

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Our October gathering will be on Sunday, October 14th. As usual, we will gather at **2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church**, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

This month's entertainment will be by Tyrone Heade, who is the Cathedral piper for St. James Cathedral and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. He also is the 2009 World Solo Amateur Champion on Piobaireachd.

Facebook

The Caledonians have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seattlecaledonians/?ef=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 suffered a heart attack during surgery and is now 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.

Member Stephanie Sprinkle had heart surgery earlier this summer, and has recovered completely.

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

October

6 Fred Morrison Concert, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA, 7pm. \$30 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org>

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

13 Clan Donald All Clans Fall Banquet, Renton Technical College, 3000 NE Fourth St., Renton, WA \$50. Send check to: All Clans Fall Banquet, 802 Cedar Ave. S., Renton, WA 98057.

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

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>

Contacts to the Caledonian Website

Several persons have contacted us on our website, hoping to interest members in books they have written or services they can provide. Here are a few of those requests.

From Ian Couper
ian@ic-booksandmusic.co.uk

I am from Scotland, and a writer of exciting and engaging Scottish short stories filled with contemporary storylines, Scottish nostalgia, folklore, mysticism and historical fiction around major events in Scotland's past (including the battle of Culloden, the Clearances and Emigration to the New World for example). My books are available as e-books or paperbacks and can be purchased online including through AMAZON (and Amazon Kindle) and Waterstones.

From David Wilson
(davetom.matt@btinternet.com)

Hi from the Scottish Highlands, Scotland has a very rich heritage in poetry. Many poets have been inspired to write by the grandeur of the scenery, while others have obtained their inspiration from urban scenes, wars, emotions and many other subjects. I have just published a book which includes 52 poems from 27 poets which include a variation in style of writing and subject matter which I am sure will appeal to most readers. The poets include Robert Burns, John Roy Stuart and James Hogg [The Ettrick Shepherd]. The book "Scottish Poetic Heritage" by Hamish Mira [my pen-name] is available on Amazon as a paperback or e-book.

From Doug Archibald
archambaud@tiscali.co.uk

A big hello from Dumfries in south west Scotland, last resting place of our National Bard Robbie Burns. Just a quick note to let you know I am in the business of researching Scottish Ancestry and wondered if you might be so kind as to share this with your members. My website is at Lookbak Scotland. If any of your members are interested in getting help researching their family roots, I would be only too happy to oblige. A ten per cent discount to anyone quoting the reference SCO4647. I hope your society flourishes and all are well. Wishing you all the best and thank you.

From George Smith
Poundswick9@gmail.com

My Scottish Common People – The History of a Scottish Family is the account of a family history which could stand for a history of the Scottish working class over the last four hundred years. George Smith has tracked eight paternal and

maternal lines of forebears, common people who lived in Angus, Inverness-shire, Perthshire, Fife, Orkney and Dundee. They include jute mechanics, seamstresses, handloom weavers, smallholders, farm hands, and fishing families, and finally the not-so-common author's father, a shipyard joiner who became a trade union leader, TUC president and knight of the realm who will be familiar to many in the Labour Movement. This book tells of the life events of ordinary people and their pursuit of livelihoods. This book is available from Amazon.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Thanks to Clan MacLean for these insights.

SCOTTISH SURNAMING ORIGINS

Visitors at Highland Games with Scottish surnames sometimes are disappointed if a tartan can't be found for them. Not all Scottish surnames have a tartan or a clan but this doesn't make them any less Scottish. There are so many origins of Scottish surnames: Flemish, Viking, Scottish Gaelic, and Norman French as well as French that came in the entourage of Mary Queen of Scots and English. English, known in Scotland by Scots as "Inglis", was a language for over a thousand years in Scotland before the union in 1707. After the union it became fashionable to speak English as it was spoken in London. Inglis was relegated to being one of the five major dialects in Scotland.

WHEN DID SCOTLAND ADOPT THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR?

If you have done English research, you probably know that England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752. But do you know when Scotland adopted it? Some say 1600; others say 1752. Which is right?

