

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Saint Andrew's Society Records

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Records

Call Number: MG 156

Creator: Saint Andrew's Society

Inclusive Dates: 1803-1993

Bulk Dates: 1820s – 1920s

Abstract: Minute books, account books, records of dues, records of relief, photographs, program for anniversary dinners, Constitution of the St. Andrew's Society, Resolutions

Quantity: 11 boxes, 3.75 linear feet

Administrative Information

Custodial History:

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Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None.

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Armour, John B.
Brown, Andrew
Burns, Robert
Caldwell, Jon
Campbell, Archibald
Conroe, Irwin
Dawson, George
Dickson, James
Dicken, Thomas
Duncan, James
Giffen, John ,Reverend, M.D.
Gray, Alexander
Henry, Joseph
Kinnear, Peter
MacHarg, John W.
Manson, William
McClallen, Robert
McCredie, James
McEwan, John
McIntyre, Archibald
Ramsay, David D.
Ramsey, Geroge
Stewart, D.R.
Stormont, Alexander
Walsh, James

Organizations

Albany Caledonian Club
Burns Club of the City of Albany
St. Andrew's Society – Albany (N.Y.)
St. Andrew's Society – Schenectady (N.Y.)

Subjects

Scottish American Friendly Societies–St. Andrew's Society—New York (State) --
Albany

Immigrants—Scotland – Albany (N.Y.)

Places

Albany – (N.Y.)
Schenectady – (N.Y.)

Document Types

Brochures; programs for St. Andrew Society's Anniversary Dinners; sympathy letters; Resolutions; pamphlets; account books; minute books; records of relief books; photographs

Titles

Brochure: "History and Objectives of the St. Andrew's Society" n.d.
One Hundred and Thirty Years of Saint Andrew's by David M. Kinnear, 1933
The Albany Burns Club, by David M. Kinnear, 1919

Pamphlet: Historical Sketch: *St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany with the Act of Incorporation, Constitution of the Society and Lists of Members*, 1881

History of Saint Andrew's Society/The Albany Burns Club

The St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany first formed in 1802 under the name of the "United Irish and Scotch Benevolent Society." In David Kinnear's *One Hundred and Thirty Years of Saint Andrew's*, an effective portrayal of its first meeting shows that a constitution was adopted and a committee was formed. The secretary's minutes stated that the main purpose of the society was to aid and to assist emigrants from both Scotland and Ireland. This assistance consisted of advising, giving money, providing meals and arranging for overnight rooms for poor Scottish laborers living in or passing through Albany. The officers were: Andrew Brown (President); Jon Caldwell (Vice President); Robert McClallen (Treasurer). The members of the Standing Committee included: William McClelland; John Robison; John McGaffin and George Pearson; and Archibald McIntyre (Secretary). McClelland was one of the founders of the New York State Medical Society and Archibald McIntyre was Comptroller of New York State from 1806 to 1821. When McIntyre left the Comptroller office, he was elected State Senator, but only held the position for a short time, as he preferred mercantile business.

The members at a special meeting decided to dissolve the Irish and Scottish Society. Unanimously, the committee decided that membership be comprised exclusively of Scotsmen and their brethren. As a result, Saint Andrew's Society was founded in 1803 at a meeting at Tontines Coffee House. On October 19, 1803 a constitution was presented and adopted. The first quarterly meeting was held on November 10, 1803. Election of officers took place and the first President, John Stevenson was elected. Born in Albany, Stevenson was the son of a Scotsman. He was a very wealthy landowner and a friend of Philip Livingston. John Stevenson was also one of the founders of Union College. However, Stevenson never attended a meeting and on November 15, 1804 the Society elected George Ramsey as President.

Saint Andrew's Society was founded on the premise of charity. This becomes apparent from some of the records kept in Saint Andrew's Society's record books. As acknowledged in their minutes on March 16, 1829, the members held a special meeting to consider assistance for

two women from the Dykes family. During this time period, transportation was extremely poor and as a result, these two women walked during wintertime with their families from Upper Canada to Johnstown N.Y. to join their husbands. Saint Andrew's Society borrowed fifty dollars on interest and many members contributed individually to help the family reach their destination. In May of the same year, the Society received word that the families had rejoined and that their father James Dykes paid back the money to the Society and also requested to be made an honorary member.

In another charitable act, the Saint Andrew's Society of Albany in November, 1880, purchased a lot in the Albany Rural Cemetery, for the burial of poor Scotsmen.

The first century of the Society's "life" was a complicated and often difficult time for its members. A constant and intense effort had to be kept in order to be able to survive and to prosper. Other immigrant groups faced similar challenges in adjusting to life in America, but the Scots had the advantage of not having to overcome language and other cultural barriers.

Peter Kinnear was a native-born Scot and had joined Saint Andrew's Society in 1849. Peter Kinnear is a perfect example of the rags-to-riches story. He went from being a penniless immigrant to having considerable wealth and success in manufacturing. From 1880 to 1890 and from 1899 to 1913, Kinnear served as President of the Society. Peter Kinnear helped to build up Saint Andrew's Society by building St. Andrew's Hall.

