



February 2008

Saltire Sentinel

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

"If you are receiving this newsletter through the United States Postal Service, it means we do not have an accurate or valid email address. Please email us at

Board@StAndrewsSociety.org with your correct address so that we may save money on postage.

Don't forget, membership dues are due for the 2007/2008 year.

Calendar



Feb. 13 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. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

Feb. 14, 15, 16 Sullivan's Irish Pub located in Ashland right on the railroad tracks – Robin Rich – 9:00 pm.

Mar. 7, 8 Sullivan's Irish Pub – Common Threads, featuring Robin Rich. For more information: <http://www.myspace.com/sullivansirishpub>

Mar. 9 Richmond Folk Music and Congregation Or Ami would like to extend a warm invitation to the St. Andrews Society to our upcoming concert featuring the USAF Celtic Aire Heritage Ensemble. The concert is free, but reservations

are necessary so that we do not exceed the parking/seating capacity of Or Ami. We advise those who want to attend to make their reservations early. Here is the website with more information www.richmondfolkmusic.com

Mar. 12 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. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

Mar. 16 Crossroads Irish Dance Troupe performing Tuesday March 16 at 6:30pm at the historic Henrico Theatre in Highland Springs. This is a free show open to all ages. Reservations are recommended; call 328-4491 for additional information. The Troupe prides itself on combining an exciting blend of both traditional Irish step and the present day "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance" style of Irish dance.

Mar. 29, 30 The Irish Festival at St. Patricks church will be later this year due to Easter. We'll be looking for volunteers! Watch for more details.

April. 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. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

April. 12 Strawberry Hill Races at Colonial Downs. Tickets will be \$35.00 each. Details forthcoming.

The Prez Sez!

First of all, a big THANK YOU to Stephanie, Rose and their committee for a great Hogmanay. A lot of hard work went into it and the results were evident. To use a well known phrase "A Good Time Was Had By All!"

Now that we are officially into the New Year, what do we do next? Well, our next meeting is February 13 at Holy Comforter Church. Let's start by continuing the enthusiasm that was shown at the Hogmanay. Chris Rapp has worked hard at making sure we have interesting programs and our support is clearly shown by meeting attendance.

In April, there is the annual Strawberry Hill Event on Saturday, April 12. I'll have more information at the February Meeting, but basically it will be the same as in previous years. The St. Andrew's Society will have a Sky Suite for the Races provided we have at least 20 persons sign up at \$35.00 each. The \$35.00 includes Shuttle Bus from Richmond International Raceway to Colonial Downs, Admission to the Races, and the Shuttle Bus Ride back.

Looking way ahead, the 14th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival will take place October 25 & 26 and your help is needed to man (or person) our Tent.

But let's also take a look at what is happening in-between. The St. Patrick's Church Irish Festival is at the end of March, the Ashland Strawberry Faire is in June and there are many other events that we can be a part of if we have the people to take part. That is the key. We need people to take part. In short, we need you. The more folks we have, the fewer duty hours per person. Also, the more folks we have, the more fun. I am all for having fun and no one has ever said we can't combine fun with accomplishment.

We can accomplish a lot this year and we can also have a lot fun. Let's do it!

See you on the 13th!

Aye!

Dick

"Ode to the Haggis" – the following are photographs from Hogmanay 2008. (thanks to Steve Bruce).



Treasurer's Report:

For the month ending December 31, 2007, we stand at:

Previous Balance:	\$3,897.98
Income:	\$1,585.00
Expenses:	\$2,708.43
Balance:	\$2,774.55

For the month ending January 31, 2008, we stand at:

Previous Balance:	\$2,774.55
Income:	\$2,669.00
Expenses:	\$268.89
Balance:	\$5,174.66

This Month in History

1 February

On this day in 1918, the author Muriel Spark was born. A native of Edinburgh, Spark lived abroad for much of her life. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. The book was an instant critical and commercial success and in 1969 was made into a memorable film with Maggie Smith as the eponymous (anti) heroine.

2 February

Weaver, bookseller, newspaper publisher and printer James Chalmers was born today in 1782. Chalmers set himself up as a printer in Dundee and was convinced he could make the postal system more efficient by introducing a nationwide postal charge. In order to achieve this he invented the adhesive postage stamp in 1834.

Groundhog's Day - In the United States the tradition derives from a Scottish poem:

*As the light grows longer
The cold grows stronger
If Candlemas be fair and bright
Winter will have another flight
If Candlemas be cloud and snow
Winter will be gone and not come again
A farmer should on Candlemas day
Have half his corn and half his hay
On Candlemas day if thorns hang a drop
You can be sure of a good pea crop*

3 February

Composer Felix Mendelssohn was born today in 1809 in Hamburg, Germany. One of the most beloved romantic composers of his generation, Mendelssohn was frequently inspired by places that he visited and the effect that they had on him. Scotland's rugged beauty was the inspiration for two of his best-loved works - the overture *Fingal's Cave* (also known as the *Hebrides Overture*) and the *Scottish Symphony* (*Symphony No.3*).

