

The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Summer 2016

President's Message – Summer 2016

September 30, 2016

Lads and Lassies,

The Society has been quite busy since the Spring issue of the Spectator was published! The Spring Kirkin' of the Tartan was held on April 24, 2016 at the historic Christ Church in Kilmarnock, VA. We had perfect weather and a wonderful turn out as usual. If you have the opportunity to attend next spring, I highly encourage it. It is well worth the very scenic drive.

The annual Ceilidh and Picnic was held June 26, 2016 at Windsor Forest clubhouse. There was a marvelous presentation on traditional Scottish clothing. We were treated to a couple highland dances as well as a brief concert given by several members of Williamsburg Pipes and Drums.

The Fall luncheon was held September 24, 2016 at Fat Tuna in Williamsburg. Secretary Michael Thompson did a great job organizing and advertising the event. I hope you all enjoy the article on presentation given by Anne Korff and Kathy Kasley.

I am saddened to say that John "Bill" Weaver, past President of the Society, passed away in August. We are so very appreciative of his years of service to the Society.

There are several more events yet to come this year. Please mark your calendars and join us as you are able.

Fall Kirkin' of the Tartan – November 13, 2016 11 AM at Williamsburg
Presbyterian Church

Annual General Meeting – November 13, 2016 1 PM at Queen's Lake Clubhouse
Christmas luncheon – details will be forthcoming

Society members may assist with such things as planning events, the calling committee and submitting articles for the Spectator and website. We welcome enthusiastic participation so that we may arrange for events of most interest to the membership.

Yours aye,
Sherri Cornoni Elmore

Kirking of the Tartans, April 24, 2016

On Sunday, 24 April, being led by our President Sherri Elmore and her husband, Michael, several members of our Society traveled to Historic Christ Church near Irvington and Kilmarnock for our spring ceremony of Kirking of the Tartans. It was a beautiful sunny day and the service was well attended by others of Scottish heritage from the area and also from lower Tidewater. The members of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock and also The Historic Christ Church Association hosted a reception in the museum activities building that morning at 11AM up until the service which was at 12:30PM.

Bob Davis led our Saint Andrews Society color guard which included Lynn Newcomer, Byron Adams, and Duncan McIver. Michael and Johanna Thompson and Diane and Mott Robertson were other members in attendance. The Kilmarnock and District Pipes and Drums provided the music and were in good form as they led the procession and the colors into the church while playing 'Hills of Argyll.'

The service was conducted by Reverend David May, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church and Reverend Judith E. Thompson, Associate Pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Reverend Thompson delivered the sermon which emphasized the importance of family, heritage and tradition in one's life and also in that of the church. Next, the pipes played 'Highland Cathedral' while members came forward to present their Tartans to be blessed with the prayer, "On behalf of all Scots away from Scotland, we present these tartans before Almighty God and ask his blessings on these his servants". Then followed the ceremony of Flowers of the Forest where the congregation was invited to name aloud those Scots and friends who had died in the past year. The pipes then played 'Flowers of the Forest'. The service concluded with the benediction and then the recessional by the Pipes and Drums and Color Guard to 'Scotland the Brave'.

Following the service out in the courtyard area of the church, the Kilmarnock Pipes and Drums played a short musical program. All agreed that it was a memorable service at an impressive and important historical site.

Article and photos by by Mott Robertson. Thanks Mott!





Family Picnic and Ceilidh, June 4, 2016

The Society Family Picnic and Ceilidh was held on June 4 at the Windsor Forest Clubhouse. This was a free event with excellent food and drinks. There was heavy attendance and it was delightful to see so many old friends gathered together for an afternoon of Scottish heritage and good times.

Entertainment included Mr & Mrs Miller of the Scottish Society of Tidewater who presented a Tartan Talk and demonstration of the evolution of Scottish kilts and tartans. Williamsburg Pipes and Drums got our attention with their rousing bagpipe tunes. Kathy Kasley provided beautiful harp music and Rose and Gwynneth gave a Scottish dancing demonstration.

Seven new members were inducted into the Society and introduced to the old-timers.

Our thanks to Sherri Elmore, Wayne Craigmiles and everyone else who helped to plan and prepare this very successful event.

