



Harris Announces a Full Year of Activities

A Series of Seven Events Will Bring Tallahassee's Scots Together

McCullys to Host New Member Reception

Sunday, Oct. 14, 4-6 p.m.

New members will be recognized at a reception on Sunday afternoon, October 14th 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Al McCully at 730 Live Oak Plantation. Al and Jean have been active in the St. Andrew Society for many years and have often previously hosted this event.

Plan on being a part of a good warm Scottish reception for new members of our family! You can anticipate an event of genuine pleasure.

New Members

Julie Harris, who has consented to coordinate our Society's events for another year, reports a full season of events as follows:

Covered Dish Supper Sept. 18
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
3158 Shamrock Drive

Rod Letchworth, who regularly participates as an athlete in the Senior Highland Games will share his experiences. We hope also to have other athletes present to talk about their participation.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

St. Andrews Day Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 2nd

Robert Burns Birthday Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 3

Julie Harris
Events Coordinator



Covered Dish Supper

March 18 at Fellowship Church

Tallahassee Scottish Games

Apr. 19. North Florida Fairgrounds

Springtime Tallahassee parade

Saturday, Apr. 5th. Come, carry a tartan banner and march with the St. Andrew Society!

Annual Picnic/Business Meeting

May 4, 2008

Plan Now for the '08 Highland Games

April 19; North Florida Fair Grounds

The Tallahassee Highland Games will occur on April 19, 2008 at the Leon County Fair Grounds, reports Eric King, Chairperson. Plan now by putting this date on your calendar and plan to invite friends and neighbors to this event.



New Officers 2007-2008

Elected by the membership on May 5, 2007 at the annual meeting and picnic at Piney Z Plantation:

PresidentEric King
Vice-Pres.....Dan McRae
Secretary.....Kim Baldwin
Treasurer.....Doris Henderson
Chaplain.....Jim Urquhart
Educator.....Jean Holzapfel
Events Coordinator.....Julie Harris
Historian.....Nick Baldwin
Membership Sec.....Babs Stewart
Webmaster.....Jesse Taintor

Trustees at Large

Dan MacDonald
Frances Kratt
Sue Cowger
Jim Monroe
Sinclair Franz

Monthly meetings

Our Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 3158 Shamrock Drive (at the Centerville Road entrance to Killlearn Estates).

Membership Dues, Due!

A note from membership Secretary, Babs Stewart (385-3037) was mailed in late June reminding you that dues were collectable July 1. If you haven't responded, do so right away to P.O. Box 12034; Tallahassee, FL 32317. Individual dues, \$20; Family dues are \$30.

A Message from the President

In the process of getting ready for their move to Orlando, Tom and Robin McLaren called me and said: "Since you're the new president of the St. Andrews Society, we have several boxes of materials you should have." These "several boxes" now fill 40% of the total cubic footage of my upstairs office. I really don't mind. I'm sort of a history dilettante, so it's been fun going through photo albums of past SAS events and celebrations, and seeing many of you looking so young.

What a wonderful, active, vital organization you created; and by the looks of many of you in the photographs, you had great times doing it. There were photos of the St. Andrews dinners, Burns Nights (when Dick Rixey and Jim McMillan were wee lads), picnics, and, so it seems, one cultural event after another. You even had Governor and Mrs. Graham involved. What great times you had, and important things you did. They are worth remembering and important to share with new generations.

Particularly in this day, it is tremendously important to remember the Ulster-Scots and Scots contribution to this country's culture, its economic design, its democratic philosophy, its spirit of exploration and its religious foundations. From the very beginning, Ulster-Scots and Scots have been the first to fight for this country—certainly

George Washington valued them way back at Valley Forge. To paraphrase one author-historian regarding the 1715-1725 migrations from Ulster and Scotland:

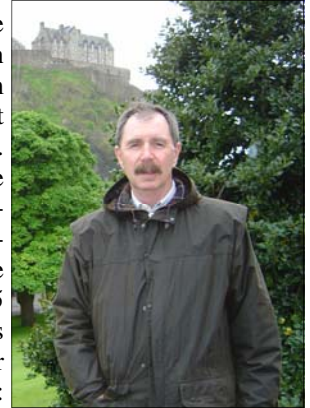
"They didn't have to adjust to Amer-

ica, they were America, they created America." It is also said about our Scottish immigrant ancestors: "...they were the most literate immigrants of any group that has come to America."

