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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for October 18th, 2024

Electric Scotland News

Noticed weather forecast in Scotland is for rain and high winds. I have mentioned that the weather here in Chatham is usually quite good and to prove it here is the forecast for the next week...

Current Conditions [Past 24 hours](#) [Weather Radar](#) [Satellite](#) [Lightning](#)

Observed at: Chatham-Kent
 Date: 9:00 AM EDT Thursday 17 October 2024

 39°F <small>°C °F</small>	Condition: Sunny Pressure: 30.4 inches	Temperature: 39.2°F Dew point: 36.3°F Humidity: 89%	Wind: NW 3 mph Visibility: 10 miles
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Forecast [Hourly Forecast](#) [Air Quality](#) [Alerts](#) [Jet Stream](#)

Thu 17 Oct	Fri 18 Oct	Sat 19 Oct	Sun 20 Oct	Mon 21 Oct	Tue 22 Oct	Wed 23 Oct
 59°F Sunny	 63°F Sunny	 66°F Sunny	 70°F Sunny	 72°F Sunny	 72°F Sunny	 63°F A mix of sun and cloud
Tonight 39°F Clear	Night 39°F Clear	Night 41°F Clear	Night 46°F Clear	Night 46°F Clear	Night 52°F Cloudy periods	

Forecast issued: 5:00 AM EDT Thursday 17 October 2024

Discovered a whole directory of books that I'd researched some years ago. I must have moved the directory by mistake so didn't know they were on my hard drive. So that being the case I'm now working on them which is why there are more items added to the site this week.

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...

War veteran, 99, challenges Keir Starmer to end 'frozen pensions' scandal
Exclusive: Almost half a million British pensioners living overseas are missing out on at least £3,000 a year because of 'unjust' government policy.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1960624/war-veteran-99-challenges-keir>

Sign the petition at: <https://chng.it/d4PDDcxT66>

Canada to cover cost of contraception and diabetes drugs

Canada's parliament has passed a bill that will cover the full cost of contraception and diabetes drugs for Canadians.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwylw2ee05yo>

Scotland's best food and drink crowned as restaurant's 'fishwife pie' wins top prize

Scotland's top food and drink products have been named at the prestigious Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards, with the highest honour going to a Carnoustie eatery's Fishwife Pie.

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/scotland-now/scotlands-best-food-drink-crowned-33871335>

Alex Salmond obituary: A man and a politician of contradictions

Alex Salmond was a man and a politician of extreme contradictions. A one-time radical firebrand, he moved his party from the political margins and perpetual opposition to government and the mainstream of Scottish public life.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd1310219g5o>

Who owns the news?

By Tony O'Donnell

Read more at:

<https://sceptical.scot/2024/10/who-owns-the-news/>

Alex Salmond: The self-styled disruptor who never gave up on hopes for Scotland

Former first minister Alex Salmond, who died yesterday at the age of 69, will be remembered as one of the most significant politicians of his generation, taking the Scottish National Party from the political fringes to government and the nation to the brink of Scottish independence.

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/alex-salmond-self-styled-disruptor-who-never-gave-up-on-hopes-for-scotland/>

What Malawi can teach us about education

Childrens' educational test scores are a major concern across the world. The fixes usually promoted increasing teachers' salaries, lowering class sizes, and building more schools are costly and do little or nothing for learning. In Malawi, teachers harnessed the power of technology to boost outcomes for students.

Read more at:

<https://www.cityam.com/how-do-you-really-improve-schools-hint-its-not-smaller-classes-or-paying-teachers-more>

SpaceX Catches a Rocket - and the Spirit of a New Space Age

Make no mistake: SpaceX's fifth Starship test showed important, milestone progress on Sunday—that, beyond

just a successful rocket launch.

Read more at:

<https://www.aei.org/uncategorized/spacex-catches-a-rocket-and-the-spirit-of-a-new-space-age>

New artwork to celebrate Gaelic protest poet

A new artwork is to be commissioned to celebrate a Gaelic poet whose poems highlighted the impact on rural communities of the Highland Clearances and Crofters' War. Màiri Mhòr nan Oran - Great Mary of the Songs - was born in Skye in 1821 and lived in Inverness, Glasgow and Greenock.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg4qd36361eo>

Ultra-runner Scots lecturer to receive MBE after making history

In March this year, the veterinary lecturer made history by becoming the first woman to complete the 100-mile Barkley Marathons in Tennessee.

