

The Virginia Highlander

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

FALL 1975

EDITOR: David E. Liston

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(Year listed is year of expiration of term.)

Dates to Remember

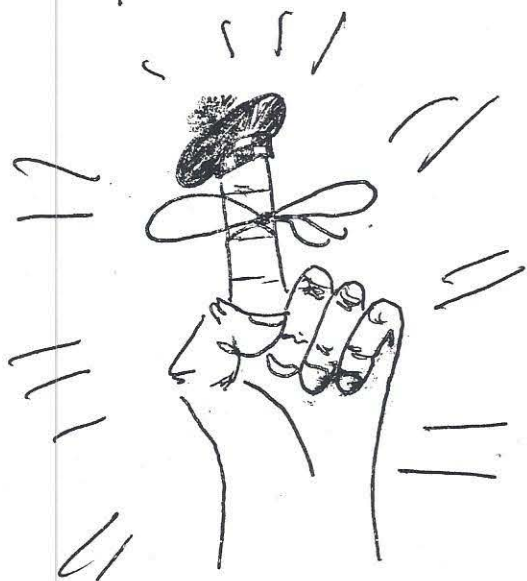
KIRKIN' O' TH' TARTAN.....30 Nov 1975

BURN'S NIGHT.....24 Jan 1976

THE BLACK WATCH PIPES AND DRUMS AND THE
BRITISH ROYAL MARINES REGIMENTAL BAND...
Hampton Coliseum.....5 Feb 1976

TARTAN BALL...May 1976 (To be announced)

SPRING CEILIDH..June 1976 (To be announced)



A BONNIE WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Kenneth Armstrong

John L. MacArthur

J. F. Mackenzie

William J. McAdam

E. Albert Moffett III

Sterling D. Nelson, Jr.

Samuel T. Powell III

Jack E. Thompson

PIPES AND DRUMS CELEBRATE ARMY'S BIRTHDAY

Fort Eustis' celebration of the Army's 200th birthday provided the Williamsburg Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums with an opportunity to display their talents. Twice during the day, the band under the direction of P/M Bill Pittman and led by the color guard under the command of CPT Andrew Jurchenko made their appearance on Murphy Field. Attendance at both performances was considerable with many expressing their approval of the bands performance.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN GAMES HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

The beautiful mountains of North Carolina rang once more to the sound of the pipes. Scots gathered for America's greatest meeting of the Clans....The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Held on July 12th and 13th, the 1975 games were the 20th ~~renewal~~ of this, the largest gathering of Scottish-Americans in the United States.

The sports of a purely Scottish nature were featured as well as AAU sanctioned track and field events. Competition was fierce in each event....with most attention directed to the traditional sports.

The sights and sounds of Scotland were everywhere....a solitary piper practicing for his moment before the judges, the swirl of tartans upon a dancer, the sound of a Scots "burr" in a conversation. The Williamsburg Society members in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the two day event. Our Society's tent on the perimeter of the field was thronged with members, families, and friends. This year Paul Ritchie, Henry Wann, Byron Adams, Mark Ferguson, Sterling Nelson, Guy Nelson, Howard Topp, Harold Teer, Bill Pittman insured that all were aware that Williamsburg was represented.

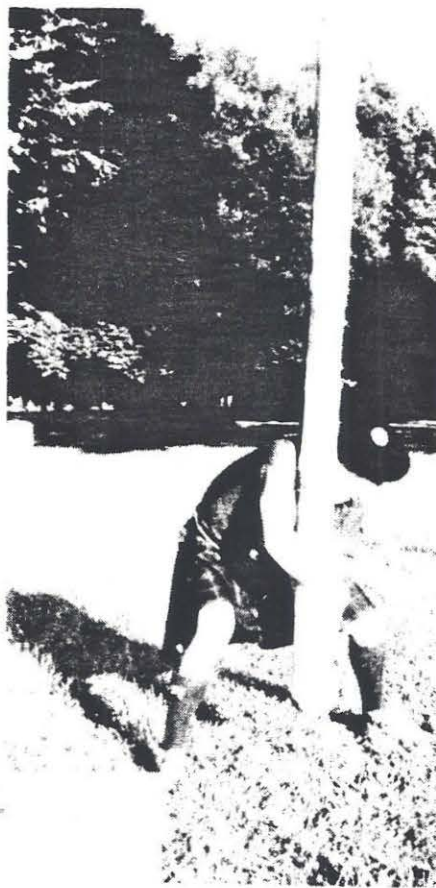
MARK FERGUSON ATTENDS LIGONIER GAMES

On September 5th, Mark Ferguson attended the Ligonier Highland Games as representative of our society. The games were held on the grounds of Idlewild Park, just west of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, in the Laurel Mountains (of Arnold Palmer and Rolling Rock Beer fame). This was a beautiful setting, both in scenery and facilities.

