

Caledonian

Newcastle Family History Society Inc
The Scottish Special Interest Group Newsletter

No 4

Whitsunday 2024

Faillte!

Welcome to this Whitsunday Newsletter!

The Scottish Enlightenment:

This is the title of a book written by professional historian and non-Scot, Arthur Herman. It is perhaps best described by reading the blurb on the back cover of the 2001 British paperback edition.

“Arthur Herman argues that Scotland’s turbulent history, from William Wallace to the Presbyterian Lords of the Covenant, laid the foundations for ‘the Scottish miracle’. Within one hundred years, the nation that began the eighteenth century dominated by the harsh and repressive Scottish Kirk had evolved into Europe’s most literate society, producing an idea of modernity that has shaped much of civilisation as we know it. He follows the lives and work of thinkers such as Adam Smith and David Hume, writers such as Burns and Boswell, as well as architects, technicians and inventors, and traces their legacy into the twentieth century. Written with wit, erudition and clarity, *The Scottish Enlightenment* claims the Scots rightful place in the history of the western world.”

In his preface Herman writes: “I am not a Scot, or even of Scottish descent. I suppose that is a rash admission, given the theme of this book. But certainly no one can say my interest in the Scots or Scottish culture is a matter of ethnic chauvinism or genealogical obsession. In fact, the point of this book is that being Scottish turns out to be more than just a matter of nationality or place of origin or clan or even culture. ... It is time to let the rest of the world in on the secret Scots have known for a long time: that without Scotland, to paraphrase Andrew Carnegie, the modern world would be a very poor show.”

It may be hard to find a copy of this book today, but if you do come across one you will find it a most rewarding read.

This edition has been edited by Ken Shilling



Some Scots Who Made Our Modern World.

These seven men were presented in February 2024 in a list by *Scotland Now*, the email newsletter of the Scottish paper, *Daily Record*. Each one has helped build our modern world.

1. In 1748 William Cullen, a towering figure in the field of medicine, invented refrigeration
2. The flushing toilet was invented by Alexander Cumming in 1775
3. In 1861 James Clerk developed colour photography
4. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876
5. Television was the work of John Logie Baird, invented in 1926
6. Alexander Fleming gave the world penicillin in 1928
7. James Goodfellow was responsible for the automatic teller machine (ATM). In the birthday honours list of 2006 he was awarded the OBE for his work.

Scottish universities produced many famous doctors. Some of them served as surgeon superintendents on the convict transports to Australia or in the British army. One of the latter was Dr James Mitchell who settled in Australia and became an important person in colonial affairs and a big landholder. The Hunter brothers, William and John, gave much to modern medicine. William did much to improve the practices current in childbirth while John, born 13 February 1728, did much to transform the practice of dentistry. John also had a flair for dissection and he is today recognised as the founder of scientific surgery.

James 'Paraffin' Young was born 17 October 1850. He earned his nickname after patenting the extraction of paraffin from crushed shale. He was the son of a carpenter and took evening classes in Glasgow before going on to assist a Glasgow University lecturer in his chemistry classes. He then turned to the manufacture of alkalis before experimenting with mineral oil production. As well as his industrial achievements, Young was a generous man who campaigned against slavery, financed David Livingstone's expeditions to Africa and provided for Livingstone's widow and children when the explorer died.

2007 saw the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford in 1757 near Westerkirk, Dumfries-shire. The son of a shepherd, Thomas was apprenticed to a stonemason, thus setting him on the path to becoming one of Britain's most famed civil engineers. In Scotland, perhaps, he is best known for his part in the construction of the Caledonian Canal. As well as his many projects in Scotland, he also worked in Wales. His bridge across the Menai Strait was opened in 1826, at the time the biggest bridge in the world. So well made was it that it needed no repairs for more than a hundred years.

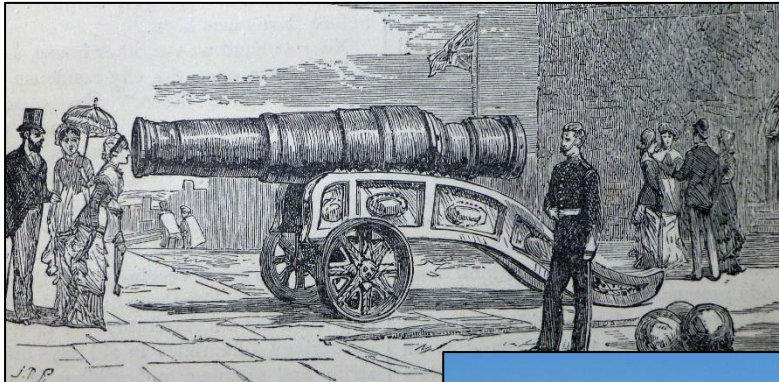
Another famous Scottish builder is Robert Stevenson. He shares the birthdate of 8 June with another of Britain's foremost lighthouse builders, John Smeaton although he was born in 1772 and Smeaton in 1724. Robert's son Thomas was a prosperous civil engineer and also the father of Robert Louis Stevenson, a prolific author who was clearly influenced by the association his grandfather and father had with adventure, the sea and travel. So here we have a mere sample from the very long list of Scotsmen and women who helped make our modern world.

