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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for November 24th, 2023

Electric Scotland News

I have just returned from my London hospital visit to discuss my kidney issues. It appears that some 18 months ago on my last test of my kidneys all was ok but the problem is that my Doctor took 18 months to request another test and it was double the previous one which means they are unable to account for this. However on the last test the figures had reduced by 25% meaning I am a lot better than I was although still a bit high.

They have now changed my meds and am now scheduled for another hospital visit in three months time. One circumstance they were concerned about was my blood pressure medicine which I have taken for some 18 years. They said I should not have been on that particular medicine for so long. It has now been replaced with a new one. I have also been given a new medicine which will boost the blood pressure a bit plus do some work on my diabetes and kidneys.

They have also asked that I take my blood pressure at home three times a week and bring the results to the next meeting with them.

So... overall I am fine but need a little extra work to get me stabilised.

It would appear the problem was with my doctor not doing her job properly.

I had to get up at 7.00 am this morning and am now back at 3.00 pm so now onto getting this newsletter prepared and out to you all.

Did a focus on food this week in our ElectricScotland.com web site.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. 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. Here is what caught my eye this week...

How can Scotland afford its public services?

Public service reform in Scotland is becoming ever more urgent, as revenue and spending commitments part company. The auditor general is demanding a route map back to sustainable finances.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-67447590>

Crime-riddled California, freedom-loving Texas and a lesson for Britain
The US is undergoing an economic shift big business is moving away from woke-obsessed states on the West coast and setting up shop in pro-enterprise hubs in Texas and Florida. Policy makers in Britain should take note states that prioritise freedom, quality of life and good public services win the day.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/crime-riddled-california-freedom-loving-texas-and-a-lesson-for-britain>

Scottish inequalities have worsened over the past five years
In its latest Is Scotland Fairer report, which is published every five years, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) found that while there have been improvements in outcomes for young people and on the representation of minority groups, Scotland is still underperforming in several key areas.

Read more at:

<https://www.holyrood.com/news/view.scottish-inequalities-have-worsened-over-the-past-five-years>

Test results point to something 'wrong' with Scottish education, says IFS
The performance of Scottish pupils in mathematics and science declined markedly between 2006 and 2018, while results in reading remained roughly the same, a report has found. The analysis of the nation's results in Pisa tests, which are viewed as an international benchmark, concluded that something, somewhere is going wrong in Scottish education.

Read more at:

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/test-results-point-to-something-wrong-with-scottish-education-says-ifs/ar-AA1k0q9m>

It's the way you ask them
Our latest poll reveals that more than 10% of those who say they would vote "Yes" to independence think that an independent Scotland could "remain" inside the United Kingdom.

Read more at:

https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i389/its_the_way_you_ask_them.aspx

The UK and Canada: Two nations united by creativity
British and Canadian history intertwines hundreds of years up to the present day. Both countries fought alongside each other in two world wars, and now they're the only two countries who are both members of NATO, the G7, the G20 and the Commonwealth.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/united-by-trade/-the-uk-and-canada-two-nations-united-by-creativity>

Golden fleece: Knitwear experts fashion new life for unused Scots wool
When Marie McNulty set out to create high-fashion knitwear from a disregarded and low-value Scottish sheep's wool historically used for carpets, people told her it was impossible.

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/merrick-knitwear-wool/>

The gulf between what the SNP says and does is increasingly obvious
Humza Yousaf displayed his Humpty Dumpty tendencies in his first conference speech as SNP leader. Referring to building a fairer society and wanting to make Scotland a fairer and more prosperous country, he claimed that the SNP had used its time in government to cement our social contract with the people. A contract

that says, yes, those who earn the most should pay the most.

Read more at:

<https://www.holyrood.com/comment/view,the-gulf-between-what-the-snp-says-and-does-is-increasingly-obvious>

Why Geert Wilders won

Anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders won a historic victory in Dutch elections on Wednesday. Wilders has benefited from widespread mistrust of the government after a series of scandals under ex-PM Mark Rutte. Whether he's able to form a government, though, remains to be seen.

Read more at:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/why-geert-wilders-won/>

Per Capita emails unredacted

In September, the initial response to a These Islands Freedom of Information response became a controversial story. That story has now changed, in a significant way. After successfully appealing the substantial redactions, we are publishing the fully unredacted per capita emails.

