



May 2007

Saltire Sentinel

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

Calendar

May 9 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.); We gather at 6:30 pm to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Guest speaker/slash demonstration TBA; *Celtic buffet, so please bring munchies or dessert to share.*

Jun. 9 Ashland Strawberry Fair at Randolph Macon College, 10 am – 5 pm. SASR and St. Andrew's Legion will both have tents there. <http://www.ashlandstrawberryfaire.com/>

Jun. 13 St. Andrew's Society Business & Potluck Dinner Meeting at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.); **Annual Elections**; We gather at 6:30 pm to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm. It's a *Pot Luck Dinner, so please bring a dish to share*

Jul. Picnic, tentatively Saturday the 21st or 28th 11 am – til? at **Frances McConnell's**. \$5 per person (children 12 and under free), BYOB & side dish to share; burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks provided; port-a-potty on site; *please pre-pay at the May or June meetings*; more details coming soon.

Vikings and the real Macbeth

If one looks at a map of Northern Europe and notes the positions of the Scandinavian countries (especially Norway) to Scotland, it may appear that the Norse would have found other countries more convenient for their going a-Viking (their term for raiding). But that is because we use maps that focus on land and use a Mercator projection that distorts the Polar Regions. Their maps were the stars, coastlines, currents, winds, and oral history. If one were to look at a globe that showed ice packs (around

800 to 1200 CE), currents, and wind patterns, one would see how convenient Scotland was to the Norse Vikings. It was much easier for them to sail (and row) their longboats to Scotland then to France, Spain, and even Germany.

The Vikings began their exploration and conquest of Scotland in the 8th century with an attack on the Holy island of Iona in 794. By 829 Norse fleets had sailed up both the River Earn and the River Tay, raiding as they went. The Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Orkney, and Man were all conquered and settled by the middle of the 9th century. The coastal areas of northern Scotland soon followed. In fact, the name of the area called Sutherland, in the far north of Scotland, came from the Norse *sudrland*, meaning "land of the South".

Harold Finehair, King of Norway, in an attempt to unite all the Norse lands, led an armada of long ships in 875 that firmly put all of the islands mentioned above plus Iceland and large parts of Ireland and Scotland under his rule. The Jarl of Orkney, Sigurd the Mighty, and Thorstein the Red (grandson of Harold's lieutenant Ketil Flatnose) held almost half of Scotland under their power. (You just got to love those names!)

In 973 the Kings of Scotland and Strathclyde formalized a defensive treaty against the Norse expansion. The King of Man and the Isles, Godred Craven, was killed by Magnus Barelegs, King of Norway, in 1095. At that point King Edgar of Scotland and Magnus signed a treaty that gave control of the islands to Norway but the mainland to the Scottish king.

The Inner Hebrides split off from the Kingdom of Man and the Isles to be ruled by Somerled, King of the Hebrides. His direct descendents became the Lords of the Isles (Prince Charles is the current Lord of the Isles) and it is from him

that the Clans Donald, MacRanald, MacLeod, MacDougal, and many others are descended. An Oxford University DNA study in 2005 concluded that Somerled has possibly 500,000 living descendent, a record second only to Genghis Khan!

The end for the Scottish Vikings came in 1266 when King Haakon IV of Norway united with Kings Mangus of Man and Dougal of the Hebrides to fight the Scots. They fought a huge battle at Largs that was a draw but then Haakon died in his sleep (a horrible way for a Viking to go). His son, Magnus the Law-mender, surrendered the Kingdom of Man and the Isles as well as all the mainland territories to Alexander III in 1266. Orkney and Shetland remain Norse Jarldoms until 1468 when King Christian I forfeited them to James III upon failure to pay his daughter's dowry to James.

