



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Fall/Winter 2009/2010

President's Message

Lads and Lassies,

Every time I look through the door into my dining room, I see the Paul Ritchie Memorial Cromoch leaning against the wall. This symbol of leadership is a constant reminder of the honor of being chosen as President of St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, and the awesome responsibility that goes with it.

After being installed at Burn's Night, I looked out at the members present with their family and friends and saw a very special group! Almost 100 men and women in their finest Scottish attire gathered to enjoy an evening celebrating the birthday of Robert Burns and to share the camaraderie of others sharing the same heritage. And what an evening it was! Food, music, poetry and drama; the Bard himself would have enjoyed it! The Burn's Night Committee of Wil Phillips, Bob Davis, Doug Burns and Heather Phillips are to be congratulated on the great job they did. Months of planning went into this event, as well as all the hard work on Saturday morning. Many thanks to them and all the board members (and their spouses!) who showed up to help decorate - and clean up afterwards.

There are many others who deserve a big thank you:

- Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and Pipe Master Lynn Newcomer
- Kent Brinkley who led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation
- Byron Adams for his always popular Ode to the Haggis
- Carl Peterson and Bob Flinn for their music and poetry
- Howard Topp for the Immortal Memory



- Harold Maxwell, Doug Burns, Wil Phillips, Heather Phillips and Bob Maccubbin for toasts
- Jim White for the slide show and Flowers of the Forest
- Byron Adams and Doug Burns for running the raffle
- Heather Phillips for running the Silent Auction
- Wayne Craigmiles for the programs, invitations and name tags
- Marshall Thomas for taking pictures and publicity

A special part of the evening was the presentation to Jim White of the 2009 Scot of the Year award. Jim, a member since 1995, is a Past President, has served several terms on the board and has been on numerous committees. Thank you, Jim, for your dedication and service to our Society. Marshall Thomas also received a President's Award for his many years of work on The Spectator and publicity. Both awards are well deserved.

In the coming year, we will continue to share our heritage throughout the community, as well as nurture the special spirit within our group. We will have three luncheons, two Kirkins, a family picnic and Ceilidh and of course the Scottish Festival - all great opportunities to gather with family, friends and neighbors. We want to increase our membership, but also bond with each other. We have a great Board of Directors but we also want to include you in the planning of these events through our committees.

I want to sincerely thank each of you who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund. We are thrilled with the response so far, and plan to continue our support of deserving students. This issue of The Spectator has messages from two students who have received donations from our Society.

We have an exciting year ahead, and with the help of our Officers and Directors, I am honored to lead this Society forward.

Best wishes for the New Year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie".

Jamie Alexander Griffin

Farewell from Bob Davis

I wish to thank the Officers, Board Members, and Members of the St. Andrew's Society for allowing me to serve as your President in 2009. At Burn's Night last Saturday it was my duty and pleasure to turn over my office to Jamie Griffin who will serve as your President for this coming year. She is going to do a fantastic job and with your support our Society will continue to grow and fulfill our responsibilities to the spread of Scottish heritage and benevolence within our community.

Your support has been most gratifying and greatly appreciated this past year. My special thanks to everyone who helped plan and execute our events last year. All of you did such a great job, and I know that our membership is grateful also. I should also point out the number of new members we have added in the last two year has been outstanding. Thanks to everyone for your efforts to increase our membership.

Keep up the good work, and I'll see you after the snows melt.

Yours aye,

Bob

Bob



Annual General Meeting of November 1, 2009

The 2009AGM met at the Windsor Forest Clubhouse on November 1, 2009. Lynn Newcomer raised our spirits with the the pipes and Kathy Kasley played heavenly harp music. A tasty lasagna meal was served and a wine tasting was supervised by Clement Brown. Despite Clement's excellent wines (or maybe because of them) the members elected four board members to replace those whose terms were expiring: David Lowery, Harold Maxwell, Marshall Thomas and Joyce White were elected for the 2010 to 2013 period. Another successful SAS function!

All photos by Jamie Griffin





Farewell to Jim Anthony

The following was written by Bob Davis after Jim Anthony's November 9 Memorial At Bruton Parish Church:

Dear All:

Today was Jim's memorial service at Burton Parish Church. In gratitude and tribute to a life well spent, the church was completely full. There were about 25 to 30 members of the Society present. Afterwards, there was a reception at the William & Mary Alumni House.

