



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg
Fall 2011

President's Message

Lads and Lassies,

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday-getting together with family, eating way too much food, watching a little pigskin and realizing I have so much for which to be thankful. This is also a time to look back on the year that is almost over and think about the new year ahead.

It is with mixed emotions I realize my time as President of Saint Andrew's Society is also nearing its end. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have been your President for the past two years. I have enjoyed getting to know the members and having time to visit with you. We have had some wonderful events and I thank each and every one of you who worked so hard. The Board members and officers of the Society certainly made my job easier; yes, I did learn to "delegate!"

In this issue of The Spectator, you can read the State of the Society Address from the Annual General Meeting about the events of the past year. Those of you who were there know I was sick that afternoon and our Vice President, Harold Maxwell, willingly gave the address in my place. Thank you, Harold!

When I try to decide which event I enjoyed the most I think first of one, then another. The traditional Kirkin's are always inspiring and make me feel the connection with Scots who sacrificed so much. The Luncheons and Family Picnic are always great fun, and educational, too. I learned so much about Robert Burns in the Scottish Study Club. And the "What it Means to be Scottish" Tartan Day event was amazing! An exciting day of music, dancing, art and camaraderie. And the year isn't over yet. We still have the Christmas Parade this Saturday and Allan Turnbull is speaking about Bicycling in Scotland at the Christmas Luncheon on December 17th at the Williamsburg Lodge.



Burn's Night is in its own category of events. And we are busy planning this special evening for 2012. More information will be sent to you, but be sure to save the date: January 28, 2012 at the Crown Plaza/Ft. Magruder Inn. Other plans are also in the works for next year, some traditional and some new ideas! I am looking forward to another great year for the Society.

I am also thrilled at the success of the Kenneth Graham Scholarship fund. It is exciting to see the fund grow and meet the fine young people we have been able to help with their Scottish education.

At this time of thanksgiving, I am thankful for my friends in Saint Andrew's Society and for the opportunity to lead this fine group for two years. I am thankful for the Board members and other members for their hard work and support. Let's keep up the quality and enthusiasm through the next year!

Yours, aye,



Jamie Alexander Griffin
President
Saint Andrew's Society
Williamsburg, Virginia

Annual General Meeting, October 9, 2011

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg took place on Sunday October 9 at the Windsor Forest Clubhouse. The main topic of business was the election of new Board members for 2012. Amana Katora, Anne and Arthur Korff and Everette Tucker were all elected as new Board members.

Following the election and the business meeting, Harold Maxwell read the State of the Society address, written by Society President Jamie Griffin, who was ill and unable to attend the event. Please see the separate article following

About 27 members attended the AGM which was overstocked with excellent sandwiches, snacks, desserts, cookies and sweets provided by members, and with a draft keg of Saint Andrew's Society beer brewed by Jon Katora especially for the Society. As we celebrated by sipping on the excellent beer Jon gave a power point presentation on Scottish beer and the process of beer making. This really was the best beer I have tasted in some time. Now that SAS has its own beer we expect our meetings are going to get more lively.

We had a rollicking good time at this meeting. Some photos follow. Others are posted on the Society website www.scotsofwmbg.org .



The AGM gets started.



Harold Maxwell reads the State of the Society address (left)



Jon Katora explains the mysteries of Scottish beer and the art of brewing (above). AGM attendees (below)



AGM attendees (below)



The State of the Society 2011, by President Jamie Griffin

SAS-W is required to hold an annual membership meeting in order to keep our 501 (C) (3) status as a tax exempt charitable organization. So I welcome all of you to our Annual General Meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the membership of the status of the organization and to transact business that requires the vote of the members. By being here this afternoon and voting for our new directors you have fulfilled the obligation of SAS membership.

It is traditional for the President of SAS to give a State of the Society address at the AGM, so I am here to tell you that we are alive and well! We currently have 97 Members and an additional 13 Honorary Members. Our economy is healthy and our “governing body” (the board) is doing well.

We have had a successful year to date. This was due to the significant time and effort contributed by our members. We have great members who have shared their talents and abilities to enable us to offer activities and events that give us a glimpse into the rich history, culture and customs of Scotland.