The impact of the Vikings in Scotland at the time cannot be minimized. During their period of ascendancy there were 14 Kings of Alba or Scotland, most of who only reigned for a very brief time; the exception being Constantine II who reigned for 43 years. The names of the rest do not exactly ring through the centuries: Áed, Giric, Indulf, Dub, Cuilén, two more each Donalds, Kenneths, Malcolms and Constantines. These kings tried to preserve their kingdom and sometimes to expand it. Mostly they fought a holding action against the Norse and each other. The final legacy of the Vikings in Scotland today is place names, some family surnames, the rank of Earl (Jarl), and many of the Highland and Island clans.

In 1034, Donnchad mac Crínáin (Duncan I) was crowned at Scone as King of Scots. He ruled for only six years and spent most of that time trying to consolidate power in the Crown and away from the nobles. In 1040 he led an army into Moray and was there killed in battle, whether by his cousin Macbeth or by his own people is in doubt. At the time there was no doubt that this death was a "fair" killing in battle. It was also noted how young he was (his date of birth is not known): a very different telling than the old man of Shakespeare's play. Duncan's widow and two sons, who later became kings, fled into hiding for many years.

Macbeth (or as he called himself, Mac Bethad mac Findláich) was born 1005 at the height of Norse occupation of Scotland, became King of Scots in 1040, and ruled until his death in 1057. Contrary to what the Bard claims, he was a well-loved king who ruled with a fair hand. He was the only King of Scots that was able to leave the country on pilgrimage to Rome for three years and return still King.

He became the Mormaer (similar to an Earl) of Moray upon the death of his brother Gille Coemgáin. Macbeth married Gille's widow Gruoch and adopted their son Luluch. Macbeth always considered Luluch to be his son and heir (he did eventually become king).

Macbeth ruled a mostly peaceful kingdom until 1052 when Edward the Confessor of England had the Earl of Northumbria invade Scotland. The war ended with a battle where 3,000 Scots and 1,500 English were killed (a very large number for the period). Macbeth survived that war but not a rebellion led by Máel Coluim mac Donnchada (Malcolm, son of Duncan). He died in the battle of Lumphanan. His stepson, Luluch, was installed as king but only ruled for 7 months before being assassinated by Malcolm III (known as Malcolm Canmore or Malcolm Big Head), son of Duncan I.

NEXT: Malcolm, St Margaret, and the Margaret Sons

-- Jeffrey E Kelso, FSA Scot

For Further Reading:

The two Nigel Tranter historical novels that cover this period are "High Kings and Vikings" and "Macbeth the King". As much as I love Shakespeare's "Scottish play", I cannot recommend it for serious Scottish reading.

The Scott Family's Disaster

On the morning of April 16th a 100-year-old oak tree fell across the home of **Charlie and Jackie Scott**, *literally splitting it in half*. The huge trunk came within inches of Charlie's head but was stopped by masonry wall of their living room (and the Grace of God!). Jackie

and her mother were sitting nearby. Unbelievably, there were no serious injuries. Then, an hour later, another tree fell toward the street, which knocked out power in the neighborhood for 3-4 days. They lost their living room, family room and kitchen, and there was damage to the lower level. The Scotts have had an incredibly traumatic time with the death of Jackie's sister after 140 days of hospital stays and rehab. *Please hold Charlie and Jackie in your prayers.* The Clan Scott website has pictures and contact information; please see <http://www.clanscottsociety.org/cstmp/>

-- Lennie Geipel

Nominations Please!

Do you want to do more for your St. Andrew's Society? Interested in running for a position on the board? Or wish to nominate someone for a board position. Please contact **Patti Stone** at Patti823@aol.com by the **May 9, 2007 meeting**. Nominees will be announced at the May meeting and the June Newsletter.

The following positions are open for elections at the June 13, 2007 meeting.

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
2-4 board positions

-- Patti Stone

St. Andrew's Society has its Annual "Day at the Races"

It was NOT a day like all days. It was the 75th Running of the Strawberry Hill Races and it was a day for fun. While the weather was "iffy", the mood in the St. Andrew's Society Sky Suite was definitely positive. The fun started early and ran until the last horse had crossed the finish line and even a little after that. I am getting all this information second-hand because, unlike you fun-seekers, I had to work all day...slaving over a hot microphone.