Mons Meg

A must-see on a visit to Edinburgh Castle is Mons Meg. This monster of a cannon threw a ball of such size that it must have terrified any who stood before it. In 1457 King James II was given a gift of two giant siege guns (known as 'bombards') by his uncle by marriage, Phillip the Good, Duke of Burgundy. One of these guns has survived the centuries and is now on display at the castle. It is known as 'Mons Meg'.

Mons Meg was made in Mons in present day Belgium in 1449. At the time it was at the leading edge of artillery technology, a muzzle-loaded piece weighing 6040kg and firing gunstones weighing 150kg. It first saw action against the English at the siege of Norham Castle in 1497. Its great weight, however, made it very difficult to move about and it could travel barely 5km a day, so that by the middle of the sixteenth century it was retired from military duty. It was then used to fire salutes from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle, doing so in 1558 to celebrate the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the French Dauphin, Francis. The gunstone fired that day was recovered from Wardie Muir – almost 3.5km away!

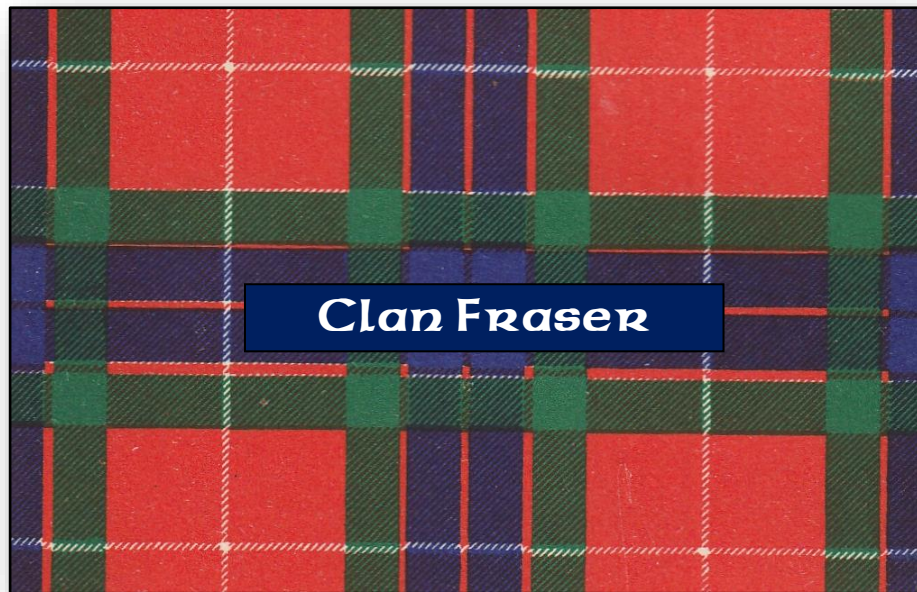
The gun was last fired 14 October 1681 to salute the birthday of the Duke of Albany and York (later King James VII and II) and its barrel burst. The broken bombard was then dumped beside Foog's Gate where it lay until 1754 when it was taken to the Tower of London before returning to Edinburgh in 1829.



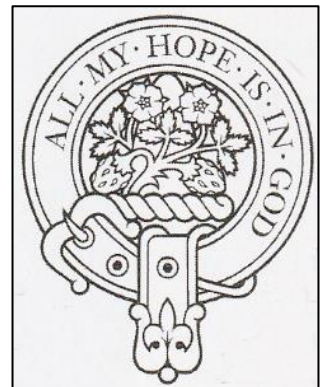
Above: A 19th century view of Mons Meg on display at Edinburgh Castle.

Right: This photo from 2018 shows the historic cannon returned to public view





As anyone who has any experience with tracing family history will know, the spelling of a family name may not be set in stone, as it were, but can vary from time to time for no apparent reason. The name of Fraser is no exception. Some common variations are Frazer, Freser and Frezel but others may be found. One theory is that the name is derived from the French *freze* for 'strawberry', but the *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names* (2016) suggests the possibility it represents a Gaelic name 'corrupted beyond recognition by Anglo-French scribes'. The badge of Clan Fraser, however, shows a strawberry plant bearing flowers and fruits along with the motto 'All my hope is in God'.



There are two Fraser clans which are separate although both share a common ancestor. There is the lowland Fraser clan and the highland clan known as Fraser of Lovat. Both clans have their separate chief, each of whom is recognised by the Standing Council of Scottish Clans.

The first Fraser to appear in Scotland was about 1160 when Simon Fraser held lands at Keith in East Lothian. About five generations later, another Simon Fraser, known as 'the Patriot', was captured fighting for Robert the Bruce and was executed in 1306 by Edward I of England. This Simon's cousin was Alexander Fraser of Cowie who was Bruce's chamberlain. He married Bruce's sister Mary. Alexander's younger brother was another Sir Simon Fraser and it is from him that the chiefs of Clan Fraser of Lovat are descended. It was Hugh Fraser, 6th Lord of Lovat and Sherrif of Inverness, who was made 1st Lord Fraser of Lovat in about 1464.