The Albany Burns Club, was founded in 1853 in memory of Robert Burns, a world renown Scottish poet who depicted the rural life of his fellow Scotsmen in his poetry. Founded by prominent Scotsmen, the Club consisted of members who were "...of good character and lovers of Burns and Scottish literature." The first record of a meeting was on January 13, 1854 in the Union Hotel, owned by a member named Mr. Scobie. At this meeting, the following individuals were present: James Dickson, David D. Ramsay, William Scobie, Alexander Deuchar, William Ballantine, and J. Osmond Montignani. James Dickson was called to the chair and was elected as the first President of the Albany Burns Club. Alex Deuchar was First Vice-President and D.D. Ramsay was Second Vice-President. William Ellis was elected Treasurer and J.O. Montignani was Secretary.

As a tribute to one of the oldest clubs in Albany and to the oldest Burns Club in the United States, the Saint Andrew's Society in 1988 celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the donation of the Robert Burns Monument, a gift from the MacPherson Family.

Scope and Content of the Records

The majority of materials contain minutes from Saint Andrew's Society and other records from the Burns Club of Albany and the Albany Caledonian Club.

These records also include some newspaper clippings and historical sketches.

Organization of the Records

These records contain three (3) series that describe the Saint Andrew's Society, the Burns Club of Albany, and the Albany Caledonian Club.

Saint Andrew's Society is further subdivided into eleven (11) Subseries that include records of accounts, record of minutes, general information, historical sketches, special events, records of relief and records of dues, and the Robert Burns Club of Albany.

The Burns Club of Albany contains two (2) folders and the Albany Caledonian Club contains one (1) folder and records of minutes.

Related Material

Catalog - 367.Kin.His.1903; *Historical sketch of St. Andrew's Society, of the city of Albany*, compiled by Peter Kinnear

Catalog – 367.Mor.His.1906; *History of Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York, 1756-1906*, by George Austin Morrison, Jr.

Catalog – 974.743.Kin.Bic.2004; *The Bicentennial history of the Saint Andrew's Society, of the city of Albany*, compiled by Peter Kinnear

Catalog – ms-1098.OV; *Donors to the St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany*, lists the names and mounts given, 1875 - 1903

Catalog – SpC.367.Kin.Alb.1919 *The Albany Burns Club* by David M. Kinnear

Catalog- SpC.821.67 Bur; *The works of Robert Burns: with his life* by Allan Cunningham

Catalog – SpC.974.743.Kin; *Historical Sketch of the Burns Statute: the MacPherson legacy to the City of Albany*. Erected in Washington Park September 30, 1888.

Catalog - SpC.974.743.Kin.Pro; *MacPherson's Legacy: programs*, Albany, 1888 and 1988

Separated Materials

None.

Other Finding Aids

None.

Detailed Description of the Records

The section that follows contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series #1. Saint Andrew's Society

Subseries #1. General Information

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Brochure on the Albany Chapter of the St. Andrew's Society, 1983.
1	1	Brochure on the Albany Chapter of the St. Andrew's Society, n.d.
1	1	Brochure: "History and Objectives of the St. Andrew's Society of Schenectady, New York", n.d.

Subseries 2. Historical Sketches

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	<i>Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, 1867.</i>
1	2	<i>Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, 1883. (Two copies.)</i>
1	3	<i>Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, 1891. (Three copies.)</i>
1	4	<i>Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, 1803-1903. 126pp.</i>
1	5	<i>One Hundred and Thirty Years of Saint Andrew's</i> by David M. Kinnear, 1933.

Subseries 3. Special Events

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Program for the One Hundred and Twenty Seventh Anniversary Dinner of the St. Andrew's Society, December 1, 1930.
1	1	Program for the One hundred fiftieth Anniversary of the St. Andrew's Society, 1953. (Two copies.)
1	1	Program for the Dedication of a Memorial to Saint Andrew, October 17, 1948.
1	1	Program for the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Anniversary of the St. Andrew's Society, November 30, 1939.
1	1	Commemorative Card from The Illinois Saint Andrew Society, 1957
1	1	Photograph of a plaque of The Reverend John Giffen, M.D., presented by the St. Andrew's Society, May 14, 1969 (Framer for St. Andrew's Society)
1	1	Photograph of the presentation of a plaque in honor of Joseph Henry to the Albany Academy, April 5, 1973. Included in the photo: Dr. Irwin Conroe (speaker), John Glenn (President of the St. Andrew's Society), and James Walsh (piper).
1	1	Program for the One Hundred Fifty Eighth Anniversary of the St. Andrew's Society, November 1961.

1	1	Program for the Eighty fifth Anniversary of St. Andrew's Society
1	1	Program for the Eighty eighth Anniversary of St. Andrew's Society, November 30, 1891.
1	1	Letter from President Peter Kinnear in regard to the Centennial Anniversary of St. Andrew's Society in 1903.
1	1	Pamphlets of the Presentation Ceremony at The Albany Academy (3 copies).

