

From Our President

In April 2023, we celebrated our 250th anniversary as the Society of St. George Philadelphia. Our celebration included services at Christ Church, Philadelphia, a processional through the city streets, and a gala at the Philadelphia Quaker Meeting Houe at 4th and Arch Streets. It was great to see so many of our members and friends on an exceptional evening.



Two hundred and fifty years after our founding, we are still committed to rendering aid and advice to immigrants from our great imperial English family of nations, and to share our freedoms and responsibilities as they integrate into our American culture.

In addition, we have expanded our efforts in awarding scholarships to students studying in England by providing multiple scholarship awards. Moreover, our work continues as we build upon our new partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Philadelphia Outward Bound School and also continue our support of students locally at St. James School. We continue to work in cooperation with the Fairmount Park Conservancy, to improve our adopted statue of St. George and the Dragon that sits on the west bank of the Schuylkill in Fairmount Park. The statue was originally donated by the society to the City of Philadelphia decades ago – it had been an adornment on our Arch Street building.

Finally, we are actively pursuing the streamlining of our corporate structure by updating our private foundation status to that of a public charity under the internal revenue code. Please be sure to show your support of the society by joining us at our many events planned for this year.

Best regards,

Richard F. Booker, Esq.

President

stgeorgephiladelphia.org

The Tiger Building, 1221 Locust Street, Box 502, Philadelphia, PA 19107

An Afternoon at Stoney's

On Sunday September 10, 2023, over 25 members of the society met at Stoney's British Pub on Concord Pike in Wilmington, DE. It was an afternoon of camaraderie and British fare, with the Philadelphia Eagles' home opener added to the event. Meeting at Stoney's has become an annual event for St. George members as a casual afternoon to catch up and hear about everyone's summer outings. Owner and St. George member Mike Stone learned to cook from scratch with his mum at a very young age in England. He makes the food at Stoney's just the way she made it, using the finest and freshest ingredients to craft these homemade meals. As a proper British Pub should, Stoney's features an extensive list of over 50 Single Malt Scotch Whiskys and a "Britforward" beer selection both bottled and on draft. It was a great fall afternoon!



IN MEMORIAM

Edwin N. Conroy

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Ed Conroy, a longtime member and supporter of our organization.

He passed away in October after surgery related to a fall. He was in his early 90s. Ed was a valued member of The Society of St. George, joining in 2003. Born in Cincinnati, Edwin served honorably in the United States Navy. He was an active member in several historical organizations. He enjoyed sailing, traveling, and spending time with his family. He and Jean were passionate about St. George and made significant contributions to our work. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Jean during this difficult time.



St. George Gala Celebrating 250 Years

On April 22, 2023, The Society of St. George Philadelphia celebrated its 250th Anniversary with a gala celebration that began at Christ Church with an evensong service. With a police escort, guests were led by pipers and drummers, banner bearer (George Tyndall), mace bearer (Bruce Gill), flag bearers (Rich Booker, Bill Thompson, and Will Forbes) to The Arch Street Meeting House for cocktails, dinner and a ceremony.

Christ Church was chosen to be part of this event for its historical significance, as several of the society's founders were members of Christ Church, including Robert Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He was the first vice president of the society.

A City Council Resolution recognizing the society (secured by George Tyndall) included a letter from Governor Josh Shapiro, secured by Frank and Susan O'Donnel.

The members of the committee chose President and CEO of the Museum of the American Revolution Dr. R. Scott Stephenson to be honored. He was presented with a Philadelphia Bowl. Oliver St. Clair Franklin, CBE, was also presented with a gift to show his longtime support and involvement.

Guests were each presented with a Challenge Coin, designed by St. George officer Chuck Barber along with artist Karen Shain Schloss, who studied the St. George statue to create this one-of-a-kind piece. Coins are available for purchase – please contact the office for more information at stgeorgephiladelphia@gmail.com.

During the celebration, the work of outgoing President Bill Thompson was recognized and the ceremonial passing of the medal and gavel presented to incoming President Richard F. Booker, Esq.

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, members and volunteers who supported this event marking our 250th Anniversary such a success. We look forward to many more years of friendship and camaraderie.