Our year began with Burn's Night at the George Washington Inn and we shared a wonderful evening celebrating the birth of Robert Burns. It is always a thrill to see so many of our members, family and friends in their best Scottish finery sharing a wonderful meal and enjoying the toasts, honors and Immortal Memory.

In April, we held our first (hopefully first annual) "What it means to be Scottish in Hampton Roads" event as our Tartan Day Celebration. This was quite an undertaking sponsored by Saint Andrews Society, Williamsburg and Scottish Society of Tidewater and it surpassed our hopes for a great day! Over 200 attended and enjoyed demonstrations of Scottish culture; information on genealogy, original paintings of Scottish scenes, bagpipe solos and pipe and drum music. Also, beautifully played harp, fiddle, dulcimer and psaltery music. Plus Scottish dancing, a tartan fashion show, and for a finale, Byron Adams gave a toast to the Haggis!

The Spring Kirkin at Historic Christchurch is one of our member's favorite traditions and was once again a moving service. This is always a beautiful way to remember our Scottish history and remember our heritage.

We held the Annual Family Picnic and Ceilidh in June at the Queen's Lake Clubhouse and had an afternoon of good food and fellowship with other members, friends and family. We seem to be pretty good at that, don't we?

Another highlight of the year was the Summer Luncheon. Our first scholarship student, Sarah MacCaslin was the guest speaker. For three years we have given small scholarships to Sarah and have been impressed with her scholarly work. We were thrilled to finally meet her and were treated to a delightful, educational and entertaining talk by an amazing young woman.

Sarah and our other two scholarship students, Tracy Jenkins and Andrew Budiansky, are all examples of the success of our Scholarship Endeavors. Our Fund has grown thanks to donations from you, the members. Your donations allow us to continue to give tuition assistance; not large amounts but truly appreciated by the recipients.

The Scottish Study Group met and enjoyed the works of Robert Burns. An enjoyable way to socialize at the same time we are learning more about the poetry of Robert Burns. And while we all learn more about the life and times of Robert Burns I am impressed at how much knowledge our members already have to share! After taking the summer off, we hope to resume soon.

Watch for information on upcoming events; the Fall Kirkin will be in two weeks on October 23rd at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, and you will be receiving

information on the Christmas luncheon at the Lodge. Also, watch for more info on the Williamsburg Christmas Parade!

I want to thank the members of our Board and various committees who have worked so hard this year. And to thank our members who have participated.

We have 8 new members so far this year, and we should be proud of our success this year, but we need to build on it in order to continue our goal of keeping our Scottish identity and culture relevant and to pass on to others our love of our Scottish heritage.

Bob Flinn at the Brunswick Festival

The Society's own pianist Bob Flinn appeared at the Brunswick Festival at Alberta on October 8, 2011. Bob accompanied Una Harrison on piano while she sang *Forever August Moon*, a song that Bob had written. Una is an English actress, singer and playwright. Una is known for her good acting at Swift Creek Mill and Barksdale Theaters in the Richmond/Petersburg areas.



Una Harrison beautifully sang *Forever August Moon*. Bob Flinn accompanied her on the piano. Harrison is an English actress, singer and playwright. Flinn said he wrote "*Forever August Moon*" while traveling through the Dismal Swamp late at night in 1970.



Kirkin' of the Tartans and Hellenic Center Luncheon

On Sunday October 23 the Society held a Kirking of the Tartans at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. Society members attended in highland attire and Pastor Bob Sheldon gave the sermon and blessed the tartans. The Williamsburg Pipes & Drums provided stirring Celtic music outside the church following the service. Your editor wasn't the only one taking pictures as passersby snapped all the wild-looking Scots in their highland finery. Following the service and the concert the Society held a luncheon at the Hellenic Center. For those of you who haven't been there, the Sunday buffet is an outstanding treat.



At the church





**At the church (above)
Williamsburg Pipes & Drums (below)**





At the Hellenic Center





1991 Past Presidents

Here (below) is a blast from the past – a photo taken in 1991 showing all the then-living SAS past Presidents. Bob Duncan, our first President, had already passed away. See how many people you can recognize. It's funny, the past Presidents were a lot younger in those days. The current past Presidents are a bit more mature. Everybody's changed except Byron. He looks exactly the same. Our thanks to Jim White for the photos and Howard Topp for isolating the date. This one was believed taken at Fort Eustis Officer's Club on Burns Night 1991.