4 February

On the 4th February 1818 Sir Walter Scott supervised the rediscovery of the Honours of Scotland, the Scottish Crown Jewels, in Edinburgh Castle. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion.

5 February

On this day in 1723, John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, and signer of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, was born in Gifford, East Lothian.

6 February

In 1685 King Charles II, the "merry monarch," died and James VII was crowned. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" - a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. James's Catholicism created a revival of the religious conflicts that had plagued the previous century, and led to his being deposed in 1688. His sympathizers left in the country became known as Jacobites, after Jacobus, the Latin for James.

7 February

On 7 February 1939, Walt Disney's first full length Technicolor cartoon, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, opened in London. (It premiered in the United States on 14 January 1938.) The British Board of Film Censors gave it an A certificate instead of the expected U.

8 February

On the 8th February 1429 a contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleaguered French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed.

9 February

Golfer Sandy Lyle was born today in Shrewsbury, England, in 1958. Despite his birthplace, Lyle represented Scotland in tournaments and became one of Britain's top golfers during the 1980s. Lyle was the first non-American to win the coveted green jacket with his victory at the Masters in 1988.

10 February

Today in 1306, Comyn, a leading claimant to the vacant Scottish throne, was murdered by his arch-rival, Robert the Bruce, whilst in a Dumfries church. The two rivals met at the altar of a church in Dumfries and argument quickly ensued. Bruce, unable to contain his rage at Comyn, stabbed his enemy in front of the altar. Bruce quickly travelled to Scone where, on 25 March, he was crowned King. Later, Bruce was forced to seek papal absolution for committing murder on sacred ground. Years later, when he contracted leprosy many considered this divine retribution for Comyn's murder.

11 February

Sir Alexander Gibson was born on this date in Motherwell in 1926. Gibson studied classical music in England before returning to his native land to become

the first Scottish principal conductor and Artistic Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 1959 and went on to found Scottish Opera in 1962.

12 February

Today in 1846 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. Launched in a derelict cottage in 1810, the savings bank movement spread to 109 organisations in 92 countries. Rev. Duncan was minister of Ruthwell Parish church in Ruthwell, Dumfriesshire, and established the bank as an alternative to the Poor Law, which provided a meagre subsidy to relieve extreme poverty, as he believed the hand-out robbed the poor of their dignity and independence. A man of varied talents, Duncan also became the first person in the country to identify fossil footprints and he was also responsible for the restoration of the medieval Ruthwell Cross.

13 February

This date in 1728 saw the birth of John Hunter, the Scottish physician and anatomist. Surgeon-General to King George III, he is regarded as the founder of pathological anatomy in Britain and is also often considered a pioneer of scientific surgery. Hunter was the teacher of Edward Jenner, the inventor of vaccination.

14 February

Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal to have been successfully cloned, died on this day in 2003, aged six years, at the Roslin Institute in Scotland. Although cause of death was from a progressive lung disease commonly found in sheep, Dolly was also suffering from premature arthritis, leading to speculation over the health of cloned animals. Her ill health may simply have been due to her lifestyle, which was less active than that of normal sheep. Today, whilst the debate rages over cloning, her stuffed remains can be seen in Edinburgh's Royal Museum.

15 February

On February 15 1986 Scotland scored their biggest ever win against England in a rugby international. They won the game by 33-6 at Murrayfield, with Gavin Hastings scoring 21 points in the match.

16 February

Fifty years ago today, in 1957, an early piece of television legislation was abolished when the Toddlers' Truce, an hour-long break in television scheduling between 6pm and 7pm to allow young children to be put to bed, was abandoned. The fledgling independent channels, funded by commercials not by license fee as the BBC, claimed they lost valuable advertising revenue in the break. In truth the Postmaster General at the time, Charles Hill, believed it was parents, not the

state, who were responsible for putting children to bed at the right time. Recently the issue of the "nanny state" has come to the fore again in Scotland with the introduction of a smoking ban in all enclosed places which are open to the public.

17 February

In 1540 on this day, King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies.

18 February

Novelist Iain Banks was born today in 1954 in Dunfermline, Fife. Primarily known for his novels such as "The Wasp Factory", "The Bridge" and "The Crow Road", Banks also writes popular science fiction under the cunning pseudonym of Iain M Banks. Possibly his finest hour came as an extra on "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", a film that still produces an extraordinary amount of fan lunacy even today. ([Editor's note: according to information provided, Mr. Banks' birth date could also have been February 16](#)).

19 February

Today in 1314, James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders.

20 February

King James I was murdered in Perth, by a group led by Sir Robert Graham, today in 1437. Had it not been for his love of tennis James would have escaped his assassins. Fleeing his killers, he hid in the drain under his tennis court, however this offered no means of escape for the monarch, as he had only recently ordered it to be blocked after losing balls in it.

21 February

In 2002, the all-Scots curling team won gold at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, watched by over 5 million TV viewers in the small hours of the morning. The women's curling team made a dramatic fightback to win after scraping through to the tie-breaks. After victories against Sweden and Germany, Team Great Britain beat Canada in a nail-biting semifinal before an emotional and historic win against Switzerland.

