

# The Virginia Highlander

## Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

SPRING 1975

EDITOR: Howard S. Topp

PRESIDENT: Howard S. Topp

VICE-PRESIDENT: Raynor V. MacGillivray

SECRETARY: Andrew J. Jurchenko

TREASURER: Edward T. Campbell

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Paul J. Ritchie, H. Douglas Lindsay, Thomas G. Magruder, John M. Ferguson, James C. Anthony, James R. Armstrong, J. Mark Ferguson, David E. Liston, Henry S. Wann, James W. Roy, Gil L. Granger



### TOPP ELECTED PRESIDENT

At the February Board of Directors meeting, the following slate of officers were elected: Howard Topp as President, Mac MacGillivray as Vice-President, Andy Jurchenko as Secretary and Ed Campbell as Treasurer. Further, The Board appointed three adjunct officers: Paul Ritchie-historian, Gil Granger-publicity chairman, and Dave Liston- editor of the Highlander.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

TARTAN BALL: 3 May- Chairman: Andy Jurchenko

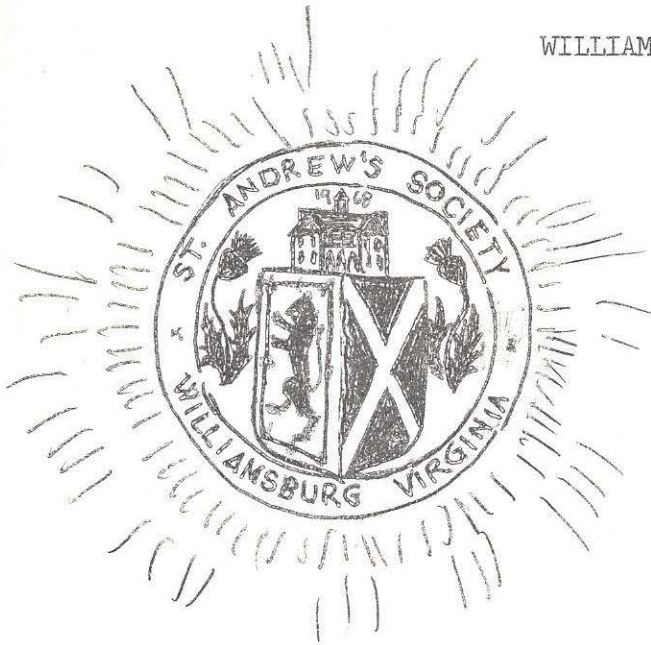
SPRING CEILIDH: 7 June- Chairman: Ed Campbell

FALL CEILIDH: 13 Sept- Chairman: Mark Ferguson

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN: 30 Nov- Chairman: Mac MacGillivray

BURN'S NIGHT: 31 Jan '76- Chairman: Jim Roy, Program: Jim Anthony

## WILLIAMSBURG ST. ANDREW'S BLAZER BADGES



Lads! Do ye no realize? Ye must have your St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg blazer badges! Aye... don't ye know that it'll look smashing on ye'r blazer. They're richly embroidered in six beautiful colors. I know ye'll be wantin' these bonnie badges, but ye'll be a keepin' a wary eye on yer sporran...a wonderin' hoo much such fine workmanship will cost ye. For a mere \$2.00 ye can have one o' yer very own. Aye...an all ye'll ha' to do is contact Ed Campbell at phone 229-6635, 111 National Lane, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

## 1975 BURN'S NICHT DINNER

The Williamsburg Society's Burn's Nicht Dinner was once again a rousing success. The lads and lassies gathered at the Fort Eustis Officer's Club on the 1st of February for an evening of the sights and sounds of Scotland. The O-Club had prepared a sumptuous feast of roast beef with all the fixings. As a prelude to the dinner, Burn's "Address to the Haggis" was delivered by Dr. Jim Forrester, with the haggis being provided by Guy Nelson and also by Andy Jurchenko. Once the meal had been happily consumed by the lads and lassies, the annual business meeting was conducted. Lloyd V. Young conducted the election of new directors who are Andrew Jurchenko, Mark Ferguson, Dave Liston, James Roy, Henry Wann, and Gil Granger. President Ritchie recognized honored guests Mr. and Mrs. Sam McKay of the Tidewater Society and presented his "State of the Society" address. In the address he outlined the growth of the society during the past year, it's accomplishments and the goals for the future. Following his address, Rev Walter P. Kennedy gave an enlightening talk on the life and impact of the "Bard of Ayr". Robert Burns. The recent passing away of member Gilbert Jones was memorialized by Bill Pittman's playing of "Flowers o' the Forest".

