

Vol. XIII No. 6 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree December 2019 Section B

It's official! A Commander for Clan Baird

Dr. Debra Baird, FSA Scot President, Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc.

On August 5^{th,} 2019, Carrick Pursuivant, Sir George Way of Plean, heard the arguments for Clan Baird to have a Commander named and after a three-hour council with 73 Bairds from around the world, as well as several by ZOOM video conference, Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood, was elected overwhelmingly.

Later in August, the Lord Lyon, Dr. Joseph Morrow, commissioned Richard as our leader. The photograph is of those who were in attendance at the Family Convention.

There were three nominees who stood for elec-



Richard Holman Baird and foxhounds

tion during the meeting. They were Andrew Baird of Newbyth, Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, and Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood.

After the voting, the new Commander, Richard Holman-Baird, asked all the named Chieftains of Clan Baird Society Worldwide, to help him bring all the family lines together and work together.

I hope that his plea is heeded by all of us and

Continued on page 29

Merry Christmas



clankeith-usa.org.

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc.

If you have genealogical ties to the surname Keith (Including alternate spellings such as Keeth.) or any of Clan Keith's Sept family names, you were born into the Clan Keith!

Associated Family Surnames (Septs) with Mac or Mc prefixes and spelling variants include: Septs and spellings include: Austin, Cate(s), Dick, Dickie, Dicken, Dickson, Dicson, Dixon, Dixson, Falconer, Faulkner, Harvey, Harvie, Hackston, Haxton, Harvey, Hervey, Hurrie, Hurry, Keath, Keech, Keeth, Keith, Keitch, Keithan, Keyth, Kite, Lum, Lumgair, Marshall, Urie, Urry.

The Clan Keith Society would be delighted for you to join us as a member. For more information, please email secretary@cksusa.org or jkeith417@aol.com. Call 256-270-8967.



Dunnottar Castle, stronghold of the Keiths (near Stonehaven)

Please plan to attend your local Highland Games and, if you see our tent, please come by for a visit. The tent convener will have information about Clan Keith's fascinating history as well as membership information. Membership in the clan is not expensive, but one of the finest investments that you will ever make. Hope to see you soon!

Scottish Singles Used to Spend Halloween Picking Kale

The leafy green once foretold the future.

With thanks to Atlas Obscura, written by MARK HAY

ON THE EVE OF HALLOWEEN, the old lore goes, the veil between worlds grows thin. Spirits walk the earth; magical forces are particularly potent.

And to mark and make the most of this spookyspecial time of year, Scottish youths sneak onto local

farms or into their neighbors' gardens at midnight, blindfold each other, pull stalks of kale from the ground, then read them, analyzing their length and girth, the quality of their cores and taste, and the amount of dirt caked onto them, to divine what kind of partner they'll marry.

Or at least many did until around the early 1900s.

This was just one of several magical, kale-based Halloween rituals practiced across the British Isles.

According to folklorists, some individuals hung kale over their door overnight, then placed it under their pillow the next to prompt prophetic dreams.

Children who wanted a sibling could place a stalk of kale outside their parents' door

to nudge a sibling into being. Irish families in particular stuck charms into the colcannon, a potato, cabbage, kale, and onion mash they served on Halloween.

Whoever found a ring charm would marry within the year, while whoever found a thimble charm would be a spinster.

A woman could also scoop the first and last spoonful into a stocking and hang it over her door—the first man to walk beneath it the following day was destined to be her husband.

The nature and popularity of kale-based rituals likely varied over time and space, notes Celtic studies professor and folklorist Juliette Wood.

Regardless, it seems clear that until relatively recently, at least in this one corner of the world, kale was not so much a superfood as it has been branded in the United States, but an occasionally supernatural food.

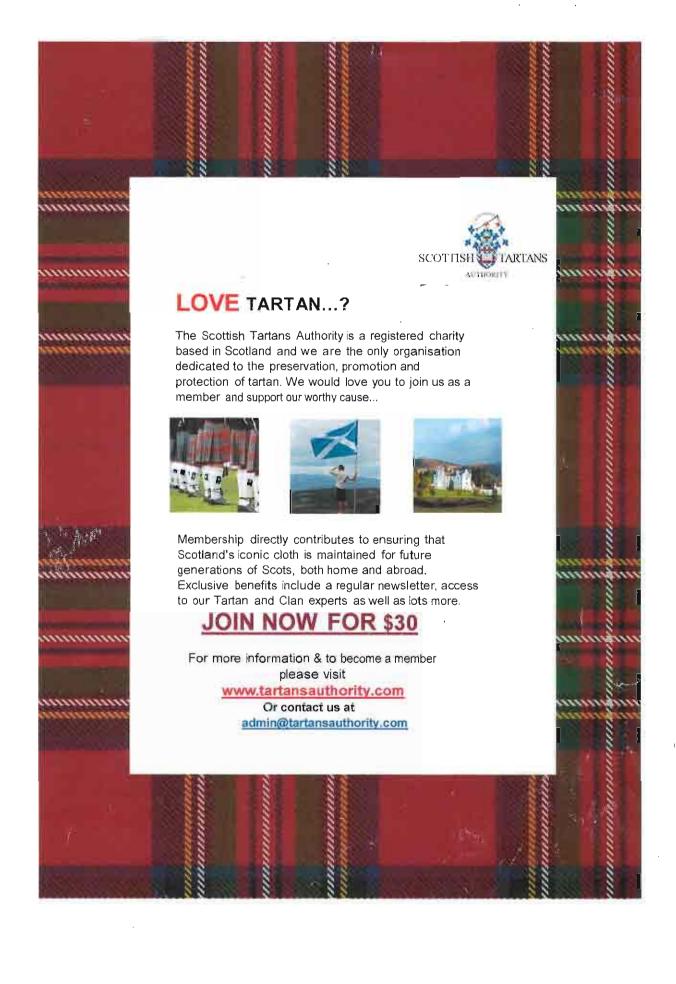
No one is sure when people in the Isles started using kale for Halloween divination games.

Popular accounts describe these rituals as ancient Celtic practices, but Wood argues this idea doesn't hold water. For starters, academics have long accepted that there never was a cohesive, enduring Celtic identity or set of rituals and that

we don't know much about ancient regional rituals. More practically, most historians hold that kale did not spread to the British Isles, or become part of regional diets, until the Middle Ages.

This work by painter Richard Waitt depicts a Scottish jester or fool holding a kale lantern (note the candle at the top) | a practice that was part of 1800s Halloween parades.

Continued on page 5



The first clear evidence of blindfolded midnight kale picking in Scotland seems to crop up in a 1769 travelogue. The ritual also features prominently in Scottish literary hero Robert Burns's 1785 poem "Hallowe'en," an extensively researched and notated work that drew on older poems and firsthand accounts of festivities. From there, it pops up frequently in regional folklore collections. "If it was already established ... by the end of the 18th century," says Peter Maxwell-Stuart, an expert on early modern European magical

practices, "it is a reasonable inference that it was older," albeit by an unclear margin.

We do have a good idea as to why people practiced kalebased divination on Halloween.

