

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE SOCIETY
OF ST. GEORGE,
PHILADELPHIA

The Dragon

FALL 2024

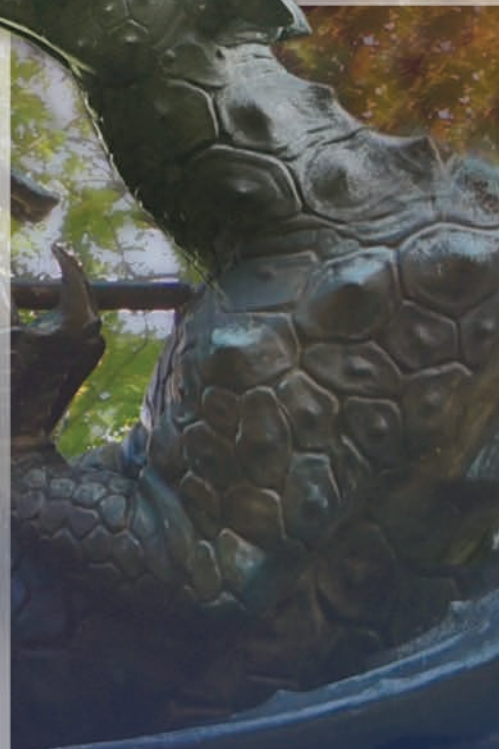


The
SOCIETY
of
ST. GEORGE
PHILADELPHIA
1772

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings, Members of the Society of St. George

As we enter the autumnal, and this year an election season, my attentions have been drawn to the ongoing controversy surrounding censorship in the United Kingdom, as well as our own country.

Inextricably intertwined with censorship is the omnipresent issue of “canceling” or repressing speech, sometimes about topics that would not have been in the slightest bit controversial ten years ago.

For example, just last month an English TV host (BBC presenter Katie Derham) made negative comments about the popular English patriotic song “Rule, Britannia!” and described the song as “incredibly problematic.” This type of attack on a historical patriotic English song is part of the “cancel culture” that is pervasive in England and America; and which is ultimately designed to curtail our right to free speech and public expression.

Nick Dutt, Chairman of the Royal Society of St George (RSSG), explained the significance of the song, saying: “The song comes from the 18th-century English composer Thomas Arne’s opera, Alfred, a saga of our country’s resistance to Danish invasion during the time of King Alfred the Great. It’s a song about the Royal Navy and [is a] clarion call for Britons to defy tyranny and defend freedom.”

As American members of the Society of St. George, we should always support the rights of citizens of the United Kingdom to freely express their opinions in public, so long as they allow the same time and space to opposing viewpoints. We should not desecrate the historical patriotic underpinnings of our country or those of the U.K. Not all agree these days.

Police and politicians in England often wrongly look to censorship to solve social problems. So was the case this past August amid protests and civil unrest across England and Northern Ireland related to the airing of a

controversial documentary. In response, police quickly sought to quell the discord through censorship.

While police must act against threats, violence, vandalism, and other crimes, they should be careful to protect free speech while cracking down on illegal conduct. Unfortunately, this incident is some indication that officials in England are not always inspiring confidence about their ability to do so.

After the passage of a new law in England, even arrests over online posts are underway, with police officers now being designated for purposes of scouring social media, looking for internet users who may be resharing or posting material about this incident.

One commentator named Sarah McLaughlin, wrote about this recently (<https://shorturl.at/DgFld>). She states that “as with many censorship controversies these days, the effects aren’t necessarily limited to the originating country’s borders. In an Aug. 7 interview, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mark Rowley suggested police are also looking at online speech outside of the U.K.”

McLaughlin quotes Rowley as saying “. . . whether you’re in this country committing crimes on the streets or committing crimes from further afield online, we will come after you.”

It was the aggressive enforcement of laws limiting natural rights like this, that lead our forefathers to break away from their mother country. Recently, however, in our own country, there are many who wish to curtail our free speech rights online.

I am thankful that in America we recognize the right to free speech as a natural right, given by God, and not able to be taken away by any government. May it always remain so.

Best regards, and may God save us and keep us, as we look towards another national election that will undoubtedly shape the course of our right to free speech, and the future of our American experiment.

Richard F. Booker, Esq.



CELEBRATING TRADITION

THE ANNUAL ST. GEORGE’S DAY DINNER 2024

On April 20, 2024, The Philadelphia Club played host to the much anticipated annual St. George’s Day Dinner. This year’s event was a resounding success, bringing together 60 esteemed guests for an evening of camaraderie, tradition, and British charm.

A NIGHT OF APPRECIATION

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Patron level attendees, whose generous support helps keep this cherished tradition alive:

- Chuck and Judy Barber
- Rich and Pattie Booker
- Matthew Gilbert
- James MacFarlane
- Frank and Susan O’Donnell
- Bill Thompson
- George and Ronna Tyndall

A special thank you goes to our event sponsor, Fiduciary Trust International, for their invaluable contribution to the evening’s success.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENING

The dinner featured two distinguished speakers who added depth and intrigue to the proceedings:

Pat Dailey provided an enlightening update on The Tun Tavern, offering guests a glimpse into the rich history of this iconic establishment. As a special treat, attendees received a unique gift: a reproduction of an 18th-century coin, serving as tangible link to our shared past.

