# The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

**Spring 2006**


## From the President

Dear Members,

On June 28 we held our quarterly luncheon at the Pints and Pipes Celtic pub, on Palace Lane. We had a nice lunch which consisted of soup and a sandwich. We had a pretty good turn out, 43 people in the middle of the day in the middle of the week. We had only expected to have one speaker but we ended up having two and both were excellent. If you were at Burns Nicht you may remember Alan Graham who gave the toast to the Lassies and his wife Beth, who gave the toast to the Laddies. Beth spoke briefly about their life together in Scotland, and Alan spoke about growing up in Scotland.

Very soon you will get a notice of either a called meeting of the St. Andrew's Benevolent Association or a request for a proxy vote. I cannot emphasize the importance of this meeting or vote strongly enough. We would like to have 100% Participation either by personal attendance or a proxy vote to take care of the business at hand.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Williamsburg Scottish Festival and Celtic Celebration is coming up the end of September, Member's night in October, Kirkin' of the Tartans in November and then it will be the first of the New Year and Burns Nicht again. Somewhere in the middle of all this there will probably be at least one more quarterly luncheon.

Yours aye, Taylor C. Fraser, Jr. President

**The Pints and Pipes Pub – say that real fast – the perfect venue**

**Happiness comes in a beer glass**

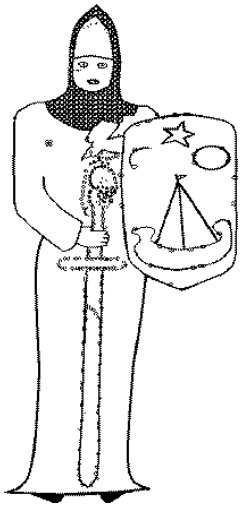
## How Scotland Discovered America

The Scottish Banner has some fascinating articles, and the May 2006 issue tells us about a Scots noble who reached America a hundred years before Columbus. One reason I love history is that we're always gaining new knowledge that often contradicts everything we thought we knew about the past. I won't duplicate the article here but will summarize it and urge everyone who's interested to get a copy of the Scottish Banner and read the article in depth. Briefly, an 81 year old Scot named Niven Sinclair believes that one of his ancestors reached America in the late 1300's, and he is determined to prove it. Sinclair is the descendant of William St Clair, who built Rosslyn Chapel, and Williams' grandfather, Henry St. Clair. Niven Sinclair is a historian who has generated a lot of controversy. Rosslyn Chapel of course is famous because of its connections with the Knights Templars and the Holy Grail. Sinclair has written on these issues as well,

made plenty of controversial claims, and attracted both scorn and praise. The article notes the following:

- Henry was Earl of Orkney, charged by Norway's Queen Margarette with expanding trade to the West.
- Iceland and Greenland were inhabited then and Newfoundland's fishing shoals were a great attraction.
- Eric the Red and Leif Ericson had reached Newfoundland and 'Vinland' in the 10th Century. News of lands to the west were kept secret to preserve commercial advantages.
- The Mi'mak Indians of Nova Scotia have tribal lore about the first white men who arrived from the sea in the late 1300's. They were friendly with these people, who wintered with them.
- Niven Sinclair believes that Henry made at least two visits to Nova Scotia in the late 1300's. There are historical records of voyages he made to the West.
- In Massachussets a carving known as the Westford Knight shows a man with a sword type of the 14th Century and a heraldic coat of arms that looks like that of Clan Gunn. James Gunn was Henry St. Clair's head man and is believed to have died in America.
- Kelly Prosper, current chief of the Mi'Maq tribe, is cooperating with Niven Sinclair to generate DNA evidence to prove the Mi'Maq tribe has ties to early Scots explorers who settled there. If they can do this, we will leave the realm of speculation and enter the realm of facts.

Comment: They should stop talking about DNA tests and do them. A valid DNA match will be proof positive of the presence of Sinclair's blood line in Nova Scotia's native Mic'Mac. And if we never hear anything further about this, we can conclude that this is just an interesting story with no proof to back up these claims. There is plenty of further info, pro and con, about Henry Sinclair on the web. I haven't researched any of this, but it's certainly an interesting subject.



