Commemorating William Wallace’s Sacrifice for Scottish Freedom
Druid Hill Park * August 23, 2015

The Scottish Heavens blessed us with great weather as the Clan Wallace Tartan was placed on the Monument and Herb Glasby introduced the front and reverse of the monument, gave the invocation which was followed by the Star Spangled Banner. The Baltimore City Pipe Band played “Scots WhaHe” as the RTC sang the lyrics. We wish to thank Rod McCaslin, SASB Historian, for the insight on William Wallace with his presentation. (McCaslin; s presentation is included as an attachment to this newsletter). In conclusion, the pipe band played a Lament as we marched off with three cheers to them.

We also wish to thank Ralph Wallace, representing the Clan Wallace, Al Schudel and the ETC, Bob Kennick, Dave and Meredith Bohanan, Ken and Mary Jane Pennell, Kent and Marylin Bromwell, Dick and Carol Issac, Bill Kommalan, Jack Gorgon, Herb Glasby, and Mary Ann Cook for their participation in this great event . And a special gratitude to Ed McFarland with the Baltimore City Pipe Band.

Remembering our Scottish Brothers . . . Nesbit Cemetery Memorial Ceremony

On Sunday afternoon, August 23rd the St Andrew's Society of Baltimore gathered at the Nesbitt Cemetery to honor those members of the Society that have died in the past year. Family members attended the ceremony as did a number of the Society members. The City of Baltimore Pipe Band under the direction of Pipe Major Ed McFarland led us into the enclosure and played several numbers. The ceremony was lead by the Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole, one of our chaplains. As the names of the deceased were read the family representatives place a stone on the cairn in memory of their loved ones. Rev. Toole presented the words of John 14:1-6 and reminded the family members of God's continuing love and care for their family members. President Herbert Glasby spoke during the service and the arrangements for the preparation of the cemetery were provided by Russ Tagg. Following the service light re freshmen's were enjoyed and a time of fellowship marked the afternoon. Thanks to all who participated.
President’s Wee Word

The outdoor events of this past summer are fading into our memory as we transition to another season of our heritage activities that take us indoors for Kirkin’s o’ the Tartans, Stated Meetings, and the annual Anniversary Dinner. There should be enough going on so that everyone can be present at something through the fall.

The Stated Meetings occur on the third Thursdays of October and November. These are business meetings with entertainment so please make every effort to attend. A slate of officers will be presented and then voted upon for membership approval and the gentlemen with decade-long memberships will be honored with special lapel pins. The anniversaries for these men are below so that you can congratulate them at the November Stated Meeting. The 50-year honors are given at the annual Anniversary Dinner on the Thursday evening following Thanksgiving, December 3, 2015.

10 Year Anniversaries
Robert B. Cameron
Donald W. Carroll, Jr.
Thomas W. Harroll, Sr
Robert Campbell Laws

Edward C. McFarland
A. Kent Rayburn
Eric W. Scott

20 Year Anniversaries
William D. Gallagher
Graham William Gardner
Richard B. Isaac

Ronald Macdonald
James Verner Wasson
John Carroll Weiss III

30 Year Anniversaries
John Maccubbin Brice
Robert C. Kennick.
Philip Krista

Benjamin A. Renwick
Dr. Charles E. Taylor

40 Year Anniversaries
William Hay Kommalan
James A. Knowles

Rodney K. McCaslin
Thomas R. Ogle, Jr.

50 Year Anniversaries
T. Howard F. Stick
John Grason Turnbull

Legend of the Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans

Following the defeat “Bonnie Prince Charlie” at Culloden, the Act of Proscription banned the wearing of any sign of the Tartan, forbade any speaking in Gaelic, outlawed Scottish music, dancing, and the playing of the pipes. The Scottish Highlanders subsequently hid pieces of tartan under their clothing and brought them to church for a secret blessing or kirkin’ at a particular point in the service by the minister. During the 36 years following the Disarming Act of 1746 when the Hanoverian English government strictly enforced this ban, during the Sunday service Highlanders would touch the hidden cloth when the minister gave the benediction, thus rededicating themselves to God and their Scottish heritage. A curious wrinkle in this legend is that many people in Scotland don’t know this so-called “history” about the Kirkin’. It is difficult to find an unbroken line of history tracing the practice back specifically to this origin in the mid-18th century. Come participate with us this November at various parishes in the Baltimore area. Check the Pibroch calendar for times and dates.

