



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg
Spring 2012

President's Message

Lads and Lassies,

Well, here we are at the end of May having experienced a most unusual warm winter and early spring only to be brought back to our senses by a cold snap and then more wonderfully pleasant weather. Strange weather indeed.

Equally strange is the fall off in Society participation at the various events held since December, 2011. The Williamsburg Christmas Parade, Burns night 2012, Tartan Day, the Robert Burns Association of North America conference, and the Spring Kirking at Historic Christ Church were not very well attended. A most encouraging reversal in this trend was the attendance at the Spring Luncheon held at Colonial Heritage and featuring guest speaker Cliff Neilson.

Please keep our events in mind and mark your calendars for the remainder of the year. Fall Luncheon, Fall Kirking, December Luncheon, possibly the Williamsburg Christmas Parade, and the 2013 Burns Night should all offer pleasant times. Also, still in the planning stage is a monthly social time to be held at an area tavern. This would be a time to enjoy refreshments and companionship with other Society members as well as potentially attract new members. Details to follow.

Marshall has a jam-packed edition of The Spectator for our enjoyment. Articles on things Scottish as well as reviews and photographs of recent Society events and articles submitted by Society members. Please continue the article submissions to Marshall and enjoy this edition of our very fine Spectator.

Yours Aye,
Harold Maxwell



Tartan Day

On Saturday March 31 SAS celebrated Tartan Day in York County's Tabb Library. The Tidewater Genealogical Society and Walker's Shortbread Ltd. participated in the event. Over 125 guests attended this very successful free event to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage. There were tables sponsored by our Society, the Tidewater Genealogical Society and the Virginia Celtic Gathering and Highland Games. Society President Harold Maxwell manned a table on genealogy research and a table for looking up your Scottish roots. There was also a table by Clan MacGregor. Joyce White and Kathy Kasley played the harp and the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums played outside to welcome visitors. Lynn Newcomer also played the bagpipe solo inside. Visitors very much enjoyed the film showing; "Finding your Scottish Roots", "The Shape of the Country," and "Most Common Scottish Surnames." Guest Speaker Cliff Nelson spoke on "The Scots-Irish Connection." Walker's shortbread donated shortbread cookies that were well received. Anne Korff and the committee did an excellent job of organizing this enjoyable event.



The Williamsburg Pipes & Drums at Tartan Day



**Williamsburg Pipes & Drums at Tabb Library (above)
Anne Korff presents President Maxwell with some excellent Walker's shortbread**





Lynn Newcomer



Joyce White

Kirking of the Tartans



On Sunday April 22 the Society gathered at Historic Christ Church in Irvington for the Kirking of the Tartans. For the first time in many years it rained during our visit to Irvington, so it provided a good Scottish flavor as we enjoyed the rain and cool weather. The service by the Rev. Clay Macaulay and Rev Anne Lane Witt was inspiring. The Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band piped in the Society color guard

and the tartans were presented and blessed during the service. The Grace Episcopal Choir sang like angels. The pipe band later conducted a well attended outside concert in the shelter of a covered walkway as the rain continued. Christ Church is always inspiring, rain or not. Our thanks to all who made the event a success.



SAS members and guests in the visitors center before the Church service





Visitors Center (above)

Enter the color guard (left)

Pipers in place (below)





Pipers (above)

Color Guard (below)



Spring Luncheon

On May 26 SAS gathered for its Spring Luncheon at the Colonial Heritage Club. The lunch was well attended and featured guest speaker Cliff Neilson who talked on things that not many people knew about the Scots, the Scots-Irish, and family history, which has very little to do with genealogy. Cliff's address was a fascinating historical tour of the origins, similarities and differences between the Scots and the Scots-Irish.

Everyone in the room departed wiser than when they had arrived, except perhaps for Cliff himself. The Society was fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker. The luncheon was a terrific success and we thank Jim and Joyce White and our MC Anne Korff and everyone else who helped arrange it.

The ladies share wisdom on dealing with husbands





Cliff Neilson (right) talks about Scots, Scots-Irish and family history.





SAS members enjoy the gathering. The unusual electric hat worn by your editor (bottom, right) is an old highland tradition.



