



May 2009

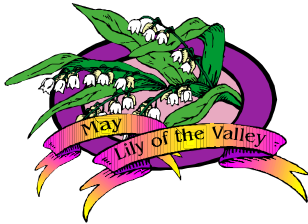
# Saltire Sentinel

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.  
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, [www.standrewssociety.org](http://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](mailto:Board@StAndrewsSociety.org) with your correct address so that we may save money on postage.

## Calendar



**May 8 and 9** Rockahock Celtic Music Weekend. Albannach, Barley Juice, Brendan Loughrey and Davy Morrison will be performing at the Rockahock Campgrounds in New Kent County. Tickets are \$10 for Friday, \$15 for Saturday or \$20 for a weekend pass. The times are 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday, and 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday. See [www.rockahock.com](http://www.rockahock.com) for more information.

**May 9** **Ettrick Celtic Festival** Knox Springs Farm 21100 Halloway Ave. 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The festival is sponsored by the Ettrick Historical Society and is a family oriented day.

**May 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 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. ***Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.***

There will be a speaker, Gerry Orvis, who is a member of The Appin Regiment. He will expound in general about Highlanders and Highland culture of the 1740's, and can talk about specific aspects of his portrayal, such as 18th c. Highland dress, weapons or culture.

**May 16** **Virginia Scotts Guard** will be having a yard sale at Samis Grotto 4028 McArthur Ave. Tables are \$10.00 a piece. Anyone interested call Amanda Scholte at 804-868-9254. Goodwill will be doing a pick up at 3:00 p.m. for all the unsold stuff. There will be bake sale items as well as coffee and donuts. Thanks, Amanda

**May 17** **Kirkin' Of The Tartans** Sunday, 11:00 a.m. The Amelia Presbyterian Church, 16401 Dunn Street, Amelia Court House, VA 23002. (804) 561-2280

Charlie & Jackie Scott have been doing this for many years. I attended last year and it is a very nice service. Amelia Court House is off Route 360. The church is by the town square and is not hard to find. Just follow the signs to Amelia Court House and you can't miss it. We need to get there early to help Charlie set-up. If we could arrive around 10:00 a.m. or so, it would be great. Please be kilted. Let's have a big show of support.

**Jun. 6** **Ashland Strawberry Faire** in historic Ashland, Virginia is a traditional celebration to promote the community and feature the strawberry harvest. The Faire will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is held on

the streets adjacent to the Randolph Macon College campus. The Faire is a free community, family-oriented event during which non-profit groups and churches raise funds and offer something for everyone. There are vendors offering arts, crafts, plants, and antiques to the many thousands who attend the event.

**June 6 and 7 The Virginia Renaissance Faire** will hold a Celtic Heritage weekend on June 6 and 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lake Anna Winery. Keltish will perform. Tickets are \$7; under age 5 is free. Visit <http://www.varf.org/index.html> for more information and directions.

**Jun. 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 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

**This will be our annual Election meeting.**

**June 14 Celtic Woman** will be performing an all new show called Isle of Hope at the Landmark theater at 7:30pm. Tickets available at Ticketmaster and the Landmark box office.

**Oct. 2009 Billy Kennedy** (Scots-Irish author) will be hosted by the Williamsburg St. Andrews Society for a Luncheon Review in Williamsburg in October. Details to follow.

**The Prez Sez!**

### **Sure Signs of Spring**

Way back when I was young, my Mother always said a sure sign of Spring was the first robin. Since I was raised near Buffalo, NY, the robin was a bit slow in showing up. You couldn't blame him. It was hard to build a nest in a tree that was covered with snow. So

while the calendar said Spring, our weather still said "Winter held over for another month."

Today we have a different sign; it's called the Strawberry Hill Races. It has been called "Central Virginia's Annual Rite of Spring" and it marks the first major outdoor event of the year. Those who attended this year certainly enjoyed themselves. I understand John "Celtic Bookie" Scott did a booming business in the St. Andrew's Sky Suite. I also heard rumors that some alcoholic beverages were consumed. All in all it was another good year and I am glad the St. Andrew's Society was able to be a part of it. It was another example of people getting together and enjoying themselves.

