



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg
Fall/Winter 2015

President's Message – Fall/Winter 2015

Lads and Lassies,

Rather than the regular quarterly President's message, what follows is the 2015 State of the Society Message that I gave at the Annual General Meeting. I would, however, like to add a couple of additional comments.

1. In terms of memberships, we had a banner year and added 19 new enthusiastic and impressive members to our Society. Thanks to all current members who were active and successful in bringing in these new members. We also modified the By Laws to add a new category of Associate Membership for those who are interested in Scottish History and our Society, but who are not directly descended from a native of Scotland. We also plan to explore student membership in 2016 as another step to increase our membership.
2. At the December Board Meeting we elected an outstanding slate of officers for 2016: President – Sherri Elmore; Vice President – John Mott Robertson; Secretary – Michael Thompson; and Treasurer – Douglas Burns. Previously, we had selected Wayne Craigmiles as our new Quartermaster.

2015 State of the Society Talk by the President

St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg Annual General Membership Meeting

November 15, 2015

Lads and Lassies,

The State of the Society report is meant to update the Society's membership on meaningful developments during the past year. Shortly we will be voting on important revisions to our bylaws, and to elect four new Board members who will take office in January 2016. This is the purpose of the Annual General Membership meeting. However, before we go on to sample the merits of the Scotch whiskies that await us, let us briefly review developments in 2015.

We saw plenty of action this year, and it is due to the energy and can-do spirit of our board of Directors and all the members who helped them and all the attendees at Society events during 2015. The year began with our gala Burns Night on January 24. This is always our best-attended event. Do you remember Douglas Boller and his exciting Toast to the Haggis, the outstanding Chairmanship of Bill Kennedy, the wonderful music from our Pipe band and singers, and great social interaction of all attendees? It was an unforgettable experience. The array of talent that paid homage to the immortal Rabbe Burns was very impressive.

We went on to celebrate Tartan Day April 6 at the Williamsburg Community Building, led by Mott Robertson. It was a lovely spring day full of music, song, dancing, and warm comradeship. Kathy Kasley delighted us with her singing and harp playing. Dave Gardner gave us a great violin concert. Our student scholarship grantee Erin Park visited and entertained us with song and dance. Douglas Boller led a terrific group of our Society members in a spirited eightsome reel. Our booths included the Genealogy Society of Tidewater and the Scotland House in Williamsburg.

On April 19 a Society delegation, led by Robert Davis attended the Kirking of the Tartans at Historic Christ Church in Kilmarnock, sharing our Scottish heritage with other regional Scottish organizations and with the public.

We had a wonderful Mothers Day luncheon on May 9 at the Fat Tuna thanks to Anne Corff. The service, food, and party atmosphere were terrific.

In July it was the Family Picnic and Ceilidh at Queens Lake Clubhouse led by Sherri Elmore The Society displayed a dazzling array of musical talent and served a delicious barbecue lunch. We introduced new members and presented them with Certificates and Name Badges. One of our new members, Holly Yohe, gave a great presentation on her observations of Scotland.

Also in July the Society sponsored an attendee for the Gaelic Song and Language Week at Lees McRae College in North Carolina. Your President also attended and it was a fun and learning week.

In September the Society hosted a luncheon at the Golden Horseshoe Golf Grill and our talented member Holly Yohe, gave a terrific presentation on her and husband Skip's time when they lived in Scotland. The rain forced us to cancel the Lawn Bowling event and we working with the Director Bill Bryant to reschedule in the spring.

This year has again been a very busy one for your Scholarship Grant Committee! Using the new procedures developed in 2013 have helped the Committee to more accurately evaluate requests and thus ensure we only support the more qualified and deserving applicants. Before I go further, let me THANK the members of the Society who kindly made a donation to the Fund earlier this year. It is due to your support that our grant program had the necessary funds to support deserved students. In 2015 we approved five grants; Erin Park - MA Degree at Glasgow University, Brianna Girimont - BA Degree at Randolph-Macon College, Katelyn Wilmer - MA Degree at St. Andrews University, Barbara Rice – Gaelic Studies, and Andrew O'Donnihaille – PhD at Cambridge. Andrew later notified us that he would not be accepting our grant as he had obtained a full scholarship. This year's grants represent a very significant contribution by our Society to Scottish history, culture and traditions.

