



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Fall, 2005

From the President

Dear Members,

Burn's Night is coming up sooner than anyone wants to think. Time is flying faster than I certainly want to comprehend. Burn's Night this year is Saturday January 28, 2006. The dinner will be held at the Williamsburg Country Club east of Williamsburg on route 143. I am sure you are all familiar with the location. Invitations are being handled by David Lowery (his wife Eileen really), and they will go out on or before January first. Important, the return RSVP card needs to be mailed back by the deadline of January 18. The country club room will hold 110 people and we will cut off the reservations at that number as they arrive by mail. So you will not want to put the invitation on the "to think about later" mail stack where it will be forgotten until the spring cleaning lady comes in and finds it. When you get it, decide and write a check and get it in the mail.

So far entertainment for the evening will be an appearance by the Strath James Pipe Band, and a recitation of Tam O'Shanter by Rob Lockwood in Scots dialect. You will have a menu of Haggis, and a choice of Prime Rib with Horseradish sauce or Chesapeake Bay Crab Cakes with remoulade sauce, Garden Salad, roasted red bliss potatoes, green beans almondine, rolls and butter, carrot cake for desert, coffee, decaf and tea with dinner- white and red wine. Additional bottles as needed will be served, an amenity added this year. Please bring your Jefferson Cups this year for the toasts. I have arranged for this old custom again with the help of the country club, so



we can do it. I assume everyone was born before 1985 to participate. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

There will be a slight increase in cost this year to include all of the miscellaneous expenses that seem to impact the treasury. These may include the donation to the pipe band, postage going up, name tags, complimentary meals for guests of the Society, and other last minute surprises. I don't think you will find the increase as surprising as your property tax notice, or the recent increases in gasoline.

I hope to see you all at Burn's night. Highland wear is always encouraged for gentlemen and their guests.

Yours truly, Lynn Newcomer, President

Scotland Forever! The Williamsburg Scottish Festival

The Williamsburg Scottish Festival and Celtic Celebration was held Saturday September 24, 2005 at the Jamestown Beach Campsites. Attendance was very high, and Jamestown Beach was a great site. Your editor arrived a bit late because of a morning commitment, but I was on time for the welcoming ceremonies in the main field. It was a delightfully cool day, fresh breezes with grey skies and a hint of rain that never quite came except for a few sprinkles.

As I wandered around watching burly young Scots hurling the hammer and tossing trees around like it was the most normal thing in the world, it struck me that any race that made a contest of throwing trees for distance was certainly quite formidable and it was no surprise that their descendants had made it to the present. Listening to the eerie screech of the bagpipes, which always gives me a cold thrill and raises the hair on the back of my neck, I was almost overwhelmed by that mystical link with the past that surfaces only in places like the Scottish Festival.

I lost myself in the Pub Tent, listening to Tinkers Dam and Rathkeltair, stunned by the glorious fusion of past and present blasting from the amps. I drank dark beer, ate a meat pie and staggered around in a joyful daze.

"And a little child shall lead them..."

When the Parade of the Clans began, I vowed to photograph every clan group, and I did. I had no idea the past was going to reach out again and seize me by the heart. As the clans marched past me it was just as if they were marching right out of history. Many of the groups were led by children – beautiful little girls and boys, holding up the Clan colors, banners and tartans, as their proud parents marched right behind them. What stunning symbolism, I thought. This is not only about the past, it's about the future too. Those kids are going to remember this – they're not going to forget their clans.

Our thanks to Wil Phillips and everyone who worked so hard to ensure the success of the festival.



Scottish Festival - the welcoming ceremonies



Saint Andrew's Society tent (above) – Pipe band (below)





Marching for the Clans





SAS Fall Dinner

On October 21 St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg helped open up the new Pints and Pipes Pub on Palace Lane. The new facilities are spacious and well-decorated. We were given a private banquet room, and the prime rib dinner was exceptionally good. I was surprised and delighted by the high quality of the food. Our speaker was Donald Smith, a local writer who has written a book about Lefevre James Cranston, a formerly obscure nineteenth century English artist who traveled in America just before the War Between the States. Don gave us a fascinating computer/slide presentation showing us samples of the artists' work, which included sketches of the Williamsburg area in 1860.



