



October 2008

Saltire Sentinel

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

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

Membership renewal for 2008/2009 is in full swing. Please mail checks to our post office box, or present to a Board member at our next general membership meeting (see calendar). Thanks and we hope to see you at our meetings and fun filled events through out the new season!!

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.

October 3 and 4 The Williamsburg Scottish festival will take place in Lanexa in New Kent County at the Rockahock Campgrounds. This is the same festival that used to take place in Williamsburg at the Jamestown

Campgrounds. For more information call 804-966-8362 or go to <http://www.wsonline.org/>

October 8 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.*

St. Andrew's Society Directory: It will include a photograph. First photos were taken of attendees at the September meeting. We ask that you please make an extra effort to attend the October meeting and have your photo taken.

WIN WIN WIN!!

Win a free ticket to the Gayton Kirk Celtic Festival and/or the Richmond Highland Games. Come to the membership meeting on October 8th to find out how.

October 18 Celtic Festival at the Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church USA, 11421 Gayton Rd., Richmond, VA 23238. 804/741-5254. gaytonkirk@yahoo.com. Also visit www.thegaytonkirk.org for more details. The St. Andrew's Society will have a Scottish heritage booth at this event.

October 25 and 26 Mark your calendars, get your tickets and don't miss the 14th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival, October 25 & 26 at Richmond Raceway Complex. This marks the last year of the event at its current location. Next year they make the move to Meadow Event Park in Doswell.

The main entertainment stage will feature Seven Nations on Saturday and Sunday, as well as The Hooligans on Sunday. Back by popular demand will be Charlie Zahm, Robin Rich, Uisce Beatha, Tinker's Dam and many others. New this year is the St. Andrew's Society sponsored "Bonny Knees Contest". Punkin Chunkin and other events return, as well.

Over 50 Clans and Societies will be on hand and several Pipe Bands, as well. Don't miss the 14th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival, October 25 & 26 at Richmond Raceway Complex.

November 12 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting Dinner meeting (TBA)

December 10 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.*

December 12 Holidays with Irish Crossroads Dance Troupe. This group prides itself on combining an exciting blend of both traditional Irish step and the present day "Riverdance" style. They continue to captivate audiences with both the gracefulness and complexity of Irish dance. The times will be 5:30 and 7:30. Location: Henrico Theatre. Cost: free. Call for reservations: 328-4491.

December 13 A Celtic Christmas Party Is Coming Our Way!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13, 2008. On that night, for the first time, all three Celtic Organizations will be gathering for a Christmas Party. The Irish-American Society, The St. Andrew's Society of Richmond and the Scottish Society of Richmond will join together to celebrate the "Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!"

While details are still being finalized, what we do know is that the date is Saturday, December 13 and the location is St. Edwards School on Huguenot Road. While the Irish-American Society is taking the lead on this, all three groups will be involved in planning, setting up, etc.

We'll have more information as we get closer to the date

December 19 The Hunt Family Fiddlers. Come see Virginia's own Hunt Family Fiddlers. Their holiday show keeps everyone entertained with great diversity, featuring fiery Celtic dancing and fast fiddling. The time will be 6:30 pm. Location: Henrico Theatre. Cost: free. Call for reservations: 328-4491.

Jan. 2009 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting will not be held, as on January 3, 2008, we will celebrate Hogmanay. The event will take place at the Virginia Crossings Resort. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

The Prez Sez!

Here we are in October and that means it is time for the 14th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival. It all takes place October 25 & 26 at Richmond International Raceway and it will be the final time for that location. Starting next year it moves to Meadow Event Park near King's Dominion.

I remember my first Festival. It was the 2nd Annual Event back in 1996. My job was to gather information on all the Clans and Societies and announce their histories on Friday Night at the Bon Fire and then again when they marched on the weekend. I was mentioning to Jeff Kelso at the September Meeting that back then I wasn't quite sure what a St. Andrew's Society was...and now I am one. Jeff was quick to add that "Now you

are President of one.” It’s amazing what can happen in 12 years.