Some of you just attended the Fall Kirking of the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and so here we are at the Annual General Meeting. We had a wonderful AGM last year here at the same Windsor Forest Club House thanks to Wayne Craigmiles. We did some serious business dealing with the Constitution and Bylaws and will do more today. We will also elect new Board members and thanks to Robert Davis for chairing our Nominating committee. We recognized the Scot of the Year, Walter Spencer. We also had a fun filled whiskey tasting, which we are repeating today, and thanks to Jack Kane for his leadership.

Our next event will be the December Luncheon, and under the leadership of Douglas Boller we have developed some detailed plans for the January 2016 Burns Night.

And I would like to extend a special thanks to Marshall Thomas for his excellent photographs of each event and for his development and publishing of the Society website and the Spectator newsletter.

Perhaps most important, we continue our efforts to grow the Society. Total membership is now 126, including life, active, and honorary members. We've welcomed 16 new members since January. Our student grant recipients are doing fine, and briefing us regularly on their activities. Our goals for 2016 will include growing the Society further by reaching out to the general public through publicizing our activities and making them relevant to the younger generation. It is critical that we pass on our Scottish heritage to future generations. We have a strong new team to do this and I have full confidence in them.

I would like to thank all members of our fine Society for their attendance and support but especially to our other Officers: Anne Corff, Vice President; Frances Holt, Secretary; and Ev Tucker, Treasurer, and Quartermaster Byron Adams. And I would give a special thanks to the Board members who will be completing their outstanding work this year, Anne and Arthur Corff, Ev Tucker, and Dave Lowery.

Thank you. Duncan McIver, President

Fall Kirking and Annual General Meeting

The Society's Fall Kirking of the Tartans was held at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on November 15. The church was full and the Society was well represented. The Williamsburg Pipes and Drums led the procession into the church. The presentation of tartans was inspiring. Pastor John Morgan, Associate Pastor Rachel Hebert and Covenant Pastor Harold McKeithen conducted the service. The Williamsburg Presbyterian Church is always positive and enthusiastic about the kirking. Following the service, Williamsburg Pipes and Drums conducted a sidewalk concert to the delight of all.

Here is the prayer that Pastor Morgan presented for the kirking:

Blessing of the Tartans

Almighty God, who did command the tribes of Ancient Israel to pitch their tents beneath the standards and ensign of their parents, and who set over your holy church the banner of the Cross of Christ: let your blessing rest upon all tartans set before you today. Bless all families who claim a tartan as their own and keep them

loyal to the standards to which their tartans represent and faithful in their love and service to Christ and his Kirk; through the same Jesus Christ our lord unto whom with you, O God, and the Holy Spirit, be all power and majesty both now and forevermore. Amen

After the Kirking, Society members drove to Windsor Forest Clubhouse for the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Much was accomplished during this meeting. A tasty meal was served, new members were welcomed, President Duncan Mciver reported on the State of the Society (see above), and votes were conducted for new members of the Board of Directors and for proposed changes to the by laws and dues schedule. The conversation about some of the changes was spirited, which is what happens when you ask Scots to spend more money. However there was no disagreement about the choice for Scot of the Year: Kathy Kasley, who has done so much for the Society.

The AGM concluded with a whiskey tasting.

At the Kirking (below)





**Williamsburg Pipes & Drums, sidewalk concert outside the church (above)
The AGM at Windsor Forest (below)**





Phil Magruder & Howard Topp, founding fathers of the Society, with current Society President Duncan McIver, at the AGM

Society Christmas Luncheon at the Fat Tuna Grill

On December 19 SAS held its Christmas Luncheon at the Fat Tuna Grill and Oyster House on Richmond Road. It was close to standing room only as Society members showed up en masse, but we all found tables. This was a wonderful, exciting and enthusiastic event. It seemed like almost everyone showed up, and the food and drinks were excellent. Anne Korff and Jan Spencer sang Christmas songs, joined by the guests, and a door prize and gift exchanges kept everyone entertained. Attendees wore their best highland attire, with colorful party hats as a bonus. Sherri Elmore was announced as the new Society President with Mott Robertson as Vice President. Our thanks to all who organized this excellent function.



