



December 2006

Saltire Sentinel

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

Calendar

Dec. 13 St. Andrew's Society Dinner & Business Meeting-- The December general membership meeting is at **Topeka's Steakhouse** located on Parham Road between Three Chopt Road and Quioccasin Road. Members should arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 PM. The meeting room located in the back of the restaurant has been reserved, and we can order off the menu. *Checks will be issued per table (not party)* so the staff can process them more rapidly. This was a popular venue last year and it is a nice get together for the Holidays. **Reservations for Hogmanay (Jan. 6) will be taken . . . bring your checkbooks.** Hope to see you there!

There will be no general membership meeting in January due to Hogmanay.

Feb 14 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting -- The February meeting will be held on Valentine's Day at The Church of the Holy Comforter. A Valentine's Day theme will prevail, and Francis will speak about Gretna Green, a town located on the Scottish border with England, famous as a destination for lovers to run off to and wed.

Jan. 30, 2007 – Feb. 4, 2007: Riverdance will be back in town at the Landmark Theater. Ticket information has not been announced yet.

Hogmanay January 6, 2006

The 2007 Hogamany will be held at **BOTTEGA**, 11400-123 W. Huguenot Road, Midlothian, Va., (Belgrade Shopping Center next to Ruth Chris's Restaurant) **January 6th, 2007 at 6:30 pm.**

We are currently working on the menu, which

will be a choice of Beef, Chicken or Salmon. Cost per person will be \$50.00. **It is requested you make your reservations along with payment as soon as possible.** We have reserved a room that will accommodate 55 however; it can be expanded into an adjoining room that will increase our capacity to 100.



We will have the Salute to the Haggis, Dancing, a Silent Auction, and Door Prizes. **Stephanie Lewis** is chairing the silent auction; to donate items, please send her an email at slewis@jamesriverins.com. Her sister, **Melanie Ruggieri**, is the organizing the music. (What a team!) Send music requests and suggestions to Melanie at mruggieri@hanover.k12.va.us.

-- **Charlie Scott**

New Members!

Our Society continues to grow as we add new members to our roster. Please welcome the following new members:

Dan McGrath and Deborah Orrell
David and Lindsay Harris
Princess Dillard
Linda Corral
Elizabeth Burk
Gregory Glassner
Ralph and Katherine McIntyre

Jenny McIntyre
Dianthia Lee Joyner
Robert Richards
Ruth Lastfogel

All members, let's seek out these new folks and help them feel welcomed to the SASR

-- **John Scott**

**"TO THE MEMORY OF ST ANDREW
AND SCOTLAND YET!"**
(Old Scottish toast)

The story of St. Andrew is a complex one, with different versions and interpretations. It is now impossible to know what is the "true" story.

St Andrew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples and he lived and worked as a fisherman in Galilee. He was the brother of Peter, another of Christ's disciples.

After Christ's crucifixion, one version of the legend is that Andrew went to Greece to preach Christianity, where he was crucified for his beliefs at a place called Patras, on a cross in the form of an X. However, the X-shaped cross played little part in early legends of St. Andrew and indeed in early versions of the tale, Andrew was nailed to an olive tree, not a cross.

Another version of the story of St. Andrew has it that he preached in the area around the Black Sea.

Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland *

It was very important in the early days of Christianity that the bones of saints, and other articles that had been closely associated with them, should be preserved. This helped people to understand that Saints were real people, no matter how extraordinary their lives had been. These objects were known as relics and often the relics of the saints would be split up and parts given to different churches.

One legend says that a man who later became St. Regulus (or Rule) carried the bones of St. Andrew to Scotland. His ship was wrecked on

the Fife coast, and the spot at which the ship landed became the site of the town of St. Andrews. A cathedral was built there which was started in 1160 and took 158 years to build (the ruins can still be seen today) and the town became an important site of Christian pilgrimage.