Oliver St. Clair Franklin CBE graced the event with his presence, delivering the latest news and insights on British affairs and the Royal Family. His commentary added a touch of regal flair to the evening.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETIES

Our tradition of inviting the heads of other Philadelphia Societies added to the evenings camaraderie. The societies with representation were British Officers Club, Daughters of The British Empire, The English-Speaking Union, Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, Daughters of the British Empire, and St. Andrew’s Society. They were led in by piper William Watson and introduced to the guests.

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

The Philadelphia Club once again proved to be the perfect setting for this elegant affair. The ambiance, coupled with delightful company and stimulating conversation, created an unforgettable experience for all in attendance.

As we reflect on another successful St. George’s Day Dinner, we’re reminded of the enduring bonds that connect us to our heritage and to each other. We look forward to continuing this beloved tradition in the years to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR’S CELEBRATION ON APRIL 26, 2025, AND JOIN US IN HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ST. GEORGE!







OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION

On Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season with a service of Lessons and Carols in the Anglican tradition at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill.

The choir is one of the best in the Philadelphia area, and with the major renovation of the magnificent pipe organ having just been completed, it will be a wonderful introduction to the holidays that has always been a major part of the season in this area. We will share the service with their congregation and all the many people that turn out for this beautiful service.

Following the service, we will celebrate together with cocktails and dinner in the warm and cozy fireplace room of the Flourtown branch of The Philadelphia Cricket Club.

Be sure to put this on the calendar so we can all celebrate in grand style!



AN AFTERNOON AT STONEY'S

We are delighted to extend a cordial invitation to you Sunday, November 17 starting at 4pm. Join fellow members at 3007 Concord Pike in Wilmington, DE, for an afternoon of authentic British cuisine. We are thrilled to announce that the owner, Mike Stone, will be joining us during this fall afternoon gathering.

"My Mum always made it a point to make her four kids homemade meals using the freshest ingredients. Here I use all my Mum's recipes, I make this food the same way she made it, from scratch, in our kitchen at home in England. I will always insist on using the finest freshest ingredients in crafting these homemade meals and I hope it shows on your plate."

Additional Details Cost is a la carte (guests will be billed separately). For a great variety of British fare, please visit StoneysPub.com. Please dress casual! We kindly request that you **RSVP to Judith at stgeorgephiladelphia@gmail.com by November 12** to ensure we can make appropriate arrangements. We look forward to seeing you for this delightful afternoon of good food and great company!





Mick Jagger Rocks The Statue!

This June, St. George had a visit by one of the world's best rock performers, Mick Jagger, who appeared in front of our statue on Martin Luther King Drive in Fairmount Park. The surprise visit was featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Nice choice that he skipped the Rocky statue and instead made his way to our statue for a quick Instagram shot. He was here for a concert that took place at Lincoln Financial Field. Your rockin' our statue Mick! Hope we can catch you for another visit.

NEW PLANTINGS AT THE STATUE

The St. George Statue received a major visual improvement in June. After several prior clean up days — which included Bill and Alyson Thompson, Chuck Barber, Greg Edwards, Michael and Marita Poxon, Judith Francis and George Tyndall — the bedding area around the base of the statue could be panted. Thanks to a generous donation from Ken LeRoy of John B. Ward Arborists — who did major trimming of the surrounding trees to the statue so it can be better seen in its park setting — we were ready to move ahead with the border enhancement.

Joe Ascenzi, owner of Laurel Hill Gardens in Chestnut Hill, was contracted to construct the approximately 70 linear feet of bedding border, a Belgian Block set in concrete. Twelve New Generation Freedom boxwoods were planted, three at each of the four corners of the bed. To maintain the plantings throughout the hot summer, Jamie Healy (also of Laurel Hill Gardens) was hired to water throughout the summer.

Liriope was planted recently to fill in between the boxwood. The low grass-like flowering plant from East and Southeast Asia helps complete the project, and our statue finally has an enhancement that it deserves. Look forward to an announcement for a celebration around the statue this spring.



ST. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

RECENTLY APPROVED SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO STUDY IN
ENGLAND THIS FALL

GARRETT MARSHALL HARDT

Through the Arcadia Abroad Study Program in London, Garrett left the United States for only the second time in his life. His five years of Latin study and a year of learning Chinese heightened his interest in learning about other cultures which lead him to this program. His genealogical research found that his ancestors left England in the 17th Century and he was able to trace this and therefore qualify for the St. George Scholarship. He will be studying at The Arcadia London Center located in the Bloomsbury area of London for a total of 16 credits.

EMILIA ANNE HALL

As a history major with a linguistics minor, Emilia thought England would be a great place to study, filled with many resources. Her father and his siblings spent some of their childhood in England and their stories have compelled her to learn more about the differences in their upbringing. Her love of museums and history along with her family ties is what excites her about the program. Her application included photos of her great great grandfather, James Potter (1786-1876), confirming her British lineage qualifying her to apply for the scholarship.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences!



Will Forbes, Steve Darlington, Tench Forbes, George Tyndall,
Tim Hennessey, Mark Lanyon

THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS AT NEWLIN GRIST MILL

Members of the society were invited to the annual barbecue for the Society of Colonial Wars. The event included catered food, tours of the property, including the newly built water wheel. Several members of the St. George Society attended, some whose membership overlap with The Society of Colonial Wars.