The evening's entertainment was outstanding indeed. The membership thrilled to our fine Pipe Band as it presented a number of exciting pipe tunes. Later, as Bruce Grant piped, Mary Adams and three of her wee students provided an exhibition of Scottish dancing. Many members commented on the proficiency of the young girls, Megan Grant, Traci and Wendy Teer. The evening's activity ended with a fantastic slide show "Reflections of Scotland" presented by Bill McIntosh of McIntosh Studios in Norfolk. Special thanks must be given to CPT. Andy Jurchenko for his effort in preparing and coordinating one of our most successful Burn's Nichts.



## 1974 FALL CEILIDH

Nearly one hundred members, ladies, and friends of the Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society gathered to attend the Fall Ceilidh on the night of the 14th of September. Once again an exciting time was had by all.

Following the "sippin' time" and a fine fried chicken and shrimp dinner, a short general membership meeting was held with Major Howard Topp presiding. A vote was conducted on several revisions to existing bylaws and J. Mark Ferguson was introduced as a new member.

The program for the evening consisted of a concert by the St. Andrew's Society Pipe Band under the direction of Bill Pittman, a selection of Scottish ballads sung by Ann Rowe, and a Scottish sig-a-long led by Jim Anthony. Col. John Ferguson chaired the event in an outstanding manner.

## WASHINGTON TARTAN BALL

Attending the Tartan Ball in Washington, D. C., November 22, 1974, as guests of the President of the Washington St. Andrew's Society were a number of members of the local Society. Representing us at the activity were Col. and Mrs. Paul J. Ritchie and Dr. and Mrs. David E. Liston of Williamsburg; CPT. James R. Armstrong of Newport News and Susanne Owens of Fort Eustis; and Mr. Guy Nelson and Dr. Susan Haulk, and Mr. J. T. Baxter and Frances Otey-Wright of Richmond.

The Tartan Ball is the high point of the Washington Society's social calendar. At the 1974 Ball more than 600 couples were in attendance.

## KIRKIN' HELD AT WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The lads and lassies of the Society worshipped together at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church's 11:00 a.m. service, the 24th of November, 1974. The event was the annual "Kirkin' O' the Tartan" of the Williamsburg Society. The entire service conducted by Rev. John R. King revolved around the impact of the Scots upon the Presbyterian Church and the development of America. The membership was unanimous in their praise of Mr. King's sermon.

Following the service, a brunch was held at the Hilton 1776. As was expected, the entire program proceeded flawlessly due in great measure to the untiring efforts of the coordinator for the morning's activities, CAPT. Lloyd V. Young.



## ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY SEE ARGYLLS

The evening of the 24th of November was a night of unrivaled spectacle for the members of the local society. On that evening, a representative group of the lads and their ladies bussed to Hampton Coliseum to see the massed band, pipes, drums, and dancers of Her Majesty's Welsh Guards and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

This was the first time that these two renowned British Army regiments had joined for a tour of Canada and the United States. The splendor of the Welsh Guards Band was joined with spine-tingling music by the Argyll's Pipes and Drums to thrill the assembled multitudes.

It was rumored that the loudest, rowdiest group in attendance was the Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society. Ring leader Paul Ritchie denied the rumor...more or less. In any case it was a fun filled evening had by all. Special thanks should be provided Ed and Marion Campbell for their organizational effort.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Highlander received a rather interesting item by member John Ferguson. The item listed below gives an insight into the relationship of modern languages to ancient Celtic.

### WHATISIT?

Who are Celts? What is Celtic?

Scotland House quotes Gaelic. Irish speak Gaelic. What do Scots speak?