Life was not always easy for the Scots, not even for clan leaders. In 1592 Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth received charters from James VI of Scotland for the fishing village of Faithlie which later became the town of Fraserburgh. He was also authorised to found a

university in the town but this scheme came to nought due to the religious troubles of the time. The eighth lord of Philorth built Fraserburgh Castle which was converted into Scotland's first lighthouse, the Kinnaird Head lighthouse, in 1787.

Cairnbulg Castle was given to the Ross clan in 1316 by Robert the Bruce, and became Sir Alexander Fraser's when he married the daughter of the Earl of Ross in 1375. Because of debt, it was lost to the family for over three hundred years until 1934 when it was bought back by the 19th Lord Saltoun.

The Frasers of Philorth did not take part in the Jacobite rebellions of the 18th century. In 2004 the clan chief was Flora Fraser, 20th Lady Saltoun who was then sitting in the House of Lords.

Simon, 11th Lord Lovat, earned himself the nickname 'the Fox' because of his double-dealing during the Jacobite rebellion, switching sides several times between the Jacobites and the House of Hanover as his own and his clan interests dictated. When the rebellion failed with the defeat at Culloden, Simon was captured and was the last person to be beheaded on Tower Hill in London, 9 April 1747. He was 80 years old.



The badge of Clan Fraser of Lovat. The French motto translates as "I am ready".

The clans Fraser have a number of tartans they may use. There are the specific tartans for Clan Fraser and Clan Fraser of Lovat, as well as older versions and hunting styles. Unusually, the Frasers have a tartan that is reserved for use at weddings! One Fraser tartan is said to have been used at one time by the officers and men of the 78th Highlanders.

Names connected to Clan Fraser and Clan Fraser of Lovat:

Often, families with names other than that of the clan chieftain were linked to the clan as 'septs'. This may have been done for security, gaining the protection of the clan in difficult times. Below are some names that have been found which were connected to one or both of the Fraser clans, although it must be noted that just to bear that name today does not prove an historic link to the clan existed.

Frazer, Fresell, Freser, Frezel, Friseal Frissell, Frizel, Frizell, Frew, MacGruer, Macimmey, MacKemmie, MacKim, MacKimmie, MacShimes, MacShimmie,, MacSimon, MacSymon, Sim, Sime, Simon, Simpson, Simson, Syme, Symon, Tweedle.

The following resources were used for this article:

The Scottish Clans & Their Tartans by W. & A.K. Johnston & G.W. Bacon Ltd;

Scotland and Her Tartans by Alexander Fulton, Bramley Books 1991;

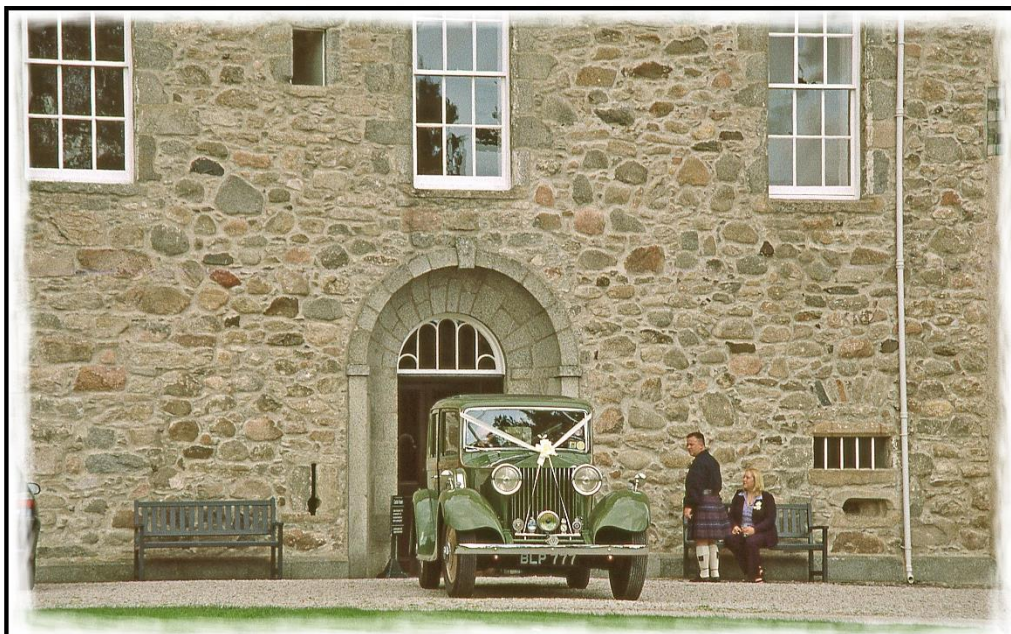
The Complete Book of Tartan by Iain Zaczek and Charles Phillips, Anness Publishing 2004.



Castle Fraser




Fraser Castle can be accessed from Aberdeen using the A944 road. It is said to be one of the grandest Scottish baronial tower houses and was built between 1575 and 1635. The castle stands in a shallow valley south of the River Don amidst fields and wooded *policies* (a Scots word for the park surrounding a country house). The image on the left shows an amouorial panel above the long-vanished first-floor entry to the castle, while below a decorated Rolls Royce awaits the bride and groom enjoying their wedding reception in the function room inside.