Fall Dinner – Bob Young speaks with author Don Smith (below)





Fall Dinner – Jim White chats with Lynn Newcomer

Richmond Scottish Festival

The Williamsburg Saint Andrews Society was well represented at the October 22 & 23 Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival by Lynn Newcomer, Jeff Mitchell, Bob Davis, Howard Topp, Wil Phillips, and Jack Kane. The festival atmosphere was reminiscent of a typical festival in Scotland, with overcast skies, bone chilling wind, and a slight drizzle. The air was filled with the sound of bagpipes and the smell of cultural gastronomical delights. The Strath James Pipe Band completed the 2005 competition year by having a strong performance at the games, and the band members were pleased with their performance. Attendance at the festival was very good with a large turnout for the clan tents with Clan MacDuff being the honored clan. (article and photos by Jeff Mitchell)



At the Richmond Scottish Festival



Members Night

SAS Members Night was held November 9 at the Williamsburg Country Club, thanks to the organizational talents of Byron Adams. This was boys night out, where we have a rollicking good time and lie to our wives about what we did. Actually most of us are so old we couldn't get in too much trouble and by the time the festivities were over we were anxious to get home and have a warm glass of milk in bed. Anyway, it was a lot of fun. Lynn Newcomer serenaded us with the bagpipe. Clement Brown educated us about French wines and provided some excellent vintages for our uneducated palates. The buffet was quite good. Dave Lowery, Bob Flinn and Bob Young told us stories about their Scottish ancestors. Bob Davis, James Grant, Howard Topp and Ernest Shakelford were elected to the SAS Board. In summary a good time was had by all!



**Clement Brown
tempts us with fine
wine**



Members' Night – Bob Young discusses his family history (below)



Byron Adams Trip to Scotland

Byron Adams visited Scotland this September to attend the Robert Burns World Federation annual meeting. While there he stopped at Dunvegan Castle on Skye to lunch with Chief John MacLeod of Clan MacLeod and his wife. The MacLeod family has lived continuously at Dunvegan Castle for 700 years. Byron also visited his wife Mary's relatives on Skye as well as Mull, Islay, Iona and Arran. Following are three photos from the trip.



Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye – historic home of the MacLeod Clan.



Byron Adams with John MacLeod, 29th Chieftain of Clan MacLeod

Portree, Skye, where Mary Adams' relatives live (below)



Flowers of the Forest: Zane Alexander

Long-time SAS member Zane Alexander died on September 22, at age 71. Everyone in Saint Andrew's Society is going to miss him. SAS sent flowers to the funeral and SAS members attended. A piper bade farewell to Zane. The obituary in the Williamsburg Gazette is reproduced below.

16A The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg 9/28/2005

OBITUARIES

Zane Alexander, Presbyterian pastor

The Rev. Dr. Zane Alexander of Williamsburg died on Thursday, Sept. 22. He was 71.

He served 20 years in the Army as a chaplain, receiving two Bronze Star medals for his meritorious service during two tours of duty in Vietnam and the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious achievement as the chaplain of the Army Drug Treatment Center in Long Binh, Vietnam.

The Rev. Alexander was pastor at several local churches, including Jamestown



Presbyterian, Suffolk Presbyterian, Wythe Presbyterian, First Presbyterian Church of Hampton, and Franklin Presbyterian.

He was a proud member of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, a prolific and published author of two books and numerous stories, a licensed therapist, skipper of the "MacAlister," and a passionate lover of the sea.

He is survived by his two daughters, Donna McMillan

and her husband, Leonard, of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Dawn Swartz and her husband, John, of Raleigh, N.C.; five grand-

children; his father, the Rev. T.L. Alexander of Great Bridge; three sisters, Joyce White and her husband, Jim, Jamie Griffin and her husband, Rob, all of Williamsburg, and Lee Ann McCall and her husband, Ron, of Chesapeake.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at James-

town Presbyterian Church, 3287 Ironbound Rd., with the Rev. Arthur F. Jensen officiating. The family will receive friends following the service. Burial services with full military honors will be held on Nov. 30, at 9 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials in memory of Zane Alexander be made to the Child Life Department of the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, 601 Children's Lane, Norfolk VA 23507.

Arrangements by Nelsen Funeral Home.





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: _____

Wife'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 or grandson of an active member, in good standing, or the son or grandson 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's or Grandfather'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. He 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 _____