A program book was organized by St. George officer George Tyndall and designed by Al Cassidy, compiled with not just advertisements from supporters, but also a tremendous amount of historical facts and photos documenting the past 250 year history. The book includes the menu from the 1882 annual dinner, a list of recent scholarship recipients, and several other items of interest making St. George what it is today. If you did not attend the event and would like a copy of the Program Booklet, please contact Judith at stgeorgephiladelphia@gmail.com or (267) 521-1774, and a copy can be mailed to you for \$10.



250 YEARS 1772 - 2022 • GALA CELEBRATION APRIL 22, 2023



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My Family History

Richard F. Booker, Esq.

The Whitaker family of Philadelphia founded and operated William Whitaker & Sons, Inc., one of the oldest Philadelphia textile mills.

My great, great, great, great, great grandfather, Henry Whitaker (shown circa 1840) was a successful cotton mill owner in Rochdale, England, in 1805. He wished to expand his mill but the Napoleonic Wars had made taxes in England very discouraging.

In 1807, he made a trip to America looking for a more favorable site for another mill. Leaving his eldest son in charge of the England mill, the rest of the family set out for America. They boarded a ship named Susquehanna in Portsmouth harbor and sailed for New York with their daughter-in-law and one grandchild. The Whitaker voyage ended on November 28, 1809, in New York during a heavy snowstorm. They spent the winter at 6th Street and Delancy



Place, New York, then in the spring the moved to Philadelphia, and stayed at Chalkey Hall located in what is now the Kensington section of

Philadelphia. (There is no record that Henry Whitaker owned this mansion; they likely leased the property for a year). The family moved to Hudson, New York, for two years where Whitaker manufactured velveteens, and were likely forced to leave possibly due to the cold winter weathers causing issues with water milling.

In October, 1813, Whitaker and family settled permanently on the Tacony branch of Frankford Creek. It was at Cedar Grove (now the Lawncrest section of Philadelphia) he purchased 38 acres of the Trinity Church glebe lands for the sum of \$2,000 plus an annual rent of \$120. Work began at once on the first English-style mill houses and on the Whitaker's "mansion" house. The Whitaker family was able to move into the homestead by Christmas 1813. Other construction soon followed, with the original mill building in 1814, the dam and water wheel in 1815, and the dye house in 1815-16.

Henry Whitaker modeled his establishment on a type of factory situation common in more remote regions of England during the early years of the Industrial Revolution. These rural or village textile mills were located on streams which supplied water power, a popular scene along the creeks and streams around Philadelphia at the time. The mills drew their labor force from scattered, self-employed hand-loom weavers and from the agricultural population in the vicinity.

The early Whitaker enterprise was a similar combination of textile manufacturing and agriculture. A portion of the mill's labor force was drawn from local farm households. From the mill's earliest years until well into the 20th century, company records indicate that a working farm was an integral part of the family business.

My cousins Chase and Howard Whitaker ran the mill until 1974

My cousins Chase and Howard Whitaker ran the mill until 1974 when the business and machinery were sold to a Massachusetts company. The land on which the mill was built at Adams Avenue and Tabor Road. was later donated to the City of Philadelphia.

As I think of how Henry started off so long ago, with he and his family standing on the deck of the Susquehanna waiting for cast off, I can't help but think about all it took for them to be there. The planning alone must have been an enormous undertaking, but when I consider the emotional state of each person there I am amazed. Each one of them



knew that they were cutting ties with their home, their country, and the people they had known all their lives. Still they looked forward to a new life and were willing to take on a three month sailing voyage to a wild, strange country where they could realize their full potential for themselves and for generations to come.

It reminds me of our purpose at the society – to render aid and assistance to Englishmen in distress. While Henry Whitaker may not have availed himself of the services of the society, it humbles us to think of those who were in need, and were helped by our Society of St. George.

*It reminds me of our purpose at the society:
to render aid and assistance to Englishmen in distress.*

In July 2022, I was able to visit the original homeland of my ancestor Henry Whitaker in Rossendale, England. I visited a historic mill – one that Henry Whitaker likely would have been familiar with.



This mill is now the Helmshore Museum and much of the original operation of 18th and 19th century textile production methods have been preserved for the public to experience.

The Higher Mill at Helmshore was constructed in 1789 and Whitaker's Mill (no confirmed relation to Henry Whitaker) in the 1820s by the Turner family, textile manufacturers from the area of Blackburn, England. While Higher Mill has always been a wool fulling mill, Whitaker's Mill for the first century of its existence alternated between working wool and cotton. By the late 1920s, it was solely working recycled cotton. In 1967, Higher Mill closed and was taken over by the Higher Mills Trust who maintained it as a museum.

