



# The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Fall, 2004

## Note from the President and Board

September 18, 2004

I don't know about you, but I am growing extremely tired of half statements that are the mainstay of rhetoric at this time of year during an election. I would love for people to say what needs to be said and get on with it.

With that in mind, here goes. At the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SAS Board the yearly dues for the Society were raised from \$30 a year to \$40 a year. So there. "Why," do you ask? The dues have remained the same for over five years. In that time the cost of operation has risen dramatically (postage, printing, etc.) and every activity that the Society has sponsored has gone in the hole by trying to keep the cost charged to the members the same. This simply means that we are continually seeing a decrease in our resources.

The members have rightfully complained that there has been a decrease in the number of events that the Society has put on, and I hope we have seen a dramatic turn around in that regard and that the trend will continue as the Board works to revitalize the Society.

It should also be noted that not all of the \$10.00 increase will go to the Society. Five dollars of that is earmarked to SABA. This will mean that from now on the yearly contribution from St. Andrews to SABA will be \$10.00 per member. This is great, as SABA has given out some significant



scholarship awards this year and the number of applications continue to increase. In this issue of the Spectator, Bruce McRitchie has included a report of SABA. This is a worthy part of SAS's mission and I personally feel that we should make every effort to enlarge our participation.

So there you are, so come January the treasurer will be sending out the new dues notices. Until then I hope to see each of you at the fall Kirkin', Members Night, the Quarterly Luncheon, and Burn's Night.

Yours Aye,

Wil Phillips, President

### **Scottish National Party Developments**

The Scottish Banner reports that Alec Salmond is getting set to return as SNP leader following John Swinney's recent resignation as party chief. Mr. Salmond is a former SNP leader who has been working in Westminster the last few years, representing the people of Scotland.

### **Williamsburg Scottish Festival & Celtic Celebration**

On Saturday, September 25, the clans gathered at Jamestown Beach Campsites for the Williamsburg Scottish Festival. It was a perfect, sunny day with refreshing cool breezes, and attendance was high. Saints Andrew's Society had a large tent set up, but it's a good bet that some of our members never got past the Whiskey Tasting tent, which was near the entrance. The Scottish festival is always a wonderful way to spend a day. The clans were all there, the parade of the massed pipe bands was stirring, the iron hammer tossing was amazing and all the lovely little red-haired Scottish lassies made me wish I was 20 again. Dancing, sword fights and re-enactments, lots of Scottish and Irish vendors and food kept everyone busy and entertained. Hats off to the Scottish Festival and all who helped turn it into another great success. Following are a few photos taken at the Festival. Many more are available at <http://www.mstthomas.com/andrew-gallery.htm>



First stop - whiskey tasting  
Second stop – Saint Andrew's Society tent





The Massed pipe bands



Hammer tossing (hammer can be seen in the air top left)



At Saint Andrew's Society tent – President Wil Phillips is at left

### **Ceud Mil Failte**

Congratulations to our new members Robert Michael and John Maxwell.  
Welcome to St. Andrew's Society!

### **Members' Night**

Don't forget SAS Members' Night, Thursday October 14, 2004 at the Williamsburg Country Club. This is going to be an eventful evening and the adult beverages will flow freely! Please see the Events link for details; click here <http://www.mstomas.com/events.htm>

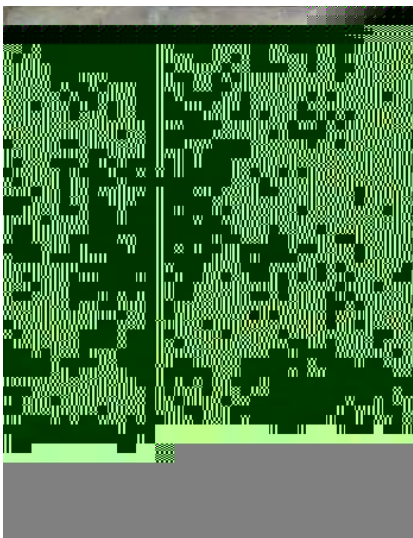
### **Who Says We're Celts?**

The Glasgow Herald web issue of September 10 reports that according to a new academic report, people from Celtic nations such as Scotland and Ireland have more in common with the Galicians and Basques of Northwest Spain than with the Celts of Central Europe. New genetic studies at Trinity College in Dublin have confirmed that the peoples of Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Cornwall and Brittany have strong links with each other but also have more in common with people from the Iberian Peninsula than with

people from any other nation. For the full article see the link <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/23762.html> Hopefully this link will stay there for awhile and not disappear.