Saint Andrew's University and the Scottish Heritage Center



I never knew there was a four-year university in North Carolina that emphasized Scottish heritage and appears to have very impressive scholarly credentials. Please see the following websites. Jim White passed this info to me and it is fascinating.

<http://www.sapc.edu/aboutsa/quickfacts.php>

<http://www.sapc.edu/shc/shc/index.php>

Scottish Independence?



There are current moves underway that may lead to full independence for Scotland. Prior to 1707, Scotland was a free country, then was persuaded to choose union with England with the promise that union would lead to prosperity for Scotland. The

Spectator is not taking an editorial stand on this issue. Let's hope the Scottish people make the right choice. Please see the article in the Washington Post:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/scotland-moves-toward-vote-on-independence/2012/02/20/gIQAE71qaR_story.html?hpid=z2

Burns Nicht 2013

Don't miss Burns Nicht 2013. It is going to be quite a production. Below is a pix of the band that will perform for us: the DOG Street Rhythm Kings!



Wisdom from Anne Korff

LOOK FOR HIDDEN GEMS OF HISTORY IN EDINBURGH

by Anne Korff, FSA, SCOT

Although my husband Arthur and I have been to Scotland more than 27 times in the past 25 years, we still find something new to explore in Edinburgh each time we visit.

It is a delight to walk past what one considers a familiar sight and to look at it from a different angle which reveals something completely new.

We are going to share one such delight with you. The gardens along Princess Street in Edinburgh are well-known to visitors and residents. From the Street level one can gaze across a broad terrace of flowers along gently sloping banks leading down to the rail tracks which connect Edinburgh and Glasgow.

If one looks up, Edinburgh Castle towers above all and captures attention. Here and there monuments or statues take their place among the flowers and it is tempting to think you have seen it all with this vision.

You will learn, however, that there is more to the gardens than meets the eye from street level. Walk along the pathways in the terraced gardens and you will see that although the paths parallel the street above, they give you a different perspective. The sounds of the busy street become muffled. Comfortable benches invite you to sit and savor the aromas and sights.

On one corner, there will be a huge clock built into the terraced space and made entirely of flowers. On the face of the clock there will be a message of significance for that particular year -- perhaps the queen's jubilee or an anniversary of a famous battle.

Keep walking along the terraced paths on two different levels and look at the retaining walls as you go. One our personal favorite unexpected sights along the way is a moving tribute to the Scottish Soldiers.

Behind the statue of a mighty kilted soldier whose face expresses weariness but pride there is a wall of relief sculpture that illustrates the spirit of the Scotsmen. Over the space of 20 or more feet in length, the stone carving tells the story of men who were seamen, farmers, laborers or day workers. You see their transformation as they learn to bear arms, assume uniforms and become a mighty kilted fighting force that defending their nation in World Wars. The longer you gaze at the memorial, the more detail you will see and the greater your appreciation for this and other historical gems often hidden in plain sight in Edinburgh Scotland.



The Korff granddaughters at the Soldiers Monument in Edinburgh

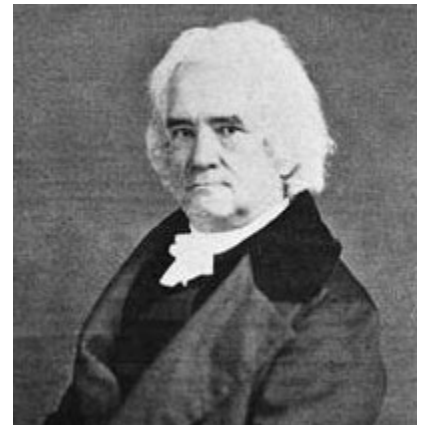
Great Scot!

Kathy Kasley sent me this article from the Scotsofchicago blog. Our thanks to Kathy and to Scotsofchicago.

Dallas, Texas

Named for a Great Scot

The Dallas family has a long distinguished record in Scotland and America. For several hundred years this family had been active in Scottish public life. The first Dallas arrived in Britain in 1066 with William the Conqueror. The name evolved from De Dolyas to Dolas and then to Dallas about the early 17th century.



Alexander Dallas was the patriarch of the American family and exerted a profound influence on early America. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1783 where he planned to practice law. He might well have been president but, tired of politics, he declined to run. Though foreign-born, he would have qualified to be president, because he arrived in America before the constitution was adopted barring foreigners from the presidency.