List of SAS Past Presidents

Here is a list of past SAS Presidents.

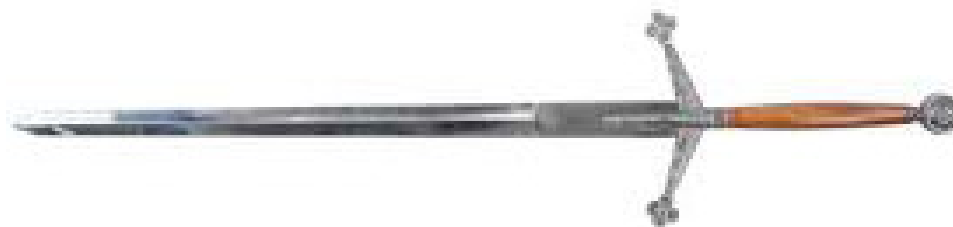
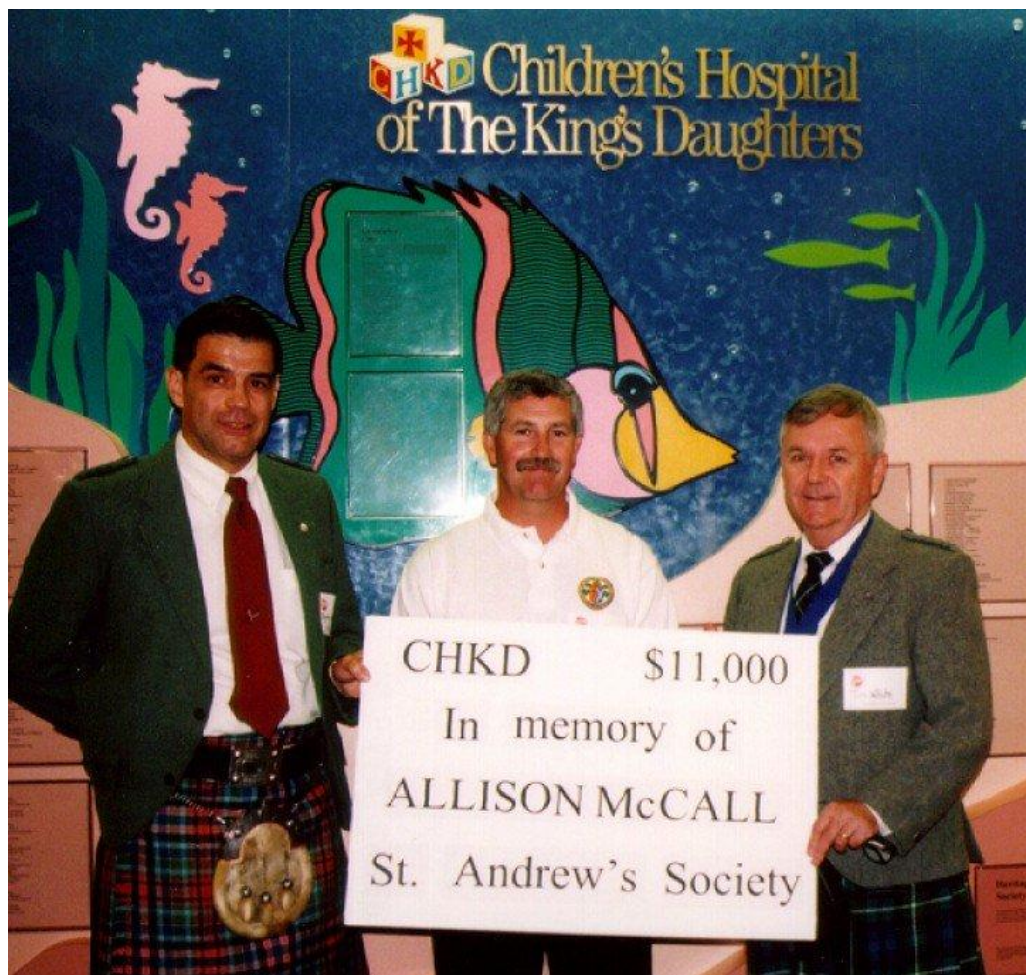
* 1968-1971 Bob Duncan * 1972-1974 Paul Ritchie * 1975 Howard Topp
 * 1976-1977 Paul Ritchie * 1978 James Whyte * 1979 Ken Graham
 * 1980-1982 Henry Wann * 1983-1984 Howard Topp * 1985 Jack Rouzie
 * 1986 Jerry Russell * 1987 Paul Ritchie * 1988 Jack Kane * 1989 Woody
 Woodward * 1990 Sam Redd * 1991 Ev Tucker * 1992 Bill Weaver
 * 1993 Taylor Fraser * 1994 Jack Rouzie * 1995 Bob Davis * 1996 Jim Anthony
 * 1997 Jack Robinson * 1998 Kent Brinkley * 1999 Jim White * 2000 Byron
 Adams * Bruce Shoch * 2004 Wil Phillips * 2005 Lynn Newcomer * 2006
 Taylor Fraser * 2007-2008 Howard Topp * 2009 Bob Davis * 2010-2011 Jamie
 Griffin



