

Tenant Farmer Dispute

During the 19th Century, Scotland was roiled by disputes over how much tenant farmers should be paid by farm owners, and how easily a landowner could expel a tenant. The Crofter's Strike was resolved with laws giving a renter considerable leverage against landowners. Andrew Arbuckle reports in The Daily Scotsman on recent efforts to modernize tenant law.

“One of the longest-running disputes between landlords and tenant farmers took a marginal step toward conclusion this week in the Court of Session with a decision that the Scottish Government is liable to compensate a specific group of tenants.

“The dispute goes back to the Agricultural Holdings Act of 2003 following which a number of tenants moved to a new type of lease. The legislation proved to be defective and a remedial order was passed in 2014 but by this time several tenants had been forced out of farming through the loss of security of tenure.

“Lord Clark rejected the tenants’ claims based on the value of the tenancy, only accepting compensation should be paid in respect of specific losses directly sustained by the tenants who had acted in good faith on defective legislation plus something for “for frustration and inconvenience”.

“HMRC can ask to see records to ensure that the correct levels are being paid, and has the powers to instigate criminal prosecutions or fines where they suspect that an employer is refusing or wilfully neglecting to pay staff at least equal to the National Minimum Wage, where proper records are not being kept, or where false entries have been made in records.”

“In Scotland, the minimum wage payable to agricultural workers is set by the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board.”

Movie Postponed

The airing of ITV’s acclaimed Taggart episode has been moved from March to Saturday, 16th September, 2017. The theater will be the Main Street Landing, near the Burlington Waterfront, 6 PM treats, 7 PM screening.

Our National Poets: Walter Scott [again]

Scott, who as a young man published heroic poems based on legends and historical romance, virtually invented both the form of the modern novel, but his scenic imagination was able also to transform modern stage plays. Several of his books were converted into heroic Grand Opera, in ways which foreshadow modern movies. In 1830, Scott began to suffer a series of strokes which impaired his ability to create and even to speak. Desperate to pay off huge debts he had incurred during the depression following the Napoleonic wars, he wrote three more novels: Anne of Geierstein, Count Robert of Paris, Castle Dangerous. They are good reading, but painful by comparison to his original self.

Scots Names: Reid / Reed / Read

The name was originally descriptive of a ruddy complexion or red hair — Rufus in Latin, Ruadh in Gaelic, Rud in Scots. Tartan book authors frequently state Reid to be a sept of Donnachaidh, which is accurate for one family. Deeds were witnessed by persons named Reed or Rud as early as 1204. One Adam Reid of Barskimming stood up to Archbishop Blackadder at a heresy inquest in 1494. John Reid, gardener to Lord Seton, in 1683 published his famous book, Scots Gardner, in the same year he emigrated to East New Jersey, where he soon became Surveyor general. Hundreds of Reids have distinguished themselves across the world.

Scots Tongue

- rum (a) excellent, very good.
- rummlegairy (a) disorderly, out of control.
- rumgumption (n) common sense.
- rummage (v) to search quite carefully.
- rumble (v) to stir about or make a fuss.
- rumple (n) the rump; the tail.
- ruser (n) a vain or boasting person.
- rushie (n) a riot .
- ruskie (n) a basket woven from twigs.
- rute (n) a blow; also, a kind of fowl.
- ruth (n) a sorrow, a mournful circumstance.
- ruther (n) the rudder [of a boat]
- ruve (v) to rivet, or attach with a rivet.

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SCOTS CASTLES: Traprain Law. An ancient hill fort 4 M east of Haddington, East Lothian.

A Pictish or ancient settlement, which may have been occupied seasonally, the hill was already occupied and used both for homes and for defense some 3500 years ago. The Romans identified the tribe in this area as Votadini, which appears to be the same name as Celtic Gododdin. An heroic poem survives in the Brythonic language describing a raid against a neighboring tribe contemporaneous with manning of the Roman Wall about 50 miles south, in the time of Emperor Hadrian.

