

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Our June gathering will be on Sunday, June 10th. As usual, we will gather at **2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.**

This month entertainment will be by Andy Anderson with his fireside pipes. He has performed for us before, and his program is excellent.

We don't meet during July, August, or September, so will see you next at our gathering on October 14th.

Facebook

The Caledonians have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seattlecaledonians/?ref=bookmarks>

Diana Smith frequently posts interesting articles and notices, so check back often.

Sunshine Report

Sunshine Chairperson Bonnie Munro reports this information about members, former members, and those in the Scottish community:

The memorial service for Margaret Russell was held on May 19th. The service was lovely with Scottish music and many people attending. Diana Smith came to give "words of remembrance." Cards may be sent to her daughters, Dorothy Russell 7512 33rd NW, Seattle, WA 98117, and Denise Chitwood, 8225 Bagley Ave N., Seattle, WA 98103.

Another long-time Caledonian member, Ken Munro, is still in a Bothell rehab facility six weeks after breaking his hip and having surgery to support his hip with a rod and pin. Cards may be sent to him at his home, 19800 68th Ave NE, Kenmore, WA 98028-2039

Victoria Johnson continues to recover from surgery at Genesis Nursing Home-Ballard. She is using her cell phone, so people can contact her at 206-321-4980.

Kathy Bowie is recovering at home from her umpteenth back surgery. Cards may be sent to her at 311 NE 51st St., Seattle, WA 98105.

Philip Junkins fell and broke his hip on May 18th, and after a week in the hospital has now moved to rehab at Hearthstone, 6720 East Green Lake Way N, Seattle, WA 98103. He likely will be using his own cell phone, 206-365-4489.

Gary Cosgro reported that the memorial service for his long-time partner, Frances Crews, will be Sunday, June 24th at 1:00pm, in the covered picnic area at Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian Ave E., Graham, WA 98338. This is the day after the Tacoma Games.

Diane McAlister lost her brother recently. Cards may be sent to her at PO Box 7865, Tacoma, WA 98417.

Sheila Lisson Smith, a former member who now lives on Vancouver Island, BC, fell and broke her pelvis. Long-time members will remember that Sheila ran a lavish raffle table for many years.

Bonnie reminds people that she does not have e-mail, so please call her when you have information about Caledonians who are ill or passed away. Her phone is 425-806-3734.

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

June

2 Bellingham Highland Gathering, Hovander Park, Ferndale, WA.
<https://www.facebook.com/Scottishdance.org/photos/a.567339753638939.1073741828.556885824684332/573023769737204/?type=3>

10 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

9-10 McMinnville Scottish Festival, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR <https://www.macscottishfest.com/>

12 SSHGA Meeting, 7:30 pm. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 111 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA. Info: (206) 522-2541

16 BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam, BC.
<http://bchighlandgames.com/>

16 Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games, Prosser Wine and Food Park, Prosser, WA
<http://prosserscottishfest.org/>

23 Tacoma Highland Games, Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian Ave E., Graham, WA 98338.
<http://tacomagames.org/>

30 Scottish Day at Emerald Downs Race Track, 2300 Ron Crockett Dr., Auburn, WA 98001. Gordon Pipe Band, Traditional entertainment, Scotch tasting. Racing begins at 5pm.

July

13 4th Annual Gathering of Clans Dinner. Littlefield Celtic Arts Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. 5:30-8pm. Tickets \$34. Info: events@celticarts.org.

14-15 Skagit Valley Highland Games, Edgewater Park, 600 Behrens Millet Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98274. Info: events@celticarts.org.

21 Portland Highland Games, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR. www.phga.org

27-29 PNW Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave. SE, Enumclaw, WA www.shga.org

August

4 Spokane Scottish Highland Games, Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St., Spokane, WA 99202. 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
<https://www.spokanehighlandgames.net/>

18-19 Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival, Marcus Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy, Hamilton, MT.
<http://www.bcg.org/>

September

1-2 Hood Canal Highland Celtic Festival, Belfair State Park, 3151 NE State Rte 300, Belfair, WA 98528.
www.hoodcanalscots.org

8-9 Kelso Highlander Festival, Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, WA. <http://highlander.kelso.gov/>

Recap of the May Gathering



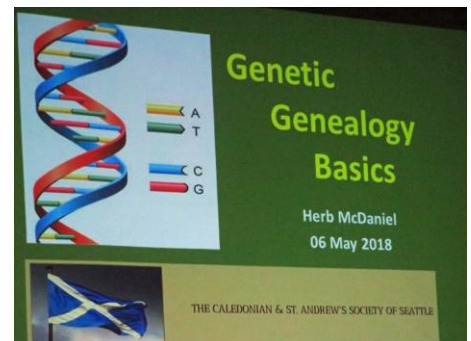
The Caledonians enjoyed an interesting presentation by Herb McDaniel from Seattle Genealogical Society, who talked about how to interpret reports about family ties discovered through DNA testing.

He pointed out that people who have completed DNA testing, who aren't on your family tree but show up as "cousins," may actually be related from so many generations in the past that the relationship is no longer recorded on a family tree. You have to talk with those persons and compare family trees back as far as both of you can, and even then the connection may be so far back that you may not ever find it.

