

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNOUNCING

THE VIRGINIA LEE HUTCHESON DAVIS SCOTTISH HERITAGE
RESEARCH AWARD

Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis (1925—2007) was a noted Virginia genealogist, author of 7 significant books and publisher for 12 years of the quarterly magazine *Tidewater Virginia Families*, which carefully documents family lineages and social history in early Virginia.

Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis received the National Genealogical Society national Award for Excellence in 1994 for her book: *Tidewater Virginia Families: A Social and Genealogical History* (Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore). She cherished her Scottish ancestry and devoted extensive effort to identifying the Scottish immigrant ancestor of her father's Hutcheson line. She died before she was able to document the link to his specific place of origin in Scotland, though she had determined that this ancestor arrived in Virginia in the early 1600s.

Mrs. Davis' daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Lee Vliet, said "In honor of my mother's devotion to preserving our Virginia and Scottish heritage, my husband and I are establishing an annual research prize of \$1,000 for the most outstanding research paper documenting genealogical links from Scotland to the United States from 1580 through 1899. We hope this tribute to her enduring contribution to early Virginia genealogy will inspire others to build on her achievements and establish documentation of family links to Scotland."

The first award will be presented at the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg Burns Night in 2009. If there are sufficient submissions of quality, Dr. and Mr. Vliet anticipate publishing in booklet format a selection of papers from each competition. It is their hope that establishing the prize and annual publication in honor of Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis will stimulate interest in searching for and preserving the early links between Scotland and the United States of America, and that the Award will serve as a tribute to Mrs. Hutcheson Davis' spirit of sharing her research to benefit others.

SELECTION PANEL:

Genealogist Joyce Alexander White, formerly with the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C., former Regent of the Williamsburg DAR, and

member of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, will serve as Chairman of the Selection Panel, with genealogist Marion Lukens Brigham of Williamsburg, and Gordon Vliet of Tucson Arizona. The Selection Panel is composed of people who have a background in genealogy, who have studied/worked with Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, recognize her dedication to meticulous documentation, and value her spirit of sharing her research to benefit others.

ELIGIBILITY:

Anyone with an interest in Scottish heritage is eligible to submit a paper of *new, original research* for each year's competition, whether or not they are members of any hereditary society. Please note, however, that previously published material is not eligible and will not be accepted, including material published on the internet.

CRITERIA:

1. Participants should prepare a six to ten page research paper (single-spaced) with endnotes and a complete bibliography, setting forth genealogical information they uncover in their quest that may be helpful to other researchers. The time frame under consideration is from 1580 to 1899. Primary sources should be used whenever possible and carefully documented.
2. Possible areas of research include the following:
 - ◆ Documentation of the path of particular Scottish families from Scotland and/or Northern Ireland to the United States during the historical migrations of the 17th, 18th, and 19th, centuries (such as the Clearances in Scotland or famines in Northern Ireland).
 - ◆ Genealogical documentation related to one's immigrant ancestor that provides an example for other researchers, particularly in regard to sources and methodology.
 - ◆ Identification of genealogical sources in Scotland and/or Northern Ireland (parish records, graveyards, county archives, Sheriff Courts and Town Clerks' Offices, the General Register House in Edinburgh, etc.).
 - ◆ Identification of genealogical sources in the United States that have particularly good materials on Scottish immigration and information on how best to utilize such resources.

- ◆ New information on immigrant patterns of movement, such as passenger lists, names of ships, ports of embarkation, and ports of entry. This should be in narrative form and involve a compilation of numerous sources.
- ◆ Research outlining the use of new methods of DNA analysis to locate Scottish ancestors.

DEADLINE AND FORMAT FOR SUBMISSIONS:

All submissions must be received no later than November 15, 2008.

Authors should send *three* printed copies of the paper, and a CD-ROM containing the complete electronic file in either Microsoft WORD (**97-2002**) or WordPerfect. Submissions in MS Word 2007 formats cannot be accepted at this time. Mail submission packages to Ms. Joyce Alexander White
116 Pinpoint Road,
Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Please send questions or requests for more detailed submission requirements and/or criteria for judging to Ms. Joyce Alexander White at jwhite11@erols.com.