Although a considerable part of Whitaker's Mill was destroyed in a fire in 1857, it was rebuilt shortly afterwards and continued to be in operation until 1978. It was then acquired by the Lancashire England council, who by then had taken over running Higher Mill on behalf of the Higher Mill Trust, and the two mills were joined as one museum.

I had a private tour of the entire mill and saw how the operation was conducted from 1787 to 1978. These are just a few of the pictures of the mill as it stands today.

The visit showed me just how difficult an operation it was to manufacture textiles in the past, and what a great accomplishment it was for the Whitaker family to establish a new, even more successful operation in Philadelphia. It is because of Henry Whitaker buying property and building his mill in Philadelphia that we live in the Philadelphia area today. Those actions taken in 1807 had a huge influence on my life and the lives of so many before me.

I returned to England in July 2023, traveling from London to Bath, on to Stonehenge and Windsor Castle. At Windsor, I saw the St. George's chapel, which had in recent years been in the spotlight for the committal service of Queen Elizabeth II, the funeral of Prince Philip, and the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Like those who attended each occasion, I was taken by the Gothic splendor of this 15th century chapel, the sunlight streaming through the many windows of the nave. It was great fun to see the chapel that shares our name and our heritage.

I have felt privileged in my life, and as a person with a significant connection to Philadelphia and my English ancestors I know that the St. George Society of Philadelphia is an excellent way to give back to those in need with British and commonwealth ties in the Philadelphia area.

As we all know, it is a great pleasure to enjoy the celebrations, networking opportunities, and sense of community at our many events. Moving forward, as the new president of the society, I hope we can all work to increase membership—particularly in the younger ranks—and provide a sound financial footing for our charitable programming through streamlining our corporate structure.





Educational Support Spotlight

Outward Bound

The mission of the Society of St. George Philadelphia is to support and promote English culture and grant scholarships to students of English ancestry to study in England.

During the pandemic, the program that we supported to send students to England was put on hold, which gave us the opportunity to initiate other charitable outreach partnerships. At the same time, we broadened who was eligible to receive our support in our by-laws.

The Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Award was founded by Prince Philip and does great work in empowering young people to learn new skills, overcome obstacles and build confidence and resilience. Today it is led by the current Duke of Edinburgh Prince Edward. In the US, the award is headquartered in Chicago and administered locally by the

Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS).

The DOE Award provided us with an opportunity to extend our charitable outreach partnerships with a clearly “English” organization while meeting our stated commitment to students. We have developed an equally wonderful relationship with the POBS as a result of the DOE Award, hence our support of their biennial rappelling event. That was the genesis of our dual relationships.

The DOE Award and Philadelphia Outward Bound School are located in the Discovery Center in Fairmount Park. It is an idyllic spot overlooking the old city reservoir with a walking path with beautiful views of the Philadelphia skyline. Well worth a visit. Our contact at the DOE is Jennifer Raymond, who has been at the POBS for 24 years.

St. George has supported the DOE Award over the past several years. In October the POBS once again held its rappelling event at a skyscraper in Center City, and once again the society was a sponsor. As in the past, Jennifer arranged for one of our DOE students to participate.

These are both wonderful organizations that the society is proud to support. With your help we can continue this support in the coming years.

Form of a Legacy

George Tyndall

Upon searching through several book I have in my St. George collection, I came upon this short piece drawn up by Alexander James Dallas. First of all, it zeros in on the establishment of providing a lasting legacy for members in which to partake.

The piece appears in a paper bound book titled "An Historical Sketch of The Origins and Progress of The Society of the Sons of St. George, also The Charter, By-Laws and Permanent Resolutions, Together with An Alphabetical List of The Names of members and Associates, List of Officers etc." From April 23rd, 1772 to April 23rd, 1872. Philadelphia, W. W. Bates & Co. Printers, 710 Sansom Street, 1871. It was obviously produced for the 100th Anniversary of the Society.

Notice it mentions associate members, which for a long time we never seemed to consider until several years ago when we recreated an associate membership category by which individuals can become members who show an interest in our society but may not have the required English background needed for full membership to vote and hold office.



