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 AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE  
 ARTICLES  
 BETH'S FAMILY TREE  
 BOOKS  
 BUSINESS  
 CHILDREN'S STORIES  
 CLANS & FAMILIES

CULTURE & LANGUAGE  
 DONNA'S PAGE  
 ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET  
 FAMOUS SCOTS  
 FAMILYTREE  
 FORUMS  
 FOOD & DRINK  
 GAMES

GAZETTEER  
 GENEALOGY  
 HISTORIC PLACES  
 HISTORY  
 HUMOR  
 JOHN'S PAGE  
 KIDS  
 LIFESTYLE  
 MUSIC

NEWSLETTER  
 PICTURES  
 POETRY  
 POSTCARDS  
 RELIGION  
 ROBERT BURNS  
 SCOTS IRISH  
 SCOTS REGIMENTS  
 SERVICES

SHOPPING  
 SONGS  
 SPORT  
 SCOTS DIASPORA  
 TARTANS  
 TRAVEL  
 TRIVIA  
 VIDEOS  
 WHATS NEW

HELP TERMS OF USE CONTACT US

## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for May 15th, 2020

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:  
<https://electricscotland.com/scotnews.htm>

### Electric Scotland News

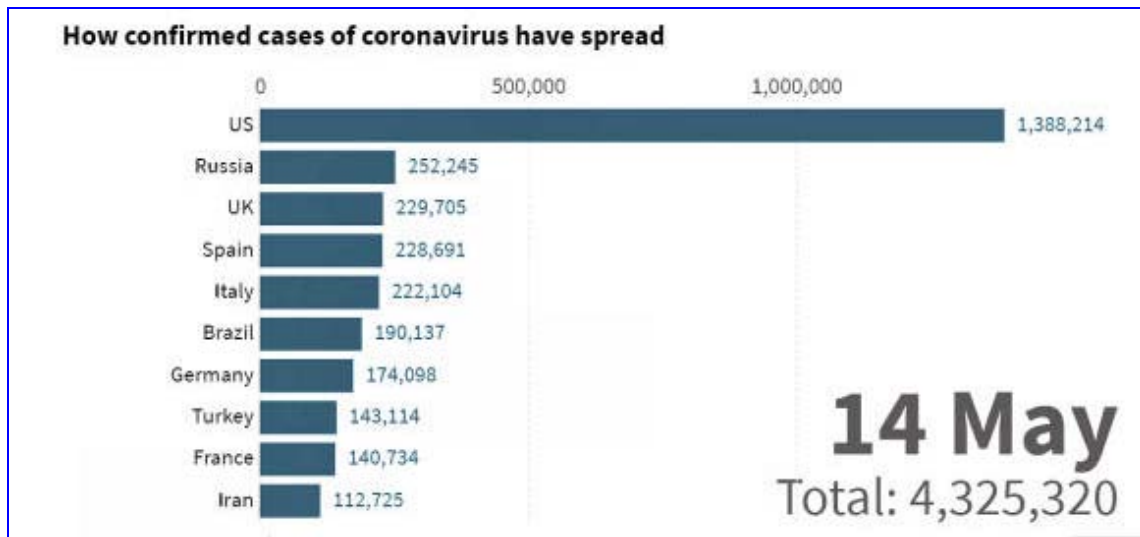
Les Ecosais en France, les Français en Écosse (1862) Volume 1 in the French language (pdf) From the Middle Ages to the reign of Henry II

Les Ecosais en France, les Français en Écosse (1862) Volume 2 in the French language (pdf) From the death of Henry II to the end of the 18th century

The above two volumes as far as I can see have never been translated into the English language. I've talked to a translation company and they have quoted me £27,837 to do this translation which is US\$34,161. They say it will take around 180 days to complete this task.

So I just wondered if anyone knew of anyone that would fund this type of project or of someone that might do the translation for us free of charge? This could be a collaborative project with several people each translating one chapter?

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Made a wee 20 minute video about our Food and Drink section on Electric Scotland

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5526-Food-and-Drink-video>

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our [ScotNews](#) feed on our index page where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland as world news stories that can affect

Scotland and all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Public asked to solve Scottish archive picture mystery  
The public are being asked to help identify over 5,000 images from an official archive.

