



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Spring 2010

President's Message

More than 450 years ago, the Declaration of Arbroath was signed on April 6, 1320, declaring Scots to be independent of English rule. This document was later used by Thomas Jefferson as a model for our own Declaration of Independence; you sense a kindred spirit with our Scottish ancestors.

In 1998, with the passing of Resolution 155, the United States Senate designated April 6th as National Tartan Day, a time to celebrate our Scottish heritage and to recognize and honor the major role that Scottish-Americans played in the founding of our country. The document states, "Scottish-Americans helped shape this country in its formative years and guide this Nation through its most troubled times." It also recognizes the fact that the more than 200 Scottish organizations across the country "do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed."

On Saturday, April 2nd, Saint Andrew's Society in Williamsburg held a luncheon to celebrate Tartan Day. Thirty members, their families and guests enjoyed lunch and camaraderie at Food for Thought. Harold Maxwell, our Society Genealogist, shared his research into the life and accomplishments of Sir Walter Scott and his home, Abbotsford. Many thanks, also to Harold for organizing the luncheon.

Another Tartan Day experience I would like to share is my visit to my grandson's 4th grade class at Hidenwood Elementary school. I had a wonderful time! The students were so interested and really enjoyed hearing about Scotland. They loved seeing the Tartans, and yes, Howard, I took the picture of you and your family and they liked



seeing the kilts and accessories. Their favorite part was hearing about all the inventions and discoveries by Scots and Scottish Americans. This fit in nicely with their Social Studies lessons about ancestors and heritage. I stressed to them that I am an American, and proud of it. But my ancestors were Scottish, and I am also very proud of that!

The Kirkin' of the Tartans is another inspiring celebration of our heritage. Historic Christchurch in Kilmarnock once again provided a fitting site for our Spring Kirkin on what turned out to be a beautiful spring day. Walking behind the Pipes and Drums carrying the Tartans in the processional, I felt part of something special; this ceremony, so full of symbolism and tradition, is another connection with Scots all over the world. After the service, we were treated to a concert by the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band followed by lunch at Eckhard's Restaurant. Marshall took some wonderful pictures and they are printed in this issue of the Spectator.

Lynn Newcomer, Marshall Thomas and Wil Phillips did a great job organizing the Kirkin' and the luncheon. Many thanks, also, to our friends in Kilmarnock who prepared coffee and pastries for us prior to the service.

You can read more about these spring events in this issue of the Spectator, as well as see Marshall's photos. Also in this issue is a notice about the Book Club, articles by Anne Korff and Byron Adams, news from Sarah McCaslin, our scholarship student in Scotland, and much more!

Thank you, Wayne Craigmiles and Marshall Thomas for getting our flyers and announcements out to the members through the website and the spectator. I would also like to thank Joyce and Jim White and the members of the Calling Committee. We want all our members to know about our events and have all the details. Coming soon, we will have information about the Annual Family Picnic and Ceilidh on July 11th at the Queen's Lake Clubhouse. Please note the change in the date for the picnic from June 26 to July 11. After that, in August we will have our Summer Luncheon, place and date to be announced and we all look forward to the Scottish Festival in October.

I hope all of you have an enjoyable summer, and I hope to visit with you at the picnic!

Yours, Aye,



Jamie Alexander Griffin
President
Saint Andrew's Society
Williamsburg, Virginia

Farewell to Marie Wonsey

Marie Wonsey, a long-time member, passed away on March 12, 2010. Please see the 'Flowers of the Forest' section below. The Society sent a delegation to the remembrance service at Bruton Parish Church on March 20, including Lynn Newcomer on the bagpipes. The Rev. Mollie Douglas Turner gave the homily which was a touching and insightful commentary on Marie's wonderful life and boundless energy and optimism. Our sympathies go out to Baird and the family.



Howard, Wil, Jim & Marshall after the service.

Attendees file out following the service (below).



Tartan Day at Food for Thought

On April 3 the Society gathered at Food for Thought Restaurant on Richmond Road to celebrate Tartan Day. After an excellent lunch, Society genealogist Harold Maxwell spoke on Sir Robert Scott, the famous Scottish author. Several new members attended and everyone enjoyed the food and drink, the presentation and the good fellowship. Following are some photos from the event.



The Society gathers for the feast

Harold Maxwell speaks on Sir Robert Scott





Jackson McBroom, Wayne Craigmiles and their respective commanding officers. Please note that Wayne has finally bought a kilt, and a fine outfit it is!