We have several events coming up that are both fun and mission serving. There is a Kirkin' of The Tartans in May in Amelia Court House. Then we have the Strawberry Faire in Ashland in June and the Festival at Gayton Kirk in September. Of course, there is the Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival (formerly the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival) in October. These are all activities that require folks to take part. Notice, I did not say "work", I said take part. The more folks that take part, the more fun we can have and that four letter word "work" will not be something to think about. When we get people together we can accomplish many things. Let's hope that we have large turnouts of members to "take part" in these Events. Then we can all enjoy what we do and not even think of that ugly word "work."

See you on May 13 at Holy Comforter for our May General Meeting. We will be accepting nominations for our new slate and elections will take place in June. Chris has also planned a dynamite speaker, so you don't want to miss it.

Aye! Dick

## What does our Board of Directors do?

The Saint Andrew's Society of Richmond VA Board of Directors is composed of the four officers of the Society (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, and six elected Board members.

The elected Board members serve terms of three years on a staggered basic, similar to the U.S. Senate. Every year at least two of the elected Board seats become available and occasionally more when a Board member resigns or is elected an officer of the Society. An elected member of the Board can serve multiple terms. Although it has never happened, an elected Board member can be removed from the Board for failure to attend three consecutive meetings (this requires a three-fourths majority vote of the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting).

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of every month, normally in a private meeting room at a local restaurant, at 6:30 p.m. and normally last an hour (occasionally longer). Most members arrive around 6:00 p.m. and have a meal.

The President runs the meetings according to Roberts Rules of Order but in a casual manner. The normal agenda is

1. Reading of the Minutes
2. Report of Officers
3. Report of Committees
4. Elections
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements

The agenda can be altered to accommodate special guests or urgent matters.

Board members are expected to serve on at least one committee and possibly to chair a committee. Committee chairs present oral

(and sometimes written) reports to the Board and occasionally to the membership.

There are two committees, Audit and Nominating, which are constituted for a brief period (a few weeks), do their work, and then are dissolved. The Audit Committee is formed whenever there is a change in the holder of the office of Treasurer and at least every two years. The Nominating Committee is formed about a month prior to the Annual Meeting. Members of the Nominating Committee cannot be nominated for any office.

The other committees are ongoing and serve at the pleasure of the Board. *Ad hoc* committees may be established and are appointed by the President.

The Charitable and Educational committee consist of no more than five members. This committee makes recommendations to the Board for the disbursement of funds from the charitable and Educational Fund. The Treasurer is an *ex officio* member of this committee.

The Programs committee consists of the Vice President and up to three additional members. This committee is responsible for arranging the programs for general membership meetings of the Society.

The Membership committee is composed of the Secretary and up to three additional members. This committee is responsible for assisting the Secretary in the maintenance of membership records and for preparing and distributing membership pamphlets and applications.

The Finance committee is composed of the Treasurer as chairman and up to three additional members. This committee prepares the budget for the Society and presents it to the Society for approval at the November general membership meeting.

Special Events Committees are established for each special event of the Society. Each committee consists of one Board member and up to three additional members. Each committee is responsible for arranging a special event of the Society and reports to the Board.

Any member of the Society who is interested in becoming a member of the Board should contact Dick Harman by email at [padick@att.net](mailto:padick@att.net) or by phone at home: 804-744-4437, or cell phone: 804-245-4884.

### **Board positions**

Treasurer:

The Treasurer is responsible for the accountability of all funds received and disbursed for the Society.

This includes taking actions and keeping good records that can provide support for an audit of financial activities.

- a) Making sure that all cash and checks are deposited on a timely basis.
- b) Making sure that all invoices received are legitimate, board approved and paid on time.
- c) Making recommendations pertaining to bank accounts, annual Corporate Fees, insurance programs, etc.
- d) Reporting at each board and business meeting as to the financial status of the Society.
- e) Other activities as they arise that affect the finances of the Society.

Being Treasurer does not require a great deal of time, perhaps a few hours a month plus regular attendance of both board and regular business meetings. It is rewarding to know you are making a contribution to the Society that provides so much enjoyment and good times. It also makes you more familiar with the workings and what it takes to keep the Society growing and vibrant.

