

Jaeame I. Koyil, President

June 2015
President's Letter

A very special thanks to Ian Baird for heroically taking over the presentation at our last meeting.

At our May meeting I put forward an idea for discussion at our last meeting to establish a "St. Andrew's Society Service Medal" to recognize those who contribute to our Society or City.

The 2nd VP, 1st VP, and President of our society eventually get a lot of recognition and get a nifty pendant but there are a lot of positions which I feel are not sufficiently recognized. This medal will fix that problem.

After input from the assembled I propose that we strike three medals:

1) A membership medal available to all members in good standing to be purchased at our cost (silver)

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May Meeting Recap

By David Campbell, 1st VP

At May's monthly meeting we were scheduled to hear from longtime member and Society Historian Tommy Kasinger on the topic: The Flying Scotsman. The Flying Scotsman you may recall was the famous express passenger train service which ran between Scotland's and England's respective capitol Edinburgh and London from 1862-1962. Local transportation challenges, however, were to keep Tommy from being able to join us that evening in May. So, instead we were fortunate to hear from Treasurer Ian Baird, who graciously stepped up...and offered to speak extemporaneously on the topic of his native land: Tasmania.



Ian Baird discussing the many wonders of his native land, "Tassie."

Comprising one of six states of the Commonwealth of Australia, with a population somewhat greater than 500,000 and covering an area greater than 35,000 square miles, Tasmania is the island located approximately 150 miles south of the Australian mainland (south of Victoria's coastal Melbourne). Affectionately called "Tassie," The Island of Inspiration or The Apple Isle—was originally founded in 1803 as a penal settlement known as Van Diemen's Land (named by explorer Abel Tasman in honor of Dutch colonial governor Anthony van Diemen). Before transportation ceased in 1853, it is estimated that some 65,000 convicts made the passage. In 1856 it then became a self-governing colony,

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Trustees Corner

By David McCrossan, Chairman

St. Andrew's Scholarship Supports Berkeley-bound Scot

In keeping with our tradition of supporting not just our home-grown students in California but Scots coming here, a St. Andrew's scholarship of \$15,000 was awarded in May to Scottish architecture student Andrew Cumine, a postgraduate student of architecture at UC Berkeley. Trustees chairman David McCrossan congratulated Andrew on his award: "We are pleased to support Andrew in the best traditions of educational excellence and look forward to welcoming him to San Francisco in the Fall."



Growing our Education Mission: Edinburgh Connection

One of our oldest missions is the support of students in Northern California headed to Scottish universities and also for Scottish students coming here to study. This year the trustees approved a \$15,000 contribution to our scholarship program, generously matched by an equal amount from the St. Andrew's foundation, for a total \$30,000 scholarship fund for 2015.



Within that amount, \$5,000 of the Foundation match has been dedicated to our new initiative to support students intending to study at the University of Edinburgh. With our society contribution, we now have \$10,000 startup commitment for the new St. Andrew's Edinburgh-San Francisco Capital City Scholarship.

At recent follow-up meetings with the university's North American Executive Director Joanna Storrar and Prof. Francis Cogliano in San Francisco, trustees' chairman David McCrossan said: "This new scholarship initiative follows our meeting with the Chancellor of the University and his U.S. development staff earlier in the spring. The \$10,000 commitment is a solid start to what will be a truly meaningful scholarship for future students studying at Scotland's leading research university. It also gives us a very firm footing to fundraise for additional matches to our \$10,000 and grow that to a level that will eventually support fully paid U.S. students. We are delighted to be working closely with university staff here in the U.S. and in Scotland to achieve that goal: we will

be announcing other new initiatives to support our growing partnership with the University in the coming months."

Major Collection from Scotland's National Galleries in San Francisco

St. Andrew's Society members were delighted to participate in a special tour during May of the "Botticelli to Braque" Masterpieces exhibition visiting the city for several weeks from three of the National Galleries of Scotland.



Our sincerest thanks are due to Sir Fraser Morrison, Chairman of the U.S. Foundation for the National Galleries, who facilitated the event, Samantha Lagneau, Head of Development at the National Galleries of Scotland, Esther Bell, Curator in Charge, European Paintings, and Julian Cox, Chief Curator at the deYoung.

