



ESTABLISHED IN 1863

The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Volume 151, No. 3

November 2013



Inside this Issue

Cover.....1
 continued.....6

Message from our
 President.....2

Upcoming Events.....3

Gifts to the Society.....4

Saint Andrew's Society of
 San Francisco Annual
 Banquet and Ball.....11



Deadline for newsletter contributions: Articles, pictures, & notices is the 1st Monday of each month of the year (except for July and August).

An Abridged History of the St Andrew's Society of San Francisco.

By Gerry Sample (edited by David Campbell)



A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604
(415) 885-6644
Editor: William Jagers
Email: wjagers@hotmail.com

Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments served after the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

Officers of the Society

David McCrossan, President
Joshua G. Kyle, First VP
David Campbell, Second VP
Ian Baird, Treasurer
Francesca Mc Crossan, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
Marilyn Van Story, Chaplain
Margory Matec, Bard
Jack Cunningham, Piper
Thomas E. Kasinger, Historian

Trustees –

Gene McCracken - Chairman
Norman McLeod
Bill Blair
Stewart Hume
James Robertson, AIA-E
Sandy Corbett

Board of Relief –

Biz Obley
Robert Blair, Jr.

Trustees Emeritus –

John B. Ritchie,

Board of Relief –

Marilyn Van Story,
Biz Obley
Robert Blair, Jr.

Board of Student Assistance –

J. Robert Logan, Chairman
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Fiona Allan



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

Dear members and friends:

I was delighted to see so many of you support the Festival of Remembrance at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on Sunday November 10th. A wide range of Commonwealth Service organizations were represented, as well as our own society and our sister Scottish societies. I believe it is important that we are counted as one of the organizations that recognize the value of the sacrifices of those we remember at this time of year and will continue to do so. Judging by the numbers present on the day, clearly many of you agree.

It's only a few short weeks to our annual banquet and ball on November 30th at the Marines' Memorial Club Which also coincides with St. Andrew's Day itself. There still time for you to purchase tickets – see the website for immediate payment options. For those of you who already have your tickets, we look forward to seeing you on what promises to be fabulous and memorable evening in this, our 150th year.

Our formal events - the Annual Ball and our Burns Dinner - are each a major undertaking in themselves. Beginning next year, I will be appointing more members to support Committees for each – traditionally



(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Membership Program Speakers:

NOVEMBER

Don Fraser (postponed until 2014); alternate speaker TBD

DECEMBER

No meeting due to Dec 31st Hogmanay celebration

Roger Weed presentation and/or Scotch tasting in conjunction with Hogmanay, or deferred until 2014

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

As most of our members know our Society has a Student Assistance Program. Over the last 20 years we have given assistance to 100 students for a total amount of \$201,000. This is a most commendable program of which we are most proud.

We are now accepting applications for the 2013-2014 academic year (available at our web site)

The deadline to apply will be May 10, so they can be reviewed by the Committee and then presented to the membership at our May 20 meeting.

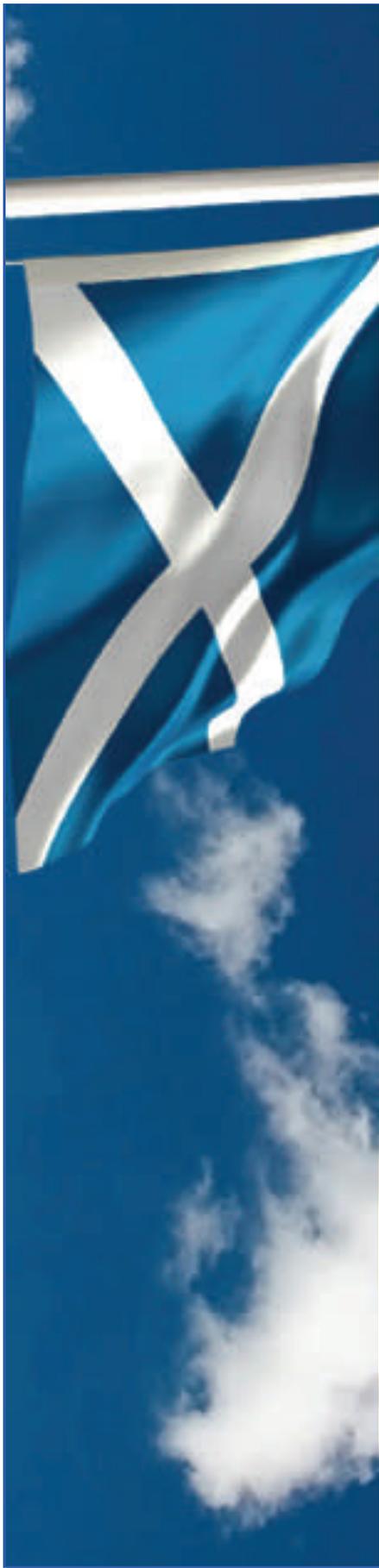
The basic criteria for an applicant is:

- Resident of Northern California
- Scottish birth or ancestry.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- Attending a Northern California University (accredited by the Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges), or one located in Scotland.
- Entering their Junior/Senior or Graduate year
- Demonstrate a grade point average of 3.0

We are bringing this to the attention of our membership so if they know of any potential students, they can advise them and get their application submitted



OVER AND ABOVE: Gifts to the Society



ST. ANDREW'S HONOR ROLL (\$1000 to \$5000)

William D. Mac Quattie
Thomas E. Kasinger

ST. ANDREW'S SPONSOR (\$500 to \$1000)

Rosie and David J. Colt
William D. MacQuattie, Jr.
Sue and John B. Ritchie

ST. ANDREW'S SUPPORTER (up to \$500)

Kalco Properties, Inc
William C. Blair, M.D.
Adriane and Col. James W. Campbell
Deborah and Jeffery T. Griffith
Diana and Robert J. Logan
Kate and John A. Lord
Donald MacDonald Architects
Linda and Gerald W. MacKay
Ellen and Glen McLaughlin
Fred S. Nagle
Maria and John R. Pitcairn
Rosie and Donald M. Sanford
Ruth and David B. Stronach
Marilyn Van Story
Lucille and G. Russell Wiley

Patron Life Members

Life Members who have elected to make additional contributions for 2010.

Wade Hughan
John Lord
Gerry Sample
Don Sanford
Brian Tulloch
Jim Campbell

(Continued from page 2)



led by the 1st and 2nd vice president. This will help spread the organizational burden and ensure that our celebratory traditions continue in future years.

I look forward to seeing you there soon!

Yours for Scotland,

David McCrossan

President

REPOST - ANNOUNCEMENT: SOCIETY NOMINA-

One position in the line-up of officers has become vacant this year, with the impending retirement announced last month by Bill Blair from the Board of Trustees, effective end of 2013.

One nomination has been received for the position by the nominating committee:

Selby Hausserman

I will request any additional nominations from the floor at the October meeting: Monday 10/21/13.

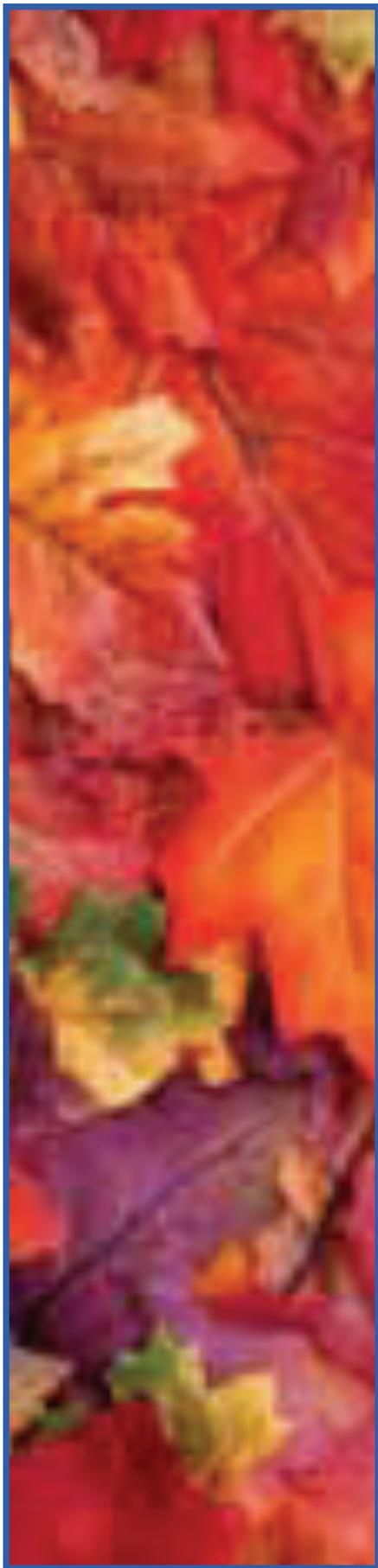
Members will vote on nominations received in October at the November meeting: 11/18/13.

New officers will be installed at the January 2014 meeting: 1/20/14.

David McCrossan

President

St. Andrews Society of
San Francisco



At our October meeting we were delighted to hear from Past President Gerard (Gerry) Sample. In the year of our 150th anniversary and in the season of the upcoming Banquet and Ball – Gerry spoke to the Society in a most timely way on the topic: *An Abridged History of the St Andrew’s Society of San Francisco*.

Much appreciation and thanks to Gerry for his service rendered and for a job well done! Below follows his impressive biography and an edited version of his talk re-presented. Please attribute any editorial mistakes or oversights to David Campbell.