A little history on Alexander James Dallas:

First, he was one of the original members of our society beginning in 1789. He was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and came to America in 1783 where he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1785. He opened a law firm in Philadelphia, became editor of the Pennsylvania Herald (1787-1788), served as the US Supreme Court Reporter (1790-1800), Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth (1791-1801), and was US Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1801-1814). He obtained funds to fight Britain in the War of 1812, and in 1814 President James Madison appointed him US Secretary of the Treasury. He was able to build a surplus budget and created the 2nd Bank of the United States. Dallas also served as acting Secretary of State and Secretary of War in 1815. His son George M. Dallas was vice president to President James K. Polk (1845-49). Alexander James Dallas died in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 16, 1817, at the age of 57. He is buried in St. Peter's Episcopal Churchyard at 3rd and Pine Streets along with his son George.

Seeing this *form of a legacy* might just make you think of your own future plans and contributing to such a renowned organization. By the way—I discovered that Alexander James Dallas was my 4th great grandfather. I guess I better participate!



Join us for a
**HOLIDAY
CELEBRATION!**

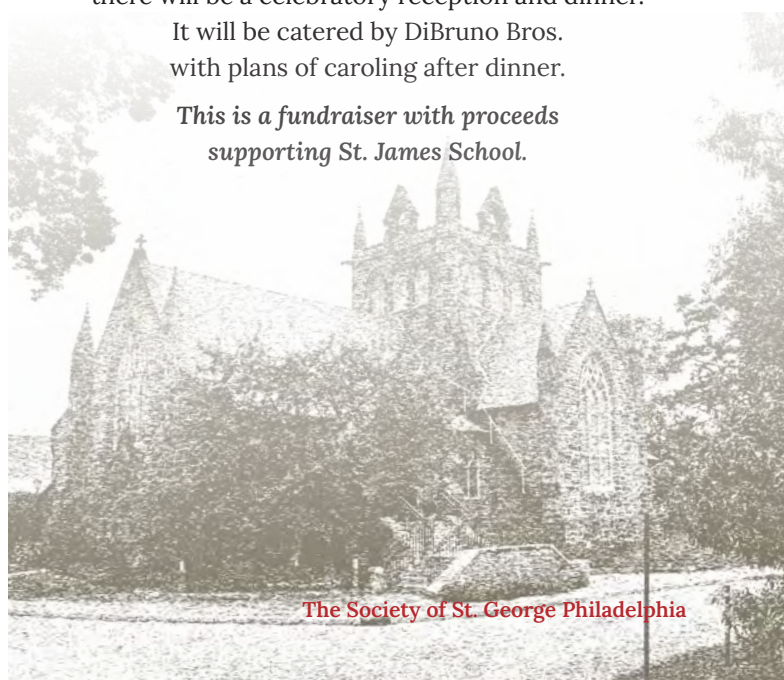
**Saturday,
December 9, 2023**

The Church of St. Asaph
27 Conshohocken State Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

To celebrate the holidays,
St. George members and guests are invited to
The Church of St. Asaph in Bala Cynwyd
for a service of Lessons and Carols lead
by the Reverend Andrew Kellner,
one of the society chaplains.

Following the service in the parish hall
there will be a celebratory reception and dinner.
It will be catered by DiBruno Bros.
with plans of caroling after dinner.

***This is a fundraiser with proceeds
supporting St. James School.***



Immigrant Aid Societies in the Colonies Up to the Revolutionary War

Roger Brown



As we are all well aware, the Society of St George, Philadelphia was founded in 1772 to provide advice and assistance to Englishmen in distress and we recently celebrated our 250th anniversary this past April. Due to the pandemic, the society chose to celebrate at the end of the anniversary rather than the beginning. In honor of the 250th anniversary on April 23, 2022, we marked this time by recounting our lengthy history

However, while we can justifiably be proud of reaching the 250-year milestone, a review of available sources (which to be sure are consistent and often contradictory) indicates that the Society was far from the first immigrant aid society in the Colonies or even in Philadelphia.

Immigrant aid societies began in the American colonies in the 1600s. The first societies aided Scottish Immigrants. The Scots Charitable Society of Boston, Massachusetts was founded in 1657. At this point Philadelphia hadn't even been founded and New York was just captured from the Dutch. The Scots Charitable Society is still in existence and bills itself as the oldest charitable organization in the United States, according to its website.

It is likely that the Society was founded in part to assist a specific group of destitute Scots — those captured by Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650 and those captured exactly one year later at the Battle of Worcester. Prisoners from both battles were sold as indentured servants to the London Company of Undertakers, a venture capital group in London investing in the first successful iron works in the American colonies. Bound to the Iron Works at Lynn, now Saugus, in Massachusetts, most of the indentured Scots were required to complete seven years of labor for the company. It seems the indentures began to expire between 1655 and 1657

when the Scots' Charitable Society was formed.