The Power behind the throne – SAS wives

More Golden Memories

March 1999 – SAS sponsored a golf tournament to benefit the Children's Hospital of King's Daughters in memory of Allison McCall, a highly accomplished child of an SAS member. Shown below are Byron Adams and Jim White.



Scottish claymore

Tribal Voice



Yothu Yindi

What can modern Scottish-Americans learn from Australian Aborigines? Plenty. I was assigned to Australia for three years and fell in love with the primitive Aboriginal music, sounds from the dawn of time. There is one far-out Aboriginal group called Yothu Yindi that combines wild electric rock with those haunting ancient traditional instruments and tunes. Here are part of the lyrics from a Yothu Yindi song called Tribal Voice.

THERE'S A WAKENING OF A RAINBOW DAWN
 AND THE SUN WILL RISE UP HIGH
 THERE'S A WHISPER IN THE MORNING LIGHT
 SAYING GET UP AND MEET THE DAY

INSIDE MY MIND THERE`S A TRIBAL VOICE
 AND IT`S SPEAKING TO ME EVERY DAY
 AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO MAKE A CHOICE
 BECAUSE I KNOW THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
 ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE DREAMING
 GET UP STAND UP
 SOME OF US CRY FOR RIGHTS OF SURVIVAL NOW
 GET UP STAND UP
 SAY C`MON STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

WHILE OTHERS DON`T GIVE A DAMN
 THEY`ALL WAITING FOR A PERFECT DAY
 BETTER GET UP AND FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS
 DON`T BE AFRAID OF THE MOVE THAT YOU MAKE
 YOU BETTER LISTEN TO YOUR TRIBAL VOICE

WELL I WONDER IF IT`S PART OF HISTORY
 FULL OF INFLUENTIAL MYSTERY
 FROM THE SPIRITS OF MY PEOPLE
 WHO HAVE JUST GONE BEFORE
 TO THE FUTURE OF ANOTHER DAY
 YOU BETTER LISTEN TO YOUR TRIBAL VOICE.

Modern society consists of a continual relentless, hate-filled attack against our nation's culture, history, religions and traditions. If we want to survive and want our children to prosper, we'd better resist. As Scottish-Americans, our people have a long and glorious history and heritage. Like Australian Aborigines, we'd better turn off that cursed TV and listen to our tribal voice. It speaks the truth. The spirits of your people are calling to you, from the distant past. Listen to your tribal voice. Pass it on to your children.



Scotland's Government

From Scotland.org, we quote a good summary of Scotland's current government



The Scottish Parliament



The Scottish Government is the devolved Administration for Scotland.

The Scottish Parliament was reconvened in 1999 after almost 300 years, having been adjourned on March 25, 1707 when members passed the Act of Union combining the Scottish and English Parliaments at Westminster in London.

In 1979 a referendum in Scotland resulted in a large majority voting in favour of a Scottish Parliament with tax-raising powers.

Westminster then passed the 1978 Scotland Act which assigned the devolved powers. In 1979, an election was held in Scotland and the first 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) elected. On July 1, 1979, they gathered at their temporary home in an assembly building on The Mound in Edinburgh and the Parliament was reconvened.

In 2004, the Queen performed the opening ceremony when the Parliament moved to its permanent home at Holyrood in Edinburgh.