Read more at:  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52563761>

Sir Alex Ferguson: Manchester United & Aberdeen icon in seven stories  
Seven years ago this morning, football was changed forever.

Read more at:  
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/52575884>

Conrad Black: Canada needs a much better CBC  
The federal government should appoint serious leadership for the national broadcaster, with a mission and budget to make it a network the country can be proud of; Canada has the talent and the need

Read more at:  
<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/conrad-black-canada-needs-a-much-better-cbc>

Stay Alert. Control the virus. Save lives. The UK's Government's new plan  
Johnson's broadcast.

View this at:  
<https://www.conservativehome.com/video/2020/05/watch-stay-alert-control-the-virus-save-lives-the-governments-new-plan-johnsons-broadcast.html>

Saithe - a not so Auld Alliance  
THE FRENCH have a taste for Saithe and the Saithe they are particularly fond of is Scottish.

Read more at:  
[http://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read\\_full=14169](http://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read_full=14169)

Stay Alert? Johnson trusts the people - Sturgeon does not  
THE UNEASY STAND-OFF did not last long.

Read more at:  
[http://www.thinkscotland.org/todays-thinking/articles.html?read\\_full=14170](http://www.thinkscotland.org/todays-thinking/articles.html?read_full=14170)

Scot reveals how to make huge batch of butcher quality square sausage at home  
This square sausage recipe is perfect for a Scottish fry up or in a crispy morning roll during lockdown.

Read more at:  
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/food-drink/scot-reveals-how-make-huge-22009686>

Republicans snatch rare prize of California seat  
A Republican candidate has won a congressional seat from the Democrats in liberal California for the first time in more than two decades.

Read more at:  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52656958>

UK Government Shares CANZUK Ambitions For Free Movement & Trade  
The UK government has confirmed via email communication that they are seeking to maximize trade and investment relations with Canada, Australia and New Zealand with intentions to introduce reciprocal visa arrangements with the three countries.

Read more at:  
<https://www.canzukinternational.com/2020/05/uk-government-shares-canzuk-ambitions-for-free-movement-trade.html>

## Electric Canadian

The Canadian Brothers  
From the University of Alberta Libraries (pdf)

A children's story which can be viewed at:  
<https://www.electriccanadian.com/children/canadianbrothers.pdf>

Alberta's Black Settlers  
A Study of Canadian Immigration, Policy and Practice By Judith S. Hill (1981) (pdf)

You can view this at:  
<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/canadasblacksettlers.pdf>

British Canadian  
British Canadian Newspaper which was a National paper printed in Simcoe, Ontario, February 18, 1857 (pdf)

You can view this edition at:  
<https://www.electriccanadian.com/magazines/BritishCanadian1857Feb18.pdf>

Communications in the Canadian Corps, 1915-1918  
Wartime Technological Progress Revisited by Bill Rawling

This can be viewed at:  
<https://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/1915-1918CanadianCorpsCommunications.pdf>

## Electric Scotland

Home Preacher  
We've added a list of the hymns and psalms for each week in a separate pdf file at:  
<https://electricscotland.com/bible/homepreacher/HomePreacherHymnsandPsalmsbyWeek.pdf>

We're hoping some of you may be able to help us find organ music to go with each one listed. This is either by playing and recording them yourself or providing a link to where they can be listened to. We figured many folk that might read the services won't know the tunes that go with each hymn or psalm so have problems trying to sing them and in this way we could help them. So please get in touch if you can help.

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree  
Celebrating their 15th anniversary with the June 2020 Section B

Hi Everyone. Here is Section B for June 2020 for you. It's another issue with interesting articles and lots of information I hope you will enjoy.

This is *The Year Without Games* it seems. If you have cancelled or postponed a Scottish event, please let me know when you schedule it again. I'll be happy to help you spread the word of your new dates and information via this publication at no charge a'tall. (That's FREE!)

We have our first query this time...and it is a big'un. Try to keep yours a bit smaller, please. We don't have unlimited space. However, send your genealogical queries to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) anytime you wish.