Time has flown by. I have taken great pleasure in serving as your President during the past two years. I determined at the beginning to attend as many events as I could and to support both the members and the Society in their efforts. I thank all those chairmen and committee members without whose help this task would be impossible. I also thank those men who have served on the Board of Managers and as trustees on the Foundation Board. I will continue to encourage your participation in all the Society does and I look forward to your fellowship at our events.

Yours aye,

Herb Glasby, III
54th President
Ph: 410-437-0848
email: hglasby@comcast.net

Trivia Question

The national church of the Scottish people, Sant’Andrea degli Scozzesi is dedicated to St Andrew and located in what city and country?

a) San Luis, Argentina
b) Bucharest, Romania
c) Majaga, Spain
d) Rome, Italy

Answer to trivia question on page 7
The Almoner's Report
Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole

"A Highland Welcome"

* When Death's dark stream I ferry o'er
  (A time that surely shall come),
  In Heaven itself I'll ask no more
  Than just a Highland welcome.*

  Robert Burns

Some of you will recognize these moving words as the ones that are inscribed on the base of the cairn in the Nesbit cemetery. We gathered there on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in late summer. Surrounded by sunshine, the sound of pipes and drums of the City of Baltimore Pipe Band, Society and family members, we honored and celebrated those of our members who had died in the past year.

As we assembled there in a spirit of reflection and quiet remembrance, I was struck again by the bond of fellowship that is present in the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore. Most of us (typical Scots) are not gushers when it comes to emotions. But as I looked about there was a reverence in the air and more than a few misty eyes.

As a caring fellowship, let us continue our pattern of support, encouragement, and prayer for those in the Society and its families who are ailing and grieving. Moreover, let us also celebrate with those who are experiencing the mending of body and emotions.

Reach out to Edward G. Clay, who recently had major surgery and is now in rehabilitation. Keep in mind, too, those who are continuing to mend, among them Allen C. "Bud" Howe III and "Babs" Kerr.

Yours aye,
George

He Wishes For The Cloths Of Heaven

* HAD I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
  Enwrought with golden and silver light,
  The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
  Of night and light and the half-light,
  I would spread the cloths under your feet:
  But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
  I have spread my dreams under your feet;
  Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.*

  William Butler Yeats

St. Andrew
Patron Saint of Scotland

St. Andrew's Day
November 30, 2015

St. Andrew's Day, the feast day of Saint Andrew, is celebrated on November 30, 2015. Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and St. Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. It is also a national holiday in Romania.

According to legend, in 832 AD, Óengus II led an army of Picts and Scots into battle against the Angles, led by Æthelstan, near modern-day Athelstaneford, East Lothian. The legend states that he was heavily outnumbered and hence whilst engaged in prayer on the eve of battle, Óengus vowed that if granted victory he would appoint Saint Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland. On the morning of battle white clouds forming an X shape in the sky were said to have appeared. Óengus and his combined force, emboldened by this apparent divine intervention, took to the field and despite being inferior in numbers were victorious. Having interpreted the cloud phenomenon as representing the *crux decussata* upon which Saint Andrew was crucified, Óengus honoured his pre-battle pledge and duly appointed Saint Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland. The white saltire set against a celestial blue background is said to have been adopted as the design of the flag of Scotland on the basis of this legend.

However, there is evidence that Andrew was venerated in Scotland before this. A local superstition uses the cross of Saint Andrew as a hex sign on the fireplaces in northern England and Scotland. The carved St. Andrew's cross in the left hand wooden post was to prevent witches from flying down the chimney, Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole.

Andrew's connection with Scotland may have been reinforced following the Synod of Whitby, when the Celtic Church felt that Columba had been "outranked" by Peter and that Peter's brother would make a higher ranking patron. The 1320 Declaration of Arbroath cites Scotland's conversion to Christianity by Andrew, "the first to be an Apostle". Numerous parish churches in the Church of Scotland and congregations of other Christian churches in Scotland are named after Andrew.
Escort to the Colors

“E.T.C.,” the Escort to the Colors is the unofficial “face” of the St. Andrew’s Society of Baltimore.

