



# The Carolina Piper



Volume 18, Issue 2 Donald C. McLeod, FSAScot, Editor Summer 2024

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

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It is with great humility and honor that I assume the role as President of The St. Andrews Society of North Carolina. Thank you for the opportunity to delve deeper into my own heritage and I look forward to learning more about yours. Together with the Executive Committee and the Board members of SASNC, we want to expand our membership across the state by promoting our rich Scottish culture and encourage broad participation in Scottish events "in your neck of the woods". The SASNC is 52

years young and we have lots more to do!

As we move into the latter half of 2024 and looking ahead to 2025, please know that while we will continue to build upon the past, we will also be trying *new ideas* to foster a renewed energy within the Society. Our hope is that we can generate a broader participation and move away from the Pareto principle, where only 20% of members are responsible for 80% of our activities.

But first, a huge THANK YOU must be lifted up for our outgoing President **Jim Graham**. He has added his touch, along with other Presidents before him, in guiding our membership in celebration of our shared Scottish heritage. Jim, you are appreciated more than you know, and I personally look forward to and proactively appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Thank you, Jim!

Slainte,  
Carr McCaskill, President

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## GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES RECAP

Trying something new this year, we held a "Welcome to the Games" casual dinner on Friday evening July 12 at the Meadowbrook Inn in Blowing Rock. As it has become increasingly difficult to find a venue with enough space to accommodate our members during this weekend, we fortunately and surprisingly found the Meadowbrook Inn was available and they delivered! With over 70 attendees, the dinner was excellent (heard many compliments!) and the fellowship and conversation engaging. The Blue Ridge Brass played for about 40 minutes before dinner was served. It was wonderful to see so many families with children (future members!) present. Thanks to Claude Snow for organizing this meal and we have already asked Meadowbrook Inn to hold this space and time for SASNC

for the 2025 Games. If you were unable to make it this year, I hope you will try for 2025!



*Jim Graham, Past President  
and Carr McCaskill, President*



*SASNC Tent*



*Bill Caudill and John Armstrong*



*Honorary games  
Chieftan,  
John MacLeod of  
Raasay*



### KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN – SUNDAY SEPT 15

Don McLeod (thank you!) has organized this wonderful service again at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines on Sunday September 15. He needs twenty (20) kilted warriors present so reach out to Don directly to confirm your participation. He can be reached at [donalddcmcleod@gmail.com](mailto:donalddcmcleod@gmail.com) or 910-695-5550. As someone who has participate in various Kirkin's over the past 30 years, I have always found a Kirkin' to be especially moving. If you have not participated before, you will really enjoy it.

Look forward to seeing you there!



### SCOTLAND COUNTY GAMES – OCT 4-6

We have booked two tents for these games to be held in Laurinburg on Saturday October 5. There are also events downtown on Friday night as they have a great lineup for the weekend. I encourage you to check out these games at [carolina-highlandgames.com](http://carolina-highlandgames.com)

Last year approximately 50 SASNC members came to these games, which, if you have not been, are a real jewel! Smaller than Grandfather (of course), these games are great for moving around, watching events, getting up close to the pipers and dancers. You will have a wonderful time proudly wearing your family tartan and enjoying a great fall day in Laurinburg.

Put this date on your calendar and come on over! More details to follow by email but we wanted to get this event on your calendar.



*SCHG Massed Bands*

## **ST. ANDREWS DAY DINNER – SAT DEC 7, 2024**

Following our theme of trying something new, this year's dinner will be held at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro on Saturday evening December 7. Why this location, you may ask? For the past several years, since the 50th, we have had difficulties finding an affordable space for our annual dinner in the Sandhills region. Grandover to the rescue with two championship golf courses as well as a full spa! The hotel will be decked out for Christmas.

Our banquet room is on the second floor with a balcony overlooking the gardens – spectacular!

Will Wiseman has graciously agreed to organize a golf outing for Saturday (special rate!) so whether you are a scratch golfer or not, the fellowship on a golf course is unbeatable. If you have not stayed here before, you will love it! More to follow on Grandover, the dinner and the golf and / or spa!



*Grandover Resort*

## **SCHOLARSHIP & GRANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

The Scholarship and Grants Committee awarded only one scholarship in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The scholarship was to Olivia Booker who is pursuing the final year of her PhD at St. Andrews University. The Committee

also made continuing grants to the Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrew's University in Laurinburg, the Blue Ridge Brass, Scotland in the Classroom and the Barton College Rare Book Room

The 2024-2025 budget has two new scholarships to St. Andrew's University being granted. Given the high level of attrition amongst traditional scholarship candidates, the eligibility for scholarships has been expanded to include students studying under a semester or junior abroad program in the hope of promoting the exposure to and the study of Scottish culture. Grants will continue to the Scottish Heritage Center, Blue Ridge Brass and Scotland in the Classroom.

