

Newsletter

CEANGAL CHLANN NA H-ALBA



Vol. 4

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Clan Events



Clan Chattan - Annual Gathering 2023
Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, Scotland
Thursday 3rd August



Clan Macpherson Gathering - August
4th - 7th 2023 - Kingussie, Scotland



Clan Donald USA's 2023 AGM, St Louis,
Missouri, August 16 - 20



Clan Donnachaidh Society AGM - Friday
18 August 2023 from 1.30 to 3.30 pm at
The Tryst Hall, Pitlochry Church of
Scotland



Jardine Clan Gathering - 19th/20th
August - Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries,
Scotland



Clan MacThomas Society International
Gathering, 25 August - 1 September
2023 - Blairgowrie, Scotland



Elliot Clan Gathering - Thursday 24th
August 2023 - Sunday 27th August -
Newcastleton, Scotland



Clan Lamont Gathering will take place
at the time of the Cowal Games, 25,26
and 27 August, 2023.

In Memoriam: A Farewell to Chief Donald MacLaren of Clan MacLaren

We are deeply saddened to share the news of Chief Donald MacLaren's sudden passing. A charismatic and devoted leader, his unwavering commitment to Clan MacLaren was unmatched. He leaves behind a legacy of passion and dedication that will be cherished by all who knew him. Our hearts go out to his beloved wife, children, and family during this difficult time, and we offer our support and condolences. In accordance with his wishes, his son Florian will now assume the mantle of

leadership, carrying forward the values that defined Chief Donald MacLaren's tenure.



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Clan Burnett Celebrates 700th Anniversary of Their Arrival on Deeside

The year 2023 marks a significant milestone for Clan Burnett as they celebrate the 700th anniversary of their arrival on Deeside. The Burnett family has played a vital role in the history and development of the Crathes and Banchory area, leaving behind a legacy that is cherished to this day. As part of the year-long festivities, August promises to be an exceptional month, filled with special events and gatherings that will bring together members of the Burnett clan from across the globe.

One of the highlights of the anniversary celebrations is the Burnett Gathering, which will take place in August. More than 130 members of the Burnett clan, representing different branches of the family, will converge on the north-east for a weeklong program of events. This grand reunion aims to foster a sense of kinship and strengthen the bond that unites the extended Burnett family. It is a time for sharing stories, reconnecting with roots, and celebrating seven centuries of heritage.

For many members of Clan Burnett, this will be an opportunity to visit their ancestral homeland. Deeside holds a special place in the family's history, and the gathering will include visits to significant sites such as Crathes Castle and the Loch of Leys. These excursions will allow the Burnett clan to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of their past and deepen their understanding of their ancestors' journey.

The August celebrations will feature a range of commemorative events, tailored to honor the 700th anniversary. From traditional Scottish ceilidhs to cultural exhibitions and historical talks.



Unearthing the Secrets of Druminnor Castle: A Journey into Clan Forbes' Rich History

In the heart of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, lies the ancient stronghold of Druminnor Castle, a place that has witnessed the rise and fall of Clan Forbes for over six centuries. Recently, an ambitious archaeological project, the Bennachie Landscapes Project, embarked on a journey to uncover the hidden treasures and forgotten stories of this historical site.

Druminnor Castle, known originally as Castle Forbes, has stood as a symbol of Clan Forbes' power and influence since the 14th century. The castle's history is intertwined with numerous attacks, sieges, and rebuildings, reflecting the turbulent times of medieval Scotland. From the Gordons and Douglasses to the Jacobites, many factions sought to seize control of Druminnor Castle, leaving their mark on its walls.

The Bennachie Landscapes Project, conducted by the Bailies of Bennachie and the University of Aberdeen, brought together a team of passionate researchers and dedicated local volunteers. Armed with estate plans from the late 18th century, the team embarked on a journey to unlock the secrets of Druminnor Castle.

One of the most intriguing discoveries was the identification of a "great tower" that had once stood tall within the castle compound. Though mostly demolished in 1800, the estate plans provided valuable insights into the size and layout of the castle, revealing that the grounds were three times larger than previously believed. This finding shed new light on the historical significance of Druminnor Castle.



The excavations yielded remarkable artifacts that deepened the understanding of life within the castle walls. A grain-drying kiln dating back to the mid-12th century was uncovered, offering a glimpse into the agricultural practices of the time. Charred oats and a burnt birch post found within the kiln provided a tangible link to the past.

