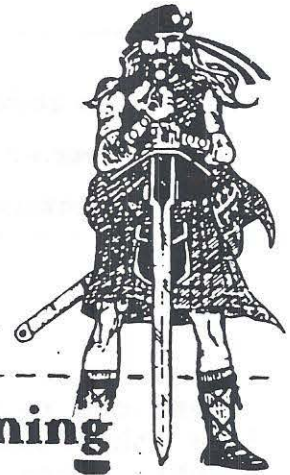




# THE SPECTATOR

January, February, March, 1995  
Saint Andrew's Society  
of Williamsburg



## Burns Nicht - A Wonderful Evening

About one hundred and ten jolly Scots and their guests gathered in the Williamsburg Country Club on January 21st for the annual celebration of Robert Burns' birthday.

Almost everyone arrived early and got right into the spirit of the evening. Your reporter didn't get there until about ten minutes after the start of the social hour, and the whole place was humming with conversation, laughter and exclamations of old friends meeting anew. There was also in the background the pipes and drums as the musicians warmed up their instruments.

The room, with its bright, busy wallpaper design contrasting with the formal window treatments and subdued decorum, was a perfect setting for such an evening. Some of our members are also in the Country Club, and arrangements for us to use the facility were made by Charles Saunders and Jim Young. The committee was made up of Bob Davis assisted by Jack Rouzie.

A unique feature this year was the haggis made up from an authentic Scottish recipe and prepared on the site by the head chef of the club. He was so proud of his product that he was pleased to deliver it to the head table himself. It came with, of course, the proper escort and ceremony.

Neil Stevenson gave the blessing to begin the ceremonies. The ode to the haggis was wonderfully presented, in authentic dialect (it's his own!) by William Garrett. His excellent delivery and rousing gestures got the evening off to a spirited beginning. The haggis tasted good, too.

An interlude of stirring pipes and drums music was presented by the Strath James Band prior to the serving of the dinner. Table service, by the way, was excellent this year.

After dinner, the formal ceremonies began. Citing his own childhood memories of his father reading Burns to the family, Colin Govan gave a moving tribute to the "Immortal Memory". A hushed, appreciative audience listened as he gave snatches of the verses and anecdotes about the man, his life and his poetry.

Then it was time for the toasts, followed by our traditional tribute to those who have passed away, "Flowers of the Forest".

Always a surprise because it is never announced in advance was the "Scot of the Year" award. The recipient for 1994 is Jay Close, Pipe Major of the Strath James Band. His service to the Scottish community in our area, his advancement of classical pipe music, and his support of the Society (he is not a member) were cited as basis for the award.

More entertainment by the band followed, after which the new Board members were introduced and retiring members recognized. The Glen Fiddich raffle was the last item on the agenda, after which the crowd broke into conversational groups and melted away into the chilly January evening.

Truly a celebration worthy of its honoree.



### ***The Spectator***

The Spectator is published periodically by the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Virginia

President: Bob Davis

Editor: Tom Nichols

Contributors: Glynn Shackleton, Bob Davis, Jack Rouzie, Bruce Schoch, Terry Hunter

## **From the Editor**

It has been said in many ways and languages that Man is a gregarious being. We like to be together with others of the same ilk. It's the fundamental reason for such fellowships as our Society. The recent Burns Night celebration proved how pleasant it is to gather together.

As editor, it is hoped that "The Spectator" can help keep you, the cherished reader, apprised of what will be happening and what has happened. It's also nice to know about what our friends are doing.

Thus, the usual plea: being editor shouldn't be a lonely job. The members of our Society include many active and vital people whose thoughts and activities are interesting to others. So, please give your editor a break and call or drop a line about what's going on. Hints and scribbles are enough - a story line can be developed from a mere scrap of information. Please send that scrap!

## **Alexandria Christmas Walk**

Several St. Andrew's members had signed up for the Alexandria Christmas Walk, but last minute changes caused some cancellations. Those who did attend had a delightful time.

It turned out that the weather was just right for a parade: a little brisk, but sunny and clear. We carried our Williamsburg banner proudly, and were warmly applauded all along the route through the old town section of Alexandria.

The hotel set up by Bob Davis was right in the center of all the activities, which included an impromptu pipe concert on Friday evening and the local flea market (actually called the farmers' market) on Saturday morning.

Seeing so many kilts and other Scots regalia, and hearing the constant drone of the pipes for two whole days was a real thrill. For anyone who enjoys the sights and sounds of the old country, the annual Alexandria Walk is a real treat.

## **Flowers of the Forest**

The Society lost a beloved member and friend with the passing of William "Woodie" Woodward. His contributions to the memory and heritage of Scotland were so many that he was elected "Scot of the Year" for 1993. The long list of his personal efforts in behalf of things Scottish included service to our St. Andrew's Society. His talents will be missed. To his wife, Jean, who fought the valiant fight for him, the Society sends a salute. The kilted coterie of Society members, the cross of St. Andrew, and the pipes mourning his loss at the funeral service on December 15 were a fitting last tribute to that proud Scot.

