



## The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Summer/Fall 2023

### President's Message

**2023 State of the Society Talk – by Jerry Lelansky**  
**St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg Annual General Membership Meeting November 19, 2023**

Lassies and Lads, we had a busy year so far! As a reminder, this is the 55<sup>th</sup> year of our Society.

Our numbers are strong: 94 active members, 11 associate members, 18 lifetime, 20 senior and 14 honorary. We gained 21 new members and lost 18 members.

Thanks to all who helped organize the AGM and Kirking of the Tartan held earlier today at Williamsburg Presbyterian church.

I will recognize a few members for their efforts: Membership Secretary Ed Matheson (21 new members this year), Scholarship chair Clay McEldowney (\$1500 given), Quartermaster Russ Madigan (tireless efforts in supporting every event and designing and procuring society shirts) and Marshall Thomas for his continuing work on the Spectator and newspaper articles. Thank you to four board members whose terms are up: Ed Matheson, Michael Thompson, Doug Burns, and Marshall Thomas who will stay on as editor of the Spectator. We have four new board members, which will be introduced by the Nominating Committee,

A special thanks to one of our members who has and continues to support all our events, I am presenting Russ Madigan with the Scot Of The Year award.

**This is a quick recap of our year thus far:**

We lost three society members this year: Nancy Ferguson, Kathy Kasley and Holly Yohe. Holly's Celebration of Life service will be hosted on November 25th at 2:00 p.m. at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

We kicked off the new year with a great Burns Night on January 21st at Fords Colony. Tim Cordle did an excellent job setting this up.

Our pub nights started back up in February at Anna's Brick Oven. March and April were at Paul's Deli in New Town and we went back to Anna's for the rest of this year. Thank you Jan Hruz for taking over from Mary and Jim Murphy.

We had a good turn out on April 6<sup>th</sup> for Tartan Day at the Grove Christian Outreach Center. We donated approximately 357 pounds of food for their food pantry.

For something different, a few members, in kilts/tartans, visited and helped out at the Williamsburg British Car Club car show on April 22. I thought it would be a good idea to go, to be seen, and chat up our society. I still get a few comments from folks at the monthly Cars and Coffee at the parking lot next to the Revolution Golf and Grille.

Seven society members attended the Spring Kirkin' of the Tartans on April 23 at the Historic Christ Church in Weems, VA. The Kilmarnock Pipes and Drums performed before, during, and after the service.

Tartan Day on April 29 . We lucked out on the weather! It rained all day Friday, cleared up on Tartan Day and rained again all day Sunday. After our lunch, several society members joined Williamsburg Pipes and Drums in their event at Copper Fox Distillery for a tour and whiskey tasting and enjoyed more music by the band.

Founders Day was on Saturday May 13 at Ford's Colony. Thank you Bruce Schoch for arranging this event.

As always, things slowed down over the summer.

We had a fun Fall Ceilidh on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> at Ford's Colony and we had several W&M students attend as well as a few families with their sons and daughters. Everyone had a good time - Thank you Tim Cordle for setting this up.

Halloween pub night was well attended on Thursday Oct 26 - pub nights will resume in February.

Richmond Highland Games Nov 4-5 at Dorey Park and Recreation Center. We shared part of the Clan Campbell Society of North America's tents. To man the tent throughout the 2 days, we had 12 volunteers working in two hour shifts. About 30 people visited our tent, some confusing us with the defunct St Andrew's Society of Richmond. Eight were interested and signed our visitor log and three signed up to join our society.

**Four upcoming events:**

Saint Andrews Day and the Grove Christian Outreach Food Drive Nov 30 , arrive by 10:15AM please come out and drop off food donations.

Williamsburg Christmas Parade, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:00-7:00PM – it falls on the first Sunday in December. Right now we have 35 members of the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and other bands from around the area. The parade length is 1.1 miles. Please let me know if you'll walk with us and if you want to receive text message updates the day of the parade.

Christmas Ceilidh Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1PM at Ford's Colony. Burns Night January 20<sup>th</sup> 6PM at Ford's Colony.

Yours aye,

Jerry Lelansky

President, Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Maternal ancestry Anstruther of that Ilk

## Founders Day – May 2023

On 13 May 2023 St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg gathered at Ford's Colony to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Society's founding in 1968. An excellent buffet lunch and an interesting program followed. Several new members were presented at this event, which demonstrates that the Society is growing.

Below are a few photos taken at the event, Please see the website Gallery for more photos by Terri Cordle and Marshall Thomas.

### New Members!







Lassies & Lads







**President Jerry Lelansky & Fans**



## Autumn Ceilidh – October 2023

The Society's Autumn Ceilidh was held on October 8 at Ford's Colony Country Club. Attire was "Kilt Casual" and the whole gang was there. These get-togethers are valuable for the contact between members, new members and potential members.

This event featured Williamsburg Pipes and Drums usual spectacular performance, raising the roof for all present. A Ceilidh is an entertainment venue featuring Scottish music, dance, poetry, stories and anything else about Scotland that anyone wants to say.