As the Halloween historian Lesley Bannatyne points out, from the time Irish monks, almost 1,000 years ago, started writing about the festivals that later served as inspirations for Halloween, they consistently noted that they were a time for divination. (Woods adds that similar rituals occur across cultures, and dur-

ing other transitional times of year, too.) Regional divination practices didn't require anything fancy or specific, explains Julian Goodare, a historian of folk beliefs at the University of Edinburgh, just something accessible that would yield a truly random, hard to manipulate reading.

Scottish newspapers talked about people in Halloween parades wielding kale stalks topped with candles as torches.

Kale fit that bill. A uniquely hearty crop, it and its cousin cabbage were two of the few crops even the poorest residents of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales could reliably grow. In Scotland, kale was so ubiquitous that home gardens are still often called kaleyards. "Even the bells of St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburghtolling at 2 p.m. were known as the kail bell," says food historian Christopher Trotter, "as they called workers without watches in for their midday meal."

Halloween falls right in the traditional cabbage and kale harvest season.

The same logic also explains a host of other Halloween divination traditions based on common foods, such as cracking egg whites into water or dropping apple peels onto the ground (to supposedly form your hidden beloved's initials).

Most historians believe Halloween divination games were less about serious magical beliefs and more about fun and matchmaking. Much like how bobbing

> for apples used to be about getting potential suitors up close and personal, you might guide a blindfolded friend to the perfect stalk of kale, or twist the reading, to match the stalk to someone you wanted to set them up with.

> Kale divination survived into the 20th century, crossing the ocean with immigrants and appearing in American guides to celebrating Halloween. In the early 1900s, though, cultural makers and shakers sought to make Halloween a systematized and respectable Victorian tradition. Divi-

nation and the potential for teenage necking baked into them fell out of fashion in favor of family-friendly community parties and other old traditions, such as costumed mumming for food. Gradually, Halloween became a children's holiday, focused on juvenile pranks and, eventually, candy. Halloween was left, incidentally, loveless and kale-less.

Of course, between our modern-day obsessions with kale and with reviving pre-modern rituals, it might seem as if there's space for a kale divination revival. "I've heard of a few uses in retro Halloween parties," says Halloween historian Lisa Morton. But since so few people have kale farms or gardens, the modern version might not be much fun.

"I don't think the urge to peer into the future will ever leave us," says Bannatyne. But "maybe kale has seen its day as the vehicle [for that sort of amorous prognostication] come and go."



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Membership shall be open to all persons/organizations who have a genuine interest in Clan MacCallum-Malcolm. Piping and Drumming scholarships at the NAAPD sponsored for qualified students.

MacCallum Tartan

Malcolm Tartan



'Edinburgh Potato' used in fight against potato blight

Euan McIlwraith, BBC

A hybrid potato that is resistant to the cropdestroying fungus known as blight is being trailed as a potential saviour of some of the country's bestknown varieties of spud.

The so-called "Edinburgh Potato" mixes domestic and wild Mexican breeds.

Blight - Phytophthora infestans - led to the Irish famine, leaving thousands dead from starvation in the 1840s.

There are fears it could wipe out family favourites such as King Edwards and Maris Pipers in the coming decades.

Researchers believe the Edinburgh Potato - Solanum x edinense - could be the key.

Blight costs the UK industry an estimated £55m a year.

Potato blight is a major issue for farmers

The disease is constantly evolving, so potato varieties that were previously resistant may not be in years to come.

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is a renowned scientific centre for the study of plants and conservation.

RBGE's Max Coleman has been working with other potato experts from research bodies across Scotland on the hybrid project.

He said: "We got blight in August this year and most of the potatoes had to be topped - the topping means the disease doesn't go into the roots and affect the potatoes."

The "Edinburgh Potato" (Solanum x edinense)

is seen as a way forward

He told BBC Scotland's Landward of the hybrid crop: "This is perfectly healthy. This is what I like to call the Edinburgh Potato.

"It's called that because it has a history in this

garden going back into the 1800s."

Mr Coleman explained: "What we now know is that this potato is actually the product of a cross between the cultivated potato that we all know and a wild Mexican potato.

"The resistance comes from the Mexican parent."

He added: "I think the real potential is what you can do.

"You can go from a very small potato, a bit more breeding, get the potatoes bigger -

and you've got a disease resistant and good eating potato."

It's got a real waxy salady potato sort of taste to it.

OK, it may not be the biggest tattie in the world.

But the genes in this humble potato could be the saviour of the Scottish potato industry. How good is that?

Whether you mash it up and pop it alongside haggis and neeps, or you roast it to go beside some beautiful highland fillet steak, or you chip it, pop it in a bag, and add some delightful North Sea haddock, you know it's hard to imagine a classic Scottish dish that doesn't involve the humble tattie.





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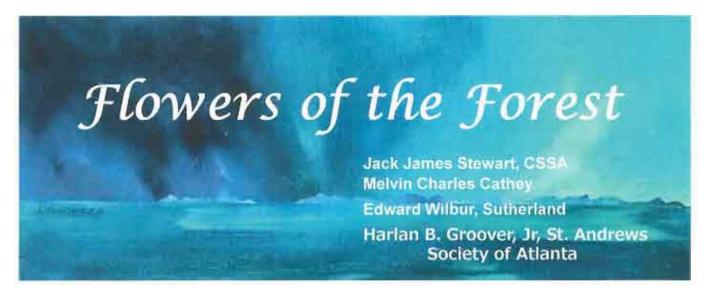
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Jack James Stewart, 1965 - 2019, of Grand Junction, Colorado, went on to be with his Chieftain in the Sky on October 22^{nd.}

He was a member and supporter of Clan Stewart Society in America, as well as one of the driving forces which started the Grand Valley Scottish Games & Celtic Festival in 2018.

He is survived by his wife Debbie, his daughters Lori and Lindsey and his son Austin, who is a CSSA member and was the CSSA webmaster.

Prayers and condolences go out to his family in their time of loss.

Melvin Charles Cathey, 91, of Greensburg, Indiana, died, February 6, 2019. He was born on June 3, 1927 in Decatur Co., IN, the son of Lester Joseph and Pearl Honeydew (Hanshew) Cathey.

He married Lou Ellen Pollitt in Milroy on November 1, 1947. She preceded him in death on September 1, 1988.

He married Mary Margaret Pollitt in Westport on March 18, 1989 and she survives.

Also surviving are daughters, Vivian Adams, Marsha (John) Walstad, Sandra (Randy) Schnier, Patricia (Rick) Napper, Barbara (Andrew) Gaynor; son, Ronald (Wendy) Cathey; stepdaughters, Pamela Cox, Ruth Ann Crumbley; step-sons, Steve (Michelle) Clark, Mike (Wanda) Clark, Norman Clark; 15 grand-children; 9 step-grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; 4 step-great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daugh-

ter, Janet Lynn Cathey; sister, Violet Case; brothers, Glen Cathey,

Edward Wilbur, member of the Clan Sutherland Society, passed October 29, 2018

There was no apparent obituary or death announcement, however a search on familysearch.com shows that his date of birth was February 12, 1937

Mr. Harlan B. Groover, Jr., age 77, passed away at home with family October 27, 2019.