The Parliament and the Scottish Ministers who make up the Government are elected for a fixed term. For the first three terms it was four years, for the current 2011-16 term it is five years.

The latest election was held on May 5, 2011. The Scottish National Party (SNP) won a majority of the seats and formed the Government with Alex Salmond returning as First Minister, having held the position for the four years of the previous administration.



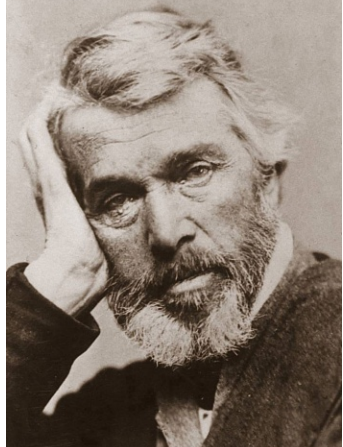
Devolved powers are Health, Education and Training, Local Government, Social Work, Housing, Planning, Tourism, Economic Development, Law and Home Affairs, Police and Fire, The Environment, Natural and Built Heritage, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Sport and The Arts, Statistics, Transport.

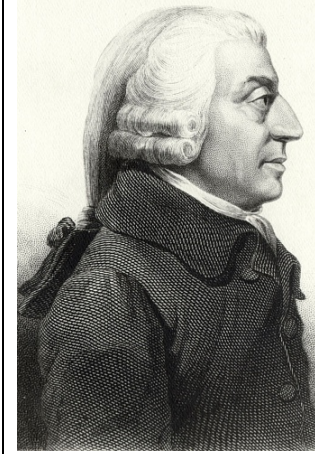
Reserved powers are Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, and Social Security.

The Scottish Government was known as the Scottish Executive until the name was changed in September 2007.

Great Minds: Scotland's Celebrated scientists and Philosophers

The following is taken from Scotland.org. I recommend Scotland.org as a good source of information on Scotland. Our thanks to Kathy Kasley and Scotland.org.

		<h3>Watson-Watt</h3> <p>Sir Robert Watson-Watt was born in Brechin and attended Dundee University to study engineering. Watson-Watt is considered by many to be the inventor of the radar. Initial development was started elsewhere, but it greatly expanded in September 1936 as war loomed, when Watson-Watt became Superintendent of a new establishment under the British Air Ministry. Work there resulted in the design and installation of aircraft detection and tracking stations. This system provided the vital advance information that helped the Royal Air Force win the Battle of Britain in 1940. Image credit: via Wikimedia Commons.</p>
		<h3>Lord Kelvin</h3> <p>Formulated the "Kelvin" scale of absolute temperature.</p>
		<h3>Thomas Carlyle</h3> <p>An influential philosopher and thinker, Thomas Carlyle influenced society and its structure.</p>



Adam Smith

Father of Modern Economics, writer of 'An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations', 1776, described as one of the most important books ever written. His basic doctrine is that labour is the true source of a nation's wealth, he championed individual enterprise and argued the benefits of free trade.



David Hume

Philosopher of the Enlightenment, wrote his 'Treatise of Human Nature' at 28, his thinking and writing is still widely studied and debated today in the philosophy departments of universities across the world.



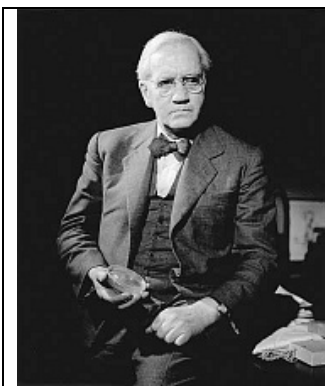
Thomas Telford

The finest engineer of his day, Thomas Telford created bridges and ground breaking engineering projects.



Hugh Miller

Hugh Miller (b Cromarty 1802-1856) was a self-taught Scottish geologist. Among his geological works are The Old Red Sandstone (1841), Footprints of the Creator (1850), The Testimony of the Rocks (1856), Sketch-book of Popular Geology. Of these books, perhaps The Old Red Sandstone was the best-known.



Alexander Fleming

Alexander Fleming, born in Ayrshire in 1881 was a Scottish bacteriologist who discovered Penicillin in 1928, which won him the Nobel Prize. His discovery of penicillin started the antibiotic revolution, which sealed his lasting reputation in medical history. Image credit: By Moffett Studio (Library and Archives Canada / C-017335) via Wikimedia Commons.