The Julian calendar, which began the year on March 25th, had been used throughout the Christian world since ancient times. But by the 16th century, scientists agreed that the old calendar improperly calculated the length of a year and was therefore falling gradually behind. During the reign of Pope Gregory XIII, a new calendar was created, called the Gregorian calendar. The new calendar, which began the year on January 1st, was adopted by most of Europe in 1582, but England and Henry VIII had broken with Rome and therefore did not adopt the new calendar.

Scotland, however, was not yet united to England in 1582. The Scottish government decided that January 1st made a better New Year's Day than March 25th, so the decision was made to make January 1, 1599 the new January 1, 1600. As a result, 1599 had only nine months. But that was as far as the change took place in Scotland.

The other change that took place when Europe adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1582 was that 10 days were dropped from the calendar. But Scotland did not follow suit, so year after year in Scotland, as in England, the Julian calendar fell gradually further and further behind. By 1752, Scotland had been (reluctantly) united to England, so when England changed to the Gregorian calendar that year and dropped 11 days, Scotland did the same.

So you decide for yourself. When did Scotland adopt the Gregorian calendar?

Clan Battlefield Map Goes Online

Lochcarron of Scotland, the world's leading manufacturer of tartan, has launched the Interactive Clan Battlefield Map of Scotland. The map includes more than 79 clan battles from the beginning of the 12th century through the 18th century. A key feature of the map is the ability to filter by clan and as well filtering battles described in the popular TV series *Outlander*. The map, which can be found at www.lochcarron.co.uk/scottish-clan-battles-map, was collaboration with different Scottish clans and multiple sources in order to gather the most accurate information about the clan battles and locations.

Q & A

Q: What is a Corbett?

A. A Corbett is a mountain in Scotland that is between 2,500 and 3,000 feet high with prominence (physically projecting above) of at least 500 feet. Mountains that are over 3,000 feet are known as Munros.

Q: Who invented the toaster?

A. The first electric toaster was invented in 1893 by Alan Mac Masters in Edinburgh. The problem of the time was creating a heating element that could

sustain red-hot temperature without breaking or becoming brittle.

From ebooks.visitscotland.com

Famous Scots

Royalty

Kenneth MacAlpin

Kenneth MacAlpin was crowned the first King of Scots in 843. Kings and queens continued to reign over Scotland until 1707 when the Kingdoms of Scotland and England merged to form the Kingdom of Great Britain. Since then twelve monarchs have presided over the United Kingdom from Queen Anne to Queen Elizabeth II. In fact, the Queen's descendants date back to the early Scottish monarchy. Which may explain why the royal family have enjoyed such a love affair with Scotland throughout the years. Then again, you don't need to have blue blood for Scotland to capture your heart.

Mary Queen of Scots

One of the most enduring figures in Scottish history, Mary Queen of Scots was born in Linlithgow Palace, but brought up in France as a Catholic. She returned to Scotland on the death of her first husband King Francis II of France to reign in what would become a turbulent period in Scottish history. After two marriages which were political disasters and the appointment of an Italian First Minister, she fled to England where she was imprisoned by her cousin Elizabeth I. Mary was executed at Fotheringay Castle in 1587.

James VI (Scotland) & I (England)

James, the only son of Mary Queen of Scots, was born in Edinburgh Castle. He was crowned in 1567 on the abdication of his mother. When Elizabeth I of England died childless in 1603, he became king of both countries, thus uniting the crown of both England and Scotland.

Macbeth

Macbeth was King of Scotland from 1040-1057, made famous by Shakespeare's play of the same name. The real story chronicled has portrayed him in a better light as a fair king in bloodthirsty times. He was the

first Scottish king to make a pilgrimage to Rome in 1050.

From *The Scottish Banner*

Royal Pumpkin Spice Tartan



Based on the Royal Stewart tartan, this whimsical design (SRT reference: 12232) pays homage to the colours and flavours of the Hallowe'en and holiday season, evoking spicy notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, and of course, pumpkin. This tartan was designed by Deborah Savage and registered in September, 2018.