We welcome your joining us in the fun and camaraderie we share, so please contact Bob Kennick: (410-654-1021 scotsrob2@aol.com) Al Schudel (410-435-7725)

William Wallace Memorial Ceremony
Druid Hill Park * August 23
(Article page 1)

Kirkin’ of the Tartan
Hamilton Presbyterian Church
Baltimore * September 20
The Etc was led by the Baltimore City Pipe Band into this historic church as the banner and flags were presented. After the offering, President Herb Glasby gave a talk on the SASB and overview of a Kirkin, Follow by the presentation of the tartans blessed by Rev. Greg Seltzer. The service concluded with a mini concert by the Baltimore City Pipe Band.

ETC Coming Events

Kirkin’ St. Andrew’s Christian Community Church
Sunday 18 October

Veterans Day * Korean War Memorial
Wednesday 11 November

“Kirkin” Perry Hall Presbyterian Church
Sunday 15 November

“Kirkin” Emmual Episcopal Church
Sunday 22 November

“Kirkin” Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday 29 November

Details: Calendar of Events

“Lang may yer lum reek.”
Translation: I wish you well for the future

Hospitality
John “jack” Gordon, MD

Fall has already reared its beauty with the colors of nature and the beginning of many SASB events. By the time you read this, we’ll have celebrated a William Wallace Memorial, Nesbit Cemetery Memorial, and a Kirkin’. We’re anxiously looking forward to the October stated meeting, Fall Kirkins and our Anniversary Dinner.

The first Fall stated meeting of 2015 is October 8th. It should start with a bang as we will have Jackson Gilman-Forlini as our guest speaker

Brief personal bio:
Jackson Gilman-Forlini is the Historic Properties Program Coordinator for the Baltimore City Department of General Services. This program operates, leases, and maintains a portfolio of 15 historic landmarks owned by the City of Baltimore, including the War Memorial. As Program Coordinator, he manages millions of dollars in capital projects for city-owned historic buildings. Previously he worked as a Research Archivist at the Maryland State Archives and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Historic Preservation from Goucher College. He has been quoted extensively in the Baltimore Sun and other news media outlets. His most recent speaking engagement was at the American Public Works Association Northeast regional conference in May 2015.

On November 12 will be our second stated meeting for the Fall. SASB membership anniversaries will be awarded. Also the election of the 2016 officers will be held. The guest speaker for this event will be announced in our email communication,

Please respond to the meeting announcement which now, are either e-mailed or if you have none, mailed to you. We need to know a head count for the caterer, but understand, reservation or not, please do not hesitate to come. As you already know, our lassies are invited to attend with you. To encourage your attendance, we have maintained the price at $20.00 per person.
Towson American Legion Post #22, 125 York Road . . . .
Doors open 5:00Pm * Dinner 6:30 PM.
I look forward to seeing you all again soon.
"Albannach Cuideachd"

Membership

The members of this venerable Society come from all areas and all walks of life... Membership is open to men who were born in Scotland or have at least one ancestor of Scottish blood. The cost of initial membership is $95.00 which includes $45.00 initiation fee plus $50.00 for the first years' dues.

Before your relatives and friends apply for membership, we strongly recommend they visit us. Check our SASB Calendar and either visit us at one of the Highland Games or make arrangements to attend one of our four Stated Meetings.

If you have not paid your dues as of today please pay them as soon as you can. Beginning in late October we will begin calling all members that have not responded to the dues notice to determine if you wish to continue being a member or the remittance of your dues has just fallen through the cracks.

Greg Scott
Membership Vice President
52nd SASB President

"Ceud Mile Failte"

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes

Stirling “Jock” Brown        Kathy Smith
116 Jackpine Drive           116 Jackpine Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122           Pasadena, MD 21122
H: 443-321-2718              C: 443-871-8127
Email: merc6000@hotmail.com  Email: merc6000@hotmail.com
Clan: Farquharson            Clan: Farquharson

Robert Archibald Gracie III    Lucy Campbell
2211 Stockton Road            2211 Stockton Road
Phoenix, MD 21131             Phoenix, MD 21131
H/C: 410-804-0057             H/C: 410-804-0057
Clan: Farquharson            Clan: Farquharson
Email: rgracie@qis.net      Email: rgracie@qis.net
Renewed: 8/5/15            Renewed: 8/5/15

Scottish Humor

Here are some stories from "real life" well, nearly, in some cases.

