



May 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.

For those of you who did not renew for the 2007/2008 membership year (and are still receiving the newsletter), we hope you will consider renewing for the upcoming 2008/2009 year. You are important to us.

Calendar



NOTE: St. Patrick's Church is making plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2009. They would like to be in touch with all the alumni of St. Patrick's School. Please let them know your name and address. Drop them a note at 213 N. 25th St. Richmond VA 23223, or call 804-648-0504 or email at st.patrickric@aol.com.

May. 14 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting. This will be a dinner meeting at Steak and Ale Restaurant located at 6900 West Broad Street. The Society dined here last year and a good time was had by all. We have reserved our own private room. The menu is, well, steak and ale. Actually they have a good salad bar as well. We can have separate checks. An 18% gratuity will be applied to the bill.

The entrance is located off Glenside Drive near Paragon Place Office Park. Their phone number is 288-2833 for more specific directions.

May. 17 and 18 The Virginia Renaissance Faire opens up its 2008 season at the Lake Anna Winery. Each weekend has a theme. That weekend it will be: Pirates. The Virginia Scots Guard Pipe band is scheduled to play. Hours are 10am to 6pm. Admission \$7, children under 5 are free. For more information: <http://www.varf.org/index.html>.

May. 18 The Kirkin of the Tartans at Amelia Presbyterian Church located behind the Amelia Courthouse, planned for this date, has been rescheduled for June 8 (pending Board approval). The church requested the change. More details on location, time, will be in the May newsletter.

June. 11 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.*

Annual elections will be held at June meeting, so be sure to attend!

June. 14 and 15 The Virginia Renaissance Faire will be having a Celtic Heritage weekend with musical guest: Keltish. For more information: <http://www.varf.org/index.html>.

The Prez Sez!

As many of you know, last Summer I took a trip back in time. It was my 50th High School Reunion and it was a lot of fun seeing folks I had not seen in many, many years. Some folks had changed a great deal and others looked about the same, except with gray hair. My job was to put together the Saturday Night Program and we made it into a 1957 Radio Show complete with news and commercials from that year.

We ended it all with our Alma Mater, which will never become a national hit, but I can never forget it. The first line was pretty corny – "Dear Alma Mater, to you

this song we sing.” Not a show-stopper. The second line, however, is as true today and in all walks of life, as it was back then – “Working together, Victory to bring.” I’ve been thinking about that line quite a bit and it applies to our Society and any group. Working together is the best way to get things done. Being an active part of the whole is the best way to accomplish this

We are all a part of the St. Andrew’s Society of Richmond. While some may be Officers, some may be Board Members, some may serve on various committees, there is no such thing as “just a member.” Every member is important to our Society and we all need to be working towards accomplishing our goals. There will be times when we don’t always agree on everything and that is only normal. After all, there are many people and, therefore, many thoughts among the membership. There will always be agreements and disagreements, but we are all part of a team.

Let’s keep that thought in mind as we head into a new year for the St. Andrew’s Society of Richmond. Granted our new year doesn’t start until July, but it’s never too early to work on plans. There is a lot we can do in the year ahead and I emphasize the WE.

See you at the May meeting at Steak & Ale on May 14.

Aye! Dick

Treasurer’s Report:

For the month ending April 30, 2008, we stand at:

Previous Balance:	\$3,584.29
Income:	\$ 232.00
Expenses:	\$1,317.15
Balance:	\$2,499.14

IRISH FESTIVAL RECAP

The annual St. Patrick’s Church Irish Festival took place March 29th and 30th up on Church Hill. The society had a new location for the tent. It was set up in park immediately adjacent to the Virginia Scots Guard Pipe Band tent in the park under the trees. This turned out to be a great location as we were sheltered from the brisk winds and rain. The new location gave us the opportunity to educate and entertain families as the park was the location for the children’s play areas. The event kicked off with traditional parade which was the longest and largest ever. After the rain moved out the crowds came. The crowd on Saturday was largest I have ever seen. The streets were jammed with festival goers enjoying a large assortment of music, food, and beverages. Tours were offered in both St. Patrick’s and

St. John’s churches. Pipe bands played through out day in various locations to large standing room only crowds. Irish step dancing took place on both the main stage and at competition stage located in the park. Vendors selling wares were scattered all about. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and plan to attend next year.

Steve Bruce

This Month in History

1 May

May 1st is Beltane's Day, the ancient fire festival celebrating start of summer.

2 May

On this day in 1933, the story of the Loch Ness Monster first appeared in the press, starting off a long-running debate on whether or not some unknown animal or fish inhabits the murky depths of the loch.