Read more at:

https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i391/per_capita_emails_unredacted.aspx

Electric Canadian

Caribbean's in Canada

Added this to our History section which you can get to at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/caribbean.htm>

A York Pioneer Looking Back 1834 - 1884

At Youthful Days, Emigration and The Drinking Customs of Fifty Years Ago, Also, At the Cranks Met with In the Emerald Isle and Canada; With Amusing Incidents and Anecdotes of the Early Settlers in the Latter Place, the Rebellion of '37, and a Brief Sketch of The York Pioneers Society, by E. M. Morphy, Author of "The School Upon the Hill." (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/yorkpiomeer.pdf>

The Woods and Minerals of New Brunswick

Being a descriptive catalogue of the Trees, Shrubs, Rocks and Minerals of the Province, available for Economic purposes, prepared for use at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876 by L. W. Bailey, Ph. D., Prof, of Natural History in the University of New Brunswick, and Edward Jack, Esq., C. E., Surveyor of Crown Lands (1876) (pdf)

You can read this catalogue at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/nb/cihm_24113.pdf

Survivors of the Forest in Toronto

A Paper read before the Canadian Institute, November 25th, 1893, by the Rev. Henry Scadding, D.D. (pdf)

You can read this paper at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/cihm_13254.pdf

Twenty Canadian Trees
By the Canadian Forestry Association (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/Twenty-Canadian-forest-trees.pdf>

A Kingdom of the Mind

How the Scots Helped Make Canada, Edited by Peter E. Rider and Heather McNabb (2006) [external link]

You can read this at:

<https://archive.org/details/kingdomofmindhow0000unse/mode/1up>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 19th day of November 2023 - The Impossibles
By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26425-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-the-19th-day-of-november-2023-the-impossibles>

Canadian Forests

Forest Trees, Timber and Forest Products by H. B. Small (1884) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/canadianforests00smalliala.pdf>

Canadian Timber Trees

Their Distribution and Preservation by A. T. Drummond (1879) (pdf)

You can read this wee book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/canadiantimbertr00drumuoft.pdf>

Bush Fruits of Eastern Canada

By D. S. Blair (1950) (pdf)

You can read this wee book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/bushfruitsineast00blai.pdf>

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

Issue 1 of Heritage News (2010) (pdf)

You can read this newsletter at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/alberta/1-2010_May_ENewsletter.pdf

Electric Scotland

History of the MacDonalds and Lords of the Isles

With genealogies of the principle families of the name by Alexander MacKenzie, FSAScot (1881) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/historyofmacdlor00mack.pdf>

A Handbook of Invalid Cooking

For the use of Nurses in training schools and private practice and others who care for the sick, containing explanatory lessons on the properties and value of different kinds of food, and recipes for the making of various dishes by Mary A. Boland (1898) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/food/handbookofinvalid00bolaiala.pdf>

New Zealand Dominion Museum

A. Hamilton, Director, Bulletin No. 2, Fishing and Sea-Foods of the Ancient Maori by the Director (1908) (pdf)

You can read this report at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/nz/fishingandseafo00hamigoog.pdf>

The Frasers of Philorth

By Alexander Fraser of Philorth, Seventeenth Lord Saltoun in three volumes.

You can read these volumes at:

https://electricscotland.com/webclans/dtog/frasers_philorth.html

Note: I have added the Preface to this publication as our Story of the week below.

Fast-Day Cookery

Or Meals without Meat by Grace Johnson (1893) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/food/FastDayCookeryOrMealsWithoutMeat.pdf>

Anglo-Indian and Oriental Cookery

By Mrs. Grace Johnson (1893) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/food/Anglo-Indian-and1893.pdf>

Food Supply Manual

Revised to July 31st, 1918, comprising the food controller's powers and orders and orders of other departments ancillary thereto, Published by authority of H. M. Stationery Office (1918) (pdf)

You can read this report at:

<https://electricscotland.com/food/foodsupplymanual00gearich.pdf>

Arrana Fairfariana Manuscripta

A manuscript volume of Apothecaries' Lore and Housewifery nearly three centuries old, used, and partly written by the Fairfax Family (1890) (pdf)

You can read this manuscript at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/medical/ArcanaFairfaxiana.pdf>

Recipes for High-Class Cookery

As used in the Edinburgh School of Cookery (1912) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/food/edinburghrecipes.pdf>

A General View of the Agriculture of Aberdeenshire

Drawn up under the direction the Board of Agriculture and illustrated with plates by George Skene Keith, D.D. (1811) (pdf)

You can read this volume at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/aberdeen/ageneralviewagr00keitgoog.pdf>

Celebrating Scottish Grain

Added a video and link to their web site at the foot of our Food page.

You can get to this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/food/index.htm>

Story

The Frasers of Philorth

By Alexander Fraser of Philorth, Seventeenth Lord Saltoun in three volumes

PREFACE

SOME years ago I was induced to investigate the history of the family to which I belong, and at first I sought information from the various accounts of the Frasers, both manuscript and printed, that have appeared from time to time; but I found them so contradictory of one another, and in many respects so far at variance with indubitable facts, that I came to the conclusion that dependence upon any of them would only lead me into error, and that I must search for myself among old records in order to arrive at any approximation to the truth.

