff' to fit some kind of egotistical whim. The book 'reads well'... and if one didn't know what the hell was going on, it would be a good yarn. The historical indiscretions are, to me at least, a bit much to ignore. If you want to read a much better book on this subject, read **Cracker Culture**.

-- Gordon D. Duffus

Newsletter Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Lennie Geipel** at geipel@mac.com or PO Box 2663, Glen Allen VA 23058 by the end of October.