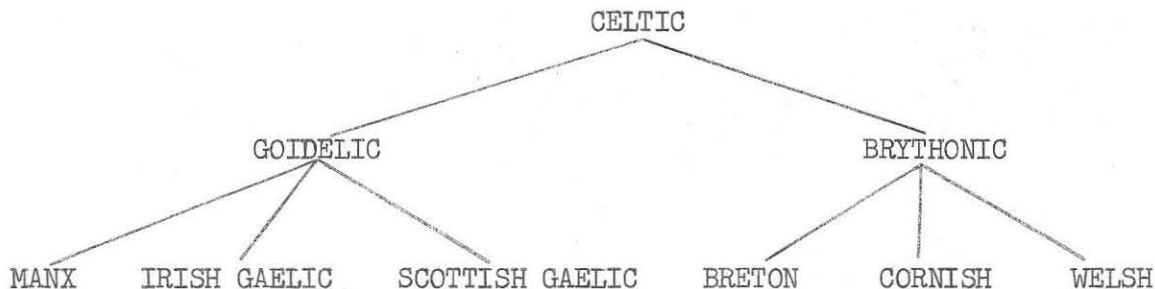
Bretons have "Pierres Druidiques Pres Karnac." Druids, French have Druids?

Welsh dig coal! Where do they fit in?

Cornwall is in England of course. Celtic?

Manx cats have no tails. What do their owners speak?

In the Indo-European family of languages this is the relationship:



Celtic is beautiful!

Next questions: Who were the Picts? Who spoke Gaulish Celtic? Who were the Druids?

### "SCOTCH" KNIT-WEAR

Lads, did ye no hear about Paul Ritchie's troubles at his last border crossing? Aye, the customs officer produced a bottle of Scotch from Paul's suitcase. Said he, "I thought you said your case contained nothing but clothes?" "Aye, Laddie," said Paul, "that's my nightcap!"



OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS  
OF THE SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY

Dear Members of the Saint Andrew's Society:

I have a rather unpleasant task before me. I must call your attention to a serious problem which faces the Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums.

About two years ago, with your help, the band purchased used uniform coats from the now-defunct Warwick High School Pipe Band. During the two years that we have been wearing these coats, the band has grown in both size and in number. These uniform coats which were originally intended for high school students--mostly teen-age girls--can no longer be patched, stretched, or spliced to fit adults. Currently, we cannot outfit our upcoming players. On top of this, most of the uniforms that are now being used are extremely worn and frayed. Because of this, we need to purchase new tunics for the entire band.

The kilt situation within the band is equally desperate. Since its inception, each member of the band has had to provide his own kilt. Although this presents a rather colorful group, it nevertheless detracts from the uniform appearance which is essential for a pipe band. It has also prevented some younger students from being able to join the band.

It has proven impossible for the band to earn enough money to purchase all the needed equipment, and yet we do wish to continue to improve our band so that we may better represent the Scottish tradition of piping and drumming.

Therefore, on behalf of the band, I appeal to your generosity. Any contributions that you might wish to make would be greatly appreciated by every member of the band.

Sincerely,



William E. Pittman, Pipe Major  
Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums

P.S. Please make all contributions payable to the Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums, and send them to Sandra Yoder, Administrative Officer, St. Andrew's Pipes and Drums, Palmer Kitchen, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and are tax deductible.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the Society has provided money from our charitable fund in support of the Pipe Band, this has not proved sufficient to meet the pressing economic needs of the organization. The Board feels that a direct appeal to the general membership is a possible solution. We most strongly urge that the membership support our allied organization in their endeavor to outfit and supply the Pipe Band....a pipe band that carries our name.



## MARY ADAMS--HIGHLAND DANCER

Mary Adams (pictured at right), wife of member Byron Adams, is well known to the membership of the Society for her fine exhibitions of Scottish highland dancing at our activities. Few of the members realize that Mary has been dancing since she was seven, or that she has appeared in exhibitions and competition in Scottish activities from coast to coast. Today she remains in competition, but she also is active in conducting Scottish dancing classes. Her students range from 1st grade to college age. Two students, Wendy and Traci Teer, daughters of member Harold Teer, took trophies at the Ligonier, Pa., games and Wendy took a winners trophy at Georgia's Stone Mountain Games with sister Traci picking up a second place finish. Mary herself copped the "open" trophy at Atlanta. Local residents have seen the girls exhibiting their skills at Newport News Park and the Occasion of the Arts.

