

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

Volume 116 Issue 8 November 2018

NEXT GATHERING

Our October gathering will be on Sunday, November 11th. As usual, we will gather at **2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church**, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

The program will be information about peat cutting and weaving tweed. Also, Jim VanZee will share some photos from his recent trip to Scotland.

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:

Ken Monro continues to be in long-term care at a facility in Richmond Beach. Cards may be sent to him at his home, and Bonnie will take them to him. Their address is 19800 68th Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98028.

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.

November

3 SSHGA Heather Tartan Ball and Silent Auction, Seattle Latvian Cultural Center, 11710 3rd Ave NE, Seattle, WA. 6pm. \$25

4 Traditional Scottish Breakfast, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 12:00-3:00pm. 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org>

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

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

30 St. Andrew's Day

December

1 "A Winter Gift" Celtic Holiday Concert, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 12:00-3:00pm. 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org>

1 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration, The Everett Historic Theater, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett, WA. 425-258-6766 Tickets \$22-35

2 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. (Note that this is one week earlier than our usual gathering date.)

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

13 & 14 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration, Kirkland Performance Center, 350 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland, WA. 7pm & 8pm. 425-893-9900 <http://www.kpcenter.org/get-tickets/2018/12/>

15 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration, Northshore Performing Arts Center, 18125 92nd Ave. NE, Bothell, WA. 3pm & 7:30pm, \$30. 425-298-3449 <http://npacf.org/geoffrey-castles-celtic-christmas-2018>

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

Recap of the October Gathering

Twenty Caledonian members and guests attended the October gathering and enjoyed an excellent program by Tyrone Heade, lead piper for Elliott Bay Pipe Band and also the Cathedral Bagpiper in Residence for St. James Cathedral and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. He also teaches and performs extensively. He gave a fascinating talk about the components of the highland great pipes, how it is tuned, and how it works, as well as playing numerous pieces on his pipes. Much to the delight of those at the gathering, he included answering questions.



Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

From ebooks.visitscotland.com

Famous Scots

Innovation

Wherever you are in the world, you're never far from Scotland. Or, a Scottish innovation, at least. Great Scots have sorted out your morning with the flushing toilet, the toaster and the television. We developed the transport that takes you to work: the bike, pneumatic tyres and the steam train -albeit, we've come along way since then. The first electric car was one of ours too. And, heaven forbid you should ever feel ill, it was Scots who pioneered penicillin, antiseptics, beta-blockers and the MRI. Scots have indeed given us plenty to write home about. Oh, and we also introduced the first adhesive postage stamp too.

Sir William Arrol

1839 - 1913

The son of a spinner, Arrol was born in Renfrewshire and gained lasting fame through two major projects. His engineering business constructed the new 85 span Tay Railway Bridge (1882-1887) and the Forth Railway Bridge (1883-1890), which at the time had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world.

Andrew Meikle

1719 - 1811

Born in East Lothian, Meikle worked as a millwright at Houston Mill in East Linton, where he began experimenting with mechanical devices. His achievements include the invention of the threshing machine, a pivotal advancement in agriculture, which was used to remove the outer husks from grain.

Thomas Telford

1757 - 1834

The son of an Eskdalemuir shepherd, he served his apprenticeship as a stone mason, putting him in good stead as a civil engineer. His creations include the Dean Bridge in Edinburgh, the Caledonian Canal, linking the east and west coasts of Scotland and the Gota Canal in Sweden.

James Watt

1736-1819

A native of Greenock, Inverclyde, James Watt became interested in steam engine technology while working as an instrument maker at the University of Glasgow. He introduced designs to reduce waste and improve the efficiency of steam engines and created the concept of horsepower. The watt, the SI unit of energy, is named after him.

Robert Adam

1728-1792

This famous Scottish neoclassical architect was born in Kirkcaldy and studied at Edinburgh University. His work includes the stunning Hopetoun House to the west of Edinburgh, Culzean Castle in Ayrshire and the exquisite Charlotte Square, home to the Georgian House, in Edinburgh.

From *The History of Scotland in 25 Objects*

<http://ebooks.visitscotland.com/25-objects/>

The Lewis Chessmen



The Lewis Chessmen are a set of Medieval chess pieces dating back to the late 12th or early 13th century. They are

between 3.5cm and 10.2cm high. Most are carved from walrus tusk, but a few are made from a whale's tooth. The original hoard contained 93 items: 78 chess pieces, 14 tablemen and a buckle, possibly to fasten the bag in which they might be

kept. All the pieces, apart from the pawns, are depictions of human figures, and many have almost comically angry-looking facial expressions.

The chess pieces were found in 1831 in a small stone kist in a sand dune in Uig on Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides. Experts believe they came from Trondheim in Norway. When they were made, the Outer Hebrides were among the Scottish islands ruled by Norway.

