



THE SPECTATOR

July, August, September, 1995
Saint Andrew's Society
of Williamsburg



Williamsburg Scottish Games

As we endure the hot blasts of summer '95, let us turn our thoughts to the lovely long cool autumns we always experience here in our corner of Virginia. Here, autumn is always nice - especially later in the season when the leaves show their colors.

And with autumn comes the time for the annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival. This year, Scots will gather from Canada, the Carolinas, Washington, and probably from Scotland, to attend our games here at the Winery on Saturday, September 23.

If you have received your announcement from the Balmoral Society, and haven't responded yet, maybe this would be a good time to send them your support.

Our Society will have a booth at the Festival, and all are welcome to stop by for some refreshment or a snack. If you have someone along who might be a prospective member, we shall have fliers and recruitment materials, too. Look for the St. Andrew's banner out among the clan tents and stop by to say "Hello".

By the way, there are plenty of opportunities to help out on committees to keep the festival going. Contact our President, Bob Davis at 229 - 5653, and he will put you in touch with the right job.

Also, if you would like to help man the St. Andrew's tent, give Charles Saunders a call at 229 - 6463. Your hour at the tent could be very pleasant.

Scottish Tunes in Colonial Williamsburg

On Tuesday nights, beginning July 11, 1995, John Turner, ten times Scottish fiddle champion, and Hope Dillard, balladeer, will present "Highland Humors", an evening of Scottish vocal and instrumental music at the newly opened Shields Tavern Garden Dinner Theater on Duke of Gloucester Street in the Historical Area. Reservations for the Dinner Theater package may be made by calling 1-800-HISTORY.

The Spectator
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I begin this report with many thanks to Tom Nichols for his efforts to get this newsletter out. Tom is recovering from surgery, and we all wish him a quick return to good health.

I hope all of you have had a very nice summer, although July set heat records I hope will stand forever and as I write Felix is still in the Atlantic somewhere. Our Spring Ceilidh was held in May at the Kingsmill's Pavilion. Everyone who attended can attest to having a wonderful afternoon. Jim Young and Byron Adams hosted the event and deserve our thanks. Howard Topp and I represented our Society at the Tidewater Games and Ev Tucker and I manned the tent at Grandfather Mountain. I wish to thank both Howard and Ev for their help. One of the largest attended luncheons was held in July at the Williamsburg Country Club. Admiral Harold L. R. Bernsen, USN, retired gave a most interesting presentation on the military and political world in the Persian Gulf. Thanks to Jim Anthony and Tom Sale for hosting this event.

The Williamsburg Scottish Festival will be held on September 23th at the Williamsburg Winery. I urge all members to support OUR festival. The festival begins with the Balmoral Reception on Friday evening, September 22nd. If you would like a reservation to the reception or additional information on the festival please contact me at 229-5653 or Lu Gordon at 565-2271. I look forward to seeing you at the Society or Balmoral hospitality tent.

I am pleased to announce that your Board has approved the purchase of St. Andrew's Society lapel rosettes. The cost will be \$5.00 apiece. Jack Kane will be taking orders for delivery in September, contact him at 898-6953.

Bob Davis
President

Schedule for the Year

Williamsburg Scottish Festival	September 23
Members' Night	October 28
Kirkin' O' the Tartan	November 19
Alexandria Christmas Walk	December
Burns Night	January 27

Williamsburg CEOL MOR Piping School

The traditions associated with the Great Highland Bagpipe have evolved over several hundred years, and have resulted in some highly sophisticated instrumental techniques. One of the classic styles of playing, perhaps the most difficult, termed PIOBAIREACHD, was in the mainstream of what is called the CEOL MOR technique.

Here in Williamsburg, Mr. Jay Close, of the Strath James pipe band, has been a leading force in organizing an annual advanced course for pipers. An advocate of the CEOL MOR school, his training emphasizes the PIOBAIREACHD method. Carefully supervised students practiced during the course here during January 27 through 29, 1995.

Instruction was limited to skilled players and teachers who were working to refine their techniques for competition and to pass on the finest points of style to other students. They came from throughout the US and Canada.

Among pipers, it is conceded that the highest standards have been achieved by such names as Robert Reid and William Barrie, and are derived from what is termed the Cameron tradition.

The school, held at Walsingham Academy and in the Colonial Williamsburg band building, was termed a great success. The instructors, who included those named above, (or their descendants) and also Mr. Matt Turnbull of Detroit, were pleased with the final recitals and are looking forward to 1996.

The St. Andrew's Society, through our benevolent fund, contributed to the success of the school. Our membership should be proud that, by banding together we can stimulate and further the continuance of the heritage of Scotland in this manner.

Fine Program at Quarterly Luncheon

A nice crowd gathered in the air-cooled Williamsburg Country Club on a very hot July 24th for the Society's quarterly luncheon. Jim Anthony and Tom Sale had put together a nice program which everyone seemed to enjoy. The weather outside was just beginning the famous 1995 super hot spell, but inside was very pleasant, with the ladies dressed in their summer frocks appropriate for the occasion. While the glasses tinkled during the social preliminaries, the discreet background music of Bob Flinn at the piano contributed to the festive ambience.

Our President, Bob Davis, presented membership certificates to new members Ian Woodrow and Dr. Robert MacLeod, and welcomed them into the Society.

The speaker was Retired Admiral Harold Bernson, USN, who gave a delightfully clear-cut insight into the situation in the far east based on his years of experience in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, The Emirates and Kuwait. His talk was so well received that the question period ran overtime, but Adm. Bernson cheerfully fielded questions from all sides.

The Country Club is an especially nice setting for the luncheon, and Tom and Jim deserve a "well done" for their efforts to make for a delightful Scot's afternoon.

St. Andrew's Society
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