



December 2009

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES: just a reminder that 2009-2010 membership dues can be submitted to the Treasurer are due NOW (if you have not already paid).

Calendar

December 9, 2009 Wednesday:

The December meeting will be our a special dinner meeting to be held next Wednesday, December 9th at The Grapevine, 11055 Three Chopt Road ([directions and map](#)). We will gather at 6:30pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm. The meal will cost \$21.19 to cover Entree, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Soft Drinks, Tax & Gratuity. Alcohol beverages are extra. The entertainment will be provided by Incognito, a wonderful barbershop quartet (our own Lennie Geipel is a member).



December 17: Scottish Society of Richmond 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. There is no charge. The fun will start at 7:00-PM. Come join in the Spirit of the Season.

January 9, 2010 Saturday: SASR Hogmanay

Details are to be found later in this issue.

January 22, 2010 Friday: Concert

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Royal Regiment of Scotland will perform at the Carpenter Theatre. Tickets are \$18-36 from Ticket master. Visit modlin.richmond.edu for more information or call 804-289-8980

January 23, 2010 Saturday: Burns Night hosted by VSGPD.

Starts at 6:30 for cocktail hour. The event is BYOB. Price \$25.00 a person with reservations recommended. Contact [Amanda Scholte](#) for more information.

Old Sandy was dying. Tenderly, his wife Maggie knelt by his bedside and asked: 'Anything I can get you, Sandy?'

No reply.

'Have ye no' a last wish, Sandy?' Faintly, came the answer ... 'a wee bit of yon boiled ham.'

'Wheesht, man,' said Maggie, 'ye ken fine that's for the funeral.'

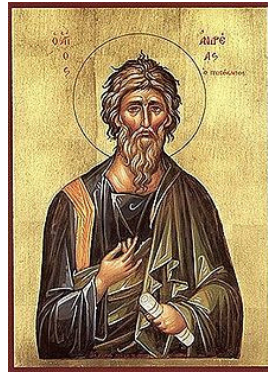
President's Notes

Firstly, I wish to thank everyone who braved the horrible stormy weather to support our November Business meeting. It was on Veterans Day and we managed to recognize this in our own special way through history, poems and prayers. Our piper friends from the Virginia Scots Guards supported the night by playing their Military tribute to honor our own past servicemen and servicewomen. Paul Scholte displayed and presented some of his unbelievably detailed Lead figures of military soldiers and military bands from around the world.

Secondly, I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day and perhaps even a few days of change from the normal routines. On this subject and following a number of enquiries as to whether Scotland celebrated Thanksgiving, I thought I had better "fill you in".

Like many countries in the world the equivalent in Scotland would be the Harvest Festival celebrations. In its simplest forms, kids will take food donations to collections at school and on Sunday everyone takes produce to church where it is placed at the Alter as part of our thanksgiving service. Scotland also holds a festival known as **St. Michael's Mass** or **Michaelmas** and it is held on September 29. Fairs with markets and games, especially horseracing are associated. It is celebrated with the color gold, all the harvest colors, the harvest and bounty of the land, and the sacred king.

Now, as November 30th was St. Andrew's Day, I'll take this opportunity to present a few of the lesser known facts and customs about this.



Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, Greece, Romania and Russia. St. Andrew was the first of Christ's Twelve Apostles (disciples of Jesus) and brother of Simon Peter (Saint Peter). He was a fisherman by trade, who lived in Galilee.

Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as their patron saint. In 1879 the Archbishop of Amalfi sent a small piece of Saint Andrew's shoulder blade to the re-established Roman Catholic community in Scotland.

In 1969, Gordon Gray, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland was in Rome to be appointed the first Scottish Cardinal since the Reformation. Pope Paul VI gave him further relics of St. Andrew with the words "Saint Peter gives you his brother". These are now displayed in a reliquary in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh.



St Andrew's Day is an official flag day in Scotland. The Scottish Government's flag-flying regulations state that the Flag of Scotland shall fly on all its buildings with a flagpole. The Union Flag is also flown if the building has more than one flagpole. The arrangements for the United Kingdom Government in Scotland are the opposite. They fly the Union Flag, and will only fly the Saltire if there is more than one flagpole.

Lastly a piece of St. Andrew folklore. - Around midnight on November 29, it was traditional for girls to pray to St Andrew for a husband. Also, a girl wishing to marry could - 1) Throw a shoe at a door. If the toe of the shoe pointed in the direction of the exit, then she would marry and leave her parents' house within a year. -2) Peel a whole apple without breaking the peel and throw the peel over the shoulder. If the peel formed a letter of the alphabet, then this suggested the name of her future groom.