Biography: Gerard (Gerry) Sample

I joined the Society in 1971. My first service was as Librarian in about 1972. Second VP 1973; First VP 1975; President 1976-1978. The next years I served on the Relief Committee; Board of Students Assistance (during this era the Board was first established); Trustees, and Chairman of Trustees; Secretary / Treasurer (these offices were combined in the early days); Newsletter Editor; Treasurer (the offices were separated); Society Certificate Calligrapher; First Games Tent Chairman. I met with the NPS up at the Caledonian Games one year and we planned our “John Muir” Birthday Celebration at the John Muir Home in Martinez for a few years. I never held the office of Chaplain, I could not orate fratreses; also there were fears of godly lightening strikes. Also never served as Society Bard, I could not orate the “Address to a Haggis” with the proper pomp! Finally I never held the office of Society Physician, no credentials. I was a Photogrammetric Engineer in my business life, 45 years with my company. I married a beautiful Nurse, raised a girl & a boy. Shirley and I were married 52 years before she passed away in 2009.

An abridged history of the St. Andrews Society of San Francisco, California on its sesquicentennial year, at least that is the accepted age of our Society, “established 1863” Therefore in spite of the recent diggin’s of our noted historians I will stick with 1863.

A smallish group of emigrated Scottish gentlemen decided what they needed and what The City needed was a Saint Andrews Society! I must state here that neither John Ritchie nor Tom McLaughlin were at that assembly in the 1860’s. Well without a doubt when two emigrated Scots get together they form a Saint Andrews Society. It has been written that it took more than two Scots to promulgate our Saint Andrews Society, but they did do it!

I have read that very soon after the Society’s seeking official status from the State of California there might have been an aggregate of eighty souls present for that task. Very shortly after this gathering, I’m certain

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

larger membership now, and from that insurgents proposed to the membership that our Society should celebrate their place in this fine City by having an annual Highland Gathering and Games. This proposal brought on much discussion and eventually the canniest members voted down this venture in fear of a great liability to the Society and its members.

It came about that the unscathed organizers of this grand plan withdrew, but not resigned, from the Society and formed a new "club", The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, founded in November 1856, and goes proudly on today.

On some wall in our Firehouse there hangs an original print from *The Illustrated London News* dated 1858 of the Caledonian Club's third annual games in Sausalito. There is a bit of a tale about this print...first of all this illustration depicts a "beach" scene as shown there is a greater body of the bay water than is there today. On the west edge of this beach is *First Street*. After more of the bay was filled it created a new shoreline which then allowed for the laying of *Bridgeway Boulevard*. Then "First Street" was renamed *Caledonia* in honor of the "Games"

Now many years later, John Ritchie became interested in an illustration of these games owned by a friend of his living on the Tiburon Peninsula. Upon viewing it John wished to buy it on the spot, but this charming old gent said, "Here John, take it, it's a gift to you and you fellow Scots!" When John brought this already framed bit of history at the next meeting he mused that the print should really be given to the Caledonian Club...but no, we'll keep here in our Firehouse!

Back to the ancient history of our Society, it was known that eventually the two organizations owned a building in San Francisco. Which I am not actually certain came down with the shake and bake of 1906. Regardless they sold the property to the City, which was possibly the area of the old San Francisco Public Library. The two "Clubs" divided up the poke which gave Society an opportunity to jump start their valuable portfolio.

The Society's motto, as you all have put to memory:

"Our ain ills aye hae strength to bear, anither's aye hae heart to feel."

As we wind down together there are a few Members, Past Presidents I would like you to note of:

James F. Stewart, first President * 1863 (No links on the Social Register)

John McLaren * 1893 (Well known Gardner)

James Rolph, Jr. * 1901 (Mayor of San Francisco; "Sunny Jim"; Cali-

(Continued on page 8)





(Continued from page 7)

fornia Governor)

Judge Robert L. McWilliams * 1943 (Circuit Court, Northern California)

Donald M. Campbell, MD * 1962 (OBE)

Past President Norman Macleod, (OBE)

OBE: Order of the British Empire (an Honour well deserved)

Plus, so many, many more joining for the camaraderie, their heritage and to help those in need. Members who gave up many hours of their private life to take part in the Society's activities and needs. Officers who put so much unselfish work for the Society, for the "needs" of the Society.

Fasten your seatbelts, we are going to fast forward to almost the present day of the Society. When I joined, 1971, we met in the old Native Sons Building on Mason Street. We shared our digs on the 3rd floor with the Theosophical Society, one floor up was Ron Hubbard's Scientology group.

Several Past Presidents of that era, Charlie Doig, Don Sinclair, Jack Adams, Davy Scott all deceased and all good Scots!

