



**St. Andrews**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Scottish Heritage Weekend Lectures  
Feature Dr. Douglas Kelly's Research**

*(Laurinburg, NC)*--The 14<sup>th</sup> Scottish Heritage Symposium hosted by the Scottish Heritage Center of St. Andrews Presbyterian College will be held on the college's Laurinburg campus on the weekend of March 21-23, 2003. The event is one of the premier educational opportunities in the United States relative to Scottish history and genealogy and features top scholars from both the United States and Scotland. All interested parties are invited to attend.

One of this year's featured lecturers is Dr. Douglas Kelly. Kelly grew up in both Lumberton and Moore County and descends from numerous Highland Scots families who emigrated to the region in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He has had a long-standing interest in Scottish-American history and genealogy and pursued these interests while completing his doctoral work in Theology at the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Kelly currently teaches at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte and holds the Jordan Chair of Theology at that institution. In 1998 Kelly and his wife Caroline released his well-received work *Carolina Scots*, now in its second printing. This work has been hailed by many as one of the most informative and definitive works on the Highland Scots settlement of the Upper Cape Fear and Pee Dee areas of the Carolinas. Kelly is currently organizing a major reunion of all Highland descendants from throughout the region which will take place in November of 2003 in the Pinehurst area.

Dr. Kelly's presentation for the symposium will relate particularly to emigrants from the Island of Skye who came to North Carolina in the years 1802-03. Though most of the Scots who settled in the Carolinas had arrived prior to the American Revolution, there were large numbers who emigrated following the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and before the British government passed a number of restrictions aimed at curbing the number of Scottish emigrants to America. Scottish emigrants who settled in the Carolinas in the period after the early 1790's were in many cases "cleared" from their small land holdings and forced away by tyrannical landlords who discovered that they could

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make more money by keeping sheep on their lands than they could from tenants who could not afford increases in rent. The forced evictions of the “Highland clearances” are a very sad and emotional chapter in Highland history.

The emigrations which Dr. Kelly will address in his lecture brought Highland Scots to almost every county in the upper Cape Fear and Pee Dee regions – particularly Moore, Robeson, Cumberland, Richmond, and Scotland in North Carolina as well as Dillon and Marlboro in South Carolina. One of the more notable emigrations he will address is that of the ship “The Duke of Kent.” In 1802 this ship left the Island of Skye with at least 600 passengers bound for Wilmington. The passage was noted by one writer who visited the ship before it left Skye for the Carolinas. He reported its extremely poor condition, and took particular note of the fact that he could pick rotting wood away from the hull and other interior parts of the ship. Numerous tombstones throughout this section of the Carolinas note “Emigrated from Scotland in 1802.” “ ‘The Duke of Kent’ was the only emigrant ship from Scotland to come to the Carolinas in that year, it is apparent that its passage was considered a very important life event of those who sailed on it,” said Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Center of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. “It is an incredible story, and many descendants of this emigration are not aware of the challenges which their ancestors faced in leaving Scotland at this time.”

Kelly’s presentation is only one of five lectures which will be given by top scholars of Scottish and Scottish-American history and genealogy as part of the Scottish Heritage Weekend. The symposium lasts from Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon March 22 and is followed by the annual Scottish Heritage Awards Banquet and Reception on Saturday evening. A special concert of Highland music titled “Music of the Gaels” featuring renown Scottish multi-instrumentalist William Jackson will be held on Friday evening March 21 as part of the celebration. Events conclude with a special “Kirkin of the Tartans” church service at the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 23.

The public is cordially invited to the events of the Scottish Heritage Weekend. For registration information, or general information on the various events of the celebration please contact Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Center at (910)277-5236 or via e-mail at [bill@sapc.edu](mailto:bill@sapc.edu).

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