



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Spring/Summer 2021

President's Message

Lads and Lassies,

As 2021 draws to a close, we can reflect back on our society's perseverance and determination to successfully weather COVID health threats and restrictions and return to our normal schedule of gatherings and fellowship. This ability to, without complaint, confidently face adversarial conditions and emerge stronger, is a well-established Scottish trait. As we restarted our events and meetings, I noted that the traditional bonds of friendship, laughter and spirited conversations had not been diminished by COVID's temporary interruption, but returned invigorated.

The program next year, 2022, will be planned with many exciting events, starting with our traditional Burns Night celebration at Double Tree. The schedule of various activities throughout the year offers many opportunities for our members to participate, have fun and enjoy their Scottish heritage. The new members who have recently joined bring fresh new ideas and energies to grow and enhance the society's objectives of celebrating and promoting the unique culture from Scotland.

Thank you for the honor of being your president of St Andrews Society of Williamsburg for the year 2021.

Do Sheirbhiseach
(Your Servant)

Edward Matheson

Founder's Day, May 15, 2021

On May 15 the Society celebrated Founder's Day on the anniversary of the Society, founded in 1968. The luncheon event was held in the grand ballroom of the Colonial Heritage County Club and was well attended (53 guests). The event was a great success with several speakers recalling the history of the Society, and bagpipe music from Williamsburg Pipes and Drums. The luncheon was tasty, the music was great, and a good time was had by all. Below are some photos taken at the event. Please see the website Gallery for all photos.

Douglas Boller spoke on the history of St. Andrew's Societies. Here is a summary of his remarks:

There are well over 200 associations worldwide related to Scottish interests. Almost 80 are called St Andrew's Societies – in Brazil, Japan, Russia etc., etc. There are also many Caledonian Societies. Of these associations USA has the most, 108, with England second at 33. Farther outliers are e.g. Abu Dhabi, Beijing and Bangkok.

The oldest St Andrew's Society is Charleston, SC, (1729 where Scottish descent founders celebrated November 30th by setting up a Society “ to help others in need”. They were followed by Philadelphia (1747), and New York (1756). So many thousands of Scots emigrated to British N. America, parts became surrogate Scottish colonies, especially the Carolinas, Georgia, and the Chesapeake. Emigrants were mainly professional and business people, merchants and planters. The excellent Scotland educational system produced many younger men targeting the opportunities of N. America; they were followed by less wealthy sort. The former established the St Andrew's Societies to help the less fortunate in the New World. Later on emigration from Scotland to N. America substantially increased with Scotland easily the emigration capital of Europe. There were many complex reasons in addition to the Highland Clearances and potato famines. The paradox is that while Scotland was economically very successful, from later 19th century there was huge emigration from cities, towns and rural Lowlands. Half of this number went to USA, many through Canada.

With the arrival of so many often distressed Scots families, the St Andrew's Societies were key to their survival and social progress by providing charitable and educational assistance. With fewer Scots immigrants in need, Societies now focus more on scholarship programs, some quite generous, while continuing promotion of social activities like ceilidhs, Tartan Balls and Kirking of the Tartans. All celebrate Tartan Day, and pay homage to The Bard. University of Glasgow's new Centre for Burns Studies reports 2,500 Burns Suppers planned in 150 countries.



The gang's all here





The Queen also attended.

Post Pandemic Pub Night Gathering June 24

Kilts, shorts, seersucker slacks, dresses and skirts adorned laddies and lassies at the first Pub Night of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg since the lifting of Virginia's COVID restrictions this past May. The venue was new – Revolution Golf in High Street. Over 30 assembled June 24 for conversation, good drink, food and golf for some, not to mention the wonderful kitchen, wait and bar service staff which was excellent.

Pub Night July 23.

Great fun, good company, excellent drink and food. All was well. Great Scot! The event was at the Revolution Golf in New Town. Please see the photos below by Michael Thompson.



Pub Night September 23

More fun, food and adult beverages at the Revolution Golf & Grille.
Photos by Michael Thompson.



Pub Night October 28

On October 28 the Society celebrated Halloween with a costume party at Revolution Golf and Grille. About 30 guests attended and a wild time was had by all. We had ordered 30 sausage biscuits which was a Scottish Halloween tradition, Holly Yohe prepared a fun Halloween game, and there was a bit about other traditions including the burning of one's nuts as a predictor of how one's marriage would be

All the costumes were creative, but Doug and Ana Burns was tops. One couple came as Deviled Eggs, another a skeleton, another as an M&M, another as Cat in the Hat, another as an attendee at a Zoom meeting and another in a flight suit. The event was fun and funny.

Text and photos by Michael Thompson.





Flowers of the Forest

Jim White

August 12, 1937 – April 22, 2021

James H. (Jim) White of Williamsburg passed away on April 22, 2021 surrounded by his family. He lived a full life of love, service, and generosity of spirit.

Jim was born in Mineral Wells, Texas on August 12, 1937. After graduating from Walter Williams High School in Burlington, North Carolina, where he was an Eagle Scout, he joined the cadet corps at Virginia Tech. While working a summer job in college at a church camp in North Carolina, he met his soulmate, Joyce Alexander White. Jim and Joyce were married on August 27, 1960 at Central



Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, where Joyce's father, Theron Alexander, was the senior minister. Following graduation from Virginia Tech, Jim taught at Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, Virginia, for a year during which time his daughter Elizabeth White was born.

