



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Winter 2007/2008

President's Message – and Challenge!

Lads and Lassies,

We are now in our anniversary year, recognizing that our society was founded forty years ago. It is difficult for me to realize that much time has passed since the day in the spring of 1968 that we met in the board room of the old Peninsula Bank to formally found the society. It certainly couldn't have been that long ago ... Why, it just seems like yesterday! In the years that have followed we have grown in size, but more importantly in being recognized as the voice of the Scottish community in our area.

Two thousand seven was a defining moment for the society. We welcomed the largest group of new members in decades, admitting twenty-two new members and greeted the return of two former members. This significantly revitalized the society as new members immediately began to be involved in society activities and participating in the planning of events. These new members give impetus to increased involvement and determination to develop different methods for the society to promote the appreciation of Scottish heritage and culture in the greater community. They are helping all of us to reinvigorate and reenergize our beloved society.

We have openings on a number of our committees and I urge you to help by becoming a committee member. Here are brief descriptions of the committees and subcommittees needing participants:

The "Membership Committee" recommends actions concerning membership solicitation and policies to the board. The "Constitution & Bylaws Committee" is concerned with developing possible revisions to the society's current 2007 by-laws. The "Newsletter, Website, and Publications Committee" addresses issues pertaining to the society's information and public relations efforts. The "Family Picnic & Ceilidh



Committee “organizes the annual summer event that brings in everyone from seniors to the wee bairns for an afternoon of food and fun. The “Quarterly Luncheons Committee” schedules and organizes our quarterly lunchtime programs. The “Scottish Festivals & Highland Games Committee” is primarily concerned with SAS-W participation at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival.

If you feel led to volunteer for one of the vacant positions, have questions about committee participation, or wish to seek additional information or clarification, please just e-mail (topp072972@cox.net) or call me at (757) 565-2738.

Let me close with a challenge to each of you. Adding twenty two new members in 2007 was wonderful, but let’s endeavor to recruit double that number this year! Our motto for the fortieth anniversary should be **“Forty for the Fortieth!”** Let’s recruit forty dedicated Scots to join and become actively involved with our Society.

Yours Aye,



Howard S. Topp
Clan Sutherland

Taylor Fraser’s Funeral

The Society’s heavy attendance at former President Taylor Fraser’s funeral attested to the high regard that members held for Mr. Fraser as well as recognition for his long and valued service to the Society. Taylor Fraser will be missed by all who knew him.



Taylor Fraser Jr.

Burns Night

Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg celebrated Burns Night 2008 with a gala dinner meeting at the Colonial Heritage Club on January 26. As we all know, Robert Burns was Scotland's national poet, lover, humanist, nationalist, internationalist and all-around hero. 2008 also marked the 40th anniversary for Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg. The evening was a rousing success. General William S. Wallace, Commanding General U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was the honored guest. Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and balladeer Bill Darrow both entertained the guests amidst toasts, songs, poetry, presentations and an excellent dinner. Byron Adams politely spoke to the Haggis before disassembling it, and it was particularly tasty this year. Former President Wil Phillips was named Scot of the Year. An impressive host of new members – 22 in all for 2007 - testified that the Society is healthy and growing under the energetic leadership of President Howard S. Topp. Those members who passed on during 2007 were also remembered and honored. The evening ended with the singing of Burns' immortal Auld Lang Syne. Our thanks to everyone who organized this outstanding celebration. For some photos, see below and for further photos, see the Society website www.scotsofwmbg.org

From Wil Phillips – We really surprised him!

To All members of the Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society :

My wife Scottie and I attended the Annual Burn's Night Dinner at the Colonial Heritage Club House Saturday night. As always it was wonderful, it was a treat to see many of the members I had not seen in a while and to meet the new members. The highlight for me was the big surprise of being named Scot of the Year for 2007. When Howard Topp made the presentation I was literally speechless. When Howard called me up to the podium to present the plaque and asked if I would like to say something my mind went blank. It was not until I returned to the table that I thought of what I should have said. And that is "Thank you all, I am deeply honored by this, and I feel extremely privileged to be a member of the Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society and to call many of you personal friends. I thank each of you for this honor."

