



## The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Winter 2023/2024

### President's Message

February 2024

Lassies and Lads, it is my great pleasure to be addressing you again this year as President of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg.

We had a great Burns Night at Fords Colony. Many thanks to Tim Cordle, our Master of Ceremonies and the Burns Night group for a job well done. We tried a new format, with more modern dance music and most seemed to enjoy themselves. A huge thank you to the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums band for their performance.

Here's a high level of what's planned this year. Our first pub night of the year will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30pm at Anna's Brick Oven. Most of our monthly pub nights will be at Anna's all year, except for April. We will celebrate Tartan Day and this year will be on the actual Tartan Day date of Saturday April 6, The following weekend Kirkin of the Tartans will be on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Christ Church in Weems, VA. More information will follow on both Tartan Day and Kirkin' of the Tartans. Founders Day will follow in early May, the Richmond Highland Games – date to be determined, Saint Andrew's Day in late November, our annual food drive for Grove Christian Outreach, the Fall Kirkin' of the Tartans followed by our Annual General Meeting, and our Christmas ceilidh.

Many thanks to Marshall Thomas, and his son Chris, for maintaining the society website for 20+ years and producing 62 editions of our newsletter *The Spectator*. Marshall and Chris are working on his (Marshall's) business website and are stepping down. Andy McGowan will be our new web master and we have a Communications Committee to continue *The*

*Spectator* and update and maintain the website. The committee members are: Vicki Scott, Jan Hruz, Tami Schumann, Russ Madigan and Andy.

Please invite friends and family to join us in our gatherings and functions. This will increase interest and hopefully new members. With new members comes fresh ideas and energies that will strengthen our goal of preserving Scottish culture for future generations.

Yours Aye,

Jerry Lelansky

Maternal ancestry is Anstruther of that Ilk

### **Grove Christian Outreach, November 30**

On November 30, 2023 a delegation from St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg visited Grove Christian Outreach to make donations for the needy. Each member brought individual donations. Staff greeted us with delight, weighed the contribution, and thanked us heartily. We thanked them for the opportunity to help.





### Williamsburg Christmas Parade, December 3

On December 3 2023 the society attended the Williamsburg Christmas parade, scheduled for 4 to 7 PM. It was a very impressive parade with floats, music, bands, marchers and lots of sponsors. Many spectators attended to watch the colorful parade. Around 5:30 the sun dropped out of the sky and darkness descended over the town. This made photography difficult but Clay McEldowney was marching with the Society and managed to get some good photos before sundown.







### **Christmas Ceilidh at Ford's Colony, December 10**

On Sunday December 10 2023 the society celebrated their Christmas Ceilidh at Ford's Colony Country Club. We all had a jolly good time. Music storytelling, reading and comedy were all in the spirit of Christmas. Several talented musicians played beautiful music for us. The lunch buffet



was delicious and a gift exchange was fun. Tim Cordle made the arrangements and the event was a great success.



**The gang was all there!**

## Burns Supper January 20 2024

On January 20 the Society celebrated its premier yearly event, the Burns Supper, at Ford's Colony Country Club. Robert Burns was Scotland's national poet and lover, and Burns Night is celebrated all over the world. This was a gala affair with 100 guests, lads and lassies in their best highland attire. President Jerry Lelansky recognized several new members. Bob Davis spoke on the Flowers of the Forest, those who departed us in 2023. And the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums raised the roof with inspiring Scottish tunes.

A traditional Scottish supper began with the procession of the Haggis, the address and toast to the Haggis by Robert Lockwood followed by the traditional paying the piper, Lynn Newcomer, with a stiff cup of whisky. (Historical note: The oldest known recipe for Haggis begins: "First, steal a sheep.")

Numerous toasts were offered to a host of deserving people and causes, including the Lassies and the Laddies by Howard and Carolyn Topp. An auction, a raffle and Auld Lang Syne wound up the evening.

Here are a few pix taken at the event.









## Flowers of the Forest

In the last Spectator we noted the recent passing of Nancy Ferguson, an honorary member since 1970. Howard Topp then kindly offered to write up a short article on her based on his memory. Here it is, Thanks, Howard

**Nancy Ruef Ferguson** was the widow of early St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg member COL. John M. Ferguson and mother of former member, the late Mark Ferguson. Nancy passed away earlier this year at the age of 97.

John had graduated from the USMA and been commissioned in 1945, serving as a Field Artillery officer and later as a staff officer in a series of assignments worldwide. As a career Military wife, Nancy joined John and thoroughly enjoyed his military postings around the world. They settled in Williamsburg upon his retirement in 1968, shortly after the founding of our Society.

Nancy frequently and wittily referred to John as "Ian MacFergus," a proper Scottish renaming of her husband's name. She was a highly intelligent person, quick in the perception and understanding of issues or circumstances. She was always a pleasant and properly well-mannered lady ... but always with a humorous twinkle in her eye and a snappy witticism at the ready.

Paul Richie, the second SAS-W president and Nancy would frequently engage in conversations at society social events, filled with friendly and amusing dialog and humorous connotations. Other people would listen in delighted attention to the conversation, enjoying the witty interchanges and snappy responses.

Sep. 13, 2023

## Nancy R Ferguson

Nancy was a Society member since 1970 and will be missed by us all.

Nancy Ruef Ferguson, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away on May 11th, 2023 at the age of 97 in Williamsburg, VA. Nancy was born in New York on August 9th, 1925.



Nancy was a career Military spouse who enjoyed being stationed worldwide an especially in Paris. She had a strong work ethic that she passed down to her children. She lived in Williamsburg since 1968 and was an active member of the community. She attended the Williamsburg Unitarian Church and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1946.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, John M. Ferguson Jr., USMA Class of '45, and her son, J. Mark Ferguson III. She is survived by her Ferguson of Williamsburg, VA, and her grandchildren, Charlie Ball of Wilmington, NC, Adam Ferguson of Williamsburg, VA, and Ian Ferguson of Washington D.C.

Nancy will be remembered as a devoted mother and grandmother who always put her family first. Her kind heart and gentle spirit will be deeply missed by all those who knew her. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to Williamsburg Unitarian Church, 3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



## Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

PO Box 533, Williamsburg, VA 23187

### Application for Membership

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you applying as a new Active Member, or as a Spouse, Son, Daughter, in the same household of a current Active Member, (check one)?

(Active membership is limited to individuals who were born in Scotland or who are lineally descended from a native of Scotland. This is not required for Associate membership.)

Active Member's Name if you are a spouse/son/daughter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools/Colleges: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if not a member): \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Scottish Ancestry: (Not required for Associate Membership.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Clan Affiliation or Membership: (Not required for Associate Membership.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Scottish Interests: (History, Literature, Arts, Clan Affiliation, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character, over the age of 18 years, and is entirely suitable to membership in the Society. Applicant will actively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously any duties undertaken.

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checklist for Membership:

Initial Individual Active Membership in a Household – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)

plus First Year's Dues (\$45.00), Total of \$65.00.

Additional Active Membership within same household – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)

plus First Year's Dues (\$25.00), Total of \$45.00.

Individual Associate Membership – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)

plus First Year's Dues (\$45.00), Total of \$65.00.

NOTE: All memberships are individual and only one applicant per application.

Submit your completed application with address, phone number, and e-mail address to your sponsor or the address above. Include your check made out to "St. Andrews' Society of Williamsburg", as well as a small photograph of yourself suitable for digitization.