### Scottish Regiments Disbanding?

The Scottish Banner in the last few issues has reported that some of Scotland's most famous historical regiments may be disbanded by the UK Defense establishment in a cost-cutting effort. Other sources reveal that no firm decisions have yet been made but that cuts or amalgamations of current units may be expected. Speculation has centered around the Black Watch, the Royal Scots, the King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the Highlanders. This has caused consternation in Scotland. On August 2 Scottish MP Michael Moore wrote to the Defense Secretary expressing his concern. My Scottish mother used to tell me "Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad." Latest reporting on this issue indicates that the UK establishment now sees the proposal as political suicide and has been assuring everyone that such a stupid move is unlikely.



The Black Watch, Crimean War, above left



Royal Scots colours, above; in Basra, Iraq, below



## Fall Luncheon

Don't miss the SAS Fall Luncheon on Monday, October 25, 11:30 AM at the Pipes & Pints Pub, Ewell Station Shopping Center. The Pipes & Pints is always fun! Please contact John Sim for further information at (757) 898-5141.

## Past Presidents:

Below is a photo of eight of the first nine presidents of St. Andrew's Society, provided by Howard Topp. The founding president, Bob Duncan, died several years before the photo was shot. Howard believes this photo was taken at Burns Night 1991. In more or less chronological order (some served more than one term): Paul Ritchie, Howard Topp, Henry Wann, Jack Rouzie, Jack Kane, Woody Woodward, Sam Redd and Ev Tucker, all accompanied by their respective commanding officers. This is an interesting picture that should bring back a lot of memories to our long-time members.



## Scotland Vacation, by Wil Phillips

On September 10<sup>th</sup> my wife, Scottie, and I returned from a three and a half week trip to Scotland. Since this was our first trip we were not sure what to expect when we departed, after hearing for years about the fiercely independent people of Scotland. We had an image of a stoic group who might be suspicious and cold. Boy! Were we in for a surprise. What we found were people quick to smile, hard to understand with their thick brogues, helpful and extremely accommodating, and with an eye to a joke or story.

The first nine days of our trip were spent exploring the inner Hebrides of Arran, Kintyre, Mull, Iona, and Skye. They were all beautiful in their sheer grandeur of barren hills, deep glacial valleys, sheer cliffs to deep blue-green seas, and sheep and cows on the roads. But I think that Mull was my personal favorite – it embodies Scotland in miniature.

The trick to exploring any of Scotland by car generally boils down to some pretty simple facts – think left, think small and slow, for almost all the roads are really just paved foot paths, and finally think of those cute, woolly black faced sheep as devious, cunning missiles that are put out on the roads by just as devious and cunning auto body shop owners bent on guaranteeing their future economic success.

The other thing I discovered about Scotland was that they came up with a breakfast menu about the time of Robert the Bruce and it has not changed in the last 900 odd years. By day 10 of our trip, looking down at my plate of bacon (which to anyone who does not have porridge for brains, is ham), two soft fried eggs which were cooked so much that you could use the yokes as hockey pucks, baked beans (didn't these people ever hear of the gas problem that the rest of mankind suffers from?), haggis (once a year at Burn's Night I can deal with, but everyday – give me a break), black pudding (who can look at something black on the plate first thing in the morning), shriveled baked tomahtoes, and cold toast. Truthfully, how do you spread butter on cold toast? Anyway, by the 10<sup>th</sup> day I was beginning to think I was trapped in that movie "Groundhog Day".

All in all Scottie and I really enjoyed the Isles of Scotland. Then we were on our way to join a tour led by Lord Charles Kennedy, the Chief of Clan Kennedy and a bunch of other Kennedy types from this side of the pond. We

toured a lot of places near and dear to Clan Kennedy and I learned a great deal about my distant kin from the old country. It's funny the visions you have of those distant figures from the past, the noble lord and his faithful band clad in their kilts, fighting with Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Rob Roy and Bonnie Prince Charlie against the dreaded English tyrants, fighting for freedom. NOT. The reality was with each conflict they actually fought on both sides, gained territory and lied like hell to the winning side and got away with it. When they were displeased with someone or just wanted to take over their lands, they would dispose of them by slowly starving them to death in the dungeon of one of their 28 or so castles. And to make this even more fiendish they located the kitchen close enough to the dungeon so that the poor devil could smell the food while he starved! And if you really ticked them off the really favorite means of dispatching someone was to strip them bare, baste them with oil and slowly roast you over a nice low fire to a crispy morsel to be fed to the dogs. Gosh, what a great group of folks. According to Lord Charles they don't roast people anymore – much. No wonder Hadrian built his wall. I came away thinking to myself that maybe the clan motto should be changed from “Consider the End” to “Do you have a match?”