Some Advertisements

These Scottish advertisements were all current in the early 1960s. Some of these firms may still be in business today, but nevertheless there are still many providers of traditional Scottish products in the country.

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is always at your
SERVICE

Some banks in Scotland still produce their own bank notes which may not be all that easy to exchange in England.

Suppliers of tartan goods are easily found.

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1 FREDERICK STREET
144 PRINCES STREET
EDINBURGH

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The islands of the Outer Hebrides are especially proud of their fine Harris tweed. Every garment made from genuine cloth carries this label of authenticity.

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The Harris Tweed Symbol is a certificate of pedigree. Spun from virgin Scottish Wool, dyed, finished and hand-woven by Crofters in the Islands of the Outer Hebrides. This, and this alone, is . . .

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Look for the mark on the cloth
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ISSUED BY THE HARRIS TWEED ASSOCIATION LTD.

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Having your own transport gives you the chance to get off the beaten track and visit places not seen by the usual tourist in a group.

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William Henry Ogilvie - our forgotten bush poet

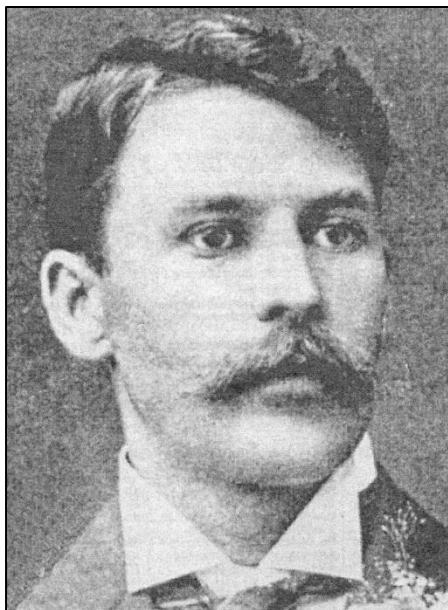
[Many thanks to Marilyn Bridges who supplied the material this story is based upon.]

“Our forgotten bush poet was a great Scot” was the headline to a story in the *Daily Telegraph* on 20 August 2019. The article was written by Troy Lennon, the history editor and the subject was William Henry Ogilvie, a young man from near Kelso in Roxburghshire, Scotland. He was the second of eight children born to George Ogilvie and Agnes Campbell. The Ogilvies had been managers of estates in the Border country for some 300 years and the young William grew up with a love of horses and the land. His early education was as a boarder at a school in Kelso and on weekends he would ride home on his pony. He later studied classics at Fettes College in Edinburgh, winning a prize for Latin verse.

After school William returned to help his father on the estate and when he wasn't riding horses and rounding up livestock, he indulged his love of poetry. He read widely but one poet he particularly liked was Adam Lindsay Gordon, the son of a British officer with Scottish ancestry, but working and writing in Australia. His own writing reflected his background and celebrated Scotland. The first verse of *A Scottish Night* was typical:

If you chance to strike a gathering of half-a-dozen friends
When the drink is Highland whusky or some chosen Border blends,
And the room is full of speirin and the gruppin' of brown han's,
And the talk is all of tartans and of plaidies and of clans,-
You can take things douce and easy, you can judge you're going right,
For you've had the luck to stumble on a wee Scotch night!

William was taken with the pictures Gordon painted in his poems and his father thought some time spent in colonial Australia would be of benefit to him. Thus it was that the young Scotsman arrive in the country in 1889, a passenger aboard SS *Arcadia*. He carried an invitation to William Scott of *Belalie Station*, north of Bourke and he travelled there from Sydney by Cobb & Co coach.



A young William Ogilvie

For twelve years he roamed from the Channel country of Queensland to the Coorong of South Australia. He earned a living through horse-breaking, droving, and mustering and developed a great love for the Australian bush. His feelings for the countryside he almost immediately began to record in poems, hundreds of which were published in the *Bulletin*, the *Sydney Mail*, the *Parkes Independent*, the *Australasian* and the *Melbourne Weekly Times*.

As Clement Semmler wrote, (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. II, 1988):

“His verses covered every facet of bush life and every part of the outback he knew. In his memoirs Ogilvie tells how, scribbled on the backs of letters and envelopes, one of his ballads was written under a gum-tree between Forbes and Bogan gate in the intervals of flinging sticks

and stones at refractory ewes; another was written on the lignum plains of Gippsland: another at a station near Mount Gambier. He wrote as he rode: his rhythmic lines seem to keep time to the beat of horse-hooves, the crack of the stockwhip and the clink of snaffle bars.”

Semmler goes on to say:

“Among his best-known poems are the often-anthologised ballad, ‘The Death of Ben Hall’, ‘The Riding of the Rebel’ and ‘Fair Girls and Gray Horses’, the title piece of his first collection (Sydney, 1898). One of his poems ‘On Morant’ (‘He should have been one of the Cavaliers/ Who fought in King Charles’s cause’) was written for Harry ‘The Breaker’ Morant whom he had met in the early 1890s and with whom he had become firm friends, each admiring the other’s horsemanship.”

