

Celebrating Stateside Scots



April is Scottish American Heritage Month and here's how our Society celebrated ...

In observance of Tartan Day, 26 society members attended in the annual Spring Kirkin' held at historic Christ Church in Weems, Virginia, on Sunday, April 6th.

It was a beautiful day, with a moving ceremony in a stunning Colonial-era church. SAS-W provided the color guard and the congregation was invited to step forward for the tartan blessing. The kirkin' ceremony is an uplifting experience, full of tradition and tartan color — and included a long-standing tradition of musical accompaniment by the Kilmarnock Pipes and Drums. Aye!

Afterward, many enjoyed a delicious lunch at Scoots Barbeque in Gloucester Point, Virginia — well worth the time and the trip!

Thank you to Bob Davis for encouraging attendance and organizing a memorable event - marking the 30th year of our society's participation!

Tartan Day was officially recognized by the U.S. Congress in 1998 and commemorates the signing of the

treaty of Arboath in 1320. The month of April was also designated as Scottish American Heritage Month and both are widely celebrated in the U.S. and Canada.



Top: SAS-W members show off their tartan best.

Above: The SAS-W colorguard and pipes at Christ Church in Weems, Virginia.

Charitable Food Drive

As part of our charitable works, the society organized a food drive to benefit Grove Christian Outreach in Williamsburg. The donations were presented by a tartan-clad group of society members on April 16th!



Above: A collection of photos of members who participated in the food drive for Grove Christian Outreach and the thank-you breakfast that was held afterward.

2025 SAS-W BOARD & OFFICERS

President: Sherri Cornoni

Vice President: Wayne Glass

Treasurer: John Scott

Secretary: Jimmy McCarter

Officers serve a one-year term, ending on December 31, 2025.

Bruce Buchanan
Sherri Cornoni
Anna-Marie Cox
Bob Davis
Wayne Glass
Jan Hruz

Jerry Lelansky
Jimmy McCarter
Tami Schumann
John Scott
Vicki Scott
Susan White

The SAS-W Board consists of 12 elected members. All board members serve a 3-year term, unless an unexpected vacancy occurs.

Welcome New MEMBERS

February 2025

*Leland Drummond
Mary Johnson
Perry Neel*

April 2025

*Allan Lockhart-Kane
Susanna Lockhart-Kane
Kimberly Miller-Daum*

March 2025

*Bruce Forester
Sue MacArthur*

May 2025

*Wayne Eacho
Erin O'Brien-Ehrhard
Scarlet Elmore
Lauren Elmore*

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES AND PUBLICITY EVENTS

TOANO FARMERS MARKET ~ MARCH 29

Vicki Scott, membership secretary, has been looking for ways to introduce more residents to SAS-W. On Saturday, March 29, Vicki and John Scott, Russ Madigan, Jan Hruz, and Anna-Marie Cox (pictured below) staffed a table at the Toano Farmer's Market, from 9am until noon. A fun time ensued and we are happy to report that, although early in the farming season, we had several visitors! Several membership applications were given out, and children were invited to color whimsical drawings of coos and Nessie.

The object is to connect with more residents who may be interested in our society from a membership perspective. We felt very welcome and pleased that we acted on this initiative. We will be located in the center of the field on our next foray, which will be on Saturday, June 28. Lynn Newcomer has kindly agreed to do some piping, which will be interspersed with the great acoustic guitar music that we heard the last time!



TARTANS & TIE-DYE FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT CANCER RESEARCH ~ APRIL 19

Russ Madigan led the charge for a day of fun at the "11th Annual Tartans and Tie-Dye" — a celebration of life to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life — on April 19th. The festival was held on the grounds of the Billsburg Brewery, from 11am until 9pm.



SAS-W staffed a table from 11am to 5pm, with the help of several members. While the table setup and staffing was covered personally by members, the society did contribute a cash donation. Our table was visited by a wide array of attendees and we were told, more than once, that they "had no idea that a Scottish organization existed around here". Good thing we showed up!

