



# The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Fall 2007

## From the President

Lads and Lassies,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you for the wonderful support that you have given to the various society events held during this past year. Our St. Andrew's Society has had an exceptionally successful year due to the significant time and talent contributed by each of you, for which I am most appreciative since it has lightened my load and made my job easier. Thanks especially to those people who provided the leadership and attention to detail in chairing each of the events and to the others who worked on the committees to ensure success. Because of your efforts, our society is able to offer activities and events that give a brief glimpse of the history, pageantry and customs of the Scotland which still live in the hearts of many of us today.

I am particularly pleased with two actions that have taken place during this past year. First, at the Annual General Meeting in October the revision of the society's bylaws was overwhelmingly approved. This action is the perfect example of the determination of the membership to improve the way our society does business. The second reflects the efforts of each of you in doing those things that help our Society to grow in a way that raises awareness of our objectives among the general population of the Williamsburg area. The success of your efforts is evident in that we have dramatically increased our membership during the last twelve months. In that period we have welcomed more than twenty new members, with additional applications to be acted upon by the board in the next few months.

One of the obligations I have is that I am the archivist of the St. Andrew's Society. In



a moment of weakness years ago, I said that I'd be willing to have my home as the repository for the collection of society materials. Little did I know that the collection, described as "only a few boxes," would fill a significant part of my attic! Every so often I've taken the time to rummage through the collection, reading the minutes of past board meetings, descriptions of events held in the distant past, looking at photos of our celebrations and social gatherings. These moments spent in the dusty attic are moments of great nostalgia, bringing back memories of bygone times and great friends. Many of the images are those friends that are no longer with us. What wonderful times we have had and what important contributions we have made in promoting Scottish heritage and culture here in Virginia's "Historic Triangle." But the past is prologue. We must build upon the successes of the past in order to continue the efforts of those who crafted this organization. I concluded my State of the Society talk at the AGM by reminding everyone of our goal: ensuring that our Scottish identity and the heritage and culture of the Scots will not be lost, but remain relevant to the generations that will succeed us.

I'd like to close this message with a request: I am asking for your continued active involvement in the activities of our beloved society. We will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our founding this spring and I urge you to use this occasion to solicit others to join us in this next phase of growth. We must pass on to others our love of our Scottish heritage and to invite them to become partners in achieving the goals of the society. Yours Aye,



Howard S. Topp  
*Clan Sutherland*

## **Members Night**

The 2007 Annual General Meeting and Dinner (Members Night) was held at the Windsor Forest Clubhouse on October 30. Over 30 members attended and were rewarded with an excellent feast. Our by-laws were revised, and new board members were elected. President Howard Topp noted the good progress the Society is making in attracting new members. His presentation was noteworthy, and it is reproduced here:

"I am delighted that you are here for the Annual General Membership meeting for the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, and have fulfilled the obligation of the membership in approving the revision to the bylaws and in electing people to take office as board members for a four year term in January.

"One of the obligations of a society like ours, recognized as an IRS 501 (C) (3) organization, is that it must hold an Annual General Membership meeting ... usually called an AGM ... and inform the membership of it's status. One of the components of our society's AGMs in the past was a short "State of the Society" to inform the membership of what had occurred since the previous AGM and offer a look into future endeavors. Over the years this part of the AGM slipped away. Well, I'd like to reinstitute the practice, starting tonight.

"In my first message to you in the winter newsletter last January I warned that over the years the society ran the risk of stagnating and of losing a sense of direction and vision. Well, your board accepted the challenge and committed to a program to reenergize the society. At the January Board meeting your directors began to implement changes that will insure that the society remains a vibrant organization. The key element was the increased involvement of the general membership members in the planning and decision making process for our activities and events. A committee system was put in place that featured rank and file participation, along with committee leadership drawn from the board. We've not had across the board success in our efforts, but there has been steady, accomplishment in most cases. The revision of the bylaws is just one example of determination to improve the way the society does business. We have endeavored to have activities that could help our Society to grow in a way that raises awareness of our objectives among the general population of the Williamsburg area and increases our membership. Perhaps one of the most stunning results of these efforts has been the dramatic increase of applications for membership.

"We have endeavored to create events and projects that are meaningful in promoting Scottish heritage. We began the year with our Burns Nicht, always our best attended event. In March we celebrated Tartan Day at William and Mary's Swem Library. It was the best attended Tartan Day since the society began celebrating the event. We also had an excellent turnout when we joined with other Scottish organizations in this region for the Kirkin' o' the Tartans at Christ Church in Kilmarnock. Again, the participation of our lads and lassies in these sorts of events has a direct impact on the success of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg and our goal of sharing our Scottish heritage and culture with others.