The middle son, George Mifflin Dallas, for whom Dallas, Texas, was named, served as a member of the delegation negotiating the end of the War of 1812. He was 21 years of age. He was later elected to the U. S. Senate and served as president of that body. He later served as ambassador to both the United Kingdom and Russia.

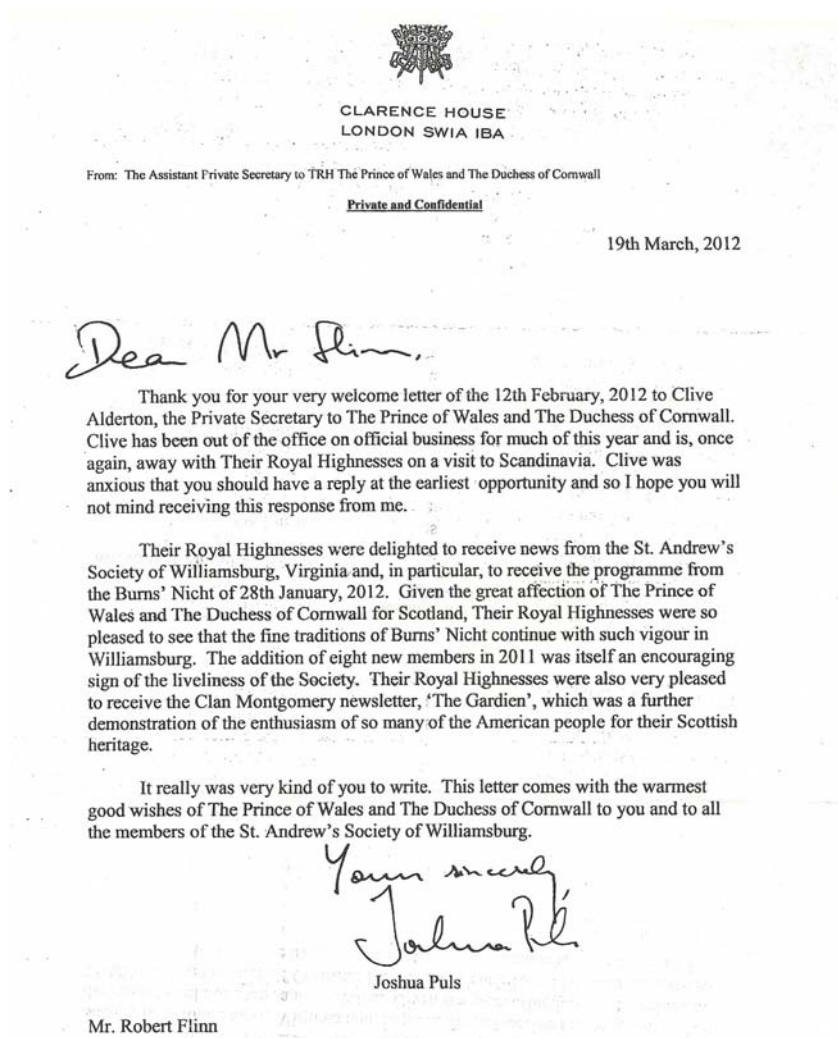
George Dallas was Vice President in the James Knox Polk administration when the issue of "Manifest Destiny" surfaced. He along with the President believed that

America was destined to expand its borders across the frontier to the Pacific. This meant the annexation of Texas, the purchase of California from Mexico, and the settlement of boundary disputes with Britain over the Oregon Territory. These things were all accomplished in a span of four years during the term of President James Knox Polk and George Mifflin Dallas. Two Great Scots!

Pictured: George Mifflin Dallas

Letter of Appreciation from the Royals

Society member Bob Flinn has contacted the Prince of Wales about our Society and received the following reply. Great work, Bob!



Message from Baird Wonsey

Baird is a long-time Society member and his late wife and daughter were both members.

March 1, 2012

This has been a very bad time for my family and me. Marguerite passed away on January 30th from a stroke. It happened very quickly.

The death certificate listed cerebral infraction and cerebral edema, But Jim learned that it was preceded by an infection that got into her blood stream and her body went septic.

Her remains were cremated and Jim will have a Memorial service on March 31st. It was very sad for us all, Jim, David, his wife Joanne and me.

