

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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NEXT GATHERING

Members of the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society will continue to gather using the electronic app Zoom for several additional months, due to continuing prohibitions on large gatherings of people.

Our next gathering is **Sunday, March 13th**, at 2:00 p.m. An e-mailed link will be sent to everyone who has computer access a few days in advance of this date. You can also join by clicking on this link or copying and pasting this address into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjkxQT09>

You can also participate by phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering the meeting ID: 713 418 301 and then the passcode: 004905. For those without a camera on your computer, you can do both, letting you see everyone on the computer and connecting with people on your phone.

MARCH PROGRAM



Tyrone Heade, bagpiper, will provide music of Scottish piping at the March 13th gathering. Tyrone is the Cathedral Bagpiper for both St. James Cathedral and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. He also is the

pipe major for Elliott Bay Pipe Band. He has been piping for over 30 years, and provides instruction, composition, and tailored performances, such as at weddings. He has won numerous awards, most recently at the National Piping Centre, Glasgow, Scotland via a live broadcast from Seattle. He has eight bagpipes and likely will play several different ones for us.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Plan ahead to join us each month for gatherings on Zoom. We will have a variety of local, national, and international talent for the program.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Bonnie Munro reports that she sent a get-well card on behalf of the Caledonians to Diana Smith, who had fallen the day of the February gathering. The fall resulted in a slight concussion. Diana also will be having cataract surgery in a few weeks.

She also sent a condolence card on behalf of the Caledonians to Phillip Junkins, whose mother passed away recently.

If you know of a Caledonian who would be cheered by a card, let Bonnie know. She can be reached by phone at 425-806-3734.

Reminder - It's time to Renew Your Annual Membership for 2022

Membership dues are what allow the Caledonians to book the fabulous fiddlers, singers, harpists, and bagpipers who have

entertained us so well during 2021 while we couldn't meet in person and instead gathered using the Zoom app. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated music performers all over the world. Many who depended on venues at Scottish highland games and Celtic festivals for their living have found few concerts bookings possible. They have been amazingly receptive to our pleas for entertainment using Zoom. Please help us continue enjoying Scottish and Celtic performers from all around the USA and Scotland in 2022.

Dues are \$45 for individuals and \$55 for couples/families. Checks should be made out to the **Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society of Seattle** and marked for **2022 Membership**.

We want to keep our membership directory updated, so **please include your address, phone number(s), and e-mail address(es)** when you send your check.

We have been pleased to have three new members join in 2021. New members who paid their membership fee in the last six months are "good to go" for 2022. All others, please send new and renewal memberships to:

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

Membership includes receiving monthly newsletters and a copy of the membership directory. Information about upcoming Scottish activities and concerts (when they are able to resume) and reminders about gatherings are sent to members by e-mail as well.

New Member Drive

In order to be successful, an organization needs a steady flow of new members. Without it, the organization will die. New members provide long-term stability and growth. They help develop new ideas and establish new programs. Larger membership provides larger income, which allows for more and better programs and entertainment. It also provides better community relationships through sharing.

The Board is encouraging existing members to recruit new members. As an incentive, existing

members who bring two new memberships in 2022 will pay no dues for a year.

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

MARCH

1 John Whelan & Sean Cleland Concert, 7:00pm-9:00pm. \$25.00 Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934
<https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/whelanandclelandconcert/>

13 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjIxQT09>

19 Clan Gordon Pipe Band Annual Tartan Ball. 7:00pm. Puyallup Fairgrounds. \$25 Tickets at <https://tartanball.brownpapertickets.com>

Recap of the February Caledonian Gathering



Ruth McFadden provided an illustrated program about Rewilding Scotland projects, including pros and cons of the various projects. The major focus of rewilding is to reverse declines in habitat and wildlife that have left vast swathes of Scotland overgrazed, treeless, denuded, drained, and over-managed to the point that little remains unmodified by humans. Rewilding will take time, maybe as long as 30 years. There are issues about the public losing access to public lands when a project takes that long to show progress.

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. Be sure to "Like" the articles so they show up frequently on your Facebook stream.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner* and *Wikipedia*.

Rethinking Medieval Scottish Politics

Many historians of Scotland's Middle Ages believed that Scotland was an irredeemably warlike nation during those centuries. In most conventional narratives about that time in history, whoever held the kingship was the ultimate, and rightful, authority. The crown was always presented as a force for stability, and the nobles were always a force for ambition and chaos who needed to be tamed like wild beasts.

In the 15th century, enduring narrative recounted numerous violent incidents when alleged treason and open rebellion were cause for executions and murders, or wars led by the king's army. Scottish history is full of examples of revenge, treachery, jealousy, violence and the rebalancing of power in favour of whoever sat on the throne. By the 17th and early 18th centuries, the politics were firmly pro-Union, and the unquestioned orthodoxy was that the Union of Crowns in 1603 and the Act of Union of 1707, accompanied by fervent support for the modern monarchy, tamed Scotland from its more "primitive" and bloody state.