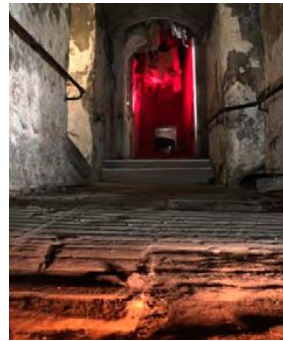
Top 11 spooky places to visit in Scotland

Scotland is certainly a spooky place, not just on Halloween. Our long bloody history set in remote forests, castles and glens is the ideal fodder for many gruesome tales of ghosts and ghouls. Scotland is a nation of storytellers and throughout the centuries accounts persist of the spirits of real people who died in tragic or horrific circumstances. Of apparitions that appear at certain times of the night, or on certain days of the year – perhaps when they were murdered. And of strange, eerie sounds that pierce the chilled Scottish air. Hauntings seem to have no set boundaries. Ghosts have been reported on bleak roads, in old theatres and ancient graveyards across the land. Is it just a draught seeping through an ancient wall or something altogether more sinister. In Scotland you can never be too sure.

1. Scotland's Spookiest Street

The street leading from Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyrood-house is known as "The Royal Mile", with dark and spooky lanes leading off.

One, Mary King's Close, was bricked up during an outbreak of plague and only recently re-opened. Said to be the most haunted place in the Scottish capital, the spirit of a young girl has often been



seen. Guided tours will take you to the close, Greyfriars cemetery where the ghosts of covenanters who were tortured and executed linger, and also to the place where body snatchers Burke and Hare first dug up corpses to sell for use in medical experiments.

2. Roslyn Chapel

A few miles to the south-east of Edinburgh. Made famous by the novel and movie *The Da Vinci Code*, this working church was built for the Sinclair family in the fifteenth century. Ghostly flames apparently flicker in the burial vault when one of the Sinclairs is about to die, and an apparition of the apprentice who carved the famous Apprentice Pillar and was then murdered by his teacher, can sometimes be seen or heard.

3. Spooky Stirling

Stirling Castle was the home to the Kings and Queens of Scotland. Trouble, intrigue and death were never far from their walls. Stirling is not short of a ghost story or two. Some of their origins are clear, others are shrouded in even more secrets. The Pink Lady falls into the latter category. Some say she was a pretty noblewoman engaged to a brave knight who starved to death inside Stirling Castle – while under an English siege in 1304 – during the Wars of Independence. She in turn died, not from malnourishment but from the pain of a broken heart. Her spirit roams the castle awaiting the day their souls will be entwined once more. Others say she is Mary Witherspoon, a victim of Grave Robbers who sold bodies to educated men for dissection. While the robbers were brought to justice her ghost still seeks her mortal remains. People report a faint scent of rose-blossom in the air before she appears, her favourite flower.

4. Fyvie Castle

Just north of Aberdeen, this castle is haunted by the spectre of Lillias Drummond who died there in 1601. Some believe she was starved to death by her husband, others that she died from a broken heart. Whatever the truth, it is said that Lillias's ghost carved her name on the stone window sill of her

husband's bedroom on the night that he took a new bride. The writing can still be seen and the green-ghost of Lilius appears when time bodes ill for the owners of Fyvie. A dead drummer and a haunted trumpeter are also believed to haunt the Castle – with the trumpet sounding when death is near.



5. Cruden Bay

On the Aberdeenshire coast and to the east of Fyvie, Cruden Bay is a pleasant looking fishing village. But in the 19th century it was the holiday haunt of Bram Stoker. The ruins of Slains Castle, which drape down from the headland inspired his vision of Count Dracula's Castle. The Kilmarnock Arms Inn, where Stoker stayed in 1895, is still there. Would you risk a visit to the place where Count Dracula was brought to life?

6. Cawdor Castle

Shakespeare's Macbeth was given the title of Thane of Cawdor in the classic story of power and revenge. While the castle did not exist during the time of the real Macbeth, could the stories of Cawdor Castle, close to Nairn near Inverness, be stranger than Shakespeare's fiction.