3 May

Scottish physiologist John Scott Haldane was born on this day in 1860. Haldane was an international authority on ether and respiration and was the inventor of the gas-mask during World War I. He also made decompression apparatus to help keep deep-sea divers safer. Noted for his work on respiration, it was Haldane who demonstrated the role of carbon dioxide, and the change in temperature of the human body at extreme pressures. Author of 'Causes of Death in Colliery Explosions,' he was also father of the great population geneticist, JBS Haldane. He died in March 1936.

4 May

May 4th 1799 saw the storming of Seringapatam, leading to the defeat of Sultan Tippoo of Mysore, India. Sir David Baird (1757-1829) was born in East Lothian. Serving as a captain in India, Baird was wounded and captured at the Battle of Polilur in 1780, where a British force of 4,000 was defeated and almost totally destroyed. He was taken to Seringapatam and imprisoned for four years in awful conditions. Once free, Baird avenged himself in the 4th Mysore War: Major-General Baird, as he had become, commanded the victorious British assault on Seringapatam. In fact he was given this role because of his treatment there, to the annoyance and exclusion of Arthur Wellesley, future Duke of Wellington.

5 May

On 5th May 1938, King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Glasgow's Bellahouston Park played host to over 13 million people who came to visit the Empire Exhibition, a

celebration of the achievements of the British Empire. It cost £11 million to mount and was a monument to the art deco style.

6 May

This day in 1999 saw the election of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707 (almost 300 years). Elections were held for the Scottish Parliament resulting in a coalition government of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, with the Scottish National Party and the Conservatives in opposition. The 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament - MSPs - took their seats on 12 May 1999. State of the parties: Labour 56; Scottish National Party 35; Conservatives 18; Liberal Democrats 16; Greens 1; Scottish Socialist Party 1; Independent 1.

7 May

On 7 May 1542 the Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland in an attempt to force the marriage of Edward, son of Henry VIII, and Mary, Queen of Scots. Known as "The Rough Wooing", it led to the burning and destruction of Border towns and abbeys, and of Edinburgh.

8 May

On 8 May 1945, V.E.(Victory in Europe) day marked the end of World War II in Europe. The Allies overran Germany from the west during April 1945 as Russian forces advanced from the east. On April 25, American and Soviet forces met at the Elbe River. Five days later, Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker. At 2:41 a.m. on May 7, General Jodl signed for the unconditional surrender of German forces on all fronts, which was to take effect on May 8 at 11:01 p.m. Over 50,000 Scottish servicemen lost their lives during the conflict.

9 May

Peter Pan author J M Barrie was born on this day in 1860 in Kirriemuir, Angus. Barrie attended Dumfries Academy and the University of Edinburgh, then worked as a novelist and dramatist. He died in 1937 and is buried at Kirriemuir next to his parents, sister and elder brother David, who died in a skating accident just before his 14th birthday.

10 May

Breath tests for motorists suspected of drinking and driving were introduced May 10, 1967, under the Road Safety Act.

11 May

On this day in 1685 Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide

rose. A reprieve had been sent from Edinburgh but never reached Wigtown. The replica stake sits on machair about 100 yards from the parish church, where the women's graves are clearly marked. The water's edge is now a fair distance away from the site of the drownings, as gradual silting of the river has caused the water level to drop.

12 May

Today in 1725, the Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands.

13 May

On May 13, 1995, Alison Hargreave, a 33-year-old mother of two from Spean Bridge became the first woman to climb Mount Everest solo and without oxygen. She died three years later while descending K2, the world's second-highest mountain.

14 May

Today in 1754 golf was formalized at St Andrews with the foundation of the St Andrews Society of Golfers. Twenty-two 'Noblemen and Gentlemen' contributed to a silver club to be played for annually over the Links of St Andrews. The first winner was Baillie William Landale, a St Andrews merchant, who became Captain for the year. The competition was initially open to all golfers, as had been that of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in 1744, whose rules the St Andrews golfers used almost without change. Thus began the foremost club in both Scottish golf history and world golf in general.

15 May

Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell at the Palace of Holyroodhouse at 4am on May 15, 1567.

16 May

Today in 1935 Hector Munro Macdonald, Scottish mathematician, died. Macdonald worked on electric waves and solved difficult problems regarding diffraction of these waves by summing series of Bessel functions. He corrected his 1903 solution to the problem of a perfectly conducting sphere embedded in an infinite homogeneous dielectric in 1904 after a subtle error was pointed out by Poincaré.

17 May

On 17 May 1870 David Octavius Hill, pioneering Scottish photographer, died. Born in 1802, Hill is often credited with being the first person to use photography as an aid to painting. Together with Robert Adamson he produced more than 1,500 photo-portraits of Scotland's great and good. A founding member of the Royal Scottish Academy, he served as its Secretary for nearly 50 years.

18 May

On this day in 1313, a force led by Robert the Bruce invaded the Isle of Man. After taking Castle Rushen in Castletown, Bruce gifted the island to Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray. English rule was finally sealed for Man in 1405 when the island came under the control of Sir John Stanley. It was later made a possession of the English Crown.

