

The Virginia Highlander

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society

Williamsburg, Virginia

FALL 1978

Williamsburg, Virginia

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The following dates have been tentatively set for forthcoming Society activities, but they are becoming more permanent with each passing day. So mark your calendar now and plan to attend. The Society needs your support!

Kirkin' O' the Tartan, November 19, 1978. Ken Graham is Chairman of this event. Worship will take place in the "downtown" Presbyterian Church, Newport News, Rev. Walter J. Kennedy, Pastor. Following church we will gather for a brunch at the James River Country Club, Newport News.

January 27, 1979, is set for Burns Night. This event will be chaired by Lee Ticknor and Byron Adams and will again be held at the Fort Magruder Motel in Williamsburg where, all remember, a great time was had in 1978.

We hope to see each and all of you at each and every one of our Society's activities.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES ATTENDED

A sizable Williamsburg contingent of members plus assorted wives, kids, and guests joined the throng of more than 50,000 attending this year's 23rd Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. The Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society, a sponsoring organization of the games since the founding of the organization donated the trophies for the game's Mile Run. The Society also maintained a hospitality tent at the games and hosted members and countless guests from other societies and clan societies.

The Strath James Pipes and Drums from Williamsburg, under the direction of Pipe Major William E. Pittman, attended as one of the four invited guest bands at the 1978 games. They performed in concert at the Friday evening Ceilidh and paraded several times on Saturday and Sunday.

Local St. Andrew's members and guests attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Ken Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. John Weaver and son David, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Jerry Russell, Mr. Guy Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan D. Chaplin, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wann. Also attending from Williamsburg were Ed and Jo Ann Martin.

Guy Nelson of the Society presented a program of Folk Dancing on Saturday evening.

Outstanding athlete at the games was William Anderson of Aberdeen, Scotland, who dominated all of the Scottish events including the cabar, clachnaert, hammer throw and weight throws. He is the world record holder in most of these events.

Two Mary Adams' dancers were runner-ups at the games in the Open National Championships in Scottish dancing. They were Wendy Teer in the 11 and under category and Elizabeth McLeod in 15 and under. They were judged and received composite scores in four Scottish dances: Hornpipe, Lilt, Irish Jig and Scotch Measure.

NEWS FROM OTHER SCOTTISH SOCIETIES

The twenty-third annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, held July 8 and 9, 1978, near Linville, North Carolina, featured, among others, the Strath James Pipe Band (also known as the St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg Pipe Band).

Entertained as guests of honor were Robin Duff of Meldrum, Chairman, Scottish Ballet; Sir Donald Patrick Trevor, Chief of Clan Grant; Ronald G. MacLennan, Chief of Clan MacLennan and James J. Kilpatrick, the well-known conservative columnist... a man who has frequently mentioned his Scottish heritage in his syndicated column.

The Virginia Scottish Games were successfully held on July 22nd at the Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Virginia. Activities featured piping, drumming and Scottish dancing, as well as numerous Highland athletic events.

The Scottish World Festival was held August 17-20 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The gathering of Scots world-wide featured bands from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, The United States as well as Canada...more than 2000 pipers. The Festival constitutes the largest Scottish Heritage gathering in the world.

MORE TO COME

On Saturday, September 16, 1978, the 74th Annual Scottish Games and Highland Gathering will be sponsored by the Scottish Society of Charleston, South Carolina. Site of the Games will be Middleton Place, Charleston. Information may be obtained from the Scottish Society, Box 9602, Charleston, South Carolina 29410.

Stone Mountain, Georgia. Of prime importance to our members is the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta. We have been sponsors of these games since the year after inception and are usually well represented. Considered to be second only to Grandfather Mountain...a statement questioned by those members of our society who have attended both...the games will be held on Oct. 21st & 22nd. Those who desire more information may contact Past President Howard Topp at 220-1438.

STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA TO FEATURE SCOTTISH DAY

September 26, 1978, has been designated Scottish Day at the State Fair of Virginia, State Fair Grounds, Richmond. This designation is part of the Fair's International Showcase theme for 1978.

It is tentatively expected that the Strath James Pipe Band (also known as the St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg Pipe Band) and Highland Dancing will be featured. In addition there will be provisions for the display of arts and crafts.

Al Moffett of Richmond, an enthusiastic member of our Society, is Chairman of the Committee working with the Fair officials on the program.

Al Needs Help...so if you can offer any assistance, or can offer suggestions that will assist him...please contact him at the Virginia Farm Federation, P. O. Box 27552, Richmond, VA 23261.

EDITOR FOR "HIGHLANDER" NEEDED

Editor George Phillips has moved to Virginia Beach and is unable to continue as the editor of the Society's quarterly newsletter. This issue was completed by committee... not exactly the best way to publish! An editor is needed...if you are anxious to suffer the slings and arrows of criticism...please...we need you. Tom Richardson, Bill Weaver, and Howard Topp will continue to "publish" the document, but are unable to function as editor as well. If you are interested in taking on this arduous job... please contact Jim Whyte at 229-5919.

FESTIVAL ACTIVITY INCORPORATED, MEMBERS SOUGHT

On June 23, 1978, a Certificate of Incorporation was issued to the Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Incorporated. Sensing the need for a corporate organization to sponsor and conduct Scottish games, dancing, piping and other cultural activities in the Williamsburg area, several members of our Society became incorporators and initial directors of the new organization.