As supporters of Scottish arts and culture in San Francisco, we are looking forward to developing our connection with National Galleries US Foundation and with the deYoung, one of San Francisco's oldest cultural institutions.

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- 2) A 20 year medal (gold)
 - 3) The Service Medal (multi-colored) to be awarded twice per year at our formal events
- Honorees to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Trustees.

Criterion:

Members of the Society in good standing who have exhibited outstanding service to the Society as measured by:

- 1) Duration of service
- 2) Magnitude of service

Honorary St. Andrew's Society Service Medal may be awarded from time to time to non-members of the Society for service to our Society or to San Francisco.

Please email me if you have any further suggestions along these lines and also please attend our June meeting where I will call for a vote on this proposal.

Alba Gu Brath

Jaame I. Koyil

President



Jaame I. Koyil attends the LA Tartan Ball with (left to right) Ian Skone-Rees, President of the St. Andrew's of LA, Hon. Fiona Hislop, Scottish National Party Member of the Scottish Parliament for Linlithgow, and Dr. Michael Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland



The Pink Palace

By Stephen McGinty

With a hundred rooms, plus turrets, towers and a priceless collection of art, Drumlanrig Castle is the Duke of Buccleuch's crown jewel.



The sweeping double staircase of the castles main entrance.

The clouds are hanging low and grey, like a dirty shroud, above the soft undulating hills of Border country. Driving south and peering through the rain-speckled windscreen, I can't help but feel a sense of quiet foreboding, which always seems to wrap around me when traveling into the realm of the Border Reivers.

I've always felt that if you pull over, switch off the

engine and step outside into a green and quiet nook, you can almost hear the pounding of hooves and the clash of armour against pike and saber.

Yet, when we crunch into the parking lot of Drumlanrig Castle, it is another sound that begins to echo around my head, this time it is not the gasps of dying men, but the insistent, irritable complaints of its original owner. Prior to my visit to the wonders of

what is known as "The Pink Palace" (because of its russet-coloured stone), I'd read up about the man who paid for its construction in the late 17th century. William Douglas was previously The Lord High Treasurer of Scotland and a man used to getting his own way. As one historian wrote, he "loved to be absolute, and to direct everything." The duke also wrote to the overseer of the new castle: "Tell him I'm very angry that Ja. Smith [the architect and builder] can give me no account of his having agreed for the wrightwork in the Galerie. And till that be done he cannot expect Ill be pleased. Its still his way to putt off and delay things, which displeases me and injures me."

William Douglas may have once been displeased, but any visitor who gazes up at

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was renamed Tasmania, and in 1901 became a state and part of the Federation of Australia. Tasmania has a constitutional monarchy form of government, with its capitol city located at Hobart. Finally, Tasmania is promoted as a natural state with almost 45% of its landmass designated as reserves, national parks, and World Heritage Sites; and furthermore is known as the founding place of the first environmental party in the world.

Prior to colonization by the English, the land is otherwise thought to have been occupied by Aborigines for 40,000 years, but then separated from other mainland aboriginal groups 10,000 years ago when the Bass Strait was created from sea rise.

Thanks to both Tommy and Ian for their willingness to step up and participate in the good of the order. We look forward to hearing from Tommy in the near future on his topic as outlined above.



Book Review—*Essays on Life*

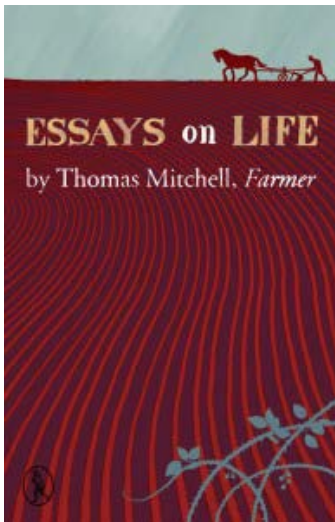
By Sheila Harrison

A book written 100 years ago by a Scottish farmer is helping to brighten up the lives of disabled children and adults in Scotland.