**Prince Henry St. Clair, Earl of Orkney (top)**
**The Westford Knight, two copies of the stone carving (above)**

**Family History: Taylor Fraser**

Here is the family history background for our own St. Andrew's Society President, Taylor Fraser.

'For those of you who don't know me, my name is Taylor Fraser of Clan Fraser and I was born in Newport News in Riverside Hospital, not the big modern building that you know but the one that used to be on the corner of 50th Street and Washington Avenue. When I was a year and half old my mother and father decided to move to Rome, New York and since I had no other means of support I went along with them. After a few years of doing nothing, they said I was too young to get a job, I decided to get an education. I spent four years in Ganzevort Elementary School.

'Near the end of my fourth year my folks bought a nice little country estate. It was a nice place but it had a few drawbacks. One was in the winter when the temperature got down to forty five below zero and you had to make a trip to the little house behind the big house. Another was if you wanted to take a bath you had to haul water from the well in the back yard, except in the summer when the well would run dry and we had to haul water from a spring a half mile away. The next two years I continued my education in a one room school house. We had six grades and one teacher. Having had the advantage of going to a city school I was a little ahead of the rest of the kids in my class so I helped the teacher by working with the younger kids. I then went to Westmoreland Central School and finished my education. I had always been interested in music so I joined the High School Band and Choir. I also developed an interest in flying so I learned to fly light airplanes. If you have never flown a plane and done takeoffs and landings on skis you have missed a real experience.

'When I graduated from high school it was 1945 and I enlisted in the Navy. I tell my kids that the Japanese heard I was coming and surrendered. As yet I haven't been able to figure out how they knew. Since I was in the Naval Reserve I was released from active duty in 1946. When I got out my folks decided to move back to Virginia and since I was again unemployed I moved with them. I didn't think this was such a great idea since I had a girl that I was madly in love with, but as it happened she had met another guy and eventually married him. As for me I met a young lady, Dorothy Beale, and after going together for three years while she finished school we got married and were happily married for fifty one and a half years. We have

two children a son who was born to us and an adopted daughter. I have six grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

'I worked for NACA and NASA for a combined total of 41 years and retired in 1989. Since then I have had a couple of jobs and have been employed at Busch Gardens for the past twelve years.

'I was an active member of my clan association and served on its board of directors and as its President. I also served on the board of the Williamsburg Scottish Festival for eight years in various capacities and I am currently serving my third term on the board of St. Andrew's and was honored with the presidency during my second term.

'My wife and I made a total of six trips to Scotland. We would rent a cottage near Loch Ness and make day trips from there. You can go to most any point in Scotland from there and back in a day's time by car.

'My ancestor who came to this country was William Wallace Fraser. William Wallace Fraser was born in 1792 and came to this country some time between then and 1820 when his first child was born in upstate New York. We have not been able to pin down the exact date nor where he was born, other than Scotland. On one of my trips I visited the genealogy section of the Inverness Library and found not one but 800 William Wallace Frasers.

'The Clan Fraser is made up of two branches, the Saltoun branch and the Lovat branch. We have two chiefs, Flora Marjory Fraser, 20$^{th}$ Lady Saltoun and Simon Fraser, 18$^{th}$ Lord Lovat. The present Lord Lovat is the grandson of the 17$^{th}$ Lord Lovat, who formed and led the Lovat Scouts during World War II from 1939 to 1945. If you happened to see the movie The Longest Day, the story of the Normandy invasion, Lord Lovat was played by Peter Lawford.'

**Taylor Fraser, President, St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg**

## The New Presbyterian Sanctuary

Byron Adams reports that on April 30th many folks were able to have their first look at the new Presbyterian Sanctuary on Richmond Road across from William and Mary. It was not quite completed and the new John Buzard pipe organ was being installed. Members were hoping to actually use the facility in a few more weeks. The seating capacity will about double the former sanctuary for the 1500 plus members. Having required four weekend services to fill the needs of all our folks should now allow perhaps a better schedule for our ministers.

Have you ever wanted to do something first? The idea came to Byron to be the first to play the Highland Bagpipes in the new sanctuary. That occurred on May 18th with the help of friend Leonard Bosworth to catch the event with a couple of pictures.

