



November 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)

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## Calendar

### November 11:

#### **St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting.**

We meet 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. *The Celtic Buffet will be there, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

Because this is Veterans' Day (or Armistice Day for those of us who are age challenged), Paul Scholte will present his extensive collection of lead soldiers representing various military units world wide and the veterans of the society will be honored.

### November 12:

#### **Scotch in Cuba**

An evening of Scotch tasting Havana '59. Details are later in this newsletter.

### December 9:

#### **St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting.**

This will be a dinner meeting at a restaurant. More details to follow.

### December 17:

#### **Scottish Society of Richmond Christmas Party.**

Full details are below.

### January 9, 2010:

#### **SASR Hogmanay**

Details are to be found later in this issue.

### January 22, 2010:

#### **Concert**

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Royal Regiment of Scotland will perform at the Carpenter Theatre. Visit [modlin.richmond.edu](http://modlin.richmond.edu) for more information or call 804-289-8980

### January 23, 2010:

#### **Burns Night**

hosted by VSGPD. More details later.

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## Special welcome

### To new members:

Lynne Harrison  
Gerald W. Cousins Sr  
Debbie Cousins

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## President's Notes

Dear members, firstly a huge thank you to everyone who braved the weather to help out at the Meadow Highland Games. Although everyone seemed to have a great time, the weather did expose some frailties with our set up, the details of which I will not bore you with at this time. However, the board will be working with "quartermaster" Steve Bruce to address these for the future. Read more about the event from Dick later in the newsletter.



Next I wish to express appreciation to all members and non-members who attended our October business meeting. Going from the feedback, this was certainly a resounding success and a big thanks to Scottish author David R. Ross for fitting us into his busy schedule. We had a very enlightening and humorous at times presentation from David on periods of Scottish history and weaponry as well as some of his own personal experiences and challenges. I think David sold a good number of books afterwards and we now have many members with signed copies.

So, November is already here and I hope you remembered to light the bonfire and burn that "guy". If you read last November's newsletter then you know what I mean. If not, you'll find it on our website. The clocks "have changed" and "*the nights are fair drawin in*" as we say - don't we? Apart from our November Veteran's Day business meeting, the other important date is of course St. Andrew's Day. I just realised that in the time since A-R and I joined the society we have never celebrated this day and I am not sure if the Society has ever done so in years past.

Well, do you think we should? It is a busy time with Thanksgiving and then the December Pub meeting but maybe some members would like to do something. So if you are interested, please drop me a note - [president@standrewssociety.org](mailto:president@standrewssociety.org) and we can perhaps organise at short notice.

Also for November can we try to support the Hogmany committee led by Amanda Scholte by indicating to her as soon as possible if you can attend and also by supporting the Auction activity in whatever way you and maybe your friends/professional associates can.

I look forward to seeing you and Paul Scholte's presentation at our meeting on the 11th.

PS - I mentioned "nicht" earlier and it reminded me of the following Scottish song:

### Wee Deoch an Doris

There's a good old Scottish custom that has stood the test o'time,  
It's a custom that's been carried out in every land and clime.  
When brother Scots are gathered, it's aye the usual thing,  
Just before we say good night, we fill our cups and sing...

#### *Chorus*

Just a wee deoch an doris, just a wee drop,  
that's all.  
Just a wee deoch an doris afore ye gang awa.  
There's a wee wifie waitin' in a wee but an ben.  
If you can say, "*It's a braw bricht moonlicht nicht*",  
Then yer a'richt, ye ken.

Now I like a man that is a man; a man that's straight and fair.  
The kind of man that will and can, in all things do his share.  
Och, I like a man a jolly man, the kind of man, you know,  
The chap that slaps your back and says, "Jock, just before ye go..."

#### *Chorus*

#### *Meaning of unusual words:*

deoch an doris=Gaelic for a drink at the door,  
a last (?) farewell drink  
but and ben=a two-roomed cottage  
ken=know

Aye for Scotland  
Bill Cooper

You can email the Officers and Board at <mailto:mBoard@StAndrewsSociety.org>. Each of the officers can be directly emailed at [President@...](mailto:President@...) [VicePresident@...](mailto:VicePresident@...) [Secretary@...](mailto:Secretary@...) and [Treasurer@...](mailto:Treasurer@...)

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Why are they putting Englishmen at the bottom of the ocean?  
They found out that deep down, they're really not so bad.

