The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Spring 2007

From the President

Lads and Lassies,

I'm delighted to be writing you once again on the wonderful activities of our society and to alert you to coming events. I thoroughly enjoy my contact with each of you at our events and am anxious to find activities that help our Society to grow in a way that raises awareness of our objectives among the general population of the Williamsburg area, increases our membership, and that leads to the incorporation of activities and projects that are meaningful in promoting Scottish heritage …. and are also enjoyable!

Springtime always means Tartan Day, and our members celebrated the event on March 31st at the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary. Swem Library is quite a bit different from my days in grad school … and even more so from earlier days when the library faced the Sunken Garden! Anyway, the Special Collections Research Center staff did a wonderful job in preparing displays for all of us to enjoy and the efforts of Bob Young, Jim White, Clem Brown, Byron Adams, and all those who brought food was certainly appreciated. This event was followed by our participation in the spring Kirkin' o' th' Tartans at Christ Church in Kilmarnock. Our turnout was wonderful and particular kudos go to Jim Anthony for orchestrating our participation with the other Scottish organizations in this region. Again, the participation of our lads and lassies in these sorts of events has a direct impact on the success of the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg and goal of sharing our rich Scottish heritage and culture with others.

Next up is a “back to the future” type of activity. We will hold the St. Andrew’s Society Family Picnic and Ceilidh on June 23d at the Queens Lake Clubhouse. Many of the long-time members of the society will remember when we had picnics, Ceilidhs, and other informal events at Jamestown and neighborhood clubhouses around the Williamsburg area that involved the whole family. Well, we are doing it again. It offers us older folks an opportunity to acquaint our children … and grandchildren … in the heritage that we find so important.

This year’s event will offer pork bar-b-que, BBQ chicken, and beverages provided by the society. Members contribute by bringing a dish to share….a salad, hot or cold vegetable dish, dessert, or even a bag of chips. For those daring soles out there, you could try your hand at preparing a traditional Scottish food … Scotch eggs, tatties and neeps, haggis, or other dishes.

For entertainment we’ll be featuring balladeer Bill Darrow from North Carolina. Bill is already known to a number of you and will provide a selection of traditional Scottish tunes. Pipe music will be provided by the pipe major, a piper, and drummer from the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums. There will be Highland Dancing demonstrations provided by the students of Bridget (Glassen) Boswell as the dances are introduced and explained by Dawn Kincaid, our local dance teacher.

As you can see, the opportunities are certainly there for fun and for learning more about our ancient heritage. Here is also an opportunity to involve your family members and perhaps to invite a neighbor or friend who is of Scottish descent or is interested in things Scottish. Mark your calendar for the 23d of June and make you plans to join in this exciting event! Remember what I wrote in the most recent newsletter: We must dedicate ourselves to accomplishing something of critical importance - that our Scottish identity and the heritage and culture of the Scots will not be lost, but remain relevant to the generations that will succeed us.

Yours Aye,

Howard S. Topp
Clan Sutherland

Tartan Day at the Swem Library

On March 31 St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg celebrated Tartan Day at the College of William and Mary's Swem Library in the rare books section. Attendance was high, and it was a fun event. Lynn Newcomer posted himself outside the library's main entrance with his bagpipe, to lure in the guests. University Archivist Amy Schindler gave a short talk on the Scottish connection to William and Mary, which was strong from the beginning and continues to this day. Then the guests sampled the refreshments which featured fine wines by Clem Brown, cold drinks by Bob Young and Jim White, haggis, Scottish shortbread and other delicacies by our members.

After refreshments, members viewed the rare books display and later Byron Adams showed a short movie about Robert Burns. This was a fine way to spend a beautiful Saturday afternoon with our Society friends.

Lynn Newcomer pipes unsuspecting W&M students into the library

Bob Young (below) chats up a couple of prospective new members

Spring Luncheon at the Williamsburg Westpark Hotel

On April 11 St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg celebrated the coming of Spring with the Spring Luncheon at the Westpark Hotel. The event was well attended and the buffet was excellent. The speakers were the Right Reverend Bruce Cameron, Primus of Scotland, retired, and his wife Elaine. The Reverend is a visiting scholar at Bruton Parish Church. He spoke about Scotland and Mrs. Cameron spoke about her native Ireland, past and present and expectations for the future of both countries, politically and socially. It was interesting and well received. Don Dalrymple presented the Camerons with a beautifully framed postcard from his collection about the ordination of the first American Episcopal bishop which took place in Scotland. Rev. Cameron had spoken about that event in his talk. Photos are by Jamie Griffin.

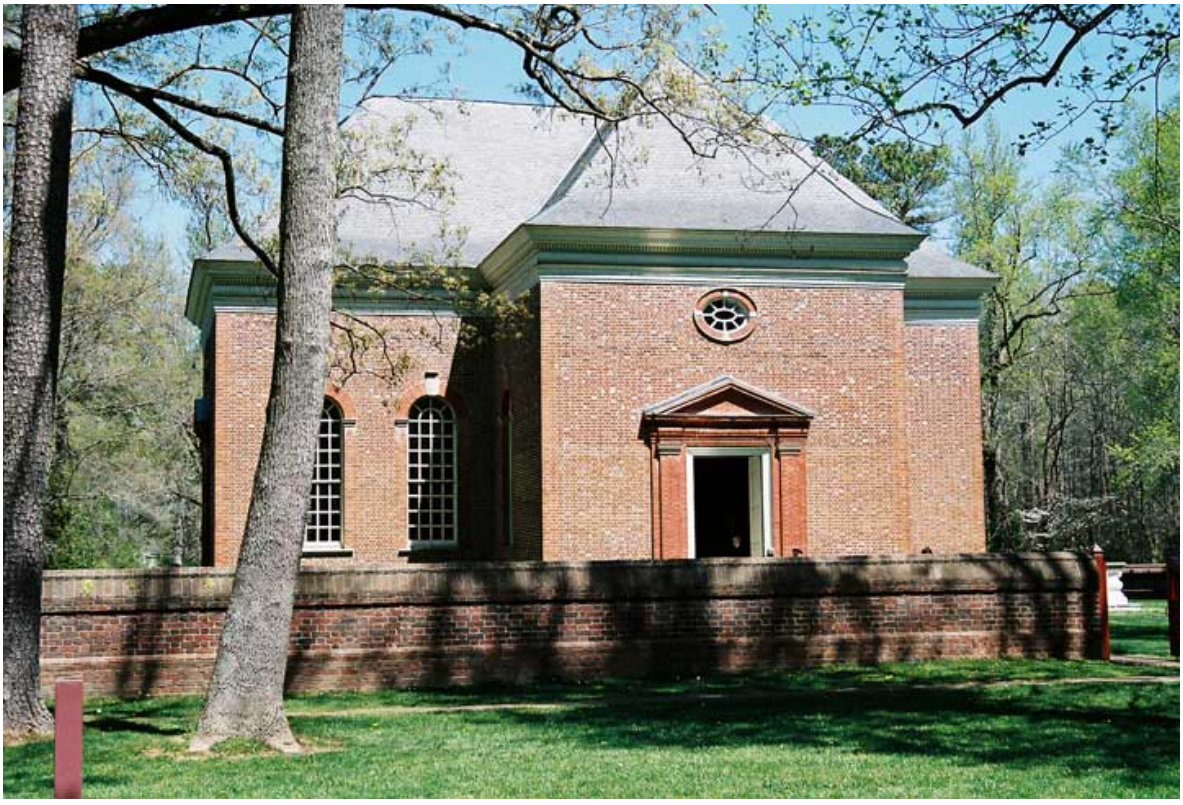
The clans gather for Spring Luncheon

SAS glitterati grin and bear it as the paparazzi close in for pix

Kirking of the Tartans 2007 at Christ Church

On Sunday, April 22, 2007 Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg gathered for the Kirking of the Tartans at Historic Christ Church in Irvington. This is a spectacular site for a get-together with bright clear skies and soft breezes amidst the Northern Neck's lovely spring landscape. The historic church and the surroundings were perfect for this occasion. SAS Williamsburg was joined by the Saint Andrew's Society of Richmond, the Scottish Society of Richmond, the Scottish Society of Tidewater, the Tidewater Saint Andrew's Society, the Williamsburg Scottish Festival, and the Foundation for Historic Christ Church.

A welcome coffee and pastries was followed by the assembly, with the different organizations presenting their colors. The Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band was also present and provided stirring music throughout the event. The Kirking of Tartans took place in the church service with music from the pipe band, and a procession outside for a bagpipe concert under the trees. The band was simply spectacular and we are very lucky to have this fine resource for our Scottish heritage events. The following photos are courtesy of Jamie Griffin.



Historic Christ Church

The colors (above), The Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band (below)

A wee nipper disassembles a dandelion (above) while a pipe band member serenades the guests (below)

Scottish Symposium

Byron Adams recently attended a Scottish symposium in Sarasota as a member of the Caledonian Foundation. Guest speaker was the Right Honorable Robin Blair, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland. During the function Robert Murdock, National Tartan Day Chairman, was the recipient of the National Tartan Day Award for 2007. Byron is pictured below with the Right Honorable Robin Blair (on right).

MacNider Family History

Bob Davis forwards a good summary of his family history. This is just the sort of information we love to see and your editor encourages all members to consider sending us information and pictures from your family history. From Bob:

It is with great pleasure that I share some of my Scottish family history with members of the Saint Andrew's Society. The earliest information on my Clan MacNider history begins in Ayrshire on the western coast of Scotland late in the 15th century, where there is a record of a burgess or freeman of that surname, 1471. In 1526 there were "three MacNiders, followers of the Earl of Cassilis, who were respited for murder". It's interesting to note that the good Earl, Gilbert Kennedy, was himself charged with the murder of Martin Kennedy of Lochland the year before and was acquitted. The Kennedys have

always been somewhat aggressive; just ask the Abbot of Crossraguel but that's another story.

More recent history, thanks to my great grandmother, takes up in the 18th century with four Macnider brothers John, Mathew of Paisley, James of Threave or Thrane and William of Kilmarnock (b. 1724/5, d. aft. 1771) who lived in Ayshire. Their father William of Balsarock or Balsarach was born in 1660. His father, John of Mockdamhill, 1630 – 1712 was the son of William of Cragginton 1600 – 1650. Note: If any reader recognizes any of these place names I would appreciate any additional information.

The above mentioned William Macnider of Kilmarnock married Anne Vallance in 1754 and had 13 children. The family went into the shipping and trading business. Four of their children immigrated to Canada and settled in Quebec and became merchants of that city. His oldest son, William (1757 – 1795), my ancestor and his family were strong Protestants and their lives were not affected by the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden. This seafaring family was in the import and export business, undoubtedly spurred by the conflicts between Britain and France at that period.

Although I am not aware of when they first came to Quebec, William married Susannah Jackson (1765–1810) in Quebec City on December 24, 1781. This was only two months after the Battle of Yorktown but still two years before the Treaty of Paris. He would have four children by her: William (1782–1786), Mary Evans (17841809), Susannah Ann (1785–1802), and Adam Lymburner Macnider (1788–1840) who would pursue a successful career in the shipping and auction businesses in Montreal. William died young at age thirty-eight in Santo Domingo in the present Dominican Republic, an important North American seaport at that time. Susannah, his wife, died at age forty-five, and was buried with her daughters in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Quebec.

William's only son was Adam Lymburner Macnider, my great, great, great grandfather, which I have synopsized his biography from the **Dictionary of Canadian Biography 1836-1850 (Volume VII).**

MACNIDER, **ADAM LYMBURNER**, businessman, militia officer, office holder, and JP; b. 10 Sept. 1778 at Quebec; m. 19 Sept. 1812 Rosina Aird in Montreal, and they had six children; d. 19 Nov. 1840 either in Métis (Métis-sur-Mer, Que.) or on the seigneury of Mitis, and was buried in Côte Sainte-Catherine (Outremont, Que.).

Adam was a prominent Quebec businessman with his uncles John and Mathew. In 1811 he was operating under his own name as an auctioneer and broker. By 1825 Macnider was operating under three names, A. L. Macnider and Company, Macnider, Aird and Company, and Macnider and Scott, and was probably among the city's most important commission merchants and auctioneers. He owned two vessels, the brig ***Hibernia*** and the schooner ***Concordia,*** and during the 1825 shipping season he and Scott were the largest importers in Montreal, receiving 26 separate consignments. They imported textiles, haberdashery, earthenware, coal, and steel from Liverpool, London, Belfast, Greenock (Scotland), and Leith and exported wood, wheat, and potash.

In 1820 he was commissioned an ensign in Montreal's 1st Militia Battalion, which grouped many leading British businessmen. By 1828 he had been promoted captain, and during the rebellions of 1837–38 he served with that rank in the 3rd battalion of Montreal Loyal Volunteers. In 1821 he helped establish the Montreal General Hospital on Rue Dorchester and in 1828 he became one of its governors. He was appointed a warden of Trinity House in 1822, and from 1824 to 1827 he served as a grand juror. He subsequently received a number of other appointments: justice of the peace in 1830, commissioner on the Montreal Board of Health during the cholera epidemic of 1832, presiding officer in the *faubourg* Saint-Antoine for the election of town councillors in 1833, and deputy master of Trinity House in 1834.