One ghost is thought to be the daughter of an earl of Cawdor. A wayward lass who insulted her father by flattering an enemy chieftain's son. When the Earl discovered their tryst she fled to the highest tower of the castle as he followed in murderous pursuit. She lowered herself from the window to escape the threats of her father. He showed no mercy and chopped off her hands sending her to her death. Visitors have reported seeing the ghost of this handless girl still roaming the castle.

7. Dunstaffnage Castle

On the west coast of Scotland, close to the town of Oban, the castle is more than thirteen hundred years old. Besieged and rebuilt many times it was visited by Robert the Bruce, King James IV and

Flora Macdonald – who was imprisoned at Dunstaffnage after helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape Scotland following the Battle of Culloden. A lady dressed in green walks the ramparts when momentous events are about to unfold for the castle owners, Clan Campbell. When smiling the fortune will be good. But if she is seen weeping, trouble lies ahead. The castle is open daily, with restricted hours during the winter.

8. The Home of Walter Scott at Abbotsford House



Abbotsford House in the Scottish Borders, was the home of novelist Sir Walter Scott. When you visit you can walk his library and even sit in his dining room. Be careful though. That is where the great man died after exhausting himself writing in an attempt to pay off huge debts. Might you catch a glimpse of his ghost?

9. Culloden Moor



It was here on a windswept patch of ground near Inverness that Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebel army was crushed by government troops in 1746. The Prince's army was made up of

Scottish clans like the Stuarts, the Macdonalds and the Frasers. Many were slaughtered after the battle was over. Cairns, or rock monuments, stand where these men died. Visions of the battle and apparitions at the memorial cairns are said to occur in this sorrowful place. A refurbished visitor centre is open all year round.

10. Edinburgh Castle

The castle has a long and bloody history and is reputed to be haunted by many ghosts, including that of a headless drummer boy. His appearance is said to be a warning that the castle is about to be

besieged and was first seen in 1650 before Oliver Cromwell and his English army attacked. The castle is now a major tourist venue and is home to the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny an ancient rock on which the Kings of Scots were crowned.

11. Overton Bridge

A modern day mystery, the Overton Bridge in West Dunbartonshire has been the site of many unexplained dog suicides. The dogs are reported to take the plunge from exact same spot on the same side of the bridge. Some of those lucky enough to survive are said to return moments later to try again. It is alleged Overton Bridge has taken the lives of 50 unfortunate canine companions.

There have been many attempts to explain the phenomena. Some think the problem lies with mink trails leading over the side of the bridge. However, in Celtic beliefs Overton Bridge is called a "thin place" where the realms of the living and the dead cross. Others believe that dogs are super sensitive to the spirits and spooked enough by the bridge to take their own lives.

Horses

Going back one hundred and twenty years and even more recently, horses and ponies were the main means of conveyance and cartage throughout Scotland. Everything from the big horses pulling the drays from breweries to pony pulling the ragman's cart. More well to do families may have had a carriage to travel about the country, while a country farmer travelled with a pony and cart.

Horses were such an integral part of daily life and commerce that they made their impact on Scottish names. Anything to do with horses, their care and their accoutrements often showed in surnames.

The obvious one was Smith and a variety names from that name, Smithyman, Smithson. The smith or blacksmith was an iron processor who made shoes for the horses to protect their feet on long journeys. The rest of horse furniture and pieces, which included bits, spurs and stirrups were manufactured by a lorimer. Lorimer, sometimes Lorrimer is a surname that has been recorded in Scotland since the twelfth century under the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214).

An obvious horse profession would be the saddler, for the person who made saddles, again a name of great antiquity in Scotland. A Michael Saddeler of Roxboroughshire received a royal grant in 1330.

Lastly, place names honouring horses are found in surnames. Horseburgh, from lands in Peebleshire. Horsley, an ancient family in Lanarkshire, which probably originated from a place named Horsley in Northumberland. These are two prominent ones that go back to the 13th century.

Associated trades and consequently surnames that were a result of vehicles pulled by horses included Carter, Waggoner or Wagner. Persons who made those vehicles were Wainwright and even more specialized Wheelwright.



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

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