Harlan was a retired Sgt. Major. with 26 years of service in the US Army and 20 more years of civilian federal service to the US Army.

He is survived by his wife Elly Groover; son Michael Groover of Centerville, Virginia, and sister Gladys Broome of Titusville, Florida.

The family received friends Sunday, November 3, 2019 at Ford-Stewart Funeral Home, Jonesboro, GA 30236. He was a member of the Atlanta St. Andrews Society.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

Elly requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Salvation Army, 130 Spring Street Jonesboro, GA 30236, phone 770-724-1680, or online at www.salvationarmyusa.org.

Please be sure to annotate "In memory of Harlan Groover" on the memo line. Home address for mailing condolences is 8257 Winston Way, Jonesboro, GA 30236.

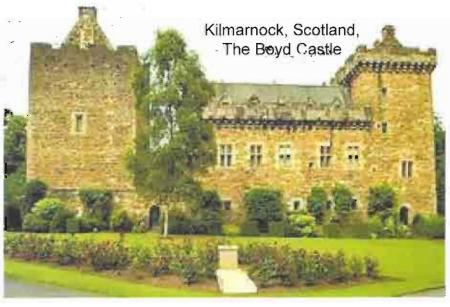


Confido "I trust."



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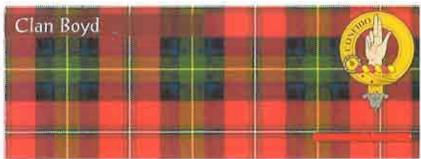


30th Anniversary year by joining the House of Boyd Society.

Just visit:

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Visit our FaceBook site:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/7644244762





The Turnbull Clan **DNA History...and** how YOU can take part! Look for sales!

Genealogist Fiona Turnbull has recently been named Project Administrator to the Trimble/Turnbull DNA Project. Fiona is committed to helping Turnbull Clan members trace their heritage through tying family lines together through DNA results.

Look for the next Family Tree DNA sale around the holidays. Fiona says that this is a great time to upgrade your results to higher Begin Your Family Tre DNA **DNA Journey**

markers (67 and 111). She also points out that the higher marker tests are much more effective for narrowing down results.

If you haven't yet joined the program, there were significant discounts throughout August on the Big Y tests. However, you can still visit the www.familytreedna.com and join the Trimble/Turnbull Project.



Turnbull Clan has three beautiful babies now!

TCA welcomes its newest

Alec Evan Turnbull

August 2019

Goody; James Turnbull;

Skip and Kay Ripley; Kim and Ken Carpen-

ter and Tom and Christy Meiers.

members. Congratulations, parents! Roberto Luis Copa Born October 17



Layla Jessie Turnbull Born August 27





Hear Ye, Hear Ye,

All MacEanruig's

are invited to explore the

Clan Henderson

Society

Alistair of Fordell, our Chief, has tasked the Society to help him "Gather My Kinsmen."

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Church war hero 'the Tartan Pimpernel' honoured in France

With thanks to BBC News, Scotland

Rev Dr Donald Caskie saved more than 2,000 prisoners of war and rescued men from Fort de la Revère, near Nice in France.

Rev Dr Donald Caskie helped thousands of prisoners of war escape a hilltop fort during World War

He and his French Resistance colleagues masterminded the rescue of RAF personnel under the noses of German soldiers through a sewer system at Fort de la Revère in 1942.

A memorial plaque marking his work has been unveiled at the fort near Nice.

Dr Caskie helped to bring 36 of the rescued men back to Britain in a submarine.

The crofter's son from the Hebridean island of Islay helped save more than 2,000 men during World War Two.

The plaque at the former military fort was installed by the Le Devoir de Mémoire organisation, which honours those affected by the war, including Resistance fighters.

The minister's nephew, Tom Caskie, attended the unveiling service along with about 100 people, including local dignitaries, and said he was "bursting with pride".

He said: "The memorial is simply wonderful and it was very emotional to see Uncle Donald honoured in this way and seeing the Saltire on display.

"He was a hero of the Second World War and is still remembered with affection for his time as the minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris and the things he did with the Resistance to save thousands of lives."

Mr Caskie and his brother Gordon were presented with a commemorative medal at the ceremony on 19 October.



Le Devoir du Memoire secretary Nicole Pinon paid tribute to their uncle: "These men were heroes of the shadows who did not seek reward and only thought about whether or not they had done their duty.

"Our goal is to never forget and we are extremely happy to be participating in this event."

'Dr Caskie, whose codename was Monsieur Le Canard (Mr Duck) was leading the Scots Kirk in 1940

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- Scotland In Trust (The National Trust for Scotland's quarterly magazine)
- ♣ Scottish Heritage USA newsletters
- ♣ Discount admission to Member's Reception following the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

The Tartan Pimpernel,

continued from page 13

when the Germans invaded Paris.

Refusing to return to Scotland, he fled to Marseille and ran a Seaman's Mission, living a double life and passing the close scrutiny of the Vichy Police, helping British and Allied soldiers to freedom across mountains into Spain.

He was recruited by British Intelligence officers and the Seaman's Mission became the last link of a chain of safe houses stretching from Dunkirk in northern France to Marseille in the south.

The story of how he helped liberate prisoners from Fort de la Revère in 1942 is outlined in his book, The Tartan Pimpernel.

Officially acting as a chaplain to the POWs, he discovered a sewer behind a large bush near the fort and informed his Resistance contact.

The entrance to the sewer inside the fort was in the boiler house and within 90 minutes 36 men had escaped.

Dr. Caskie wrote: "Another 22 men followed them, each ready to take his chance on making a solo getaway.

"Still more would have escaped but for a tragic comic miscalculation involving a fat man - a squadron leader from the RAF who got stuck in the tunnel.

"The poor man struggled furiously to get through the aperture and succeeded only in becoming more tightly wedged.

"Fourteen of the solo escapees were recaptured, eight got clean away.

"Not one of the submarine passengers was lost, all returned to England to continue the fight."

Dr. Caskie was eventually jailed and sentenced to death, but a German pastor intervened to save his life.

He spent the rest of the war in a POW camp then returned to the Scots Kirk in Paris before heading home to Scotland in 1961.

He became minister of Old Gourock Church in Inverclyde and later Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay North Church in Ayrshire, and died in 1983.





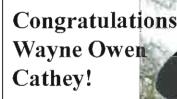
Cmdr. Emily Cathey relinquishes command

(January 11, 2019) - Cmdr. **Emily** Cathev (RN=8850), a native of Statesville, North Carolina and commanding officer, USS Independence (LCS 2), gives a farewell speech as she prepares to relinquish command of Independence during a change of command ceremony aboard the

ship.

Cathey served as the ship's commanding officer for 19 months and her leadership was instrumental in ensuring the ship successfully completed numerous certification events, testing of LCS mine warfare equipment, LCS tactics development and training for various LCS crews.

LCS vessels are high-speed, agile, shallow draft, mission-focused surface combatants designed for operations in the littoral environment, yet fully capable of open ocean operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Bryant Jay Austria/RELEASED)



He this year celebrated 30 years with the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration. He is an Air Traffic Control Specialist at DOT FAAATO JAX ARTCC in the Jacksonville. Florida area.