This is a big issue for me, personally. I've done every single issue of *The Family Tree*, which sort of morphed into *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*. It's still as much fun as it always has been. Today, it is even more fun because it is physically easier and much faster than it was in the beginning. I do remember those 100 + hour weeks that used to be normal for me. We are celebrating 15 years of BNFT this issue. It would not be possible without my dear friend, Alastair McIntyre at [electricscotland.com](http://electricscotland.com). Thank you, Alastair.

Thank you to my Tom, too. He is so kind as to proofread every issue so carefully and professionally. Thank you, dah'lin.

Remember, please, do send me your new email addresses and when you need me to cancel your old email.

My heart swells with pride when I learn of good things that people are doing for each other during this crisis. Our medical community, our fire, and police folks...everyone who has kept essential services going... you are all very special heroes to all of us.

You are all wonderful.

BTW, if you hanker to see the archives of all of the BNFT publications, just visit <https://electricScotland.com/bnft/archives>; Browse all you wish. It's free. You're also welcome to forward this publication to anyone, as many as you like...It's also free.

Please let me know if you have ideas or articles for BNFT.

Stay careful. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Love,  
beth

Read this edition at: <https://electricScotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

Gwen's Old-Fashioned Potato-Beef Casserole

Sent in by Beth Gay and you can get to this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/food/visitors/GwensOld-FashionedPotato-BeefCasserole.htm>

Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness

Changing Ideologies in North-East Scotland, Sixth to Sixteenth Century AD by Martin Carver, Justin Garner-Lahire and Cecily Spall (pdf)

A publication from the Antiquaries of Scotland which can be read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/gazetteer/portmahamock.pdf>

Seed to Seed

Food Gardens in Schools by Jude Fanton and Jo Immig (pdf)

You can view this at: <https://electricScotland.com/agriculture/seedtoseed.pdf>

A Seed Saving Guide for Gardeners and Farmers

Learn how to plant the best varieties, maintain your crop "genetics", cultivate, harvest, process and store seed. Plus a crop specific chart and resources for gaining more seed and growing knowledge from the Organic Seed Alliance (2010) (pdf)

You can get to this at: <https://electricScotland.com/agriculture/AGuidetoSeedSaving.pdf>

Anonymous In Stoney

By Jean Kemlo. Stan Bruce sent in three of her poems and a pdf of a book about her which you can read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/poetry/banff/stoney.htm>

Men of the Knotted Heart

A Recollection and Appreciation of Alexander Duncan Grant, and John Paterson Struthers by Thomas Cassels (1915) (pdf)

A great read at: <https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/knottedheart.htm>

Thoughts for Sunday May 10th, 2020 from the Rev. Nola Crewe.

You can view this video at:

<http://www.electricScotland.org/showthread.php/5524-Thoughts-for-Sunday-May-10th-2020>

An Account of a Voyage to Spitzbergen

Containing a full description of that country, of the zoology of the North, and of the Shetland Isles with an account of the whale fishery by John Laing, Surgeon. (1815) (pdf)

You can read this at: <https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/accountofvoyage.pdf>

Matthew Fowlds

Centenarian Weaver 1806 - 1907 and other Fenwick Worthies and Brief Histories of the Martyrs and Covenanters of Fenwick, the Secession Church and the Weavers Society edited by Rev. J. Kirkwood Fairlie (1910) (pdf)

You can read about him at: <https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/matthewfowlds.pdf>

Added the Scottish Banner May/June 2020 edition

You can read this at: <https://electricScotland.com/familytree/newsletters/scottishbanner/index.htm>