Formation of Immigrant aid societies began to pick up steam in the 1700s. The next immigrant aid society established was the St. Andrew's Club of Charleston, SC, organized in 1729. Its website calls itself the Oldest St. Andrew's Society in the world, which may be true as far as the name itself goes. It also claims to be the "inspiration for the founding of Philadelphia's St Andrew's Society in 1749(sic)". However, it would seem the Charleston Society is no longer in existence.

The first aid society for the English was also formed in Boston when the Boston Episcopal Charitable Society was established in 1724 by charter from the king of England; it was focused on recent English immigrants. It is now an arm of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Philadelphia finally joined the immigrant aid club with the formation of The Welsh Society of Philadelphia in 1729; it remains a membership society and claims to be the oldest Welsh Society in the US. Reportedly, its original name was the Society of Ancient Bretons; it changed its name in 1802. A number of our members are also members of the Welsh Society.

The St. Andrew's Society of Savannah, GA was founded, according to its website, in 1737. Savannah itself was not founded until 1737. Alas, its website is not very informative (membership is by invitation only) and it is also not clear that it is still in existence.

Also established in 1737 was the Charitable Irish Society of Boston to assist Irish Protestants. Its early charitable efforts focused on providing temporary loans and assistance in finding work to Irish immigrants. It claims to be the oldest Irish society in the US and is still in existence.

In 1747, our own Philadelphia St. Andrew's Society was the next aid society founded. Many of our St. George Members are, of course, members of Philadelphia's St. Andrew's Society. Although the Philadelphia Welsh Society would seem to be older, the St. Andrew's Society also bills itself as the oldest charitable membership organization in continuous existence in North America. It was organized "by twenty-five prominent Pennsylvanians of Scottish ancestry to assist the large numbers of destitute Scots arriving in Philadelphia at that time".

Next, founded in 1756 was the St Andrew's Society of the State of New York. One of its prime movers was Dr. Adam Thomson, a colonial physician from Philadelphia who had been a founder and officer of the Philadelphia Society.

It took a while for the next English focused immigrant societies to be established.

The St George Society of New York was established in 1770. It is still very active.

Our own Society was, of course, established on St. George's Day in 1772 for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress. The Society's first meeting was held at Patrick Byrnes Tavern on Front Street, below Walnut St. Meetings before the official founding were reportedly held at the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, which was located at Water Street and Tun Alley (now S. Front St. and Sansom Walk). The Tun Tavern website- the Tun Tavern now being a brew pub in Atlantic City- claims that the fore runner of the Society, another St George's Society, met at the Tun Tavern as early as 1720. In any event, because of the tensions created by the Revolutionary War, the Society didn't meet from 1775 until April 23, 1787. The Constitutional Convention, which was called in April of that year, began in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787. These two dates would seem more than coincidental. The Society's history book also makes reference to another association of Englishmen in 1787 that later joined our Society. Is this possibly the organization mentioned by the Tun Tavern?

But inasmuch as prior to the Revolutionary War, Philadelphia was the second largest English city in the World, there was a second immigrant aid society for Englishmen in Philadelphia, which was founded in April 1773, likely at Carpenter's Hall. It called itself "the Society of Englishmen, and Sons of Englishmen established at Philadelphia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress". Its Rules and Constitutions was printed in 1774 in Philadelphia by Benjamin Towne, who became its secretary. Information on this group is, alas, hard to find; is this the other society that merged with our Society in 1787? Despite similar language employed, it is clear that these two societies were separate. The founders of

this society were different than the founders of the Society of the Sons of St. George and an address to that society found in its rules and constitutions provides (spelling modernized):

It is no small satisfaction to us, to reflect that a Number of English Gentlemen, now resident in this City and Suburbs (whom we heartily wish success) have, with same laudable Intention, formed themselves into a society for effecting the aforesaid good purposes; and our attempting another nearly similar will not, we presume, be construed to oppose or interfere in their Measures, but rather an Avenue for others, who, although they have the same Object in view, may not be disposed, or of Ability, to carry their Purpose to the same Extent.

I think it likely that this is the society that merged into ours in 1787. It is unlikely to be the group that may have met at the Tun Tavern in 1720.