OH, CANADA



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Wanna know about Scotland?

- * Scotland is reputed for its whisky, known outside Scotland as Scotch Whisky. What few people know is that whisky was invented in China, and was first distilled by monks in Ireland in the early 15th century before reaching Scotland 100 years later.
 - * Shortbread is Scotland's most famous biscuit.
- * The most infamous Scottish dish is haggis, normally made with sheep's 'pluck' (heart, liver, and lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach for approximately an hour. Haggis may be a very ancient European recipe. Although it is not known where it originated, a similar dish



* Scottish dishes are well-known for their weird names, like Forfar Bridie (a meat pastry), Cock-a-

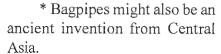
leekie (soup), Collops (escalope), Crappit heid (fish dish), Finnan haddie (haddock fish), Arbroath Smokie (smoked haddock), Cullen Skink (haddock soup), Partan bree (seafood dish), Mince and tatties (minced meat and p o t a t o e s), Rumbledethumps, Skirlie...

Sciences & Inventions

- * Notable Scottish inventions include the method of logarithms (1614), tarmac (1820), the waterproof raincoat (1823), the hot blast furnace (1828), and the pneumatic tyre (1887).
- * Scottish botanists and horticulturalists have had many plants named in their honour, including the brodiaea, briggsia, blaeria, dalzellia, douglasia, forsythia, fortunearia, gardenia, hopea, hunteria, irvingia, jacksonia, jamesonia, justicia, kerria, kirkia, lawsonia, lightfootia, livistona, leea, menziesia, parkia,

parsonsia, patersonia, tolmiea, wightia, and wrightia.

* Just like whisky (see above), kilts, tartans and bagpipes aren't Scottish inventions. Kilts originated in Ireland. Tartans were found in Bronze-age or Ironage Central Europe (Hallstatt culture) and Central Asia (Tocharian culture).



* Interestingly, genetic studies are now pointing that the mutation for red hair, which now reaches a world maximum in Western Scotland and Northern Ireland, may have originated in Central Asia too. This means that Scottish people may be (partly) descended from ancient people

from Central Asia.

* The modern, rear-wheel driven bicycle was invented in 1839 by Kirkpatrick Macmillan, a black-

smith from Keir, Dumfriesshire.

* The pneumatic tyre was invented in 1845 by Robert William Thomson (1822-1873) from S t o n e h a v e n, Kincardineshire. It was reinvented in a more practical way in 1887 by another Scotsman, John

Boyd Dunlop (1840-1921), founder of Dunlop Rubber, and whose brand of tyres survives to this day (now under the joint ownership of Goodyear and Sumitomo Rubber Industries).

* James Young Simpson discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform in 1847, and successfully introduced it for general medical use.

Construction & Industry

* Rubislaw Quarry is Britain's deepest quarry (142 m) and one of the biggest man-made holes in Continued on page 27









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To my mind, the most important aspect of looking after guests begins before they even arrive, by offering outstanding value for money. So, even before you meet us, you can rest assured that the



quality of the properties, including furnishings are of the highest order and value on offer.

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Civil War Prisoners of War and your own family genealogy

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

The Civil War continues to be a major research area in genealogy. More than 450,000 men on both sides were imprisoned. The time of imprisonment varied greatly but the average ranged from 2-4 years. Many prisoners spent time in multiple camps and the mortality rate was high. Personal narratives are scarce because many veterans refused to talk about their experiences.

When men arrived at prison camps, they were usually assigned to a division (barracks) and then given a number that corresponded to a name on a roll. The prisoner was asked to provide his own physical description and personal information. Place of capture and rank were also noted in most cases. This information is usually found in the compiled service records that have

been assembled from various army records. Cards were filled out from muster rolls, and these comprised an individual soldier's records. This is what you see when you examine military service records or National Archives microfilm of military records, not the original documents. The Union Army Compiled Service Records were assembled in the 1880s, while the Confederate records were assembled in the early 1900s.

To begin the search process, start with the Compiled Service Record, which may give the place and date of capture. Much of this information is now available online on Fold 3, Ancestry, and Family Search. If you must search records held by the Na-

tional Archives, the information is under the jurisdiction of the War Archives Section. For Confederate records, this information is from the War Department Archives, Record Group 109, Records of the Commissary General of Prisoners. For Union soldiers, the records are found in Record Group 249.

Locating prisoner of war ancestors is never easy.

Whether it be using online databases or the National Archives records, having the following information will put you in the best position for a successful search:

- 1. Full name of the soldier at the time of service. 2. The division or regiment he was assigned to.
- 3. Any information on the name of the prison or prisons including the time frame.

Unless you know the division your ancestor was assigned to, you may need to examine each division roll. In some cases, this information will be included on the service record itself, but most records did not include these details. Division rolls are seldom in alphabetical order, but names beginning with the same letter are grouped and listed in descending order of rank. These entries normally confirm the soldier's rank, and date/place of capture.

" Geographic locations can be problematic because Union and Confederate record keepers often referred to places by different names. If you find a discrepancy, record both. Consult a map to find the

Continued on page 21



Scottish-American Military Society

Gen. Elijah Clarke Post #60

Meetings for 2019



If you are a veteran of Celtic heritage you can join the Scottish American Military Society.

You can visit our website for more information.

The Elijah Clarke Post #60 meets on a quarterly basis at the Black Swan Tavern in Marietta.

The dates for the 2020 year will be set at our next meeting and will be published as soon as they are set. thanks

Yours Aye Rick Conn, Adjutant



Scottish-American Military Society ocien Nothern the Sobleme of Boothuid









If you would like information on joining the Scottish American Military Society, please contact: Rick Conn, Adjutant





Gen James Jackson Post #60 2683 Brocklin Drive Grayson, Ga. 30017-1432 678-873-3491 rickconn@bellsouth.net http://www.s-a-m-s.org/

locations, which will most likely be in the same proximity. If you then research your soldier's regiment, you will likely find that he was in the location as described in the record itself.

Registers of Articles: For limited periods of time, prisoners were allowed to receive packages of food and personal articles or clothing. To send packages, the family had to fill out permits listing the contents. When the package was received at the prison inspection area, the contents were checked against the list on the permit. Regardless of whether the prisoner re-



ceived the package, the arrival was recorded, along with the names and information on the permit. Often a complete name can be found, either of the sender or receiver, along with their relationship.

Registers of Prisoners Exchanged, Paroled, and Released: The term "exchanged" only applies to records prior to July 3, 1863, when the program was terminated. Prior to this edict, when a soldier was captured, he could be exchanged for an enemy prisoner, according to the terms of a cartel. "Paroled" refers to a status during which a soldier was in limbo between capture and exchange. This time was spent either at home or in a parole camp until the soldier was officially declared exchanged. During this period of limbo, the man could not take up arms or return to his unit. "Released" refers to the final months spent in prison and the date that the soldier could leave prison, either on an exchange or on parole.