The kingdom of the Votadini or Gododdin covered large parts of Lothian county, as well of neighboring Berwickshire and other regions well into the Tweed valley. The site was occupied continuously from about 1000 BC, with the ramparts and gates periodically rebuilt, strengthened and improved. The full iron-age settlement began in approximately 40 AD, but was abandoned for more than 75 years in roughly 175 AD (i.e. the period during which the Antonine Wall was manned by Rome). From 220, it was reoccupied and major new fortifications were constructed. Soon after the year 400, the site was abandoned in favor of the new capital and fortress of Dun Edin (Edinburgh).



In 1919, during a major excavation by A.C.

Curle, a horde of over 53 pounds of Roman-era silver was found in a pit. Coins included in the stash point to a date in the 5th century, probably about the time that the site was abandoned. There is no organized way to visit the site, but bus tours from Edinburgh Centre can usually be booked. Some bed and breakfast arrangements in Haddington are also possible if one wishes to make a hike. The archeological findings are on display in Edinburgh museums.

Society Event

Richard McLay has planned one or more cultural events which will make use of content from contemporary Scottish television. For starter, he will screen an episode of “Taggart,” a police drama set in the Glasgow area, featuring fictionalized case files from the Glasgow Metropolitan police department. The episode screen time is a little more than an hour. We announced this event for Burlington in March, but for weather and other reasons postponed to September. It will be at movie house at Main Street Landing down on the shore in Burlington for the third Saturday, 16th of September, at 6:00 PM. A light Scottish themed meal and brief discussion of the drama will precede the screening. Contact <richard-darenmclay@yahoo.com> or (802) 658-6064.

Social Media

The St. Andrew’s Society has developed a FaceBook page, of which Bret McLay is the monitor. Go to: <<https://www.facebook.com/vtsaintandrews/>>. The Society has experimented with a closed group Facebook page for communications among the Officers and Directors. It will be open by invitation. <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/575290872653373/>>

Note: The St. Andrews web site has a short URL, <www.SASVT.org> which takes you to the same website as the longer version.

St Andrew's Society of Vermont

Annual General Membership Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017 At The Steak House Restaurant on the Barre/ Montpelier Road
1239 U.S. 302, Barre, VT

We will be ordering from the menu, starting at 5:00 PM. Business meeting to follow.

Treasurer's Report December 31, 2016			
Cash Beginning January 1, 2016			
Checking:		\$1,723.58	
Permanent Savings MM		\$30,060.94	
CD 1		\$10,005.52	
CD 2		\$10,005.53	
CD 3		\$10,005.95	
Total:		\$61,801.52	
Income:			
Annual Meeting		\$406.00	
Burn's Night		\$2,183.00	
Dues		\$925.00	
Interest from MM		\$59.08	
Interest from CD's		\$197.27	
New Memberships		\$45.00	
Tartan Ball		\$2,644.00	
	Total	\$6,459.35	
Disbursements:			
Administration		\$697.57	
Annual Meeting		\$462.00	
Burn's Night		\$2,896.28	
Newsletter		\$804.73	
Postage		\$119.26	
Tartan Ball		\$6,243.58	
Taxes		\$300.00	
	Total	\$11,523.42	
Transfers			
From Savings		\$3,700.00	
Cash Ending December 31, 2016			
Checking:		\$255.43	
Permanent Savings MM		\$26,465.02	
CD 1		\$10,005.33	
CD 2		\$10,005.33	
CD 3		\$10,005.35	
Total:		\$56,736.46	

2016 Contacts for St Andrews Society:

President - Allison M Norton (603)938-2736
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At Large: Cass Wright, Jonathan Park,
Nancy Chase
Karen Fay (SAS Pipe)
Iain McHarg (Catamount)
Kirsten Gretkowski, Dancers
Darryl Calkins, Foundation Chair
Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker

Correct your address promptly to <<cfar-row@ieee.org>>

SCHEDULE OF Coming EVENTS

- *28 April, 2017 Annual meeting, Barre*
- *16 July, 2017 Kirking of Tartan*
- *19 August, 2017 Maine Highland Games*
- *26 August, 2017 Quechee Highland game*
- *15-17 Sept, 2017 Loon Mtn Games*
- *4 November, 2017 Tartan Ball*

Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.

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