# Words From The President

## FROM YOUR "NEW" PRESIDENT:

Hello, I'm Bob Davis, the incoming president of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg for 1995. It's an honor to be the president of this society, and I look forward to working with the 1995 Board of Directors. I know I will have a lot of assistance this year because there are at least four past presidents of your society on the board with me. Their counsel in the coming months will be extremely useful and sort after.

If we haven't had a chance to meet over the years let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. Claudette and I have lived in Queens Lake for eight year, about as long as I have been a member of St. Andrew's. Byron Adams was my closest neighbor, so you can see how I got involved. Our son, Josh, is a senior at Christopher Newport University and daughter, Peyton, is a senior at Bruton High School. Her college choice is still a month or two away. Claudette is a middle school writing specialist for the Newport News School System, and I sell CD-ROM information systems. Besides being a member of The Clan Macfarlane Society and The Scottish-American Military Society, I was president of the Williamsburg Scottish Festival for three years and am still a member of their Board of Directors. This is my second tour of duty on the St. Andrew's Board of Directors. This past year my contributions were to represent your Society at various Scottish Games & Festivals, host one of the most delightful weekends at the Annual Alexandria Christmas Walk, and to plan this years Burn's Dinner. Your comments about these events or any of the Society's activities would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to congratulate the new officers for this year, Colin Govan, Vice President, Byron Adams, Secretary, and Ken Garrison, Treasurer. And for a job well done to our out going President Jack Rouzie, Vice President, Charlie Saunders, Secretary, Tom Nichols, and Treasurer, Bruce Schoch.

My home phone is 229-5653, fax 229-4295 and voice mail is (800) 525-7052, ext. 1031. No Internet address at this time, but it's coming.

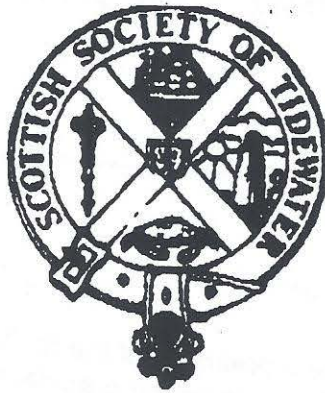
Here's to the Society and a great year!!

Yours aye,



Bob Davis, President





## **The Scottish Society of Tidewater**

announces the annual

### **Salute to Scotland**

The public is cordially invited to join the members in their tribute to the sights, sounds and taste of Scotland. You will be treated to the twirl of kilted highland dancers, the skirl of bagpipes, and, as a special event, a description and taste of a most famous Scottish tradition, Burns Night and the Haggis!

This event will be held at

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
621 First Colonial Road (Hilltop area)  
Virginia Beach  
on Saturday, February 18, 1995**

**Doors open at 6:00PM  
Program begins at 7:00 PM**

Join us - there is no charge, however, donations will be accepted at the door.

**431-3072 for further information  
9 - 4, Monday thru Friday.**

## **New Officers for 1995**

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

*Robert M. Davis, III*  
*Colin M. Govan*  
*Byron A. Adams*  
*George K. Garrison*

## **"Some Hae Meat and Canna Eat"**

Those, now familiar, words were composed by Robert Burns over two hundred years ago in 1794.

He was on a six day tour of Galloway accompanied by his friend John Syme, and they had stopped for a couple of days in the busy little seaport of Kirkcudbright, the county town of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

Burns and Symes stayed in a local hostelry called "The Heid" situated in the High Street at the "Head of the Town" (just north of the main gate). The Heid is still there in 1995, but is now renamed a much more upmarket "Selkirk Arms Hotel".

The Earl of Selkirk, whose seat was close by on St. Mary's Isle, had heard the Bard was in town and extended an invitation to dine.

Fully expecting to entertain his host, Burns prepared a Grace for that meal.

It wasn't, for some time, written down and was referred to as the "Kirkcudbright Grace". It was probably changed to the "Selkirk Grace" in honor of its patron host when eventually it was published.

Unfortunately the epithet "Selkirk" gives the impression that it derives from the Border town of that name; but it is doubtful that Burns ever visited that place.

## **Scot of the Year Award**

Pipe Major Jay Close, of the Strath James Pipe Band, was named Scot of the Year by the Board of Directors of the Society. His nomination was announced at the Burns Night dinner on January 21, 1995.

Jay recently assumed leadership of the band and continued their excellent program of training for new pipers and refinement of skills for the more experienced instrumentalists.

Among his outstanding achievements was the founding of the annual school in Williamsburg for the training of classical piping. His interest in this endeavor was so intense that he had been underwriting the costs from his own resources. Through his initiative, he was able to persuade the Benevolent Association that his cause was worthy of their consideration as a beneficiary for partial support.

The award was presented, much to his surprise, at the Burns Night celebration. It is given each year to the person or entity which contributes significantly to the fostering of our Scottish heritage in a manner that is beneficial to our Society or to the Scots or descendants of Scots in our community. Congratulations to Jay!