In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone for our December meeting in the Grapevine restaurant and hope that most of you can join us for our annual Hogmany get together in January.

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@... VicePresident@... Secretary@... and Treasurer@...

Whisky protected against copies

New guidelines to protect whisky from foreign imitation, including new rules on labeling and bottling, are coming into force in Scotland. There will be a new requirement to only bottle Single Malts in Scotland, and tighter rules on the use of distillery names on bottle labels. There will also be better protection of traditional regional names such as "Highland" and "Lowland". The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) described it as "landmark legislation". The regulations have been drawn up by the UK government.

How did the Grand Canyon come about?
A Scotsman lost a sixpence.

Irn Bru secrets to be passed on

The chairman of the drinks firm, AG Barr, is finally standing down after more than 48 years with the company. Robin Barr, 71, is one of only two people in the world who knows the secret recipe for the best-selling Irn Bru drink (marketed as Scotland's other national drink) and the two never travel on the same plane.

The recipe was discovered by Robin Barr's great grandfather in 1901 and has not changed in 108 years. Only one other unnamed person shares the secret but the formula has been written down and is stored in a bank vault somewhere in Scotland.

However, he said he would eventually pass on the secret to his daughter, Julie, and she will become the mixer. Barr's soft drink business was founded in 1875 by Robert Barr and a family member has led the company for 135 years. Irn Bru is AG Barr's main brand and remains Scotland's most popular fizzy drink.

From girders! - The 1970s slogan '*brewed in Scotland, from girders*' remains one of the most enduring, the most recent campaign is a spoof of High School Musical, set at the fictional Auchendookit Senior High.

The Kirkcaldy undertaker sent a telegram to the bereaved man, telling him his mother-in-law had died and asking whether he wanted her embalmed, cremated, or buried. Back came the reply: 'All three — tak' nae chances.'

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

Includes: Piper, Haggis, DJ Music,
Ceilidh Dance, Silent Auction,
Live Auction

Cost: \$55.00 per person

Payment (cash or checks) will be accepted at
this Wednesday's meeting.

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.
Donations will be accepted at this
Wednesday's meeting.

Hope to see you all there. If you would like to
volunteer your time please contact Amanda
Scholte at AmandasScholte@aol.com.

The local train stopped at a station long
enough for the passengers to stretch their
legs.

Sniffing the pure, clean air with
appreciation, a passenger said to the
guard: 'Invigorating, isn't it?'

'No,' he replied. 'Inverurie.'

Chilling words that triggered the bloody massacre of clan MacDonald at Glencoe to go on display as a national 'treasure'



By Tim Cornwell and Oliver Tree

THEY were the words that launched one of
the darkest episodes in Scottish history. Now
the original handwritten order for the
massacre at Glencoe "to fall upon the rebels ...
and put all to the sword under seventy" goes
on show in Edinburgh.

Sent to Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, in
1692, the simple 20-line letter triggered the
murder of 38 members of the MacDonald clan
and is the centrepiece of an exhibition of
cultural "treasures" at the National Library of
Scotland.

The order, signed by Major Robert
Duncanson, came after a proclamation
requiring the chiefs of the Scottish clans to
take an oath of allegiance to William III
before the end of the 1691.

Alasdair MacDonald of Glencoe missed the
deadline, providing the authorities with an
opportunity to crush his clan. Forty women
and children were said to have died after the
killings from exposure, after their homes were
burned.

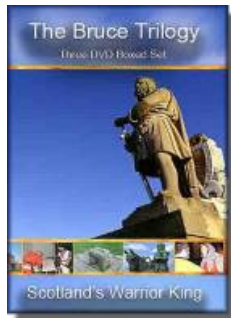
The massacre – with the Campbells ordered to
attack their hosts after enjoying their

hospitality – became a rallying cry for the Jacobite cause, and inspired writers and artists from Sir Walter Scott to The Corries.

Great Present

Order **NOW** for Christmas

The Bruce Trilogy



3 Set DVD pack

SASR Members Price is **\$32.00**

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Available at our December meeting!

New clues set archeologists on hunt for 'lost' Lewis chessmen



Scottish researchers now believe the Lewis chessmen were found not in Uig sand dunes but in underground passages some miles away at Mèalasta.

By Tim Cornwell

LEADING Scottish archeologists are to launch a hunt for a collection of up to 40 "missing" Lewis chessmen after new research rocked long-held assumptions about when and where they were found.