Another remarkable find was a stone-lined well believed to have originated in the late 13th century. This discovery highlighted the castle's evolution over time and the continuous efforts to fortify and improve its infrastructure.

While the archaeological investigations have unveiled numerous aspects of Druminnor Castle's history, some mysteries still remain. One enigma that intrigues researchers is the presence of an ancient sycamore tree known as the "Bell Tree." Located near the castle's entrance, this tree may mark the site of a significant topographical feature. Ongoing geophysical surveys indicate anomalies beneath the surface, raising the possibility of a hidden, circular structure waiting to be unveiled.

The archaeological investigations at Druminnor Castle have allowed us to take a step back in time and gain a deeper understanding of Clan Forbes' enduring legacy. The Bennachie Landscapes Project has revealed the castle's grandeur, its tumultuous past, and the stories of those who lived within its walls.

Citation:

<https://www.clan-forbes.org/post/druminnor-excavations>
by Bart Forbes

Clan Ruthven vs. Clan Oliphant Famous Clan Feud

The long-standing feud between Clan Oliphant and Clan Ruthven began in 1562 with the killing of James Roise, the son of a high-ranking member of Clan Ruthven, by individuals associated with Lord Oliphant. This act set off a chain of violent events and political conflicts between the two clans. Clan Ruthven responded by besieging the Oliphant stronghold and seeking justice for James' death. However, attempts at reconciliation failed, and the feud persisted.

In 1580, the conflict intensified when Lord Oliphant conspired to overthrow the Regent of Scotland, James Douglas, the 4th Earl of Morton, in support of Mary Queen of Scots. This directly clashed with the Ruthvens, who were strong supporters of the regent. The plot was discovered, and Lord Oliphant was arrested and

imprisoned. The Ruthvens themselves later played a role in removing Regent Morton from power.

The feud reached a turning point with the Gowrie Conspiracy of 1600. Clan Ruthven's Earl of Gowrie and his brother attempted to capture King James VI of Scotland, with allegations of Clan Oliphant's involvement. After the conspiracy failed, the Oliphants denied any participation, leading to further animosity. The Ruthvens faced severe consequences, including executions and forfeiture of their estates, while the Oliphants evaded



punishment. Throughout the 17th century, both clans experienced a decline in power and influence. The Ruthvens lost their prominence after the execution of the Earl of Gowrie, while financial difficulties caused the Oliphants to lose their ancestral lands. Consequently, the feud gradually subsided.



Historic Clan Castles of Scotland

Denmiln Castle

Fife, Scotland

Denmiln Castle has its roots in 1452, when James II gifted the estate to James Balfour, the son of Sir John Balfour of Balgarvy, for his faithful service. The Balfour family went on to become one of Scotland's most prominent families, with several distinguished members, including Sir James Balfour, a celebrated antiquary.



Over the centuries, the castle underwent several modifications and renovations, including the addition of a back wing, which gives it a slightly L-shaped plan, and late work from the Third Period and 16th century renovations.

For a generation, Denmiln Castle was a center of learning and refinement in Scotland, attracting intellectuals, scholars. The castle was the resort of the most eminent in literature and was the meeting-place of all who believed in learning and the intellectual advancement of Scotland. This rich history of learning and intellectual pursuits has left an indelible mark on Denmiln Castle, making it a truly unique and fascinating destination.

Today, Denmiln Castle is ruined internally, but it still retains its ground-floor vaults, which are a testament to its rich history. Externally, the castle shows indications of its late work from the Third Period, with wide shot-holes in the basement and large windows on the upper floors. The enriched corbelling of the 16th century is also evident, making Denmiln Castle a unique example of Scotland's architectural heritage

Gilderoy (Patrick McGregor) Scottish Outlaw and Mass Murderer

Gilderoy, also known as Patrick McGregor, was a Scottish outlaw and mass murderer during the Stuart period in Scotland. He engaged in activities such as cattle raiding, blackmail, and extortion in various regions near Aberdeen. Gilderoy's red hair earned him the nickname "the Red-haired Lad," and he became a prominent figure in Scottish folklore, inspiring ballads, songs, and idioms. However, many popular versions of his life have romanticized and exaggerated his exploits.