## Story

Essay's of Hugh Haliburton (James Logie Robertson) - The Farmers Ingle

MAKING incidental mention of Fergusson's name in the Heart of Midlothian, Scott proposed to designate him the Poet Laureate of the City Guard, because his verses referred so frequently to those military conservators of the peace ; but it will give a more intelligible idea of the position of Fergusson to describe him as the Poet Laureate of Edinburgh from 1770 to 1774. By both birth and upbringing he was a true son of the city; man, therefore, rather than nature, was his theme. The towns with which, by residence, he was acquainted were Edinburgh, Dundee, St Andrews, and Aberdeen; but it was Edinburgh with which he was longest and most intimately connected. Edinburgh furnished him with most of his subjects, and it was to an Edinburgh audience that he almost exclusively looked for applause. Once, however, he strayed beyond the bounds of city life for a subject, which he found in the Farmer's Ingle, and which he treated with such ability as to make one wish he had oftener meditated the rural muse. In any classification of his poems, The Farmer's Ingle must occupy a place by itself; not only because it is his one notable effort on a purely rural subject, but because it is the only worthy specimen of his serious style. All his other pieces which deserve preservation are avowedly humorous. The Farmer's Ingle, though not without a chance touch of humour, is a poem seriously sympathetic with the simple round of rustic life at a farm, and accurately descriptive of it. Poetical consideration apart, it has a historical value in the clear, careful, and correct picture which it presents of a phase of domestic farm-life in the east of Scotland in the latter half of last century. The original of the picture Fergusson probably found in some farm near St Andrews, when he wore the red gown and rejoiced in the freedom of an undergraduate.

The subject, when Fergusson selected it, was of a kind virgin to poetical treatment in the Scottish vernacular. There had been occasional references to the simple lives of common men in verses of an earlier date, but this was the first Scottish poem which seriously, directly, and exclusively dealt with the subject. It was an attempt to invest a transcript from homely, every-day country-life with an interest which should be independent of caricature and false colour, and should appeal rather to the heart than to the fancy. The idea may have been got from the classical pastorals, or it may have been suggested by one or other of those brief bits of descriptive verse with which Ramsay introduces the dramatic scenes of the Gentle Shepherd. However it originated, the idea was ambitious, and was, I venture to say, admirably carried out. The result may never have been popular, but it constitutes, nevertheless, the masterpiece of Fergusson. It offers to the critic the best means of testing the strength and variety of the poet's power. Here we have picturesque glimpses of rural scenery, artistic compositions of rustic figures, touches of humour, finely-wrought though faint characterisation, portraiture, a sense of the supernatural, and a genuine sympathy with childhood, toiling manhood, and age, which once or twice makes near approach to pathos. An outline of the poem may be given.

The time is early winter—more particularly, it is an evening in the ' back-end' of the year when infant frosts are beginning to bite. The farm-labourers are leaving their various work. The herd, assisted by his dog, drives the cattle home from pasture; the maid-servants, who have been winnowing corn, are glad of the rest which gloaming brings; and thresher John, tired in every limb, is shutting the barn door. Within the farm - house preparations have been made for their home-coming; the spacious kitchen is clean and comfortable, there is a huge fire of peats and turf in the ample chimney, and supper is just ready. The goodman himself enters, and his eye bespeaks approval of the goodwife's management, 'ilka turn is handled to his mind.' There is abundance of savoury kail-brose, hot buttered scones, and home-brewed ale,—

'Weel kens the gudewife that the pleughs require  
A heartsome meltith, and refreshing synd  
Of nappy liquor o'er a bleezing fire;  
Sair wark and poortith downa weel be joined.'

The entire household, master and servant, mistress and maid, sit down at the same table to supper. Let no one despise their homely fare. The kail-brose of auld Scotland is the 'wale of food' both to work upon and to fight upon. It was the fare of those heroic ancestors of ours who turned the Romans, overthrew the Danes, and won the independence of the country. After supper coherent conversation begins, much promoted by the genial influence of the cheering 'bicker' or mug of strong ale.

The weather is always an important topic with country folks ; and that, therefore, they discuss first, not as a needless prologue to their after-talk, but as a matter of the first magnitude. The rustic mind is a meteorological register which can furnish date and details of the past weather, for many months in retrospect, at command. But the efficiency of the register can only be maintained by constant use; so the genial showers of vanished summers and the destructive speats of well remembered winters are recalled to reproduce the feelings they formerly evoked. Then follows the news of kirk and of market—the approaching marriage of Jock and Jenny, or, it may be, the misfortune which brings Marion to the cutty-stool. The children are now quiet, listening to their elders,—

'The fient a cheep's amang the bairnies noo,  
For a' their anger's wi' their hunger gane.'