Would I go back? Yes, in a heartbeat. The pubs were great, the scenery wonderful, the people fantastic, and so far there are no Walmarts.

Wil Phillips



Wil at Culzean Castle with  
Lord Ailsa



Traffic jam on Skye. Wil Phillips photo.



Glencoe. Wil Phillips photo.

## **S.A.B.A. Announces Scholarship Grants**

Your SABA Board is pleased to announce that three grants of \$2,000 each have been made to three outstanding William & Mary students for study in Scotland. Selected from a much larger pool of fine candidates, they will be excellent representatives of their university, our community, and the United States. These future leaders are also the future of Scottish/Celtic culture in America! This year's awards were made to:

- Justin Clapp, who will spend his sophomore year at The University of Edinburgh studying Scottish literature as well as medieval and renaissance history.

- Mary Teeter, who is spending her junior year studying English literature at Saint Andrews University.

- Leah Witters, who will also spend her junior year at Saint Andrews. She will be studying government and economics.

This brings the number of awards granted in the last two years to William and Mary students for study in Scotland to seven. As members of SABA, SAS members should all be pleased and proud to be a factor in enabling these students to experience Scotland while enhancing their education.

We recently received a letter from Melinda Hanzel, one of last year's award recipients, who attended Saint Andrews University. In addition to reporting how she enjoyed her coursework, Melinda wrote of her out-of-class experiences. Some quotes: "I loved the fact that I had the opportunity to travel quite a bit" / "On weekends the social life at St. Andrews is a lot of fun—pub golf is a new skill I picked up" / "The people are very diverse... a lot of English and Scottish, as well as other international students" / "Where else could you have bonfires at the house of Prince William and regularly run into him at Tesco, the local grocery store?"—Summing up: "I would do it again in a second. St. Andrews is a wonderful school and Scotland was the perfect place to spend a semester abroad."

What an experience! It is important that we continue this mission and help more young Americans experience Scotland. It is equally important that we expand the program to include Scottish students who wish to study at William & Mary, but even just to sustain—let alone expand—the program we need your help. This year dues from SAS members will cover *only* 5% of

the scholarship awards given. To provide a meaningful program, we have been forced to use money from funds accumulated in prior years. We can continue to provide educational grants only through the generosity of SAS members. With your help we will build a strong tradition of support for Williamsburg/Scotland educational exchange. Please consider making a donation using the form below.

### **SABA Donations Form**

Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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This gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Remit to: SABA / PO Box 2519 / Williamsburg, Va. 23187

Donations of any amount, less cost of any services accepted, are **tax deductible**. (An example of "services accepted" would be the cost of a ticket to a luncheon if you're a Highlander donating \$50 to \$99.)

### **Designations and Benefits of SABA Donations above \$49**

#### ***Highlander: \$50-99***

Recognition – one complimentary ticket to a St. Andrews Society Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$12.50)

#### ***Council of Robert the Bruce: \$100-249***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$25) and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*, courtesy of the proprietor

#### ***Court of Jamie VI: \$250-499***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a St. Andrew's Quarterly Luncheon (value ca. \$25), one complimentary ticket to Burns' Nicht (value ca. \$37.50), and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

#### ***Sodgers of Sir William Wallace: \$500-999***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a St. Andrew's Quarterly Luncheon, two complimentary tickets to Burns' Nicht (value ca. \$75), and a \$25 coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

#### ***Bairns of Robbie Burns: \$1,000 or more***

Recognition – two complimentary tickets to a Quarterly Luncheon, two complimentary tickets to Burns' Nicht, & a \$150 dinner coupon for use at *Pints and Pipes*

***!!!Thank you for your generosity!!!***



Dr. David Borland

### **Flowers of the Forest**

Long-time SAS member Dr. David Borland passed away on August 27, 2004. The memorial service was held on August 30 at the Bucktrout Funeral Home. That Dr. Borland was beloved and respected by the Williamsburg community was evident by the overflow crowd that came to pay their respects. The service was moving and inspiring, a tribute to Dr. Borland's life.

# SAS Membership Application



## Saint Andrew's Society

Application for Membership

P. O. Box 533

Williamsburg, Virginia