The event entry fee was (a suggested) \$10 per person. All proceeds went to the American Cancer Society. The festival was well attended by all ages, and dog-friendly.

There were vendors, craft tables, an extensive raffle, family activities and music galore. A couple of food trucks were present and beverages were available from Billsburg Brewery.

Live entertainment throughout included several bands and singers, along with a memorial service to honor those who have lost their lives to cancer. It's an event worth attending and we hope to return next year!



Did you know the Royal City of Dunfermline in Fife was the de facto capital of Scotland from the 11th through the 15th century. The beautiful Abbey (left) is the final resting place of more kings and queens, including Robert the Bruce, than anywhere else in Britain.

Dunfermline is the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie and is the headquarters of all the Carnegie Trusts. Pittencreiff Park (known locally as the Glen) was donated to the people of Dunfermline by Carnegie after he had made his fortune in America.

Dunfermline is a hidden gem that is well worth a visit!



Our Most Scottish Founder

By Tami Schumann

Anyone who has watched the movie or a theatrical production of 1776 knows that the most Scottish of our Founding Fathers was Thomas McKean of Delaware, right? Ummmmm ... no. I directed it twice, and in my advance research quickly uncovered the error. In fact, McKean was born in the colonies 14 years after his father emigrated from Scotland and spent the majority of his youth with an Irish tutor, so the likelihood of him roaring about with a broad Scots burr is pretty slim. But who would have? Two of the softer-spoken characters responsible for pivotal dramatic moments in the story: the Reverend John Witherspoon of NJ (arrived in 1768) who shows up in time to break a stalemate to allow debate to take place, and James Wilson of PA (arrived in 1766) who changes his vote to achieve unanimity on independence. (And did I change my production to make it align to the facts? No. The audience expects what they expect.)

Originally this was to be an article about all the signers of the Declaration of Independence of Scottish descent, but the numbers are so great that space prohibits me from doing each one justice. Instead, I am focusing on the most important one, in my perception. He was a direct link to the Scottish Enlightenment, and had a profound impact on the education of multiple members of the Founding Generation: the Reverend John Witherspoon.

The Scottish Enlightenment began in the early 18th century. They took the humanist outlook of the Western Enlightenment which was intellectual and philosophical, and added empiricism and practicality, along with the values of improvement, virtue, and the benefit of the individual and society as a whole, and a rejection of any authority that could not be justified by reason. "Pie-in-the-sky" philosophy was all well and good, but we Scots required practical application and solid, visible results.

The Reverend John Witherspoon (1723-94) was a child of the Scottish Enlightenment, receiving his education from the Universities of Edinburgh and St. An-

draws just as these philosophies were developing and taking hold. His contemporaries of the period included David Hume, William Robertson, Adam Smith, and Hugh Blair. One of the things that made the Scottish enlightenment unique from other such movements was the inclusion of erudite clergymen such as Robertson, Blair, Alexander Carlyle, and John Witherspoon – men who believed that "a free and open sophisticated culture was compatible with a solid moral and religious foundation."



A portrait of Rev. John Witherspoon by Charles Willson Peale c. 1790. Courtesy of Wikipedia.

Similar to the conflicts which continue within our denominations in the modern day, the Enlightenment Presbyterians evolved into two parties: the Moderates, led by Frances Hutcheson, who wanted to pull the church into alignment with modern society, and the Evangelical (later Popular) party led by John Witherspoon, who published a scathing satire on the Moderates called *Evangelical Characteristics* that was considered so humorous and well executed that even the Moderates bought copies of it. He continued to carry the banner for the Evangelicals through the 1750s and 60s until multiple factors converged to bring him to America.

