



The Carolina Piper



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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Society's purpose is to promulgate Scottish heritage and culture, but what is the basis of this goal? Three of my distant ancestors were signers of the Declaration of Arbroath, April 6, 1320. This letter was signed by Scottish barons and sent to Pope John XXII asserting the antiquity of the independence of Scotland and denouncing English attempts to subjugate it.

Since the Protestant Reformation, education has been a hallmark of Scottish culture. Outstanding examples are St. Andrews University in Scotland (founded 1413), Princeton University ((1746) and our local Davidson College (1837). These and other colleges were strongly influenced by the Scottish Enlightenment of the 1700s.

What were the desires of our immigrant ancestors? They came for economic opportunity, freedom of worship, and FREEDOM to govern themselves. Three American documents are worthy of mention. The Mecklenburg Resolves (May 31, 1775) were produced by mostly Ulster Scot descendants from the Charlotte area, and although it is controversial, it was a revolutionary document. The Halifax Resolves (April 12, 1776), proclaimed by the Fourth (NC) Provincial Congress called for independence before the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776). Historians have described the strong Scottish influence on the Declaration and that many of the signers were of Scottish descent, John Witherspoon and James Wilson being born in Scotland. Of the 50 men behind the document, 21 were of Scottish descent.

As we reflect on Christmas and the New Year, let us remember that every day is Veteran's Day and FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Slainte,
James R. Graham, President

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SAINT ANDREW'S DAY DINNER

Knollwood Hall at Pine Needles Golf and Resort was the setting again for the December 2 Saint Andrew's Day Dinner. One hundred fifteen members and guests were in attendance and enjoyed the social event and plated filet dinner. Bill Caudill provided the piping requisite for the dinner. President James Graham presided over the event; Peter Wilson, with his Scottish accent, ably addressed the haggis. Capt. Brian Grisham, just back from an assignment in Ukraine, gave the toast to the military.



Piper Bill Caudill summoning the haggis



President Graham presenting Society Honorary Quach to past president Robert Boykin



Peter Wilson addressing the haggis



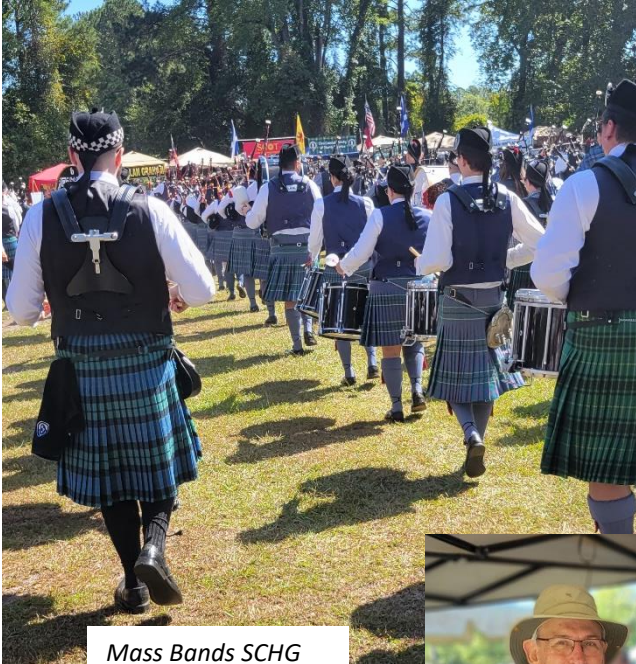
Carlton Manesfield presents slideshow on variations in Highland dress

SCOTLAND COUNTY HIGHLAND GAMES

The SCHG October 2 in Laurinburg were attended by 5500 Scotophiles who experienced good weather, massed bands, piping and Highland dancing and Scottish culinary treats! The Society tent was well attended and there were drams enjoyed. Bill Caudill was all over as usual in planning and executing the games. The first Saturday in October is the standard date for the SCHG.



Color Guard SCHG



Mass Bands SCHG

Burns Suppers

Jan 20, 2024

[Cape Fear Valley
Scottish Clans](#)

Jan 27, 2024

[Scottish Society of
Wilmington](#)

Click on the links for
more information.



Dan Pate & Carr McCaskill



Kay McCaskill & Pris McLeod

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS IN SOUTHERN PINES

Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church on September 17 hosted the Society in a well-attended kirkin' performed by 16 kilted members. Of particular notice were the numerous compliments by women of the church to Society members over the next week. Bill Caudill performed the piping and was accompanied by the church organist. A complement of 20 kilted members is ideal for our kirkins'. When an event is announced it is very helpful if members volunteer and contact the organizer.

Participants: Don McLeod, Bill Caudill, Don McKenzie, Jim Graham, Allen James, John Armstrong, Randy Fraser, Mac Fowler, Glenn Davis, John Monroe, Carr McCaskill, John Ramsey, Robert Boykin, Henry Long, Gregg Allen, Edward Mercer.



Kirkin' exit piped by Bill Caudill



Kirkin' from the balcony of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church



Society members at funeral of Patricia Graham

BLESSING OF THE TARTANS

Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church
John Monroe, MD

On behalf of the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina, I thank Brownson for hosting, once again, this kirkin' of our Scottish family tartans, and I thank Don McLeod for asking me to present this Blessing of the Tartans. This is an honor, and I will tell a bit of the history of our Society to explain why I consider it so.

The Society was founded on June 11, 1972, and although other Societies preceded it in the United States, it was the first for North Carolina. A group of twelve men, led by Lawrence McNeill Johnson, incorporated the organization, and I was privileged to be one of those twelve. We now have over 300 members from across the state. Our main endeavor is to venerate our Scottish heritage. We do this in several ways: We provide an annual scholarship exchange program that has grown more generous as we have been able. We support at many levels highland games across the state. We encourage dance and musical organizations, especially pipe bands. We contribute to the preservation of several heritage sites. And, of course, we celebrate the patron Sain of Scotland, Saint Andrews. Now, Ted Tawes, a longtime member of this church, and I, are the only survivors of the original twelve founders. So, I feel highly honored to present this blessing, and in the spirit of Brownson I take pride in calling this "Missional".

Now, on behalf of all Scots away from Scotland, and in the name of all the Scottish clan folk that are here represented, we present these tartans, before Almighty God, in appreciation of our heritage; and we ask His blessings upon these, his humble servants.

Please join me in prayer—

O Lord, Thou has promised that in all placed where thou recordist Thy Holy Name, Thou wilt meet with Thy servants, and bless them; fulfill now Thy promise, and make us joyful in our prayer, so that our worship, being offered in the name of Thy son, Jesus Christ, and by the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit, may be acceptable unto you, and gracious unto ourselves.

Bless, we pray, these tartans – that they may be unto us and unto all people a token of the faith of our fathers; and a sign of our service unto You.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