Robert Adam

Architect of Culzean Castle and many other famous Scottish buildings and structures.

Scottish Whisky Regions

Some of the great Scottish minds featured above may have been fueled by Scottish whisky. Here is a short report on Scottish whisky, also from Scotland.org. Our thanks to Scotland.org and to Kathy Kasley who passed this along.

Scottish Whisky Regions



There are five very different production areas in Scotland, each with its own flavour characteristics.

Lowland

These are, generally speaking, the whiskies produced in the southern half of the country, below the Highland Line that runs between the rivers Tay and Clyde in the centre of Scotland. These whiskies are mellower and gentler than their northern neighbours, and much of their produce ends up in blends. Ironically, their subtleties of taste are appreciated by both newcomers to malts and by more experienced malt drinkers.

Campbeltown

Once Scotland's most famous whisky town and home to more than 20 distilleries in the 19th century. Their number has dwindled to two in operation - Springbank and Glen Scotia - plus the new Glengyle-Distillery, opened in 2004. Its whiskies are more distinctive than those of the Lowlands, with peat lending more of a hint of the flavours of Islay to the north.

Islay

The most distinctively flavoured of all whiskies come from this island, where the apparently endless supplies of peat are put to use in the malt kilns. The resulting 'peat reek' gives the island whiskies a smell and taste that has variously been described as 'iodine', 'seawater' and even 'kippers'! Islay malts are undoubtedly an acquired taste, and their presence adds instant depth of character to a blend. (Incidentally, the name is pronounced 'Isle-aah'.)

Highland

An enormous area which is home to some of the world's most famous drinks names, as well as others that are worth taking the time to discover. In Speyside alone are more than 40 distilleries with names recognizable from any supermarket and liquor-store shelf. This is also the place to come if you want to visit lots of distilleries: several in the Spey valley are on the Whisky Trail and open to visitors. Varieties of whisky produced here range from mellow and sweet to aromatic and flowery, with every shade of flavour between.

Islands

Strictly speaking an area of Highland, this is a sub-grouping based on geography rather than flavour characteristics. From Arran, Jura, Mull and Skye in the west to Orkney in the north, the whisky flavours here are as wide-ranging as any in the Highland group.

Scottish Whiskey Tasting Guide:

<http://www.scotland.org/culture/festivals/st-andrews-day/host-your-own-event/which-whisky/>

Whiskey Around the World:

<http://www.scotland.org/features/item/whisky-around-the-world/>

Scottish Brochs

The following is from the Thistles & Pirates newsletter, passed to us by Kathy Kasley. Our thanks to both!

Scottish Brochs



Brochs, found only in Scotland, are round drystone towers built during the Iron Age. Access is through a narrow passageway. The tower consists of two tapering concave walls with passageways to upper galleries. It's believed the smaller spaces between the two walls helped to keep the broch cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The true purpose of the broch is unknown, but they may have been fortified houses lived in year round rather than a place where the folk sought sanctuary when sea raiders came. Dun Telve, a broch in Glenelg, is one of the best preserved brochs in Scotland.



Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Application for Membership

Full Name: _____

Are you, applying as a new member or as a Spouse Son Daughter in the same household of a current member (check one)?

Member's Name if you are a spouse/son/daughter: _____

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Schools/Colleges: _____

Business or Profession: _____

Spouse's Name (if not a member): _____

Names and Ages of Children: _____

Nature of Scottish Ancestry: _____

Scottish Interests – (History, Literature, Arts, Clan Affiliation etc):

Clan Affiliation or Membership: _____

Date: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character, over the age of 21 years and is entirely suitable to membership in the Society. Applicant will actively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously any duties undertaken.

Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Co-Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Checklist for Membership:

Initial Individual Membership in a Household– Initiation (\$20.00) plus First Year's Dues (\$40.00). Total of \$60.00.

Additional Membership within same household – Initiation (\$20.00) plus First Year's Dues (\$20.00). Total of \$40.00.

Your check made out to: St. Andrews' Society of Williamsburg

A Small Photograph of you suitable for digitization.

Completed Application with address, phone number and e-mail address included.

NOTE: All memberships are individual and only one applicant per application.