Read more at:

<https://news.stv.tv/east-central/ultra-runner-scots-lecturer-to-receive-mbe-at-windsor-castle-after-making-history>

Electric Canadian

The NDP government's reconciliation agenda facing backlash, and it's not hard to see why

By Geoffrey Moyse (pdf)

You can read this article at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bc/ndpreconciliationagenda.pdf>

A Summer on the Canadian Prarie

By Georgina Binnie-Clark (1910) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/summeroncanadia00binn.pdf>

Speech in the Legislative Assembly on the Confederation of the Provinces

By Mr. Morris M.P. (pdf)

You can read his speech at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/speech00unkngoog.pdf>

Royal Military College of Canada

Added the 1966 edition which you can read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/royalmilitarycollege.htm>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 13th day of October 2024 - Thanksgiving for the good and the bad days

By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26548-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-the->

[13th-day-of-october-2024-thanksgiving-for-the-good-and-the-bad-days](#)

The Case for Israel

From Postmodern historiography to Anti-Israel Bias in the Media by James Pew (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/jews/caseforisrael.pdf>

The Beaver Magazine

Added Volume 2 No. 10 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/HUDSONBAY/beaver2_10.pdf

Special History: The Environment and the Fur Trade Experience in Voyageurs National Park, 1730-1870

Submitted by Ted Catton, Principal Investigator, Marcia Montgomery, Project Historian (2000) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/HUDSONBAY/fur-trade-experience.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Poems and Songs

By Mary MacPherson (1891)

These are in the Gaelic language but there is a short bio of her life in English which you can read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/gaelic/poemsandsongs.htm>

Papers relating to the Ships and Voyages of the Company of Scotland

Trading to Africa and the Indies 1696-1707, Edited by George Pratt INSH, M.A., D.Litt. (Glasgow) (1924) (pdf)

You can read these papers at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/darien/darienshippingpapers.pdf>

The Court Book of the Burgh of Kirkintilloch

1658—1694, Edited by George S. Pryde, M.A., Ph.D. (1963) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/kirkintilloch/CourtbookoftheBurghofKirkintilloch.pdf>

A Prosopographical Analysis of Society in East Central Scotland, circa 1100 to 1260, with special reference to ethnicity

By Matthew H. Hammond (2005) (pdf)

You can read this at:

https://electricScotland.com/history/A_Prosopographical_Analysis_of_Society_i.pdf

Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society

Added some background information about this society and also included their first newsletter.

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/ECSSS/index.htm>

Letters relating to Scotland in the Reign of Queen Anne

By James Ogilvy, First Earl of Seafield, and others edited by P. Hume Brown, M.A.. LL.D. (1915) (pdf)

You can read these at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/review/lettersrelatingt00seaf.pdf>

Letters from Roundhead Officers

Written from Scotland and chiefly addressed to Captain Adam Baynes, July MDCL - June MDCLX (1856) (pdf)

You can read these at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/lettersfromround00bann.pdf>

Journal of a tour

Through part of the Snowy Range of the Himala Mountains and to the sources of the rivers Junna and Ganges by James Baillie Fraser, Esq. (1820). Added a link to this book together with additional information to our Frasers of Reelig page.

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/minibios/f/reelig.htm>

Universities of Scotland

Taken from Volume 2 of "The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages" by the Late Hastings Rashdall, Dean of Carlisle (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/education/scotlandgermanyitaly.pdf>

Scotland and the Isle of Man

c.1400-1625: Noble Power and Royal Presumption in the Northern Irish Sea Province by Tim Thornton (1998) (pdf)

You can read this paper at:

https://electricscotland.com/history/Scotland_and_the_Isle_of_Man_c_1400_1625.pdf

The Scientific Papers of James Clerk Maxwell

Edited by W. D. Niven, M.A., F.R.S. (Two Volumes Bound As One) (1890) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/other/scientificpapers01maxw.pdf>

The Salmon Rivers and Lochs of Scotland

By W. L. Calderwood, F.R.S.E. (1909) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/sport/angling/salmonriversandlochs.pdf>