This one day affair was very well run, staying on schedule in spite of some early showers. In all the competitions, the audience was able to view the activities from less than twenty-five feet away, which added greatly to the enjoyment. There were the usual contests, in piping, dancing...(judged by Mary Adams), and highland athletic events. But, the high points were the band and drum major contests. Ten bands from Pennsylvannia, the Midwest, and Canada competed for prizes in four classes.

It was a very enjoyable day, much to the credit of the sponsoring Clan MacDonald Society. Mark strongly recommends Ligonier to any society member. But one warning: in the highlands of Pennsylvania, the sight and sound of ten pipe bands, en masse, advancing in a one hundred man front, will send all but a true Scot fleeing to the woods in terror.

FACING PAGE PHOTOS: Clockwise from upper left: "Hey Pop, being Scottish is really neat", ...Heather Topp at G-Father Mtn. Games. (Center): "WOW, one of Williamsburg society's 'heavyweights' tosses the caber"...Jim (Big Cx) Armstrong; "Hey Henry, is that the beer truck approaching"....Hank Osborne and Howard Topp at Va. Scottish Games; "Awright, Bill, remember that you're pipin' the McIntoshes"...Paul Ritchie and grandson, Bill Pittman, and assorted McIntoshes at G-Father Mtn. Games; "Wow, Wendy, were did you get all the gold?"...Wendy Teer displays medals garnered at G-Father Mtn. Games.



1975 FALL CEILIDH

On the evening of September 13th, the Society assembled once again at the Mermaid Tavern of Jamestown Festival Park, for our Fall Ceilidh. Attendance was excellent, with over one hundred members and guests present and enjoying the activities.

As usual, society President Howard Topp did an excellent job opening the evening with the presentation of the colours and a salute by the Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums. All went well, though the colour guard and band were attacked by some unappreciative mosquitoes while marching 'cross the glen.

After the social hour, and our traditional dinner of chicken or shrimp, a business meeting was held to discuss "overly thrifty" members, life-long memberships, and the care and feeding of a pipe band. The "necessary" portion of the evening over, Howard Topp and Guy Nelson presented a visual record of the society's activities in the past year. Pipe Major Bill Pittman then gave us a short--but sweet--course of instruction on the bagpipe, and was followed by the entire band, playing for our now more enlightened enjoyment. The band was quite appreciative of the donations, and along with Mark Ferguson regretted that the Scotch went home with a guest and not a member. Due to the lateness of the hour, Jim Anthony (who swears he had been practicing "A Scottish Soldier" for a week) only had time to lead us in a parting "Auld Lang Syne".

GEORGIA'S STONE MOUNTAIN GAMES A SUCCESS

Despite leaden skies and a chilling wind, the third annual Stone Mountain Highland Games were indeed a success. With massive Stone Mountain as a backdrop, the wooded slopes rang with the sound of the pipes, the "thump" of the tossed caber, and the clatter of dancing feet.

Special tribute was afforded the allies of the first Scottish settlers... the American Indian. The honored guest for the year's activities was Dode McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh has the distinction of being a principle chief of the Creek Indians and the Chief of Clan McIntosh in America. All those present who had the opportunity to talk to him found him to be a fascinating person...and a "great Scot".

As was to be expected, Williamsburg was well represented. Harold Teer, Hank Osborne, John Ferguson, Mark Ferguson, Howard Topp and assorted spouses were present. Perhaps the most exciting moment for the assembled multitudes was provided by a Williamsburger....John Ferguson appearing in his kilt for the first time!

Through a unique blending of Scots' traditions and Georgia hospitality, the Stone Mountain Scottish Festival is fast becoming the premier Scottish event in the country.

THE SAINT ANDREW'S PIPES AND DRUMS

The Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums first joined with us at the TARTAN BALL of '71. They were a great hit and have been a regular part of our gatherings ever since. Although open to other commitments, our Society has always been their first concern. Indeed the band could hardly be closer.

We have pledged our support of their drive for funds to refurbish and standardize their dress. Since then there have been some noteworthy contributions by a few of our members but, unfortunately, there has been little general support of the fund raising effort. We can only hope that it will develop. If you wish to help, please send your contributions to the Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums, % Miss Sandra Yoder, Palmer Kitchen, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. It will be appreciated.

FLOWERS O' THE FOREST FOR JAMES ROY

It is with deep regret that we make note of the death of Colonel James W. Roy, (Retd.). Jim, a graduate of West Point and a member of our Board of Directors, held great pride in his Scottish heritage and was one of the Society's most enthusiastic supporters. A close friend to many of us, Jim will be sorely missed.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT

At the September 13th General Meeting the following amendment to the By-Laws of the Society was unanimously approved:

"Any member standing in arrears with regard to his payment of annual dues beyond the thirty-first of March of any year, shall not thereafter be extended the privilege of attending social functions of the Society until such dues have been paid".