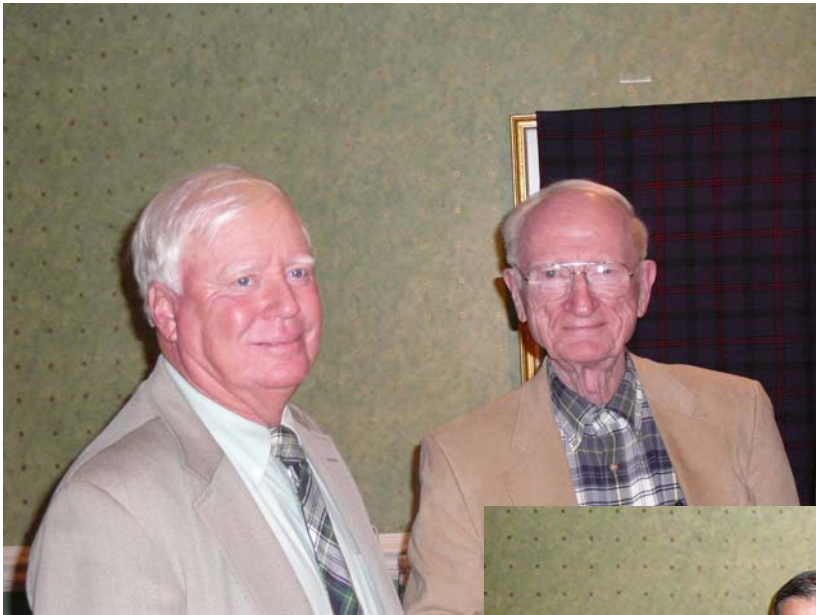
"Our "back to the future" activity, the St. Andrew's Society Family Picnic and Ceilidh in June, was an unqualified success, far exceeding our wildest expectations. The Queens Lake Clubhouse was packed to overflowing with nearly ninety people in attendance. Many of our members took this opportunity as a means of sharing Scottish heritage and culture by inviting friends and family. The food was delicious, Bill Darrow's traditional Scottish ballads were enjoyable, Bridget Boswell's students also provided us with exciting Highland Dancing, and of the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums got the blood flowing with rousing pipe tunes. The agreement among all present was that this was only the first annual St. Andrew's Society Family Picnic and Ceilidh and more will follow.

"Later in the summer we had a well attended Quarterly Luncheon in Yorktown and in September we were represented along clan row at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival. The participation of our lads and lassies in this wonderful event gave us the opportunity to join in fellowship and immerse ourselves in "things Scottish" and also to successfully recruit new members for our Society. Even though we had a "super-sized" tent for the event, the consensus was that we needed to get an even larger 20' X 20' tent for 2008.

"Have you noticed a common thread through all this? ... "Increased participation?" "... Greater numbers attending our events?" This .... And the increased numbers of people wishing to join our society are the most gratifying result of the efforts of your board has made in revitalizing the society. .... Oh, and we aren't done yet. The board will address a stack of new applications at the next board meeting and next month we will have our society Kirkin' o' the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian church. This will be followed by our Quarterly Luncheon in December and the Burns Night committee is well on the way to finalizing the event for 2008, sure to be a most spectacular occasion.

"Next spring we will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our Society. It is difficult for me to realize that nearly forty years have passed since that day in the spring of 1968 that we met in the board room of the old Peninsula Bank to formally found the society. In the years that have followed we have grown in size, but more importantly, we are recognized as the voice of the Scottish community in our area. What do we intend on doing for 2008? Well, we intend on building on our successes from 2007 and in an ever increasing the involvement of our membership in the conduct of the society's business. We must all dedicate ourselves to accomplishing something of critical importance: that our Scottish identity and the heritage and culture of the Scots will not be lost, but remain relevant to the generations that will succeed us. Thank you."





**Members renew acquaintances at the AGM**





**President Howard Topp addresses attendees at the AGM.**

### **Fall Kirkin' and Luncheon**

St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg held its 2007 Fall Kirkin' and Luncheon on November 25. The Kirking was at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Richmond Road. The ceremony, service and blessing of the Tartans by Reverend Patrick Willson was memorable and colorful, and attendance was high. Regular church members commented on how much they appreciated the participation of St. Andrew's Society and the ceremony. Rev. Willson also commented favorably. A luncheon followed for members at the Colonial Heritage Club, with excellent service and delicious food. This event was Taylor Fraser's last St. Andrew's function, as he passed away the following day. Taylor seemed relaxed and happy as he held hands with his wife during the Kirking. Please see Flowers of the Forest below.