Meanwhile, a number of other aid societies were founded in Philadelphia prior to the war.

The Hibernian Club of Philadelphia was founded for the Irish in 1759. The German Society of Pennsylvania was founded in 1764 and is still going strong; it is the oldest German society in the US and is a membership society. The friendly Sons of St Patrick, formed in 1771, and is still an active membership society. There are Ancient Order of Hibernian Chapters in Philadelphia but their connection to the Hibernian Club formed in 1759 is not clear.

Post war aid societies established in Philadelphia prior to 1800 include:

- The Hibernian Society for the Relief of Emigrants from Ireland (1790 - Irish). Again, its relationship to the Ancient Order of Hibernians is unclear.
- La Société Française de Bienfaisance de Philadelphie, pour conseiller et secourir les Français (1791 - French). It is still in existence but is not a membership society.
- The German Lutheran Aid Society (1790 - German). No record of current existence may be found. The German Society website makes no reference to it.
- The Philadelphia Society for the Information and Assistance of Emigrants and Persons Emigrating from Foreign Countries (1793). No indication of current existence can be found.

Moveable Feast

George Tyndall

This is the beginning of a series of articles on the various dinner and meeting locations which The Society of St. George (formally The Society of the Sons of St. George) held throughout the city of Philadelphia from the society's inception in the 18th century. The dinner locations are not necessarily in exact chronological order, based on the availability and ease of information at the time of creating this historical sketch.

Tun Tavern

According to the "List of Public Places where the Society Have Held their Meetings" from the little brown book, "Historical Sketch, Society of St. George, 1772-1897", Tun Tavern was referred to as Mullen's Tavern, or in 1774 referred to as "Peggy Mullen's Red Hot Beef Steak Club". It seems like that could be construed in another way with that name. It is listed as the meeting place in October, 1772,

at Water Street and Tun Alley, a street that once existed between Walnut and Chestnut Streets. Tun Tavern is the third in our listing of original meeting places, only preceded by Patrick Byrne's Tavern and Little's Tavern, which we will cover at a later date.



The word Tun from Old English means barrel or keg of beer. So we are off to a good start. The tavern was erected in 1686 by Joshua Carpenter, brother of Samuel Carpenter, a Quaker merchant who made a fortune trading in Barbados. The tavern was built on the route to Carpenter's Wharf. It is disputed to whether Joshua or Samuel built the tavern or if it was a combined effort. Joshua did own a brewery and along with having various rental properties made his fortune. The tavern was where our mega highway, I-95 is located, near Penn's Landing. The tavern was in a perfect location to serve the wharf's thirsty sailors and merchants that worked on the wharf or merchants that had business dealings there.

Aside from our society meeting here it also had several other distinctions. In 1732 the tavern hosted the first meetings of St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Temple and is considered the birthplace of Masonic teachings in America. It was also the founding place of the St. Andrew's Society. It is also regarded as the site for the first recruitment drive during the American Revolution for what

became the United States Marine Corps. In 1756, Benjamin Franklin recruited soldiers at the tavern for the Pennsylvania militia to try to quell the Native American uprisings. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the Continental Congress met there as well and in 1775 a seven-man Naval Committee including John Adams appointed by Congress to craft articles of war to build America's first naval fleet.

Even though all of the organizations at the time were all male, ironically some of the tavern's owners were women and participated in the brewery industry.

In 1782 Tun Tavern was lost due to fire, but the various organizations having roots there still survive. So let's raise a pint to Tun Tavern.

United States Hotel

In July of 1832, The Society of the Sons of St. George met in the United States Hotel, located in the 400 block of Chestnut Street across from the former Second Bank of the United States (420 Chestnut Street).



The hotel opened in 1826 following the conversion by John Rea of several properties at 419-423 Chestnut Street. Adjacent to the hotel was the Farmers & Mechanics Bank 425-429 Chestnut Street. The hotel was altered in 1840 and was demolished in 1856 for a new building for the Bank of Pennsylvania. Thomas C. Rea, son of John Rea operated the property until his death in 1846.

In its heyday the hotel was memorable for the fashionable "Assemblies" held there. On every Thursday evening throughout the winter the elite would gather at the hotel exactly at 6:00. Dancing and card playing were the main form of entertainment. There was a light supper and apparently "something to drink" all wrapping up by twelve o'clock.