Kirkin' o' th' Tartans at Historic Christ Church

On Sunday April 25 the Society and other regional Scottish heritage groups attended a Kirkin' of the Tartan church service at Historic Christ Church in Irvington, VA. Despite the ominous weather predictions for thunderstorms and hail, the day was clear and mild and we experienced another delightful kirking at this scenic location.

As background, our church program noted that the origins of the Kirkin' of the Tartan are believed to date from the 18th Century when, after the Battle of Culloden in 1745, the conquering English attempted to break the Scottish clan system by banning, under pain of death, the wearing of the tartan and the playing of bagpipes. The Scots resisted by hiding bits of Tartan on their person when attending the kirk (church). In this way, when blessings were offered, the tartan and by extension the clan and families were blessed. The service became a Scottish American tradition in 1941. The service is an opportunity to dedicate to almighty God the tartan symbol of unwavering loyalty, steadfast faith, rugged individualism and regard for human personality.

On the 25th Christ Church celebrated the kirking joyously to the defiant and stirring sound of the bagpipes. Resistance to tyranny may start off slowly but it is always ultimately victorious if it comes from the people. After the service a piper's serenade was conducted under the trees by the Kilmarnock and District Pipes and Drums. It was wonderful hearing all those historic Scottish tunes. Following the program, we had an excellent meal at Eckhard's Restaurant.

**The Choir enters
The church**



**Untamed
highlanders
prepare for
the event**



**Jamie with
the tartans,
flanked by her
bodyguards.
Note Jim
White's under-
stated, elegant
menace. We
can assume he
has killed
plenty of
English.**





The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band raises our spirits.



A Wonderful Scottish Wedding

SAS members Arthur and Anne Korff attended an unforgettable Scottish wedding in Scotland last November. This has a great Scottish flavor – enjoy!

A WONDERFUL SCOTTISH WEDDING by Anne Korff, F.S.A., SCOT

My husband Arthur and I went to an OUTDOOR wedding in Scotland last November and had a sensational time!

The bride was a long-standing friend named Andrea although she only answers to "Andy". She was marrying her soul-mate Jason Cameron, an able-bodied seaman she met the year before when both worked aboard the *Hebridean Princess* cruise ship.

Glenfinnan Monument was meaningful to both bride and groom because that was where the Clan Cameron swore allegiance to Bonnie Prince Charlie all those years ago. Their Clan affiliation was important to both of them - so much so that Jason proposed to Andy beside the Cameron cairn on Culloden Field.

November was the only month both could get leave time from work so it was selected for the wedding. Andy planned for the gentlemen in kilts to form an aisle for her to walk down and meet Jason and the minister beneath a decorated canopy beside the monument.

Incidentally, for weeks before the wedding, Andy and Arthur held long distance conversations about which kilt he should wear until Andy accused him of being as excited as a teenager going to a first prom. (He chose the red Mackintosh)

She arranged for a charter bus to pick up her kith and kin from Edinburgh and Dunblane and transport us to the Ben Nevis Hotel in Ft. William for the weekend. Arthur and I had arrived in Scotland several days ahead and marveled at the great weather. It was sunny but chilly.

Our bus load of family and friends was filled with laughter. Suu, who had been an extra in the movie *Brave Heart* wanted to tell us all about her experiences and offered to show the video on the bus. We shouted her down, sang silly songs, played games and cheered.



The atmosphere at the hotel was even livelier, we discovered when we arrived. Everyone there was IN great spirits and CONSUMING great spirits. New family members kept joining the party and the excitement was palpable.

Robert Burns was right, however when he warned about the "best laid plans." Saturday morning, November 14 was the wedding day. It was also the day when the rain and the temperatures fell steadily.

The bus transported us to the site of the ceremony and the gentlemen lined up as instructed. Arthur had brought an Inverness cape, most of the others had brollies which they planned to lower at the appropriate minute. Then the wind began to whip damp kilts around chilly knees.

Just as Andy arrived in a decorated antique car, the canopy blew away across the water. Her bridesmaids in strapless red dresses shivered and stuffed their hands into white fur muffs. Andy herself started down her aisle laughing with her dad about how daft she thought all of us looked standing in our puddles.

The minister began a much-rehearsed and long narrative about the history of Glenfinnan while onlookers beat their hands together for warmth. The women in high heels were sinking in the mud and the tide was coming in when a youngster from the rear of the crowd asked "Could you speed this up, it's cold out here?"