Another legend has it that two monks from the North of England went to Rome and brought back the relics of St. Andrew. One of the monks passed the relics on to the reigning king in Scotland at the time - Angus McFergus who became king in 731.

Again there are different legends surrounding the use of the Saltire as Scotland's flag. Some people say that Angus dreamt one night that St. Andrew appeared to him and promised him a great victory. Angus was about to fight a battle with another king from the North of England, and this dream made him believe that the Scots would win. On the day of the battle a white cross appeared in the sky and Angus did win - this is why the flag of Scotland is sky blue with a white cross. The battle was at a place called Athelstaneford in the year 831.

The other version says that Angus was walking with some friends when St. Andrew appeared to him and told him that when he marched against his enemies he would see the white cross. So Angus had banners made for his soldiers to carry to battle with the white cross on them.

One of the first times that Andrew is recognised officially as the patron saint of Scotland was at the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. This was a declaration signed by many of the Scottish noblemen, as well as Robert the Bruce, asserting Scotland's independence from England.

St Andrew's relics disappeared during the Reformation of the Scottish churches, when the Protestant Church came into being and broke away from the Roman Catholic church. Now there are few relics of Andrew in Scotland. A fragment is in St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Other countries have St. Andrew as their patron saint - Romania, Greece and Russia. Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as their patron saint.

St. Andrew's Day

St Andrew's Day is celebrated on the 30th November.

It tends to be more popular with Scots who live abroad and there are many St. Andrew's Societies in places where Scots emigrated to. The St. Andrew's Society in Boston, in the USA, was set up in 1657.

St. Andrew's Day used to be a very popular feast day in Scotland as well. It was a common custom for farm workers and labourers to go "St. Andra'ing". They would catch rabbits and hares and later on in the day would feast and drink. There have been debates on and off for some time now about making St. Andrew's Day a public holiday in Scotland.

Many people wonder what they should eat on St. Andrew's day. Because Andrew was a fisherman, it seems appropriate to eat fish. Otherwise you could eat any traditional Scottish food. It used to be that a singed sheep's head was traditional!

Finding out more about St Andrew

The following books are available:

HALL, Ursula : St. Andrew and Scotland
St Andrews University Library, 1994,
0900897120.

A more scholarly book aimed at adults.

HANNAY, R. K. : St Andrew of Scotland
The Moray Press, 1934.

Despite this book's venerable age, it was written with younger people in mind and so the language is not too impenetrable.

LAMONT, Stewart: The life of Saint Andrew:
Apostle, Saint and Enigma
Hodder and Stoughton, 1997, 0340678577
Paperback, aimed more at adults.

MCOWAN, Ronnie: Saint Andrew for
beginners
Saint Andrew Press, 1996, 0715207253
Very much aimed at children.

TURNBULL, Michael T. R. B: Saint Andrew:
Scotland's myth and identity
Saint Andrew Press, 1997, 0715207237
Aimed at adults and looks at the history of St.
Andrew, as well as what he has meant to Scots
at home and abroad.

There is also a short entry on St Andrew in the
Collins Encyclopedia of Scotland and
information on St. Andrews Day in the Silver
Bough by F. Marian McNeill. Edwin Spott
Towill's book the Saints of Scotland also has
some brief information.

[Source:

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries/historysphere/standrew/standrew.html>]

--Submitted by Charlie Scott



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.

Some Laughs . . . or at least a wee grin

Jock was digging peat at his croft when a passing American tourist asks,

"How much land do you have here?"

"About two acres" Jock replies.

"You know back home it takes me a day to drive around my ranch!" the American boasts.

"Aye", says Jock, "I once had a car like that."

Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Greatest Country

"Where do you come from?" the Scotsman asked an American.

"From the greatest country in the world," replied the American.

"Funny," said the Scotsman, "you've got the strangest Scottish accent I've ever heard."



Newsletter Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, *clean* Celtic jokes (I know this is a challenge!), 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 December. **This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!