The Newlin Grist Mill and the surrounding 160-acre park is a place for exploration of both history and the environment. It features a working grist mill, public programs, and over 8 miles of nature trails. Whether you are involved in preservation, education, outdoor recreation, or just relaxing, there is something for you.

In the winter 1682/83, Nicholas Newlin and his family landed in Upland (adjacent to Chester, PA), newly arrived from Ireland and seeking religious and economic opportunities. The family settled in Concord Township and began building a new life for themselves. In 1704, Nicholas' son Nathaniel constructed a grist mill now known as the Newlin Grist Mill. The mill served its community as a source for grinding grains and strengthened the economy by exporting products to international markets around the world.

Until 1941, the mill continued to grind grains and sell flour products under several different owners (Newlin, Trimble, Sharpless, and Hill). Each generation of owner also updated machinery and expanded the building to meet the needs of the time. These changes can be seen in the construction and landscape of the Newlin Grist Mill.

JUNE VISIT TO PRINCE EDWARD



On the lovely summer day of June 8, along with Lady Patricia Moynihan, we had the privilege of visiting HRH at his home in Bagshot Park, a section of the Great Windsor Park and a former hunting ground of British sovereigns. I was fortunate to persuade Lady Moynihan to drive because one takes a local train to Bagshot village and a taxi ride to the manor. The royal residence, a large brick and stone mansion, has 120 rooms. Prince Henry came to Bagshot Lodge in 1609, and subsequent kings and their families used it until 1879 when the present mansion was completed. While the architecture is controversial, it is the most adventurous royal house created since the death of Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria, with lovely grounds and gardens.

We were met by Brigadier Alex Potts, the Principal Private

Secretary to Their Royal Highness The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh who led us into the home where HRH awaited us for a sit down visit. The subject was the next royal visit to Philadelphia to dedicate the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden at 3rd Walnut Street. During the Bicentennial, the queen gifted this city and the American people a replica, although larger, of the Liberty Bell. This bell was created by The Whitechapel Foundry that also made our Liberty Bell. The queen's bell hung in the belfry of the old visitors center which was demolished for the Museum of the American Revolution. The bell was put in storage. The Independence Historic Trust negotiated with the US Park Service to create the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden. The trust raised funds to refurbish the bell and for the design and maintenance of the garden. It's beautiful.

HRH will visit New York and Philadelphia between April 27 - May 3rd. I will return to St. James's Palace, the Duke's London office on 13th November to work out the final details. The Independence Historic Trust will program the dedication and host a gala dinner in the Duke's honor. Other visits on the royal agenda are to the Simeone Car Museum, Philadelphia Youth Basketball, The First City Troop, The Charles Library at Temple and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Program. This preliminary schedule will expand and contract as we know how much time we'll have to host HRH.

Philadelphians have made a very positive impression on HRH. This will be his third visit here. I hope the Society of St. George will be in the forefront of the planning of this visit.

So after two hours of discussing the great issues of the day and receiving a first hand history of Great Windsor Park, Lady Moynihan and I took our leave. The Duke admired her 1983 Bentley convertible. Among other things, Prince Edward is a sports car aficionado. He'll enjoy the Simeone Car Museum.



IN 2026, THE UNITED STATES IS CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COUNTRY'S FOUNDING.

Sometimes referred to as the semiquincentennial celebration, national, state, and local organizations have been created to plan for and implement programs related to this event. Earlier this year, the leadership of The Society of St. George decided that we should design and host our own activities to commemorate this important occasion. To accomplish this task, the board created an America 250 committee chaired by Gregg Edwards. The Board also voted to join the America 250 Pennsylvania state organization as a Non-Profit Affiliate. At its first meeting, the committee adopted planning goals, which the St. George Board subsequently approved.

THE GOALS ARE:

- Plan and implement one substantive program activity and one social event. The programmatic activity may be one activity or event or may be a series of activities/events. The social event will be fun, festive and family friendly
- Incorporate in all 2025 and 2026 St. George events an America 250 celebratory
- Include in the 2026 St. George's Day Dinner an America 250 theme

- Ensure that America 250 programs and events provide the collateral benefits of gaining public recognition for St. George and for recruiting new members

Because the committee believes that potential venues for a 2026 social event will be in great demand, it has focused its early work on designing and scheduling the event for the late spring/early summer of 2026. The committee also is communicating with St. George's sister heritage groups. The purpose of this contact is to share plans for America 250 events and to assess interest in jointly hosting events.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THIS EFFORT AND/OR HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE PROGRAMS, THE COMMITTEE IS EAGER TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Gregg Edwards

American 250 Committee Chair
gmedwards1@comcast.net

Diane Canning

Evie Giegerich

Frank O'Donnell

T. Michael Poxon

George Tyndall

Bill Wright



Main Website America250.org • **Pennsylvania** America250pa.org

New Jersey RevNJ.org • **Philadelphia** Philadelphia250.us

The Non-Profit Affiliates, including St. George America250pa.org/Nonprofit_Affiliates

Save the Date



The Tun™ Groundbreaking and Marine Corps Birthday Block Party

Sunday, November 10, 2024

10 a.m. Groundbreaking
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Block Party

*Rain or shine

19 S. 2nd Street in Philadelphia's Old City

What to expect on the site of the future Tun™:

- Participate in our Groundbreaking Ceremony with an appearance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps
- Live Music and DJ
- Birthday Cake Celebration
- Food & Beverage Tents
- Exclusive party package (including a commemorative bag, wristband, mug, and more)
- Family Friendly Activities



Society of
St. George
1772

Pennsylvania
Freemasons
1731

St. Andrew's
Society
1747

The Friendly Sons &
Daughters of St. Patrick
1771

United States
Marine Corps
1775

United States
Navy
1775

Come celebrate with us as we honor the rich history of the organizations with a heritage at the historic Tun Tavern!

