The Thistle

July 2020

From The President (continued)

Centuries prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the summer of 1776 before the first shot of the Wars of Independence was fired by Ebenezer Monroe (a Scottish American), a similar document sung to the same tune of liberty was signed. Issued in 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath was a bold assertion of Scotland's right to independence. *"It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."*

Opposing tyranny, demanding liberty, pledging their lives.

If one examines both the Declaration of Arbroath and the Declaration of Independence side by side, one sees striking similarities in both wording and content. Although no one person can take credit solely for the Declaration of Independence, there is a distinct Scottish-ness of the signers themselves, for at least 21 of the 50 men behind America's founding legal document were of Scottish descent. And as the President of the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles, I'm reminded of the many volunteers that give of themselves and pledge their time and effort to do work for our society in so many ways because of their commitment to Scotland, Scottish culture, to the society and to you. I'd like to thank them all for their dedication and hard work!

We can now look back to the first half of 2020 and hope that our coming months will go easier on us. We will still plan and schedule virtual gatherings and interesting information will be sent out. And for now, as the 4th of July approaches, we look forward to the second half of this year, hoping everyone stays healthy and safe.

Slainte Var!

Kimberlee Blair Bradford FSA Scot
President
St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles