



# The Carolina Piper



Volume 19, Issue 1 Donald C. McLeod, FSAScot, Editor Winter 2025

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

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dia Duit (Greetings!)

On behalf of the Executive Board of the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina, I wish you all a **Happy New Year!** As 2025 begins, we are all reminded of how fortunate we all are to live in such a wonderful country blessed by so many Scots who came before us and contributed majorly to our current world.

Our annual St. Andrew's Day dinner this year, held at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro on

December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), was a **huge success!** For those who were able to attend, we trust you found the hotel and its staff hospitable, the food delicious and the atmosphere most convivial. For those of you who were unable to attend this year's dinner – you were missed!

Our featured speaker of the evening, Ms. Righton McCallum, stirringly relayed numerous examples of how our Scottish ancestors are such an integral part of the foundation and growth of America and whose contributions continue to support our modern society. We have much to be thankful for!

We gave special thanks to our veterans on this auspicious day and were also thankful for the NC State University Pipe Band members who serenaded us with a litany of songs that were most appreciated and well-received. Claude Snow gave us an English version of the *Address to the Haggis* which was delightful. The Haggis itself was delicious, and many came back for seconds! For future planning, please note that we have a soft reservation in place for **December 6, 2025, at Grandover** again for next year's dinner. More to come!

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Looking ahead to 2025, plans are beginning to take shape to help us extend our membership outreach. Thoughts are being given to having four (4) events a year starting with a spring event – perhaps a pig pickin’ around Tartan Day! Next would be our summer event (Grandfather Mountain Highland Games – July 10-13 – with the Meadowbrook Inn already booked for another “Welcome to the Games Dinner” on Friday evening July 11). A Fall event (Scotland County Highland Games – Oct 3-5) in Laurinburg, and a winter event (St Andrew’s Day – Dec 6) will complete the year. Each gathering will help us stay connected and provide opportunities to increase our membership. Additional discussions are also underway for more regional events around the state for continued fellowship and membership efforts.

Again, with much pride in our shared heritage, I look forward to seeing you each again in 2025!

Slaínte  
Carr McCaskill, President



*Kay and Carr McCaskill, President*



*Past Presidents Robert Boykin and Jim Graham*



*John Harman inducting new members*



*Anna Beltramo, Brian Grisham, Dan and Sara Jane Pate*



*President Carr McCaskill and President-elect Claude Snow*





Brittany and Blake Boykin, Trey and Meredith Bolton



Brown and Righton McCallum



Glenn and Mary Ann Davis



NC State University Pipe Band



Auld Lang Syne to close the evening

## HERITAGE

They came up the river,  
And moved out across  
The Cape Fear valley and beyond  
To become a part of the land  
Of the "God-blessed Macs."  
They staked out farms and households.  
Often with a Talisman  
Of a name if nothing else  
Of the old homeland, their highlands-  
Ballachulish was among them –  
The Highland Call was strong,  
And they brought with them  
Old ways, old beliefs, their music,  
A fervent dedication to learning.  
But this was a new land,  
A new freedom, a new singing  
Of the spirit, a new naming of places –  
Gum Swamp, Laurel Hill, Old Hundred,  
Joe's Creek, Cool Springs, John's –  
Families gave their names to places  
Where people gathered together  
For commerce or communion –  
Laurinburg, Gibson, Elmore, and others,  
A blending of the old and the new,  
Coming together under the name  
Of their ancient Celtic homeland – Scotland.  
It was a land of the McCalls, McLaurins,  
And other Macs, a people close to the land,  
And some stayed and some moved away,  
But always returning in memory,  
In renewal of time and ties,  
And a day of remembering

Sam Ragan (1915-1996)  
Appointed N.C. poet laureate for life in 1982  
by Gov. Jim Hunt.



## SCOTTISH EVENTS

### **The Scottish Society of Wilmington 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burns Supper Sat, Jan 25, Hotel Ballast, Wilmington**

Join us and share in the tradition of a Burns Supper as we honor Scotland's National Bard. Enjoy Burns' poems and music, toasts and the Address to the Haggis as we come together again for the Scottish Society of Wilmington's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robert Burns supper!

Deadline January 13

[Wilmingtonscots.org](http://Wilmingtonscots.org)

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### **Cape Fear Valley Scottish Clans Robert Burns Night Gates Four Golf & Country club Saturday, January 25, 2025**

deadline January 17<sup>th</sup>

Email [capefearscots@aol.com](mailto:capefearscots@aol.com) for more info.

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### **Sharpe House, Scotland, and Burns Night Annual Burns Night at the Statesville Civic Center**

The Historic Sharpe House  
402 S. Center St., Statesville, NC  
Jan 18, 2025

6:00 pm to 10:00pm

RSVP Required

Tickets must be purchased by Thursday,  
January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

[The Historic Sharpe House](http://TheHistoricSharpeHouse.com)

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### **Port City Highland Games May 31, 2025**

9am – 5pm

3600 Randall Parkway  
Wilmington, NC

[Port City Highland Games](http://PortCityHighlandGames.com)