Yours, Aye, Wilmot Phillips

To the Laddies and to the Lassies

The following two toasts were presented by Elizabeth and Gordon Vliet during Burns Night. These were so good that I wanted to reproduce them here. Our thanks to Elizabeth and Gordon. These toasts are copyrighted so please do not reproduce them.

TOAST TO THE LADDIES – AN ODE TO TESTOSTERONE
 Burns Night Williamsburg VA January 26, 2008
 © 2008 Elizabeth Lee Vliet, MD, Tucson AZ

As a specialist working with hormones of women *and* men, I thought I would give you some medical insights about the unique characteristics of that quintessential male hormone, testosterone, as I toast the LADDIES...those wonderful embodiments of testosterone's many *mysterious* manifestations...

As a fetus, all of us start out with a *female* brain, and then...LO! ...on that magical day 56 of pregnancy, if there is a Y chromosome present, the power of testosterone changes that primordial female brain to a *male* one forever forth...Structurally and functionally, operationally and chemically, the brain shifts into the male pattern of responses, with emphasis on spatial relationships, linear focus, aggressive drives, *and* an inability to pick up socks!

THEREIN LIES ALL THE MYRIAD IDIOSYNCRACIES
 WHICH WE NOW TOAST!

Ah, men! What could possibly improve your position in life?
 For you *testosterone bearers* do have so much going for you from the start...
 So let's take a look at some we women so admire...

-You know immediately whether to turn right or left to go back the way you came.

-You always seem to find north, south, east, or west –even on a cloudy day, without obvious landmarks.

-The computers and electronic gadgets always work under YOUR magic touch...and promptly stop when *we* pick them up.

- You never, no never, have to *ask* for directions....or admit you aren't *sure* which way to go!

- You can walk by two switches with the lights left on, past the garbage waiting to go out, through the door with a hole in the screen, and still hear a funny noise in the car engine!

- You start each day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in the *same* mood.
- People don't stare at *your* chest when you are talking to them.

- Your undershirt doesn't fall off your shoulder when you have both hands full.

- Your last name always stays the same.

- Your wedding plans consisted of showing up and making sure your name was spelled correctly.

- For you men, *chocolate* is just another snack, ranking well below hotdogs, Big Macs, beer, and pork rinds.

- You* can never be pregnant.

- The world is your urinal.

- You never have to drive to find another gas station because the one you are in is too "icky."

- You* start a diet, and lose 5 pounds the first five days!

- Car mechanics tell *you* the truth.

- You can take a week's vacation with only *one carryon* suitcase.
- Three pair of shoes are enough – one each in black and brown,

plus a pair of sneakers....

-Your socks come in the same colors and can be worn with holes in them...when was the last time *you* had a run in your socks?

-*Your* new shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet...and *you* don't have to walk on 3 in spikes with pinched toes to be sexy....

-You can wear last year's shoes, or last decade's shoes, or your father's shoes, and no one notices.

-When you change shoes, you don't have to empty and change your billfold to match.

-*Your* hairstyle lasts for years, or even decades.

-Your *underwear* even comes in 6-packs...for \$10.00 or less!

-Everything on your face stays its original color.

-*You* only have to shave your face and neck.

-You can do your nails with just a clipper, and in public!

-You have freedom to *choose* to wear a moustache or not.

-*You* are considered *distinguished* when *your* hair turns gray.

-*Your* wrinkles add *character*!

-*You* can wear shorts, no matter what your legs look like!

-All of *your* clothes fasten in places you can see... and reach.

-You can't remember what you wore yesterday without looking on

the floor next to the bed.

-You change your mind, and everyone thinks you're *versatile*, not *flighty*!

-*You* can do your Christmas shipping for 23 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes, and nobody expects *you* to put a bow on the package!

SO...through all OUR hormonal shifts and up and down moods, our diet-after-diet-after-diet days, our bad hair days, our run-in-the-socking-have-to-go-back-to-change days, our many telephone conversations, our which-dress-should-I wear questions, our frets and worries... through it all, you have stood by us when we needed your hugs, your encouragement, your help, your okay, and your love....

In spite of your testosterone twists and quirks, your manly foibles, we love you and salute all you bring to our lives...

To the LADDIES, the ones we've wed, and the ones we've raised (and they may well be the same!)...

