The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Spring, 2004

From the President

To the members of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

First, let me say what a privilege it has been to serve as President of SAS for the past year and a half. My wife, Scottie, and I moved to Williamsburg in 1995 after retiring from Atlanta. We started a new business here and our first several years we were totally involved in building that. A couple of years ago we had a Saturday off and we went to the Williamsburg Scottish Festival. I stopped by the SAS tent and was greeted by Bill Monroe. Being asked to become a part of SAS is one of the best things hat has happened since coming to Williamsburg. That short introduction at the festival has lead to some very close friends and a involvement in a fine organization of men of whom I am extremely proud to be connected.

The first half of this year has passed and the Society has enjoyed a great Burns' Night at Two Rivers, a Members Night and dinner at the Pints and Pipes Pub, and the spring Kirkin' at Kilmarnock (which is always special, but this year's Kirkin' was made more special with a luncheon at the visitor's center adjacent to the church).

Summer is now upon us and I hope each of you will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the season or whatever you have planned as a vacation. But keep in mind the year is only half over and there are still events in the works for St. Andrew's. The committees are working on a summer luncheon, a fall Kirkin', the regular Member's Night and ending the year in January with

Burns' Night.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the coming months at these activities. Until then,

Yours, Aye
Wil Phillips

From the editor: Greetings! I'm a new member, Marshall S Thomas, and I'm honored to be asked to act as editor for the Spectator, a quarterly newsletter publication for St. Andrew's Society (SAS). This is the first edition of the "new" Spectator. Clement Brown is known to all members and he's the publisher. I wish to encourage all SAS members to contribute to this publication. Our members are immensely talented and experienced in a host of fields. If anyone wishes to share their experiences in this forum or to comment on SAS or on any subject related to Scotland, please e-mail me at andrion2@earthlink.net, or else mail me -- Marshall S Thomas, 4929 Westmoreland Drive, Williamsburg VA 23188, phone 565-2362. I'd like this publication to allow members to communicate with other members. This publication can be viewed on-line at www.msthomas.com. A copy of each issue will be mailed quarterly to all SAS members. We hope to post this newsletter on the SAS website as soon as possible, http://scotsofwmbg.org/. We aim to be flexible, and this newsletter will respond to member concerns. Please let me know if the formats are clear. I'm using a font of Times New Roman 14, which is a bit larger than normal because I'm sure many of our members (myself included) appreciate a slightly larger font.

The Ceilidh and Special Meeting at the Pints and Pipes Pub, March 11, 2004.

The Pints and Pipes Pub was the perfect setting for St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg to meet and discuss proposed methods to "reinvigorate" the Society. As a new member, I enjoyed the easy camaraderie of the attendees and the informal atmosphere of the Pub. I also enjoyed the rousing, spirited discussion of the proposed changes to the bylaws and thought it a good display of direct democracy in action. Although the proposed changes were all narrowly defeated, the future of St. Andrew's Society will continue to concern us all and, as President Wil Phillips stated, the board welcomes suggestions as well as volunteers. MST.

The Kirkin' o' th' Tartan at Christ Church, April 25, 2004.

'The origins of the Kirking of the Tartan are believed to date from the 18th Century when, after the Battle of Culloden in 1745, the English attempted to break the Scottish clan system by banning, under pain of death, the wearing of the tartan and the playing of bagpipes. As a form of resistance, Scots would secrete bits of Tartan on their person when attending the kirk (church). In this way, when blessings were offered, the tartan and by extension, the clans and families were blessed. The service became a Scottish American tradition in 1941 when the Rev. Peter Marshall introduced it at the N.Y. Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. The common thread in each of the thousands of services conducted each year in all parts of the country is the opportunity to dedicate to Almighty God, the tartan symbol of unwavering loyalty, steadfast faith, rugged individualism and regard for human personality.'

-- From the April 25 program, Kirkin' o' th' Tartan.