Scotrail are trying hard to keep customers informed about the reasons for the late running of trains. So when the train arrived at Edinburgh from Glasgow and the doors remained shut, the loud speaker announcement ran something like this - "We would like to apologize to passengers for the late opening of the doors. This is due to the guard's incompetence. This incompetence was caused by an accident at birth and everything possible is being done to rectify the situation."

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A Scotsman who had run foul of the French gendarmes in Paris after enjoying too much French wine found himself in the equivalent of the police court. The prosecuting lawyer ranted on about foreigners having no respect for French laws. The Scot, defending himself, pointed out that under a decree issued by the French King Louis XII in 1513, the "Lettres Naturalité" bestowed on Scotsmen the same rights as Frenchmen under the law. The decree had never been repealed. The judge was so impressed he dismissed the case!

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Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel informed visitors at the local police station open day that a "light finger buffet" would be provided.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" The boy says "I play the part of the Scottish husband!" The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

When the ferry company in the Western Isles charged reduced rates for vehicles transporting sheep, some customers took advantage of this and took a sheep in the back seat of their car when going to the mainland (and had the same sheep on the way back). Eventually, the company had to change the rules.

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A notice in a Bank of Scotland branch which had been undergoing refurbishment read "We would like to thank all our customers for baring with us through the recent refurbishment." (If you didn't spot the joke, the spell checker won't help either...)
Scottish Immigrant

William Fleming

Colonel William Fleming (February 18, 1729 – August 5, 1795) was a physician, soldier, statesman, and planter who briefly acted as the Governor of Virginia during the American Revolutionary War. He is often confused with his contemporary, Judge William Fleming, who served in the Virginia legislature and was a delegate to the Continental.

Fleming was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, to Leonard and Dorthea Fleming. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and then entered the Royal Navy, serving as a surgeon's mate. While in the service, he was captured and imprisoned by the Spanish. After his release, he resigned from the navy and in 1755 emigrated to Virginia.

During the French and Indian War, Fleming was commissioned an ensign in George Washington's Virginia Regiment, and served as a surgeon in the expedition and in the Anglo-Cherokee War, among other actions. When the war ended in 1763, he married Anne Christian (sister of William Christian) and settled at Staunton, Virginia, where he practiced medicine. In 1768 he retired from medicine to farm at his estate called "Belmont" in Augusta County (now Roanoke County, Virginia). His investments in land eventually made him wealthy.

In Dunmore's War (1774), Colonel Fleming led the Botetourt County militia at the Battle of Point Pleasant. He continued to lead his men after being shot twice, but a third, more serious wound forced his withdrawal. A musket ball lodged in his chest was never removed and often caused him pain. Disabilities from these wounds, from which he never fully recovered, prevented his military service in the American Revolutionary War. The Virginia General Assembly awarded him £500 in compensation.

Fleming was active in politics during the American Revolution, representing a western district as a member of the Senate of Virginia. In 1781, British forces invaded Virginia and scattered Governor Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia legislature. When the legislature reconvened at Staunton, Jefferson's term had expired, and so Fleming, as senior member of the Virginia Council present, acted unofficially as governor.

He served in this capacity from 4 June to 12 June, when Thomas Nelson was elected by the legislature as the next governor. During this brief time Fleming called out the Virginia militia to oppose the British invasion. A later resolution of the legislature retroactively legalized his actions. For this reason, he is regarded as the third governor of the commonwealth.

During and after the War for Independence, Fleming headed commissions to Kentucky to settle land disputes and attend to other official business. In 1784 he attended the Danville Convention, which paved the way for Kentucky's separation from Virginia. His final public service was as a Botetourt County delegate to the 1788 Virginia Ratifying Convention, which ratified the U.S. Constitution. Fleming had reservations about the new constitution, but he voted in favor of ratification as instructed by his constituents.

