



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Winter/Spring 2020

President's Message – Winter/Spring 2020

Dear Lads and Lassies;

Midsummer greetings from your "COVID-era" president. I hope this note finds each of you healthy and enjoying your summer with your family during the 21st century version of the Spanish Flu. In light of the challenges we've faced, it's a special pleasure to connect by introducing the new edition of "The Spectator".

We began the year with high hopes for many fun social events, and kicked it off with a wonderful Burns Night in Fords Colony in January. The evening expanded focus on the Bard and Scottish culture, and included a large number of attendees, some from out of town, and the Burns Night Committee received many compliments.

Then, following an enjoyable Pub Nite at the Hounds Tale in February, we were saddened to cancel a special Kirking of the Tartans/Tartan Day event in Colonial Williamsburg, and then suspend our Founders Day planning for May, along with our other winter and spring Pub Nites. The Kirking scheduled at Christ Church in April was delayed until fall.

But as soon as Virginia relaxed to Phase 3 of its pandemic regulations, 17 of our proudest met at Pauls 2 in Newtown for a "Resurrection Pub Nite" during the torrid evening of July 16. We were happy to see each other in a location that offered much promise for future gatherings, and a few pictures from that event are included in this edition.

As the world becomes ever more impersonal and virtual, we will strive to build our bonds and traditions even stronger. The power of the Scottish spirit and the allure of the tartan don't translate well over Zoom meetings. We hope the fall brings a happy reunion for all of us, and we work toward that goal.

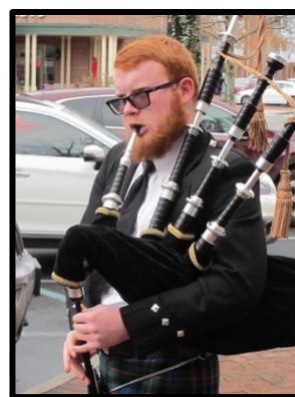
Yours, Aye,

Tim Cordle

Letter from Charles Perry

Dear members of the Saint Andrews Society,

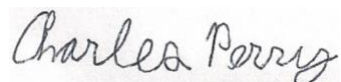
I would like to thank you all again for providing me with a scholarship to attend the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming for two weeks this past summer. It was probably the most educational, productive, and fun experience I've ever had with the bagpipe. I studied under teachers such as Sandy Jones, Robert Mitchell, Bill Caudill, and Nick Hudson, all of whom are very big names in the piping world. I was able to expand my repertoire of light music, which includes the usual marches, reels, jigs, and other tunes, as well as my repertoire of Piobaireachd, ancient Scottish traditional music which many pipers consider to be the highest form of pipe music, with these teachers.



With Robert Mitchell I was also able to begin studying the Scottish smallpipe, which is another world in itself that I find beautiful to the ear and fun to play. Additionally, I improved my playing technique and my knowledge of pipe and reed maintenance greatly thanks to workshops at the camp. And there are also the many intangibles about the camp that I love: the atmosphere of the mountains, the food, the people, and the daily routine. All in all, it was an unforgettable experience that

has made me a much better musician, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have this experience.

Sincerely,
Charles Perry

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Perry". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Letter from Catie Burgess

Dear St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg,

Happy 2020! I wanted to update you on my dancing escapades in 2019. I so enjoyed dancing for your Tartan Day celebration, I was working very hard to prepare for the regional championships and getting to perform for you all was a wonderful reminder of how much I truly enjoy dancing. Unfortunately, two days later I broke my foot while practicing, thank goodness that didn't happen during the show! I was unable to compete in the regional championships, and unable to qualify for the national championships. Thankfully I was able to recover from the break quickly and get back to competition by the end of June. I competed at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games as my first championship after recovering. It's not my favorite way to go into competition just getting back in shape from an injury, but it is an invaluable reminder of how important your attitude and perspective is when competing. I still went to the national championships despite not being a finalist and competed in the open championship receiving judges marks, and in the North American championships where I finished 7th overall.

The dancing highlight of my year was getting to perform in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for the whole month of August. It was the most incredible experience I have gotten from dancing. I performed for over 200,000 people live and many more over television. The rehearsals were intense and the dances were very demanding- the dance company was featured in more acts than ever before, in addition to our own acts. I participated in a dance with the entire massed bands featuring pipe bands from all over the world, a Cancan with the French Army band, the Dance

Company's main dance, as well as the show's finale. There were acts from all over the world- Trinidad and Tobago, China, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand, and many more. Their acts were all fantastic and there were so many interesting people and fun times. I befriended several members of the Blackwatch of Scotland and we made a bet that if they could do the dancer's Cancan I'd buy the whole Blackwatch a beer- thankfully for me, despite a lot of enthusiasm and big talk, they did not. And while my foot got in the way of my competitive dancing goals for the year I did win a limbo competition at the cast bar hosted by Trinidad and Tobago, so I still had some competitive achievements this year!

Thank you all so much for your support of my dancing throughout the year- the grant to support my training with Alison Plemmons has been amassive, massive help. She is an amazing teacher and person and I'm am so glad I have been able to continue my work with her with your help. I look forward to more opportunities to dance for you all in the coming year and would happily perform for you all any time.

Have a great New year,

Catie Burgess



Our opening dance with the Massed bands
 Here are the dancers, the Shetland Fiddlers, and The Tasmanian Police pipe band (Left of Center in 3rd row)



Above Right: A few members of several acts went to a MS treatment facility to perform for them since they were unable to make it to Edinburgh.