Ladies, please CHARGE YOUR GLASSES AND BE UPSTANDING...Join me in a toast TO THE LADDIES, GOD BLESS 'EM!

Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D., Tucson Arizona, January 2008

www.herplace.com

TOAST TO THE LASSIES – January 26, 2008
 Burns Night, Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg VA
 ©2008 Gordon C. Vliet, Tucson AZ

As the Administrator for my wife's medical practice, I've had a unique opportunity, as a non-physician, to learn more than I ever thought possible about the female hormone, estrogen. I grew up in a small town in the middle of Michigan. I knew very little about male and female differences, except that we wore different clothes and used different bathrooms...it was only later in life that I learned some of the reasons...so it has been "enlightening" and frightening, to be in my later years talking on the phone with women I have never met, from all over the country, about intimate details of their pre and post menopausal concerns.

Any man who tells you he understands women is obviously into drink, or knows absolutely nothing about them at all. I think perhaps women like it that way, I think perhaps it is best that they have a pretty good understanding of us, rather than the other way around.

There is a learned observation that says: *The less a person knows the more anxious they are to tell you about it.* So this evening, I hasten to admit to knowing very little, merely mentioning in passing *no facts, just a few "observations,"* with ample and profound apologies to Robert Burns, whom we honor and recognize this evening.

To the Lassies...An Ode to Estrogen

*How a miniscule hormone coursing through your veins
 Can affect your shape, your looks, and OUR brains,
 Has mystified men through the ages.
 Puzzling pundits, confounding sages.*

*While we men have some too,
 It doesn't do to us what it does to you.
 It makes you soft and smooth and curvy,
 When you walk by, we become very observey.*

*Tho' the basics are the same
 Be ye a lady or just another dame,*

*Be ye girlfriends, wives or mothers
 We know that each of you is not exactly like any of the others.
 Those human quirks that helped us to decide,
 To ask you to be a bride;
 Those idiosyncracies to which we now subscribe,
 Are sometimes difficult to describe,
 Yet, are those traits to which we tonight imbibe*

*Each of you has some human quirk
 That by itself wouldn't work.
 But combined with others of similar trait
 Has made you just the perfect mate.*

*In the hustle and bustle of your life
 You do your best to ease our strife.
 We now don't have to make a decision
 About what to watch on television.*

*No monies lie around unspent,
 Your relatives come, mine went.
 I have no wasted time in leisure,
 My days are filled beyond all measure.*

*No time to waste on fishing and hunting
 When I can help you shop for fabrics and bunting.
 What time is there to sit and read?
 When I can paint, or clean, or rake or weed.*

*We've learned to wait, and wait,
 And wait and wait, and wait, and wait.
 We charge and sign, we tote, and we carry,
 From mall to mall, our routine doesn't vary.*

*When having a fancy dinner out,
 The menu we ignore.
 We just order your second choice,
 In case you are not sure.*

*We've dealt with moods, their turns and twists.
 We've learned to deal with weekend lists.*

*We have our lists ad infinitum,
 We quickly learned not to slight 'em.
 She's sure to ask,
 If we skip one single task,
 'Honey, what about what I asked last week?'
 And before we have a chance to speak,
 We sense that we are up a creek;
 Because we still have some from last month
 We've been told about more than once.*

*Now that its been brought to her attention
 Those things from the last spring get a mention.
 To make matters very bleak,
 Her mother is coming for a week.
 That means the list gets longer and longer,
 Making her case stronger,
 And mine more wronger.*

*We've started stories we've rarely finished or barely led.
 We've answered, "which dress, the blue or the red?"
 Then, when the green is chosen, "which shoes?"
 No matter which we pick, we know we lose.*

*And on that point let me add,
 Shoes is something that's gotta be had!
 And who among us dares
 To comment on how many pairs
 You deposit
 In your closet?*

*Or when those colors or those styles
 Change with every season,
 They get thrown out for no apparent reason.*

*I am glad that I don't know how it feels
 To walk with my toes four inches lower than my heels,
 With my toes all wedge ed in
 On top of soles that are paper thin.*