Subseries #4. Robert Burns

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Historical Sketch of the Burns Statue, the MacPherson Legacy to the City of Albany, 1889, photocopy
1	1	MacPherson's Legacy to the City of Albany, program for the unveiling of Burns' Monument, August 30 th , 1888.
1	1	Newspaper clipping, <i>MacPherson's Legacy</i> , 2 photocopies, 1988
1	1	<i>The Albany Burns Club</i> , by David M. Kinnear, 1919.
1	1	Program, Commemoration of the One hundred and forty second Anniversary of Schenectady St. Andrew's Society and Burns Commemoration

Subseries #5. Other Records

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Managers' Order to pay benevolence. July 24, 1823.
1	1	Managers' Order to pay benevolence. March 26, 1825.
1	1	Statement of the St. Andrew's Society, November 30th, 1911.
1	1	List of officers of The Albany Caledonian Club, August 23, 1902
1	1	November 18th letter to Mr. Peter Kinnear
1	1	July 9th, 1887 letter to Peter Kinnear from James McGredie
1	2	Photograph, Archibald Campbell, President 1819 to 1826
1	2	Photograph, James Duncan, President 1862
1	2	Photograph, Alexander Gray, President 1841 and 1842
1	2	Photograph, George Dawson, President 1857 to 1861
1	2	Photograph, John McEwan, President 1890 to 1892
1	2	Photograph, William Manson, President 1879 to 1880
1	2	Photograph, John W. MacHarg, nod
1	2	Photograph, James Accred, President 1913 to 1915
1	2	Photograph, Peter Kinnear, n.d.
1	2	Photograph, D. R. Stewart, President 1899

Subseries #6. Miscellaneous Papers Pertaining to Saint Andrew's Society of Albany, New York. Donated by Thomas, James, and Donald McCredie. May 18, 1916

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
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1	1	Binder
1	2	Resolution in memory of James Roy from St. Andrew's Society
1	2	Resolution in memory of Alexander Stormont from St. Andrew's Society, 1871 (2 copies)
1	2	Report of the President of St. Andrew's Society of Albany for 1871
1	2	Report of the President St. Andrew's Society for 1872 (2 copies)
1	2	Resolution in memory of John B. Armour, 1874
1	2	Address of the President of St. Andrew's Society, 1874
1	2	Resolution in memory of Thomas Dicken, 1875 (2 copies)
1	2	Address of the President of St. Andrew's Society, 1875
1	2	Programme of St. Andrew's Society, 1875 (3 copies)
1	2	Report of the President of St. Andrew's Society for 1878 (2copies)
1	2	Pamphlet, <i>Historical Sketch: St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany with the Act of Incorporation, Constitution of the Society and List of Members</i> , 1881
1	2	Program of St. Andrew's Society 88th Anniversary, 1891

Subseries #7. Governance

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	St. Andrew's Society. Constitution 1803.
1	1	Constitution of the St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, Adopted October 19, 1803, as Amended November 11, 1819.
1	1	An Act to Incorporate the St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, Passed March 27, 1821; also The Constitution of Said Society, Adopted November 11, 1824.
1	1	Constitution of the St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany, (handwritten version) as Amended November 11, 1824, with signatures over nearly two hundred years.

Subseries #8. Accounts

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
2		Account Book, 1803-1822
2		Account Book, 1821-1857
2		Account Book, 1826-1902
2		Account Book, 1876-1893

Subseries #9. Minute Books

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
3	1	Minute Book, 8 February 1802 - to 12 August 1824
3	2	Minute Book, 11 November 1824 to 30 November 1857
3	3	Minute Book, 16 February 1858 to 8 May 1884
4	4	Minute Book, 14 August 1884 to 20 January 1916
4	5	Minute Book, 11 November 1915 to 14 June 1926

5	6	Minute Book, 12 August 1926 to 14 November 1940
6	7	Minute Book, 9 January 1941 to 9 January 1969
7	8	Minute Book, 14 March 1969 to 11 November 1993

Subseries 10. Records of Dues

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
8		Record of Dues, 1878-1902
8		Quarter Dues, 1816-1899

Subseries 11. Records of Relief

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
9	1	Record of Relief, 1856–1876
9	2	Record of Relief, 1873-1878
9	3	Record of Relief, 1883-1911
9	4	Managers' Order to pay benevolence. July 24, 1823.
9	5	Managers' Order to pay benevolence. March 26, 1825

Series #2. Burns Club of the City of Albany

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
10	1	Minute Book, 1854 to 1899. Includes scrapbook with photographs.
10	2	Minute Book 9 January 1914-1933

Series #3. Albany Caledonian Club

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
11		Minute Book, 26 January 1874 to 4 February 1903
11		Minute Book, Feb. 18, 1895 – Nov 20, 1922
11		Record of Dues, 1878-1903
11	1	Sympathy letters to member's family;
11		notes from minutes from July 17, 1916 and January 8, 1917;
11		Handwritten sympathy cards that depict some background information on the death of the members.