William Fleming High School in Roanoke, Virginia, is named for him. Their mascot is "The Colonel."
Book Review
Submitted by S. Blair

"The Blackhouse"
Book One of the Lewis Trilogy

A mystery novel by______
Author Peter May
Publisher

Review
The Blackhouse is the first novel of The Lewis Trilogy[1] by Scottish writer Peter May. A suspense thriller, the action takes place mostly on the remote and weather-beaten Isle of Lewis off the coast of northern Scotland. The protagonist, Detective Inspector Finlay Macleod (known as Fin), a native of the island, is sent from his Edinburgh police station to investigate the murder of a man who, it transpires, was the bully at Fin’s school. The modus operandi of the crime resembles a murder that Fin recently investigated in Edinburgh, so there is the possibility of a common perpetrator.

The story unfolds as the chapters alternate between present-day events, written in the third person, and Fin’s childhood, written in the first person. As the narrative progresses, it emerges that Fin and his childhood story are intimately linked with the murder.

Peter May * Writer
(born 20 December 1951) is a Scottish television screenwriter, novelist, and crime writer. He is the recipient of writing awards in Europe and America. The Blackhouse won the U.S. Barry Award for Crime Novel of the Year and the national literature award in France, the CEZAM Prix Litteraire. The Lewis Man won the French daily newspaper Le Télégramme’s 10,000-euro Grand Prix des Lecteurs. In 2014, Entry Island won both the Deanston’s Scottish Crime Novel of the Year and the UK’s ITV Bookclub Best Read of the Year Award. May’s books have sold more than two million copies in the UK and several million internationally.

“Stiùradair” (Quartermaster)
Stuart Blair 410-665-6440
Email: thistleman@verizon.net

Do you have these items? If not, we do!
Shoulder patch SASB Flashes
Badge BB Cap (choice of colors)
Lapel pins Golf Shirt
Decals Specialty items by request

Need a wool sweater . . .
for the SASB ETC?

Heavyweight
Aran Traditional
Wool Sweater

*Don’t forget . . .
size matters

Contact quartermaster for requests

All items can be purchased or ordered at stated meetings in October and November.

Pinroch via Email
Many SASB members will be receiving the newsletter by email. If you still desire a hard copy of the Pibroch, contact: Stuart Blair 410-665-6440

Event Pictures On-Line
Photos of many Society’s events have been posted on our website: http://standrewsbaltimore.com. You may find these photos under the “Photo Albums” section or by going directly to http://standrewsbaltimore.com/photo-album/i.

Answer to Trivia Question
Rome, Italy
Argyle . . . Its Origin

An argyle (occasionally argyll) pattern is made of diamonds or lozenges. The word is sometimes used to refer to an individual diamond in the design but more commonly refers to the overall pattern. Most argyle layouts contain layers of overlapping motifs, adding a sense of three-dimensionality, movement, and texture. Typically, there is an overlay of intercrossing diagonal lines on solid diamonds.

The argyle pattern is derived from the tartan of Clan Campbell, of Argyll in western Scotland, used for kilts and plaids, and from the patterned socks worn by Scottish Highlanders since at least the 17th century. (See illustrations in History of the kilt) These were generally known as "tartan hose".

Argyle knitwear became fashionable in Great Britain and then the USA after the first world war. Pringle of Scotland popularised the design, helped by its identification with the Duke of Windsor. Pringle's website says that "the iconic Pringle argyle design was developed" in the 1920s. The duke, like others, used this pattern for golf clothing: both for jerseys and for the long socks needed for the plus-four trouser fashion of the day.

As a knitting pattern, argyle is generally accomplished using the intarsia technique. Argyle patterns are occasionally woven.