### **Christmas Luncheon**

St. Andrew's Society's Christmas Luncheon was held December 14 at Ford's Colony Country Club and was very well attended. We saw more new members than ever before, including younger people who represent the new generation. The cocktail session was animated and the lunch was delicious. It was a pleasure seeing so many friends, old and new. The Ford's Colony Country Club was a beautiful venue and a good choice. Following are some photos taken at the event.





**Bob Flinn rocks on out as the members socialize.**





**The gang was all smiles as lunch time approached (above).**

**New Members attended the Christmas Luncheon in force (below).**





**The banquet room is packed as hungry Scots attack their meals (below).**



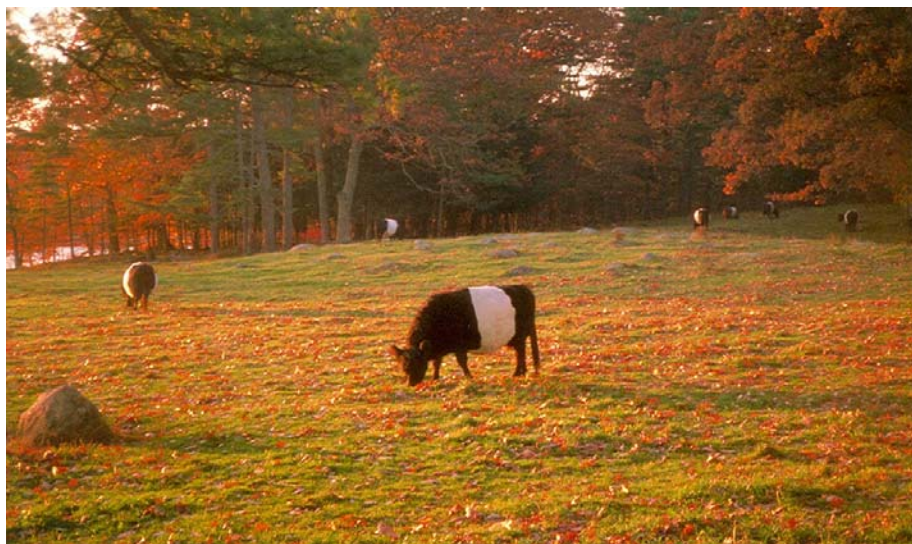
**1979 Board of Directors, Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg**

Who are all these young people? See if you can recognize anyone. Courtesy of Howard Topp.

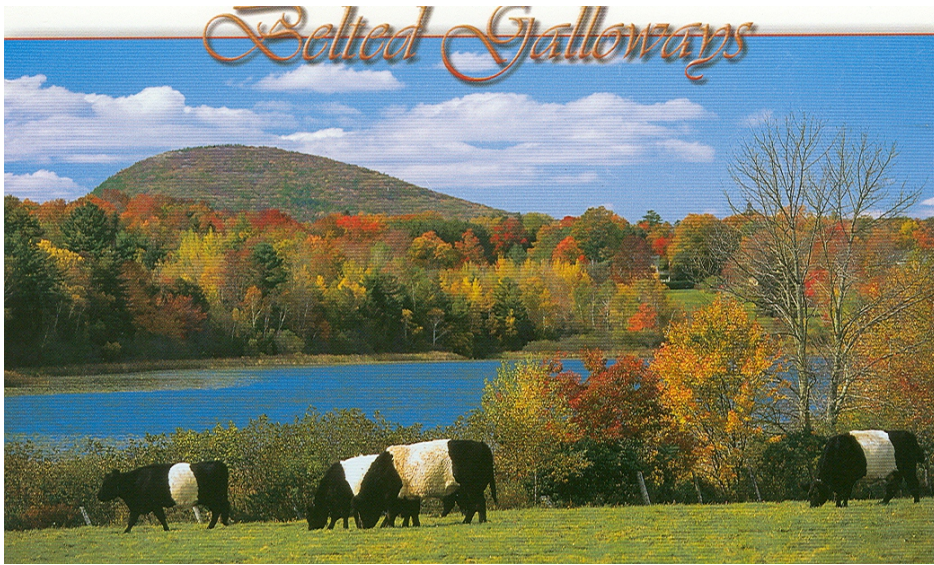


## Belted Galloways

Holy cow, this one was new to me! You're wandering around Scotland and you see a field of cows that look like they're draped with white blankets. But it's not a blanket – it's 100% cow. These bizarre critters are called Belted Galloways. Please see the pictures below. This type of hardy Scottish beef cattle are noted for their top quality meat. Some have even been imported into the States. The bottom two pictures are tourist postcards from Maine, courtesy of Don Dalrymple.