Farmer Thomas Mitchell (1870–1950) filled several school exercise books with essays on how to live a good life, which he presented to the local Mutual Improvement Association in Newburgh, Aberdeenshire. With chapters covering the art of living, the value of work, thrift, education and its values, he covers all aspects of life, with work being a strong theme throughout. “Work is a great teacher and work is essential to human dignity”. He expresses a strong belief in self help and free will. For contemporary readers many of his thoughts are just as relevant today as they were then and those interested in history gain insight into Scottish rural societies in the years preceding the First World War.

The essays are rare direct evidence of what went on at Mutual Improvement Society meetings, the self improving impulse having taken early root in Scotland. Mitchell also invokes “self-made men,” citing transatlantic politicians like log cabin to White House, Abraham Lincoln, woods of Ohio to White House, James A Garfield, US Ambassador to Birmingham UK, Elihu Burritt and social reformer Gerrit Smith. The final essay is on “Friendship” and it is this personal relationship which is seen as the force driving self improvement, a concept rooted in tradition going far back in time.

The book is a reminder of a time long gone when in the absence of the social distractions of today—television, laptops, tablets, cell phones etc.—the art of writing eloquent prose and the gifts of the essayist were regarded as a leisure pastime and not simply chores. A lot has changed since the essays were writ-



ten but just as much is still relevant.

One hundred years later, his granddaughter Sheila Harrison, thinking that the essays merited a wider audience and looking to raise funds for Crathie Opportunity Holidays www.crathie-holidays.org.uk a charity of which she was chairperson, successfully submitted the essays for publication. Crathie Opportunity Holidays (COH) is a registered Scottish Charity which provides high quality accommodation for disabled people. The holiday cottages have been designed to be easily accessible and specialist equipment such as hoists, portable ramps, alarms and scooters are available to ensure visitors have all they need without facing the hassle and expense of transporting it. The COH ethos is that disabled people should not have to spend any more for a holiday than an able bodied person, so no charge is made for the extra equipment. Many of those who come to COH have never been on holiday before as they need a lot of equipment. All proceeds from the book are helping to pay for the maintenance and replacement of that equipment.

The Duchess of Cornwall, or the Duchess of Rothesay as she is known in Scotland, is a “proud Patron” of COH and she and Prince Charles have made several visits, the cottages being situated by the gates of Balmoral Castle, the holiday home of the Royal Family.

Sheila Harrison, who rescued the old school exercise books which had been lying around the farmhouse for over 100 years, is certain that her grandfather would have been delighted that his essays are supporting such an excellent project as he clearly articulates in just one of his essays that having enough to provide for a family and a little left to save was more than sufficient for anyone.

It is hoped that you will support and enjoy the book which is most easily available from the publisher www.vagabondvoices.co.uk or by searching Amazon.

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the castle’s four towers and 17 turrets, even on a grey and squallish day, can’t help but break into a wide smile. Drumlanrig Castle and its 40 acres of elegant, pristinely manicured grounds has that kind of effect; it is grand and imposing, but at the same time has rather intimate corners. One can imagine Christmas trees decorating the rooms, fires in the hearth



Leonardo da Vinci’s “*Madonna With A Yardwinder*” was lent to the National Gallery of Scotland after it was recovered from thieves.

and a life as a landed gentry comfortably beckoning you forward. Which is how Douglas wanted it to be—it is a castle as grand lifestyle rather than defensive keep, a castle in which to entertain and show off the life that he had achieved rather than a fortress to keep people out.

The castle sits amid woodlands and soft rounded hills just off the A76, three miles north of Thornhill in the Scottish Borders. The name

comes from its setting on a low hill (drum) at the end of a long (lang) ridge (rig). The stunning construction is built around an expansive courtyard with each corner marked by a tower, inside which winds a circular staircase. When you climb lip one of the twin stone staircases underneath the clock tower or wander along the corridors, you can’t help but notice carved in

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stone, painted on wood or embossed on leather, images of a winged heart, an image that whispers to the family's foundation. The lands around

Grim and Bell-the-Cat. The Borders family were said to have given their loyalty promiscuously to both Scottish and English kings and had a proclivity to both murder and, in time, be murdered. Yet, the man who transformed

finished building. When Daniel Defoe visited in the late 18th century, he was surprised to find "a palace so glorious, gardens so fine, and every thing so truly magnificent, and all in a wild, mountainous country."

gree of voyeurism as so many beady, watchful eyes are upon them from the many gilt-framed portraits that line the staircase gallery. It is not every day that one is inspected by King William III or given a bewitching and saucy eye by Mary of Modena, Queen Consort of James II.