Shrugging, the disappointed minister did so and bride and groom hastily exchanged vows before racing through the storm for the shelter of their car. The rest of us boarded the bus which soon was redolent with the aroma of wet wool. We didn't care, after all the reception was to be indoors at the community center.

We were greeted with glasses of mulled wine once inside and dinner, drinking and dancing then became the order of the evening.

At the dinner table, each of us had a name plate and a scroll. Inside the scroll was a detailed layout of the dinner tables with not only the names of the celebrants, but also their relationship to the bride or groom Great conversation starter that was. In addition, we each had a lottery ticket for the evening's drawing.

Following dinner, and long and short toasts, Andy thanked everyone for coming, raised both arms joyfully and said, "Now, let's all get p—ed" We did.

The dancing to a local ceilidh band was a marvel to behold. Although I know the steps, their tempo was such that I watched a great deal of the time from the sidelines. They started out moderately enough, but gradually danced faster and faster whirling and twirling and shouting with abandon. Toddlers were held on the shoulders of their dancing dads, young boys and girls joined the merry circle and the bride's mom and dad danced almost every dance.

People moved from table to table between dances talking to one another, and making new acquaintances. Arthur had such a grand time he ended up wearing the hat discarded after the ceremony by the Mother of the bride. Our bus brought us back to the hotel by 11:00 but we understand many of the revelers were there well past 2:00AM.

The next morning, we checked the lottery numbers and discovered none of us would be getting rich that day. A bleary-eyed crew boarded the bus for home and a surprisingly chipper Andy and Jason hugged each of us and thanked us for coming. We were all tired but happy - so tired in fact we let Suu play the Brave Heart video with muted sound of course.

An outdoor wedding in Scotland in mid-November may not sound like it, but it was more continuous fun than Arthur and I have had in ages.



Top left: Andrea (Andy) and Arthur, Andy & groom Jason, Arthur with raingear.

Bottom: The Avenue of Kilts, in lovely Scottish weather.

A Visit to Elgin

Elgin, Scotland is a fascinating area to visit, should you find yourself in the vicinity. Our own Byron Adams did so in September 2009 and his photographs appear below.

Elgin Cathedral is an awe-inspiring ruin sometimes referred to as the Lantern of the North. The cathedral was built during the 13th Century but was sacked and destroyed twice, repaired during the 15th and 16th centuries and then fell into disuse and ruination. It is a stunning, beautiful ode to the past. The immortal Byron ran a marathon that began and ended at Elgin Cathedral.

Not far from Elgin is the Burghead Well, a remarkable monument cut out of rock, a flight of twenty stone steps leading underground to a chamber in which is sunk a water tank fed by springs. The monumental character of the work hints at some ceremonial purpose besides that of drawing water from a well. It was evidently constructed in the Dark Ages, although exactly by whom is unknown.

The Burghead Well is located within the perimeter of a Pictish Iron Age fort with a good view of the Moray Firth. It is believed to be the oldest Pictish Fort in Europe. Not much is left of the fort, but you can stroll through what remains and once again the ghosts of the past will be there, floating all around you.

After viewing the above wonders you might wish to have a drink. There are three distilleries in Elgin that welcome visitors. They produce Chivas Regal blended Scotch whisky, Glenfiddich single malt whisky and Glen Moray single malt whisky. Although Scotland's warring clans occasionally burned down cathedrals, they always carefully preserved distilleries. All photos by Byron Adams. Enjoy!



Elgin Cathedral



Elgin Cathedral (above)

Burghead Well (R)





Ramparts of Pictish Fort (above)
View of Burghead Village from Pictish Fort (below)





Chivas Regal distillery (above). Glenfiddich distillery (below)





Glen Moray distillery

Book Club

From Society President Jamie Griffin:

Do you enjoy reading, learning about Scotland and talking to others with the same interests? If you do, we have just the thing! Saint Andrew's Society is forming a book club beginning in September and meeting every other month through May. This club will be open to all members, their families and friends. Please take a minute to fill out the questionnaire, or if you just want to participate and don't really have a particular interest, just let me know and we will have a place for you. Contact me at jardgriffin@cox.net for more information.

Thanks from Jim Anthony's Family

Following Jim Anthony's funeral, the Society received a thank-you note from his family. We will always remember Jim. Please see the note below.

The family of
James Coleman Anthony
wishes to express their
deep appreciation of your
kindness and sympathy

21 December 2009
Dear Mr. Tucker,
Please let the members of the St.
Andrew's Society know how much we
appreciate their very generous donation to
the Order of the White Jacket on Daddy's
behalf. He loved the College dearly,
and I know he'd be pleased.
Daddy was so proud of his Scottish
heritage and thoroughly enjoyed your group.