The pieces are in very good condition, so it's likely they were traders' stock rather than being in use. They were either lost on a journey from Norway to Ireland or were buried for safekeeping by somebody who was hoping to collect them at a later date.

They're a characterful reminder of the historic ties between parts of modern-day Scotland and Norway, and of a time when travelling by sea was the only option for merchants and others wishing to interact with other islanders.

Received on our website

America's Great War Highlanders

By R. J. MacDonald

The mornings were cold in November 1917, so it's easy to imagine the scene- Her Majesty's Troopship *Canada* arrives at Liverpool docks, England. Soon lines of soldiers, burdened down with kit and rifles, are disembarking down the gangplanks. They form up into ranks, glad to be on dry land again, and with a nod from their commanding officer to the pipe major, the drone of bagpipes tuning up carries through the still air. Then, to the command of, "By the right, Quick March!" the men of the 236th MacLean Kilties of America march smartly away from the docks to the sound of their own pipes and drums. America's Great War Highlanders had arrived.

Americans serving in the Canadian Forces were commonplace during WWI. Three battalions, the 97th, 211th and 213th, all designated 'American Legion', had been raised and deployed to France. But the 236th Battalion was special- it wore kilts. It was the brainchild of a Canadian- Lieutenant Colonel Percy Guthrie. While lying wounded in France, he heard a Scottish battalion passing by, pipes and drums leading the way. At that moment he resolved to raise a battalion of Highlanders. On return home to Canada, he gained official support and in May 1916, the 236th New Brunswick Kilties

(MacLean Highlanders) were raised. Needing men to fill its ranks, Guthrie's gaze quickly turned to New England following America's entry into the war. With a quick change of name and cap badges, the 236th Maclean Kilties of America appealed to Scots-Americans from Maine to Boston for recruits and within eleven days the Highland battalion had over-filled its ranks (*The MacLean Kilties* by Ian MacLean).



World War 1 Recruiting
Poster - 1916

Having arrived in Great Britain, the battalion trained hard, under the expert eyes of its officers and non-commissioned officers- all veterans of the Western Front. In March 1918, they deployed to France. A cruel blow awaited them. Despite vehement protests, the battalion was effectively split into three to feed the constant need for re-enforcements.

The Canadians from

New Brunswick were allowed to join the New Brunswick Regiment. The rest, including the Scots-Americans, were divided between the Royal Highlanders of Canada and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, in which they would go on to fight in every major battle for the remainder of the war, suffering 553 casualties, (*Percy Guthrie and the MacLean Kilties* by Paul Belliveau).

In 2006 a memorial plaque to the 236th Maclean Kilties of America was unveiled at their old headquarters building in Fredericton, New Brunswick. A memorial to all Americans who fought in the Canadian Forces during WWI was dedicated in 1927 at Arlington National Cemetery; the pipes and drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada played at the ceremony.

From *The Scottish Banner*

Edinburgh to mark 100 years of Armistice

Bands of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland and Royal Air Force Central Scotland Pipes and Drums will feature in a stirring night of music reflecting on the events of the 'war to end all wars'. Musicians from the Royal Regiment joined the Lord Provost and

Legion Scotland's Kevin Gray recently to announce the event, which will take place at Edinburgh Council's Assembly Rooms on Friday 9 November.

Narrated by Scottish actress Rose McBain (*Monarch of the Glen*) and starring singer and TV presenter Isla St Clair, whose Uncle was a First World War Commando, the one-off show will also feature Legion Scotland Sweetheart Amy Hawthorn, Scottish piper Erin Ritchie, the soulful voice of Ibiyemi Osinaike and singer songwriters Alan Brydon and Stuart McLean.

Lord Provost Frank Ross said: "This summer marks the centenary of the start of the Hundred Days Offensive and the final stages of the First World War, providing an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the toll the war took on the nation and the bravery of those who fought for us. In Edinburgh, we have been marking the anniversary year with several public commemorations, including the design of this summer's Floral Clock which blooms red for remembrance in Princes Street Gardens. Our Concert of Remembrance will be held to mark the end of the war. It will show our city's collective thanks to those who put their lives on the line and commemorate the centenary of Armistice. I hope the unique line-up rings it loud and clear that in Edinburgh, we will never forget."

The First World War took a devastating toll on Scotland. Of the 700,000 Scots who joined the forces, more than 100,000 were never to return home. Nearly every village, city and town in Scotland has some form of memorial displaying the names of their war dead and the Scottish National War Memorial is in Edinburgh Castle. It commemorates Scottish soldiers, and those serving with Scottish regiments, who died in the two world wars and more recent conflicts.

Did you know? St. Andrews

St Andrews was originally known as Kilrymont. Its name was changed many hundreds of years ago thanks to a monk who transported the relics of Apostle Andrew. The town's name was changed to honour the saint.

- It is the birthplace of golf, and the Royal and Ancient Club, which was created in 1754, has been the headquarters of golf ever since.