Secretary:

This position is currently held by Bill Cooper who accepted an invitation from the board last Summer to fill the role for the remainder of the 08/09 membership year. Below is the definition of the role from our Society Bye-Laws.

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for conducting the general correspondence relating to the Society, other than financial.
2. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of all meetings of the Society.
3. The Secretary shall maintain a complete roster of all members of the Society and notify new members of their acceptance. Currently covered by the resident Membership Committee.
4. The Secretary shall be the Chair of the Membership Committee. Currently covered by the resident Membership Committee.
5. The Secretary shall be responsible for notifying all members of upcoming Society meetings and functions in a timely manner. This is currently handled by the newsletter editor via the Saltire Sentinel.
6. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President.

### **May Wednesdays in Scots History**

*6 May*

Today in 1870 Sir James Young Simpson, Scottish physician, died. A pioneer of obstetrics, gynecology, and childbirth anesthetics, he was the first British physician to use chloroform and ether as anesthetics during childbirth. He provoked much controversy at the time because many believed the pain of childbirth had been decreed by God as the curse of Eve. His victory was assured when, as personal surgeon to Queen Victoria, he used anesthetic during the delivery of her seventh child.

*13 May*

On this day in 1568 at the Battle of Langside, Mary, Queen of Scots, was finally defeated in her attempt to regain the throne from her son, James VI, and his supporters. Mary fled to England and was imprisoned until her execution in 1587. The 18m (58 feet) tall Langside Battlefield Memorial (1887-8, Alexander Skirving) marks the site of Glasgow's most important military encounter.

#### *20 May*

On 20 May 685 the battle of Nechtansmere, in present-day Angus, was fought. The battle was a decisive victory for the Picts, under their king Brude MacBile, over Ecgfrith, King of Northumbria, an Angle kingdom. This battle reversed the Northumbrian gains of the past century and the Angles were forced back beyond the Forth.

#### *27 May*

On this day in 1862 Elizabeth Haldane, the Scottish social reformer and author, was born in Edinburgh. She was born into a notable family, her relatives including Robert and James Haldane, the noted evangelists, and her brothers, physiologist, John Scott Haldane, and politician, Richard Burdon Haldane, Viscount Haldane of Cloan. After working in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh she served on various regulatory and advisory boards related to nursing. Haldane was also keenly interested in the improvement of housing conditions, founding an organization to redevelop some of Edinburgh's worst slums. She was a noted author and translator, writing a *Life of Descartes* and editing his philosophical works. She translated Hegel, and wrote on both George Eliot and Mrs. Gaskell. In 1920, Haldane was appointed the first female Justice of the Peace in Scotland.

*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.*

### **May Day in Scotland**

The first Monday in May is a National Bank Holiday in Scotland. However, more importantly - Did you all remember to dance clockwise around your bonfire?

Do you recall my note in the November Saltire where the Scots are into Bonfires and burning effigies of that bad Guy Fawkes? Well, whilst the English are dressed in lovely flowery attire and prancing around the Maypole, we're at it again with the bonfires and wearing some blue paint and little else (photo withheld) .....***read on for one version of the Beltane Fire Festival .....***

Edinburgh's Beltane festival traditionally takes place on the 30th of April every year on Calton Hill. It originates in the Scottish and Irish Gaelic pre-Christian festival of the same name.

The name itself is thought to have derived from a Gaelic-Celtic word meaning 'bright/sacred fire'. It was held to mark and celebrate the blossoming of spring, and coincided with the ancient pastoral event of moving livestock to their summer grazing. It did not occur on any fixed solar date (the tradition of solstices and equinoxes is later in origin) but tended to be held on the first full moon after the modern 1st of May. Some sources suggest that the blooming of the Hawthorn was the primary signal for the event before the development of centralized calendars.

It was a celebration of the fertility of the land and their animals. The main traditional element which was common to all Beltane festivals was the fire which gave it its name. All the fires of the community would be extinguished and a new, sacred 'Need Fire' was lit by either the village head or spiritual leader. From this source one or two bonfires were lit, and the animals of the community would be driven through or between them. It was believed that the smoke and flame of the

fires would purify the herd, protecting them in the year to come and ensuring a good number of offspring. The inhabitants of the village would then take pieces of the fire to their homes and relight their hearths, and dance clockwise around the bonfires to ensure good portents for them and their families.