In 1636, Gilderoy was captured by Scottish authorities and brought to trial in Edinburgh. He was found guilty of crimes such as assault, robbery, and murder. The punishment he received was particularly gruesome. He was to be drawn backward on a cart to the market cross of Edinburgh, hanged on a higher gibbet than his associates, and have his head and right hand displayed on the city gates. While Gilderoy's actual life was filled with violence and

criminal activities, the popular versions of his story added fantastical elements. They depicted him as coming from a respectable family but quickly squandering his inheritance and



committing atrocious acts. The stories attributed daring robberies to him, including stealing from Cardinal Richelieu in France and robbing Oliver Cromwell in Scotland.

Despite the dark nature of his life, Gilderoy's romanticized image endured in poetry, music, and song. The ballad "Gilderoy" was published in the 18th century and gained popularity in Scotland and England. The associated tune appeared in various song collections and even influenced the works of Robert Burns.



Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

Ewan the Headless

In the 1300s, two branches of the MacLean clan existed: MacLean of Duart, led by Lachlan Lubanach, and MacLaine of Lochbuie, led by Eachann Reaganach. Eachann had a son named Ewan, who was married to a dominant woman known as "The black bottomed heron of the MacDougals." Ewan's wife wanted their son to inherit the clan castle and lands, causing tensions within the family.



During an argument, Ewan struck his father on the head with a sword and left. Eachann sought his brother Lachlan's counsel and challenged Ewan to a battle. Prior to the battle, Ewan encountered a washerwoman, a fairy called the Bean Nighe, by a stream. Ewan suckled her breast, claiming to be her firstborn, and she granted him a wish. He asked about the battle's outcome and was told that if he received butter with his porridge without asking, he would be victorious.

The next morning, Ewan and his clan gathered for breakfast, but when the porridge arrived without butter, Ewan grew angry and berated his wife. He left for battle without allowing anyone to eat. During the fierce battle, Ewan was struck on the head and died while on horseback.

Following Ewan's death, legends arose claiming that the headless horseman, believed to be Ewan himself, would be sensed when a member of the Lochbuie MacLaines died. The clattering of hooves accompanied this spectral figure, and it was said that Ewan "The Headless" harvested the souls of the Lochbuie MacLaines.

The Battle of Benbigrie, 1598

Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Benbigrie is said to have taken place on the Isle of Islay in 1598. The conflict arose from the death of Sir Lachlan Mor MacLean, 14th Chief of Duart, in a previous battle at Traigh Ghruinneart, where he was slain by forces led by Sir James MacDonald, 9th of Dunnyveg. Seeking revenge, Hector Og Maclean, 15th Chief, rallied an army with the support of other clans, including Mackinnon, MacLeod of Dunvegan, MacNeil of Barra, and the



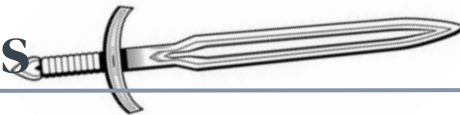
Camerons of Lochiel.

Though the Macleans held numerical superiority, the MacDonalds fought with determination and ferocity. Eventually, they managed to rout their opponents, forcing the Macleans to flee. The battle was marked by significant destruction, as the victorious MacDonalds burned human settlements on the island, leaving the inhabitants to seek refuge in the mountains. The casualties were high on both sides, and Sir James MacDonald himself was wounded.

The Battle of Benbigrie brought about a change in relations between the Macleans and MacDonalds. After the conflict, the clans began living in friendship and harmony. This transformation was facilitated by James VI of Scotland, who appointed a new commission of lieutenantry to oversee the western Highlands and Isles. The commission, led by the Duke of Lennox and the Marquess of Huntly, aimed to restore peace and collect funds for the king.

In the years following the battle, the region experienced a period of relative peace and stability. The commissioners worked to establish order and foster better relations among the clans, which had been plagued by constant conflict.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



The Henderson Stone

The Henderson Stone, also known as Clach Eanruig in Scottish Gaelic, is a granite boulder in the Glencoe (Carnoch) area of Scotland, with a significant place in Scottish history and folklore. The stone is linked to the tragic Glencoe Massacre of 1692, and its legend is deeply ingrained in the local oral tradition.

According to the legend, a Campbell soldier, who had been staying with the Clan MacDonald of Glencoe, knew about the impending massacre and attempted to warn his hosts. He is said to have spoken to the Henderson Stone, informing it of the impending tragedy. Although the exact words of the warning vary, the message conveyed was clear: "Great stone of the glen! Great is your right to be here. But if you knew what will happen this night, you would be up and away." Unfortunately, while

one local MacDonald managed to escape, many others were unable to be alerted in time.

