



March 2006

# Saltire Sentinel

Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.  
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, [www.standrewssociety.org](http://www.standrewssociety.org)

## Calendar

### Mar. 8 St. Andrew's Society Dinner Meeting

7:00 PM at **The Italian Cafe**, located at Sycamore Square Shopping Center on Midlothian Turnpike in the Village of Midlothian. Members can begin arriving at 6:30 PM and the banquet room has been reserved. We will order off the menu, which lists many Italian dinners, pasta specialties, and pizza. Please remember that an 18% gratuity will automatically be totaled into the bill. The restaurant accepts cash, checks, and credit cards (except for American Express and Discover) and has agreed to do individual checks. The night of the meeting it would be a good idea to remind the wait staff when ordering, because they normally don't break the bill into separate checks. If more detailed directions are needed, please call the restaurant at 794-8100.

**Mar. 9 Mary Smith** will perform "Irish Music and Tales" at 7:00 PM at the North Park Library, located at 8508 Franconia Road.



**Mar. 25-26 St. Patrick's (Church) Irish Festival** in Church Hill on Broad Street between 24th and 26th streets; parade is on the 25th at 10 a.m. SASR will have a tent, so come on out and "work" (It's more fun than work!) There will be thirty local bands playing over the course of the two days and Celtic vendors will be selling jewelry and art. Children can enjoy the games and rides that are scattered throughout the grounds. The Greater

Richmond Pipes and Drums and Irish step dancers will provide the Irish entertainment, as will Ireland-based folk band, *Suas*. \$2 donation at the gate to benefit St. Patrick's Outreach Programs. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Gates at 25th and Broad streets. (804)-648-0504.

**Apr. 12 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at Henrico County's **North Park Branch Library**, located at 8508 Franconia Road (actually located on Parham Road, between Route 1 and Route 301). It is within a few minutes drive of both I-95 and I-295. We gather at **6:30pm** to socialize and the meeting begins at 7pm. Please bring food to share if you wish (**Celtic Buffet!**). Author **Ian McCulloch**; He will be discussing and selling his book *Through So Many Dangers: The Memoirs & Adventures of Robert Kirk, late of the Royal Highland Regiment*.

**May 10 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** - Member Curry Roberts will speak about Meadow Farm, the future home of the State Fair of Virginia.

**Jun. 14 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** – Elections

## Sixth Annual Ettrick Heritage Day April First

Sixth Annual Ettrick Heritage Day will be held on April 1, 2006 from 10 am until 5 pm at Ettrick Methodist Parsonage, 21300 Chesterfield Avenue, Ettrick, VA. This event is sponsored by the Ettrick Historical Society to celebrate the Scottish Heritage of Ettrick.

<http://www.craterroad.com/EttrickHistoricalSociety.html>

--Jeffrey Anderson



## Interesting Websites: British Military History

This is the first of a series of small articles about web sites that may be of interest to members of the St Andrew's Society of Richmond.

The British military has been in the news much of late what with Prince Harry joining the Blues and Royal regiment of the Household Cavalry and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards being deployed in Iraq. Not to mention the amalgamation of the traditional Scottish Regiments into the new Royal Regiment of Scotland.

For those of you interested in the history of the various Scottish regiments, I would recommend the Register and Index of Scottish Regiments <http://www.regiments.org/regiments/rgtscot.htm>. This site details all of the regiments down through the years. It is part of a larger site that is about the land forces of the Britain, the Empire, and the Commonwealth (not Virginia, the British Commonwealth of nations).

The Scottish American Military Society (SAMS) has a site at <http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>. This is a membership organization for people who are interested in Scottish and American military matters. Several members of the Richmond St Andrew's Society are members of SAMS.

The eclectic site ElectricScot has a section on Scottish militaria at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/>. Well worth reading for a quick overview. Be forewarned: it is easy to get lost in this sight and spend hours browsing through all sorts of interesting pages!

The Ministry of Defence is the British equivalent of our Department of Defense (note the spelling difference: "two nations separated by a common language"). They have their main site at <http://www.mod.uk>. You can go directly to the sections for the Army (<http://www.army.mod.uk/>), the Royal Navy (<http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/>), and the Royal Air Force (<http://www.raf.mod.uk/>).

If your interest is more in the line of pomp and ceremony, allow me to suggest the site of the Edinburgh Tattoo (<http://www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk>). The Tattoo is easily the most impressive exhibition of military precision marching, brass bands, pipe and drum bands, and Highland dancing available in the world. It is held every August in Edinburgh on the Esplanade just outside Edinburgh Castle.

-- Jeff Kelso

## Calling All Photographers

To be more precise: photographs. We are looking for pictures of members and past SASR events. We want to create a photo album to display at all events to give potential members an idea of what the society is all about. Please write names, dates and a small description on the back of each picture. Bring the pictures to the next several meetings. Hopefully we can have this completed by the October Highland Games. If you'd like to have your pictures returned please let us know. We will then have copies made. Please direct all donated pictures and questions to Steve Bruce at 350-9973 or [gotkilt@comcast.net](mailto:gotkilt@comcast.net).

## Our Thanks

The Society would like to sincerely thank Kate Herr of the Scottish Gaelic Enthusiasts in Richmond for a *wonderful* presentation on March 8th.