**The John Buzard pipe organ**

**Byron tests the acoustics in the new Presbyterian Sanctuary**

## Come to Scotland, Land of Golf

Page Saunders, wife of long time member and former Board member Charles Saunders, sent the following news to Byron Adams. Charles and Page have made a great contribution to SAS over many years of faithful support. Charles has frequently been part of Burns Nicht Committee and also has sponsored SAS for use of The Williamsburg Country Club for many functions. This news release also ran in the Virginia Gazette.

## TARTAN BANNERS DECORATE COUNTRY CLUB SETTING

The Williamsburg Country Club's 9 Hole Ladies Golf Association held an invitational tournament on Monday, May 22 at their club. St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg loaned their tartan banners for decoration of the dinning room. The theme of the day was "Come to Scotland, Land of Golf". Foursomes had clan names and were assigned to lunch tables named for famous golf clubs in Scotland. The menu consisted of cock-a-leekie soup, Celtic fish and chips, colcannon, and sticky toffee pudding. Table decorations and favors completed the Scottish theme setting. Many thanks to the St. Andrews Society for providing the banners for this event.

**New Books on the Highland Regiments**

Lt.Col. Ian MacPherson McCullogh, former commanding officer (1993-96) of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, has contacted the St. Andrew's Society to inform us about two books he has written on the highland regiments. These books are available as of May 2006. Following is the press release:

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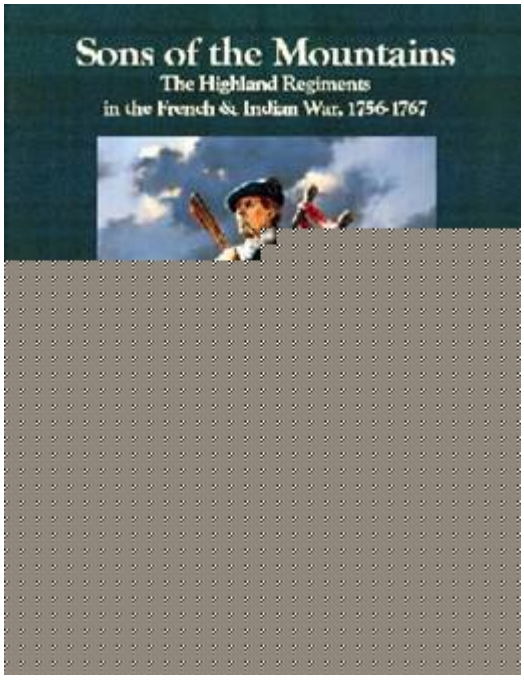
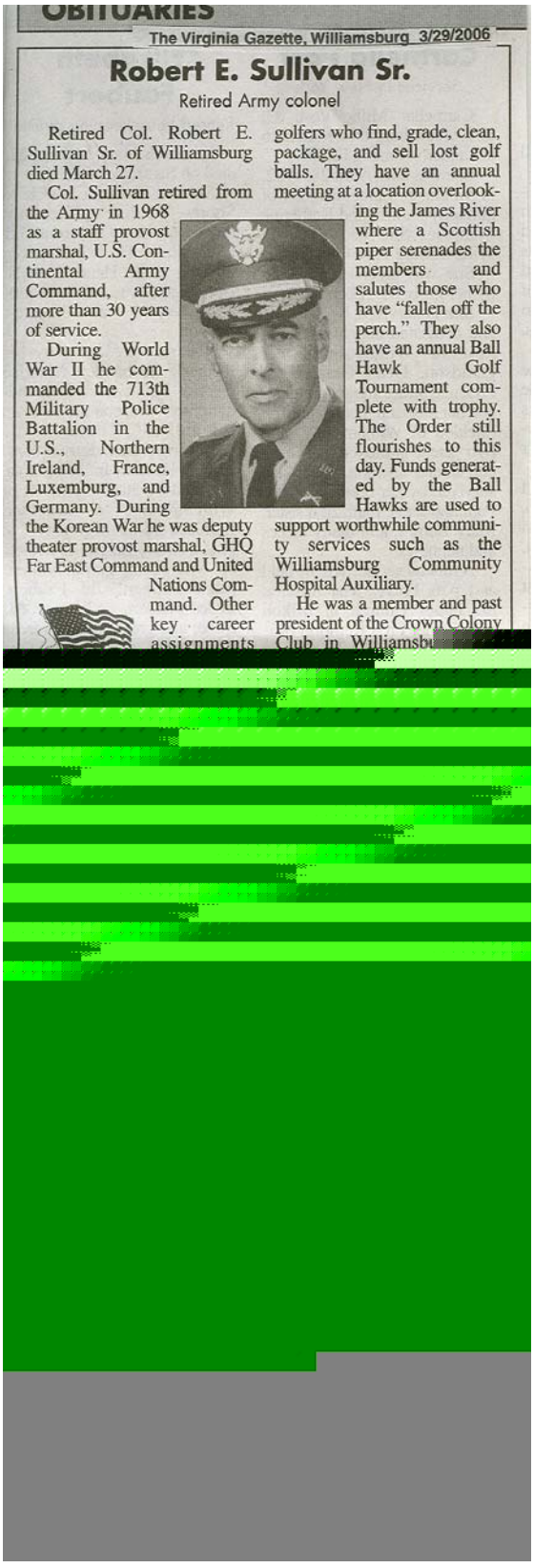
NEW HIGHLANDER BOOK AVAILABLE 15 MAY 2006