I thank all of you who took part in this year's Event. It was a day designed for enjoyment and (again, second-hand information) you folks certainly did your best to enjoy. It was a safe day for the horses and jockeys and a fun day for all who attended.

Now it's on to the next Events. The State Fair runs September 27 – October 7 and then comes the BIG ONE – the 13th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival. The dates are October 27 and 28 and we will be back at Richmond Raceway Complex. St. Andrew's already has reserved a double tent and you will be in the same location on the field as last year. It's not too early to start planning how to make St. Andrew's Society's Tent the winner of the "Best Clan Presentation" Award. That would get us a free tent for next year and we can call that a "money-saver" in the true Scots tradition. Thanks again for taking part in the Strawberry Hill Races, now it's "On to October"!

Aye!

-- Dick Harman

Donation to the Carroll Family

Many of you saw the email from Pipemajor, Tim Batten, mentioning the Carroll's who lost almost all their possessions in a tragic house fire. This story got circulated at the Strawberry Hill Races and I'm proud to say the SASR members and guests present stepped up and donated \$100 for the Carroll's aid. This was sent to Tim to present to them on behalf of the SASR members present at the Races. Thanks to all members and their guests for their generosity.

-- John Scott

Dick Harman honored with Public Service Award from Richmond City Council

On April 9, our very own Dick Harman was honored with a *Public Service Award* for more than 19 years service as the "*Voice of Richmond*

City Council.” Dick has attended more than 450 council meetings (missing only 2), serving with 8 mayors, 2 council presidents and 51 council members. Dick was praised for his unbiased view while conveying the message of council to Richmond City residents.

Congratulations on a job well done, Dick!

-- Lennie Geipel

Welcome New Members!

Since our last newsletter, we've had 3 new members join the Society. Please join us in welcoming: **William and Kaye Donaldson-Asbill, Ed Gatti, and Robert H. and Judith Moore.**

Current members please seek out these new members at our next Regular Meeting and welcome them to our organization.

-- John Scott

St. Andrew's Legion Pipes & Drums Opens for Rod Stewart

The St. Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums is opening for Rod Stewart on May 5th at 7pm at John Paul Jones Arena in Charlottesville! Please see <http://rodstewart.com/> for more details.

Folk in the Grove Concert May 19: Elizabeth LaPrelle performs Appalachian Ballads

Traditional folk music is best enjoyed in a homelike, casual setting. Concerts are held at Congregation Or Ami auditorium. Light refreshments, including coffee, tea and pastries will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of concert. (*Tickets are not available directly from Congregation Or Ami.*) Doors open at 7:15pm and the concert begins at 8pm.

Elizabeth LaPrelle has been performing Appalachian ballads and old-time songs, and winning prizes for her singing at fiddlers' conventions, since she was eleven. Raised in Rural Retreat, Virginia, Elizabeth learned from singing with her family, who taught her various singing styles and encouraged her to sing their own favorite American folk music.

As a young girl, fiddler's conventions gave her a chance to perform for mountain audiences, who encouraged her interest in the traditional music of her region. Elizabeth's magnificent voice, her respect for the songs, and her authentic mountain sound and style brought her to the attention of first Ginnie Hawker and then Sheila Kay Adams. She has been featured as a ballad singer at the West Virginia State Folk Festival in Glenville and the Friends of Old-Time Music and Dance Fall Fling in Fayetteville, West Virginia. At the age of 16, Elizabeth was chosen by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress as the first recipient of an award from the Henry Reed Fund for Folk Artists. She was asked to perform on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" NPR radio show, broadcast from Norfolk, Virginia, in April 2005.

Elizabeth's aunt Amy Davis and uncle Jon Newlin, of the Durham, NC old-time band "The Hushpuppies", will join her on banjo, guitar, fiddle, and vocals. Elizabeth's mother, Sandy Laprelle, will provide backup vocals.

<http://www.richmondfolkmusic.org/concerts.htm>

Newsletter Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, 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 May. **This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!