19 May

On this day in 1568, Mary Queen of Scots was arrested and imprisoned at Carlisle. Mary had fled to England after her army's defeat at the Battle of Langside by Protestants under her half-brother James Stewart, Earl of Moray on May 13.

20 May

On this day in 1747, James Lind, an Edinburgh surgeon who served in the Navy, began a controlled experiment which demonstrated that citrus fruits could prevent scurvy, a disease contracted by sailors on long voyages. The lime juice which eventually became standard issue to British sailors gave rise to the term "limey" as a name for British overseas.

21 May

Today in 1911 saw the death by pneumonia of astronomer Williamina Fleming. Fleming was born Williamina Stevens in Dundee in 1857; she married and moved to the US when she was 21. She was employed as a maid to Professor Pickering of Harvard University who, disappointed with his assistants, declared his maid could do a better job and promptly hired her. Fleming helped catalogue over 10,000 stars and discovered 222 herself. She was made an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society in London in 1906.

22 May

Today in 1859 saw the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Edinburgh. Conan Doyle invented the great fictional detective Sherlock Holmes, and is said to have based the relationship between Holmes and his sidekick, Dr Watson, on Plato's Socrates and his disciples, Cervantes' Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, and James Boswell's conversations with Dr Samuel Johnson. In later life Conan Doyle became a vocal supporter of spiritualism, writing many books on the subject.

23 May

On this day in 1701 Captain William Kidd, the notorious Scottish pirate, died. Born, probably in Dundee, around the year 1645, Kidd became one of the best known pirates of his age. Kidd was never a particularly good pirate and was certainly an unlucky one. Commissioned by King William III to attack pirates in the Indian Ocean, but secretly allowed to attack French merchantmen, Kidd was disowned by the

establishment at his trial. Kidd was hanged on Execution Dock, in London's docklands on the banks of The Thames. After being hanged, his body was dangled from a gibbet by the Thames as a warning to others. Kidd became a legendary figure, largely because nobody ever discovered what had happened to the rest of his treasure - if there really was any more to be found. Its value multiplied as time went by and treasure hunters have searched for his loot from the Americas to the South China Sea, but so far in vain.

24 May

On 24th May 1972, Glasgow Rangers became the first Scottish side to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they defeated Dynamo Moscow in Barcelona. The goal scorers were Colin Stein and Willie Johnston with a brace. However, the victory was marred as jubilant Rangers fans invaded the pitch, leading to violent clashes with the Spanish police.

25 May

John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute was born on this day in 1713. He became Britain's first Scottish Prime Minister in 1762 under King George III.

26 May

On 26 May 1652 Dunnottar Castle, the last Royalist stronghold in eastern Scotland, surrenders. Dunnottar Castle had been under siege for eight months by Cromwell's forces. Although the castle fell, the defenders managed to smuggle out the Crown Jewels of Scotland to nearby Kinneff Church. This date has a further significance for the Honours of Scotland, for on 26 May 1819 the Crown Jewels were put on display in Edinburgh Castle after they had been rediscovered from their 1707 burial place.

27 May

The ocean liner RMS Queen Mary made her maiden voyage on 27 May 1936. She was built by the John Brown & Company Ltd shipyard in Clydebank and is now permanently berthed at Long Beach, California.

28 May

On 28 May 1926 Sir James Cantlie, the Scottish physician, died. Cantlie achieved prominence as the founding President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine. He spent a large part of his career in Hong Kong, carrying out many investigations into leprosy, and dealing with an outbreak of plague in the colony. While in Hong Kong one of his pupils at the College of Medicine for Chinese was the future leader of China, Sun Yat Sen.

29 May

Royal Oak Day. King Charles II is restored to the English throne on May 29, 1660. He had previously been crowned King of Scotland on 1 January 1651 and

had attempted to reunite the kingdoms by attacking Cromwellian forces in England. This led to a resounding defeat at the Battle of Worcester where, according to legend, he hid in the 'Royal Oak' until the coast was clear. Upon restoration, Charles acknowledged his thanks to his Scottish soldiers by making The Royal Scots the first regular regiment of the modern British Army.

30 May

Today is the anniversary of the birth in 1888 of Wyndham Halswelle. Born in London of Scots parents, Halswelle made the 1908 Olympic 400-metre final but was impeded on the final straight by American runner John Carpenter; the race was won by another American, John Taylor. The final was re-run, but the other competitors, all American, refused to race. Halswelle ran alone to take the gold.

31 May

Today in 1727, the Royal Bank of Scotland was formed from a company of debenture holders of the Equivalent stock, chartered with (GBP) 111,000 capital. RBS has since become one of Scotland's most-recognized names in the world.

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.

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 May**. **This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

