

ST. REGULUS BURYING GROUND CROMARTY

The ancient burying ground of the Urquharts in Cromarty and its chapel are dedicated to St. Regulus/ Rule (old Gaelic Riagal). In Scottish legend, this Greek abbot monk is credited with bringing the bones of the first Apostle, Saint Andrew, founder of the Byzantium Church, from Greece to Scotland.

In 70 AD St. Andrew preaching in the Achaea region of Greece was seized by order of the Roman proconsul at Patras and ordered crucified for preaching against the Gods of Rome. Tradition states, Andrew felt unworthy to die crucified in the same manner as Christ. He was bound to an X shaped cross* with cords and without food or water. Thus he remained preaching the words of Christ for two days until he died. A Christian convert, Maximela had Andrew's body honorably interred where it remained for nearly 200 years.

The exact date of St. Regulus' vision telling him to remove St. Andrew's bones from the crypt and set out with them "to a region towards the east, situate in the utmost part of the world" to prevent their removal to Constantinople, is uncertain. Regulus and his companions were shipwrecked in the 4th century near the bay called Kilrymont on the coast of Fife, Scotland. They and were welcomed by its Pictish King. Regulus established a shrine to St. Andrew in a cave. Later a small church, St. Mary on the Craig was built. By the 6th century St. Coinneach (Kenneth), a companion of St. Columba, founded a Culdee monastery nearby. It was superseded by one of the Augustinian Order. In 1160, twenty years after the town became a royal burgh a Cathedral honouring St. Andrew was founded. **With the historic religious connections to St. Columba (in Glen Urquhart) it follows the Urquharts' ancient Cromarty Castle chapel and burying ground would be dedicated to St. Regulus.**

Devotion to St. Regulus is a very ancient one; his feast day is celebrated on Oct.17 in the Aberdeen Breviary. In addition to the ancient chapel ruins and burying ground in his honour on the "Hill of Cromarty's" firth side there is a church also dedicated to him in the town. It is located on Church Street, Cromarty and is the modern building of the Scottish Episcopal Church of St. Regulus, erected 1904-6. This congregation in his honour began as a Mission parish in 1877 under the auspices of Fortrose.

Note:*Heraldry calls the x cross, the Saltire. It is the symbol on the National Flag of Scotland. Its story appears in the Spring 2012 issue. **References:** **The Book of Saints** A Dictionary of persons canonized or beatified by the Catholic Church compiled by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine Abby, Ramsgate, 5th edition (1966) Thomas Y. Crowell Co .p 602; **The Blue Guides Scotland** 1959 pp.268, 271-271; **The Weekly Scotsman**, Nov. 28, 1963: **Up and Down the Street**, **The Times Picayune**, Oct.2, 1954:Online Sts. Andrew, Regulus, Kenneth,Columba, www.Wikipedia;ReguluswwwAndrewspiritinteractive.net/kids www.catholiorg/saints;www.cushnet.force9.co.uk/CelticEra Saints.