In this first note as president, I am asking for your continued active involvement in this great organization. *Please, let us each set a goal of recruiting at least one new member this fall/winter.* We need to pass on our knowledge and experiences. In this time when St. Andrews Societies all over the world—including Scotland—are struggling to remain active and relevant, it is time to refresh, rejuvenate, and to share and celebrate our great ancestry. Let us all *Spread the Word!*

Scots Aye!

Eric



President Eric King. That's Edinburg Castle behind him!

A Little Venture into Philology About the Origins of "Cracker"

Where Did It Come From?

We're all familiar with the term, "Florida Cracker," and "Georgia Cracker," but for most of us, the origin of the term is a mystery.

Here's what the American Heritage Dictionary says, "Used as a disparaging term for a poor white person of the rural especially southeast United States."

Did we make it up here in America or was it imported to America along with other terms used by early European settlers?

Ten years ago I was in a group being given a tour of the Foulis estate in the highlands, north of Inverness. Our guide was Hector Munro, son of the

chief of Clan Munro. He is today the Chief. His mother, widow of the late Chief Patrick Munro, lives at Foulis Castle, and Hector lives in "the Mains," or the main farm home of the 1,500 acre farm where he raises a bountiful crop of Barley every year.

Hector pointed out the several farm

Annual Picnic (Fish Fry) May 5, 2007



Above: Nick Baldwin, our photographer, caught the crowd listening to entertainment by McMillan and Rixey (Left).

Right: Outgoing President Sinclair Franz, Frances Kratt, Sue Cowger, and Dan McDonald.

Bottom: The crowd got to their feet for "Scotland the Brave," bottom left, a pensive piper, Joe Ashcraft, plays the pipe on the front porch.



We pretty much strained the Piney Z Lodge to capacity on May 5 when we met for great fellowship and a festive feast of seafood catered by the now famous Seinyard's Restaurant of Crawfordville. Our own Jim McMillan and Dick Rixey provided their own matchless musical entertainment. We ended a great year right by retiring our old officers and recognizing the new.





Newsletter of the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee

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houses, roads and geographic features. One of the roadways that led up into the obscure highlands, he told us was called the "Cawkers road" except that he distinctly pronounced it "crackers."

I was fascinated! Perhaps here was a little clue to the origin of an American term, "cracker. I inquired as to the origin of the word and he did some research which he gave me in writing before we left.

"THE CAWKERS ROAD branches off the Evanton-Ardullie road, to Culnaskiach and Blackhill, 'The strange thing,' said my informant, 'is that it's only the low-ground people who call it that; the folk up there (in the district the road serves) don't call it that.'

"The first syllable is clearly the Gaelic word *cadh* (pronounced ka), 'a steep path.' The second part is almost certainly Gaelic, which has suffered some corruption through long years of use by speakers whose Gaelic may have been little or none. I submit that 'kers' was originally *caearid*, pronounced 'kyarj,' the genitive of Gaelic *ceard*, 'a tinker.' The low-ground people would speak derogatively of their neighbours on the heights and call the road *An Cadh Ceaird*, 'the Tinker's Steep Path.' Natu-

rally, those who used the road would not favour that name. Later English-speaking usage, the Gaelic meaning being lost, added road to the original, giving us 'Steep Path of the Tinkers' Road."

In July of this year I was in Scotland again and confirmed this information with Hector. His term "Tinkers" is one used in common with the Irish who also refer to those unsettled people who live in less desirable locations and do menial work by that name. These are folk who are in some places known as "Gypsies." They are not held in high esteem by their more fortunate neighbors.

Thus the term "cracker" is probably Scottish in origin as, for example, "poke," which in that area of North Carolina settled by the Highlanders is simply another word for "bag." We often spoke of a "paper poke," meaning the kind of bag you get (or used to get!) at the grocery store. And, "cracker" is a derogatory epithet in Scottish origin, as it has been for us until our more gentle modern tolerant and inclusive times; and has connotations of "ignorant, uncouth," and maybe "unwashed!"

At any rate, that's the speculation of your editor. I am neither a philologist, nor the son of one, but this little bit of investigation intrigued me! Jim Monroe

Outgoing President, Dr. Sinclair Franz, presents the ceremonial Chief's dirk to incoming president Eric King, along with a few words of exhortation (maybe about, "Now, this is not a scalpel, so you be careful how and upon whom you use this little instrument, Eric, y'heah?" or something like that!)