The first was the Moderates incursion into the university system, starting with Robertson being named principal of the University of Edinburgh and Blair becoming its Professor of Rhetoric. The Evangelical Party influence had begun to wane. In 1766 Witherspoon had turned down an offer to relocate to the colonies, but in 1767 he was visited by Benjamin Rush, a recent graduate of Princeton who had come to Edinburgh to study medicine. Though English, Rush was influenced by the New Light Presbyterian ministers his entire life, including Samuel Davies, who was president of the college while he attended. A letter from Ben Franklin gave Rush entrée to all the great thinkers and philosophers of Edinburgh, but he was unimpressed by the religious skepticism of Hume and friends, so he naturally gravitated toward Witherspoon, and it was he who persuaded

Continued, next page

him to take the job in New Jersey. Recognizing that the evangelical fervor that was waning in Scotland still existed in the New World, Witherspoon agreed to go west.

The College of New Jersey (Princeton) was founded in 1746 by New Licht Presbyterians “for the Education of Youth in the Learned Languages and in the Liberal Arts and Sciences.” Based on Scottish Enlightenment principles from the very beginning, it was open to every religious denomination, with a curriculum designed to “cherish the spirit of liberty and free inquiry,” including Latin, Greek, logic, rhetoric, history, geography, and science, in a unity of all human knowledge. Witherspoon took the established curriculum and, as we say in modern parlance, put it on steroids, modeling it after the University of Edinburgh’s rigorously humanistic one. He transformed a college for training clergymen into a school to train the leaders of the revolutionary generation, which included James Madison and Aaron Burr. He also toughened up the admission standards to match those of Harvard and Yale.

Among the improvements he injected into the training for future leaders were massive doses of reading the great philosophers, both ancient and modern. His belief was that even if you disagreed with a philosopher or thinker, it was necessary to read him in order to refute him, and he included many who he personally disagreed with on the reading list, “in the spirit of free inquiry.” It was important that his students not only knew what they believed in, but why they believed it, and were able to support it with sound reasoning. He was not interested in training parrots. It was also his idea to open the collegiate debates to the public to give the students a wider audience to present their arguments to. (This alarmed some of the public, who thought Princeton was cranking out nothing for rebels and revolutionaries!)

As the turmoil of the 1770s arrived, his loyalties resided firmly with his adopted country. In 1774, as things started heating up throughout the colonies, Witherspoon wrote his *Thoughts on American Liberty*. He did not go so far as to advocate a complete break with the Mother Country, but he was in favor of a union of the colonies to push back against the injustices and abuses of power. But by May 17, 1776, he stepped into the pulpit and crossed the Rubicon. In a sermon entitled “The Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men” he made plain his belief that God was guiding the colonies to pursue their freedom because



Statue of Witherspoon in the Horticulture Center in Philadelphia.

once civil liberties were lost, all was lost. The sermon was printed in pamphlet form and spread throughout the colonies and Great Britain. It was condemned by *Scots Magazine* which blamed the “unhappy commotions” in the colonies on clerical influences of which they said Witherspoon had the greatest share, and Horace Walpole the Younger said to Parliament that “Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson (Witherspoon) and that is the end of it.” Walpole gives Witherspoon practically the entire credit for the Revolution, yet few Americans remember his name!

Reverend Witherspoon would go on to sign the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, and favored the ratification of the Constitution, but in each of these endeavors he was one of many. It might fairly be said that his greatest contribution was in the many men he trained during his 28 years at Princeton who kept the revolutionary machinery running for a generation. That list includes one president, one vice president, three Supreme Court Justices, 10 cabinet members, 13 governors, 28 senators, 49 congressmen, and 37 judges, all steeped in the now-forgotten principles of the Scottish enlightenment, and all thanks to a single, dedicated “Presbyterian parson” and educator from East Lothian, Scotland.

(Principle source of material for this article: *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* by Arthur Herman, c. 2001



It's Pub Nite!

Great job, everyone! Each of our four Pub Nights this season have had outstanding attendance, so thank you all for your support! We have had over 40 attendees each night.

The 50/50 drawing continues to do well, with the winners generously donating their winnings back to the Society.