Three proud Highland regiments fought in North America during the Seven Year's War - the 77th Foot (Montgomery's Highlanders), the 78th Foot (Fraser's Highlanders), and the famous Black Watch, more correctly known

**Flowers of the Forest**

Long-time SAS member Robert Sullivan died on March 27, 2006. The Virginia Gazette did an excelent obituary on him, and I reproduce it here. We will all miss Robert Sullivan.



OBITUARIES

The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg 3/29/2006

## Robert E. Sullivan Sr.

Retired Army colonel

Retired Col. Robert E. Sullivan Sr. of Williamsburg died March 27.

Col. Sullivan retired from the Army in 1968 as a staff provost marshal, U.S. Continental Army Command, after more than 30 years of service.

During World War II he commanded the 713th Military Police Battalion in the U.S., Northern Ireland, France, Luxemburg, and Germany. During the Korean War he was deputy theater provost marshal, GHQ Far East Command and United Nations Command. Other key career assignments

golfers who find, grade, clean, package, and sell lost golf balls. They have an annual meeting at a location overlooking the James River where a Scottish piper serenades the members and salutes those who have "fallen off the perch." They also have an annual Ball Hawk Golf Tournament complete with trophy. The Order still flourishes to this day. Funds generated by the Ball Hawks are used to support worthwhile community services such as the Williamsburg Community Hospital Auxiliary.

He was a member and past president of the Crown Colony Club in Williamsbu

# Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

## Application for Membership

PO Box 533, Williamsburg VA 23187

Full Name: _____
Date and Place of Birth: _____
Schools/Colleges: _____
Business or Profession: _____
Wife's Name: _____
Names and Ages of Children: _____
Address: _____
Telephone(s): _____
E-mail: _____
Years at Current Address: _____
Legacy Application? Yes or No _____
(A Legacy member is the son or grandson of an active member, in good standing, or the son or grandson of a deceased former member, who is age eighteen through twenty-one. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members; however annual dues are required.)
If Yes, Father's or Grandfather's Name: _____
Membership in Other Professional or Social Organizations: _____
_____
Nature of Scottish Family Connections (documentation not required): ____
_____
Any Visits to Scotland – Frequency and Purpose: _____
_____
General Scottish Interests – (History, Literature, Arts etc): _____
_____
Clan Association(s):_____
_____
Membership in Clan Organization or Other Scottish Society:_____
_____
What tartan(s) do you wear? _____
Date: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character and is entirely suitable to membership in the Society. He will actively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously any duties undertaken.

Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Co-Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

**Checklist**

Initiation and First Year's Dues ($60.00) _____
Small Photograph suitable for digitization _____
Current local address and telephone number included _____
Verification of Legacy Member Eligibility _____