As pictured in the photo of the soup plate, The United States Hotel was the subject of the little-known firm of S. Tams & Co., a pottery firm from Longton England. The image of the hotel was produced on 10-inch dinner plates and soup plates set off by a dark blue foliage border. The drawing was by G. Strickland and engraved by F. Kearney. The Longton firm may have been related to the Philadelphia crockery-importing firm of James Tams, in business from 1818-1840. This is one of the many Philadelphia views produced on Blue Transfer Ware from various English pottery firms during the nineteenth century.

These are just two of the locations the society had procured as it made its rounds throughout the city. Many more to come in future issues.

Educational Support Spotlight

St. James School

George Tyndall

For those members who are not as familiar with our relationship with St. James School, I will give you a brief background and how this all began.

As my wife Ronna and I were members of the St. James school board, we thought it would be a meaningful decision to support the school in some way. As one of our society's missions is education and providing assistance to those in need, it seemed a perfect way to expand our outreach through other avenues aside from our normal relationship with Arcadia University. It was approved that we would make our Christmas Festival a support function for St. James School, so we partnered with The English-Speaking Union. We therefore held our Christmas Dinner along with



our traditional church service at various Episcopal Parishes throughout the diocese. The first two years, 2012 and 2013 were held at St. James followed by 2014 at St. Mark's Locust Street and The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2015 Church of St. Martin in the Fields, 2016 Christ Church, 2017 St. Paul's Chestnut Hill, and 2018 St. Mary's Ardmore.

All in all we raised a quarter of a million dollars for the school and also raised some funds for The Society of St. George and The English Speaking Union. As all good things run their course, we are now renewing our relationship again with different parishes and our society will donate a portion of our ticket price along with any other donations to the school. This year, December 9th our service and dinner will be held at Church of St. Asaph in Bala Cynwyd.

At St. James School, they are making sure that our students experience as much of what the world has to offer as possible. Here are some updates.

What's New at St. James School?

In its 13th year, thanks to the generosity of partners like you, they have grown from an inaugural class of 15 fifth graders to thriving middle school serving 88 students in grades 4-8, 141 graduates in high school, college and career pathways and hundreds of student families and community members. The goal is to increase educational equity within the Allegheny West neighborhood.

Each student receives a full scholarship that provides the same level of education offered at private schools across the region. Students often lack basic supports that are taken for granted—things like quality medical care, instrument lessons, and sports—which they are able to provide thanks to these scholarships.

Recent accomplishments include:

- Graduating class of 2023's 18 students attending selective group of high schools in the area; five attending boarding schools (Westtown School, Church Farm School) with our first graduate to attend The Baldwin School
- Our 71 high school aged graduates attending 27 high schools across the region
- Classes of 2015-2019 attend 15 colleges and universities including like Howard, West Chester, and La Salle
- 88% of graduates have earned their high school diploma (61/69) and we follow students who have yet to secure theirs
- Partnership with the non-profit Black Girls Love Math (BGLM), offering twice weekly afternoon enrichment to increase number of Black girls in STEM careers.
- Music program grew with addition of The St. James School Concert Band; 35 of 85 students participated this year
- After school enrichment program held Monday - Thursday; students can select from topics like lacrosse, karate, World Explorers Geography Club, Garden Club, Improv Theatre Group, ballroom dancing, and song writing.
- John Macon III, a member of the St. James School Class of 2017 and current junior at Valencia College recently observed, "Students only know what they experience."

Calendar of Events



- December 9** Christmas Celebration
The Church of St. Asaph
- February 22** The Annual Meeting
Corinthian Yacht Club
- April 20** St. George's Day Dinner
The Philadelphia Club
- October** Pub Night
Stoney's Pub
- December 7** Christmas Celebration



Representing St. George

One of the perks of being a Society President in Philadelphia is being invited to represent your society at other organization's annual events. St. George reciprocates by inviting the heads of the local societies to our annual St. George's Day Dinner. Pictured above is St. George Society President Rich Booker along with his wife Pattie at the 259th anniversary dinner of The German Society of Pennsylvania. They are joined by St. George members Mr. and Mrs. Hans Klotzback and Mr. and Mrs. Gene McWilliams representing The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

SOCIETY *Merchandise*



Winter Cap
\$35



Blazer Patch
\$40



250th Anniversary
Challenge Coin
\$20



Small Medal \$30
Collar Medal \$45



Rosette
\$15



Neck
Ties
\$35



Flag Pin
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