New Members



Rose & Gwynneth
Photo by Mott Robertson





Kilts and Tartans



Grandfather Mountain



Article by Sherri Elmore



This year we visited the Grandfather Mountain Games for the first time and we quickly learned that GPS does not read minds. When you enter "Grandfather Mountain" it really will try to take you to the peak! Thursday evening's torchlight ceremony was beautiful from elevation 4,400 feet. I think we had the best view!

On Friday we were treated to taking the gravel back road up the mountain on the shuttle bus. Our driver was fearless navigating hairpin turns as if driving a compact car! Entering the Games field, the couple hundred colorful tents and flags added to the pageantry of the brilliant tartans everywhere the eye could see. It was

delightful to find some friends from back home and to meet some new ones as well. My daughter made sure that we stopped by Cameron's to get some haggis the first day. She sure was a happy lassie! The heavy athletics were, as always, interesting to watch. Music stage Grove II hosted Piper Jones and Seven Nations among others and really had folks tapping their toes and dancing enthusiastically.

Several musicians were set to play the Friday evening concert, but a sudden storm came up with strong wind and drenching cold rain. We took cover under a vacant tent and spent a half hour with a couple from Scotland, the gentleman chuckling through the storm saying "This is fine Scottish weather!"

Although well attended on Friday, Saturday was by far the busiest day with several thousand attendees roaming the field and many more vendors were present. We had the pleasure of seeing Graham McTavish, actor from the Outlander series, on the field Saturday. Attendees flocked about him, naturally, and he graciously participated in numerous photos. There was always something to see throughout the day. Youth wrestling went on while heavy athletics and piping competitions occurred in the centerfield. The border collies did their best to keep geese and sheep focused on staying put during all the hullabaloo. By Saturday evening folks were ready to relax at the concert on the main stage, but the musicians had them on their feet in short order. As the sun set, multiple groups played and folks danced joyfully under the stars. We cannot wait to go back again soon!

Scottish Gaelic Foundation of the U.S.A. (GaelicUSA)

by Duncan McIver



The Scottish Gaelic language has a long and revered tradition and some of the oldest literature in Western Europe is written in Gaelic. Most Highland Scottish immigrants to the U.S. in the 18th century spoke only Gaelic. These American Gaels were merchants, soldiers, teachers, scholars, priests, ministers, explorers,

statesmen, and more. They made significant contributions to the formation and emergence of this country, and have left a rich legacy of songs, poetry, letters, and other writings. Recently the language has received new visibility from the Outlander television series with the Gaelic phrases “Sassenach” (English person) and “mo nigheann donn” (my brown haired lass) becoming familiar to the public.

Today the Scottish Gaelic language and culture are alive and growing in Scotland, Canada, and Individuals in the U.S. are learning Gaelic from local teachers and from Scottish organizations promoting learning events. Americans who want formal training in the Scottish Gaelic language and culture, however, must still leave our country to study in Scottish universities. Fortunately, Scottish societies and Clan organizations provide scholarships for such interested students. Our Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg is supporting a bright and talented student, Erin Park in Gaelic Studies at the University of Glasgow. Erin recently gave me some valuable guidance in my efforts to learn Gaelic.

What is needed is a strong and effective U.S. based university program with the goal of providing scholars with the opportunity and resources to study Scottish Gaelic culture in America. An important new organization with that goal is “The Scottish Gaelic Foundation of the USA” (GaelicUSA), a non-profit organization incorporated in North Carolina, where many Highland Scots immigrated during the 18th Century. The GaelicUSA website is located at <https://gaelicusa.org>. I am very honored to be a member of the Board of Directors.

Key goals of GaelicUSA are: “To encourage and support the development of the study of Scottish Gaelic language, literature, history and culture in our institutions of higher learning, so that the cultural achievements of the highland diaspora on this continent can be rediscovered, reclaimed and properly understood, and to facilitate the flow of information from academic research to the general public so that those who engage in and celebrate Scottish heritage(s) in the United States are informed by sound scholarship and so that useful resources and best practices can be developed and/or recommended.”