In pursuing these investigations, I determined to rely on the four kinds of evidence, which are placed below in the order of their respective degrees of value :—

First. Charter evidence, or the mention of individuals in various degrees of relationship to other persons in charters, royal mandates, or other important legal or official documents. Although these are not always conclusive as to the possession of the lands they assume to grant, or the performance of the acts they order to be done, they are, with scarcely an exception, trustworthy as regards the relationship of individuals when it is noticed in them.

Second. Evidence from succession to property by persons of the same surname, combined with due attention to dates, to the positions in which those persons are found, and to evidence of relationship with other persons, of whose existence and position there is certain record.

Third. Evidence from the mention of persons by trustworthy contemporary, or nearly contemporary historians, and other authors; consideration being given to the circumstances in which their names appear.

Fourth. Evidence from tradition, or writings of genealogists, when nothing adverse to the statements is gathered from other and more trustworthy sources.

When the above-mentioned four kinds of evidence have failed me, I mention that it is so, sometimes offering a suggestion.

Although naturally my researches have been directed more especially to that line of the family which I represent, yet they have led me to investigate the origin of the principal other branches, and if I had found evidence that any of them was senior to my own line, I would at once have acknowledged it, for there can be

no dishonour in the accident of birth; but since, on the contrary, I have found from proof that the line I represent is the senior line of all now surviving, and is descended from Sir Alexander Fraser, Chamberlain of Scotland, who was head of the family in the time of King Robert Bruce, I have no hesitation in asserting my own position as the head of the family at the present day.

Some remarks upon the subject of the Highland Clan Fraser will explain their position; for their great influence in the Highlands of Scotland during comparatively modern times, and their possessions in those districts, have created the belief that all of the name must necessarily be members of that Clan, and some have supposed that the family had a Highland or Celtic origin, a supposition in some degree countenanced by one or two writers on the subject; especially by one who styles the town of Fraserburgh "strange offspring of a Highland Clan."

But the fact is, that the origin, or formation, of the Highland Clan Fraser cannot be dated further back than the fifteenth century, for although the surname appears in the Lowlands of Scotland as early as the middle of the twelfth century, none of its members acquired any permanent settlement in the Highlands until the fourteenth century, at which time a branch, which also held lands in Forfarshire, obtained large possessions in the districts around Inverness, and eventually becoming very numerous, originated or formed the Highland Clan of the name.

But the senior line, which continued to have their principal seat in the Lowlands, and those of the surname who remained in that section of Scotland, where Teutonic institutions prevailed, and whence the patriarchal system of Clans and Clanships had long been banished, had nothing to do with the origin or formation of the Highland Clan, and never belonged to it.

I have noticed, p. 130 vol. i. and p. 170 vol. ii., the extreme probability, indeed almost certainty, that the representatives of the respective lines of Philorth and Lovat were nearest of kin to each other in 1464, with the exception of the six sons of the Philorth of that date; and such has been the extinction of male descendants in the various branches of the line of Philorth, that at the present time, with the exception of my own two sons, my two brothers, and their four sons, numbering- eight persons in all, Lord Lovat is my nearest legitimate male connection of the Fraser name.

My self-imposed task would have been far shorter and less difficult if I had not found myself obliged to notice, and, as far as possible, to correct the errors into which former writers upon the Fraser genealogy have fallen; and although I cannot hope myself to have avoided mistakes, and facts with which I am unacquainted may hereafter be brought to light, I have spared no pains to establish the correctness of every statement in this history, which I must now leave to the judgment of the reader.

In the course of my researches I became aware of an accidental oversight upon the part of Mr. Hill Burton, in his well-known History of Scotland.

In his list of the Barons of Scotland, who in 1320 sent the famous letter to Pope John xxii, he has omitted the name of Sir Alexander Fraser.

I thought it right to bring this omission to his notice, and upon doing so received the subjoined courteous reply, in which, while acknowledging the mistake, he promises that it shall be rectified at the earliest opportunity.

"Craighouse, Lothianburn,
"Edinburgh, 21s£ October 1871.

"My Lord,—I have the honour of your Lordship's of the 11th, which only reached me yesterday. I showed it immediately to my father-in-law, Cosmo Innes, who said he had no doubt it was a correction of a mistake. I then looked at the original in the Register House, and there I found the name Alexander Fraser. I also saw

how, in a careless transcription, it might be passed over. It comes between Menteith and Hay the constable, both with long titles : ‘ Johannes de Meneteth custos comitatus de Meneteth,’ then comes, crushed in, ‘ Alexr Frasn.’

“In revising my book I shall not only see to the correction, but examine the several copies of the list, so that any who are interested may be warned against errors, o

“Permit me to express my thanks to your Lordship for favouring me with this correction. I have occasionally received letters asking me to notice matters of family history which do not come within my scope. But certainly no house in Scotland that has the distinction of belonging to that group of patriots should wittingly let it be dropped out of remembrance.