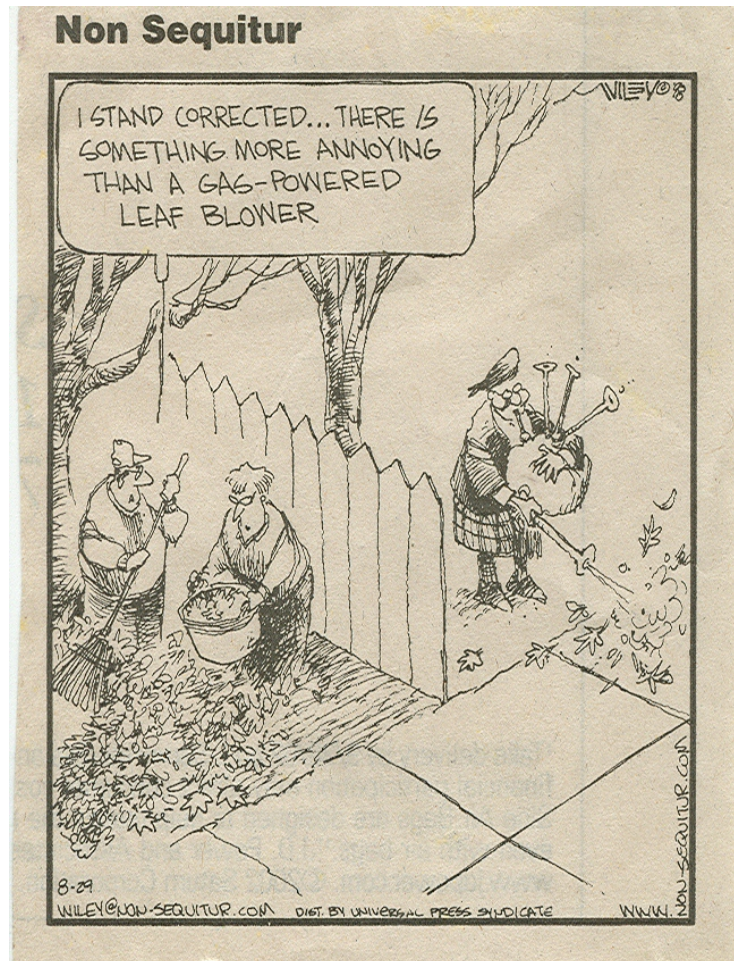






### Scottish Leaf Blower

Thanks to Don Dalrymple





## **Progress with the Website**

We hope all SAS members are regularly viewing our updated website, [www.scotsofwmbg.org](http://www.scotsofwmbg.org) We are keeping this website active and relevant. Wayne Craigmiles is now handling the website and placing information on line to cover all upcoming events and news of interest to members. Wayne is a computer professional who is already doing a superb job in keeping the site current. Please keep him informed about current developments. Marshall Thomas will continue doing the photo galleries and the Spectator magazine, both of which are seamlessly integrated into the website. Wayne and Marshall will together ensure that this website will continue to serve the needs of the members.

## **Scottish Cheese Scones – from Robert Maccubin**

An elderly Scotsman lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favourite cheese scones wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs.

With laboured breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for here, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were dozens of his favourite cheese scones.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted Kirkcaldy wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a rumpled posture. His parched lips parted, he could almost taste the cheese scone before it was in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered hand trembled on its way to the nearest scone at the edge of the table, when his hand was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife..

"Nae! ... dunye take any!" she said, "they're for the funeral!!!"

### **Being Scottish – from Howard Topp**

A lot of ethnic groups are known for being tight with money. Other groups are known to drink too much. Some groups are even known for being people of few words. Only the Scots however have combined all these traits and thrown in a kilt and bagpipes for good measure.

The Scot told his wife, "Be sure now to take off your new eye glasses if you're not looking at anything."

A Scotsman's last daughter got married and the old man was just thrilled to death -- the confetti was getting dirty.

The jet plane started to rattle. Quickly, the pilot turned northward. As soon as they crossed the border into Scotland, everything tightened up.

A Scot meets a friend at a train station and explains he's off to Glasgow on his honeymoon. His friend asks, "And just where is your wife?" "She's seen Glasgow." the groom replied.

Mr. MacTavish was very sick. His wife sat at his bedside after the doctor had said no more could be done. The man said, "I don't think I'm going to make it thru the nite."

The wife replied, "I've got to finish my chores, but if you feel yourself slipping away before I return, please be sure to blow out the candle."