It was a perfect day for the Kirkin' o' th' Tartan held at historic Christ Church in Irvington, Virginia, a refreshingly cool Spring day. The drive from Williamsburg was relaxing, an endless vista of green trees as we entered what seemed like a lost world, a beautiful, magical countryside where time appeared to slow to a more leisurely pace. Christ Church itself was most impressive, an imposing but graceful red brick structure with the Ten Commandments boldly carved in wood above the alter.

The Kirking was sponsored with the cooperation of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Saint Andrew's Society of Richmond, the Scottish Society of Richmond, the Scottish Society of Tidewater, the Tidewater Saint Andrew's Society, the Williamsburg Scottish Festival and the Foundation for Historic Christ Church. It was good to see old friends and meet new friends in such lovely and inspiring surroundings. I don't yet have a kilt, but the Scottish kilts, tartans and regalia worn by the other attendees were so striking that my wife insisted that I'd have to buy my own outfit as well. That settles it!

After coffee and pastries, all members gathered to present the tartans at the church. The Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band led the way into the church for the service. The congregation then presented their tartans at the Chancel, led by the pipes and drums. After the Kirking, *Flowers of the Forest* was

played in memory of those Scots who died during the last year, and the names were read. The Rev. Hugh C. White III, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock and of Historic Christ Church in Irvington, gave an inspiring sermon to a full house on 'The comforting presence of authority.' Following the service, the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band presented a rousing band recital under the trees outside the church main gate, to hearty applause. A fine buffet luncheon followed at the Bayne Center.

This was a wonderful day spent in the countryside with good companions. Our thanks go out to everyone who arranged it. MST.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 19 – Lunch meeting at 11:30 for all members and guests (wives, significant others, prospective new members) at the Pints and Pipes Pub in Ewell's Station. This is a warm, friendly refuge for all wandering Scots!

September 25 – The Scottish Festival! Don't miss this one! The new site will be at the Jamestown Beach Campground. Please see the website at http://www.wsfonline.org/ for more information on this outstanding event.

Ceud Mil Failte

Congratulations to our new members James W. Grant and Jerry Dean Campbell. Welcome to St. Andrew's Society!

The Scottish Banner

The Scottish Banner bills itself as "the largest Scottish newspaper on the world outside Scotland." I am a recent subscriber and I very much enjoy the paper, even though I have not yet made my first pilgrimage to Scotland. This is certainly the newspaper for Scottish expatriates or those of Scottish blood interested in keeping track of what's happening in the old country. As an example, the April 2004 issue had an interesting article on John Swinney, the leader of the Scottish National Party, and his vision of the future for Scotland. Subscriptions are available on the web at www.scottishbanner.com. MST.

Ancestors

All members of St. Andrew's Society are invited to submit old photos of their ancestors or historical photos of Scotland that may be of interest to the Society, for publication in this newsletter. Please include a few lines of text describing the photos. You may either scan the photos and send them to me in digital format as an attachment to an e-mail (.jpg is preferred) or send the actual photos to me in the mail, and I'll promise to return them to you. My e-mail: andrion2@earthlink.net. My address: Marshall S Thomas, 4929 Westmoreland Drive, Williamsburg VA 23188.

To initiate this section, I include a passport photo of my Scottish ancestors – my maternal grandmother Martha McNeil Speirs and her two sons and three daughters. The Speirs family arrived in Boston on Christmas Day, 1924 to join Martha's husband Robert Speirs, who had immigrated a year earlier and sent for them after he established himself as a foreman in a Boston manufacturing plant. My mother Mary is the eldest daughter, top left. The boy on the left is Ronald Speirs, who was featured in Stephen Ambrose's WWII book *Band of Brothers*, and the movie of the same name, about a paratrooper company of the 101st Airborne. Captain Speirs was an outstanding warrior, highly respected by the men. He took command of the company during a battlefield crisis and led his men through the Battle of the Bulge and all the way to Hitler's Eagle's Nest.

The Speirs Family – Martha Speirs and children, 1924.