An added feature each evening was a presentation by fellow members. Thanks to Susan White, Richard Schuman (aka Patrick Henry), Russ Madigan and Perry Neel. Last but not least: in May, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Jeff Sullivan of Totality Solutions for the creation of an awesome society website.

Speaking of appreciation ... Jan Hruz has done an outstanding job of planning and hosting the society's pub nights for well over two years. Huzzah!



Clockwise from top left: Sherrie Corroni presents a certificate of appreciation to Jeff Sullivan; new members Kimberly O'Brien-Ehrhard and Wayne Eacho are welcomed in May; Perry Neel talks philosophy to the group; "Patrick Henry" addresses the March gathering.

2025 EVENT CALENDAR

Unless otherwise indicated, email info request to: secretary.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com

JUNE

26 Pub Night

Anna's Brick Oven

JULY

26 Pub Night

Anna's Brick Oven

AUGUST

28 Pub Night

Anna's Brick Oven

SEPTEMBER

25 Pub Night

Anna's Brick Oven

OCTOBER

23 Pub Night

Anna's Brick Oven

(Halloween Theme!)

NOVEMBER

TBD Annual General Meeting (AGM)

TBD Autumn Kirkin' of the Tartans

30 St. Andrews Day Food Drive

DECEMBER

TBD CW Christmas Parade

TBD Christmas Luncheon & Ceilidh

If you haven't joined us for our monthly pub night, what are you waiting for?

CLAN SCOTT

By Russ Madigan

Clan Scott has a long and distinguished history dating back to the 12th century. The clan is a well known border clan centered around the region of Selkirk and Roxburgh. In 1611, Walter Scott became Lord Scott of Buccleuch. His son, Walter, became the First Earl of Buccleuch in 1619. Thus began the rise of power of Clan Scott.

The present day Chieftain of Clan Scott is Richard Montagu-Douglas-Scott, the 10th Duke of Buccleuch, 12th Duke of Queensbury, KT, KBE, CVO, DL, FSA, FRSE, and FRSGS. He presently resides in Bowhill House near Selkirk.

The Clan motto is: "A Bellendaine" Belledaine is the gathering place for the Scotts. This is usually an area where the clan warriors gather before going into battle.

The clan slogan is AMO (I love). The clan plant is the Blaeberry. Members of clans would normally wear a sprig of a local plant on their caps.

The clan seat is Branhholme Castle in Hawick.

Septs of Clan Scott include: Buccleuch, Geddes, Laidlaw, and Langlangs.

The American Clan Scott Society's website is: www.clanscottsociety.org



The State of Grandfather Mountain and the Summer Scottish Games

By Ed Matheson

Fellow Members,

Following is an excerpt from an update that I received from Steve Quillen, President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, regarding the ongoing recovery on Grandfather Mountain and the surrounding area:

Rest assured — The Games are still on and will take place in July!

"As you know, Hurricane Helene devastated the North Carolina High Country, both from disastrous flooding and high winds.

Luckily, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) came through very fortunately, in comparison to many in this county. We still have work to be done but stand ready to hold the 69th Annual Games on July 10-13. We will go on!

That said, we need your support – and so does our community. No donation is too small; any amount will help. We pledge to keep the donations separate from our operations fund and will donate any money remaining from the campaign to the Avery County Chamber of Commerce "Build Back Avery" fund."

GMHG is a 501(c)3 non-profit and your donations will be tax deductible. Here's a link for your convenience: <https://gmhg.org/donations>

If you prefer to donate to the Avery County "Build Back Avery Fund" – use this link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-back-avery>

As many of you know, my wife Cindy and I are long-time residents on "the mountain" and we were lucky to have escaped much of the damage seen around the mountain and the surrounding area.



st. andrew's society of williamsburg

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY

LEARN MORE

A New Site for SAS-W!

The SAS-W has launched a new and improved website for use by both members and the general public!

Our new site offers a streamlined, marketing forward message about the Society to potential new members or those seeking to learn more about SAS-W.