Not long ago I fell and broke my hip. I now have a titanium ball on my right femur. I'm in the skilled nursing unit at WindsorMeade of Williamsburg. Soon I will be out of my wheel chair and back to my walker. This is a very nice place and I plan to move into an assisted living apartment as soon as my therapy permits.

David has taken over the job that Marguerite was doing of handling all by business affairs. He will also be working on emptying my house and I will either sell or rent out the house.

That's what has been going on with me and my family for the last couple of months. I hope this letter finds you all in good health and happiness.

Sending my Regards

Baird

Flowers of the Forest

Obituary

Marguerite Wonsey McEver (1953-2012)

Marguerite was a generous, outgoing person who was at ease with everyone she met. She spread light into the lives of all, and her sudden passing on January 30, 2012 will be grieved by all who knew her.



She was born in Los Angeles on June 14, 1953, and spent her formative years in Charlotte, NC. She graduated from Meyers Park HS, and attended UNC Chapel Hill, where she earned a BS in Botany. In her early twenties, she was an active outdoor woman, rock climbing, backpacking, and cycling with her future husband, Jim, before they went their separate ways. She moved to New York City in the early 80s until moving to Williamsburg in the early 90s. During her time in NYC, and the first years in Williamsburg, she worked as a freelance producer in advertising and film. Reunited with Jim in 2009, they were wed at Williamsburg Inn on September 9, 2009.

Marguerite was the Director of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society. She was a member of the Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association and the International Mountain Bicycling Association. She was also an accomplished vocalist and musician who mastered multiple instruments. She had recently retired.

She is survived by her husband, James M. "Jim" McEver; her father, Baird R. Wonsey, and her brother, David T. Wonsey. She was preceded in death by her mother, Marie Tudor Wonsey.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 31 in Williamsburg. Details will follow soon.

She has gone to rest much too early, but her brief time in this world was a blessing to all that knew her. Online condolences may be expressed at www.nelsencares.com.

Published in Virginia Gazette from February 4 to March 4, 2012

Flowers of the Forest

Melba Ismay Walsh Forrester (1914-2012)

The April 24th Daily Press published the obituary for Melba Ismay Walsh Forrester. She is the wife of a long time piper for our Society (Dr. James Forrester).

Many of us will remember this lovely couple.

Melba Ismay Walsh Forrester (1914 - 2012)

Newport News - Melba Ismay Walsh Forrester, 97, passed away on Friday, April 20, 2012 at Hidenwood Retirement Community. She was the wife of the late Dr. James Forrester, founding Executive Director of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.



Melba, a long time Newport News resident, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on October 7, 1914. She was educated in Vancouver and attended The Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA). She met her husband in Vancouver while she was working as a secretary for Intersity Christian Fellowship. They were married on November 10, 1939 and moved to the United States at that time. They moved to many different areas of the country over their forty-seven years of marriage finally settling in Newport News. Mrs. Forrester was actively involved in Hidenwood Presbyterian Church, Christian Women's Club, Community Bible Study and Newickton Garden Club. She was an outstanding hostess as her husband's job as college president and minister often called for entertaining many groups.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. James Forrester and her parents, Charles Ernest and Ella Edwards Walsh of Vancouver, British Columbia. She is survived by her daughter, Lynne Forrester of Newport News and her son, Dr. James Forrester and wife, Carol of Norfolk . She is also survived by her granddaughters Leigh Farmer and husband, Joshua Farmer of Lynchburg, Anne Hogge and husband, Chip Hogge of Atlanta, GA. and her precious great-grandson, Carson Hogge of Atlanta, GA.

Mrs. Forrester will be remembered by her family and friends as a devoted Christian wife, mother and friend. She was loved by family and friends in all parts of the United States and Canada.

Special thanks for the care and love she was given in the last years of her life go to the personnel of Hidenwood Retirement Community, Odyssey Hospice, and Dr. Sinclair McCracken.

A memorial service will be held at Hidenwood Presbyterian Church on

Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 2 p.m. by Rev. William G. Lamont.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, 707 Gum Rock Court, Newport News, VA 23606 or Hidenwood Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund, 414 Hiden Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606.

Published in The Virginian Pilot on April 25, 2012

Scottish soldiers - old advertising poster





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.