Book Reviews

We invite all members of St. Andrew's Society to send us book reviews with your comments and opinions about Scotland-related books you have read. Please don't be shy. Give us your opinions of the books, favorable or not. SAS members are in an excellent position to comment on books about Scotland, and if you read an outstanding book, or one that you feel was not worth buying, please let the rest of the membership know about it. Following are two book reviews to get started:

How the Scots Invented the Modern World, by Arthur Herman.
Reviewed by Marshall S Thomas.

All right, I'll admit that I always thought Scots were a clever bunch but when I saw the title of this book I thought the author might have been exaggerating. He wasn't. This is a remarkable book. I didn't know much about Scotland's intellectual renaissance in the 18th Century before reading this book, but I do now. By 1789 the University of Edinburgh was a center of learning for all of Europe. According to the flyleaf of the book, "in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Scotland earned the respect of the rest of the world for its crucial contributions to science, philosophy, literature, education, medicine, commerce and politics – contributions that have formed and nurtured the modern West ever since."

The book details Scotland's contributions by telling the story of the Scottish Enlightenment, how it gave birth to our modern ideas of democracy, how Scottish ideas inspired the American revolution and the U.S. Constitution, and how the Scottish Diaspora changed the world for the better. This book is not light reading but it is a treasure trove of information about Scotland's invaluable intellectual contributions to the modern world. It belongs on the bookshelf of every Scot who is proud of his heritage.

William Wallace, The King's Enemy, by D.J. Gray.
Reviewed by Marshall S Thomas

This short book (161 pages) is an easy read but is also packed with good historical information about Scotland's national hero. I recommend the book because it gave me powerful insights into the battles that Wallace had to fight every day – not so much against the English, but against his fellow Scots. It was depressing to read about the perfidy and treason of so many of

the Scottish nobility who switched sides with about the same frequency that they changed clothes. In those days this was not considered perfidy or treason but plain old common sense. Edward I of England, the "Hammer of the Scots," found that lands and riches could be used to buy the loyalty of many Scottish nobles, and that armed conflict was not always necessary. However one man could never be bought – William Wallace. This book is an inspiring story of Wallace's seemingly endless struggle against all odds to free Scotland from the yoke of a brutal and oppressive alien invader.

Photos: Although only a limited amount of photos can appear in this newsletter, all SAS members can log onto www.msthomas.com under "SAS photos" and view all the photos taken by your editor at each recent event. These digital photos can also be downloaded to whatever file you please, and printed out at your leisure. All photos are available free to all SAS members. We'll get these photos onto the SAS website, http://scotsofwmbg.org/ as soon as possible.

