



SELKIRK COLONIAL SOCIETY NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER 1994



Dear Jennie

Here we are on the threshold of another year and we in Selkirk send you, our overseas members, our warmest seasonal greetings. Again in our Christmas card we include a photograph of the happy group which gathered in the Victoria Hall last June: if you have kept the Common Riding Newsletter, perhaps you will be able to put some names to faces.

The various video recordings of the 1993 Common Riding show that our new Colonial flag really does stand out in the procession, in spite of the dull weather. When the sun eventually shone we certainly had a "golden banner streaming" to quote a song.

On the home front, we are faced with yet another upheaval in local government. It is proposed that the District Councils be abolished and that the Regional Council be now made an all-purpose authority. This rocks the boat a bit for Selkirk as the Ettrick and Lauderdale District Council is the custodian of our common. Since the demise of the Town Council in 1975, the Council have backed the Common Riding Trust who have acted as the old Provost's Committee. We will have to watch over our heritage very carefully as it is transferred to another authority during the next two years.

I wonder how many of you remember Jenny Corbett? Jenny is the oldest of the three Beattie sisters, the others being Isa and Molly (Mrs Willie Ramsay). Jenny is now resident in Mungo Park Court (the Beid) and knocking ninety, but she has a remarkably clear memory and can recount stories of her lifetime fluently, even remembering every detail of how her shoemaker father made the "single-sole shoon". Her memoirs are now out in a book titled "A Souther's Baim", written by Avril Jack and published by the Selkirk firm, Bordersprint Ltd., who publish "The Weekender", Selkirk's wee paper, at 5 Scott's Place, and from whom it is available for £4.99 plus £2.50 p. and p.

I myself have started to put together some material for a booklet about our own Selkirk Colonial Society. I have traced the details, such as are available, of its foundation and early survival and development to the present day, and I hope to highlight some of the more remarkable characters who have helped to keep the flame alive in various parts of the world. If any of you have any ideas or anecdotes which you might think worth including I would be

pleased to hear from you. I hope to have something to say about Will "Daddy" Hogg (Rhodesia), "Honolulu Bob" Anderson (Hawaii), Chris Reekie and Watte Waldie (Australia), Geordie "Boag" Thomson (Africa & New Zealand) and Gordon Stewart (Canada) to mention but a few. Please let me know of others, or indeed anything that goes on in your part of the world. (I had a grand newsy letter from Anna Roden when she and Bill retired to Hawaii.)

Our sweaters have been much admired and the initial order was quickly bought up all but a couple in the largest size. If you intend being home for the Common Riding this year and would like to purchase one when you are here, then you should order one by the 30th April at the very latest in order that we can have your size in stock before June. The price is still £20, and should be ordered from Will Anderson, 1 Hillview Crescent, Selkirk TD7 4AY — and don't forget to quote your size!

Wearing my treasurer's cap, I thank all who have paid their subscriptions; it is vital that you overseas members keep this up. After all, it was the idea of the founder members that the Society would be sustained thus. We are still looking for a secretary/treasurer in New Zealand and also in Australia to overcome the bank commission snag — any volunteers?

Finally, and most important, the 1994 Common Riding is on Friday the 17th day of June: the Colonial night is Wednesday the 15th — hope to see you there!

All the best for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours aye,

Jack Macpherson

Chairman

Members are reminded that we depend on subscriptions from overseas in order to maintain the standard of hospitality and ceremony that we have achieved, and is in keeping with the intentions of our founder members all these years ago.

Subscriptions are per annum:

Full member £5.00

Associate (non-colonial/ non-Souther partners) £1.00

Life membership may be bought for £100.00

All payable to:

Mr Lester Sinton 6 Spring Street, SALISBURY Massachusetts 01952 U.S.A.	or	Mr Gerald Beggs, 4396 Lions Avenue, NORTH VANCOUVER B.C. V7R 3S6 Canada	or	The Treasurer, 1 Croft Terrace, SELKIRK, TD7 4LX Scotland
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