I think everyone present would agree that the remembrance by Dr. John Duke Anthony, Jim's younger brother, was one of the nicest honors any of us had ever heard. Did you know that Jim was one of fourteen children? Another tribute during the service was of the American Flag Presentation by Lt. Cdr. Lee C. Scruggs, U.S.C.G. Reserve for Jim's service to his country in WWII and Korea. During the processional the Burton choir was lead into the church by a William & Mary Drum Major and during the recessional we were piped out by Jim Boyer playing "Flowers of the Forest".

At the reception, I met just briefly with Sharon Scruggs, one of Jim's four daughters. She expressed her thanks to the Society for our contribution to the service. I let her know that the Society was making a donation in Jim's name to the Alumni Fund that the family had requested, she was very appreciative.

We will always remember Jim and wish his family peace. Of Jim I think Robert Burns said it best:

*If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

Sincerely,

Bob



Flowers of the Forest at Bruton Parish Church





Good fellowship, just as Jim would have wanted it.

Kirking of the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

In celebration of St. Andrew's Day, the Society held a Kirking of the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 29, 2009. It was followed by a luncheon at the Food for Thought restaurant on Richmond Road. Both events were memorable. Jamie Griffin attended and these were her thoughts:

'The Kirkin was great. It was a beautiful day and we had about 40 members, family and friends there. I was sorry Bob was out of town, but it was a thrilling experience for me to walk in behind the Pipe band carrying a stack of tartans. Many of our members as well as several from the congregation and even members of the choir went up to present their tartans. As I said the words, "On behalf of Scots away from Scotland, we present these tartans before Almighty God and ask His blessing on these His servants", I realized I was just one of thousands of Scots all over the world who was saying those words on St. Andrew's Day. The ceremony, symbolism and tradition made for a beautiful service and memorable morning.'



Pipes and drums for the Kirking of the Tartans. Photo by Jamie Griffin

Christmas Luncheon

The SAS Christmas Luncheon was held on December 19 2009 at the Williamsburg Lodge. Close to 50 members and guests attended, braving cold winds, icy rain and a town covered in snow from the previous night's snowstorm. This added to the wintry Scottish atmosphere. The Lodge made us welcome with a large nicely appointed room and a tasty buffet. It was wonderful seeing all our friends again, and greeting new members as well. The immortal Byron Adams put on a hilarious skit with Jim White and if you didn't see this one you missed something special. Byron also recited poetry from the immortal Robbie Burns. In addition he showed us a "sports kilt" that appeared so simple, functional and easy to wear that he has shamed your editor into sending away for his first kilt. You will all soon get to see my bony knees and maybe more if there is a high wind. Here are some photos from this event. Don't forget all the photos are displayed on the gallery in www.scotsofwmbg.org .



SAS stalwarts strut their Highland finery.



Jamie Griffin and Joyce White celebrate the season (above). Byron Adams charms the lassies Kim Thomas and Eileen Lowery (below)





Byron picks up a hot lassie (do you recognize Jim White?)



New member Jackson McBroom and his daughter

Burns Night 2010

The St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg celebrated Burns' Night with a gala dinner on January 23, 2010 at the Lexington Hotel George Washington Inn & Conference Center. Close to a hundred members and guests gathered in Highland evening wear for the reception and dinner to honor Burns' memory, to the tunes of the pipers. The haggis was ceremonially carved up by Byron Adams and consumed with gusto. Numerous toasts were made, and Carl Peterson sang highland favorites. The Scot of the Year award went to Jim White and the Society Presidency was turned over from Bob Davis to Jamie Griffin, the Society's first female member and now ultimate leader. Society piper Lynn Newcomer played Flowers of the Forest in memory of members who passed on in 2009.

This was a tremendously enjoyable gathering full of good cheer and comradeship. A few photos follow. Many other photos taken at the event are available on www.scotsofwmbg.org.

Guests enjoying the cocktail hour





Enter the pipers (above); Carl Peterson entertains (below)





Jim White is our new Scot of the Year, flanked by his wife Joyce

New members accepted their certificates





**A color-coordinated Howard and Carolyn Topp (above).
Your editor (center, below) finally purchases a kilt and
can now sit at the table with the big boys.**



Jamie Griffin, Our new President



A Scottish Christmas



A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, “I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.”

