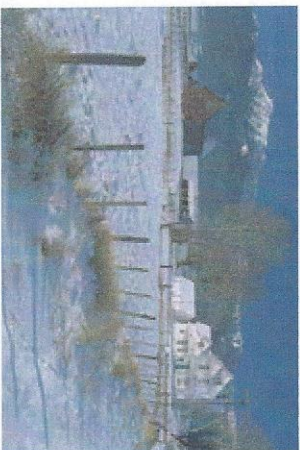


(Continued from page 1)

passionate love of town and country, and with an aching longing when the Borders and Selkirk are far away. But the world is a small place nowadays and therefore a sincere welcome is given to all the Colonial Society's visitors. Also congratulations to Alan Emond on being appointed Colonial Society Standard Bearer for 2004, and wish him "Safe out and Safe in". Also to Kirsty, his wife and to daughter, Mikaela sitting beside her Grandmother. There can never be any history of human life and endeavour without the glory, the poetry and the romance. Selkirk is rich in all these. They make this history of ours a priceless heritage to those who own it as an undeniable right of birth. Alan Emond is a Souther and this week represents every Souther living abroad." (Jim Henderson then installed the Standard with his sash and flag and oversaw Kirsty buss the flag)

After "Lead Kindly Light and Hail Smiling Morn" Jim Newlands quoted "When Flodden's fateful day was done And set in blood the September sun When darlings deathless crown was won Selkirk's sons were there."



memories of the past.

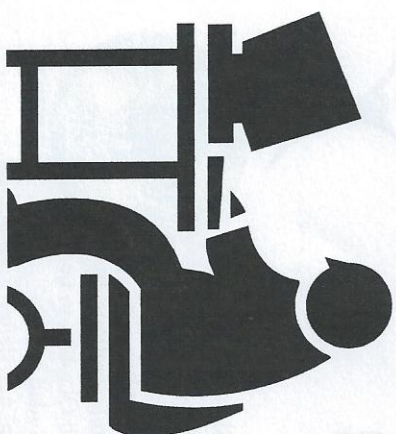
"Lament and hymn and ballads grand
The morning air is filling
Nae music sounds like Selkirk Band
And Souther voices singing."

To the Souther there is only one event that can be named in the same breath as "The Liltin'" and that of course is Flodden. The song speaks of a tragedy—not of a retreat and not of a failure—and just as sure as the heart does so interpret the words then so sure and so long will the song be a song of Selkirk."

The Edinburgh Souters Society represented by Fraser Thomson and Suzie Anderson then presented the gift of a medallion to the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Colin Squance. Chalmers Stille, ex Weavers Standard Bearer, ex Deacon and ex Silver Band Member was welcomed in his first Common Riding as Provost.

Jim Newlands then quoted "Rome prided in Horatius
We pride in Fletcher too
A simple honest manly heart
A Souther leal and true
A story that will live with us
And will until the last
As long as there is a crowd to gather
To see the colours cast."

Introducing Fay Mackay and Dixie Scott to sing "The Rowan Tree". Jim reminded us "that the rowan tree, the mountain ash is the first tree to shed its leaves in the autumn. Border folklore informs that it was on the rowan tree that many of the Border Reivers were hanged and because of this, the tree hangs its head in shame and casts its leaves early. Then "The Roses" - a song which gives vent to the sharp pain of nostalgia together with the promise that



"The Souther will
aye return to Selkirk".

WILL THE SOUTTER BE YOU IN
2005?

Memories of Common Riding 2004

By Alan Emond,

Colonial Standard-Bearer 2004

New Zealand

It means a lot to Souters to return home and be part of the Common Riding...I can now say it means even more to return as the Colonial Standard Bearer. After a few days rest to get rid of any jet lag, it is off to meet with Jim Henderson for the first practice of casting the flag. The butterflies are roaring around in your stomach and as Jim hands you the flag, it is hard to keep a grip from the sweat running down your palms. After a few attempts it becomes easier and Jim sends me on my way with the flag, mine to look after for the week. What an honour!

Friday, the week before the Common Riding, it all begins in earnest, with the first of many dinners to attend. The Crafts and ex-Standard Bearers' dinners deserve a mention, and will be remembered by me forever. The history and tradition that is seen at these evenings is awe inspiring to say the least.

Selkirk has many fine singers and after the dinners I wondered what happened to my voice. Although I am not very talented in the singing department those Deacons have a way of springing on you a surprise call to the floor.

The week flew by and after a wonderful night at our own dinner it was not long before I was rising at 5a.m for the big day. Many people said that the rain dampened things slightly but I hardly noticed it was raining. The walk round the town brought back many memories from my childhood and was made even more pleasurable to me as I carried the flag to

have my family and friends walk beside me. Before long it was time to climb those few steps onto the stage and put to the test my week of practice. It is amazing that with all those people out there you never notice one. Flag cast and time for a celebratory few ales. To all Souters I would like to say that if you are thinking of returning home, then this is an occasion you should put into life's calendar. To the Colonial Society and the many helpers I would like to thank you all for the wonderful and memorable time you have bestowed on Kirsty and myself.

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From Gerald Beggs,

Colonial Standard-Bearer 19 Canada

Everyone says I had a very good Common Riding!

From Jessie Camerer (nee Finnie)

Seattle, USA

Common Riding 2004. Even though the weather left a lot to be desired, the Common Riding still has its touch of magic and nostalgia. I was privileged this year to attend not only the Colonial Bussing and Reception but also to accept a lovely bouquet from the Weavers Association for being the Lady Busser 50 years ago. The Colonial Society has done an