Mary will be dancing during the opening week of Busch Gardens and on a special occasion basis thereafter. Further, she will be conducting a two week Scottish dance workshop for beginners in June here in Williamsburg.

I am quite sure we are all pleased and proud that we have Mary Adams as a part of our "family".



Wendy Teer, Jane Bennett, Traci Teer  
at Stone Mountain Highland Games



Wendy's Trophy



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLANS OF SCOTLAND  
BY GUY NELSON

This is the first of a series of articles on the various clans to which the members of Saint Andrew's belong. Each will be a "brief" history. I have tried to include the important or interesting facts concerning each clan and any oversight of any fact of import is accidental and unintentional. Listed below are the sources all available at the State Library in Richmond.

Sources: Anderson, William. The Scottish Nation, A Fullerton and Co. Edinburgh 1860 3 vol. (very useful and quite detailed)

Adam F. The Clans and Septs of Scottish Highlands Edinburgh 1952

Bain, Robert: The Clans of Scotland, Collins, Glasgow 1960

Kettie, John S. A History of the Scottish Highlands Clans and Regiments, A. Fullerton and Co. Edinburg 1877 (very good history of Scotland, fascinating reading)

GUNN: The clan name comes from the Norse- Gunn-Arr and the Celtic Guinneach meaning sharp, fierce, keen. The clan claims descent from Olave the black, king of Man and the Isles. The main settlements occurred in Caithness and Sutherland. The principle castle of the clan was at Killernan until it accidentally burned in 1690.

An old highland adage hold "Sinclair, Sutherland, Keith, and clann Gunn, never was peace when these four were in". Clan Gunn and Clan Keith have a mutual hatred of each other that has lasted since 1400. A chief of the clan who flourished in the 15th century was George Gunn, who held the office of Crouner. In 1464 he sought reconciliation with Clan Keith. He proposed that 12 horsemen from both sides meet and negotiate a peace, or fight "winner take all" at the chapel of Saint Tears. While the Gunns were at prayer in the chapel, the Keiths attacked and killed them all, including George Gunn. His death was avenged about a century later by his grandson, who killed Keith of Ackergill, his son and 12 followers at Drummoy in Sutherland.

Feuding also continued between Gunn and MacKay and the Earls of Caithness and Sutherland. In 1585 the Sinclairs attacked the Gunns, who although fewer in number, held ground and killed 140 Sinclairs. Only darkness prevented a slaughter. The Gunns, however, were later defeated at Lochbroom by the Earl of Sutherland.

In 1803 the chieftanship was passed to the great-great grandson of William Gunn, who had been killed in India leaving no issue. He was the last Clan chief.

Keith: The clan descends from the Catti a German tribe. It was one of the most powerful Celtic families. The office of Great Marischal has been in the family since the 12th century. Their settlement in Caithness was a source of feud with the clan Gunn. Sir Robert Keith joined with Robert the Bruce in 1308. He was to attack the English archers which he did--on their flank and created such a disorder that the English army never recovered from it. The clans soldierly qualities kept them at the forefront. Upon the death of George Keith, the last Lord of Marischal in 1778, the title ceased and the estates were passed to the Lord Falconer and the remainder of the estate went to George's grand-nephews.

SUTHERLAND: The clan descends from the Norse Sea King who held the Orcades



and Ord Mountains. The lands were their only possession in Scotland for a long time. The territory is that south of Caithness. The name is derived from the Gaelic Sutherland--The Norse called them Sudrland and the English, Sutherland. The Earldom of Sutherland was the oldest in Brittan and was granted to William Lord of Sutherland in 1228. The Clan fought for the Bruce at Bannockburn. John the 9th Earl died in 1514 without male heir and the line passed to his sister whose husband was Adam Gordon of Aboyne. The Gordon Earl of Sutherland inherited the same enemies and was poisoned. The Title of the chief of the clan is "The Great Cat" and his coat of arms is a black cat. The Earl was the Chief until 1766 when the countess Elizabeth inherited the earldom.