In keeping with the expressed desire to increase the Society's role in promoting Scottish arts and culture, especially in North Carolina, the Committee will be providing three scholarships to both the School of Scottish Arts and the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming for their 2025 Schools. It has also instituted an annual grant to North Carolina pipe bands starting with the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The first recipient is the NC State University Pipe Band. It is the Committee's intention to rotate the grant amongst the various North Carolina pipe bands each year.

The Committee has also sought to promote the physical preservation and expansion of Scottish heritage in North Carolina by contributing to the restoration of Mill Prong Preservation House, on a project-by-project basis, and supporting the Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Trail Project.

Regards,  
David Gellatly, Chairman



## **HISTORIC BYWAYS: FLORA MACDONALD IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Flora (in Gaelic Fionnghal or Fair One) was born in South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland in 1722. She was raised by a cousin, Sir Alexander MacDonald of Sleat on Skye. When she encountered Charles Edward Stuart, the Pretender to the British Crown, his Jacobite army had been defeated at Culloden, there was a 20,000-pound bounty on his head and Flora was 24 years old. The MacDonald and MacLeod clans on Skye had not supported Bonnie Prince Charlie, but there were many Jacobite sympathizers who aided, or at least remained silent, as Flora enabled the Pretender's perilous escape to France. Bonnie Prince Charlie spent the rest of his life in debauchery in Europe while Flora headed to the Tower of London for a year of bondage, but great international fame.

She married Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh in 1750 and they endured 24 years of financial trials and crop and livestock failures. She was visited by Dr. Samuel Johnson in 1773 as thousands of Skye folk were contemplating America. In July 1774 Flora and Allan, along with sons Alexander and James, two of their



seven children, arrived in Wilmington NC, having taken an oath to support the King. The MacDonalds first resided with Flora's half-sister Annabelle at Mt. Pleasant in Harnett County, near Barbecue Presbyterian Church, founded in 1756. Meanwhile, Flora's daughter Anne and her husband Major Alexander MacLeod, with three children, bought a plantation near Carthage from Kenneth Black and named it Glendale. Alexander was the love child of Norman, MacLeod Chief at Dunvegan, Skye. Flora and Allan purchased a plantation on Cheeks Creek in Montgomery County and named it Kingsburgh after their former estate in Skye. With their indentured servants, land clearing was begun, and fruit orchards and crops planted.

This idyllic dream was about to shatter. War with England had exploded, Royal Gov. Josiah Martin put out a proclamation to raise a Highland regiment in NC and Allan and Alexander were primary recruiters locally. They were at the February 1776 muster at Cross Hill near Carthage and marched for Cross Creek (Fayetteville) and the later disaster at Moore's Creek. Flora cheered them off!

Misery had arrived! Allan was captured and sent to prison in Philadelphia. Alexander escaped and joined the British forces in NY. Flora's and Anne's properties were pillaged and destroyed. They were protected by Kenneth Black in the current Moore County. Flora's sons Alexander and James were lost at sea while in the British navy. At war's end the families were reunited in NY, then Nova Scotia and later Skye. Flora died in 1790 at Kilmuir on Skye. This Scottish heroine's legend is alive and well in NC to this day!

Donald C. McLeod





First residence after NC immigration



Cheeks Creek historic marker

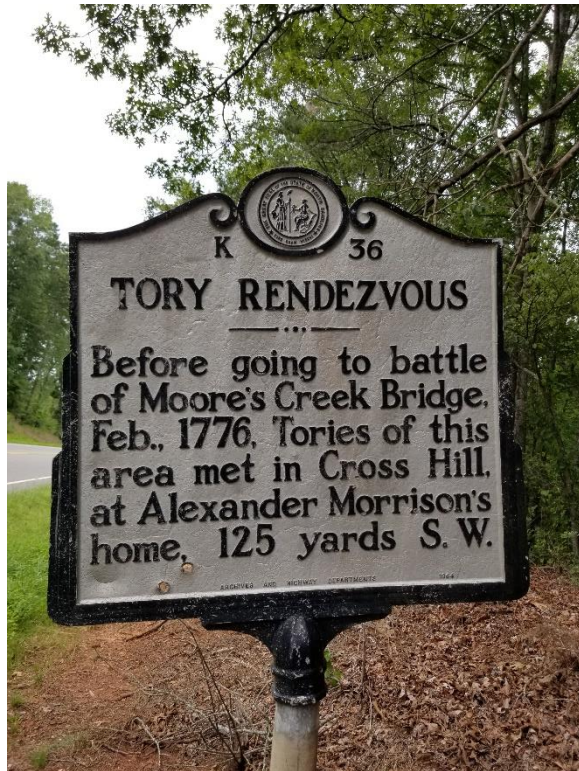


Monument at Cheeks Creek plantation site



Flora MacDonald spring at Cheeks Creek site





Muster site of Allan MacDonald and Alexander MacLeod (near Carthage)



King's standard raised in Cross Creek (Fayetteville)



College in Red Springs, NC



Monument at Kilmuir, Scotland Epithet by Dr. Samuel Johnson

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