Eileen & Dave Lowery (left), Sherri Elmore with Joe & Joanne Colur (below)



Bob & Claudette Davis (below)





Sing-along (Anne & Jan)

Gift exchange



See the website gallery for more pix.

New St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg Logo

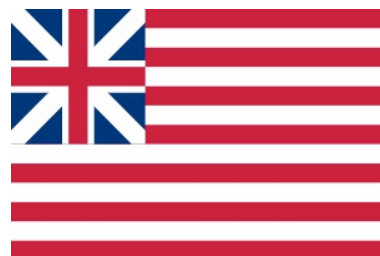
A note from Bob Davis about the new SASW logo.

Hello members,

Duncan asked me to forward some information about the new logo and what the Board was trying to accomplish. It all started when Byron told Duncan that the Society didn't have any Past-President medals left, the ones that we give to any out-going Society President. Duncan came to me to try and find a source of re-supply. I went to three different suppliers for quotes. During the search, Anne Kroft requested that we should do something additional for our "Scot-of-the-year" up and above the plaque. She thought it would be nice to create a special lapel pin that would add distinction to the honor.

With all of this in mind, I discussed with Duncan about the possibility of making a small change to our current logo. My thought was that the use of the "Rampant Lion" was the personal property of the Queen of England. I had remembered that some years ago the SAS of Washington DC applied for their Arms from the Lord Lyon and were told that they would have to remove the Rampant Lion from their logo before approval could be granted, they did and it was approved. So, if it was appropriate for them it should be for us. My thought was that if we make a change it should tie our Scottish heritage with our own history. That's how I came up with the idea of replacing the Queens flag with the colonial "Grand Union" flag. It flies all over Colonial Williamsburg, mainly on the Capital and Palace. On holidays, it lines some of the streets. It's a symbol of the city but much more than that. Please read the below information about the flag, it's about the best write up I have found. Not only is the flag historical but it links the Colonies with the sentiments of those wishing to stay connected with England and Scotland.

THE GRAND UNION FLAG



This flag, often alternately called:

**THE CONGRESS COLORS or THE FIRST NAVY ENSIGN or THE
CAMBRIDGE FLAG**

was authorized by the Second Continental Congress in 1775. In the latter part of that year the delegates to the Congress realized the need for a unique symbol of the unity of the 13 American colonies. A committee was appointed late that year to consider such a symbol of unity in a unique standard, or flag. The committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Benjamin Harrison (Virginia) and Thomas Lynch (South Carolina). The three men did their homework, consulting with revolutionary leaders like George Washington but not ignoring the many Colonial leaders who were opposed to separation from Great Britain. The resulting Grand Union Flag may have been one of the first examples of compromise in the development of a new United States. Designed by Francis Hopkinson who later was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Colonies' new flag incorporated both trains of prevailing political thought:

1. Thirteen alternating red and white stripes comprised the body of the new flag to symbolize the uniqueness and unity of the 13 American colonies. The development of a whole new flag further symbolized a degree of their attitude towards independence.
2. The field of blue in the upper corner of the flag included the British Union Jack, consisting of the cross of St. George of England and the cross of St. Andrew of Scotland. By basically including a miniature British flag in the design of the new Colonial Flag, the committee was appealing to the wishes of many colonial leaders to repair and maintain their relationship with Great Britain.

Members of the Second Continental Congress considered this new symbol of the 13 American Colonies to be the CONGRESS COLORS. On January 1, 1776 General George Washington's troops raised their new flag on the liberty pole at Prospect Hill near the American General's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For this reason it became known by many as the CAMBRIDGE FLAG. General Washington preferred to call it the GRAND UNION FLAG, a title that quickly caught on among his soldiers and then others throughout the colonies. Actually this first United States Flag was first seen flying from the masts of the Colonial fleet on the Delaware River late in 1775 and before it was raised at Prospect Hill. On December 3, 1775 a young Navy lieutenant named John Paul Jones raised the new Congress Colors aboard Captain Esek Hopkins flagship *Alfred*. Thus to many, it became the FIRST NAVY ENSIGN. Ironically, this

flag was also the flag of the British East India Company. It was the official flag of the 13 American Colonies on July 4, 1776 when they declared independence from England. It was this same flag that represented the free and independent people of the Colonies on September 9, 1776 when Congress gave their new nation a name, the "United States". The famous "Washington Crossing the Delaware" painting created by Emanuel Leutze in 1851 aside, it was probably this flag that crossed the river with General George Washington and his men. For almost the entire first year of the American Revolution, the Grand Union Flag was the ensign of the struggling new "United States".