“I have the honour to be, your Lordship’s very obedient servant,

“Lord Saltoun.”

“ J. H. Burton.

At pages 89, 90, 91, of vol. i., I have referred to the error of certain heralds of the seventeenth century, in blazoning the arms of “Lord Fraser of old,” and of Fraser Lord Lovat, as five “frays” placed saltireways. It was not until after those remarks were printed that I met with a copy of Sir David Lindsay’s work on Heraldry, of date 1542, which showed me that those heralds could claim his high authority for their statements.

But it also showed me that, whether originated by himself or before his time, Sir David Lindsay participated in the error; and it confirmed my view of the cause of the error having been the quarterings in the Yester arms; for the field of those quarterings on the shield of Hay Lord Yester, at page 56 of Sir David Lindsay’s work, and that of the shield of “Fraser Lord Frasers,” at page 59 (the “Lord Fraser of old” of the heralds), are both sable ; and as the field of the arms of Sir Simon Fraser, filius, whose daughter and co-heiress brought those quarterings into the Yester shield, was also sable (pp. 84, 95, vol. ii.), this affords additional evidence that the mistake originated through ignorance of the true ancient bearings of the Fraser family, as borne by that Sir Simon and his contemporaries of the name, viz., six rosettes or cinquefoils placed 3. 2. 1, and of their reduction from six to three placed 2.1, on the failure of the eldest male line during the fourteenth century (pp. 85, 86, vol. i.), and in the erroneous belief that the quarterings in the Yester shield represented those ancient bearings, as borne by the father of the heiress who brought them into the family of Hay.

It was my intention to have restricted this work within the limits of two volumes, but having in my possession a considerable number of letters, written by the late Lieut.-General Lord Saltoun during his military services in various parts of the world, it was suggested that selections from these might prove of interest, and hence a third volume has been added.

These letters range from the first entrance of Lord Saltoun upon active military service to within a few days of his decease ; and they evince throughout the manly straightforwardness, the strong, good-sense, the firm self-reliance, the obedience to the dictates of duty, the cheerful and contented temper, the sympathy with his fellow-man, and the warm affection to those more nearly connected with him that formed his character, while the last letter, written by a friend who was present at the closing scene of his life, shows how calmly and fearlessly this brave and good man rendered his spirit to God who gave it.

For the letters written to Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Charles Ellis, I am indebted to the kindness of the late Lady Parker, widow of Vice-Admiral Sir Charles C. Parker, Bart., and sister-in-law of Mrs. Charles Ellis; and to Mr. Francis Bayley, through whom I received them, I am also indebted for many valuable hints during my researches.

It may be of interest to point out the striking similarity between the early career of the late Lieut.-General Lord Saltoun and that of his distinguished ancestor, Sir Alexander Fraser the Chamberlain, though separated by an interval of five hundred years.

Either was born towards the close of a century; Sir Alexander about 1285, Lord Saltoun in 1785. Either lost his father at an early age. Either commenced an active military career at a similar time; Sir Alexander in 1306 when he joined Bruce, Lord Saltoun in 1806 in the expedition to Sicily. Either passed the next eight or nine years of his life in almost constant warfare. Either took part in the decisive victory that insured success to the cause for which he fought; Sir Alexander at Bannockburn in June 1314, Lord Saltoun at Waterloo in June 1815. Either married at a similar period; Sir Alexander about 1315-16, Lord Saltoun in 1815. Either, after a few years, was left a widower.

But there the parallel ends, for the former, while leaving issue, fell in battle at a comparatively early age; and the latter, while he had no child, nearly attained to the allotted threescore and ten years of man's existence.

Although I cannot flatter myself that the subject of which I have treated will be of much interest to the general public, I hope there are some to whom these volumes will afford pleasure, and serve as a record of the family to which they belong, or with which they are connected by ties of kindred or friendship.

I have to offer my best thanks to those friends who have afforded me assistance during my labours, among whom are Sir Alexander Anderson, Mr. W. F. Skene, Mr. Thomas Dickson, and Mr. Hugh Fraser. From the Authorities at the Record Office and the British Museum in London, and the General Register House and Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, I have also experienced much kindness, and I must mention with gratitude the help and encouragement I received from the late Mr. Cosmo Innes, and the late Mr. Grant Leslie; and last not least, my thanks are due to Mr. William Fraser, himself the author of many valuable Family Histories, who has given me not only the benefit of his great experience and vast research, but has also led my unaccustomed footsteps through the thorny paths of the press.

SALTOUN.

Philorth, June 1879.

You can read these volumes at:

https://electricScotland.com/webclans/dtog/frasers_philorth.html

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you and wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and great Black Friday Shopping.

Alastair