The exchange system was reinstated in the spring of 1865. Prisoners who were captured or surrendered in the field, such as those from General Lee's army at Appomattox, were paroled. The

Confederate prisoners of war who had been in prison for months or years could only be released if they took an oath of allegiance to the United States. This information is sometimes found in the

Compiled Service Records, which list the date of release and a physical description. Information may also be found in the Registers of Paroled Prisoners. These rolls correspond to individual prisons or geographic locations.

If your ancestor was an officer, they were held in prison longer and subjected to many legal reprisals, depending on circum-

stances. The dates of release varied. In some areas, the final release may have taken place several years later if a trial was held because of crimes committed during the war. Searching the registers of individual prisons is the best way to obtain information. This information often sheds light on the events that your ancestors had to live through and may explain their behavior after the war and how it influenced family relationships.

Fold 3 and the National Archives currently have the most complete collection of military records related to the Civil War. Individual state archives often have records related to military rosters and regimental records. Some cover material that is unique to the state itself, while other items are duplications.

There are a number of study guides that I've compiled on this topic which are available upon request.

Bryan L. Mulcahy Reference Librarian Fort Myers Regional Library bmulcahy@leegov.com

Are you an Arthur, Carter, MacArthur, McArthur or similar name? If so, you can become a member of the Clan Arthur Association!



Clan Arthur is worldwide with branches in UK, USA, Canada & Australia. Our leader is **Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk**.

We welcome new members who are of "Arthur" decent or those interested in our clan who are prepared to be loyal to our Chief. Membership includes a quarterly magazine which is full of stories about the Clan around the world, articles on current events, ancestry & history. Members also receive ongoing newsletters & updates on local happenings within their community.

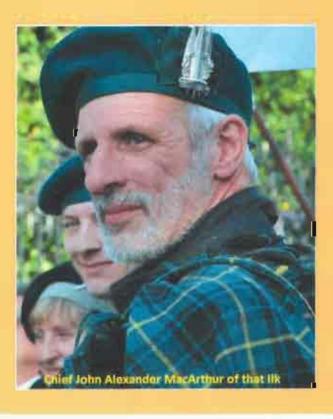
For information & how to join, see our website clanarthur.website/
Contacts:

UK: Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com

USA: Joann Helmich caausamembership@gmail.com

Canada: Lloyd K. McArthur mcartld@shaw.ca

Australia/NZ: Carol MacArthur Budlong carolmearthur 18@gmail.com



DISCOVER SOME OF SCOTLAND'S MOST SCENIC ROUTES

From your editor: This falls under the category of "GREAT IDEA!"

Beautiful Borders Routes, by Kenneth Good, Operations Director.

From stately homes to spectacular views, Luxury Scotland partner, Little's Chauffeur Drive, have created a bespoke route to take in some of Scotland's iconic sites and hidden gems around the Scottish Borders.

Beautiful Borders Routes, by Kenneth Good, Operations Director.

Whether as part of a day trip from Scotland's capital city Edinburgh, or as part of an extended sightseeing tour of Scotland, the Borders is an area rich with stunning architectural gems and landscapes which have inspired literary greats.

Together with this, it has an industrial heritage, the legacy of which remains today in the cashmere and woollen

mills of the area. That's all before mention is made of the opportunities for country sports and fishing in some of Scotland's most famous rivers and glens.

Among the architectural gems are Abbotsford House, once home to Sir Walter Scott, one of the country's most famous writers and poets. Nestling on the banks of the River Tweed, Abbotsford dates from the early 1800s and was inhabited by the descendants of Sir Walter until 2004. Electricity was only installed in the early 1960s and today it is one of Scotland's top tourist attractions.

Other wonderful houses worth visiting include Mellerstain House, one of the only complete buildings to be entirely designed by Robert Adam. His father, William, designed Floors Castle and Manderston House which, when it was completely rebuilt at the start of the 20th century, included a silver plated staircase.

As you travel from one grand home to another, you will undoubtedly pass along the banks of the River Tweed which meanders and winds its way from east

to west covering almost 100 miles. Today it is one of the UK's most famous salmon fishing rivers and its name is synonymous with the famous Tweed cloth, worn by country sport enthusiasts and discerning dressers.

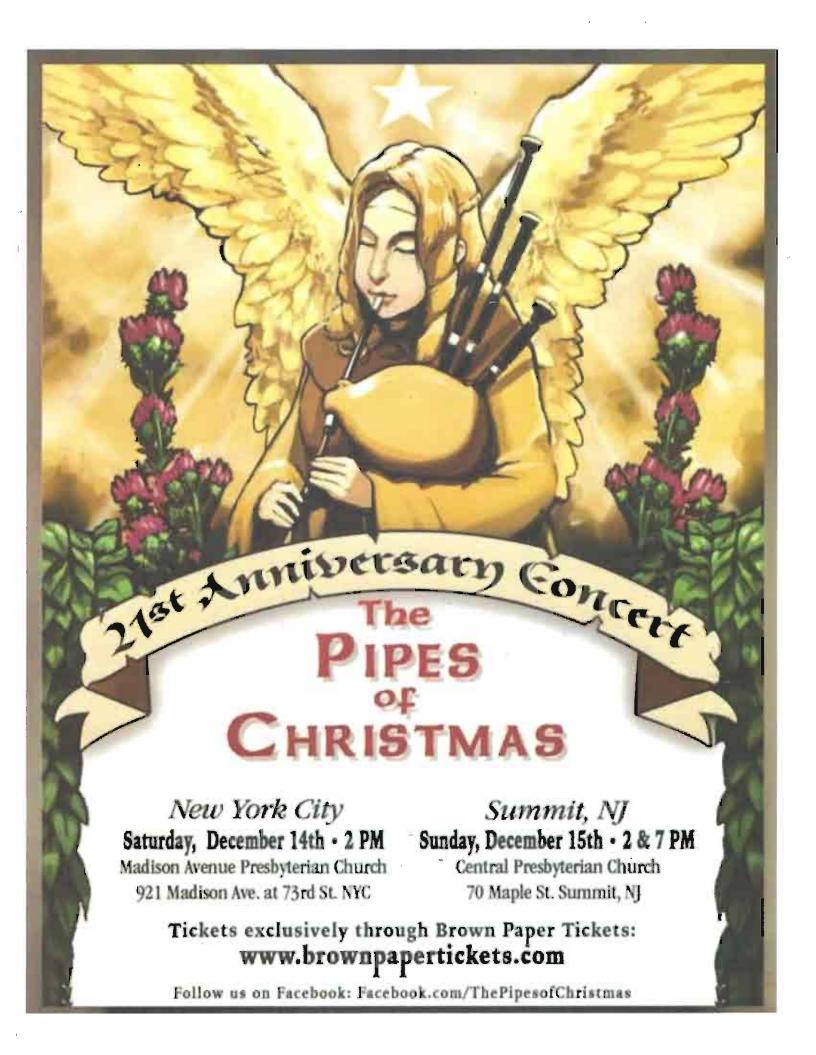
No trip to the Borders would be complete without a visit to one of the outlets where tweeds, cashmere and luxury woollens are available as a warming

souvenir of your trip to this beautiful part of Scotland. Recent years have seen a revival of some labels, with luxury clothing from the Borders available in the exclusive boutiques of London, Paris, Milan and Tokyo.

