



# The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg  
Spring 2015

## President's Message – Spring 2015

Lads and Lassies,

To the Lads and Lassies, distinguished guests, officers and members of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg.

I am honored and humbled to be selected as your new President by my colleagues in the Society and I will do all I can to make the New Year a success for the Society. This will be a true team effort and success depends critically on the active participation of our Board and membership. I appeal to all for your involvement and ideas.

The various Activity Committees maintained by the Society's Board of Directors remain focused on finding or developing Scottish activities that are of interest to the general membership of the Society.

I have been very impressed by our scholarship and grant programs which sponsor deserving students studying Scottish-related subjects. We will continue developing these charitable activities.

One of my personal goals, which I know is shared by the Board members, is to encourage young people to join us older folks to pass on our Scottish heritage and history to future generations. We're not sure what the magic formula is to attract younger members but we are investigating.

Burns Nicht was a wonderful way to begin the year and the event at Fort Magruder was



outstanding thanks to Marshall Thomas and his committee. Tartan Day on April 12 at the Williamsburg Community Building was also a success, as was the Spring Kirking at Historic Christ Church near Kilmarnock on April 19. Don't miss the Mother's Day luncheon in May, a Summer Ceilidh & Picnic, a Fall Kirking at a local church in October/ November; and the Christmas Luncheon in December. Dates and locations will vary. These fun events are great opportunities to meet your Society colleagues in celebration of our Scottish heritage.

We welcome the involvement of both Society Board members and volunteers from the general membership to involve themselves in organizing and assisting with the functions and programs of the Society.

Our Board members and our general membership is composed of immensely talented individuals who have made the Society what it is today and who are shaping what it will become tomorrow.

As for me, with your help I promise I will do my best to serve the Society and its members.

My best wishes to all for 2015.

Yours aye,

Duncan McIver, President

### **Outgoing President's Farewell**

Lads and Lassies of the Society,

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your President for the year 2014. That was a very good year for the Society. I believe one of the best moves I made was early on when I selected Duncan McIver as my Vice President. I could not have successfully guided the Society without his able help. He is now your President and I believe you have a very strong team with Duncan as President, Anne Korff as Vice President, and an enthusiastic Board of Directors.

My thanks and regards to all.

Yours aye,

Marshall S Thomas

## Burns Night

The Society's premier yearly celebration was held on Burns Night, 24 January 2015 at the Fort Magruder Conference Center in Williamsburg. This was an excellent venue with great food, drink and service. Eighty-three members and guests attended clad in their finest highland attire amidst rousing music, wonderful song and plenty of Scottish heritage. Bill Kennedy was master of ceremonies, Doug Boller did a spirited ode to the haggis, and the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums led by Lynn Newcomer raised the roof with their thrilling tunes. Anne Korff spoke on the Immortal Memory, Henry Hancock played a lively accordian, and soprano Judy Olbrych sang lovely songs.

During the celebration the Society Presidency was turned over from Marshall Thomas to Duncan McIver. Duncan did the tribute to the lassies and Terry Kennedy responded with the tribute to the laddies. Toasts were made to the Queen, the President, the Society, Scotland, the land we live in and the troops. The new president acknowledged the new Board of Directors and Scot of the Year Walter Spencer.

It was heart-warming to see all our old friends again. Thanks are due to the Burns Night committee and everyone who helped make the arrangements for this fine evening. Following are some photos. The full album is on the Gallery in the website.