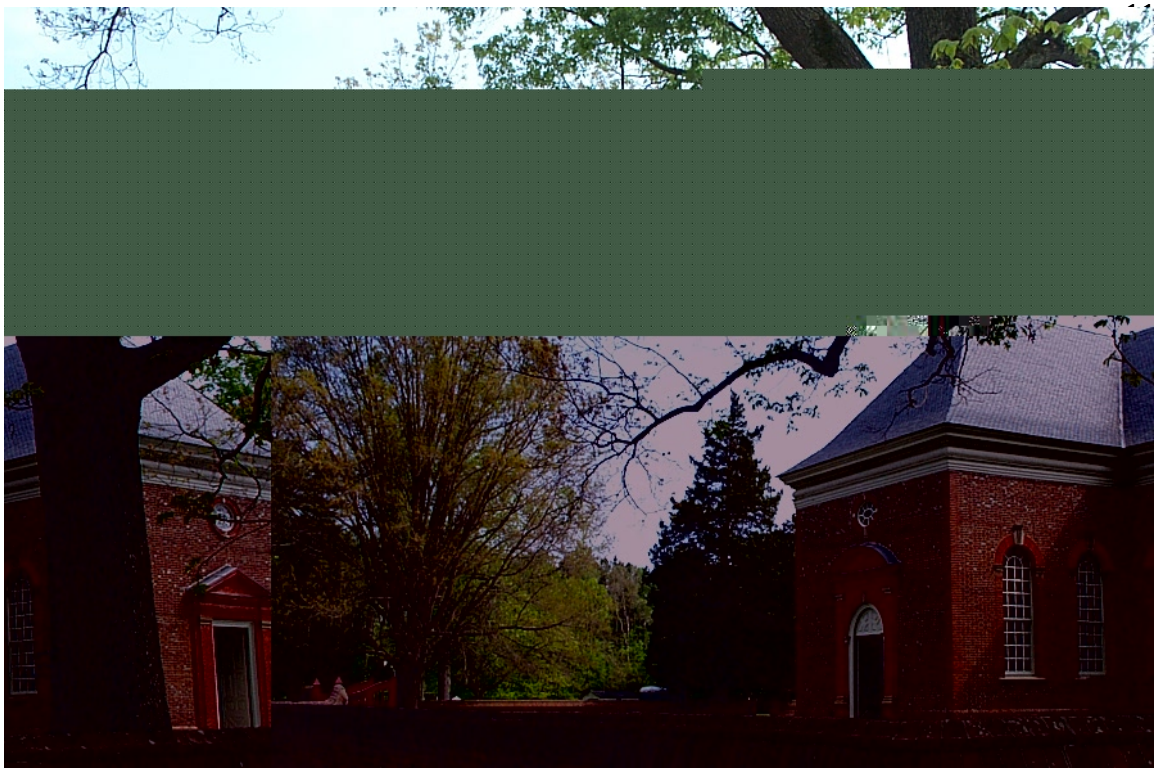
A rowdy good time at the Pints & Pipes Pub, March 2004

A member speaks out during the meeting at the Pints & Pipes Pub

Two members sample the adult beverages with no apparent ill effects.

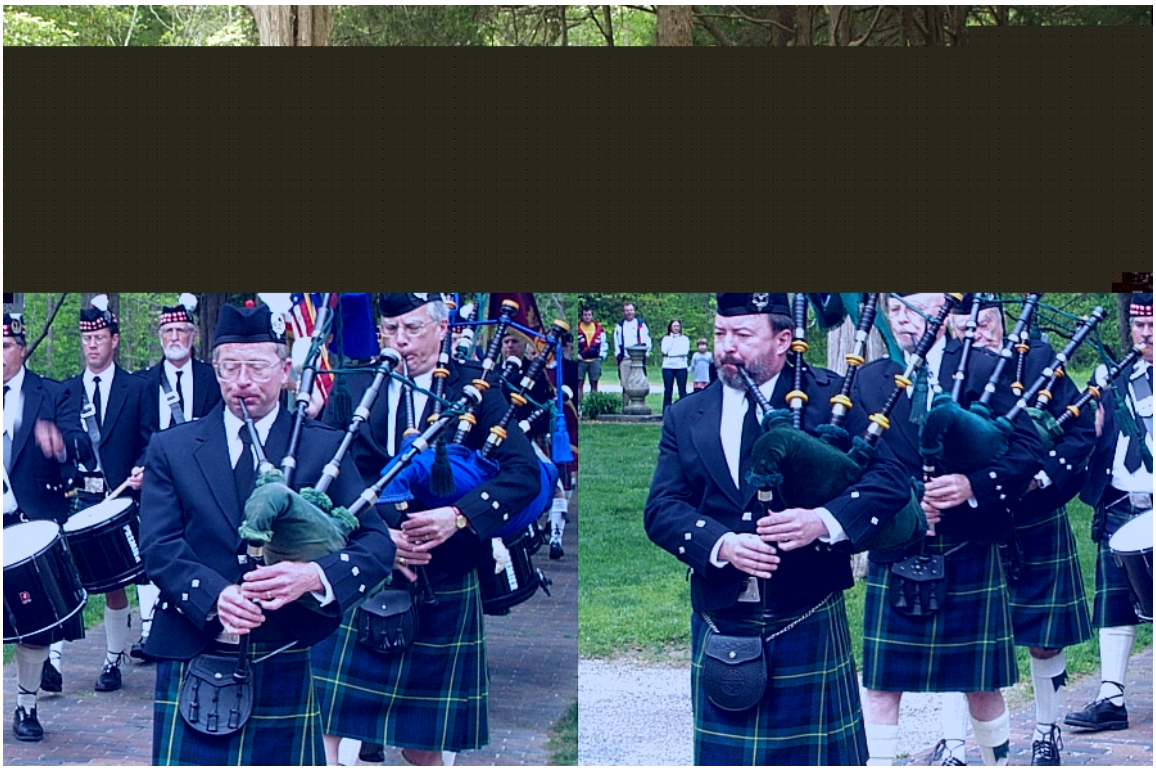
Animated discussion at the Pints & Pipes