Jim then entered the Army, joining the 2nd Armored Division (Signal Corps), and was stationed in Germany, where Jim's daughter Wendelin White Silliman (Wendy) was born. During this time, Jim received a citation for his work as electronic warfare officer for the entire U.S. Army, Europe.

In 1968, Jim left the Army as a captain to work in civil service for the Naval Electronic Systems Command in Portsmouth. Then in 1972, Jim and his family moved into the home they built in Kingspoint in Williamsburg, and Jim began work for the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, later being promoted to Division Chief of Acquisition Division for New Mines which entailed extensive travel throughout the world. While there, he designed high-powered antenna and transmitter sites for the Navy that were used in Canada, Iceland, Scotland, the Azores, Spain, Italy, and Sicily.

He helped design the communications system used in the congressional bunker at the Greenbrier in West Virginia and assisted with a wide range of pressing military safety situations all over the world. When the Russians raked a US vessel in the Black Sea, he led a team sent to the ship to ensure the safety of the vessel and the servicemen onboard. His career culminated with his eleven-year appointment as the US Navy Electronic Safety Officer, leading the US delegation to NATO for Safety in Brussels, three times. This appointment required relocation to Arlington, although they often travelled back to Williamsburg.

Jim and Joyce attended Bruton Parish Church where they taught Sunday School and led the Youth Group and Jim served on the vestry, including as Senior Warden. He celebrated his Scottish heritage as a past president and member of the St. Andrews Society where he helped organize events like the Williamsburg Scottish Festival and the Allison McCall Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in memory of his niece, Allison McCall. He was proud to receive the "Scot of the Year" Award.

Jim worked his way through college taking professional photographs and for decades operated a small camera business. The house he and Joyce built in Kingspoint included a camera workshop and darkroom. He helped coach the Navy's tennis team during his time in Northern Virginia and played tennis well into his 70's. He also attended yoga classes and the year he turned 80 years old, Jim became his daughter Elizabeth's oldest and most enthusiastic yoga student.

Jim and Joyce loved celebrating Christmas. In their retirement, they began a tradition of decorating a Christmas tree for each of their two children and five grandchildren eventually resulting in a total of 10 decorated trees each year. After Joyce's death in 2013, Jim continued this "Festival of Trees" which was chronicled in Williamsburg Neighbor Magazine in 2019.

A loving husband, father, grandfather, public servant, patriot, leader, and friend, Jim's life touched so many people. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021 in the courtyard of Bruton Parish Church at 1pm. Due to COVID restrictions, a family-only reception will be held following the ceremony.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce, who died in 2013. He is survived by his two daughters, Elizabeth L. White (Dean) of Williamsburg, Virginia and Wendelin White Silliman (Todd) of Atlanta, Georgia; five grandchildren (Ashley Butler, Alexa Yowell, Sarah Short, Alexander Silliman, and Margaret Silliman); great granddaughter, Blair Yowell (born on his birthday); and sister Jeanette Lou White Ayers.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that anyone desiring to make a donation in Jim's memory do so to either Bruton Parish Church, P.O. Box 3520, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-3520 (www.brutonparish.org) or Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway, Williamsburg VA 23188 (www.williamsburghospice.org).

Byron Adams

Lt. Col. Byron Alexander Adams, 79 of Williamsburg, Virginia passed away on August 18, 2021 after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

Born and raised in Bath, NY, Byron is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary G. Adams, four daughters, Janet (Hughes) Waren of Wilmington, NC, Hilary (Dan) Smalley of Annapolis, MD, Flora Mays, of Fort Mill, SC, and Mary (Paul) Wilcox, of Williamsburg, VA, sister Guila Adams Armstrong of Bath, NY, brother Robert S. Adams of Toronto Canada, and 11 grandchildren; Marshall and Griffith Waren, Jessie, Matthew, and Abby Wynne, Adalyn and Isabelle Smalley, and Porter, Islay, Virginia, and Mary Grace Mays. Byron was predeceased by his brother Dan Adams, and parents Robert Adams, and Guila Porter Adams.



Byron received his undergraduate and Law School degrees from The University of Arkansas. He served four years active duty at Keesler AFB, passing five bar exams during that time. He then was appointed a JAG Air

Force reserve officer, retiring as Lt. Col. after 31 years. Byron settled in Williamsburg, VA, and practiced law for 42 years. He was an avid marathon runner, having completed 129 marathons in all 50 states, and Canadian Provinces as well as Scotland and England. He was a member of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, and celebrated his Scottish heritage through being a member of the St. Andrew's Society. Byron was devoted to his family and enjoyed his trips with his daughters to Hawaii, the west coast, Iceland and other parts of Europe.

Byron's celebration of life will be held at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Richmond Road at 11AM on Saturday, August 28th, 2021 (masks required), with a burial and reception following. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](#). In memory of Byron, he would want you to lace up your running shoes and take a jog in his honor.

Bucktrout Funeral Home is assisting the family.





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.