22 February

Today in 1816, Dr. Adam Ferguson, the Scottish historian and philosopher died, age 92. Born in Perthshire, Ferguson was chaplain to the Black Watch regiment during the Jacobite rising. He settled in Edinburgh for 40 years where, after leaving the church, he took up academic pursuits and advocated Scottish militias. A member of the so-called "common sense" school of philosophy, his finest work "An Essay on the

History of Civil Society" was followed by international recognition and his establishing of the Royal Society of Scotland. On his deathbed in St Andrews, Ferguson is said to have declared: "There is another world!"

23 February

The Battle of Roslin was fought this day in 1303 in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them.

24 February

On February 24 1923, the world famous steam train, the Flying Scotsman, went into service with LNER. It was the first train to run non-stop between London and Edinburgh, and also the first steam train to reach the speed of 100mph.

25 February

Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a "university" on this day in 1412 although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 February 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII.

26 February

Today in 1935, Robert Watson-Watt, a descendent of the great James Watt, demonstrated radar for the first time. Watson-Watt was first approached by the Air Ministry regarding the possibility of building a "death ray". The chain of radar stations subsequently built along the coast of England, known as Chain Home, were to go on to play an important part in winning the Battle of Britain in 1940

27 February

Today in 1545 the Battle of Ancrum Moor took place, where the Scots, led by the Earl of Douglas, managed to defeat a much larger English force. A local legend has it that a Lady Lilliard took part in the battle in a bid to avenge the death of her lover, who was killed by English troops. According to the story she fought well until dying of her wounds, and her memory is marked by the Lilliard Stone on the battlefield.

28 February

Today in 1873, Rev. Thomas Guthrie, founder of the Ragged Schools, died. A leading figure in the Disruption of 1843, Guthrie became a leading light in the early Free Church, becoming Moderator in 1862. With the support of the Edinburgh Review, Guthrie raised enough money to found a Ragged School and his 1847 book, A Plea for Ragged Schools, or Prevention is Better Than Cure, paved the way for the setting up of Government funded Industrial Schools. Perhaps Guthrie's most fitting epitaph are the words of a little

girl from one of his schools: "He was all the father I ever knew."

29 February

Today in 1904, the famous Glasgow theatre, the Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. The theatre played host to many of the greatest stars of the music hall era and remains a pantomime and variety favourite today. Glasgow comic Tommy Morgan asked for his ashes to be scattered on the Pavilion's roof, and the theatre is said to be haunted by his ghost.

Thanks to John Scott, Clan Scott, and BBC Scotland (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/onthisday/>), and Scotsman.com (<http://heritage.scotsman.com/>), About.com, and other miscellaneous sources.



"Living at the foot of the cross..." A present and past Board member. Wishing you all the best for the coming year. "Aye!

Valentine for Osama

Little David comes home from first grade and tells his father that they learnt about the history of Valentine's Day. "Since Valentine's Day is celebrated for a Christian saint and we're Jewish," he asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone else a valentine?" David's father thinks a bit, and then says, "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a valentine to?"

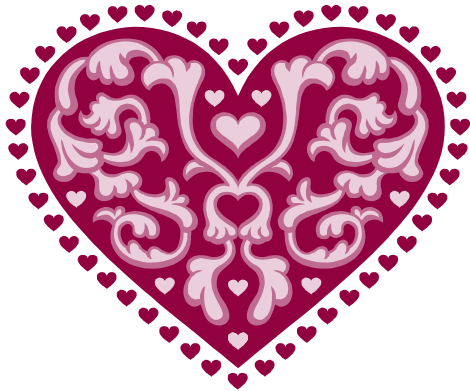
"Osama Bin Laden," David says.

"Why Osama Bin Laden?" his father asks in shock.

"Well," David says, "I thought that if a little American Jewish boy could have enough love to give Osama a valentine, he might start to think that maybe we're not all bad, and maybe start loving people a little bit. And if other kids saw what I did and sent valentines to Osama, he'd love everyone a lot. And then he'd start going all over the place to tell everyone how much he loved them and how he didn't hate anyone anymore." His father's heart swells and he looks at his boy with newfound pride and says, "David, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard."

"I know," David says, "and once that gets him out in the open, the Marines shoot him!"

Many thanks to Doug Elder, Editor, SALPD



Valentine's Day in Scotland

Craze and passion for Valentine's Day is much visible in Scottish schools. Children celebrate the day by making Valentine cards and filling them with valentine rhymes. Sometimes, they also write poems on the envelope to speed up the delivery by the postman.

Various games are played in Scottish Valentine parties. In a most popular game, an equal number of men and women are made to write their names on a piece of paper which is then folded and placed into a hat. One hat is for ladies and the other one is for men. The female then draws one name from the men's hat and the chosen man has to stick with his Valentine throughout the party. Later on, gifts are exchanged and Valentine's Day is greeted with hugs and kisses. Such wonderful Valentine games often result in unusual marriages.

You can email the Officers and Board at Board@StAndrewsSociety.org. Each of the officers can be directly emailed at President@..., VicePresident@..., Secretary@... and Treasurer@....

Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Analee Evans** at analee_e@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of February**. **This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!