One poem to come from William’s stay in Australia was *Australian Opal*. The first verse is:

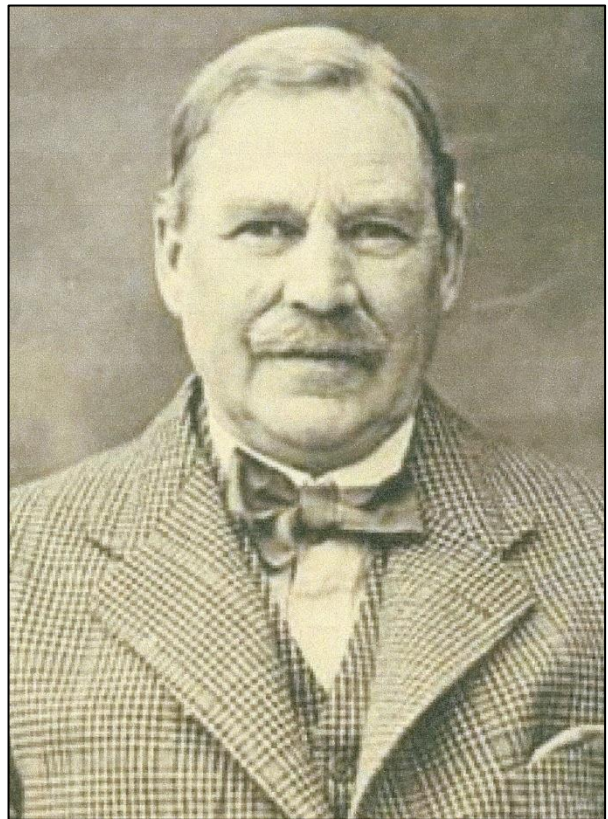
Opal, shining opal, let them call you luckless jewel.
Let the curse or let them covet, you are still my heart’s desire,
You that robbed the sun and moon and green earth for fuel
To gather your milky breast and fill your veins with fire!

With the dawn of the new century in 1901, Ogilvie returned to Scotland, settling back into a countryman’s life. He rode and hunted but also continued to write, sending back verses to the *Bulletin* until at least 1905. Collections of verse were also published in Australia, including *The Australian and Other Verses* in 1916 while he wrote poems and prose for a number of British magazines and journals. Eighteen books of Scottish verse and prose came off the printer’s press, including *The Collected Sporting Verse of W.H. Ogilvie* (London, 1932) and *The Border Poems* (London, 1959).

Clement Semmler sums up his article with: “Ogilvie’s writing derived from the Scottish Border ballads and from them he infused a glow of romanticism into the Australian bush. His contemporaries saw the harsher colours, he the softer and mellower ones. ... And if sentiment sometimes overlapped his poems, it was more than compensated for by his lyricism and sensitivity”.

I loved the wide gold glitter of the plains
Spread out before us like a silent sea,
The last lapping of the loose-held reins,
The sense of motion and of mystery ...’

William Henry Ogilvie died in 1937.



An older William Ogilvie by John Moir, 1937



Scottish SIG Meeting: 12 March

A good number of members attended the Scottish SIG meeting on Tuesday, 12 March and all came away having learned a lot about Scotland.

First, there was some discussion about cemeteries on Skye and quite a few images of some were screened. Next, there was some discussion about Scots topics currently being screened on our TVs. Programmes have covered subjects such as Scottish islands, cemeteries and places of interest. SBS has been very active in this area screening documentaries of 'Grand Tours', including one of Scotland's rivers on 16 March.

Lea Harris gave a presentation showing us just how far she has come with the research of her Borland family from Kilwinning, Ayrshire, since our last meeting. In the intervening four weeks she has certainly covered a lot of territory and added significantly to her knowledge of this family.

Finally, Maree Shilling read a passage from *Highlanders – A History of the Gaels* by John MacLeod (Hodder and Stoughton, London 1997). This is an excellent book for a background to understand the Scottish Highlands and its people and Maree chose a section explaining how the clan system operated to the benefit of high and low.

As usual, there was a lot of discussion across the tables and everyone must have found something new and interesting to think about.

Scottish SIG meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and begin at 1.00pm. All Society members are welcome, especially if you are lucky enough to have a Scot on your family tree.

Another Famous Scotsman.

Scottish universities have produced many prominent men and women of medicine. One such was John James Richard MacLeod, who was born in Clunie, Aberdeenshire, 6 September 1876.

In 1923 he and Canadian Frederick Banting were awarded a Nobel prize for the discovery of insulin, a polypeptide hormone produced in the pancreas which has improved the lives of millions since.

John MacLeod died 16 March 1935 in Aberdeen.

Some Web Sites for that Wet Afternoon

St Andrews University Photo Collection <http://specialcollections.st-and.ac.uk/photocol.htm>

Scottish Fisheries Museum www.scotfishmuseum.org

History of Seaforth Highlanders www.army.dnd.ca/seaforthhighlanders/history.htm

Historic Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Notes from the Tay Valley

The Tay River enters the North Sea at Broughty Ferry, having passed through the major city of Dundee, known as the Town of the Three Js – Jute, Jam and Journalism. A vibrant and active local group known as *The Tay Valley Family History Society* caters to the genealogical interests of many locals and members of the vast Scottish diaspora scattered about the World. The society maintains an interesting web site at www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk and produces a regular journal which usually includes articles to assist with family history research and other matters of general interest. Some examples follow.