Outside the Drawbridge of Edinburgh Castle before the last show.

Burns Nicht – 25 January 2020

The Society's annual Burns Supper was held Saturday January 25 at Ford's Colony Country Club Pavilion. It was a spectacular gala and over 115 guests showed up in their finest highland regalia. The program was all that a Burns Nicht should be. Bob Davis was Master of Ceremonies. Music was by the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and Poisoned Dwarf. One highlight was the passing of the crook of leadership and Presidential medal from Doug Burns to new President Tim Cordle. New members were recognized and those Flowers of the Forest who passed on were

remembered. After grace a Scottish dinner followed. The Haggis was piped in, Douglas Boller addressed and toasted the Haggis, and the piper Lynn Newcomer was paid in whisky.

After dinner Howard Topp recited the Immortal Memory and the Saint Andrew's Dancers and Band performed Scottish dances. Hearty toasts followed, and the Lassies and the Lads were celebrated in poetry. The raffle, Scotland the Brave and Auld Lang Syne followed.

It was a fine Burns Nicht and the organizers did an excellent job.



Happy guests





Williamsburg Pipes & Drums – Lynn Newcomer below



Doug Burns presents the crook of leadership to Tim Cordle (left). Douglas Boller attacks the Haggis (below).





Howard Topp (above). Former Presidents (below).





Board Members

Letter from RBANA President Henry Cairney – May 2020

Hi everyone,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well under the trying and stressful times we all now find ourselves living in. As the first message to you after taking over the Presidency from Ken Montgomery, I have a few thoughts I would like to share.

First, I would like to congratulate Ken on the success and achievements of his presidency over the past two years (back when we all lived in better times) and I personally want to thank him for his friendship over these past four years that I have come to know him. Enjoy your term as Past President, Ken, and I look forward to working with you in that capacity over the next two years.



Second, I was bitterly disappointed that the Atlanta Conference and AGM had to be cancelled, though, like all of us, I am sure, I also recognize that RBANA had no choice, due to the threat of the COVID-19 Pandemic and resulting travel restrictions. In spite of the cancellation, I would like to personally thank the Atlanta Burns Club for all the effort and hard work they put into preparing for and setting up the Conference and AGM, as well as the necessary difficult and regretful work at completing the post-cancellation negotiations with the venue and other engaged parties. The Board will look to the next Conference and AGM to review possible timing, as well as to confirm whether or not it will be allowed to proceed. In this task, I will keep the membership current and informed on that progress.

Third, I would like to welcome our new Board Members: Regional Directors Mark Ferguson, Paul Kennedy and Brian Cumming, Immediate Past-President, Ken Montgomery, as well as former Past-President Colin Harris. I would like to also say a word of thanks and gratitude to the other Board Members Andy Harrower, Bill Fulton, Mathew Hill and George McClellan for choosing to remain in their roles and continue working for the benefit of RBANA and its membership.

Additionally, I would also like to offer special thanks to outgoing Board Members Tony Grace and Jim Steel for their services to RBANA over the past years. Gentlemen, your time, effort and devotion are much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for being a part of RBANA and for staying on as we work to negotiate the future of this organization, as it will be only with your continued participation and support that we will succeed in facing the many challenges that other organizations the world o'er are facing in these unprecedented times. In the near future, I will look to set up Zoom Meetings on a semi-regular basis to stay in contact with those of you who can access the technology and, for those of you who do not currently have access to the Zoom Meetings technology, you can find information on it at the following sites:

- <https://zoom.us/>
- https://sitelicense.ucr.edu/files/zoom_for_instructors.pdf.

The Board is having its first meeting using Zoom on Friday, 15th May, and the minutes of that meeting will be shared with you as soon as they are prepared. A few weeks after this meeting, I intend to hold an all-members Zoom meeting. Further details will be sent to you prior to that date and we hope as many of you can make the meeting as possible.

On closing, I hope that you all to keep safe and well with your families. I would like to quote a Robert Burns line that seems intended for Covid-19: "Wee sleekit, cow'rin tim'rous beastie", and I would add: "Don't come near my throat or breastie!"

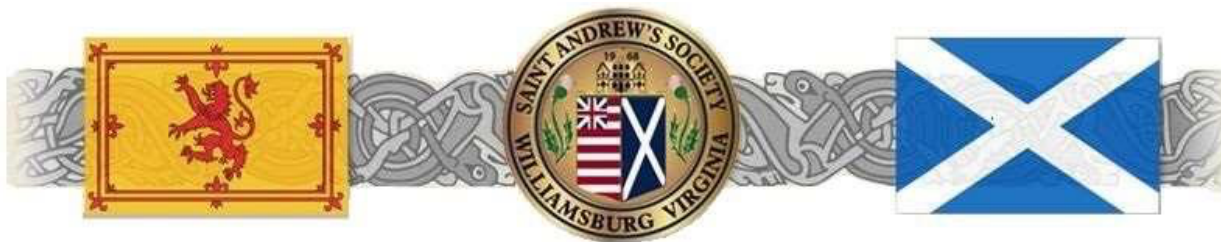
Best Regards and yours in Burns,

Henry Cairney RBANA President

Resurrection Pub Night, July 16

Seventeen SASW members met at Pauls 2 in New Town on July 16 for a long-awaited reunion and a happy break. Below are a few photos.





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.