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

“We can't stand the sight of each other any longer” the father says. “We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.”

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. “Like hell they're getting divorced!” she shouts, “I'll take care of this!”

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father “You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?” and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Sorted! They're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way."

(from the internet – author unknown).

SAS Donation to a Young Piper

The Board has approved a donation to assist a young piper to attend a piping workshop. This is part of our charitable mission and it certainly seems to be a good cause. Following is a letter from Tracy Jenkins.

To the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, VA,

I am a Scottish musician, although I touch on other Celtic traditions as well, and am first and foremost a piper. I've played Highland pipes since middle school, both in the Washington Scottish Pipe Band and in McLean High School's marching band. Since graduating high school, I've focused more on the wonderful world of smallpipes and folk music. I have played Scottish Smallpipes for three years and this August added Border Pipes to my range of musical instruments. This summer I did original research for the William and Mary Monroe Scholars program on the process of recreating historical instruments and developing repertoires for them, focusing largely on the smallpipes renaissance and the effort to establish repertoires for Border Pipes from 18th- and 19th-century tune collections as well as more recent tunes.



I find in Scottish bagpipes not only a link with my McIntosh and MacMillan heritage, but a truly beautiful, expressive and fun music. While there is nothing quite as awe-inspiring and heartening as marching down a street in a pipe band, I have also come to love the dizzying energy of strathspeys, jigs, and reels at full tilt on the smallpipes. There's a freedom in the smallpiping tradition in which each piper takes a tune and makes it his own, and the best smallpipers never play a tune the same way twice in a row.

I got into smallpipes so I could play with other folk instruments—fiddles, guitars, etc.—and soon after I acquired my first set of smallpipes I attended the first annual smallpipe workshop in Harper's Ferry, WV. I enjoyed learning new tunes, sharing camaraderie with fellow smallpipers, and exploring together the freedom of the smallpiping tradition, which encourages variation and musical creativity I hadn't accessed in a pipe band—so much that I returned for two more years. It's a rare thing to get together with other smallpipers in such a small community, and I treasure those sparse opportunities for fellowship and learning. Every year I come away with new approaches to the music, new tunes, and new friends. I am really grateful to Joanie Blanton and Upper Potomac Music Weekends for putting on the "Squeeze the Bag" workshops, which have now moved to Shepherdstown, WV, and really hope to be able to go again this year.

When I started going to these workshops, I was in high school and my parents paid my tuition, but now I'm a full-time undergraduate at The College of William and Mary and my parents no longer pay for everything I do outside of my studies, which I pursue to the extent that I have no time for a job on the side. I would really appreciate

it if the Saint Andrew's Society would assist me in continuing to attend the "Squeeze the Bag" workshop by providing a scholarship to cover the \$149 tuition and two communal meals for the weekend.

In return, I would be happy to share with the Society my experience at the workshop. I enjoy sharing my love of Scottish music with others and would happily share the tunes I learn, the methods I pick up, and the overall experience.

Sincerely,
Tracy H. Jenkins

Messages from Sarah McCaslin

Happy St. Andrew's Day!

I just wanted to send a message in order to touch base. My studies for the first semester as a grad student at the University of Edinburgh are coming to a close, and papers are due in about two weeks. I have been working fervently on an historiography paper which deals with how historians have dealt with eighteenth century clubs in both Scotland and America. It has been a difficult but very rewarding task. My next endeavor will be to start working in the archives and write a paper on methodology followed by my formal dissertation. I will be returning to Maryland on December 21st for the Christmas holiday, and then directly back to Edinburgh to continue my studies.

Thank you again for making this possible,

Sarah McCaslin



In a later message Sarah wrote us again

Dear Mr Tucker and St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg,

Thank you very much for your generous contribution to my tuition and fees. I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am. I also will of course speak to the society at a luncheon following my return to the states. As of right now, I am planning to returning home on September 9, 2010. With my PhD application pending, I cannot give you specific dates that I will be available. However, I will be sure to email you as soon as I know if and when my next program of study begins.

Thank you again, Sarah McCaslin.



Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

PO Box 533, Williamsburg VA 23187
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.