The buffet featured cheeseburgers, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad, fruit and cookies. Yum! Your editor celebrated by pouring too much mustard over his meal and part of his clothing. His wife was not amused.

Everybody had a great time and thanks go to Tim Cordle for organizing the event. Please see the photos below and on the website gallery.



**Welcome to the Ceilidh**





**Mary Murphy, Claudette Davis and Kim Thomas (above)  
Michael Thompson, Jim Murphy and President Jerry Lelansky (below)**







**Vicki LaBarre and Bruce Schoch**



**Leo & Claire**



**Williamsburg Pipes & Drums**

## **Richmond Highland Games**

Dorey Park and Recreation Center, Henrico VA

November 4-5, 2023

The weekend was perfect for the games, with Saturday being the cooler and busiest of the two days. Saturday had a record attendance of 10,000 people! People were so excited to have the games finally back after a four year break.

There were over 40 vendors in the Vendor Village selling Scottish, Irish and Australian clothing and accessories, wares, and gifts. The food vendors included traditional British fare, BBQ, and frozen custard.

Clan Campbell Society of North America let us share part of their second tent. Jerry gave the Campbell's a bottle of Glenfiddich Solera Reserve 15yr. On Friday afternoon, Russ Madigan setup our section with the St Andrew's Society of Williamsburg flag, the Flag of Scotland, St Andrew's Seal, parade banner, tools, table cloth, and a few books. We had 12 volunteers help man the tent and Vicki Scott provided the scheduled time slots for each volunteer. The volunteers were: Jerry and Irene Lelansky, John and Vicki Scott, Russ Madigan, Jimmy McCarter, Mary Fauteaux, Jan Hruz, Tami Schumann, Howard Topp, Rod MacGillivray, and Ed and Cindy Matheson. About 30 people visited our tent, some confusing us with the defunct St Andrew's Society of Richmond. Eight were interested and signed our visitor log and two joined our society – Eric and Robin Campbell. Eric is the president of the Clan Campbell Society. Sunday evening Russ, Jerry, and Irene broke down the St Andrew's tent and helped break down the Campbell tent.

Many events happened on each day, and included:



Seven different bands played throughout the day at the Guinness Main Stage.

Wee ones Tent (crafts, face painting, bounce houses), British automobile show, whisky tasting, Guinness beer school.

Mass bands both days and the parade of the clans on Sunday.

Competitions in Piping and Drumming, Highland and Irish dance, strings, and the Mid-Atlantic Scottish Athletics (M.A.S.A.) Heavy Athletics, which was open to professionals and amateurs.

The heavy athletics included:

**Open/Braemar Stones:** The Open Stone weighs 16lbs (the same as a shot put) and is thrown with an approach much resembling modern shot put techniques. The Braemar Stone is a heavier stone generally weighing between 19-28lbs.

**Weights For Distance:** Two weights are generally thrown, the 56lb and the 28lb weights.

**Scottish Hammers:** Two Hammers are traditionally thrown in the Heavy Events, at 16lb 22lb. hammer.

**Caber Toss:** The Caber Toss is the signature event of the Highland Games. A Caber (gaelic for "Tree") is exactly that, the trunk of a tree which is generally 18 to 21 ft. in length and anywhere from 90 to 150 lbs. The objective of this event is for the athlete to flip this to a 12 o'clock position.

**Sheaf Toss:** A modern, American addition to the Traditional Events. In the Sheaf Toss the athlete uses a 2 or 3 tined pitch fork to throw a 16 or 20 lb. bag over a bar. The athlete gets three chances at each height and is eliminated after missing all three chances at any given height.

**Weight For Height:** The Weight for Height, or Weight Over Bar is similar to the sheaf toss, but the competitors toss much heavier weights: 56, 42, or 28lb.

Yours aye,

Jerry Lelansky

President, Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Maternal ancestry Anstruther of that Ilk



**New members Eric and Robin Campbell, with Irene Lelansky at the Richmond Highland Games.**



## **Vicki LaBarre and Bruce Schoch Marriage**

On November 11 2023 Vicki LaBarre and Bruce Schoch were married in a beautiful ceremony in Bruton Parish Church, attended by friends, relatives and many members of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg. The marriage was followed by a reception in the Parish Hall with a lunch buffet and plenty of good cheer and conversation.



**Vicki and Bruce**

## **Kirking of the Tartans & AGM, November 2023**

On the morning of Sunday November 19, 2023, the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg attended the Autumn Kirking of the Tartans at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, for the blessing of the tartans, a Scottish-American tradition. The Williamsburg Pipes and Drums played Scottish music inside and outside the church.





**Williamsburg Pipes and Drums at the Church**



## The AGM

At 1 PM the Society gathered at Windsor Forest Clubhouse for the Annual General Meeting. A tasty lunch was served, serenaded by the Pipes and Drums. A business meeting followed, including presentation of the Scot of the Year award to Russ Madigan. Three new members were introduced. The meeting ended with a round of whisky tasting and toasting.

And a good time was had by all!





**New members**



**Scot of the year Russ Madigan (right) with President Jerry Lelansky**



## Flowers of the Forest

### Elizabeth "Holly" Yohe

MARCH 29, 1941 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2023



Holly was a vibrant and brilliant Society member who never slowed down and was loved by all.