Join us in preserving our legacy and history for future generations.

TUN TAVERN UPDATE

The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation is excited and proud to announce the groundbreaking for the rebuilding of The Tun Tavern, the early meeting place of The Society of St. George! Our nearly three year quest to reestablish “The Tun” very near its original location has been more than a challenge, but we are on our way to recreating the iconic tavern where the Society of St. George’s earliest meetings and fundraising dinners were held, and once more provide the Society, one of the six existing organizations with a heritage at The Tun, with private meeting and banquet spaces.

The Board of The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation (TTLF) invites members of the Society of St. George to join us at the fundraising gala this November 9 at the Masonic Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania’s Temple at 1 N. Broad Street in Philadelphia. This black-tie fundraising gala will be memorable for not only the items available for purchase at the Silent Auction, but also for the celebrity guests who will be in attendance! Tickets to support the reconstruction of the Society’s birthplace can be purchased for a donation here: TheTun.org/inaugural-gala-event.

Progress on this project has been significant in the last six months. Land on which to build the tavern was acquired in early 2024 at a cost of \$4.3 million. The chosen location at 19 S. 2nd Street is less than 200 meters from the tavern’s original location, which is now under Interstate 95. A \$1,000,000 donation was made by a retired U.S. Marine businessman, and an additional \$1,000,000 challenge pledge was made

by another retired Marine businessman. The Society of St. Andrew donated \$300,000, significantly contributing to our ability to purchase the land, and Ballinger Architects will supply us with the completed drawings for The Tun by November 30, 2024. Pennoni Engineers has completed the environmental and geo-tech testing requirements, and Cultural and Historical requirements were completed with the help of Ballinger Architects, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. of Cranbury, N.J., and the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Completing all of these steps allowed us to submit our Zoning application by mid-September 2024 and we have been advised that in the absence of any significant issues we can expect a Building Permit by February 2025.

All of this has led us to plan a groundbreaking ceremony that coincides with the birthday of another organization with historical ties to Tun Tavern: the United States Marine Corps. The Board of the TTLF invites families of the Society of St. George to attend the Groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, November 10 2024 at 19 S. 2nd Street (S. 2nd & Market). 2nd Street will be closed between Market and Walnut Streets for the festivities. The ceremony will include a performance by the



Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps from Washington, DC and Quaker City String Band from Philadelphia! The ceremony and following Street Party runs from 10:00am to 6:00pm on Sunday, November 10th and is FREE and open to the public. It is hoped that a strong turnout by members of the Society for this 10:00 AM ceremony will allow us to demonstrate that as one of the first organizations to meet in Tun Tavern, The Society of St. George is a valued partner in rebuilding what promises to be one of the most famous landmarks in Philadelphia! **Patrick F. Dailey, President & Founder Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation, Inc. and Society Member**

Special thanks to Fiduciary Trust International for underwriting a portion of the 2024 St. George’s Day Dinner





**Primary Program Manager
Jennifer Raymond**

25 Years



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

Justin Ennis, Executive Director, Philadelphia Outward Bound School

The Philadelphia Outward Bound School, a proud beneficiary of the St. George’s Society’s charitable work, continues to serve dozens of students from across the Philadelphia region working within the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award program. The “D of E” award, as it is known colloquially, was founded in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, drawing on the educational philosophies of Kurt Hahn, a German educator — and founder of Outward Bound — known for his emphasis on character development through adventure and service. The award program was designed to encourage personal growth and skill development among young people, promoting physical fitness, community service, and outdoor exploration.

POBS is the Philadelphia regional partner of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and provides mentorship

to students in the program as they set goals and make progress; Outward Bound expeditions can often satisfy the “Adventurous Journey” core award requirement. Additionally, funding from the St. George’s Society allows POBS to subsidize activity fees and travel costs for participants who would not otherwise be able to afford them. Many of the students enrolled in the program attend public school in Philadelphia.

In June 2024, the primary program manager of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award program at POBS, the Trinidad-born Jennifer Raymond, received the second-ever “Founders’ Award” at POBS’s Trailblazers Gala at The Discovery Center in Fairmount Park. This award was given in honor of Jennifer’s 25 years of extraordinary service to and mentorship of young people at Outward Bound, including her patient, creative, and persistent work with its Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants.

Submitted by John Frisbee, Director of Development, Philadelphia Outward Bound

KING RICHARD III'S GRAVE WAS DISCOVERED UNDERNEATH A PARKING LOT

Many English monarchs are buried inside ornate tombs located at sites of great reverence. The same can't be said for Richard III, whose long-lost remains were found and excavated underneath a parking lot in Leicester, England. Richard III served as king of England from 1483 until he was slain at the Battle of Bosworth Field on August 22, 1485. After the battle, his remains were brought to a nearby friary in Leicester that was operated by the Franciscans. He was buried inside, but the building was torn down in 1538. Centuries of new construction thereafter transformed the city's layout, and the exact location of Richard III's grave was lost in the annals of time.