**The Glitterati**



**Turnover from Old to New President**

**Enter the haggis**





**Williamsburg Pipes & Drums**



**Henry Hancock, Judy Olbrych and Anne Korff**



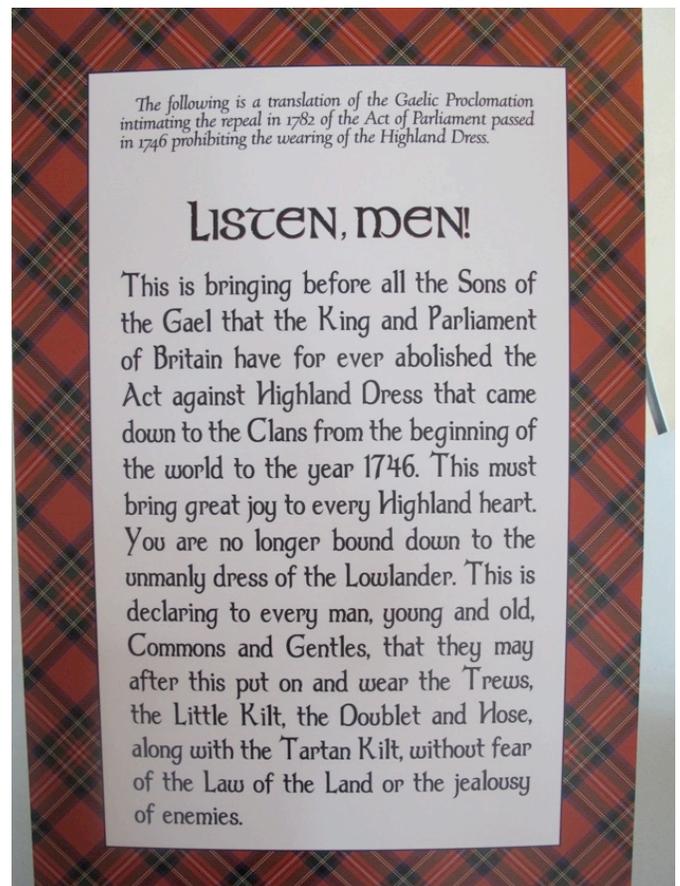
## Tartan Day 2015

The Society celebrated Tartan Day on April 12 in the Williamsburg Community Building with free admission. This was a very nice venue on a cool sunny day, and the event attracted good participation. The musical program included the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums, Arden Clark on the fiddle, Kathy Kasley on the harp and singing, Erin Park dancing and singing, and David Gardner on the Scottish fiddle and singing rousing Scottish songs. The music, songs and dancing were inspiring.

Scottish products were on sale from Scotland House. There were tables featuring information on Scottish history and culture, clans and tartans, musical instruments and genealogy. There were displays of the US Senate Tartan Day resolution, and the Declaration of Arbroath.



**Society President Duncan McIver (left)**





**Arden Clark (above)**

**Erin Park (below)**





**Williamsburg  
Pipes & Drums**



**Kathy Kasley**

**David Gardner**





**Ev Tucker, Erin Park, Doug Boller (above)**



## **Tartan Day and the Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg, Virginia**

An article by Duncan McIver

Each year Scottish organizations around the USA celebrate Tartan Day on or about April 6, which is the date at which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. That declaration declared Scottish independence and served as a model for the US Declaration of Independence in 1776. Tartan Day celebrations in North America were started in 1998, and three resolutions have been signed declaring Tartan Day an official US celebration day. These include resolutions by President George Bush, the House of Representatives, and the US Senate.

Of particular interest to the Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg is the US Senate Resolution 155, which was passed on March 20, 1998, declaring Tartan Day as a national day of observance, as shown in the first photograph below. The document was presented to the College of William and Mary on September 25 to make it available to the public in their Swem Library. The College of William and Mary was chosen to receive the document because of its Scottish origins. James Blair of Aberdeenshire, a graduate of Marischal College in Scotland, received a royal charter in 1693, establishing the College in Williamsburg and naming him as lifetime president. In addition, Thomas Jefferson was greatly influenced by his association and studies at the College of William and Mary, under Dr. William Small, who was also a graduate of Marischal College.