Local Government in Scotland

By Mabel Atkinson, M.A. (1904) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/records/localgovernment01atkigoog.pdf>

Lays of the Heather

Poems by A. C. MacDonell (1896) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/poetry/LaysoftheHeather.pdf>

The Last Years of St. Andrews

September 1890 to September 1895 By Andrew Kennedy Hutcheson Bond (1896) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/standrews/lastyearsofstan00boyd.pdf>

Islay Reapers Song

By M. Kennedy-Fraser and Kenneth MacLeod (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/music/islayreaperssong00kenn.pdf>

The Imperial Gazetteer of India

By W. W. Hunter, C.S.I., C.I.E, LL.D., (second edition) Volume 1 (1885) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/india/imperialgazettee01hunt.pdf>

The Highland Papers

Discovered a 4th volume which I've added to the foot of our Highland Papers page at:

https://electricscotland.com/books/pdf/highland_papers.htm

The Great Marquess

Life and Times of Archibald, 8th Earl, and 1st (and only) Marquess of Argyll (1607-1661) By John Willcock, B.D. (1903) (pdf)

You can read about him at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/atoc/greatmarquesslif00willuoft.pdf>

Gleanings of Scarce Old Ballads

With explanatory notes by Peter Buchan (1891) (pdf)

You can read these at:

<https://electricscotland.com/poetry/gleaningsofscarc00buch.pdf>

Geoffrey Barrow

Historian

You can read about him at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/articles/Geoffreybarrow.pdf>

Story

"A Generous Highland Laird" From The Oban Times (1888)

Mr. Lachlan MacDonald, proprietor of Skeabost and Bernisdale. Skye — and brother-in-law of Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach — was on Friday, 30th ult, presented with an address by the crofters on his estate in recognition of his generosity in cancelling the arrears due, and in allowing the tenants to fix a fair rent for their crofts. The tenants met in the old schoolhouse, Bernisdale — Rev. Joseph Lamont, F.C. minister, presiding.

Addresses were delivered by several of the crofters suitable to the occasion. The two oldest crofters on the estate gave a history of the estate during their recollection, contrasting the present mode of life with what it was in their younger days, but more especially contrasting the treatment of the tenants by the landlord in those days with the present, and in every instance the present showed more favorable. Other speakers gave an account of the negotiations between Mr. MacDonald and themselves at the time he so generously cancelled the arrears, and asked them to value their own holdings. In some instances, where he considered they had valued their lands too high themselves, he reduced them still further. In the course of the proceedings it was mentioned that on its being represented to the proprietor some time ago that the land attached to the Free Church manse was too limited in extent, he at once agreed to give an extended holding for the minister's use. and further, that in Mr. Lamont's (the minister) absence from the country when the other crofts were valued, Mr. MacDonald wished it to be valued along with the other crofts, the minister getting the benefit of the reduction as well as the crofters.

Messrs. Myles MacInnes and J. G. Mackay. Portree who were present. were asked to address the meeting.

Mr. MacInnes said that coming from the neighbouring township to the farm of Mr. MacDonald of Ord, Skeabost's father, and knowing the history of his family, he did not expect anything else from Skeabost but a kindly interest in his people. We had many Martyrs in the cause of Land Reform, but Mr. MacDonald was the latest; he was being martyred by his brother landlords for what he had done, but it was better for them to go and do likewise.

Mr. J. G. Mackay said, that what Mr. MacDonald had done gave them an example of the treatment of their dependents by the old Highland Chiefs in the days when they took a fatherly interest in their people, and occupied the true position of Chief, in being the fathers and councillors of their people before they got their heads full of Saxon ideas, and their veins full of Saxon blood, Mr. MacDonald was a true chief, a native Skyeman, having their own feelings and aspirations, and therefore not a mere landlord — a mere grabber of rent - but one who sympathised with his people, and took comfort and pleasure in their comfort. He had celebrated the true Jubilee with the proper spirit, and if that good lady in whose honour the Jubilee was celebrated had acted in the same spirit, the wave of democracy would have stood still for a period. He believed that the days of landlordism were numbered, but the action of Mr. MacDonald had lengthened them, for there was at least one good man found in Sodom. He was very much pleased that they had showed their appreciation of Mr. MacDonald's kindness; and Mrs. MacPherson, who originated the address and carried it out so successfully, deserved great credit for it. (Cheers).