Some sports teams use bright, contemporary interpretations of the argyle pattern: for example, the Garmin-Slipstream professional cycling team, nicknamed the "Argyle Armada", and the Norwegian men's curling team at the 2010 Winter Olympics. On April 27, 2013 the professional soccer team Sporting Kansas City of Major League Soccer (MLS) in the United States announced their third kit of the 2013 season featuring an argyle pattern.
**OCTOBER**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Managers Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 6</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Christian Community Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stated Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, October 8</td>
<td>Bar opens @ 5:30 p.m.; Dinner starts @ 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Towson American Legion Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkin'</td>
<td>Sunday, October 18</td>
<td>Show-Up @ 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Christian Community Church - Roland Ave.</td>
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<td>Service begins @ 9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkin'</td>
<td>November 22</td>
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<td>Emmanuel Episcopal Church Cathedral &amp; Read Streets *Parking Lot at Read &amp; North Charles Sts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stated Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, November 12</td>
<td>Bar opens @ 5:30 p.m.; Dinner starts @ 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Towson American Legion Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkin'</td>
<td>Sunday, November 29</td>
<td>Show-Up @ 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Trinity Episcopal Church - 120 Allegheny Ave., Towson</td>
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<td>Service begins @ 9:00 am</td>
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**DECEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>Board of Managers Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 1</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Christian Community Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anniversary Dinner</td>
<td>Thursday, December 3</td>
<td>Cocktails @ 5:30 p.m.; Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Radisson Hotel North Baltimore</td>
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<td>Attire: Black Tie/Highland Evening Wear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandria Christmas Walk</td>
<td>Saturday, December 5</td>
<td>Show-Up @ 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Wilkes &amp; St. Asaph Streets Old Town Alexandria</td>
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<td>Attire: White Sweater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl Harbor Remembrance</td>
<td>Monday, December 7</td>
<td>Show-Up @ 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Marriott Hotel Pier 5</td>
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<td>Attire: White Sweater</td>
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**ETC "Sign Up" Notification**

We are restructuring the procedure for signing-up for ETC Events. No longer will we have a "Calling Tree" or "Sign-up Sheets". Instead, it is requested that you use the following procedure. When you receive your issue of the "Pibroch", and come to the "Calendar of Events" page, place a mark beside all of the events in which you will be taking part. Then, either send me an e-mail ---scotsrob2@aol.com--- or call me --- 410-654-1021--- and leave your name and a list of these dates. This way, you will be spared what some gentlemen in the past; have referred to as "annoying phone calls". I am asking for your complete cooperation in toehis matter, so that the proper amount of equipment will be available at the event, be it a parade, "Kirkin'" or Memorial Service. Thank you.
St. Andrew’s Society of Baltimore
210th Anniversary Dinner

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Radisson Hotel North Baltimore
2004 Greenspring Dr. – Timonium, MD
(same as previous years)

Cocktails @ 5:00 p.m.
Evening Events Begin @ 6:30 p.m.
Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.
Menu: Prime Rib or Poached Salmon
Cost: $70.00
Highland Evening Wear/Black Tie/Military Dress

The Baltimore City Pipe Band will provide the evening’s piping
with the alumni of the Maryland State Boy Choir providing entertainment.

Invitations will be forthcoming
The memorial presentation given at the Wallace Monument in Baltimore on August 23, 2015, the
710th Anniversary of his death, by the St. Andrew’s Society of Baltimore Historian, Rod McCaslin

On the 23rd of August, just over seven centuries ago on this day, the man whom this magnificent
monument commemorates, William Wallace, was cruelly and unjustly executed by a foreign tyrant,
assisted by petty tyrants, some of which were Scots collaborating, for whatever reasons, with their
own oppressor, Edward I.

One of these latter was Sir John of Mentieth. On the 3rd of August, 1305, Mentieth, who had been
appointed as the Sheriff of Dumbarton by Edward, led a group of men to house in Robroyston, where
Wallace was staying after leading a Scottish victory against three English armies in one day at the
battle of Rosslyn earlier that year. Their Mentieth illegally arrested Wallace in the name of Edward,
imprisoned him in Dumbarton Castle, and then handed him over to English forces who then force
marched him in chains 360 miles to London.

Today is the anniversary of his illegal trial. Here is a contemporary description from an English
source…

“William Wallace, a Scot, and born in Scotland, a prisoner for sedition, homicides, plunderings, fire-
raisings, and diverse other felonies… he feloniously invaded, and attacked the Guardians and
ministers of the same King, feloniously and against the same lord the King’s peace, insulted,
wounded and killed William de Heselrigg, sheriff of Lanark, who the appointments of the said King in
the regular meeting of the county court, and afterwards in contempt of the same King without reason
fought against the same sheriff whom he had killed.