A good time was had by all!

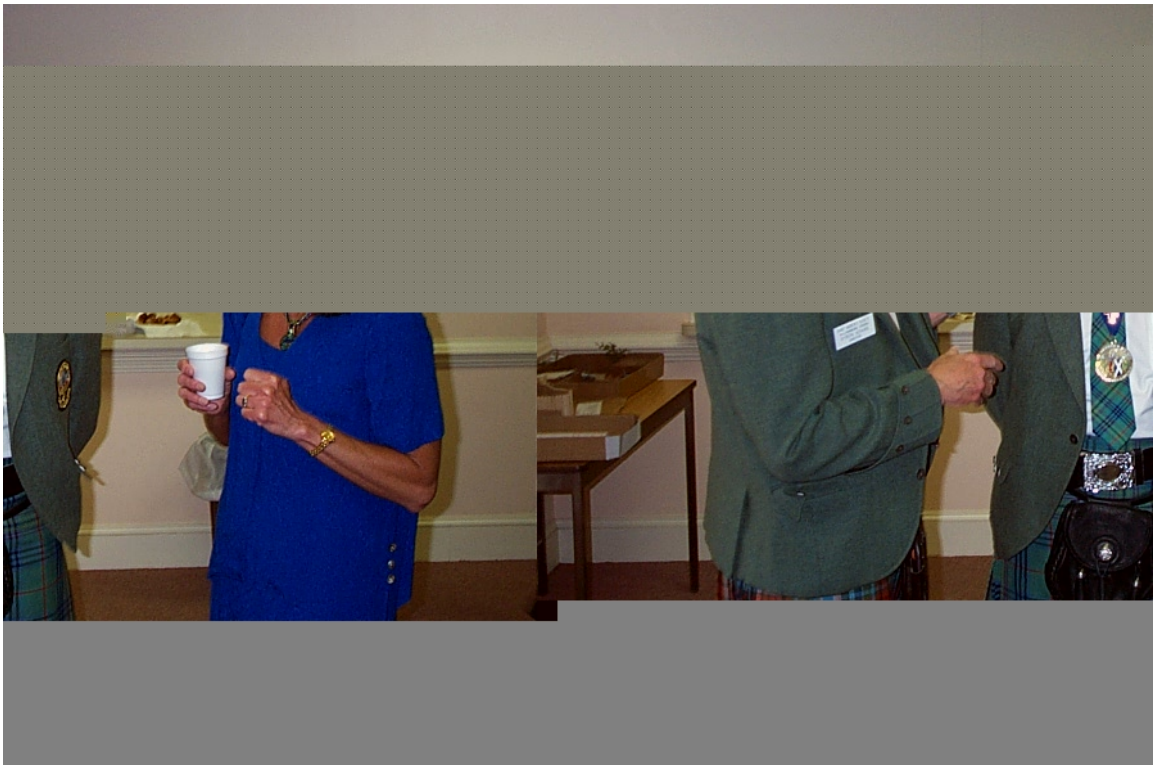


Historic Christ Church, April 2004

Marching into Christ Church with the pipes and drums



The Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band



Discussion over coffee (or is it scotch?)