# In New Brunswick -

## A Wonderful Chair

John Rogerson - master woodcarver and artist was born in Loch Maben, Dumfriesshire, in 1837. He came to Saint John, New Brunswick, at the age of 12 and lived and worked there until his death in 1925.

He considered the President's Chair of the St. Andrew's Society of Saint John his finest piece of work. The story of its creation as told by Mr. Rogerson is worth repeating.

During the summer of 1906 it was called to mind that March 8th, 1908, would be the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Society in Saint John. It was decided that event should be marked by the presentation of a suitable president's chair to the Society. Twelve members supplied the means, and Mr. Rogerson was commissioned to do the work. In May, 1907, he went to Scotland for suitable wood for this purpose. Everywhere he met with remarkable success. At Loch Maben he obtained some wood over 800 years old that had come from the Castle where Robert Bruce was born. There he also secured a portion of a small holly tree that had been planted on Burns' first grave in St. Michael's graveyard in Dumfries in 1796. This now forms the lion rampant in the Bruce shield at the top of the chair.

Again at Loch Maben Mr. Rogerson, met with further good fortune when he was given piece of black oak from the castle. One piece of it with Celtic plaited-work is above the central panel, another just below, and others at each side.

Then on to Dumfries, and across the river at Maxwellton he obtained some Scotch oak cut from a tree that grew close to the river Nith where Burns was in the habit of visiting. "There is no doubt," Mr. Rogerson would comment "that Burns frequently sat under that tree". The two front posts are made from it.

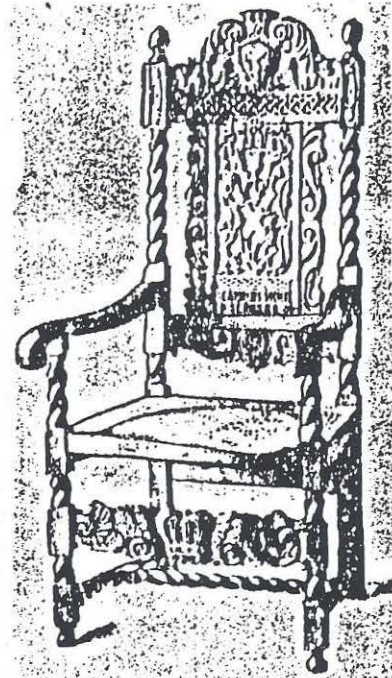
From Beith, in Ayresshire, in an old furniture factory he obtained a 400 year old piece from the Glasgow house of the Dukes of Argyle that was used to make cross pieces in the chair.

Other sections of the chair were carved from wood taken from Loudoun Castle and from the estate of the Marquis of Tweeddale in Haddington. A piece of the rafters from Mouchline Castle, the residence of Gavin Hamilton, where Burns and Bonnie Jean were married, was cut in two and used on the sides of the chair.

In all, the chair is made up of wood from seven localities and contains 26 pieces.

Mr. Rogerson's search for designs and inspiration took him to Holyrood Palace where he found a chair that was the perfect example for his desired design. He obtained a photo of it and sailed for home where the chair was in due time completed.

From carving ship's figureheads to work upon the President's chair, Mr. Rogerson's firm and noble Scottish character stands out clear and distinct.



... submitted by Terry and Chuck Hunter. They saw this on their recent trip in the Maritime Provinces, and were thoughtful enough to pass it on for the interest of us all.

## Board of Directors Elections

Listed below are the names of the Board of Directors for 1995. If you would like to voice your ideas or suggestions for changes or improvements in the way the Society is run, please give any of them a call.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Byron Adams        | 220 - 0310 |
| Jim Anthony        | 253 - 0321 |
| Dr. David Borland  | 253 - 0945 |
| Bob Davis          | 229 - 5653 |
| Ken Garrison       | 898 - 5350 |
| Colin Govan        | 826 - 4689 |
| Jack Kane          | 898 - 6953 |
| Mark Kirk          | 565 - 3022 |
| Doug McLean        | 258 - 0071 |
| Tom Nichols        | 851 - 0013 |
| Col. Jack Robinson | 229 - 5020 |
| Jack Rouzie        | 220 - 1151 |
| Dr. Tom Sale       | 723 - 8206 |
| Charles Saunders   | 229 - 6463 |
| Col. Ev Tucker     | 898 - 8151 |
| Col. Jim Young     | 249 - 2690 |

## Recipe for Crowdie (Cheese)

Heat some sour milk very slowly until it separates. Do not allow it to come anywhere near the boiling-point. Strain off the whey. Season the solid matter with salt and a little pepper, and an excellent cheese will result. To get out the moisture, the cheese should be "pressed" by being squeezed in a muslim bag. It is also the better by being allowed to stand for a day or two.

(Editor's note: "Crowdie" is a Lowland name - in the Highlands it is "Fuarag", and there it is sometimes made of soured cream whipped, and then mixed with toasted oatmeal.)





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