A proposal relating to Life Membership met with opposition on the grounds that it was not actuarially sound as worded and was tabled by the President pending necessary revision.

A proposal relating to a three dollar increase in annual dues, to be used exclusively in the support of the Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums was read, preparatory to being submitted for vote of the membership at the next general meeting.

A PINCH OF GAELIC**

Ken Graham opines that we should "Counsel our BAIRNS not to be afraid of DARG or affected by GASH or HAVERS and UP-BYE, who knows, they and their OE may ultimately enjoy the fruits of a St. Andrew's membership".

Editor's note: Most erudite advice Ken. One can think of no greater earthly reward. Keep us hearing from you.

BLAZER BADGES AND BROACHES

To obtain our BONNY blazer badges and BROACHES, please contact canny Ed Campbell, our able Treasurer. Phone 229-6635 or write 111 National Lane, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. There's no WHILLYING with Ed. Two dollars per badge, five dollars for the BROACH.

** For those who never lived with an unreconstructed Scot, a mini glossary:

BAIRNS - children
DARG - days work
GASH - gossip
HAVERS - idle talk
UP-BYE - further on

OE - grandchild
BROACHES - (St. Andrew's Society) pins
BONNY - approved
WHILLYING - bamboozling

HISTORY IS PROLOGUE

With this issue of the HIGHLANDER many of us will receive our initial introduction to the early history of our Society. As told by our Past President and permanent Historian, it is intriguing reading. It is the story of a handful of dedicated men joining forces in order to make the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg a reality. And no one is better equipped to tell the story than one of those who lived it, Paul Ritchie. I'm sure you will agree.

HISTORY OF THE SAINT ANDREWS SOCIETY OF WILLIAMSBURG by Paul Ritchie

The initial concept of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Virginia, was the brain child of two Williamsburg men with completely diverse backgrounds; Robert A. Duncan was the president of the Peninsula National Bank, an outstanding community and educational leader whose ancestors were American pioneers; David Shepherd was owner of the Shepherd Scottish Shop and a native of Dundee, Scotland. What they had in common was a great pride in and love for their Scottish ancestry and a deep respect for Scottish traditions.

Mr. Duncan, an avid supporter of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, had met several officers of the various societies and discussed with them the advisability of forming a Williamsburg society. During the 1966 games he met with Robert D. Reid of the Saint Andrew's Society of Savannah, Georgia, and in October he wrote Mr. Reid requesting "....a copy of the bylaws and such other materials you might think (sic) be of help." The requested materials were mailed and subsequently were incorporated into the present Williamsburg bylaws and application format.

Mr. Shepherd, pursuing a different avenue of approach, contacted William S. Lindsay of Greenville, South Carolina, in July 1967, who recommended a liaison with the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. It was at this point of time that Mr. Duncan and Mr. Shepherd began to work in concert to form the new society. Contacts between mutual friends had resulted in seven men interested in being the nucleus. The first informal meeting was held on December 11, 1967, at Mr. Duncan's home; attending were: Messrs Robert Duncan, David Shepherd, Edward Alexander, Duncan Cocke, Gilbert Jones, Philip Magruder, Thomas McCaskey, Donald McConkey.

Prior to the meeting Mr. Duncan had written John McAdams, a member of the Washington Board of Managers requesting a representative of the Washington society to join the Williamsburg group to assist in the organizational phase. Mr. McAdams presented this request to the January meeting of the Board of Managers and set in motion the supporting sponsorship of the Washington society. This sponsorship was to be a great value not only during the initial phases of the organization but for many years to come.

Mr. Harry W. Blunt, president of the Washinton society, in his letter of January 8, 1968, saluted the Williamsburg effort and pledged the full support of his society to form which was "... to be the first Saint Andrew's formed in America since the turn of the century." Specifically, he would arrange for five of the members and their wives to attend a joint meeting to be held as soon as possible.

The second meeting of what is now known as the Organizers Group was held on February 5, 1968, in the Board Room of the Peninsula National Bank, the original seven now had been increased to ten by the addition of Mr. James Whyte, Mr. Arthur Gordon and Colonel Paul Ritchie. Plans were made to have a March meeting to form a charter and to have a joint meeting with the Washington representatives. Mr.

Junius McCartney, the new president of the Washington society, appointed Mr. Blunt to act as his representative and chair the Washington members in the first joint meeting to be held on March 5, 1968.

On March 1, 1968, Mr. Ralph Ingram, Senior Past President of the Washington society, sent the following letter:

The St. Andrew Society of Williamsburg, Va.