This year the Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg Virginia celebrated Tartan Day on Sunday, April 12 in the Williamsburg Community Building. The large number of visitors enjoyed the display of Tartans, music and dancing, and displays of Scottish culture including a photograph of the Senate Resolution 155 made available by the staff in the Swem library. The next photograph shows Duncan McIver, current President of the Society, holding the Senate Resolution during his visit to the library. The third photograph shows Scots enjoying themselves during this year's Williamsburg celebration.

105th Congress  
2d Session

S. Res. 155

## In the Senate of the United States

March 20, 1998

**Whereas** April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320 and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on that inspirational document;

**Whereas** this resolution honors the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, Scottish Americans successfully helped shape this country in its formative years and guide this Nation through its most troubled times;

**Whereas** this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts;

**Whereas** this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success; and

**Whereas** these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Senate designates April 6 of each year as—

**“National Tartan Day”.**



Attest:

*Gary Sines*

Secretary.



## Kirking of the Tartans

Members of the Society of Williamsburg travelled to Weems, Virginia on April 19 to celebrate the Kirking of the Tartans in the historic Christ Church. Bob Davis organized the Saint Andrews Color Guard that included Matt Robertson, Lynn Newcomer, Douglas Boller, and Duncan McIver. Davis and the color guard led the Kilmarnock and District Pipes and Drums in a beautiful and moving procession into the church. In front of a full church, the Color Guard placed the flags in their stands in the church and moved to their pews. The Reverend Clay Macaulay, Pastor, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Reverend David H. May, Rector Grace Episcopal Church provided an excellent Tartan Day service, including the important presentation and blessing of the Tartans with the prayer - "On behalf of all Scots away from Scotland, we present these Tartans before Almighty God and ask his blessing on these his servants." The Saint Andrews Color Guard led the processional out of the church followed by the Pipes and Drums. It was a beautiful day and a reception was held for all attendees beginning about 10:30 am and the service started at 12:30. Others members in attendance for this wonderful Tartan Day was Michael Thompson and his wife, and wives of the Saint Andrews Color Guard. The church is located at 420 Christ Church Road in Weems, VA 22576







## **Great News from Sarah McCaslin**

One of the Society's favorite students recently contacted Ev Tucker with some wonderful news. Here is her letter:

Dear Mr. Tucker,

It has been way too long since I gave you and the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg an update. I truly apologize for that.

I recently successfully defended my PhD. It took a while for them to schedule a defence, so I have been finished writing for quite a while. To my surprise, I passed with no corrections! This is extremely rare, and a great honor. They also encouraged me to turn the dissertation into a book, so I am now working on putting together a proposal to send to publishers.

I wanted to wait until everything was officially completed before I sent you a copy. I will be receiving hardbound copies of the work from the printer soon, and I plan to send you one. The support that I have received from the SAS-W has been amazing. I definitely could not have completed this without you.

I also have excellent news. My soon-to-be husband (our wedding date is 25 April!) just received word that he has been offered a tenure-track position as a Professor of British Imperial History at the United States Naval Academy. This means that we will be moving to Maryland in January. I would love to attend many more SAS-W events, if you will have me. I am very excited to be so close!

Please let everyone know that I am thinking of you all. I really can't express how wonderful your support has been.

With kindest regards,  
Sarah

## **Save the Date**

On Saturday, May 9, Society members are invited to a luncheon honoring mothers and wives of members. The event will be held at the Fat Tuna Restaurant in Williamsburg. Anne Korff and Sherri Elmore are co-hostesses. Further details will be made available in April.



# Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

## Application for Membership

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

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Scottish Interests – (History, Literature, Arts, Clan Affiliation etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Clan Affiliation or Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character, over the age of 21 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 Membership in a Household– Initiation (\$20.00) plus First Year's Dues (\$40.00). Total of \$60.00.

Additional Membership within same household – Initiation (\$20.00) plus First Year's Dues (\$20.00). Total of \$40.00.

Your check made out to: St. Andrews' Society of Williamsburg

A Small Photograph of you suitable for digitization.

Completed Application with address, phone number and e-mail address included.

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