I followed Davy Scot and I often mused that mine was an appointment, in those days we barely had a quorum, nine members, at our meeting, so it was inevitable that I would be a President of our great Society. If we did not have a quorum Charlie Doig, Secretary would phone down to the *Edinburgh Castle*, a pub on Geary Street, and ask Douglas "Dougie" Kirk owner and fine Member of the Society. Charley would tell Dougie we need him for a quorum and Dougie came a running.

We continued to meet in Theosophical Hall in the overwhelming "incense room" on Mason Street; our membership was going through a growth that it had not seen in many years. It changed demographically as well. When I joined in 1972 the membership was about 80 to 90 per cent Scottish born. Now it was closing in on American born Scots with a keen interest in their heritage. Our meeting place was getting too small.

I asked for "opinions" on trying to find a better home for our Society. That very night one of our newly elected member of the Trustees, John Ritchie. Mr. Ritchie "timidly" stood up to tell us there was a decommissioned Fire House that could be available for us if we work at it.

There you have the prelude to moving into "Our Firehouse". The Firehouse at 1088 Green Street was owned by Mrs. Louise Davies. It had been decommissioned and she only paid \$17,000 for it in 1959! It was a real merry-go-round, John and I met with Mrs. Davies and discussed how we, St. Andrews Society, would use it for meetings once a month

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

and try to help with the upkeep. It was then that we learned that the National for Historic Preservation had their fingers in the pie as well. Nothing was sealed in concrete.

We spent time looking at other properties, especially on the newly taken over of the Presidio of San Francisco. We did not make the short list there; we were a “men-only” organization! We looked at for sale property of the Free Masons which was a very nice hall out in the “Avenues” but way too big, too much for us, even with the Caledonian Club joining us.

For a while we searched and tried different venues, the Press Club, convenient but terrible acoustics, but we kept coming back to the Firehouse, not yet our home. At this time our membership meetings were not well attended, members didn’t know where we were going to be next.

Eventually we settled on the Firehouse, in spite of having to move two huge horse drawn Fire Engines, no the horses were elsewhere. Sadly during this time Mrs. Davies passed away. Daughter, Maryon Davies Lewis half-heartily managed the Firehouse; she never really cared about it.

Our St. Andrews Society had finally settled in along with the machinery transfer every third Monday of the month. Maryon hired a person to look after the Firehouse, which did not go too well. One apparently cold winter evening he decided to build a comfy fire, right on the floor of the “garage”! It was not too well-taken by the neighborhood - what with the Fire trucks rushing to the rescuer. It was the end for Maryon; she called me at my office right after the fire and asked point-blank, “Does the Saint Andrews Society want the Firehouse?” I replied with a some what timid YES!

So, now the task ahead is dealing with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trustees formed a plan to meet with the trust and offer to buyout their interests, hook line and sinker! The Trust had lost its major financial support from the Government so they were in the need of MONEY! Our only obligation as far as the building was to maintain the façade in its original manor. We also pledged to keep it as a “Good Neighbor” to the neighborhood, which meant opening it up for public spirited purposes.

So, here we are sitting in a most historic and prominent Fire House, the Saint Andrews Society of San Francisco, a most historic and prominent Society.

Just a few notable interesting achievements of our Society: In recent history we corrected the participation for our Burns Dinner by inviting our wives and families to partake in our once male only “Remembrance” to Scotland’s own, Robert Burns.

(Continued on page 10)



An Abridged History : continued.



(Continued from page 9)

In 1981 a spirited few of our members planned and executed an attempt to reach top of Mount Everest by way of the East route, this trek was not really to reach the peak, but to survey and layout a plausible route via the East Face. One of our Past Presidents, Bruce McCubbrey partook in that venture. Then the follow up in 1983 to reach the summit our proud Member Dr. Dan Reid was one of a few that achieved that goal.

As you look around this room, our "Great Hall", it is difficult to believe that just forty years ago it was tough to get a quorum of nine members to a meeting. Only the guid men came to that dusty old room on the third floor.



*The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco cordially invites
you to join in celebrating it's*

150th Annual Banquet and Ball

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Hamilton

November 30th, 2013
Marine Memorial Club
Reception: 6:00 PM
Dinner and Dancing: 7:30

MacIntosh Band
Peninsula Fiddlers
Formal or Highland Dress

\$150 per couple (will rise to \$100 per person after November 1st)



Reservations:

Name _____ @ \$75 Beef or Salmon _____ sub total _____

Name _____ @ \$75 Beef or Salmon _____ sub total _____

Name _____ @ \$75 Beef or Salmon _____ sub total _____

Name _____ @ \$75 Beef or Salmon _____ sub total _____

Total _____

Make checks to :

St. Andrew's Society of SF
c/o Jaesame I Koyil
1st VP
3053 Fillmore #118
SF, CA 94123