The "Company" was resplendent at the memorial service; ~~we~~ truly appreciate the honor and respect you all paid him.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

Maryellen, Susan, Sharon and Elizabeth

Kirkin' in Harrisonburg

The Society was able to recently assist a church that desired to celebrate the Kirkin' of the Tartans. On April 11 the First Presbyterian Church on Court Square in Harrisonburg, Virginia celebrated their Scottish heritage and blessed the tartans that had been borrowed from the Society by Church members. We are happy to help!

Tartan Day at Hidenwood Elementary

From Jamie, here is a photo of students in Hidenwood Elementary enjoying Tartan Day. Please see the comments in the President's Message above.



More News from our Student Sarah McCaslin

Monday, April 19, 2010



Dear St. Andrew's Society,

I hope that you have all enjoyed your Easter holiday and the beginning of spring. I just wanted to send you a little update on my life here in Edinburgh and my studies at the University. I have just completed my second semester assignment, where I looked at American's British identity in the mid-eighteenth century through the study of Dr. Alexander Hamilton and his Tuesday Club of Annapolis (a club he based on the Edinburgh Whin Bush Club). I have attached a copy of this paper for your reading pleasure. I am now about to start writing my final dissertation which will deal with eighteenth century Scottish cultural agency and national pride as seen through lens of Edinburgh clubs and societies. This means that I get to spend my days in the University Archives, the National Library of Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland and the New College Library! I have also been accepted to start a PhD program here in Edinburgh in September. I am just now waiting to hear from the university funding councils, fingers crossed. If funding does come through, I will be researching and studying nineteenth century Scottish ethnic societies in America, including St. Andrew's Societies, Robert Burns Societies, and Clan Associations. I will be looking at how these societies furthered the formation of a distinct Scottish identity. I believe that it will be an extremely interesting and appropriate topic for an American student to study while in Scotland.

Outside of academic life, I have recently been able to enjoy trips through the highlands. Just last week I visited the Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie and Newtonmore (small towns in Badenoch, close to Inverness). It is an amazing experience, which I would like to recommend to you, for your next visit to Scotland. They have a working croft, and a life size replica of a small eighteenth century highland village. It is truly an amazing experience. I have also been able to visit Culloden Battle Field, and visit their new visitors centre. This was breathtaking and extremely informative.

Edinburgh has finally brightened up a little after having a harsh winter. The flowers are starting to bloom and the weather is warmer and nicer. If it weren't for the BBC you would never know that there was an ash cloud covering the entire island. I am planning on spending two weeks at home in Annapolis, Maryland at the end of May, so hopefully the Icelandic volcano will calm down by then.

All the best, Sarah McCaslin

Alaskan Iditarod Scottish Dog Team

From Howard and Carolyn Topp: The mushers are preparing for the Iditarod in Alaska, and I received the attached picture of the "best" team in the race. After the winter Scotland has had, this team should be well trained. Go Scotland!



Hopefully he is not wearing the kilt in the "traditional" manner.

Flowers of the Forest – Marie Wonsey

We will miss her. Please see the article above on the memorial service.

The Virginia Gazette March 17, 2010



Marie Wonsey

Marie Tudor Wonsey died peacefully from cancer on March 12, 2010 at Patriot's Colony of Williamsburg.

Always with a smile on her face, she touched the lives of family, friends and neighbors with her kindness and generosity.

She was an active member of Bruton Parish Church and Daughters of the King. Her great love of history and community also led her to serve as a Guide at Bruton Parish and a volunteer for Preservation Virginia at Jamestown Island Church.

A long time member of the League of Women Voters, she served a term as President in Charlotte, NC, during the 1960's. In 1972, she was presented with the Law Day USA Liberty Bell Award. At the University of Southern California she earned a Bachelors Degree in Education and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 57 years, Baird Wonsey; son, David Wonsey and daughter-in-law, Joanne Wonsey; and daughter, Marguerite Wonsey McEver and son-in-law, Jim McEver.

A memorial service will be held at Bruton Parish Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 20. Parking will be available on Duke of Gloucester Street.

The family wishes to thank staff members of Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, Heartland Hospice, and Patriot's Colony for their care during her final days.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway, Williamsburg VA 23188 or to Bruton Parish Church, P.O. Box 3520, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3520.

192400X



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.