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## **2009 Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival**

### **Music, Food, Large Men Throwing Stuff and Lots of Scottish Sunshine**

The rains came on Saturday, but they didn't dampen the spirits of 57 Clans & Societies, 13 Pipe Bands, and 'Large Men Throwing Stuff' at the 2009 Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival. Folks still turned out to be a part of the inaugural Celtic Event at the new location, the Meadow Event Park in Doswell.

The St. Andrew's Society's Second Annual 'Bonnie Knees Contest' drew a large crowd and has established itself as an important part of the annual Celtic Celebration. Thanks to Jeff Kelso and Amanda Scholte for taking on the task of organizing it again this year. Special thanks to the ladies who served as judges and all who took part.



Congratulations to Jim and Beverly Cochrane for winning the Sam McKay, Jr. Memorial Trophy for "Best Clan Presentation." This marks the second time Clan Cochrane has taken that honor. Their display resulted in a unanimous decision by all four judges.

The weather was much better on Sunday and the crowd was larger. While the weather was not the best on Saturday, those who attended had a great time and the crowd on both days seemed to be happy with the new location. We don't have actual attendance figures, as yet. However, the 'powers that be' were pleased with the turnout and are already working on making improvements for next year.

In all, it was a good time and thanks to all who made it a great weekend. The new location might be a few miles farther away, but most agreed that the drive was worth the visit to the new site. One customer remarked to me that "it just seems like the right setting" and it seemed "more authentic than the race track."

Mark your calendars for next year. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival" will take place October 23 & 24, 2010 at Meadow Event Park. Stay Tuned!

— Dick Harman

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Then there were two Scots who bet a pound on who could stay under water the longest. They' both drowned.

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## Scotch in Cuba

Coming to Havana '59, an evening of Scotch tasting with the folks from Glenlivet. Guests get a trio of tastes for \$15, including a 15-year French oak, 16-year nadurra cask and an 18-year Glenlivet, which can be paired with cigars to complement their mellow flavors. Nov. 12, 5 – 8 p.m. Reservations at 780-2822. 16 N. 17th St. [www.havana59.net](http://www.havana59.net).

— [Style Weekly](#) (November 4, 2009)

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## SASR members – Sea Level Change Move to Scotland



The map, above, plots the levels of land uplift and subsidence since the Ice Age.

By Jenny Fyall

THERE have been many ups and downs in the history of the relationship between Scotland and England. Now new research reveals that whereas Scotland is rising up, much of England is literally sinking down into the sea.

Researchers at Durham University have put together a map that reveals in more detail than ever before the way land around the UK is rising and subsiding. It predicts how the UK will continue to respond to the effects of the last Ice Age, which ended 20,000 years ago. The release of the enormous weight as the ice melted resulted in the land slowly tilting up in the north and down in the south.

The new map suggests areas of land around the Firth of Forth, Moray Firth and Solway Firth are rising by at least 10cm a century. In contrast, it predicts the south coast of England will sink by up to 5cm over the same time.

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The researchers say it shows that in many areas of Scotland the land is rising fast enough to offset the sea level rises expected due to climate change. However, in the south of England, the sinking land will exacerbate the problems caused by rising sea levels.

Professor Ian Shennan, said: "The rate of uplift north of the River Tyne to Scotland increases because the ice sheets there were thicker and heavier." He added that the impact of the last Ice Age on the land was like "squeezing a sponge which eventually regains its shape."

"The earth's crust has reacted over thousands of years and is continuing to react," he said.

However, the Shetlands are sinking by almost 10cm a century – faster than any other part of the UK – due to the impact of the melting of the Scandinavian Ice Sheet.

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## Macdonalds of Glencoe search for clan chief of Mac-harajahs



By Tom Peterkin

THE Macdonalds of Glencoe are better known for the blood they shed at the hands of the Campbells than the Indian blood coursing through their veins.

But that could change now that the search is under way for a long-lost line of Glencoe clan chieftains, who stem from an illicit love affair that produced a noble family of Macdonalds who were as Indian as they were Scottish.

Since the death of the last clan chief, Major Duncan Macdonald, in London in 1907, the clan that was slaughtered at the infamous

Glencoe Massacre of 1692 has been leaderless. A century later, Scotland's heraldic authority, the Lord Lyon, has been asked to investigate a formal claim for the chieftainship which, in turn, has led to research unearthing the clan's strong links to the subcontinent.

The Indian pedigree has come to light with the emergence of an octogenarian New Zealander claiming to be a direct descendant of the 17th-century leader of the 38 people killed in one of the most treacherous episodes in Scottish history. Colin MacDonald, 83, a retired farmer from Christchurch, has proved that six generations ago his forebear was Alasdair Macdonald (or MacIain) of Glencoe, a huge man with a white flowing beard who was among those callously murdered in 1692.