From issue February 2007:

Penny Weddings: ‘While doing some research into the records of the Associate Church in Leslie in about 1760s, I found reference to members of that church being put under discipline for attending a “Penny Wedding”. These were weddings where guests were invited along to celebrate the event but had to bring their own food and drink.’

From issue October 2007:

What is a Reedmaker?: A reed was a comb-like device used in weaving ... reeds came in a variety of spacings and heights to suit different looms. They ensured that the warp threads stayed at the same distance throughout the length of the weaving. A reedmaker must have been a skilled worker in metal who put the component parts together, as accuracy in placing the reeds at the correct distance apart would be crucial.

From issue February 2010:

If your ancestor was a *Grieve*, he probably oversaw the odd job man - the *Orraman*. He may even have overseen the *Cottars* – those who gave service for land.

Another for issue February 2010:

My father used to tell us stories as we sat round the table, bowls of steaming Scotch Broth in front of us. Queen Mary had been visiting some of the tenants on the Balmoral estate. She remarked on entering one of the small cottages that a most wonderful smell was coming from the pot bubbling away on the range. Proudly, the lady of the house informed her that it was Scotch Broth.

“Indeed,” said the Queen. “And what does that consist of?”

“Well,” said the woman, “there’s a bit o’ mutton and onions intult. There’s peas intult and barley intult and carrot and kail intult.”

“How lovely,” said Her Majesty, “but what is intult?”

The woman then went through the whole recipe again but luckily one of Her Majesty’s party stepped forward and explained that ‘intult’ meant ‘in it’. My sister and I loved this story and the delicious Scotch Broth that we were eating. If we were lucky Mum would have made too many potatoes and a couple of these would be placed in the middle of the broth. Heaven! Although it was just after the war and rationing was still going on, Mum’s ability to *mak a mickle oot o’ a muckle* was amazing. Mince and tatties appeared in so many forms: mince and tatties and mealy pudding, mince and tatties and skirlie, a poached egg nestling in the mince, and that old favourite Cottage Pie. My special favourite mince was topped with sliced cooked potatoes and a puff pastry top. The humble mince could reach culinary heights.

Family history groups are scattered across Scotland and a quick Google search should find one in any area of interest to you.



The John Hunter Hospital

The John Hunter Hospital in New Lambton, Newcastle, is often called ‘a skyscraper on its side’, and to walk from one end to the other reinforces this view. Already a massive structure, it is currently undergoing a new phase of building and will eventually be even more massive again.

The ‘John’ as it is often called, serves the people of New South Wales who live between the Hunter Valley and the Queensland border, a very large part of the State.

The John is named after three men, two of whom were medical innovators. The third was a Scotsman, born in Edinburgh in 1737, who became Governor of the colony of New South Wales 11 September 1795. Governor John Hunter also gave his name to the Hunter River and the valley through which it runs. He retired as Governor 28 September 1800 and returned to England, where he maintained an interest in the colony until his death on 13 March 1821.

The second John Hunter is also a Scotsman. He is already mentioned on page 2 of this newsletter. His contribution to medicine is explained in a display inside the main entrance.

He is said to have attained for surgery the dignity of a scientific profession, basing its practice on a vast body of general biological principles.

The third man remembered in the naming of the hospital is John Irvine Hunter who was born in Bendigo in 1898. At the age of 24 he became the youngest professor ever appointed to the Chair of Anatomy at Sydney University, having become famous for his contributions to anatomical research. His promising career was cut short when he died from typhoid fever in London in 1924, aged only 26.

It is fitting that we should remember two Scotsmen alongside an Australian, in the naming of this major east coast hospital as many Scots settled here to work in our collieries and factories, making a huge contribution to the growth of the Hunter Valley.



The sprawling John Hunter Hospital ('a skyscraper on its side') as seen in Google Maps. Today the scene is quite different as extensions are being added to the site.

Scottish SIG Meeting: 9 April

These notes for this Scottish SIG meeting are taken from the detailed minutes written up by Lea Harris.

Lea spoke about further advances in her family research since our last meeting. One of the many hints she shared was about Scots birth, death and marriage certificates.

When you purchase a birth, death or marriage certificate from ScotlandsPeople, occasionally you will see a note in the margin. This is generally a reference to another document called the Register of Corrected Entries or RCE. If your certificate does have a note to this effect, go back to the page where you downloaded the certificate and there will be a link to the RCE. The RCE is further information that has been noted after the certificate was issued.

An interesting website is canmore.org.uk, an online catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage. Over 340,000 buildings, archaeological, industrial and maritime sites are detailed on the site.

Lea logged onto her ScotlandsPeople account and showed the group some examples of finding records.