In 1715 and '45 the clan could raise 2,000 fighting men and was counted among the loyal clans. The Sutherland regiment was reduced in 1763 and re-segregated in '79 when the Countess was in possession of the Earldom. It was disbanded in '83 and in 1793 reformed for the third time. In 1797 the unit saw action in Ireland and was noted that it was not a week in new quarters that they did not consiliate and become intimate with the people and bring good will to the populace. It was from these ranks that the 93rd was formed, the predecessor to the present Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

HALLIDAY: The name derives from Holiday--Hal Dane, Hal Day...A border clan in Annandale. For 6 centuries they lived on both sides of the Solway. They would take excursions into England and call it a Holiday which became their battle and rally cry. Halliday Hill where they gathered still stands. The first chief's castle is at Carehead.

During the Crusades 1,000 Hallidays went at the request of William the Lion to save Richard the Lion Hearted. The clan was well represented at court and many were nobels. Sir Leonard Halliday was made Lord Mayor of London in 1605. William Halliday who died in 1623 was the first chairman of the East India company. Thomas Halliday went to England and returned in support of the king. He deserted when he learned the entire clan was on the other side.

## THE BLACK WATCH

(Article two in a continuing series of the Scottish Regiments of the British Army)

The Black Watch is the senior Highland Regiment in the British Army, having been raised some thirty years before other Regiments were recruited in the Highlands. In the early 1700's Highland chieftans were commissioned to raise bodies of their clansmen, known as Independent Companies, to preserve peace among the clans. Three companies were raised from Clan Campbell and one each from Clans Fraser, Grant, and Munro. While the British soldiers wore brilliant red coats, the Scotsmen of the Independent Companies wore a sombre tartan of dark colors and because of this had been dubbed "The Black Watch".

The Black Watch left Scotland for the first time in 1742 when the Regiment was sent to fight the French in Flanders. There, the Regiments first encounter with an enemy, they were dubbed by the French as "Highland Furies" and earned the highest regard for their bravery from the French soldiers.

In 1751, while stationed in Ireland, the Black Watch received the Royal Warrant, the number "42nd".

The Regiment was engaged in American operations between 1758 to 1767 and



again during The War of Independence. Like many of its countrymen at home, The Black Watch took a dim view of the war and the Regiment's official history states: "We can boast no Battle Honours for our part in the American War of Independence, because it was rightly decreed that Battle Honours should not be granted for a war with our kith and kin."

The Red Hackle or red vulture feathers is worn in the bonnets of The Black Watch in place of a badge. The right to wear the Red Hackle is safeguarded by an Army Order that it is "to be used exclusively by the 42nd Regiment". Here is an interesting note about the regimental tartan. The pleats of the kilt worn by the Black Watch are rounded, whereas the kilts of other Highland regiments have flat pleats. The Black Watch tartan is worn by the battalions and the band; however, the pipers wear the Royal Stewart tartan.

No story of the Black Watch's history would be complete without recounting one of the most famous instances of bravery in history.

In 1851 two platoons of recruits were aboard the ship "Birkenhead" sailing to join the Regiment which was fighting in South Africa. Near Cape Town the ship struck a rock and broke in half. Their only hope lay in jumping overboard and swimming for the lifeboats already overcrowded with women and children. All of the men, 357 of them, stood firm in their ranks and were drowned when the ship sank. The Kaiser was so impressed with this unparalleled incident that he ordered an account of it read to all German military forces.

The Black Watch has fought with the British Army in places such as India, Egypt, the Crimea, South Africa, and Korea. Today, although reduced in size, The Black Watch carries on the same traditions. Through its Regimental Depot in Perth it continues to recruit men from Perthshire, Angus and Fife. There is hardly an officer or enlisted man whose family has not for many generations supplied its men to The Black Watch and are proud of their connection with the Royal Highland Regiment.

#### A BONNIE WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

J. Mark Ferguson, III

Angus J. McDonald

Collin Govan

Robert C. Riley

William E. Hames

George S. Rogers

Edmond Hail

Clifford L. Stewart

Oscar T. McDonough

Harold A. Teer

Millard McKinsey

These lads have joined our Society since our last Highlander welcome. A complete membership listing will appear in the next issue of the Highlander.

#### REMEMBER\*\*\*\*\*

Scottish Society of Tidewater Highland Games, Norview High School, Norfolk, on May 17, 1975.



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