Mr. Norman MacLeod, teacher, referred to the interest Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald took in education in the district. They regularly visited the public school, and encouraged the children by giving prizes.

At the close, a young lad got up and said he wished to mention that his father, who was in destitute circumstances, had recently applied to the Parochial Board for relief. He was offered the poorhouse, and upon Mr. MacDonald hearing of this, he offered to support him during the remainder of his life.

The people afterwards formed a procession, headed by a piper, and marched to Skeabost House.

The Rev. Mr. Lamont, in addressing Mr. MacDonald, said that was an interesting occasion to the Skeabost tenants. Since he had begun to think of the public questions he always held that a proprietor should feel

towards his tenants as a parent towards his children, which feeling indicated the meaning of the word "clan," whether he (the landlord) purchases the estate or inherited it by the law of entail. The tenants were not on an estate by mere accident, but by a divine, well-ordered arrangement. Continuing, he said — You, sir, have taken the opportunity of showing your loyalty to our beloved Sovereign in a far more honourable and satisfactory way than should you have sent direct to Windsor the most costly jubilee gift. While your kindness has struck a sympathetic chord in the hearts of every right-thinking mind, it will not be effaced from the memory of your grateful tenants in this generation. A future generation will recall and bless the memory of the good nobleman. This day they have given expression of their feelings in the only way in which they could possibly do so. I believe they will thankfully and regularly give expression to the same feelings by annually meeting their just obligations. They have to-day referred to the past history of this estate by way of contrast to your kindness since you came into possession. They have requested me as their pastor to read the following address. The address was then read by Mr. Lamont which was as follows: —

To Lachlan MacDonald, Esq. of Skeabost and Bernisdale.- Sir,— We the subscribers, for ourselves and as representing the whole of the tenants and residentia on your estate of Skeabost and others, beg most respectfully to tender you our heartfelt thanks for your exceeding kindness and generosity towards us by remitting in this year of Her Majesty's Jubilee, all the arrears of rents due by us to you in respect to our holdings under you, and giving our lands at our own valuation. We also desire to be allowed to express to you our sincere appreciation of and gratitude for your other many acts of kindness towards us at a time when so much misery and destitution exist in our midst and in the island, in consequence of the depression of trade and agriculture, conjointly with want of employment. We trust that the harmonious and happy relations presently existing between you and us may always continue, and that you may be long spared to have control over us as our much-respected landlord.- We remain year respectful and grateful servants, Joseph Lamont Chairman. The address was also signed by all the crofters on the estate. The address, which was beautifully framed, was handed to Mr. MacDonald by Mrs. MacPherson, the Skye poetess.

Mr. MacDonald, in reply, said he was exceedingly obliged to his tenants for presenting him with such an address. What he had done was not from any feeling of vanity or from the love of popularity. There was scarcely anything he hated more than catering for popularity. He was particularly glad on their own account that the address was presented to him. It would be an answer to the enemies and to some friends of the crofters who represented them as ungrateful creatures. The following day, when the estate accounts would be closed, these accounts would show an unprecedented state of matters on that estate, and he believed on every estate in Skye as not a single crofter would appear in arrears. That would be the best justification of what he had done. Mr. Lamont, he said, complimented him on allowing the people to fix their own rents. He would like it to go forth that the honor of the transaction rebounded to the praise of his crofters as much as to himself. They had shown their honesty in the matter, and that no more than their forefathers were they actuated by the love of gold. Their forefathers refused a large sum rather than betray their Prince, and they had acted nobly and honestly in the way in which they valued their crofts. When he asked them to fix their own rents he told them it was perfectly immaterial to him whether they value! them at a 6d or £1 per acre, and they showed their honesty in the value they put upon their lands, which was not lower than the average rents fixed by the Crofters Commission. If all the crofts in Skye were valued at the same rate it would be found that the rents were no higher than in olden times, taking into account the 30 per cent. redaction that had recently been granted on big farms. In conclusion, Mr. MacDonald said that the address would remain in Skeabost House as a memento of the good feeling that existed between himself and his tenantry.

Refreshments were served to the people, and the proceedings were brought to a close by the [Skye poetess](#) singing a Gaelic song composed by her for the occasion.

END

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair