



The Carolina Piper



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NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



My 2-year term as President of the Society has been an honor and privilege and is almost nigh. The time has been traumatic with my wife Patricia's health concerns and final struggles. I heartily thank so many of you for your support and understanding this past year.

On June 25, the St. Andrew's officers and board is having an open meeting for all members at the Chapel Hill Country Club. This will include lunch and the election of new officers and board members. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your leadership, learn the operation of St. Andrew's and socialize with members. Further details will be sent in early June. The Society must enhance occasions for socialization of members.

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, July 11-14, are only 2 months away. On Friday evening the 12th, SASNC is having an informal family-style buffet dinner with a cash bar at the Meadowbrook Inn (www.meadowbrook-inn.com). The Inn is in downtown Blocking Rock; more details will be forthcoming. The Society will have a hospitality tent at the GMHG on Friday-Sunday and all members and guests are welcomed. Clan MacLeod is the honored clan this year. John MacLeod of Raasay is the honored chief, one of 3 MacLeod chiefs, and he resides in Tasmania.

I would like to thank William (Bill) Caudill for the 2 historical reports in the Spring newsletter. As Director of the Scottish Heritage Center and the Pipe Band at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, Bill has long been of paramount importance to the Carolina Scottish culture and the success of the Society.

Slainte,
James R. Graham, President

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THE CALL 1914



A tribute from the men and women of Scottish blood and sympathies in the United States of America to Scotland. Sculpture by Robert Tait Mackenzie of Ontario, Canada in 1924-27.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_American_Memorial

I first came across the monument in 2016 during our family's first visit together to Edinburgh. Some of you who have strolled through Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens may also know this monument which is located near the iconic Scott Monument honoring Sir Walter Scott.

In the St. Andrews University archives, I came across a file about this monument. I was stunned to find out that the man elected to serve as the chairman of the committee to establish this memorial was none other than the President of my alma mater's predecessor institution – Flora Macdonald College. The man was Dr. Charles Graves Vardell, a native of Charleston and a Presbyterian minister who was called by the founders of the Southern Presbyterian Seminary of Women in Red Springs to become President of that new institution. An avid "Scotophile" who traveled to that nation a number of times during his presidency, including being a speaker at the dedication of the modern memorial to Flora Macdonald at Kilmuir Cemetery in Skye. Dr. Vardell

was a well known and respected figure in the Scottish-American community in the eastern United States, where he had become known as a champion for the recently renamed "Flora Macdonald College." He was a diligent promoter of it as an excellent institution of higher learning for young Scottish-American women and located in a region of historical importance for that ethnic group.

So- if you're ever in Edinburgh at Princes Street Gardens and you come across this memorial by the thousands of Scottish-Americans and their descendants who served in World War I – just remember that there is a local connection to it, and that a good Presbyterian minister and President of a small Carolina college, which later would be merged into the modern day St. Andrews University, was the man responsible for that monument being located there!

Here's a salute to all our veterans with a special nod to those honored by this memorial.

Bill Caudill

WILMINGTON BURNS DINNER IN 1800

Last December I joined over 100 fellow Scottish-American members at the St. Andrews Society of North Carolina's annual St. Andrew's Day dinner. Of interest is the fact that in this most Scottish of American states that we did not have a "St. Andrews Society" until 1972! Compared with our oldest similar charitable and fraternal societies in the South (Charleston – 1729, Savannah – 1737) ours is very young!

There were, however, early St. Andrew's Day celebrations in NC. Here is the earliest known account of a St. Andrew's Day celebration in our state.

Wilmington Gazette, December 4, 1800

Sunday last being St. Andrew's Day, the same was observed on Monday, when the Native and Sons of Native North Britons, residing in town, having previously invited all the fashionable company within twenty miles, gave a most splendid Ball and Supper. Upwards of two hundred Ladies and Gentlemen were entertained during the evening, to their most perfect satisfaction, not a single cloud hovering near the sun of Festivity. A set supper was given, exhibiting all the luxuries of the season, at which Robert Muter and Henry Urquhart, Esquires, presided, and drank the usual Toasts, vis. "The Immortal memory of St. Andrew," "The Land of Cakes," "Beggars' Bannison," "Land we live in," etc. Between the set dances the Ladies & Gentlemen entertained themselves with Scotch Reels in an adjoining room. The whole was so conducted as to reflect the highest honor on the managers, Messrs. Barclay, Carson and McClelland.

There was a large Scots community in Wilmington, it being a center of merchants, international traders and shippers from the time of the arrival of the earlier Scots in the 18th century as well as the thousands of Highlanders who followed for almost 100 years. Nonetheless, this is the first known account of St. Andrew's Day in NC. One

wonders...who were these attendees and where are their descendants now? Was there any wearing or display of tartan as may have been fashion of the day? And the Scotch Reels...who were the fiddlers? And was their repertoire that which Scots fiddlers might recognize today? Or was there a piper present? Did these celebrations continue to become an annual thing? Or was this a one-off celebration? So many questions which may never be answered but are the food of my thoughts.

Bill Caudill

HIGHLAND DANCE STUDENT SUCCESS



The Society recently awarded Merida McGarry, who lives in Troutman, NC, a grant to attend the School of Scottish Arts at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk NC.

Merida's father informed David Gellatly, scholarship and awards chair, on April 28 that Merida is the 10 and under 12 champion at the Eastern Regional competition and will compete in July for U.S. Championship. Congratulations Merida!



St. Andrew's Society
of North Carolina

Welcome to the Games

**Friday
July 12, 2024
6 PM**

**Informal Family-style Buffet
Dinner with Bar**

Meadowbrook Inn
711 Main Street
Blowing Rock, NC

Come as you are and bring the
family. Details to follow soon.

RECENT ACTIVITIES



Burns Dinner, Cape Fear Valley Scottish Clans

SAS members: Gerald Daniel, Steve McRae, Don McLeod, Jim Graham, Don McKenzie (McRae is also President of CFVSC)



Burns Dinner, Scottish Society of Wilmington

Katherine Fort, President SSOW, Steve Quillen, Jim Graham, Edward Mercer, Henry Long, Leon Hicks, Bob McLeod, Don McLeod, Scott Cromartie

Chandler Stewart Funeral

Luisa, Chandler's wife, requested St. Andrew's Society aid in a Scottish-themed funeral. The Maxton Presbyterian Church was adorned as a Highland farewell. SASNC members Phil McRae, John Stewart, Mac Fowler, Don McLeod, Bill Caudill, Jim Graham, Bill McIlwain