As your day tour draws to a close, there could be few finer ways to finish than with a relaxing afternoon tea at Schloss Roxburghe Hotel. This grand 19th century country mansion is a haven of tranquillity in this beautiful part of Scotland. If your visit to the Borders is part of an extended tour of Scotland, the hotel would make an ideal Borders base, should you



Continued on page 25



The 2019 Clan MacDuffee Heritage Scholarship Awarded to Virginia Zeigler



Pictured: Tom McDuffee, President, Kent Zeigler, Norma Lockwood, *Virginia Zeigler*, Bookie Zeigler and David McDuffie, Sr., Vice President.

Little's Chauffeur Drive,

continued from page 23



wish to explore the area over a number of days with your touring chauffeur.

There can be few better ways to experience the Borders than from the comfort of your own private chauffeur driven car, from Little's Chauffeur Drive, partners of Luxury Scotland for over 25 years.

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Little's Chauffeur Drive Ltd. 1282 Paisley Road West, Glasgow, G52 1DB Scotland. enquiries@littles.co.uk

The 2019 MacDuffee Clan Society Heritage, Scholarship and Service Award was awarded to Virginia Zeigler of Jacksonville, Florida. Virginia demonstrated her knowledge of her family's extensive Scottish history beginning with Daniel MacDuffie arriving near Cape Fear, North Carolina about 1739. She also wrote about the history of our Clan in Scotland. Community service was another strength for Virginia as, for example, she participated in the Appalachian Service Project helping to repair or rebuild homes for individuals in rural Appalachia. Amazingly, Virginia has attended 19 Grandfather Games out of 20.

Her academic skills and participation in athletics as a varsity Coxswain for her High School Rowing Team are outstanding.

Virginia is the daughter of Elizabeth (Bookie) and Mark Zeigler, granddaughter of Mrs. Norma Kent Lockwood. She is attending the University of South Florida.

You're invited to the annual Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Archaeology Conference

The annual Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders Archaeology Conference will be held on Saturday 16 November at Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh., Scotland.

This conference provides an important opportunity to hear and discuss first-hand accounts of the archaeological fieldwork and research being undertaken in Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, and the Scottish Borders.

Conference tickets £20 each. A buffet lunch is available to pre-book, at £10 each. For more information and to book visit https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/archaeologyconference.

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Europe. It closed in 1971 and is now partly filled with water.

* Wanlockhead Mines, in Dumfries and Galloway, possesses one of the greatest variety of minerals in Europe (lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold). Its gold is amongst the world's purest, at 22.8 carats, and was used to make the Scottish Crown Jewels, the oldest royal regalia amongst Europe's surviving monarchies.

Dumbarton Castle has the longest recorded history of any stronghold in Great Britain. It was first mentioned in a letter from Saint Patrick to Ceretic Guletic, King of Alt Clut (present-day Dumbarton), in the 5th century, although the settlement dates back to well over 2,000 years.

The Bell Rock Lighthouse, built off the coast of Angus between 1807 and 1810, is the world's oldest surviving sea-washed lighthouse.

Erected in 1812, the Laigh Milton Viaduct, near Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, is the oldest surviving rail-way viaduct in Scotland, and one of the oldest in the world. It was used by the Kilmarnock and Troon Railway, Scotland's first public railway and the first to use a steam locomotive.

The Ballochmyle Viaduct is the highest extant railway viaduct in Britain. When it was completed in 1848, it boasted the world's longest masonry arch (55m / 181 ft) of any railway bridge. The bridge featured in the 1996 film Mission Impossible starring Tom Cruise.

William Denny and Brothers of Dumbarton and John Brown and Company of Clydebank were two of the most internationally renowned shipbuilding companies in the world from the mid 19th to the mid 20th century. They built world-famous ships, such as the Cutty Sark (the second fastest clipper of all time),

the TS King Edward (the first passenger steamer powered by turbines), the RMS Lusitania (the fastest ship of its time), the HMS Hood (the world's biggest warship for 20 years after being launched), the HMS Repulse (the world's fastest capital ships upon completion), the RMS Queen Mary, the RMS Queen Elizabeth (the largest passenger liner ever built until 1994), and the RMS Queen Elizabeth 2. Clydebank

used to be the greatest shipyard in the world.

The Cathedral of the Isles in Millport, Cumbrae, is Britain's smallest extant cathedral and Europe's second smallest.

Established by James Young in 1852, Bathgate Chemical Works in West Lothian was the world's first oil refinery. From 1865 to 1880, Young's Paraffin Light and Mineral Oil Company was the world largest oil producer.

The Thermopylae, an extreme composite clipper

ship built in 1868 by Walter Hood & Co of Aberdeen, is the fastest sailing boat ever built.

Upon its completion in early 1878 the Tay Rail Bridge was the longest in the world, but was destroyed by a storm in December 1879. The second Tay Bridge, opened in 1887, was slightly longer, with a length of 4,500 m (14,800 ft), and remained the longest bridge in the world until 1903. It is still Britain's longest bridge.

The Forth Railway Bridge, opened in 1890, was the world's first major steel bridge. With a main span of 521 m (1,710 ft) and a total length of 2,529 m (8,296 ft), it is the second longest cantilever bridge in the world after Pont de Québec in Canada. When it was completed, the Forth Bridge was three times longer than any other bridge ever built.

Do you know interesting things about Scotland? If you do, just email bethscribble@aol.com



St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, is celebrated November 30 each year

Here are some interesting facts about St. Andrew in honor of the saint who has a day celebrated in his honor this on 30 November each year.



- 1) St. Andrew was not Scottish. He was born in Bethsaida in Galilee, which is now Israel.
- 2) He was Jesus' first disciple. He was one of twelve disciples, along with his brother Simon Peter.
- 3) St. Andrew is not just the patron saint of Scotland. He is the patron saint in other countries including Greece and Russia. Also, he is the patron saint of the Order of the Thistle, one of the highest ranks of chivalry in the world.
- 4) He was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Legend says that he asked to be tied to an X-shaped cross because he did not feel worth of dying on the same shape of cross as Jesus. The shape has been represented by the white cross on the Scottish flag, the Saltire.
- 5) People took pilgrimages to the site of some of his remains. One of the remaining relics of this saint is stored in St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

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Richard Holman Baird, continued from page 1 that we now "pitch in," working together for the betterment of all.

Let us continue the good work we have begun by cooperating with Richard and the Chieftains to the fullest extent. We finally have a path to leadership of our Clan. What a momentous day it was!

This is how everything came about.

Clan Baird had no leader at all, since Culloden, when our chief, William Baird, 7th Laird of Auchmedden, Aberdeenshire, was one of the leaders of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite rebels and had to go into hiding after the battle.

He was later pardoned, but lost his estate and died a pauper in his brother-in-law's house in Aberdeen, in 1777.

Since this was our situation, Clan Baird Society found that it was possible for us to name Society Cheiftains from each Baird main line, because the Lord Lyon does not name Chieftains, and does not recognize them either. We do, as a family.

