



SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF MOBILE NEWSLETTER

November 2010

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE



St. Andrew's Day is the feast day of Saint Andrew. It is celebrated on the 30th of November.

Saint Andrew, the First-called, is a Christian Apostle and the brother of Saint Peter. Andrew is said to have been martyred by crucifixion at the city of Patras in

Achaea, on the northern coast of the Peloponnese. Early texts describe Andrew as bound, not nailed, to a Latin cross of the kind on which Jesus is said to have been crucified; yet a tradition developed that Andrew had been crucified on a cross of the form called *Crux decussata* (X-shaped cross, or "saltire"), now commonly known as a "Saint Andrew's Cross" — supposedly at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus had been.

One legend says that a man who later became St. Regulus (or Rule) carried the bones of St. Andrew to Scotland. His ship was wrecked on the Fife coast, and the spot at which the ship landed became the site of the town of St. Andrews. A cathedral was built there which was started in 1160 and took 158 years to build (the ruins can still be seen today) and

the town became an important site of Christian pilgrimage.

BATTLE OF ATHELSTANEFORD

In A.D. 832 an army made up of Picts under King Angus and Scots led by Eochaidh, King of Dalriada, were fleeing from a large contingent of Northumbrian Angles. The Northumbrian army surrounded the Picts and King Angus realized he'd have to turn and fight. The night before the battle, as the forces mustered around him, he prayed for a miracle. According to legend, Saint Andrew came to him in a vision and not only promised that he would survive but also that he would be victorious in battle. King Angus vowed that if this came true he would adopt Saint Andrew as the patron saint of Alba.



As the two armies met the next day it is said that a white cloud formation of a saltire formed against the blue sky. This encouraged the Picts and

Dalriadan Scots to fight on, and they triumphed on the battlefield, killing the Northumbrian King and routing the Angle army.

From that day on, the Saltire was adopted as the emblem of Scotland and Saint Andrew was indeed adopted as Scotland's national Saint. In 2006, the Scottish Parliament designated St. Andrew's Day as an official bank holiday.

ALABAMA'S LINK TO SCOTLAND

Alabama has the second largest population of people of Scottish heritage in the USA. In part the Alabama flag design was selected because the St. Andrews cross was a "Christian symbol, the symbol of truth, honor, courage, and defiance against tyranny, and is never ending."



Some debate has arisen lately over the source of the original design of the Alabama State Flag. When in doubt, read the instructions: "The

Alabama State Flag was authorized by the Alabama Legislature on February 16, 1895, by Act number 383. According to the *Acts of Alabama, 1895*, the state flag was to be a **crimson cross of St. Andrew** on a field of white. The bars forming the cross were not to be less than six inches broad and were to extend diagonally across the flag from side to side. The act did not designate a square or a rectangular flag."

A small but vocal group has been trying to rewrite the history of the Alabama flag to claim Irish origins rather than Scottish. The State of Alabama flag has absolutely NO connection whatsoever with the so called "flag of St. Patrick", which was in fact, NOT used by St. Patrick, but was an invention of the English occupiers of Ireland and was created to be used in the regalia of the newly created Order of Saint Patrick, established in 1783 as the premier

chivalric order of the Kingdom of Ireland, and later in the arms and flags of a number of institutions.

Even on the Emerald Isle and on St. Patrick's Day no less, this flag is not widely flown by Irish people who, for the most part, do not recognize it as their own. It is seen as a British symbol, and is used by regiments of the British Army. The flag was first designed by British authorities in Dublin Castle in the 17th century as a counterpart to the English St. George's Cross. The flag also forms part of the coat of arms of the then powerful Duke of Leinster, the premier peer in the Irish House of Lords.

MERRIMENT & MAYBE AH WEE DRAM...

There's always laughter at our meetings, and the group finds time to kick up their heels between meetings. We enjoyed ourselves September 18 at THE TEA ROOM & GASTRO PUB...no reason... Just fun! October 8 a group of us met for drinks at O'Daly's Irish Pub, downtown Dauphine Street, to enjoy our own David Bayne's mural of Blarney Castle and the Green Man painted on the courtyard wall....so much talent. Whatever happens with the Scots stays with the Scots! I will say, Janie left hand in hand with a very handsome man. Leon and I wandered down the street to the original Wintzel's Oyster House. We set next to a big open window with the breeze blowing through and watched the people stroll by. There were some interestingly costumed people, in Mobile, Al no less! It reminded me of bygone days when people actually walked on sidewalks window shopping or people watching.

"My heart's in the Highlands..."

Randy Seale, S.S.O.M. President



As another St. Andrew's Day is upon us I am reminded of the J.R.R. Tolkien quote, "History became legend and legend became myth... and those things which should not have been forgotten... were lost."

Since the 1970's when a handful of diehard *old school* Highlanders started the core group of Clan Societies in North America, dedicated volunteers have been working to preserve our shared Scottish heritage. For the most part, "The Founders" have been added to the *Flowers of the Forrest* rolls. Their successors are rapidly reaching the age when they too are retiring and can no longer participate the way they used to. It's now up to us to take up the torch and carry it forward to the next generation. It's up to us to make sure that those Scottish things are not lost... and are never forgotten.

NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

25th Annual Highlands and Islands Games, Saturday Nov. 13 and Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010



Mississippi Gulf Coast
Harrison County
Fairgrounds, Gulfport,
MS. Gates open at 9:00
am both days. This
year's event will feature
bagpipe bands, Celtic
music and dancers, Dog
Show, SCA, Scottish
country dancing, clan
tents, and lots of food and

drink. Admission tickets: \$10.00 per person, free for children under 10 years old. Information: www.highlandsandislands.org 228-574-8218.

Mobile International Festival, Civic Center, Mobile, AL: Student Days - Thursday and Friday, November 18 & 19, Family Day - Saturday, November 20 (10 AM - 5 PM)



The Festival was established in 1982 to help educate school children and share the many international cultures in Mobile among everyone as an annual event. Enjoy the adventure of first-hand experience of over 60 varied cultures.

You can visit the continents of Asia and Africa in the lobby area and Europe and the Americas in the East Exhibit Hall. Come face-to-face with people from every corner of the world and feel their friendliness. Be tempted by food booths from five continents! Sample different entrees, mouth-watering desserts, exotic beverages!

SSOM Monthly Meeting, Thursday, December 16, 2010, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2921 Airport Blvd, Mobile, AL 36606 (corner of Airport and Sage Ave.) Social Hour is 6:30-7:00 P.M., Business Meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. **followed by a visit from "Scotty Claus"**. **Children are welcome! Don't forget to bring your list for Scotty Claus too!** Contact Randy Seale, email: seale@bellsouth.net or 251-341-1999.

23rd ANNUAL ROBERT BURNS SUPPER, Saturday, January 22, 2011, Mobile Marriott Hotel, Airport Blvd, Mobile 36606. **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!** Ticket will not be available at the door. (Rabbie is always cool...)



Info: Randy Seale, seale@bellsouth.net, 251-341-1999 or Irene Troy-Macdonald, troy_i@bellsouth.net, 251-473-6990.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David & Nancy Arnett, Sarah Beth Averitt, Charles & Iris Bailey, Rebecca & Brian Bosarge, Kathy Castle, Margaret Lynn Ellis, Chuck Ellis, Katherine Gee, Wendy Johnson, Sir Francis & Lady Anne McGowin

President – Randy Seale
Vice-President – Janie Daugherty
Secretary – Margaret Lynn Ellis

Treasurer – Irene Troy-Macdonald
Board of Directors:
Chris Arnett - Belinda Kearney
Jane Pierce - Ken Macdonald
Charles McCloud – Immediate Past-President

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I appreciate the suggestions I have received, but let me have more. Need more suggestions for a Newsletter Title. Also, send me information you know about any of our members. I want to do a few bios of members from time to time, and I want to get a History Segment in also. **Newsletter items** may be emailed to A. C. Leggett, Newsletter Editor at: ac@daleggetts.com or call at 251-476-1048.

Visit: www.scottishsocietyofmobile.org

REMINDERS

Shopping online? Don't forget our affiliates: www.scottishlion.com; when ordering online, use SSOM's ID code – SS1001 – in the "Comments" or "Notes" space near the bottom of the page. SSOM receives a percentage from sales when the code is used.

www.caledoniankitchen.com
www.amazonstore.com

The Scottish Society of Mobile meets on the **third Thursday of the month** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2921 Airport Blvd (Sage Ave. at Airport Blvd.), Mobile, Alabama 36606. Join us for **social hour beginning at 6:30 pm** and bring a snack to share. **Business meeting begins at 7:00 pm**, followed by a program. Annual membership is \$25.00 per family. Information: Randy Seale, email: seale@bellsouth.net.

SCOTTISH HUMOUR

The Scottish bus driver was giving a tour of Scotland to a group of tourists. The tour went through the countryside and the driver would point out sights of interest. He drove by this one area and said, *"Over there is where the Scottish*

PULVERIZED the English." They drove on a little further and the driver pointed to another area along the roadway and said, *"This is the place where the Scottish MASSACRED the English."* Not much further down the road the driver told his passengers that on the right was the great battlefield where the Scottish WHIPPED the English. About that time a man on the bus, with a stiff English accent, said, *"My good man, didn't the English win any battles around here?"* *"Not when I'm driving the bus"* was the response.

McDougal was offered 500 pounds for his dog by an American and 100 pounds by an Englishman. Much to everyone's surprise he accepted the bid from the Englishman. Afterwards he explained. *"The dog can walk back home from England but he'll never swim the Atlantic."*

A philosophical Scotland supporter on the train south to attend the match with England was heard to comment: *"No matter if we win or lose this game, we will still be winners in the game of life, because when our opponents waken up tomorrow they'll still be English and we won't."*

In a London street, two Highlanders stood looking at the imposing front of a large building. The corner-stone bore the date in Roman characters, "MCMIV." *"Look at that, Jock,"* said Sandy proudly, *"Ah don't know what clan he came from, but he's got his name on one of the finest buildings in London. You canna keep oor boys doon, can ye?"*