But genealogists investigating Colin MacDonald's claim have discovered that there is a line of descent that has a superior claim to the title. The rival line springs from MacIain's great-great-great grandson's romantic liaison with a mysterious woman reputed to be an Indian princess.

Before Colin MacDonald can be anointed clan chief, genealogists must first prove there are no surviving male descendants of Ewen Macdonald of Glencoe (1788-1840) and his lover, whom he seduced in India where he worked as a surgeon with the Honourable East India Company.

Their relationship might have raised eyebrows in 19th-century Glencoe, but yesterday its existence delighted Indian representatives in Scotland, who said it underlined Scotland's strong historical bond with India.

"This is a fascinating story," said Anil Anand, the Indian Consul General in Edinburgh. "These links go right back to colonial times. The Scottish people not only played an important part in the development of Indian industry and administration, but there was a

friendly and co-operative atmosphere that exists to this day."

Macdonald family lore suggests that the woman – known as Bunnoo – was the daughter of a maharajah. Her royal credentials, however, may have been overstated. The baptismal certificate of the couple's only child – a daughter Ellen born in Numuch, Calcutta in 1830 – simply describes Bunnoo as a "native Indian woman". There are also doubts over whether the couple were actually married – a factor that can be important when deciding the fate of aristocratic lineages given the need for a legitimate heir.

According to Hugh Peskett, the Scottish editor of Burke's Peerage, there is a rumour that Ewen Macdonald and Bunnoo secretly married after he brought her back to Scotland – a journey that suggested their relationship was a genuine love match. In any case, Peskett, who has researched the family tree, believes Ellen was "legitimated" by her parents claiming marriage "by co-habitation and repute".

More importantly, Peskett has found out that Ewen Macdonald created an entail – or legal document similar to a title deed – that ensured that the couple's daughter Ellen would succeed her father as chief, provided she married someone who was prepared to change his name to Macdonald of Glencoe. Ellen's husband, Archibald Burns, added Macdonald to his name when they married in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1888. They had seven children, including Major Duncan Macdonald, the last man recognised as a Glencoe chief.

Under the rules that govern the descent of hereditary clan titles, the claim from New Zealand has resulted in Peskett having to find out if Major Duncan Macdonald's two brothers had any children who would have a stronger claim to the title. Records show that

the elder of the two brothers, Ewen Burns Macdonald, was in Queensland, Australia, in 1877 and, according to the Oban Times, was resident in New Zealand in 1907.

The younger brother, Stuart Burns Macdonald, was last heard of in St Louis, Missouri, in 1877.

"We need to trace these two men to ensure that they left no descendants before a new chief is appointed," Peskett said yesterday. "Because if they exist they would be in line for the chiefship."

On the other side of the world, Colin MacDonald is waiting patiently in Christchurch. Years of painstaking family research have revealed that his ancestors fought with the Jacobites and Culloden before fleeing to France. One of those was his great-great-great grandfather Donald MacDonald (1730-1802), who was a great-grandson of the chief killed at Glencoe.

His son, also Donald (1791-1849), emigrated to New Zealand after running into serious financial trouble when the wool trade failed. He owed £35,000 and was sequestered, a move that led to him joining the Scottish diaspora and sailing to the Antipodes. The family settled in New Zealand, from where Colin MacDonald has submitted his claim for the chiefship.

"So far we haven't found anyone to dispute the claim," he said yesterday. "To the best of my knowledge no one has yet made a serious claim. It is my wish that this should be sorted out before I die and I'm in my 80s so they'd better be quick."

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Said the Englishman to the boastful Scot:  
'Take away your mountains, glens and  
lochs, and what have you got?' 'England,'  
replied the Scot.

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## Going Regimental

The topic of what is worn under a kilt ("Nothing Madam, everything is in first class working order!") recently came up at a meeting of your Board. Your President was asked to do a demonstration to answer that question at our next Business Meeting but he declined.

Unless a man wearing a kilt is marching in a band, participating in Highland Athletics, or doing Highland (not Country) dancing, the correct apparel under a kilt is shoes, hose, flashing, and skean dhu. Nothing else is required or should be worn. This is known as "dressing Regimental" since that is how the Scottish Highland regiments, such as the Black Watch, have always dressed.