Our Council of Chieftains are Andrew Baird of Newbyth (who is heir apparent to that baronry when Sir Charles Baird dies. Sir Charles lives in Australia.) who represents the Barony of Newbyth, and was running for Commander.

Also, Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, who has never attended any meeting of the Clan Baird Society, and who was not at the Family Convention, but was one of the others running.

His first cousin, Roderick Baird, who lives in Edinburgh, represented and spoke for him. Richard Holman-Baird, whom you know, is also a Chieftain of the Gartsherrie Line.

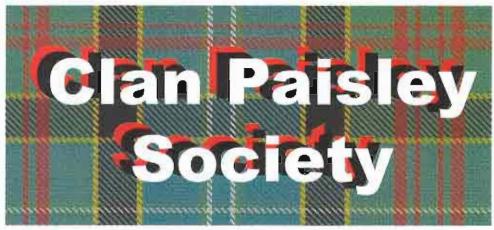
His cousin, Douglas Baird of Elie and Durris, came forward during our search (we had no idea he was in existence and neither did Richard). Douglas lives in Oban, but his father is still alive and lives in Australia. His father stepped aside in favor of Douglas, so we made him a Chieftain also.

In other words, Andrew of Newbyth, Sir James of Saughtonhall, Douglas of Elie and Durris, and Richard of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood are our Chieftains, representing the main lines of Bairds, especially the landed and titled ones. They hold coats of arms.

Continued on page 31



Chief of the Paisley Family, Duncan W. Paisley of Westerlea.



All Paisleys of the name or blood (and all spellings) are invited to join. Email: <mbrown2205@aol.com>

Paisley Family Society USA Branch, FaceBook account can be found at https:// www.facebook.com/Paisley-Family-Society-USA-branch-195070730565352/







The Arms of Paisley of Westerlea (above) The guidon of the Chief (below)



The Paisleys are a family of considerable antiquity, having been associated with Lochwinnoch and Paisley (parts of what later became Renfrewshire), with Cunningham and Kyle (North Ayrshire), Innerwidk (East Lothian) and Roxburghshire, since the time of William I King of Scots, 1165-1214.

For the Paisley DNA Project, visit <dlangsto@yahoo.com>

Paisley Family Association

of North Carolina president: Don Paisley mail: paisley47@aol.com Celebrating 50 years of fellowship

Check out the Clan Paisley Society webpage at <www.paisleyfamilysociety.org.uk> to see what's happening with us this year. Contact Martha Brown at <mbr/>brown2205@aol.com>.

https://www.facebook.com/PaisleyFamilySociety

Richard Holman Baird, continued from page 29

When Richard was overwhelmingly elected, he immediately stood up and invited all the others to help him bring lines together for the whole Clan. He invited them to his estate for a planning retreat this fall, but Andrew could not attend yet, and Roderick (the cousin of Sir James) will be representing Sir James, so they have moved it to the spring, but are still going to have it.

Richard has invited everyone (including their wives and children) to come and stay at his manse for a long weekend, and perhaps do some shooting and riding also. They are going to try to look for ways forward. Richard could not be more inclusive with what he is doing and working so hard to get all the lines to work together. This is a major move forward for us, and we very much appreciate Richard's work toward getting everyone to get along for the good of all.

I hope that helps. Richard has designed a "Commander's tie and scarf" to help us get money together for the Clan Baird Society to apply for a Coat of Arms, which includes all the main lines, further hoping we can get everyone working together. We are asking \$100.00 for one tie, or \$150.00 for two, and \$100.00 donation for one of the scarves. They are much more expensive than the ties, but all are silk.

We are also going to have Richard's installation as Commander at the Grandfather Mountain Games this summer, July 9th-12th, 2020. We don't have the details for that yet, but we will be in a venue where we can invite all who wish to attend. I am hoping we can use the grand stand that they use for the Sunday Service and have people in attendance sitting below as for Sunday services.



Baird
Family
Gathering
St.
Leonards
Hall,
Edinburgh
August 5
2019



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Murchie

Murchison

Richardson



The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the Clan Buchanan Society in America. It was founded at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership.



Write to the president, David Byrne, at <ctbuchanan@gmail.com>



Knocker-Uppers & Snuffer-Outers

Did you ever wonder how the hard-working folks of Britain and Ireland managed to get up on time before the invention of the alarm clock?

The solution was ingenious...if a little bit odd.

It wasn't until the beginning of the 1920s that alarm clocks became readily available, so how was it these people managed to get up in time for work every morning?

The answer - the knocker-uppers.





Above, is Mary Smith who earned sixpence a week shooting dried peas at sleeping workers windows.

The knocker-uppers was a profession throughout Britain and Ireland that started during the Industrial Revolution and continued into the 20th century.

Besides pea-shooters, the knocker-uppers went door to door using a truncheon, baton or a short, but heavy, stick to knock on the clients' doors. They might have used a long and light stick, often made of bamboo, to reach windows on higher floors. The knocker-upper would not leave the house until their client was roused from sleep.

They would also use their "snuffer- outer" This implement was used to put out gas lamps which were lit at dusk and then needed to be



extinguished at dawn.

Charles Dickens references knocker-uppers in Great Expectations, and also features in the story of Jack the Ripper murders in east London.

In the industrial cities large numbers of people were employed to carry out this role.

Generally, the job was carried out by older men and women, but sometimes police constables would supplement their pay by multitasking during their morning patrols. Alternatively, large factories and mills would employ their own knocker-uppers to ensure employees mae it to work on time.

But, who woke the knocker uppers?

A tongue -twister from the time tackled this conundrum:

"We had a knocker-up, and our knocker -up had a knocker -up

And our knocker-up's knocker -up didn't knock our knocker-up

So our knocker -up didn't knock us up "Cos he's not up."

Although the clock was certainly the main replacement from the 1920s on, BBC reports that until the 1950s and even the 1970s, the knocker-upper's work continued in parts of Britain.

With thanks to *Celtic Seasons, from the streams of Celtic Consciousness*. Subscribe by sending any monetary contribution to Rich Shader, 173 Greystone Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

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A Scottish Traditional Christmas Pinner





It might be just a bit daunting to try and prepare a complete Scottish meal for your Christmas dinner, but, you might choose a few...and some of them would be on our American menu too...like turkey, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots and peas...cranberry sauce.

Buttery shortbread cookies would be welcome on any holiday table, don't you think?

It's fun to read about the traditional foods and perhaps you will look up the recipes and prepare a few for your family. Start a new tradition.

A meal with friends and loved ones..perfect!

If you would like to harken back to the days when your own family lived in Scotland...and, of course, whatever they would have then, WAS a Scottish meal!