Scots in America

The following article is provided by Colin Govan, who saved it years ago to pass on to his grandchildren. It's so interesting I've printed it out in full for our members. We don't know the original source of this article and if anyone does know, please inform us so we can give the magazine and author proper credit.

SCOTS IN AMERICA

Immigrants have been coming to the shores of this country for more than 400 years. Many of these came from Scotland looking for a decent living, political asylum, freedom and adventure. They all contributed to the new land, bringing their lilting speech, comic and tragic music of pipes, fiddles, drums and harp, and the ancestral traits carried in genes from Celts, Norse. Irish, English and many more nationalities. All teemed with energy, ingenuity, talent, valor, ambition and hope.

These Scottish immigrants have had a far-reaching influence on American history. Our Revolution drew many Scots settlers with the disastrous Battle of Culloden and the frightful killing that followed still fresh in their minds. General Henry Knox fought at Bunker Hill and later defended Boston to blast out the redcoats. Another of General Washington's most trusted generals was Hugh Mercer, an officer under Bonnie Prince Charley. |John Paul |ones, America's first naval hero was born on Kirkbean, Scotland.

Nine Scottish and Scotch-Irish immigrants were signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock signed his name big so King George, III wouldn't have any difficulty reading it. Also signing were William Hooper, George Ross, James Wilson and John Witherspoon - all born in Scotland. George Taylor, Thomas McKee, Matthew Thornton and James Smith were all Scotch-Irish.

Nine of the thirteen original states' governors were Scots or of Scottish descent. They were George Clinton (New York), Thomas McKee (Pennsylvania), William Livingston

(New Jersey), Patrick Henry (Virginia), John McKinley (Delaware), Richard Caswell (North Carolina), John Rutledge (South Carolina), Archibald Bullock (Georgia), and Jonathan Trumbell (Connecticut).

Fifteen of our presidents had Scottish roots: James Munroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses Grant, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson. Scots who "also ran" include Henry Wallace, George McGovern and Adlai Stevenson.

Scottish ingenuity has also produced some of the greatest inventors and scientists of this country. Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper, Robert Fulton pioneered steamboats and submarines, Alexander Graham Bell from Edinburgh, invented the telephone, and Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb and phonograph.
Andrew Carnegie, who was born in Scotland, made a fortune in America and gave much of it away. He built many libraries over the whole country. Writers Washington Irving, Herman Melville and Edgar Alien Poe and cabinet maker Dun-can Phyfe all contributed to the richness of our country's heritage.

The famous portrait of George Washington which was later engraved on our one dollar bill was the work of another Scott, Gilbert Charles Stuart.

Scottish women blossomed in the freedom of (his country and made great contributions beyond those made at hearth and home.

Anita Newcomb McGee. a physician, founded the Army Nurse Corps; Ann Carolyn Maxwell founded the School of Nursing at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Juliet Hopkins was a Confederate Military Hospital Administrator in Richmond.

Suffragette sisters Jean and Kate Gordon, Harriett Upton, Nettis Shuler and Maud Younger, all Scottish women, were front and center in the women's rights movement. Saloon wrecking, bottle smashing Carrie Nation was Scottish, as was Sara Chapin, first president of the W.C.T.U. Juliette Magill Kenzie Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts of America.

Modern-day Americans of Scottish descent include aviation pioneer Donald Douglas, whose DC-3 was the first airplane good enough to make commercial aviation possible; author John Kenneth Galbraith and publisher Malcolm Eorbes.

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Alan Bean both claim Scottish ancestry. Alan Bean had a yard of MacBean Tartan specially woven and took it to the moon on the Apollo 12 flight.

President Woodrow Wilson, another Scot, declared, "Every line of strength in our history is colored by Scottish blood".