Dear Fellow Scots:

On being informed that you are forming a St. Andrew Society at Williamsburg it occurred to several of us that a token of fellowship from the St. Andrew Society of Washington to your new Society would be appropriate. This possibly because of the youth of our city as compared to yours and of the age of our Society whose roots go well back into the 1700's as compared to the youth of your Society....starting new in the 20th Century.

I am therefore happy on behalf of the Past Presidents of our Society to present you with a St. Andrew's Flag from Glasgow, by the hand of our Junior Past President Harry Blunt.

The Roster of our living Past Presidents is

Harry Blunt 66-67	Edward S. Smith 56-57
Robert McLaughlin 64-65	M. F. H. Greenhorne 54-55
T. S. T. Henderson 62-63	Lindsay C. Howell 50-51
James M. Muir 60-61	P. Y. K. Howat 48-49
George E. Baker 58-59	Ralph L. Ingram 43-44

Yours Aye
Ralph L. Ingram
Senior Past President

This Saint Andrew's Flag has been carried proudly at every activity the Williamsburg society has held to date.

Charter Day was March 5, 1968. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Duncan and held in the Board Room of the Peninsula National Bank. At the meeting it was resolved that the members present would constitute the original charter members of the society and that additional members would be accepted into the society only via the sponsor method.

The sixteen charter members were: Mr. Robert Duncan, Dr. Edward Alexander, Mr. Duncan Cocke, Mr. Donald McConkey, Mr. Donald Donaldson, Dr. John Fletcher, Mr. Arthur Gordon, Mr. Russell Hastings, Mr. Gilbert Jones, Mr. David Shepherd, Mr. Philip Magruder, Colonel Paul Ritchie, Colonel Richard Lawson (resigned May 26, 1968), Mr. Thomas McCaskey, Mr. James Whyte, Mr. Ricks Wilson. Attending the meeting were the following advisors from Washington: Mr. Harry Blunt, Mr. John McAdams, Mr. James Magregor, Dr. William Stokoe, Commander John Urquhart. After the meeting all members joined their wives for a reception at the Duncan residence, then to a formal dinner dance in the Scottish manner at the Williamsburg Lodge, where for the first time the society was entertained by country and highland dancing piped by Dr. William Stokoe.

During the period March 5, 1968 to May 8, 1968, the charter members met several thimes to draft the proposed bylaws and membership criteria. Additionally, they had sponsored and approved for membership thirteen new members; adopted May 8, 1968 as the official society birthday and declared the May 8, 1968 meeting to be known as Founder's Day. The new members were: Messrs James Anthony, John Baxter, David Clark, C.H. Forbes, Gilbert Granger, Raynor MacGillivray, John McPherson, William Monro, Robert Pollard, John Stewart, Howard Topp, Ross Weeks, Hugh Williams. At the meeting with twenty-two of the twenty-nine

members present the following board members were elected: Robert Duncan, David Shepherd, James Whyte, Philip Magruder, Duncan Cock, John Donaldson, John Fletcher, Thomas McCaskey, and William Monro.

The new directors held their first meeting on May 13, 1968, to elect new officers and to assign committee responsibility. Elected to office were Robert Duncan president, David Shepherd vice-president, James Whyte secretary, and Philip Magruder treasurer, Committees: Archives--Donald McConkey, Entertainment--Duncan Cocke, Membership--John Donaldson and John Fletcher, Publicity--Ross Weeks, and Badge Design--Edward Alexander and Russell Hastings.

The Saint Andrew's Society was now a full-fledged organization complete with charter officers, committees, bylaws, and twenty-nine members. What happened the first year...read next installment in the HIGHLANDER.

Ah, a braw closing note: Member John Fletcher dropped the following poem off at The Virginia Highlander "office" the other day. His grandfather's friend, W. Duff Meikle wrote it some time ago. John wanted to share it with all the lads....
...Aye, and a good moment ye'll have reading it.

The Scots are canny, proud, and dour;
In worldly goods are often poor,
 but dinna mind it;
They eat their haggis, full o' cheer,
O' foreign meat they aye hae fear
 O' what's behind it.

And whiles their claes are unco' bright
Wi' reds and blues and greens, a sight
 To please the eye;
They swish their kilts aboot their knees,
Though bare their legs, they never sneeze
 As they pass by.

Their music is both loud and shrill
Wi' pipes and drums, enough to fill
 The ear wi' sound;
They march along wi' measured tread,
Their pounding feet enough, 'tis said,
 To shake the ground.

Then here's tae Caledonia's folk-
Dispersed abroad, a clannish yoke
 Still binds them fast;
When earthly cares end here below,
The Scots will be at hame, I know,
 In Heaven at last!