*Aye for Scotland*  
*Bill Cooper*

### **Taking a Measure of Today's Economy**

We know that our economy is struggling, but how does it compare to recessions of the past? A number of economists, politicians and journalists have told us that this is the worst environment since the Great Depression that began in 1929. Is that truly the case?

That may be a matter of perception. Nobody should downplay the seriousness of the current recession. Yet it is clear that this is far from the level of decline experienced when the U.S. was in the throes of the 1930s depression. Forty to fifty years later, the 1970s and 1980s brought extreme and unusual economic challenges.

### **How We Measure a Recession**

There are different ways to define a recession. A common definition is that it is represented by two consecutive quarters of a decline in the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the primary measure of economic output of goods and services over a given period. The problem with this definition is either that a recession will be well underway, or possibly even completed, before you know it happened. The first estimate of GDP growth for a calendar quarter is not reported until the end of the first month after the quarter is completed. What's more, in 2008, after a modest decline in the first quarter, GDP rose in the second and third quarters, then declined dramatically in the fourth quarter. By that definition, it was not yet possible in mid-April 2009 to identify if the U.S., in fact, was in a recession.

But more economic forecasters are now beginning to accept the findings of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a non-profit organization of economists who study economic trends and place start- and end-dates on economic cycles. While GDP remains as a prime measurement tool to determine if the economy is in a recession or growing, other factors are considered as well. These include real personal income, employment, industrial production and wholesale and retail sales.

The NBER dates the current recession all the way back to December 2007. In that time, we have seen some growth in GDP, but through the end of 2008, the economy, for the entire period, declined by 0.8 percent based on GDP. It was likely headed lower, based on GDP data for the first three months of 2009, due in April from the government. That could well bring the decline in the nation's Gross Domestic Product to more than 2 percent during the current recession.

By comparison, Real (inflation-adjusted) GDP dropped by 3.1 percent during the 1973-75 recession and by 2.7 percent through the 1981-82 recession (according to NBER data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis).

During those earlier periods of significant economic decline, inflation was creating severe problems. The Consumer Price Index (as measured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) rose by a peak of 12.2 percent in 1974 and by more than 14 percent in 1980. By comparison, the inflation rate in 2008 was just 1.5 percent.

Job losses were significant as well in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. The unemployment rate topped out at 9.0 percent in 1975 and hit 10.8 percent in 1982 (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics). Only after 15 months of the current recession did unemployment top the 8 percent level—though unemployment rates are a lagging indicator and tend to remain high or even continue upward as economic recoveries begin.

What does seem likely is that the current recession will be one of the longest lasting in the post-World War II era. Through March, the current recession had lasted 16 months. That matches the length of the 1973-75 and 1981-82 recessions. It is important to keep in mind that in

both of those cases (as with all recessions in our history), the economy regained its footing. While two recessions occurred after 1982 and prior to 2007, both were considered mild by historical standards.

### What It Means To You

As an investor, you need to maintain a clear perspective on today's environment as you make your plans for the future. The U.S. economy has come a long way since the depths of the Depression in the 1930s. History tells us that over time, recessions come to an end and economic growth resumes. You need to make adjustments to current economic realities while you stay prepared for the inevitable economic recovery. Working with your financial advisor is a great step toward making a financial plan for the future and feeling more in control of your financial picture.

John B. Scott, CFP®  
Senior Financial Advisor  
Ameriprise Financial, Inc.  
804-327-1696

This column is for informational purposes only. The information may not be suitable for every situation and should not be relied on without the advice of your tax, legal and/or financial advisors. Neither Ameriprise Financial nor its financial advisors provide tax or legal advice. Consult with qualified tax and legal advisors about your tax and legal situation. This column was prepared by Ameriprise Financial.

Financial planning services and investments offered through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA & SIPC.

© 2009 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

You can email the Officers and Board at [Board@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:Board@StAndrewsSociety.org). Each of the officers can be directly emailed at [President@...](mailto:President@...), [VicePresident@...](mailto:VicePresident@...), [Secretary@...](mailto:Secretary@...) and [Treasurer@...](mailto: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](mailto:analee_e@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of May for the June issue. This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

**Mother's Day**