In 1975, a researcher named Audrey Strange published an article theorizing that Richard III could be buried under a parking lot used by the Leicester City Council. In 2012, a team of researchers at the University of Leicester took it upon themselves to find the monarch's body once and for all, honing in on that very car park. After just six hours of digging, the king's remains were uncovered, though it took five months of further analysis to confirm the bones belonged to Richard III. The grave they discovered was oddly short in length, with

Richard's head and torso crammed in tightly at one end. There was also no evidence of a shroud or any personal ornaments, suggesting the king had been hastily buried without fanfare. In 2015, Richard III's remains were finally reinterred at Leicester Cathedral.

GEORGE WASHINGTON APPROVED A PLAN TO KIDNAP THE FUTURE KING OF ENGLAND.

William IV served as king of Great Britain from 1830 until 1837, succeeding his brother George IV. But decades earlier, in 1779, the 13-year-old future monarch, then known as Prince William Henry, enlisted in the British navy as a midshipman.

Two years later, William's ship arrived in New York Harbor, coincidentally making him the only member of the royal family to visit the continent during the American Revolutionary War. Word of William's arrival spread among members of the Continental Army, who devised a scheme to kidnap the young prince so he could be used as leverage in future treaty discussions. Colonel Samuel Ogden presented the idea to General George Washington, who approved the plan, saying, "You have my authority to make the attempt in any manner and at such a time as your judgment shall direct." Ultimately, the plot never came to fruition; William safely returned home and eventually ascended to the English throne.





CHRIST CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA

Christ Church, Philadelphia, is one of the city’s oldest and most historic churches and has a history closely intertwined with the Society of Saint George. The church was founded in 1695 as a parish of the Church of England in the colonial-era Province of Pennsylvania. The Society was founded in 1772, also in the colonial period, to provide for the legal, medical and spiritual “assistance of Englishmen in distress” in the port of Philadelphia, which had become the second largest city in the English-speaking world.

The strong relationship with Christ Church helped fulfill the Society’s spiritual mandate. Our founding president, the Rev. Richard Peters, was the rector of Christ Church. Many of our founding officers, including Vice President Robert Morris, were congregants, as well as many early Society members. In October of 1772, the Rt. Rev. William White, a future rector of Christ Church, the first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and the first Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, was elected a member and continued his connection with the Society up to the time of his death in 1836, a period of 64 years. In that tradition, the Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, the current Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, has agreed to be our Honorary Chaplain,

On April 22, 2023 we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the society with an evensong service at Christ Church. So continues our 252-year relationship with Christ Church.

Christ Church is one of the society’s charitable partners. We have made an annual commitment to their music program. Please join us in supporting this centuries-old relationship.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS COMMITTEE SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA FUNDRAISER

The evening was magical! On Sunday, September 29, 85 guests gathered at The Highlands Mansion and Gardens in Ft. Washington, PA, to celebrate and support Special Olympics. Members of The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Philadelphia, The Australian Society, British Officers Club, Barbados Society, Caribbean Festival & Cultural Committee, Council of Indian Organizations, Daughters of the British Empire, The English-Speaking Union, The Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, Miss Caribbean Beauty Pageant Organization, The Oxford & Cambridge Society, Royal Heritage Society, St. Andrew’s Society, Scotch-Irish Society, Society of St. George, Team Jamaica Bickle, and The Welsh Society (list incomplete) celebrated their organizations work while raising money for a good cause.

Executive Director Jon Blitzler of Special Olympics PA spoke about the organization as well as two of the athletes, Matthew Francis and Kyle Sheaff who shared with the attendees what being part of Special Olympics means to them. Other athletes and their parents from the South Philly Wildcats joined in the celebration. There was a silent auction and raffles, live music by Rick’s Office Band and an excellent menu provided by PTG Caterers to add to the celebration.

The program included an energetic Master of Ceremonies, Michelle Tulloch Niel, honored guests, Oliver St. Clair Franklin, CBE, Honorary Consul General, and Christopher Chaplin, Jamaica’s honorary Consul in Philadelphia and President, Consular Corps, Philadelphia. They provided toasts along with George Tyndall. The Invocation was provided by founder/pastor, The Living Church at Philadelphia, Reverend Christopher Nielson.

We are excited to announce that the event raised \$6,000 for Special Olympics Pennsylvania and a check will be presented to them in October. For more information about the participating Commonwealth organizations, please visit PhillyBrit.org. For more information on the charity, visit specialolympicspa.org and more information about The Highlands Mansion and Gardens, visit HighlandsHistorical.org. *Together, we can create a more inclusive world for all!*



MOVEABLE FEAST

George Tyndall

This is part three in a series of articles on the various dinner and meeting locations where the Society of St. George (*formerly the Society of the Sons of St. George*) held events throughout the city of Philadelphia since its inception in the 18th century.