### **Celtic Society of West Tennessee, by Dave Lowery**

The Celtic Society of West Tennessee hosted a recent Celtic Fest for 2007 in Jackson, Tennessee. Families enjoyed a full day of entertainment including stage performances, various artisans, vendors, Celtic Clans and demonstrations such as dancing, weaving, and pottery making. Live performers included Needfire, Will Tell, Inis Acla, Caledonia Chorale, and others.

The goal of the Celtic Society is to enlighten those of Celtic ancestry with knowledge of their cultural history through meetings, social gatherings and charitable events.

The seven Celtic nations include Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany, Wales, and Galacia. For more information visit [www.cswt.org](http://www.cswt.org).

## Celtic Music, by Dave Lowery

On January 17, 2007 The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and The Band of the Coldstream Guards will perform at the Christopher Newport University's Ferguson Center for the Arts. For more information visit [www.fergusoncenter.org](http://www.fergusoncenter.org). Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations, by calling (757) 872-8100.

## Flowers of the Forest: Taylor Fraser, RIP

St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg mourns the passing of former SAS President Taylor Fraser. He was a wonderful man and we will never forget him. Our sympathies to his wife and family.

Taylor Fraser Jr.



HAMPTON - Taylor Fraser Jr. of Hampton, Va., 80, died at home in the early hours of Nov. 26, 2007.

Mr. Fraser was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Hampton, singing in the church choir and serving on the finance committee. He was also a committee chairman and past two-term president of the Saint Andrew's Society.

In 1989, Mr. Fraser retired from NASA's Langley Research Center after 41 years of government service. He also served in the United States Navy during World War II where he was decorated with both the American Theater Medal and the Victory Medal. Most recently, Mr. Fraser worked for 12 seasons at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. During that time he worked in group tickets sales, as a tram driver, and as a photographer.

Mr. Fraser was widowed in 2002, after Dottie, his wife of 51 years, passed away. He married Helen Custer of Hampton in January 2007.

In his passing, he leaves behind his wife, Helen; a daughter, Margaret and her husband, Gary, of Spanaway, Wash.; a son, Taylor III and his wife, Anne, of Houston, Del.; a stepdaughter, Mickey and her husband, Walter, of Hampton; a stepdaughter, Octie and her husband, Jesse, also of Hampton; a brother, Bert and his wife, Jean, of North Carolina; a brother, Peter and his wife, Susan, of Poquoson; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A viewing will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 28, at Parklawn-Wood Funeral Home.

A memorial service for Mr. Fraser will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 29, at the First United Methodist Church at 110 E. Queen Street in Hampton, Va. Burial will be in the Veterans Memorial Gardens in Hampton following the service. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Church Choir of the First United Methodist Church, 110 E. Queen St. Hampton, Va.

Published in the Daily Press on 11/28/2007.





### **The Saltire of Scotland**

The Saltire, or St. Andrew's Cross, the flag of Scotland, has an honorable history. In the year 685, the Nothumbrians took on the Picts in the battle of Dunnichen north of the Tay estuary: The Picts won. Some fifty years later there was another battle of significance between the two antagonists near the village of Athelstaneford in East Lothian. This battle is, by tradition, believed to have provided Scotland with its patron saint, the apostle St. Andrew, and his banner, the Saltire. According to a Latin History of Scotland written in the 1440s, the Pictish warrior-king Unust was having the worst of the battle when St. Andrew appeared to him in a dream and promised him victory. St. Andrew was the first of the apostles called by Jesus. This, and another supernatural omen did the trick, allowing the tide to be turned and the battle won. The latter was a huge cloud formation against the blue sky in the shape of a Saltire, a diagonal cross on which St. Andrew was said to have been crucified. Hence the adoption of St. Andrew as Scotland's patron saint, and the blue-and-white Saltire banner as the symbol of Scotland's nationhood.



# Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

## Application for Membership

PO Box 533, Williamsburg VA 23187

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

Date and Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools/Colleges: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Years at Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Legacy Application? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

(A Legacy member is the son/grandson or daughter/granddaughter of an active member in good standing or of a deceased former member, who is age eighteen through twenty-one. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members; however annual dues are required.)

If Yes, Father/Mother or Grandfather/Grandmother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in Other Professional or Social Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Scottish Family Connections (documentation not required): \_\_\_\_\_

Any Visits to Scotland – Frequency and Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Clan Association(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in Clan Organization or Other Scottish Society: \_\_\_\_\_

What tartan(s) do you wear? \_\_\_\_\_

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

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character 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**

Initiation and First Year's Dues (\$60.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Small Photograph suitable for digitization \_\_\_\_\_

Current local address and telephone number included \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of Legacy Member Eligibility \_\_\_\_\_