Mel Woodford showed her DNA results which lists her ancestors as coming from:

England – 37%
Scotland – 34%
Ireland – 15%
Norway – 9%

Mel explained that, as time goes on and more and more people do their DNA and the testing of DNA samples becomes more technical, the breakdown of the areas can change. Hers have changed considerably over the years. It is narrowing down to smaller areas which gives more detailed information as to where her ancestors came from.

Lea concluded her notes with, 'A very interesting meeting'.



The RRS *Discovery*

On the Dundee waterfront rests the last traditional, wooden, three-masted sailing ship built on the Tay. It is the RRS *Discovery*, a barque-rigged auxiliary steamship launched in 1901 for the first of Captain Scott's voyages to the Antarctic. Scott was accompanied by Ernest Shackleton in what was known as the *Discovery Expedition*. The ship later served as a merchantman until 1923 when it entered the service of the British government to conduct Southern Ocean research, becoming the first of the Royal Research Ships. From 1929 to 1931 it was the base for the British Australian and New Zealand Antarctic research expedition

under the leadership of Douglas Mawson. Its active life over, the ship was moored in London as a static training ship until 1979. In 1986 it moved back to Dundee, where it can still be visited and admired.



RRS *Discovery* locked in Antarctic ice.



Left: The *Discovery*, Dundee, 1996. Image: Ken Shilling



Above: The *Discovery* and its neighbours. Image: Google Maps

The arrival of RRS *Discovery* back in Dundee boosted the city's fortunes. A lot of the old industries had gone – no more jute mills employ the masses of women as they had done in the past. There was a lack of investment and Dundee was in a downward spiral. The vessel gave Dundonians a

sense of pride back and the city became Dundee, City of Discovery. That was the start of the regeneration of the city.

Today, when you visit the *Discovery* you will find it occupies a berth beside the impressively modern Dundee branch of London's famous Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A).



Scottish SIG Meeting: 14 May

Today's meeting was well-attended and the discussion was lively. Beverley Richardson introduced the book by Eleanor Catton, *The Luminaries*, which is currently being broadcast as a series by the ABC. She read a portion about Walter Moodie, a travelling Scot.

Kirstie Carrick has returned from her latest travel adventure and told us about her visit to a tiny village, Gurro, in the Italian Alps not far from Lake Maggiore. It is said that the inhabitants of the village are, in the main, descended from Scottish mercenary soldiers who were employed by the king of France in far distant times. She had many interesting photos of the village and its museum which contains a fine record of its Scottish past.

Because of a scheme run by our local council library, Su Carter has access to the British *Family Tree Magazine* some time before it appears in our newsagents. Consequently, she was able to tell us that the June issue features a database of Scottish convicts. Something to look forward to.

Information about Scots who came to Australia as convicts can also be found at oldscottish.com, the website for Old Scotland Genealogy & History. It is easy to get about his site and the information stored is wide and varied. There is a section on Scottish surnames and here I found that *Heggie*, my mother's maiden name, was found mainly in Kinross, Fife and Peeblesshire in 1841.

There was considerable discussion about Scottish naming patterns and other matters.



Prestonpans 1745

[This story was among the last written by Maree Shilling before she passed away 18 April, 2024. It recalls a delightful day we spent together exploring the Edinburgh side of the Firth of Forth. K. Shilling]

Overshadowed by Culloden the following year, Prestonpans is little known. How did an army of Highland Scots outmanoeuvre the Redcoats among the marshes of the Firth of Forth?

In September 1745 an army of British regulars mustered near the village of Preston on the shore of the Firth of Forth. The commander of the Redcoats was Sir John Cope. He was supremely confident of victory. Although the two sides were equal in number, Cope had more cavalry and artillery and his infantry were trained to deliver well-aimed volleys. Facing west, moreover, towards Edinburgh, from which his opponents had marched, there were the walls and dykes of two grand houses providing protection for his men.


Memories are made of this

Salt in the army's wounds

'The Pans'

Prestonpans was originally the Priest-town where 12th century monks of Newbattle Abbey began salt-making here in 'pans'. Local coal was used to evaporate gallons of seawater leaving a rough salt that was in great demand for hundreds of years.

Salt was the main food preservative before fridges. Salted meat kept for months and salted herring were exported all over Europe. At its height Prestonpans had up to ten working pans and much was carted over the hills to the Borders.



The Battle of Prestonpans, 1745

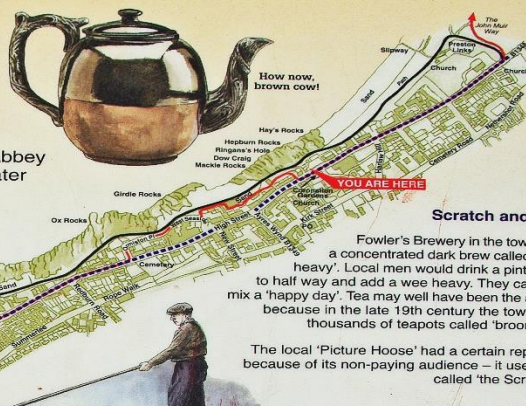
Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Young Pretender, tried to regain the British throne for the Stewart dynasty – despite his father's failure in the 1715 Jacobite Rising.

General John Cope led the government forces and, according to the East Lothian farmer and poet, Adam Skirving...