In June 1839 Macnider was named a commissioner for the repair of the Métis, or Mitis, road. By then he was living on the seigneury of Mitis, which two of his sons had inherited from John Macnider. He died there or in the village of Métis in November 1840. Both Macnider's business career marked by its family ties as well as by its diversity, adversity, and recovery, and his participation in the civil and religious life of his community were typical of a man of his class and time.

The portraits are of Adam and Rosina. With Adam's death in 1840, his second son John moved to New Richmond, Wisconsin which had been a territory since 1836 and admitted to the Union until 1848. John's reasons for leaving Canada were economic. His younger brother Robert settled in the Dakota Territory near Bismarck and the other brother George stayed in Quebec. In the 1880 & 1881 Census John is listed as a Justice Of The Peace, Robert as a Merchant and George as Gentleman.

My great grandmother, Janet Aird Macnider, was living with her uncle Robert in Bismarck when she met and married, 1883, a U.S. Army soldier stationed

with the 7th Cavalry in Bismarck. Arriving in the Dakota Territory in 1876 just after "Little Big Horn" my great grandfather, Albert John Davis, saw several campaigns against the hostiles and was transferred to El Paso, TX where my grandfather and namesake, Robert Macnider Davis, was born in 1888. Albert ended his government service with the U.S. Weather Service in Norfolk, VA after being stationed at Cape Hatteras in 1890. This is where my grandfather and Ms. Mary Lorene Fitchett met and married. Lorene's family can be traced back to the original Jamestown settlers. See Albert's family portrait with his wife Janet, my grandfather they called Mac, his sister Erminie, and his brother Delamater who would represent the 51st District of Norfolk to the Virginia House of Delegates for over twenty years. My grandfather was a naval architect with Newport News Shipbuilding for 45 years and retired in 1953. Mac and Lorene along with their two sons, Mac, Jr. (dad) and John lived in Hilton Village, Warwick County, VA., now Newport News.

Adam and Rosina MacNider

Bill Darrow

A longtime friend of the Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Bill Darrow is featured at the festival's Balmoral Society Sponsors' Reception and is one of the headliners at the Celtic Heritage Tent. Following distinguished service in the USMC in Viet Nam and later as a police officer, Bill began a new life as a folk singer. He cut his first album, "Away Haul Away" in 1987 and has recorded a number of well received albums since then. His later albums include "Songs of the Sea," "My Hearts in the Highlands," "Civil War Memories," and "The Highland Cloth." Throughout the years Bill has also performed as a folk singer, song writer at several events and clubs such as "The White Horse Pub," "Paddy's Hollow," "The Dram Tree Restaurant," and at several Folk Arts Festivals and other events as well as The Williamsburg Scottish Festival and Celtic Celebration. Interestingly, Bill has also appeared in the film "In Harm's Way" staring John Wayne and Kirk Douglas. He also wrote all the action scenes, added characters and wrote much of the dialog for the movie "High Velocity." Further, he did all the stunt work for Ben Gazara and Paul Waynfield in that movie, as well. He was also one of the first Marlboro Men on television, appearing from 1974 to 1976. Bill lives with his wife Betty and his little Shitzu "Brandy" in Hertford, NC. Bill has four children and four grandchildren

Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Application for Membership

PO Box 533, Williamsburg VA 23187

Full Name: _____
Date and Place of Birth: _____
Schools/Colleges: _____
Business or Profession: _____
Spouse's Name: _____
Names and Ages of Children: _____
Address: _____
Telephone(s): _____
E-mail: _____
Years at Current Address: _____
Legacy Application? Yes or No _____
(A Legacy member is the son/grandson or daughter/granddaughter of an active member in good standing or of a deceased former member, who is age eighteen through twenty-one. Admission fees are waived for Legacy Members; however annual dues are required.)
If Yes, Father/Mother or Grandfather/Grandmother's Name: _____
_____
Membership in Other Professional or Social Organizations: _____
_____
Nature of Scottish Family Connections (documentation not required): ____
_____
Any Visits to Scotland – Frequency and Purpose: _____
_____
General Scottish Interests – (History, Literature, Arts etc): _____
_____
Clan Association(s):_____
_____
Membership in Clan Organization or Other Scottish Society:_____
_____
What tartan(s) do you wear? _____
Date: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character 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

Initiation and First Year's Dues ($60.00) _____
Small Photograph suitable for digitization _____
Current local address and telephone number included _____
Verification of Legacy Member Eligibility _____