Excellent Map of Scotland

The editor recommends a beautiful hand-painted map entitled 'Scotland under Robert the Bruce, 1314.' This map is based on meticulous historical research and is a work of art as well, resembling a medieval map. The artist, John Garnons Williams, is an English historical map fanatic who produces absolutely beautiful maps of Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and all the English counties. These maps are a bit pricey but they are well worth it. I've got three of them (Scotland, Wales and Cornwall) and love them. You can check out these maps on-line at http://www.gwp.enta.net/home.htm
Be the first kid on your block to own one!

Another Scottish Soldier

According to *The Scotsman*, the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has Scottish ancestry and has asked the Heraldic Society of Scotland to produce a coat of arms to reflect his Scottish roots. The proposed coat of arms will contain the head of an American bald eagle and a scroll with the motto "devoted to public service." Mr. Powell was a four star general who led Operation Desert Storm in the first Gulf War. He is probably the world's best-known soldier. His father was born in Jamaica and his mother's family originated in Scotland.

Those Wily Scots

Also from *The Scotsman*, it seems that there is a rush of Scottish house-hunters swarming over the U.S. to buy second homes that are also good investments. A favorable exchange rate (for UK citizens) and cheaper travel costs is encouraging the trend. There is now a direct air link between Edinburgh and New York. According to *The Scotsman*, in 2003 an estimated 9,000 Britons bought homes in the U.S. and that is expected to double in 2004. Although U.S. homes are not cheap, property values keep going up. Some Scots buy vacation homes in places such as Florida and rent them out when not on vacation. One Scot was quoted as saying buying a Florida home was "easier than buying a house in Edinburgh."

Letters, Comments and Suggestions

All SAS members should feel free to e-mail or snail mail me with their comments, concerns and suggestions relating not only to this newsletter but to St. Andrew's Society itself. Communication is vital to any effort to make SAS more relevant to its members needs. We welcome all views and opinions.

Poll

We'd like to know how many members would prefer to view the Spectator on-line and how many would prefer a hard-copy through the U.S. mail. If viewing on-line you get all the vivid colors of the photos and can print out the entire issue if you prefer. Those who aren't on-line may prefer a printed hard copy through the mail. If the numbers work out, we hope to keep the printed (mailed) copy in full color. This is very expensive however so we need an idea about how many people would like the printed copies. Please reply to andrion2@earthlink.net and tell us your choice.

For those without e-mail, please reply to Marshall S Thomas, 4929 Westmoreland Drive, Williamsburg VA 23188.

Spectator Poll

I prefer to view the Spectator on-line _____

I prefer to receive the Spectator via mail _____

Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia
23187

e of Birth: _____
ies: _____
ofession: _____

ies of Children:

ent Address:

cation? [Yes] [No] [If Yes, Father's or Grandfather's Name]
is the son or grandson of an Active Member, in good standing, or the son or grandson of a deceased
o is age eighteen [18] through twenty-one [21]. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members;
es are required].

in other Professional or Social Organizations:

cottish Family Connections [documents not required]:

Scotland—Frequency and Purpose:

ttish Interest [History, Literature, Arts, Etc.]

iation[s]:

in Clan Organization or other Scottish Society:

[s] do you wear?

Signature of Applicant:

nowledge, the above applicant is of sound character and is entirely suitable for membership in the
ively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously
en.

Date: _____

Date: _____

1. Full Name: _
2. Date and Pla
3. Schools/Colle
4. Business or P
5. Wife's Name:
6. Names and A
7. Address: ___
8. Telephone [s]
9. E-Mail: ___
10. Years at Cu
11. Legacy App
{A Legacy membe
former member, w
however, annual d
12. Membershi
13. Nature of S
14. Any Visits
15. General Sc
16. Clan Assc
17. Membershi
18. What Tarta

Date:
To the best of our
Society. He will a
any duties underta

Sponsor: _____

Co-Sponsor: ____

irectory_____ Current local address and telephone number:
f Legacy Member Eligibility:_____

for digitization into Membership
_____Verification