They are seated together in front of the fire, which with the dimly-burning cruizie, sheds an enlivening but unsteady light through the

shadowy apartment It is now that the ancient granny opens to them the supernatural world, of which, with her wrinkles and her cracked and quavering voice, she herself almost seems to be a denizen. Her tale is of warlocks, and hob-goblins, and ghosts, of drear glens and silent churchyards. The effect which her narration produces upon her listeners is picturesquely noticed: 'it touzles a' their tap.' It is a back view we get of them, against the glow of the fire. Granny's belief in fiends and fairies is firm, and in the mischievous devilries they work about a farm. Here Fergusson introduces a beautiful appeal for sympathetic patience with old age,—

'O mock na this, my friends ! but rather mourn,  
Ye in life's brawest spring wr1 reason clear;  
Wi' eild oor idle fancies a\* return,  
And dim oor dolefu' days wr' bairnly fear:  
The mind's aye cradled when the grave is near.'

All this while granny is busy spinning thread, not with a wheel; she believes in the traditional distaff. The old lady is more than worth her salt: her 'e'ening stent (task) reels she as weel's the lave.' What is she busy with at present?

'On some feast day the wee things, buskit braw,  
Shall heeze her heart up wr' a silent joy,  
Fu' cadgie (happy) that her head was up, and saw  
Her ain spun claithing on a darling oy (grandson)  
Careless tho' death should mak the feast her foy (farewell feast)!

The goodman, whose disposition is finely indicated by the confidence with which both collie and baudrons (the cat) approach him to win his attention is meanwhile reposing on a kind of rustic sofa, which is described as 'a warm and canny lean for weary banes.' But the fore-night is passing: it is time to issue instructions for the morrow's work. An oat-stack may have to be taken in and threshed out; or some ploughing may have to be done; or a sack or two of corn, a melder, may have to be taken to the mill to be ground. The goodwife, too, has her commands for the maids—to take a final look through the byres, and see that none of the cows has slipped a band, and to be careful at milking time that a particular 'cummie' does not indulge her favourite vice of kicking over the full milk pail. And now the whole household begin to wax sleepy. The fire is getting low, the oil in the lamp is nearly done. They retire to rest—'upon the cod (pillow) to clear the drumly pow.' Sound sleep till sunrise is the reward of toil. The concluding stanza is a kindly envoi,—

'Peace to the husbandman and a' his tribe,  
Whase care fells a' oor wants fra year to year!  
Lang may his sock and coulter turn the glybe,  
And banks o' corn bend down wi' laded ear! '  
May Scotia's simmers aye look gay and green,  
Her yellow hairsts fra scowry blasts decreed!  
May a\* her tenants sit fu' snug and bien,  
Fra the hard grips o\* ails and poortith freed,  
And a lang lasting trade o' peaceful hours succeed!

The subject of this poem suggested the subject of 'The Cottar's Saturday Night,' and supplied Burns with several hints besides. The verse is the same in both poems, and is well adapted to the nature of the subject. The time is the same in both; it is when 'November chill blows loud' and 'the shortening winter day is near a close.' It is the same rustic world we are ushered into, and the events of an evening are recorded in both. Burns has improved on his model in the introduction of the youthful lover, and the episode of Family Worship. The farmhouse, however, is higher than the cot, and Fergus-son's subject admits of an ampler variety of characters and events—which he did not fully take advantage of. What he has thus lost in artistic effect he partly makes up for in greater fidelity to truth. He depicts the scenes of an ordinary work-day evening, while Burns selects the night which precedes and prepares for the Sabbath. The Farmer's Ingle is perhaps only a sketch to what it might have been, but it is a sketch drawn by a masterly hand, and full of suggestive points. The suggestiveness of the poem is one of its leading features. It is full of pictures. In this respect it reminds one of Milton's L'Allegro and Burns's Tam o' Shanter.

END.

And that's it for this week and hope you all have a great weekend and mind and keep your distance, wash your hands and stay safe.

Alastair