-- Chris Rapp



## Strawberry Hill Races—Skysuite!

**A reminder that we are taking reservations and payment for the SASR Skysuite at Strawberry Hill Race event on April 15th.**

The Skysuite is offered to us as a non-profit organization and tickets are \$35.00 each. This includes the shuttle bus service from the RIR complex to the races and back as well as a ticket to the races and the pass to the skysuite.

The Shuttle Buses run continuously from Richmond Raceway Complex to Colonial Downs and back from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Race day.

Skysuites are located on the private Fourth Floor of the Colonial Downs Clubhouse, offering all-weather, climate controlled enclosed viewing of the Races, with private balcony, seating, bar/refrigerator/serving area, plenty of room for entertaining and a private restroom. We are also allowed to bring in our own food and beverages to the skysuite. So, we can set up our usual Celtic buffet.

Special credentials will be issued to provide access to this private area. Skysuites provide a direct view of the finish line, homestretch and entire racecourse. Of course, if you wish, you may also hang out around the racetrack with other friends who are enjoying the races. The St. Andrew's Society will receive a listing in the Race Program and we will also have the opportunity to display our banner on the highly visible skysuite rail.

This event sold out last year and will probably do so this year as well.

Please let me know by email at

[Beverly987@aol.com](mailto:Beverly987@aol.com)

<<mailto:Beverly987@aol.com>> if you are interested and send your payment to SASR at PO Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058--you will not be added to the list until your payment is received.

-- Beverly Cochrane

## March in History

2<sup>nd</sup>, 1316: Birth of Robert II, thus ensuring the succession of Robert the Bruce

3<sup>rd</sup>, 1847: Alexander Graham Bell is born... thus ensuring that people will call you during dinner, showers, etc.

5<sup>th</sup>, 1790: Flora MacDonald, savior of Bonnie Prince Charlie, died

6<sup>th</sup>, 1725: Last claimant to the Stuart throne, Henry I of Scotland (IX of England), younger brother of Charles Edward Stuart, is born.

8<sup>th</sup>, 1899: Eric Linklater, Scottish writer was born.

9<sup>th</sup>, 1566: David Riccio, advisor to Mary Queen of Scots is murdered

2002, Hamish Henderson, Scottish songwriter died.

12<sup>th</sup>, 1708: French-Jacobite invasion of Scotland aborts landing in Firth of Forth.

13<sup>th</sup>, 1395: John Barbour, Scottish poet and author of "The Bruce" died

1708: The French give up the idea of an invasion of Scotland and go home.... Snails instead of haggis (?).

14<sup>th</sup>, 1689: The Convention of Estates meets in Edinburgh

17<sup>th</sup>, 1328: Scottish Independence 'recognized' by England. Thanks!

18<sup>th</sup>, 1258: Scottish earls pledge 'common cause' with Llywelyn ap Gruffydd against England. How's that working out?

19<sup>th</sup>, 1288: Alexander III died

1927: James "Scott" Skinner, renowned Scottish fiddler died

20<sup>th</sup>, 1724: Duncan Bain Macintyre, Scottish Gaelic poet was born

25<sup>th</sup>, 1306: Robert the Bruce was crowned at Scone.

26<sup>th</sup>, 1797: James Hutton, Scottish geologist who pioneered the study of the earth's age, died.

1894: Alexander Thom, Scottish megalithic archeologist was born  
27<sup>th</sup>, 1625: James VI of Scotland died.  
28<sup>th</sup>, 1296: Berwick-on-Tweed captured by the English and annexed to England. The Scottish inhabitants are slaughtered.  
29<sup>th</sup>, 1813: Dr. David Livingstone, “I presume”, Scottish explorer is born.  
31<sup>st</sup>, 1844: Andrew Lang, Scottish historian is born.

-- Gordon D. Duffus



## The Celtic League, American Branch

The Celtic League, American Branch (**CLAB**), is a not-for profit organization that may interest our members. It was founded in New York City in 1974 to “provide a link among all Americans of Celtic descent or sympathies who seek a deeper appreciation of their glorious legacy, and the need to strengthen the cultural and national identities of the Celtic peoples. In addition, CLAB often serves as a “common meeting ground” for organizations and individuals within our diverse community.”

CLAB sponsors events throughout the year, including membership meetings, an annual Celtic New Year Party (October 31st) and a Pan-Celtic Conference (usually in the spring). The American Branch prints its own quarterly newsletter, *Six Nations, One Soul*, which provides news of Branch activities and events within the Celtic communities in the United States, publishes letters from members, and reviews of books and recordings of Celtic interest. Please visit the website

<http://www.celticleague.org/> for more information.

-- Gordon Duffus

## Folk in the Grove Concert 4/29

**John Turner**, 10-time winner of the US National Scottish Fiddling Championship, will perform on **April 29** at Grove Avenue Coffee and Tea Company, 5802 Grove Ave., (corner of Libbie and Grove). He is featured on twelve recordings and has contributed tracks to more than 70 additional recordings. John has performed throughout the US, Canada, UK, Japan, and the Middle East. He has performed for US Presidents the British royal family and other heads of state and has been featured on many popular radio programs, including “Thistle and Shamrock”, “BBC Highland”, and “Pebble at Mill One”. *This concert will be a sell-out so get your tickets early!* Tickets \$14.00 in advance/\$16.00 at the door. For tickets and info. call 647-7856 or visit [www.richmond.folkmusic.org](http://www.richmond.folkmusic.org)



## 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](mailto:geipel@mac.com) or PO Box 2663, Glen Allen VA 23058 by the end of March. Thank you!