*Cope sent a challenge frae Dunbar:
Charlie, meet me an ye daur,
An' I'll learn ye the art o' war
If ye'll meet me i' the mornin'.
'Come follow me, my merry men' said the Prince
and set out from Edinburgh.*

Prince Charles Edward Stewart was the grandson of the last Stewart king.

Can you believe it?
A huge rock, dragged along and dropped by an Ice Age glacier, used to balance precariously near Prestonpans harbour. It was called Johnnie Moat after a local harbourmaster and legend said that if it fell, then Prestonpans would be no more. In 1952, a hurricane toppled the stone but 'the Pans' is still here!

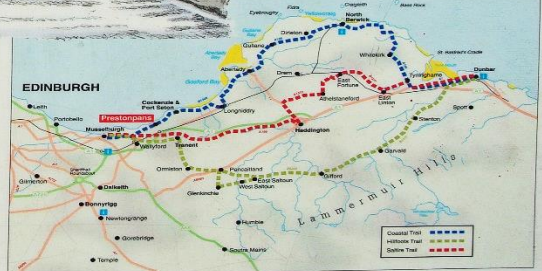


Scratch and scoff

Fowler's Brewery in the town made a concentrated dark brew called a 'wee heavy'. Local men would drink a pint of beer to half way and add a wee heavy. They called the mix a 'happy day'. Tea may well have been the antidote because in the late 19th century the town made thousands of teapots called 'broon coos'.

The local 'Picture Hoose' had a certain reputation because of its non-paying audience – it used to be called 'the Scratcher'!

*Follow the Coastal Trail – go west to Musselburgh and visit Flaherrow harbour or go east to Cockenzie, a powerful small fishing town, and the sandy beaches of Longniddry.
Or just go for a walk!*



**Hey, Johnnie Cope, are ye waukin' yet?
Or are your drums a-beating yet?**

Cope expected to be attacked from the west but Lord George Murray led his Jacobite troops round before dawn and approached Cope from the east. His soldiers, folk say, took only 15 minutes to overcome the Government army.

Prince Charles Edward Stewart was buoyed by this victory and later pushed south into England but he was finally defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

East Lothian, a panorama of people, places and pleasures

A Prince's brief excursion to victory could not foretell a longer journey to defeat

Prestonpans had the last salt pan in Scotland when it finally closed in 1959.

An informative poster in the nearby village of Preston. Images Ken Shilling

Cope's opponents in the Jacobite army were raised in rebellion some weeks before by Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the 'Young Pretender'. He was the son of James Edward Stuart, the 'Old Pretender', who was in turn the son of King James II, ousted in the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. Charles' shock troops were Scottish Highland clansmen, most of whom spoke Gaelic and were regarded as barbarians by many Lowland Scots and the English. What was to happen at Prestonpans on 21 September 1745, however, was a signal humiliation for the British army.

On 19 August Charles had raised the Jacobite standard at Glenfinnan in Lochaber in the Western Highlands. Some 1,500 Highlanders had mustered in his support, mainly from Clans Cameron, MacDonald and MacDonnell. As the Jacobite army marched eastwards, Cope ordered his men into a line running north to south, from the Firth of Forth to the edge of high ground, with cavalry and artillery on the flank and infantry in the centre. The Jacobites positioned themselves on the high ground to the south but discovered that a bog lay between them and their enemy.

A council of war failed to come up with an attack plan and Charles and his men lay down to sleep in the open during the night. A local man, Anderson of Whitburgh, who was serving as an officer in the Jacobite army, approached Lord George Murray and told him of a path through the bog. At 3am the Jacobite army filed along the narrow path. It brought them to a position east of Cope's army with firm ground between the two forces.

On the morning of 21 September the Jacobite army lined up facing the enemy flank, forcing the Redcoats to redeploy to meet the threat. Cope ordered his artillery to open fire but the effect was to trigger an immediate full-scale charge by the Jacobites. The pace of this caught the Hanoverian troops by surprise and gave them little time to reload their muskets after the first discharge.

The centre of the Jacobite line was slowed by soft ground but the contingents on either flank surged forward. They attacked Cope's dragoons who fled to Edinburgh, where the governor of the castle refused to admit them, threatening to open fire on them for their cowardice.



The simple memorial on the Prestonpans battlefield

Back on the battlefield the Hanoverian infantry found themselves pinned by the advance of the Jacobite centre and under heavy attack on both left and right flanks. Resistance began to crumble. Most of the British losses occurred as the troops tried to flee the battlefield and found themselves trapped between the walls of Preston and Bankton Houses. Just 170 of the infantry escaped with 400 killed and the rest taken prisoner. Only 30 Jacobites were killed and 70 wounded. Cope's artillery, supplies and treasure chest were all captured, while Cope and the Earls of London and Home fled, first to Coldstream and on the following day to Berwick-on-Tweed.

Cope was ridiculed as the commander who brought the news of his own defeat. King George II was left with no sizeable force in Scotland and in Edinburgh Prince Charles was left to celebrate a stunning victory.



***We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the Caledonian.
Look for the Lamas edition, 28 August in your emails.***