Over the years our Society has seen much growth and I hope that will continue. The Richmond Games is a perfect time to recruit new members. It is also a perfect time for current members to pitch in and help us present the story of what we are all about. By putting our best foot forward, we can show people who we are and what we represent. A few people cannot do it alone. We need as many of you as can be there to help man the tent. I emphasize ‘man the tent’ and not just ‘show up and be there’ because it takes people who will take the time to talk to people as they pass by. They need to know that we are interested in them and will answer their questions to the best of our abilities.

Folks passing by the St. Andrew’s Society Tent need to see that we support our Society and do so in numbers. They need to see that we are not just paying lip service to them. I remember seeing a sign in a restaurant many years ago that said “A customer is not an interruption of our business, they are the purpose of our business!” We can take a tip from that by making sure that anyone who stops by is not an interruption of our day, but the purpose of our day.

We need as many people as we can get to be on hand on October 25 & 26. Just as we need as many people as we can to show up at meetings. A spirit of togetherness goes a long way in recruiting and a long way in achieving our goals. Let’s all turn out at the Meeting on October 8 and at the Richmond Games on October 25 & 26. I look forward to seeing all of you at both.

Aye! Dick

Treasurer’s Report:

An updated report was submitted to the Board for review at the October 1 meeting.

However, the figures were not available at the time of this mailing. Naturally, the information will be available at the General meeting on October 8.

Farewell to a Friend

It came as quite a shock to get a phone call on September 15 and be told that we had lost a friend. Hansford “Will” Wilson passed away after suffering a stroke. Will was one of those people who seemed to be everywhere at once. Whenever someone was needed for anything, Will always seemed to be there.

He was with us at our September Meeting and when asked how he was feeling, told us he felt great. Will had had some health problems over the years, but didn’t let things slow him down.

At his funeral, they spoke of the many kindnesses Will supplied to friends, fellow church members and even complete strangers. I guess the word stranger never occurred to him. I don’t think he ever met a stranger.

In speaking at his funeral I had to admit that there was one thing I could not remember about him and I don’t think any of us can remember it either. That is: I never remember a time when Will was not smiling. That smile was just a natural part of him.

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to CARITAS (Churches Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter) and I would like to ask that we have a special basket at our meeting for contributions to that organization to be made in Will’s memory. It will let everyone know that even after he is gone, Will is still thinking of others.

As I asked in my notification of his passing, please take time to say a prayer for Will and I am sure he would also want you to hoist a

glass in his memory. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. He will be missed.

Dick Harman
President

For Information. As stated, Will Wilson attended our meeting only a few days before he passed away. A-R took his photo for the directory.

Although family requested no flowers, we felt a strong desire to do something more personal for the family from our SASR. We spoke with a number of the SASR board (apologies to those not contacted but this all happened late evening before and on the morning of the funeral) about presenting the last photo of Will for his family and for the funeral service at the church. A-R quickly had the photo downloaded and professionally printed and mounted in beautiful mahogany frame and delivered it to the church on behalf of the SASR 30 minutes before the service. Please let our membership know that the family expressed their deep gratitude to SASR. Will's daughter will keep the framed photo and

A-R has emailed the photo to Will's sister and brother.

Thanks to Bill Cooper for this information

Festival Participation: The St. Andrews Society has two big events coming up in the month of October, the Gayton Kirk Celtic Festival and the Richmond Highland Games. We are in need of members to help man the tent at both events. We would like to see everyone come out and put in a few hours each day. Many hands make light work. We will have a sign up sheet at the **October 8th membership** meeting. If unable to attend the meeting, please call Steve Bruce at 350-9973 to participate. Thank you.

October Fridays In Scots History

3 October

Today in 1594 saw the battle of Glenlivet, where 10,000 Highland troops under the Earl of Argyll were defeated by an army of 2,000 commanded by the Earl of Huntly. The battle was sectarian in origin - Catholic v Protestant - proving little changes over the centuries.

10 October

The Edinburgh Review first published on October 10, 1802, "to erect a higher standard of merit, and secure a bolder and purer taste in literature, and to apply philosophical principles and the maxims of truth and humanity to politics". The Review became famous throughout Britain as a platform for high-minded discussion of arts, sciences and morality and creative literature and attracted authors from far and wide including, among others, Sir Walter Scott.