Wall-to-wall oil portraits rise above the stunning staircase.

Drumlanrig were passed to the Douglas family by Robert the Bruce and, when the Scots king died in 1329 before being able to set out on a Crusade to the Holy Land, he willed that his heart go instead. Sir James Douglas, or "Black Douglas" as he was known, carried it in a tin box and when he was himself mortally wounded while fighting the Moors in Spain, was said to have thrown the small casket and uttered the words "Forward Brave Heart."

The Douglasses had a strange family tree that included characters such as William Long-Leg, James the Gross (of whom it was said he carried 100 lbs. of tallow on him), Hugh the Dull, Archibald the

the family's property from a ruined keep that stood on the grounds in the 15th century into the stunning decorative, rather than defensive, castle that emerged at the end of the 17th century, was the irritable and opinionated William Douglas.

William Douglas was also a secretive chap who went so far as to write on the wrapper that covered the accounts of the building's construction: "the deil pike out his enn wha looks herein," or "may the devil poke out the eyes of anyone who looks in here." While he may have wished to keep unwelcome noses out of his financial accounts, he would not have minded later visitors proclaiming the success of his

If you are aware, as I was, of the house's recent unfortunate History, you may also wonder how well protected these picture are now. The most famous work in the house became rather infamous as a result of robbery in 2003 when two men paid their £6 entry fee and succeeded in making off in a VW Golf with a £100-million painting by Leonardo da Vinci called the "Madonna With A Yardwinder." The painting was later recovered and the castle's security considerably tightened. This was the most recent, but the area has seen many criminal acts and violent scenes over the centuries and millennia.



Douglas winged hearts embellish the wallpaper and carpet of the front hall.

So it is to William Douglas that I gave a mild nod of thanks as I climbed up the great central staircase. Visitors need not worry about vertigo, as it isn't that high, but may feel they are victims of a de-

The house is also stuffed with the most exquisite works of art and fascinating historical items. There is a tapestry whose needlework includes

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sections by Mary, Queen of Scots, who whiled away the hours stitching while a prisoner. The artwork includes stunning pieces by Holbein, Van Dyck and Rembrandt's "Old Woman Reading." And on a more sensational note, there is a copper caldron in which Lord Soulis, England's commander on the nearby border, was reportedly boiled alive.

I've always believed that an appreciation of any grand house is impossible without an understanding of the history that lies behind the stone walls and tapestry. And so when I come to visit one of the regal bedrooms in which Bonnie Prince Charlie once slept, it adds to the frisson of history to know that his arrival was far from welcome.

The second Duke of Queensberry built a career to match the scale of Drumlanrig and was one of the key figures in steering the 1707 Act of Union with England through the Scottish Parliament. The family went on to oppose the Jacobite revolution^{oo}, so the Bonnie Prince forced himself on Drumlanrig and occupied the castle on his march north from Preston in 1745, along with 2,000 Highlanders. The "guests" showed their contempt for King William by slashing his portrait, which hung in the Stair Hall. The factor later told the third Duke that the Prince had left the place "in a sad pickle.... May God grant there may never again be such guests here."

The third Duke of Queensberry went on to marry a provocative woman called Kitty who loved to shock the fainter hearts in society. John



An enormous tapestry hangs behind the bed that Bonnie Prince Charlie once slept in.

Gay dedicated The Beggars Opera to her and when the king banned her from court, she reportedly said that she was relieved, as she found it "boring." The Duke was educated by Adam Smith, the economist and author of The Wealth of Nations, but sadly prudence is not an inheritable

trait and whatever lessons were learned by the father were not passed on to his son. The fourth Duke of Queensberry was known as "Old Q" and favoured the fleshpots and taverns of London over the dreich and rolling hills of his ancestral home, which he considered merely fuel to

kindle his financial bonfires. He had much of the surrounding forests chopped down to sell as timber and was such a rake and roué that he was condemned in print by not one, but two of Britain's finest

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poets. William Wordsworth wrote of him, “Degenerate Douglas! Oh! The unworthy Lord!” while Robert Burns wrote, “that reptile wears a Ducal crown.” Sadly for the family home, he lived—and

spent—until the age of 85.