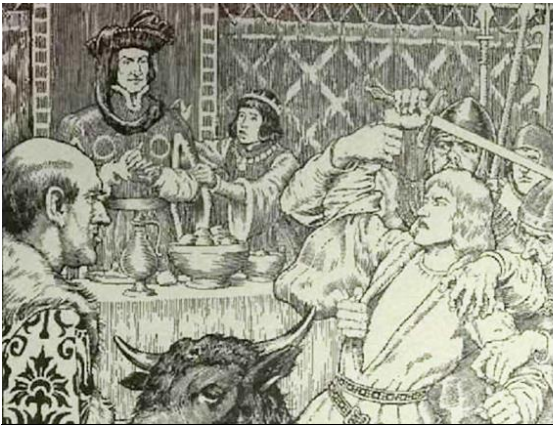


Illustration of the Black Dinner when William Douglas was dragged out after a dinner with 10-year-old King James II and executed for the murder of his father, James I.

As with every history, the story is initially told by the victors and retold by people with their own biases and perspectives. However, more recent research by scholars emphasizes a more complex relationship between the nobility and the crown, almost symbiotic. In reviewing some of the old stories, it seems that a nobleman's ambition (i.e., killing his enemies) was not a bad thing in itself, as long as he showed up for the crown when the king demanded his support. Re-studying the old stories of nobles and kings vying constantly for power in a

zero-sum game shows that events were actually more nuanced.

Now for the surprise about Scottish history: Studies show that between 1341 and 1469 there were twice as many rebellions and three times as many civil war battles in England than in Scotland. Although the magnate (noble) class was of comparable size in both England and Scotland, three times as many English magnates were killed for political reasons than in Scotland. Further, studies of political violence in other countries show that Scotland had about the same, or even less, political violence than what occurred in other European kingdoms.

That doesn't make Scotland's history less bloody, but it does put it more into perspective with what was happening all over Europe during the Middle Ages.

Bonnie Jean Cameron

In 1745, Jean Cameron brought 300 men to support Bonnie Prince Charlie in the raising of the Jacobite standard at Glenfinnan. This was the Glendessary estate's quota to be turned out at the command of the clan chief, Donald Cameron of Lochiel who supported the Jacobite cause. She was looking after the family's estates in Glendessary while her brothers traveled, and responsibility for doing this fell on her shoulders. Because she was a woman fulfilling a patriotic action, gender stereotypes of the time caused anti-Jacobite propagandists later to drag her reputation through the mud.



The reports said she was Bonnie Prince Charlie's mistress (she was widowed and about 50 at the time while the Young Pretender was about 25) and that she rode at the head of her men wearing a "sea-green riding habit and a velvet cap

with scarlet feathers, carrying a naked sword in her hand." Vicious rumours said she was a mannish Amazonian, wore male clothes, enjoyed fighting duels, and marched into battle at the head of her forces. Oh, and had a wooden leg and died in a stairwell in Edinburgh!

In fact, Jean Cameron of Glendessary was a dignified noblewoman and a Jacobite loyalist whose biggest crime was to bring 300 men to Glenfinnan in 1745 when Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard at a time when many thought women should stay at home and stay quiet.

Improperly called Miss Jeanie Cameron, as she was a widow nearly fifty years of age at the time, she was described by Aeneas MacDonald, who was captured after Culloden and later exiled, as being "a genteel, well-looking handsome woman with a pair of pretty eyes and hair as black as jet. She is of a very sprightly genius and is very agreeable in conversation."

In 1751, Jean left the Glendessary estate owned by her brothers, and bought the estate and mansion of Blacklaw near what is now the town of East Kilbride. She renamed it Mount Cameron. Writing twenty years after her death, a local minister said she was remembered as "a lady of distinguished family, character and beauty." She was also said to be "informed, intelligent and graceful." Another said many poor Highlanders came to visit her in her new home and she was said to have opened a school for Highland children orphaned in the '45.

Balmoral Pyramid and Historical Cairns

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert erected 11 cairns on their Balmoral estate to celebrate the marriages of their children and other key events for the Royal Family.

The most famous is a pyramid-shaped sculpture dedicated to Prince Albert, built in 1862 by Queen Victoria following his unexpected death in 1861 at the age of 42.



The granite cairn stands 35 feet high and is 41 feet by 41 feet at its base. It includes individual stones



with the initials of Victoria and her nine children, which had been laid by them.

The remainder of the cairns vary in size and shape. They can be reached only on a walking tour along poorly marked woodland paths and tracks that can be very muddy, depending on the weather. While the site is open to the public, walkers are not encouraged to visit the cairns when the Royal Family is in residence at Balmoral.

Events in Scottish History

March 4, 1890 – The Forth Rail Bridge was opened by Prince of Wales. The bridge spans the Firth of the River Forth to link Fife to



Edinburgh by railway. It was the world's earliest great multi-span cantilever bridge, and remains one of the longest.

March 6, 1923 – Scotland's first radio broadcast



took place from Rex House, in Glasgow. By the summer of 1924, stations had opened in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and by the eve of the Second World War, over 90% of the

Scottish population were served by BBC transmitters.

March 15, 1941 – Two nights of heavy German bombing destroyed a third of the buildings of



Clydebank, famous for its manufacturing industry, munitions factories, and shipyards, in the Clydebank Blitz. All but 8 of the town's roughly 12,000 houses were damaged and 35,000 people were made homeless.



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