And when on some festive occasion,

*When chatting with someone of the female persuasion,
My eyes should wander down,
You give a frown,
A look, or a glance
That leaves so little to choice or chance
To remember that it is very wise
To always look women in the eyes.*

*I don't understand why it
Is when YOU gain weight, I'M on a diet!*

*The best advice I have ever heard
For a man to have the very last word,
Is to say what she expects to hear,
"Yes, dear."*

*We have a fascination with ladies tops and bottoms.
Some have less, some have a lottums.
That to which we drink tonight,
Is that we're very glad you gottum!*

*And so this evening when we remember
He who wrote of loch and heather,
We're glad you are by our side
Through thick and thin, in all kinds of weather,
That we are here together.*

**Gentlemen, now charge your glasses, BE UPSTANDING
and join me in a toast to your lassies.
To The LASSIES, God Bless 'Em!**

**Gordon Cheesman Vliet, Tucson, AZ.
January 2008**

New Members 2007

During Burns Night an unusually large group of new and returning members were announced for 2007. Congratulations to these new members! Several more have joined since then but for 2007 it was:

Faith E Amoroso
Marion Brigham
Craig H Cranston
Paul Eisenhower
John Hodges Jr
James D Husband
John H McFarlane
Kenneth McLennan
Matthew C McLeod
Jeanne Millin
Michael A Millin
Diane (Scottie) Phillips
Heather Phillips
Jack Rouzie
Katherine C Speegle
David Simpson
Elizabeth L W Vliet, MD
Gordon C Vliet
J Thomas Wadkins III
Timothy E Weidman
Joyce White.
George F. McGilvery



Burns Night Photos



Bill Darrow plays Scottish favorites for the Society



Byron Adams addresses the Haggis prior to disassembling it (above).

Enter the Williamsburg Pipes & Drums – joyous Celtic melodies (below).





Former President Wil Phillips (left) is presented the Scot of the Year Award by President Howard Topp





The gang's all here for Burns Night and everyone is happy





From the painting by Nasmyth, National Portrait Gallery.

Robert Burns

Happy Birthday, Robbie!

The Ram's Head

Byron Adams recently visited The Scottish Home in Chicago, which was built in the 1870's as a rest home for elderly men and women of Scottish ancestry where they could spend their last years in comfort and dignity. Chicago by then had a large Scottish immigrant population and there was plenty of help for the project from the Illinois Saint Andrew's Society and numerous movers and shakers of Chicago society. Byron recommends the book *Scots of Chicago – Quiet Immigrants and their New Society*.

I was fascinated by the description and photos of The Ram's Head. This device was a ram's or sheep's head converted into a "movable humidor complete with a holder for cigars and snuff." On top was a large cairngorm stone surrounded with Scottish thistle. The cigar case had the arms of Scotland on it and the inscription "Nemo me impune lacessit" which means, more or less, "Nobody dares mess with me." The arms of the U.S. and city of Chicago also are inscribed on the beast, and two large thistles with amethyst stones perch on the tips of the horns.

What a magnificent creation! Our ancestors were certainly unafraid of their wives. Come now, gentlemen, would your wife allow you to install such a magnificent ram's head in your den? I know mine would have immediate objections. Actually I suspect the ram's head was originally meant to silently defend a special place for the master where he could hide from his wife.





The Ram's Head. Eye to eye with the beast (below) by Byron Adams.





Robert Burns statue, Garfield Park, Chicago

In Memory - Ken Graham

Byron Adams has passed on this reminder of a past President of the Society, James Kenneth Graham, who died in early February 1985. Mr. Graham's obituary revealed his many interests. He was a member of the Warwick and Williamsburg Lions Clubs, a member of Williamsburg Masonic Lodge No. 6 and a 33rd degree Mason, a member of the Scottish Rite and the Khedive Shrine Temple. He was former President of the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and State Chairman of the Virginia Monument at Valley Forge. He was a member of the descendants of Washington's Army Valley Forge and of the Virginia Chapter of the War of 1812. He was President of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg and was named Scot of the Year in 1982.

The above summary does not begin to describe all his activities and associations. Byron adds that Ken's wife Florence, better known as "Tommy," is now 97 and in the James River Home in Newport News, for those who may wish to pay her a visit.

Ken Graham





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 _____