17 October

On this day in 1995 the bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Though it remains controversial, there is no doubt that the graceful bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh to Skye is more convenient than the ferries it replaces. The resulting increase in traffic to the island has been beneficial to inhabitants, both by increasing the amount of money coming in and by allowing them easier access to the mainland. However, the undeniably high level of the tolls of this privately-run enterprise has led to anger and protest from many islanders, and there were even been discussions of a buyback of the bridge from the private sector by the Scottish Executive. The controversial road toll scheme was finally scrapped on 22 December 2004.

24 October

The last commercial flight of supersonic jet airliner Concorde happened today in 2003. A British/French collaboration, Concorde represented a huge leap forward in commercial air travel with passengers being ferried around the globe at speeds up to Mach 2 (2140kmph or 1330mph), which meant flight times of around three hours from London to New York. However, a crash in July 2000 and an ageing fleet of aircraft meant that the days of supersonic passenger flying would soon be over. The remaining aircraft mostly ended up in museums where they rapidly

became popular exhibits, such as the one at Scotland's East Fortune Museum of Flight.

31 October

This date in 1940 is generally seen as the end of the "Battle of Britain" as the RAF defeated the Luftwaffe and achieved dominance of the skies. The contribution of foreign fliers was significant; of the 2,353 men credited with fighting the battle, 574 were not British. The largest foreign contingent was from Poland, without whom the outcome of the battle may well have been very different.

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.

Hallowe'en In Scotland - Did you know?

I thought I would share with you a few Hallowe'en comparisons between Richmond and the old country. (1st - the apostrophe)

Hallowe'en Trick or Treating is called Guising (guy-zing) in both Scotland and Ireland. This is derived from being in disguise and originally involved only a masked guise and then evolved to include "costume". As kids we were told it was to confuse evil spirits and trick them into leaving you alone.

The key difference I notice is that in order for kids to receive a treat there is the mandatory requirement to "perform". This is generally a song, a poem, a mime, a dance, play music or a joke (the easy and popular option). More often than not the kids are invited into the warmth (yes it's usually raining) of the household to entertain the entire family. On completion of the performance they would be rewarded with usually hand-fulls of peanuts in their shells, an apple and a piece of candy. Sometimes the kids have to "dunk" in a basin of water to get their apple (that's entertainment). Nowadays some people have become lazy and less interested in the effort and will give the kids money.

Another difference. Well - we don't grow many pumpkins in Scotland BUT the winter vegetables are about ready to harvest. So the Hallowe'en lanterns are carved from Swede Turnips. These are purple in colour and most kids would carve about a 12" diameter one.

What happens to the greens - well they are fed to the cattle. I know, I know, my wife A-R tried haggis and black pudding when I asked her to and I should really try turnip greens.

Some other facts and theories (extracted from an article by Linda s. Campbell:)

Guising may also be linked to the Christian practice of 'souling', long associated with All Souls' Day (November 2nd). The theological basis for All Souls Day is that souls "which are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, are debarred from the Beatific Vision, and that the faithful on earth can help them by prayers, alms, deeds and especially by the sacrifice of Mass" (Catholic Encyclopedia 1913).

The poorer members of a community would go 'souling' on November 2nd, approaching their more prosperous neighbours and offering prayers for their deceased kin in return for a gift of soulcakes. It is probable that this practice moved to Hallowe'en and changed from an adult activity to one performed by children.

Brian Hayward, in his book, "Galoshins: the Scottish Folk Play" traces the custom of Hallowe'en guising in Scotland to a traditional play performed at Hallowe'en as early as the thirteenth century. In some areas of Scotland guising is still called 'galoshins'. This possibility is supported by the fact the children when 'guising' offer to entertain their hosts with a song, dance, or small play.

In reality, there are two festivals, that of Samhain and that of All Hallows' Eve.

Although they share the same date, they are products of different belief systems. Instead of abandoning Hallowe'en, perhaps it is time to reclaim it, to restore some of its spiritual meaning and to use it, as the Scots and Irish did, as a time to remember and to dream?

Submitted by Bill Cooper



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