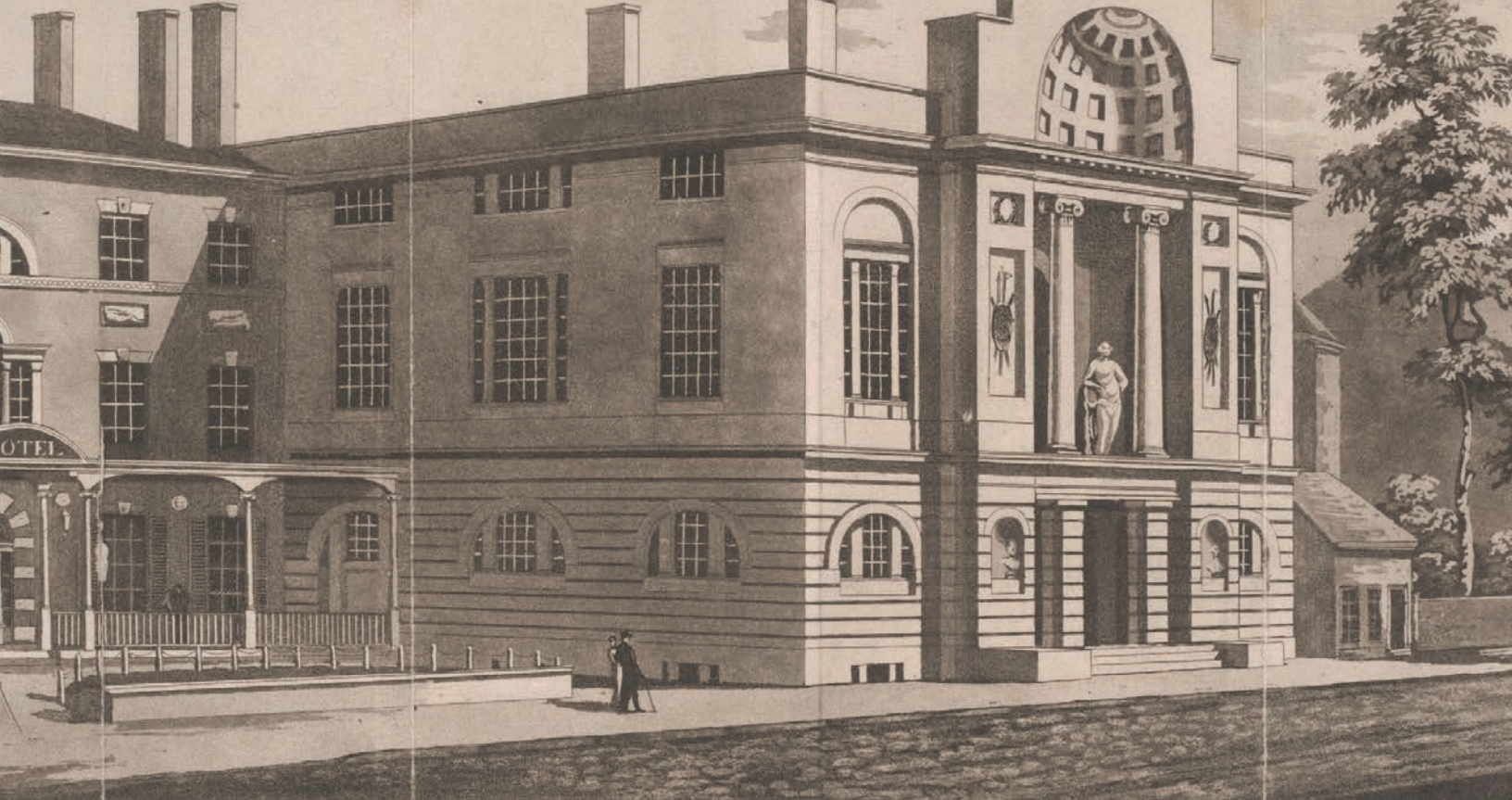
The dinner locations are not necessarily in exact chronological order based on the availability and ease of information at the time of creating this historical sketch.



THE MANSION HOUSE HOTEL MUST HAVE BEEN A POPULAR VENUE FOR THE ST. GEORGE MEMBERS IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

Meetings and dinners were held there July 1806, July 1813, January 1824 and April 1830 at the Third and Spruce location.

The building was constructed in 1788 as the residence for Senator William Bingham (1752- 1804) and his beautiful wife, Ann Willing (1764-1801). It was a three acre estate next to Powell House. It was considered one of the five largest homes in America consisting of 18,000 square feet of space built in the neoclassical style.



As leading socialites, William and Ann were the center for fashionable society, hosting the first masquerade ball to be held in Philadelphia. Not only were the Bingham's glamorous but also very wealthy and William was considered the richest man in America at the age of 28 around the time of the signing of The Declaration of Independence.

In 1782, the Bingham's departed for a tour of Europe which gave them some insight on what kind of home they would build. The chosen architect was John Plaw (1745-1820) and he based the design on Hertford House, the Duke of Manchester's London townhouse. It stood three stories high, measuring 100 feet across and 60 feet in depth. It was set back from the sidewalk and had a circular driveway fronting Third Street.

Not only did the Bingham's get inspiration for the design of the house from their trip, but returned with exquisite furnishings, paintings, and marble statues; but also shipped Coade stone for the external medallions, entablatures, key stones and moldings.

Gardens in the rear of the house covered 3 acres all laid out in the English style and contained one of the most extensive array of fruit trees in Philadelphia. The perimeter of the garden was surrounded by a high iron fence and lined with Lombardy Poplars imported from England. They even had two fawn deers that were gifted to them and grazed the garden. There were outbuildings that included an ice house, milk house, stables, and a greenhouse with more than 500 varieties of exotic plants and flowers.