There is also a new "Members" page that allows us to utilize modern e-commerce to pay membership dues or pay for events such as Burns Night online. Another feature is a password-protected Directory to help members stay in touch. This directory is set up under an "opt-in"

function, so only those members who want their information published are listed.

If you wish to opt-in to the Members' Directory, please contact our Membership Secretary, Vicki Scott, at membership@scotsofwmbg-va.org. Updates will take place monthly.

If you have any questions about the site, please feel free to contact our webmaster, Martin Cox, at webmaster@scotsofwmbg-va.org.

Come see us at our new link of www.scotsofwmbg-va.org!

Visit Your Society Webstore

https://stores.inksoft.com/st_andrews_society

Come one, come all to see all the new summer clothing items that are now available. There are men's and women's raincoats, short-sleeved Oxford shirts, ladies' short-sleeved, 3/4 sleeved, long-sleeved easy-care shirts and men's and women's long-sleeved denim shirts.

Plus there are rumours that there may be a selection of fine etched glassware in our future. Stemmed and stemless wine glasses, beer glasses, whisky wee drams and "on the rocks" glasses — maybe even etched travel coffee mugs. Keep your eyes and ears open for further announcements. If anyone has any questions, please email me.

Russ Madigan

Quartermaster and Shameless Huckster
rmadigan55@gmail.com



With summer here, many are planning [trips to the British Isles!](#) We would love to have you post your pictures on the Facebook site. It is always fun to see where people have traveled.

If you are not able to have a Facebook account and want to share your exciting adventures to the St Andrew Society members feel free to send them to me along with any information regarding the sites you visited, and I will be happy to post them for you. Happy travels to all!!

Thanks,
Anna-Marie Cox
kamajors6366@gmail.com



FUNDING THE SOCIETY

By John Scott, Treasurer

Recently, the new website and member portal for the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg (SAS-W) "went live." A significant feature is the capability to take online payments and donations. Society members can now pay annual dues, purchase event tickets, and make donations, all from the comfort of home on their computer or smart device. Even more important, members will be able to designate their online donations to the Operating Fund, the Ken Graham Educational and Charitable Fund (KGECE), or both. With the advent of this new capability, we thought it might be a good time to give SAS-W members an overview of the funds that accept member donations. Please note that SAS-W is a 301(c) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

The day-to-day financial needs of the Society are met from the Operating Fund. Examples of operating fund expenditures are many and varied. They include expenses related to Society events (Burns Night, Ceilidhs, Tartan Day), an annual stipend to the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums, the rental and insurance fee for the Society's storage facility, costs associated with the creation and maintenance of the new website, purchasing banners and other insignia, name tags and pins for new members, postage to cover mailings, rental on the Society's Post Office Box, an annual fee to the Virginia State Corporation Commission, and reimbursement to Society members who incur

expenses from their own pocket in support of the Society. Up to now the primary income sources for the Operating Fund have been a portion of member dues and the monthly proceeds from the Pub Night 50/50 raffle. The vast majority of the Society's operating funds come from a portion of member dues at the beginning of each year, and the Board works hard to carefully husband the Society's resources throughout the year.

The Ken Graham Educational and Charitable Fund (KGECE) is the vehicle through which the Society funds its educational and charitable endeavors. The fund awards student scholarships to qualified applicants pursuing degrees related to Scottish history, politics and culture in institutions of higher learning in the United States, Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK. The KGECE grant program awards funds to students taking courses related to piping, drumming, dancing, or other Scottish cultural arts. Other Society contributions to charity may also be drawn from the KGECE. The primary sources for income for the Ken Graham Fund are Society dues (25 percent of dues are earmarked for the KGECE), as well as member donations.

All contributions are needed and much appreciated. Please check out the new e-payment capabilities. It's easy, secure, instantaneous, and enables you to designate donations to either the Operating Fund, the Ken Graham Fund, or both. Happy clicking!