One of the leaders of GaelicUSA, and a recognized scholar of Scottish culture, is Dr. Michael Newton, who received his PhD in Celtic Studies at the Edinburgh University in Scotland, taught in Nova Scotia and Richmond, Virginia. He has authored a series of important Gaelic culture books including “Warriors of the Word: The World of the Scottish Highlanders”, and “The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic”. He provided the Gaelic language translation of our Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg - “Comann Naoimh Anndra aig Baile Uilleim”, which is now on our website.

Society Fall Gathering, 24 September 2016.

After a very quiet summer leaving Scots to their own creative activities, 40 members gathered on 24 September at the Fat Tuna to give a Scottish welcome to Fall. The Fall Gathering was well attended with the usual suspects but also several new members. The food and drink is always tasty there, and Anne Korff and Kathy Kasley produced a great slide show about their recent trip to the Outer Hebrides. There was good fellowship for all, door prizes and Auld Lang Syne to say goodbye. A fun lunch!

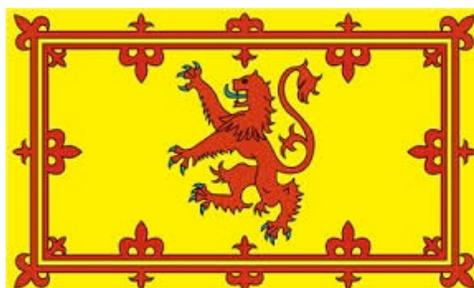
We welcomed new members Bruce Buchanan, Nancy Keane, and returning member Jeanne Millin. We were introduced to some very special guests who we hope will become members. We learned that Anne Korff will be leading a tour to the Orkney and Shetland Isles early next summer. Those interested in learning more about this trip, please contact Anne. Anne has travelled to Scotland 32 times since 1987 and has led tours there since 2000.



Happy campers



New Members (below)



Outer Hebrides Trip (below)



Scottish Country Dancing

Please click on this website for good info on a local group of enthusiastic Scottish Country Dancers: <https://www.meetup.com/Williamsburg-Scottish-Country-Dancers/> Please be patient; the site takes a few minutes to appear after you click.



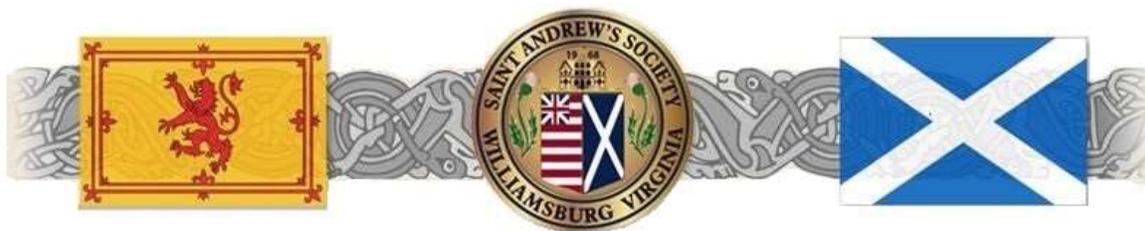
Flowers of the Forest

Bill Weaver, 1992 President of the St. Andrew's Society and member since 1977, and who was active in the Williamsburg Scottish Festival for years died on August 28 after a very long illness. We will all miss him.

WILLIAMSBURG - John William (Bill) Weaver, 82 years old, of Williamsburg, died at home on August 28, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Lottie Weaver of Durham, NC; and his twin, Thomas Weaver of Raleigh, NC. John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sara; a son, David (Ellen); two brothers, Robert (Elizabeth) of Raleigh and David (Connie) of N. Myrtle Beach, SC; two sisters, Carolyn Bobbitt of Cana, VA and Martha Powell (Wayne) of Cary, NC; and several cousins. A private graveside service was held on August 30, 2016. A special heartfelt thank you goes out to Debbie Richardson, his caregiver for two years. And a thank you to Riverside Hospice staff for their kindness and thoughtfulness. Memorial contributions may be made to, Hospice House of Williamsburg and Heritage Humane Society of Williamsburg. Online condolences may be made online at www.bucktroutfuneralhome.net

Published in Virginia Gazette on Aug 31, 2016





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, or as a new Associate 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.