Thenceforth with the entire multitude of those who adhered in arms to him and to his felony, he
invaded the towns, the cities and the castles of that land, and had his letters [orders] sent throughout
the whole of Scotland, as if they were the letters of the superior of that land. He held and appointed
parliaments and conventions after all the Guardians and ministers of the aforesaid lord the King of the
land of Scotland had been evicted by William himself, and unwilling to restrain himself to so much
wickedness and sedition, decreed to all the prelates, earls and barons of his land who adhered to his
party, that they were to subject themselves to the fealty and dominion of the King of France, and they
were to press for help towards the destruction of the kingdom of England. Taking some also from his
accomplices with him he invaded the kingdom of England, as in the counties of Northumberland,
Cumberland and Westmorland, and all whom he found there who were in the fealty of the King of
England, he feloniously put to death in various ways…the said William seditiously and feloniously,
whole-heartedly and undauntedly persevering in his above noted wickedness, disdained to submit
himself to the aforesaid lord King’s peace and to come forth to it, and so was publicly outlawed in the
court of the same lord the King as traitor, robber and felon, according to the laws and customs of
England and Scotland.

It is clearly both unjust and in disagreement with English laws and it is held true that anyone thus
outlawed and placed outside the laws and not afterwards restored to his peace, is committed to the
forfeiture of his own status or accountability. It is considered that the aforesaid William, for the open
sedition which he had made to the same lord the King by felonious contriving, by trying to bring about
his death, the destruction and weakening of the crown and of his royal authority and by bringing his
standard against his liege lord in war to the death, should be taken away to the palace of Westminster
as far as the Tower of London, and from the Tower as far as Allegate [Aldgate], and thus through the
middle of the city as far as Elmes, and for the robberies, murders and felonies which he carried out in the kingdom of England and the land of Scotland he should be hanged there and afterwards drawn. And because he had been outlawed and not afterwards restored to the King’s peace, he should be beheaded and decapitated…

And afterwards for the measureless wickedness which he did… the heart, liver, and lung and all the internal [parts] of the same William, by which such evil thoughts proceeded, should be dispatched to the fire and burned. And also because he had committed both murders and felonies, not only to the lord the King himself but to the entire people of England and Scotland, the body of that William should be cut up and divided and cut up into four quarters, and that the head thus cut off should be affixed upon London bridge in the sight of those crossing both by land and by water, and one quarter should be hung on the gibbet at Newcastle upon Tyne, another quarter at Berwick, a third quarter at Stirling, and a fourth quarter at St John’s town [Perth]…"

Of course, much of this was, as they say in Scotland…mince. Wallace was tried as a traitor to the King of England, a monarch whom Wallace had never sworn allegiance to, and never recognized, because he never legally was, a sovereign over Scotland. And he told the court so, too. But it didn’t matter. This was a show trial, not a court of justice. Wallace was strapped to a hurdle and dragged to the traditional place of execution in Smithfield, located just outside the walls of what is now St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, where he was hanged by the neck, cut down while still conscious, disemboweled alive, and then beheaded. And then his body was duly quartered and displayed.

On a plaque mounted to the wall of St. Bart’s in London one can visit the place where a plaque was mounted in 1954 and read…

To the immortal memory of Sir William Wallace, Scottish patriot, born at Elderslie Renfrewshire circa 1270 AD, who from the year 1296 fought dauntlessly in defence of his country's liberty and independence in the face of fearful odds and great hardship, being eventually betrayed and captured. Brought to London and put to death near this spot on the 23rd August 1305. His example heroism and devotion inspired those who came after him to win victory from defeat and his memory remains for all time a source of pride, honour and inspiration to his countrymen. Dico tibi verum libertas optima rerum nunqual servili sub nexu vivito fili. 
{Latin: I tell you the truth. Freedom is what is best. Sons, never live life like slaves.}
Bas Agus Buaidh
{An old Scottish battle-cry in Gaelic: Death and Victory}
It was those Scots, remembering the sacrifice of those whom Wallace led, and those who followed his lead after his death and wrenched Scots free from the bloody foreign tyrant who had tried so fanatically to possess them who wrote the immortal words in the Declaration of Arbroath, 15 years after Wallace’s martyrdom, that appear on the plaque behind me… and which exemplify the meaning of Wallace’s life and death… and has informed Scottish history from that infamous day to this one…

...for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.