Specifically, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the organization is formed for the purpose of sponsoring, raising finances, financing, planning and conducting activities associated with any aspect of Scottish culture.

Members of the corporation are to be those persons of legal age elected to membership by the Board of Directors who fulfill requirements as set forth in the By-Laws. The By-Laws, incidentally, are in process of preparation. Nonetheless, membership in the corporation is not contingent upon being a member of St. Andrews. Women members will definitely be sought as will non-Scots who nonetheless are interested in any aspect of Scottish culture and activity.

In order to give the new organization initial support, the Board of Directors of the St. Andrew's Society approved underwriting the costs of incorporation as well as providing some "starter" funds. At the same time Mary Adams, instructress of the young ladies who have appeared in Highland dancing routines at many of our functions, successfully sponsored a garage sale for the same purpose.

Pro-tem officers of the new corporation are: Chairman, Byron A. Adams; Secretary, Gail Ticknor; and Treasurer, Paul Ritchie.

Planning is well under way for the first event to be sponsored by the Festival organization. On October 28, 1978, a Highland Dancing competition will be held from 9 to 5 in Bruton Parish House on the Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. Competition will be by age group with three dances per group. Age groups will begin with six and under and progress to 16 and under. Depending on the number of entries, it is possible that as many as 13 trophies and 108 medals will be awarded. Mary Adams is serving as Production Director for the competition.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Inc., may contact any of the incorporators who are also serving as initial directors: Byron A. Adams, 280 E. Queen's Drive; Howard S. Topp, 120 King William Drive; or James P. Whyte, 1109 Jamestown Road. All addresses are in Williamsburg 23185, and all are in the phone book.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ANNOUNCED

At its regular monthly meeting on June 21, 1978, the Society's Board of Directors voted to inaugurate a membership drive. Reasons for this action were twofold: more members should assure greater participation in Society events and, hopefully, thus head off any adverse impact from rising costs; and provide the basis for increased Society activity of a charitable nature (see item elsewhere in this issue).

Eligibility for membership is described in Article II of the By-Laws of the Society as follows:

The members of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg shall be males of the age of 18 or over, who may be active or honorary members. Active membership shall be limited to men who were born in Scotland or who are lineally descended from one or more natives of Scotland. All elections to membership shall be by unanimous vote of the directors present at a duly constituted meeting of the board of directors.

It was felt the best, easiest, and quickest way to increase the membership is for each member to sponsor an eligible candidate. Please give this your immediate, earnest attention. Membership application forms may be obtained from our Society's Secretary, Thomas E. Richardson, 591 Harrop Lane, Williamsburg 23185, phone 804-229-8194. Wouldn't it be great to have a record membership on hand for Burns Nicht this coming January 27, 1979?

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES SOUGHT, PLANNED

Article I of the By-Laws of the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg states that the objectives of the Society "shall be to dispense charitable and educational assistance to Scotsmen, lineal descendants of Scotsmen, and to their widows; to perpetuate Scottish traditions and culture; to promote social intercourse amongst its members;...."

Our social and cultural activities are well known—Ceilidhs, Tartan Ball, Kirkin' O' the Tartan, Burns Nicht and sponsorship of Highland dancing and Piping activities—but less well known are activities which may accurately be called "charitable" or "educational."

Occasionally the widow of a Scot in indigent straits has been lent a helping hand by the Society and occasionally an elderly Scot has been given needed financial support. But there has been no ongoing program fulfilling the object of dispensing charitable or educational assistance to Scotsmen or their lineal descendants.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors at its regular monthly meeting on June 21, 1978, approved the idea of seeking a charitable or educational activity which can be undertaken with regularity. Briefly considered was the idea of sponsoring student exchanges of Americans and Scots on either the high school or college level. And Ken Graham, our Vice-President, is undertaking the task of ascertaining whether or not there is a need to assist elderly indigent and ill Scots or their descendants in the Newport News and Williamsburg areas. Other ideas along these general lines will be welcomed by the Board of Directors. Any officer of the Society (see listing elsewhere in this issue) will be glad to hear from you on this score.

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

James P. Whyte, President. Jim is a charter member of the Williamsburg St. Andrew's Society. His clan affiliations are MacGregor and Lamont. He is a Professor of Law at the College of William and Mary. He served with the U. S. Navy and holds degrees from Bucknell Univ., Syracuse, and the University of Colorado. He and his wife Martha have three boys. His hobby is golf.

J. Kenneth Graham, Vice President. Ken is retired after serving many years as a civilian accountant with the U. S. Navy. He and his wife, Tommie, are active hard-working Scots anxious to promote the efforts of the Society. Ken received his college education from William & Mary.

Byron A. Adams, Treasurer. Byron is an attorney at Fort Eustis and is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. He served with the U. S. Air Force and is currently an officer in the Air Force Reserve. He and his wife Mary have three girls. His clan affiliation is Gordon.

Thomas E. Richardson, Secretary. Tom is a business teacher at Lafayette High School in Williamsburg. He joined the St. Andrew's Society in 1975. His clan affiliation is Buchanan. He is a graduate of VPI&SU and is an editor of the Virginia-North Carolina Fishing Report. His wife Emily teaches at Bruton High School.

SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY
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