Visitors to the castle should keep their eyes peeled because Robert Burns’s comments about Old Q were not his only contribution to the family seat; it is believed that the bard etched a poem on a pane of glass somewhere at Drumlanrig, though as

yet no one has been able to find its exact location. The poet, who lived not far away at Ellisland Farm between 1788 and 1791, was a close friend of James McMurdo, who was chamberlain to the Duke of Queensberry and made regular visits to the house. He was presented with

a diamond-tipped stylus by James Cunningham, the Earl of Glencairn, and used it to inscribe poems and stanzas on windows in neighbouring pubs and houses. While my attempts to discover the lost words of Burns proved unsuccessful, it was fun to peer a little closer at so many panes



The enormous dining room was the castle’s original front hall.



The Shawl, one of a number of formal gardens, commemorates the 1829 marriage of the 7th duke.

of glass, especially out the windows on the upper floors with their striking views over the green countryside.

Yet the house has not always looked so impressive. By the time Old Q had quaffed his final glass of port and fondled one last servant girl, Drumlanrig was in a sorry state with the roof now leaking. As he, surprisingly, died without any issue, the Dukedom of

Queensberry and the house and remaining land was passed on to young Henry Scott, the grandson of Lady Jane Douglas, who had married the second Duke of Buccleuch. The boy would grow to inherit two titles—that of the third Duke of Buccleuch

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and the fifth Duke of Queensberry—and was assisted in his education and supported in

ghosts that I imagine are pressed to the windows watching my departure. I took a short tour around the gardens and wandered down to the river, which offers fine



The drawing room is filled with portraits of the Douglas family and royalty as well as priceless antiques.

making repairs to Drumlanrig by Sir Walter Scott.

If you have the opportunity to visit Drumlanrig, then lookout for the portrait of Walter Francis, who was the cook to the third, fourth and fifth Dukes of Buccleuch. It was previously on display alongside a letter advising his employer about how best to ensure a happy home: “All will depend upon yourself to make your Household a happy one, if you have a bad servant part with him, a diseased sheep spoils a whole flock.”

Those who visit will often flock to return. Yet before I bid my fond farewell to Drumlanrig Castle and the

fishing at reasonable rates for those angling to catch a trout. It was still and peaceful and for the first time in my many visits to the Borders, I thought what it might be like to make this rugged land home.

♦♦The Jacobite uprisings were aimed at restoring the Stuarts to the throne after James VII of Scotland (James II of England) was deposed by Parliament in 1688. Charles Edward Stuart, known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, was James’s grandson.

This article was first published in the Summer 2015 edition of Scottish Life.



Save the Dates



Summer Ceilidh
July 11th, 2015
Encinal Yacht Club
Alameda, CA



Scottish Highland Games
Pleasanton, CA
September 5 and 6, 2015



**St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco**
Banquet & Ball
November 28th, 2015

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2015		
Mon. June 15	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. July 11	Summer Ceilidh	Encinal Yacht Club
Mon. July 20	Summer Break – no meeting	
Mon. Aug. 17	Summer Break – no meeting	
Sept. 5–6	150th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton, CA
Mon. Sept. 21	Member’s Dinner	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Service.....	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Nov. 28	153rd Annual Banquet & Ball	Marine’s Memorial
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to Hogmanay Potluck on 12/31	
Thur. Dec. 31	Hogmanay Potluck	1088 Green St., SF
2016		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting..... <i>Inauguration of 2016 Office Bearers</i>	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Jan. 23	Burns Supper (The Family)	545 Powell St., SF
Mon. Feb. 15	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 21	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 16	19th Annual Tartan Day Scottish Faire	Ardenwood, Fremont
Sat. April 16	John Muir Association / Earth Day celebration	Martinez
Mon. April 18	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 16	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF

About Us

The Saint Andrew’s Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light supper served before the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members’ meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

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Second VP
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Roger Weed, Librarian
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