He also mentioned that since DNA testing is not common in areas such as Africa and Asia, a DNA report that you might have a genetic link to people in those areas may be based on a very slim pool and thus be very general, i.e., "Asian" or "African" rather than to a specific area or country.

He recounted stories of how people have learned through DNA testing that the relatives they thought they had were not actually blood relatives.

Some is because of adoption, some due to the transient nature of movements of people, or even the results of human nature (you can read between the lines here!)



Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

A selection of objects important in the history of Scotland will be highlighted in this and future Heatherbells. This information comes from an ebook titled "The History of Scotland in 25 Objects" and available at visitscotland.com. Readers are encouraged to include visits to the areas where these objects were found or to museums where they now are displayed.

Mousa Broch



The Mousa Broch is a round Iron Age tower, known as a broch. Located on the Island of Mousa off Shetland, the broch is a round drystone building formed of two concentric walls. A stone staircase corkscrews between the inner and outer walls from the base to the top. It's 13 metres tall, and is believed to have been constructed between 400 and 300 BC. Inside, the broch had three beehive-shaped chambers at the ground floor level and would have had two wooden floors above that.

A broch, or tower, was both a defensive and prestigious building. With its location on the shore and height, it would have been impossible for invaders to approach the island without being seen.

There are about 500 brochs still in existence in Scotland, mostly in northern and western Scotland and on the islands. None, however, is in as good of condition as the Mousa Broch.

Roman Distance Slab



The Romans installed distance slabs as markers on the Antonine Wall, a stone and turf fortification built on stone foundations stretching nearly 60km across the narrowest portion of central Scotland. The Antonine Wall represents the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire, but it was abandoned eight years after it was constructed when the Romans withdrew to Hadrian's Wall.

Nineteen slabs have survived to this day and each is different. Legions were allocated a set amount of wall to construct, and the distance slabs would go up as legions celebrated the completion of their portions of the wall. These markers were decorated with carvings of Roman gods or images that depicted the legions' military exploits in Scotland. Inscriptions detailed their loyalty to Caesar and the length of the wall they had completed.

Distance slabs are unique to Scotland, in that there is no evidence that the Romans used these markers in any other frontiers of their empire. Seventeen of these slabs are on display at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, which houses many of the fascinating findings from excavations along the line of the Antonine Wall. Despite the passage to time, substantial lengths of the wall have survived, and visitors can visit these sites. There's also a permanent exhibition about the Antonine Wall at Callendar House in Falkirk.

Carved Footprint



Two footprints were found to have been carved into rocks at Dunadd Hill fort, Kilmartin Glen, Argyll. The footprints were believed to have

played a key role in the inauguration of early Gaelic kings between 500 and 800AD. A new ruler would place his foot in the footprint to symbolize his marriage to the land he would be reigning over. The tradition lasted right up until the days of Kenneth MacAlpin, who was widely regarded as the first King of the Scots.

This area in Argyll boasts one of the most significant concentrations of Bronze Age and Neolithic remains in Scotland. The area was a key

trading point across continental Europe, as evidenced by the large range of high status weapons, metalwork, and fine crafts produced here during the Bronze Age. There are more than 350 ancient monuments within six miles of Kilmartin Glen. Artifacts discovered in this area are on display at the Kilmartin Museum.

From ebooks.visitscotland.com

Famous Scots

Religion & Mysticism

Ours is country of rich multi-cultural diversity – it's what makes us who we are. Although we're historically a Christian country, there have been Jewish communities here for some four hundred years, Sikhs for over a century, and Islam is now our second largest religion. We're also home to the largest Buddhist temple in Western Europe. This diversity has been born out of centuries of change, not least The Scottish Reformation and the work of John Knox. Scotland is undoubtedly a country where freedom of belief is a faith everyone can follow.

John Knox

c.1510 - 1572

Born in Haddington, he was a key figure in the Reformation in Scotland. Influenced by John Calvin, he often came in to conflict with Mary Queen of Scots, who was Catholic. John Knox House on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh is open to the public.

Thomas the Rhymer

c.1210 - c.1290

Born and lived at Ercildoune (Earlston). According to Sir Walter Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders*, Thomas saw the Queen of the Fairies as she rode out over the Eildon Hills, was captivated by her and returned with her to her kingdom inside the hills. After seven years, he was allowed to return to Earth and, as a keepsake, was given the gift of prophesy. Among his predictions were the death of Alexander III, the defeat of Flodden and the union of the crowns in 1603. He was also one of Scotland's earliest poets. There is sculpture, viewpoint & interpretation boards in his memory at Boglie Burn near Melrose. The ruins of his tower remain just south of Earlston.

Brahan Seer

early 17th century

No one can be sure as to the exact birth date of Coinneach Odhar (Kenneth Mackenzie), the Brahan Seer, as records of him are a mystery. It is known that he was born in Uig on the Isle of Skye. He is known as Scotland's Nostradamus, due to his gift of foresight. He made prophecies including the Battle of Culloden, the Highland Clearances, the building of the Caledonian Canal and the coming of the railways, which all came true. He used a round blue stone with a hole in the centre through which he would stare until the vision came to him.