- Mary Queen of Scots was a member of the local golf club and many regard her as being the world's first female golfer. She started playing golf at St Andrews soon after her husband Darnley was murdered.

- A notable feature of this small town is the University of St Andrews. Founded in 1413, this institution is known to be the oldest university in Scotland, as well as being the third oldest university in the English-speaking world. Prince William is perhaps the university's most recent famous alumnus.

- The College Chapel contains the pulpit where John Knox preached, and in the grounds there is a thorn tree reputedly planted by Mary, Queen of Scots.

- St Andrews was at one time the ecclesiastical capital of Scotland. The 12th century Cathedral was the country's largest building for over 600 years, losing its title when Waverley Station in Edinburgh was built in Victorian times.

- St Andrews is one of the sunniest and driest parts of the UK – statistically, it is sunnier annually than London and drier than Paris.

- More than 230,000 rounds of golf are played on the seven courses in St Andrews each year. 45,000 of these are played on the Old Course alone.

Red Poppies – Symbol of Grief

"The First World War claimed many millions of lives. Soldiers, sailors and airmen died overseas and were buried there, in many cases with no marked grave. Without a body to bury, families could not observe normal funeral practices. This, along with the sheer scale of the conflict, led to a new culture of grief, which was at once both national and personal and required symbolic representation. The poppy became that symbol, and gained an additional charitable function in the 1920s as their manufacture and sale became a way to raise funds for ex-servicemen and their families."

-- Patrick Watt, curator

The Poppy: A Symbol of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields
By John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

The poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres. The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss.

Sunday, 11 November 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). *Lest We Forget.*

The White Cockade

Bonnie Prince Charley spent the night at Fassfern House near Fort William after landing in Scotland and raising his standard in the 1745 uprising. Before setting forth the following morning, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, or the Young Pretender - it depends on your view as to what you call him - picked a white rose and stuck it in his blue bonnet. This flower came to be known as the White Cockade. It would become the romantic symbol for the Jacobite cause and is an emblem that is still sported today.

-- Fiona Armstrong (Lady MacGregor)

From The Scotsman Newspaper

Great War heroine who found social whirl 'simply topping'

She was the daughter of a wealthy gentleman farmer in the Scottish Borders and could have spent the years of the First World War attending extravagant parties and holidaying in the Highlands. But instead, 20-year-old Arabella Isobel McDowall, known as "Trilby", set off from Craigmullen in Dumfries for the Front and became a volunteer ambulance driver. Her courage was recognised by a host of medals, including the Croix de Guerre with silver star from the French and the Queen Elisabeth Medal from Belgium.

McDowall's story is revealed in the book, *A Military Inheritance*, by retired major Jeremy Yeoman, whose sister married into the war volunteer's family. In letters to her mother, McDowall describes the defiance of the Germans following the Armistice, tending the wounded, and driving an ambulance during the night across an abandoned battlefield. Because of her background she mixed with high-ranking officers and generals enjoying the entertainment, fine wine and dining offered by the remnants of the Belle Époque.

The British Army was reluctant to accept female volunteer First-Aiders and Trilby and many other women, mostly from similar backgrounds, who had joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry were accepted by the Belgian and French armies. McDowall spent most of the war with Unit V, which became a formal unit of the Belgium Army, at a field hospital in Calais.



Yvonne McEwen, professor of history, war and conflict studies, at Wolverhampton University, explained that most

women who went out to the war were financially supported by their fathers or had family money. In many ways they were naive. They were taken in by the 'It'll all be over by Christmas' mentality. As to why more working class women didn't volunteer, she said: "Working class women at home were often running two jobs - taking over the work of men now at the Front and then trying to keep things going on the domestic front."

A glimpse of the mysterious Picts

New research suggests the Picts were innovators of what may have been an early form of written language.

The Picts saw off the mighty legions of the Roman Empire, who retreated behind great walls rather than attempt to conquer them. They also defeated a Northumbrian army at the battle of Dun Nechtain in 685, a victory that some believe was crucial to the later creation of Scotland as a nation. However, according to the Venerable Bede, not long after this decisive encounter, the Picts inexplicably vanished from history. Over the centuries, this apparent mystery helped turn them into something more like mythical beings than ordinary humans in the popular imagination. But, despite advances in history and archaeology they have remained largely lost in the mists of time.



Modern historians have suggested that their true fate was more prosaic – they simply adopted Gaelic language and culture and gradually became indistinguishable from other Scots.

So it is rather exciting – at least for those with an interest in ancient history – to hear of a breakthrough in the understanding of Pictish symbol stones at the site of an ancient fort at the Dunnicaer sea stack near Stonehaven.

The findings suggest the Picts were “innovators” in the use of symbol script as early as the 3rd century AD, hundreds of years before they were thought to have developed this form of “monumental communication”.



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

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