There is a story about Queen Victoria, probably apocryphal, that one day she was reviewing a troop of Highland soldiers and a strong wind raised their kilts. Her Majesty saw more of her loyal troops than she expected and "was not amused." She ordered that the apron of the kilt (the front flap, if you will) be pinned to the under material to prevent such displays in the future. This was done but the regiments were not very happy about it. Upon her death, the rules were relaxed and the pin is now fastened only to the outer apron.

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## Hogmanay 2010

Date: January 9, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm for cocktails at cash bar  
dinner at 7:30 pm

Place: Sheraton Richmond West Hotel  
6624 West Broad Street,  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[www.sheraton.com/richmondwest](http://www.sheraton.com/richmondwest)

Cost: \$55.00 per person

When you send in your check please let us know if you want (chicken, beef, or vegetarian).

Rooms will be available for a rate to the Society for \$89.00 for the night. When making the reservation please mention you are attending the St Andrews Hogmanay on January 9.

Please start gathering any donations you would like to make for our silent auction. This year we will also be having a live auction.

Hope to see you all there. If you would like to volunteer your time please contact Amanda Scholte at [AmandasScholte@aol.com](mailto:AmandasScholte@aol.com).

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## C & E Committee

The Charitable and Educational Committee (better known as the C&E) is one of seven standing committees specified in our Bylaws (Article IV, Clause C, Section 3).

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

The purpose of this committee is to take recommendations from the membership, requests from other non-profit organizations, and their own suggestions, and then to prepare a list of charities and/or educational functions that the Society should donate to

along with the amount for each. The Board of Directors determines how much is to be allocated by the C&E committee and then votes on the final distribution. The C&E committee also does not raise the money, which is the responsibility of the Board and/or ad hoc committees.

In the past your Society has donated money to many fine charities including the Virginia Scots Guards, WCVE FM (in support of *The Thistle & Shamrock*), and Gaelic Speakers Society.

If you would like to be on the C&E Committee please let President Bill Cooper know. Also, if you have a Scottish/Celtic theme charity you would like to recommend, also let Bill know.

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## Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Editor** at [News@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:News@StAndrewsSociety.org) or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of November for the December issue. This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

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## Patti Stone

On Monday afternoon, November 9th, Patti Stone will be having outpatient surgery to reattach her left Achilles tendon at Johnston-Willis. Thirteen weeks before this surgery, she had had a bone spur removed and Achilles tendon repair. While walking her dog on October 29th, in her driveway, she felt a SNAP and completely detached the Achilles tendon. She will be in a cast for 8-10 weeks with no weight on my leg, then 8-10 weeks in a boot before starting physical therapy. Her

parents will be staying with her during her recovery.

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## **We're Invited to a Christmas Party**

The St. Andrew's Society has been invited to a Christmas Party by the Scottish Society of Richmond. It takes place on Thursday Evening, December 17 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 903 Forest Avenue in Richmond. It's a covered dish gathering, so bring a dish if you wish. There will also be a Chinese Auction, and they are looking for any wrapped gifts under \$5.00. Gifts and Covered Dishes are not required. The main thing to bring is you. There is no charge. It is just their way of saying "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" to folks in the Scottish Community. The fun will start at 7:00-PM. Come join in the Spirit of the Season.

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## **Finders Keepers: Not in Scotland**

A horde of torcs (Iron Age gold neckbands) was found this past summer by an amateur treasure hunter near Sterling, Scotland with his metal detector. David Booth, aged 35, discovered the treasure trove while sweeping an area near a park (the exact location is still being held secret to protect the site).



The value of his find has been estimated at over £1 million (about \$1.7 million) but he will not get that amount by any means. Under Scots law, the Crown (i.e., the government) owns any antiquities found in Scotland, with payment being at the discretion of the Crown. In reality, treasures are put up for bid to museums in

Scotland and then a portion of the proceeds are given to the finder (the rest goes to support museums and educational institutions in Scotland). This is another example of how Scottish law differs from English law where the finder does get to keep the ancient goodies.

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## **Advertise in the Saltire Sentinel**

We now offer our members (and others) a chance to advertise in the *Saltire Sentinel*. This will benefit members who have businesses and the Society through generated revenue.

The rates shown below are for 3-month blocks (that is three consecutive months). The ads must be submitted to the Editor ([news@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:news@StAndrewsSociety.org)) via email in digital format or by USP mail (PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058) in camera-ready form. The half page size can be either vertical or horizontal half page. The business card does not have to be an exact business card; the idea is to have just the essential details (see example below).

### **RATES:**

Full Page	\$100
Half Page	\$50
Quarter Page	\$25
Business Card	\$10

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