Sir William Alexander Smith

1854 - 1914

Smith was born in Pennyland House in Thurso in the far north of the Scottish mainland. He taught Sunday school at an early age and was an officer in an army unit. He noticed how the army recruits behaved much better when having some form of drill and wanted to apply this to his religious teachings of the Sunday school children. His idea of the Boys' Brigade was born, which soon caught on and companies were formed throughout Scotland, England and New Zealand.

From The Scottish Banner

Scotland's First Textile

Linen was Scotland's first textile and it also played a vital role in the Industrial Revolution. Linen and flax are truly amazing – you can use them to sit on, read by, sleep under and even to ski. In Scotland linen was present at every stage of life-- you were wrapped in it at birth, dressed in it through life and were shrouded with it when you died."

In times past, the merchandising of processed flax and woven linen from the vast mills offering fine cloth, sacking, sailcloth and tarpaulin were the foundation for one of the Scotland's first banks – the British Linen Bank. The parts of the flax plants not used for linen allowed Edinburgh to create some of the world's biggest rope factories. From finance to industry, design and artwork, linen and flax have been integral to the lives of many Scots.

Here are some interesting facts about linen:

- For every litre of water used to manufacture linen it takes 1,000 litres to produce the same amount of cotton.
- Water from Duddingston Loch was used in the retting (rotting) of flax, part of processing.
- Jobs in the linen industry were gender-bound, with women getting the two smelliest, which included retting. The other was bleaching which, before the use of chlorine, involved soaking the cloth in urine and laying it out in bleaching fields, in the sunshine.
- Many of the Old Masters paintings were on linen.
- Some 60% of the growth in new materials is in composites and flax is an important contributor.
- The oldest surviving maritime linen is from one of the sails on Nelson's HMS Victory, and was made in Scotland.
- Dunfermline was renowned for fine "damask" linen, while coarse "brown" linen of the sort used in sacking and tarpaulin came from around Edinburgh.

dark, wet, mineral rich and airless conditions that combined to stop it rotting.

Now its wood, turned black with peat and age, is being turned into furniture. And because of the oak's size - it is seven metres long - there is a rare opportunity to create a large piece of furniture, such as a dining table. But for those who can't afford the price tag of a minimum of £10,000 for an individually crafted prehistoric table, the oak and some pieces already crafted from it have been put on show in the studio where the wood will be transformed.

The oak was discovered last year near the Solway coast in an area of peatland being drained for farming. Experts have dated it to around 5000BC, as it must pre-date the peat bogs which then formed in the area after that and where oaks trees would not grow. Award-winning furniture-maker Daniel Lacey has been carrying out the tricky job of drying out the saturated wood and is now turning it into pieces of bespoke furniture. "It is one of the rarest timbers on the planet. You only find bits of it now and again. A lot of it in Britain is found in East Anglia and most pieces even there are quite small," he says.

Bog oak is often compared with the world's most expensive tropical hardwoods, not just because of its rarity but also because as the wood dries, it shrinks and becomes very dense. The tannin in the peat reacts with its minerals and iron content to create the black colour which slowly seeps through the wood - because of this, only trees which have been encased in peat for a lengthy period will be completely black and no two trunks will ever be exactly the same colour.

Bog oak is found in England, Ireland, Russia, Serbia and Croatia and has been highly prized throughout history - Scottish sgian-dubhs were often made of it, as was the Russian king Peter the Great's throne.

So precious is the wood that even Daniel's off-cuts are being burned and the ash used by Cumbrian ceramicists Miles-Moore Ceramics as a glaze for their pottery. "No-one has ever used that before but the mineral content gives off great colours," says Daniel.

Anne Crone, project manager with AOC Archaeology, said bog oak has been found in Scotland in recent years, including along the Solway, in Argyll and central Scotland - and that in

Crafting Stone Age Oak



An oak tree that fell 7,000 years ago, when Scotland was occupied by a few stone age hunter gatherers, is being used by a Scottish furniture maker and Cumbrian potters to create beautiful craft work. In this case, the tree is likely to have been a victim of rising water levels when glaciers in northern Europe were melting after the end of the last Ice Age. It toppled at a time before metalwork and even farming were introduced to Scotland and is older than the ancient peat bog which eventually enveloped it. After falling it was trapped in cold,

years gone by it had been used as roofing over cottages in the Highlands. "But we don't find it as much now because we not draining or digging up peat bogs any more. So it's probably there but we don't find it very often. It has a reputation as a very hard wood, which is due to its immersion in peaty, acidic water for millennia."



The floral clock in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, began operation on 10 June 1903.

It was initially driven by clockwork and only had an hour hand, but it was the first of its kind in the world.



A fellowship founded in Seattle in 1902 to foster a love of Scotland, her people, and her heritage.

Mailing Address:

Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society of Seattle
P.O. Box 27278
Seattle, WA 98165-1778

www.caledonians.com

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HEATHER BELL EDITOR:

Ruth McFadden 206-364-6025
ruthmcfadden@mindspring.com