The layout of the house was in the fashionable London

style with the best rooms on the second floor, consisting of the drawing room, ballroom, parlor, and Mrs Bingham's boudoir and state bedchamber. The third floor and wings were for the staff. The ground floor was for receiving and dining with four reception rooms a majestic staircase and in the rear a library and dining room. There was plenty of mahogany and marble with wainscoting and cornices throughout.

Their distinguished guests included George Washington, and Alexander Hamilton, along with King Louis-Philippe I of France and his two brothers. The king fell in love with the Bingham's youngest daughter, Abby Willing.

Despite the charmed life the Bingham's had between their Philadelphia home and their country mansion, Lansdowne House, they were not destined for long lives. In 1801, after the birth of their third child, Ann passed away. Within a year of her death, William left his Philadelphia home and headed to Bath, England, and never returned to Philadelphia. He was said to have died of a broken heart.

One year after the death of William, the Bingham Mansion was put up for sale with its contents sold at auction. The garden was sold off in lots and replaced with fine three story townhouses. Mr. John Brinton purchased the mansion and converted it into a hotel, known as Mansion House. It was repaired in 1823 after a fire after which we had our third meeting there in 1824, and then again in 1847 another fire occurred until the building was razed circa 1850. Yet another sad ending to a master piece of Philadelphia architecture.



New 4th graders during the Opening Doors Ceremony in September

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

ST. JAMES SCHOOL

David Kasievich

Now in our 14th year, St. James School is grateful to the Society of St. George for their many years of support. Thanks to the generosity of partners like you, we have grown from an inaugural class of 15 fifth graders to a thriving middle school serving 94 students in grades 4 - 8, 145 graduates in high school, college and career pathways and hundreds of student families and community members. St. James School's mission is to increase educational equity within the Allegheny West neighborhood of North Philadelphia, leveraging whole-child education to transform students' lives and uplift the community as a whole.

Each St. James School student receives a full scholarship to attend the school. The scholarship provides each student with the same level of education offered by the finest private schools across the region. Our students often lack basic supports that are taken for granted, such as quality medical, dental and mental health care and enrichments such as instrument lessons and opportunities to learn and play various sports. St. James School scholarships provide these supports which enable our students to succeed in all areas of life as they grow.

Significant recent accomplishments include:

- The 18 students in the graduating class of 2024 are attending a selective group of high schools in the Philadelphia area such as Mercy Career and Technical High School, William

Penn Charter School, Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti Catholic High School, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, Ligouri Academy, Roman Catholic High School, with 3 students attending boarding schools, our first graduate attending The Milton Hershey School

- In total, our 72 high-school aged graduates are attending 29 different high schools across the region.
- Our class of 2020 are attending Culinary Institute of America, Howard University, Berea College, Widener University, La Salle University, Neumann University, Widener University, MOORE College of Arts, Orleans Technical College, Orleans Technical College, Neumann University and Widener University

In addition to the school, St. James offers The Welcome Table as a resource to our entire community. The goal of The Welcome Table is not just about helping people survive, it's about helping individuals thrive. The first goal for this project will be to address the food insecurity within our community. We achieve this by providing our community members with poultry, meat and produce in a dignified and uplifting fashion through our three Farmer's Markets as described above. The second goal is to provide our community members with access to the resources and services they need in order to thrive. Our Adult Education, legal aid, home repair, and micro-lending programs are key to this goal. Community members learn of these services at our three Farmer's Markets and through community advertising. We are now serving 25% more people than this time last year. Our goal is to support the resilience and strength of our community by offering the resources that will lead to growth and prosperity. We are currently serving 130-150 families a week through our three Farmer's



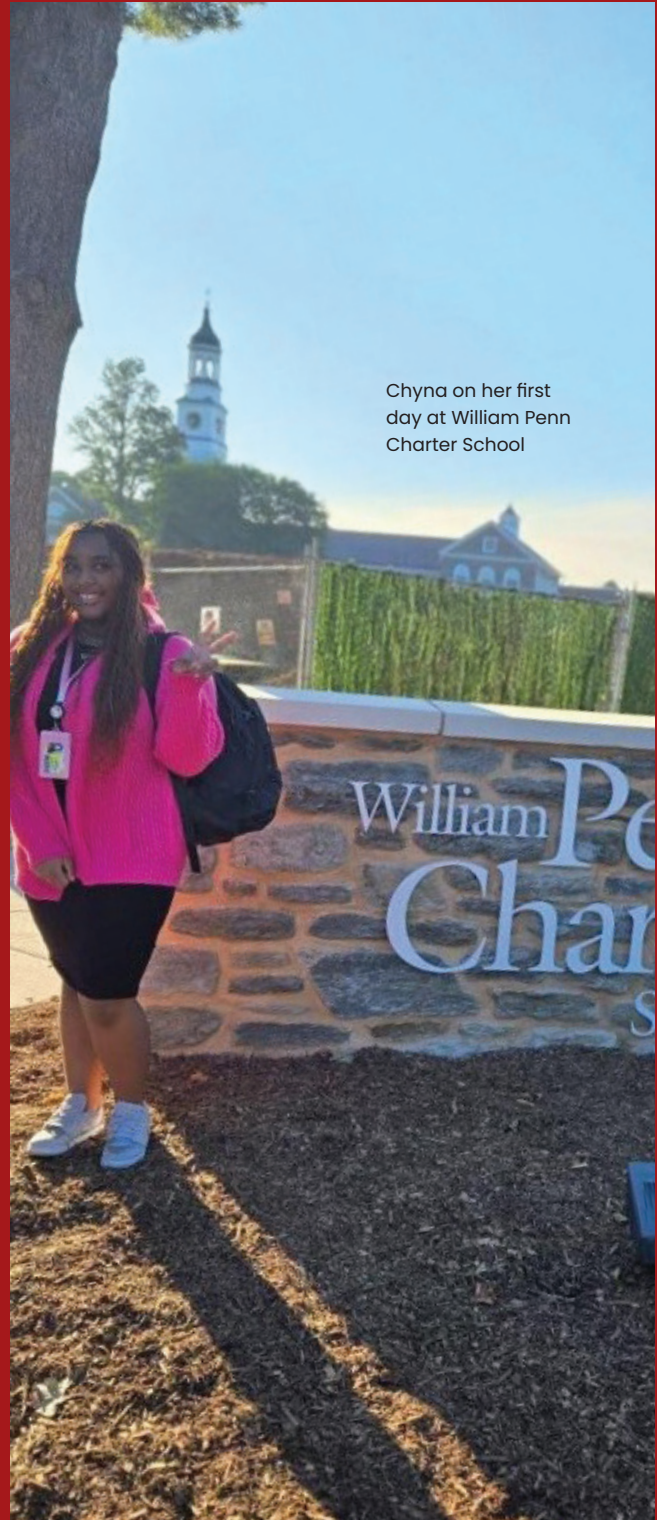
Zack and Tristan moving in at Church Farm School

Markets; this translates to approximately 600 men, women and children a week.

This year, we expanded the services we offer our students because of our commitment to holistic learning. The Wellness Center at St. James provides relationship-based care reflecting the school's commitment to a 'Whole Community, Whole School and Whole Child' model. The trauma-informed paradigm is implemented at the organizational level to recognize, understand, and address learning and health needs of students and others impacted by traumatic stress. Our students have access to preventive primary care services on campus, sick care, physical and mental health screening, diagnosis, treatment, referrals, case management, flu vaccines, dental care, and mental health services, in partnership with parents and guardians.

This year at St. James, we have added a new position, Director of Community Art & Environmental Initiatives. Already this has had an incredible impact at St. James. We are now able to offer art classes in every grade level, afterschool art enrichments, and expanded community classes at The Welcome Table's Adult Education Center. For All Souls' Day, we will read a necrology from handcrafted paper from pressed

marigold. Students tended to the mourning flower in our on-campus garden, picked the petals during recess, pressed flowers during afterschool art enrichment, and finally collected names of loved ones in their community who passed on. This position has allowed the Church of St. James the Less to physically include art from each corner of our neighborhood and will continue to nourish the creative life of our community.



Chyna on her first day at William Penn Charter School

A MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE

IT IS A VERY SAD TIME WHEN WE LOSE CHERISHED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR ST. GEORGE SOCIETY. THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND FRIENDSHIP.



EDWIN N. CONROY

Joined as a life member in 2003. He along with his wife Jean were always present and participated in all our events with enthusiasm.

DR. JACK J. EARLY

Joined in 2016 and lived in Louisville, KY

MARY MARVIN

Wife of our past president Jim Marvin, both always present with a warm and engaging personality.



STEWART C. PATRICK

Joined as a life member 2004 and also served as a president of The British Officers Club.

BARBARA PRESCOTT

Wife of David Prescott our long and dedicated society treasurer.

BILL ROBERTS

Husband of Jean Roberts, past president of The Welsh Society, a fantastic architect and watercolorist.



WILLIAM J. D. JORDAN

Joined in 2020 and was a longtime dedicated treasurer of The English-Speaking Union.



RALPH E. OWEN

Joined in 1991 was a faithful attendee along with his wife and son and served as a steward for the society.



EDWIN N. H. PROBERT

A longtime member joined as a life member in 1977 and will be remembered for his wit and jovial manor. He was a well-loved professor at Germantown Academy.



RONALD E. ROBINSON, ESQ.

Ron joined the society in 1984 and served as president in 1998 and 1999. He was a lawyer an avid golfer and he loved the St. George Society. He was 91 years old and passed away on August 18, 2024.

Let light perpetual shine upon them and give them rest.



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 10, 2024 Tun Tavern Groundbreaking

Sunday, November 17, 2024 An Afternoon at Stoney's

Sunday, December 15, 2024 Christmas Event

February 20, 2025 Annual Meeting

April 26, 2025 St. George's Day Dinner

SOCIETY *Merchandise*



Winter Cap
\$35



Blazer Patch
\$40



250th Anniversary
Challenge Coin
\$20



Small Medal \$30
Collar Medal \$45



Rosette
\$15



Neck
Ties
\$35



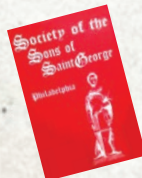
Flag Pin
\$15



250th Gala
Booklet
\$10



Cummerbund
\$30



Historical Booklet Own your copy of this softbound version of the 1923 book covering the history of The Society of the Sons of St. George for a suggested donation of \$25 or more (plus \$10 for shipping and handling).

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