There are nearly as many Scottish Christmas dinners as there are Scots, but here are the basics:

- ♦ A first course of soup (such as cock-a-leekie)
- ♦ Roast turkey
- ♦ Roast potatoes
- ♦ Roast parsnips
- Stuffing (sausagemeat, sage and onion, chestnut)
- ◆ Bacon rolls (a Scottish roll with a couple rashers of British bacon)
- ◆ Kilted chipolata sausages (sausages wrapped in bacon)
 - ♦ Brussels sprouts
 - ◆ Carrots
 - ♦ Peas
 - ♦ Red-wine gravy
 - ♦ Bread sauce
- ◆ Cranberry sauce Whew! And if you haven't had enough food already, here's the dessert:
 - ♦ Christmas Pudding
 - ♦ Cloutie dumpling
 - ♦ Scotch Trifle





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Calendars Explained

Subscribe: richardeastman.net Richard Eastman

That could be simpler than a calendar? The printed one from the local real estate office shows twelve months, each with 28 to 31 days. Simple, right?

Well, it hasn't always been so simple. After all, I keep stumbling upon genealogy records that are logged with "double dates." That is, a birth record might state "22 February 1732/3." Which was it: 1732 or 1733? Well, it actually was both. Just to make things more complex, back in those days, most of our ancestors didn't know what day it was. You see,

most people in the early 1700s and earlier were illiterate. They couldn't read a book, much less a calendar. Most people did not know what day it was or even how old they were. Very few remembered their own birthdays.

Throughout history, learned men kept track of

the days, months, and years in a variety of ways. The ancient Egyptians began numbering their years when the star Sirius rose at the same place as the Sun. The Egyptian calendar was the first solar calendar and contained 365 days. These were divided into twelve 30-day months and five days of religious festival.

Mark

Your Calendar!

The calendar used by the ancient Greeks was based on the Moon and is known as the Metonic calendar. This calendar was based on 235 lunar months that made up almost exactly 19 solar years. This 19-year cycle became known as the Metonic cycle. However, given a nominal twelve-month year, an additional lunar month was needed to synchronize the cycle. These were added in years 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 16, and 19 of the cycle. The Greek calendar was modified several times over the years to compensate for its inaccuracies.

The original Roman calendar was a mess. It originally started the year with the vernal equinox and consisted of 10 months (Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quntilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December) for a total of 304 days. The 304 days were followed by an unnamed, unnumbered period, simply called "winter." The Roman emperor Numa Pompilius (715-673 BC) introduced February and January between December and March, increasing the length of the year to 354 or 355 days.

In the year 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the

calendar to a more manageable form. The Julian Calendar consisted of cycles of three 365-day years followed by a 366-day leap year. New Year's Day was celebrated on March 21, the vernal equinox (first day of spring). The calendar was called the Julian Calendar, named after Julius Caesar.

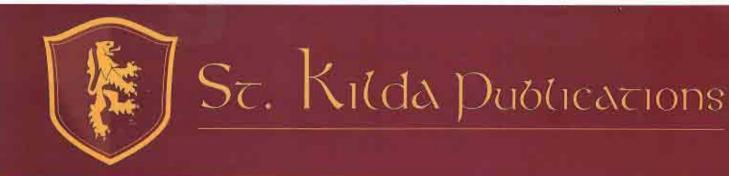
The Venerable Bede, an English scholar who lived from 673-

735, noted that the vernal equinox had slipped three days earlier than the traditional March 21. He proposed changes to the calendar, but the changes were not adopted for another 850 years.

By the year 1582, the calendar had slipped to become eleven days off. To make up the difference, Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the day after October 4, 1582, would be October 15, 1582. In other words, everyone lost eleven days. Because of Pope Gregory XIII's decree, the new calendar came to be known as the Gregorian Calendar.

The Catholic countries of France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy followed this decree immediately. Various Catholic German countries (Germany was not yet a unified nation), Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland followed within a year or two, and Hun-

Continued on page 39



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About Calendars, *continued from page 37* - gary followed in 1587.

The Protestant German countries adopted the Gregorian reform in 1700. By this time, the calendar trailed the seasons by twelve days. England finally adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, declaring that Wednesday, September 2, 1752, was immediately followed by Thursday, September 14, 1752. America was a part of England at the time, so the Americans adopted the new calendar on the same date. Their neighbors in Canada had always used the Gregorian Calendar because the land had been settled by the French, who had used the new calendar since 1582. In the 1600s and early 1700s, crossing the border from the British Colonies to the French Colonies meant a change of eleven or twelve days on the calendar!

Turkey and Russia did not change to the new calendar until the early twentieth century. In Greece, 9 March 1924 was followed by 23 March 1924.

Sweden decided to make a gradual change from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar. By dropping every leap year from 1700 through 1740, they gradually omitted the eleven superfluous days.

The year 1700 (which should have been a leap year in the Julian Calendar) was not a leap year in Sweden. However, by mistake, the Swedish government listed 1704 and 1708 as leap years. This left Sweden out of synchronization with both the Julian and the Gregorian world, so they decided to go "back" to the Julian Calendar. In order to do this, they inserted an extra day in 1712, making that year a double leap year! So in 1712, February had 30 days in Sweden. Babies born the last day of that month had a very unique birthday!

Some religious sects still use a lunar-based calendar to determine holidays. Easter, for instance, generally occurs on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, although the actual scheme is a bit more complicated.

To summarize, the Julian Calendar was slightly too long, causing the vernal equinox to slowly drift backwards in the calendar year. The Gregorian Calendar system dealt with these problems by dropping a certain number of days to bring the calendar back into synchronization with the seasons, and then slightly shortening the average number of days in a calendar year by omitting three Julian leap-days every 400 years. Even the Gregorian Calendar we use today is not perfect: astronomers and mathematicians tell us that it is off by one day

every 4,000 years.

Under the older Julian Calendar system, while New Year's was celebrated on March 21, the calendar actually began with January. Therefore, any date between January 1 and March 21 was written as a combination of two years. A child born in what is now the United States on February 3 in what we now call 1726 would have a birth date of 3 February 1725/6. Even more confusing, dates between January 1 and March 21 in a year ending in a nine would have a "/0" added, as in 3 February 1729/0. The dates written with a slash followed by another digit are referred to as "Old Style" dates.

Of course, the loss of eleven or twelve days on the calendar certainly confused the calculations often found on tombstones proclaiming that someone died at the age of 76 years, 4 months and 12 days!

When researching old records, the genealogist may often encounter "Old Style" dates such as 3 February 1727/8. Recording such dates on paper is usually simple. However, computer programs may have difficulties.

All of the better genealogy programs of today can accept Old Style dates such as 3 February 1727/8. They will even properly calculate ages from tombstone information listed as "3 February 1729/0." In fact, most genealogy programs written in English will assume that any date entered prior to September 14, 1752 is a double date year. At least one genealogy program allows the user to specify a different year as the date of conversion from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian. The problem is that all the dates stored in that program get converted!. This is fine for anyone who has all ancestors living in any one country, but it creates a problem for those of us with ancestors from two, three, or more countries.

For instance, my English-speaking ancestors all converted from Julian to Gregorian on September 14, 1752. However, my French-speaking ancestors converted their calendars about one hundred seventy years earlier, on October 15, 1582. If I had Russian ancestry, they would not have converted until 1917. Then there are the Swedes... What is a person of international ancestry to do?

You can convert Julian dates to Gregorian and viceversà at http://pdc.ro.nu/mjd.cgi. Since this is a web site in English, it seems to use the English date of September 14, 1752, as the date of conversion.

You can read more about calendars at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calendar.