Elizabeth "Holly" Achenbach Yohe passed away peacefully on September 4th, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Holly was born on March 29, 1941, in Lock Haven, PA to Hall and Elizabeth Achenbach. As a military child, she attended high school in Lock Haven, PA and graduated from Biloxi High School in Mississippi. She earned a BA in English and graduated from Gettysburg College. There she was a member of Phi Mu sorority and later married her college sweetheart, Skip Yohe.

While being a military spouse to Skip, an Air Force fighter pilot for 24 years, they were stationed many places including a 3-year assignment in St. Andrews, Scotland with the Royal Air Force, Washington DC, Eglin AFB in

Florida, and finishing their military service at Luke AFB in Arizona. During this time, Holly was an active member of the Officers Wives Club and continued her teaching career as a substitute while raising her family.

Holly and Skip moved to Williamsburg, VA in 1988 as civilians where she began her second career as an Historical Interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg. She loved touring and was recognized by her peers with the coveted Order of the Pineapple Award for outstanding hospitality. It was the perfect job for Holly who often said, "I get paid to talk".

In 1992, Skip was relocated for business to Tel Aviv, Israel for 5 years. Holly was active in the Israeli Women's Club, International Wives Club, continued to substitute teach and returned each summer to do history tours in Williamsburg.

After retiring from Colonial Williamsburg, she was an Elderhostel tour guide for the College of William and Mary and served as a private tour guide in the historic triangle until her death. She was a frequent public speaker and never missed an opportunity to address an audience. Holly enjoyed life to the fullest and was a "joiner." She was active in various clubs and service organizations, including DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), Vintage Ladies, Phi Mu, Gettysburg Alumni Association, the St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg (where she was voted the Hottie Scottie), Church Circle at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, and board member for The Salvation Army.

Holly was a devoted wife, mother, friend, and the best Nana. She loved talking, travelling (esp. to Scotland and Pine Creek Cabin), and giving back to her community. She taught Sunday School, was the Singing Elf for the hospital and rang The Salvation Army bell every year. She was a Royal enthusiast and could often be seen driving with the Queen in her yellow car. She loved children and was a true patriot. Holly was known for her world-famous chicken soup and was the Post Office's number 1 fan! She was loved by all and was the life of the party. Some of her entertaining claims to fame, which are shared in her self-published book "Every Day's a Holly Day", include kissing Elvis Presley, meeting the Queen of England, and hosting Israeli Prime Minister Rabin for dinner, just to name a few.



Holly is survived by her children Laurie (and Shane) Alm of Dallas, TX; David (and Jane) Yohe of Scottsdale, AZ; and Lucy Anne (and Sean) Cummings of Crozet, VA. She was blessed with 6 grandchildren Brendan, Kate, Kelly, Holly, Jack, and Piper.

The family would like to express sincere gratitude to our incredible friends and neighbors from both near and far for their overwhelming encouragement and support. A Celebration of Life service will be hosted on November 25th at 2:00 p.m. at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Salvation Army in Holly's name.

## **Kathleen Ann Kasley**



Kathy is well known to everyone in the Society and we will miss her greatly.

Kathy Kasley, age 76, passed away peacefully Sept. 1 in her home after a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her son, Ian; brother, Michael Phillips (Cindy Buss); and sister, Susan Phillips (Henry Lotsof). She is preceded in death by husband,

John and brother, Robert Phillips (Nancy Turner). Beloved daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin, and aunt of many who will miss her. Born in Chicago, she lived in California, Louisiana, Texas, and Singapore before retiring to Williamsburg in 2004. She and John traveled the world for business and leisure, visiting countries on 6 of the 7 continents. In retirement, she was active in the Saint Andrew's society, became a certified water exercise instructor, as well as a Certified Music Practitioner and played harp at Sentara Hospital and at Hospice House of Williamsburg for the benefit of the patients. A Celebration of Life in her memory is planned at a later date. Online condolences may be shared at

[www.nelsenwilliamsburg.com](http://www.nelsenwilliamsburg.com), where additional information will be posted.

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## Nancy R Ferguson

Nancy was a Society member since 1970 and will be missed by us all.

Nancy Ruef Ferguson, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away on May 11th, 2023 at the age of 97 in Williamsburg, VA. Nancy was born in New York on August 9th, 1925.



Nancy was a career Military spouse who enjoyed being stationed worldwide an especially in Paris. She had a strong work ethic that she passed down to her children. She lived in Williamsburg since 1968 and was an active member of the community. She attended the Williamsburg Unitarian Church and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1946.



Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, John M. Ferguson Jr., USMA Class of '45, and her son, J. Mark Ferguson III. She is survived by her Ferguson of Williamsburg, VA, and her grandchildren, Charlie Ball of Wilmington, NC, Adam Ferguson of Williamsburg, VA, and Ian Ferguson of Washington D.C.

Nancy will be remembered as a devoted mother and grandmother who always put her family first. Her kind heart and gentle spirit will be deeply missed by all those who knew her. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to Williamsburg Unitarian Church, 3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.





## 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.