A wide-ranging investigation of the famous carved figures, led by National Museums of Scotland, suggests they were found several miles south of their presumed discovery site in the sand dunes at Uig.

NMS expert Dr David Caldwell and his co-authors on the study will now seek funding to begin excavating the site at Mèalasta, where the chessmen may have been buried in a souterrain, or underground passage.

The research – published in the journal *Medieval Archeology* and the most detailed since the figures surfaced in the early 19th century – suggests the chessmen would be better known as "gaming pieces" as they may have been used in such other board games as hnefatfl.

Popular in the Scandinavian world, it uses a similar board to chess, but with one player trying to break out with his king and the other bidding to trap him.

The new research also argues that the hoard could have belonged to a local leader, such as a bishop or clan chief, resident in Scotland – rather than left by a passing merchant, as has long been surmised. It cites one 13th-century poem, for example, describing how Angus Mor of Isla, called king of Lewis and the first Macdonald, inherited ivory pieces from his father.

The 93 pieces found – 11 are held by the NMS and the rest reside in the British Museum – appear to come from four sets that could have run to 128 pieces, Dr Caldwell said.

"Most people have gone to the sands at Uig, which is pretty fruitless," Dr Caldwell said.

The research will feature in a major touring exhibition of the Lewis chessmen in Scotland next year. They are carved from walrus ivory and whales' teeth, probably in Scandinavia in the late 12th century.

Hnefatafl is a game like chess and means "Fist Table" from the word "hnefa" - fist. The king sits in the middle of the board surrounded by his men. The other side has twice the number of pieces around the edges. The king has to get to a corner before the other side captures or grasps the king.

Mystery stone found near church linked to Knights Templar

By CLAIRE SMITH

A MYSTERIOUS carved stone has been uncovered alongside a 12th-century church associated with the Knights Templar.



The stone has been dated to the 12th century.

What appears to be the carved top of a sarcophagus was unearthed when builders were excavating and reinforcing a wall alongside the old ruined church in Temple, Midlothian.

But the inscriptions, which include symbols similar to those found in Viking monuments, in medieval graves and in West Highland Celtic carvings, have baffled archaeologists.

Historian and author John Ritchie said the stone raised many questions. "It is a crude carving, quite primitive, but I have never seen anything like it in my life," he said. "It has a whole series of symbols on it and the symbols are very interesting." The symbols at the bottom look like Viking sun compasses, while the dials at the top look a little bit like a Celtic cross but with notches carved on them."

Expert David Connolly, of Connolly Heritage Consultancy, said he believed the stone was from the 13th or 14th century. "It is a significant site because it was the Templar Preceptory for Scotland," he said. "I think from the condition, it may once have been set inside the church – which was once much bigger," he added. "He could be a Templar, he could be a Hospitaller, he could just be a knight who wanted to be buried there – but the heraldry is like nothing anyone has seen before."



Village legend tells of long-lost buried treasure

THE village of Temple in Midlothian takes its name from the Knights Templar, who once had their Scottish Preceptory – their headquarters – there. It was once an abbey founded by the Templars on lands gifted by David I of Scotland in 1127.

Founded during the Crusades, the Templars was a religious order of knights whose mission was to protect Christians in the Holy Land. According to some accounts they were the holders of treasures from Jerusalem. But the organisation came under suspicion from the royalty of Europe and the Catholic Church. Templars were hunted down and burned at the stake. Legend has it some of those fleeing persecution hid in this Midlothian village – bringing their treasure with them.

According to local legend some of this

treasure still lies buried in Temple: "Twixt the oak and the elm tree / You will find buried the millions free."

The minister was sharing a rail compartment with a Scot the worse of drink, who insisted on talking.

'Please don't speak to me,' said the minister. 'You're drunk.'

'Drunk?' replied the Scot. 'You're worse than me — you've got your collar on back to front.'

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 or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of January for the February issue. This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

It was a terrible winter — three months of unbroken blizzards. McTavish hadn't been seen in the village for weeks, so a Red Cross rescue team struggled to his remote croft at the head of the glen. It was completely buried — only the chimney was showing.

'McTavish,' they shouted down the chimney. 'Are you there?'

'Wha's that?' came the answer.

'It's the Red Cross,' they called.

'Go away,' shouted McTavish. 'I bought a flag last year!'

Advertize in the Saltire Sentinel

We now offer our members (and others) a chance to advertize 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) 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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