With the SAS's Board approval, the new Past-President medal was changed to this design with matching neck ribbon:



The medal is given to each out-going SAS President but may be sold to any SAS Past President for \$30.00 each. The decision of the SAS Board was that we should create a lapel pin for each SOTY, no charge, but the same pin can be sold to each current or former Board Member for their service for \$5.00 each:



The SAS Board also decided to create a membership badge, 1.5" dia., with the new logo for sale to all members for \$10.00 each:



We sold a lot of the badges and lapel pins at the board meeting and the Christmas Party. I will be set up to sell them again at Burn's Night, after that I will turn the inventory over to either the Secretary or Treasurer. We will also be selling the Society's rosette and older lapel pin. I think Duncan would agree that the old logo will still be used until all inventories are depleted or the Society decides to change them out.

Yours aye,

Bob

Update from Erin Park

Dear Members of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg,

I just wanted to send you an update on my summer and beginning of third year at University of Glasgow. This summer I spent at home in Pennsylvania, working at a local coffee shop and as a volunteer intern at People's Light, a local professional theatre. I continued competing in highland dancing, including traveling to US Nationals in Atlanta Georgia to support my younger sister who represented the Eastern Region!



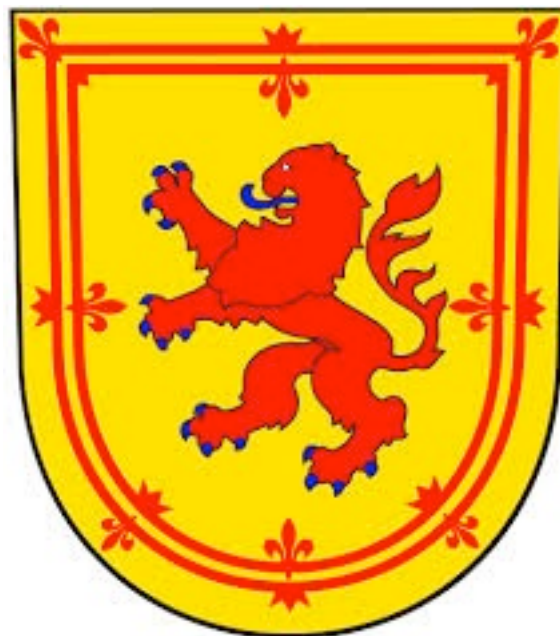
I have just finished the seventh week of the first semester of my honors years. I am currently enrolled in two courses for English Language: Sociolinguistics and Digital Humanities, and two courses for Gaelic: The Gaelic Novel and Language Skills. I am very much enjoying all of these courses and the increased emphasis on self-directed learning. In the second semester I will have a project in both my English Language courses that will give me an opportunity to conduct in-depth research in an area of my choice. Even though it is only the start of third year, I am gearing up for my dissertation in fourth year and have started thinking of the many different possibilities for research topics.

In addition to academics, I am very involved in the Gaelic scene on campus this

year. I am living in the University's Gaelic language residency scheme with two other girls, both from Inverness. We speak Gaelic together, which has provided me with a lot of day-to-day exposure to the language. We will also be heavily involved in promoting Gaelic on campus through events, language campaigns, and informal gatherings. We are currently developing a blog focused on Gaelic-speaking young people and are working on a short film to be submitted to the nationwide Gaelic short film competition FilmG. In addition, I am the Treasurer for the University's Gaelic society and have been working closely with the president to run our annual literature competition. I currently hold two babysitting jobs for Gaelic-speaking families, which is another great opportunity to improve my Gaelic skills. It's certainly been a busy year so far, and I've been enjoying every minute of it! Thank you so much for all your support; I would not be able to take advantage of these opportunities without St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg!

All the best to the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg,

Erin Park





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.