Historian John Prebble examined the stories surrounding the

Henderson Stone warnings in his book, "Glencoe: The Story of the Massacre." He noted that the Highland Campbells of Argyll's Regiment held hospitality in high regard and considered violating it a great sin. Prebble suggested that the legends of the warnings preserved by the Glencoe people for generations were evidence that some Campbell soldiers were troubled by the orders they received and sought to warn the MacDonalds within the constraints of their obedience. Since at least 1870, the site of the Henderson Stone has been marked by a commemorative sign,



August

Killin Highland Games

August 2
Breadalbane Park, Killin
Scotland

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games

August 4
20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI
United States

Dornoch Highland Games

August 4
Meadows Park, Dornoch
Scotland

Spokane Scottish Highland Games

August 5
Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana Street
United States

Colorado Scottish Festival

August 5
Denver Polo Club 6359 Airport Road Sedalia, CO
United States

Montreal Highland Games

August 6
6875 Boulevard LaSalle, Verdun, Quebec
Canada

Bridge of Allan Highland Games

August 6
7 Airthrey Ave, Bridge of Allan, Stirling
Scotland

Isle of Skye Highland Games

August 9
The Lump 6 Bayfield Road, Portree
Scotland

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

August 11
Centre Wellington Sportplex 550 Belsyde Ave E, Fergus, Ontario
Canada

Margaree Highland Games

August 12
Margaree, NS
Canada

Central New York Scottish Games

August 12
Long Branch Park, 3813 Long Branch Road, Liverpool, NY
United States

North Berwick Highland Games

August 12
Recreation Park, North Berwick
Scotland

Perth Highland Games

August 13
Lesser South Inch, Perth
Scotland

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

August 19
Daly Mansion 251 Eastside Hwy, Hamilton, MT
United States

Helmsdale and District Highland Games

August 19
Couper Park, Helmsdale
Scotland

Saint Andrews Society of Maine Highland Games

August 19
29 Meadow Road, Brunswick, ME
United States

Crieff Highland Gathering

August 20
Market Park, King Street, Crieff
Scotland

Argyllshire Gathering Oban Games

August 24
Mossfield Stadium, Oban
Scotland

Highland Games Mittelland

August 25
Dorfstrasse 189, 4623 Neuendorf, Schweiz
Switzerland

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival

August 25
Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York
United States

Strathardie Highland Gathering

August 26
Bannerfield, Kirkmichael
Scotland

Hunter Valley Highland Games

August 26
113 Wilderness Road, Lovedale, NSW
Australia

North Lanark Highland Games

August 26
The Fairgrounds, Almonte, ON
Canada

September

Wisconsin Highland Games

September 1
1000 Northview Road, Waukesha, WI
United States

Pleasanton California Gathering & Games

September 2
4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, CA
United States

Capital District Scottish Games

September 2
129 Grand Street, Altamont, NY
United States

Virginia Scottish Games

September 2
5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA
United States

Canmore Highland Games

September 2
Centennial Park, 6th Street, Canmore, Alberta
Canada

Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games

September 3
Bogles Field, Essendy Road, Blairgowrie, Perthshire
Scotland

Flathead Celtic Festival

September 8
Centennial Farm, 563 McMannamy Draw, Kalispell, MT
United States

Sherwood Music Festival & Highland Games

September 8
Sherwood Celtic Festival, McDade, TX
United States

Festival Celtique De Quebec

September 8
Quebec City, QC
Canada

Middle Tennessee Highland Games

September 9
Sanders Ferry Park, 513 Sanders Ferry Road, Hendersonville, TN
United States

Scot Fest

September 15
River Spirit Casino Resort, 8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK
United States

Ligonier Highland Games

September 16
Idlewild Park, Route 30, Ligonier, PA
United States

Fresno Scottish Society Gathering & Games

September 16
Kearney Park, 6725 W Kearney Blvd, Fresno, Ca
United States

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

September 16
Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave. (Rte 78), Lockport, NY
United States

Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival

September 22
Downtown Bethlehem, Bethlehem, PA
United States

Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival
 September 30
 Dandridge Main Street, Dandridge, TN
 United States

Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival
 September 30
 7300 East Troy Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana
 United States

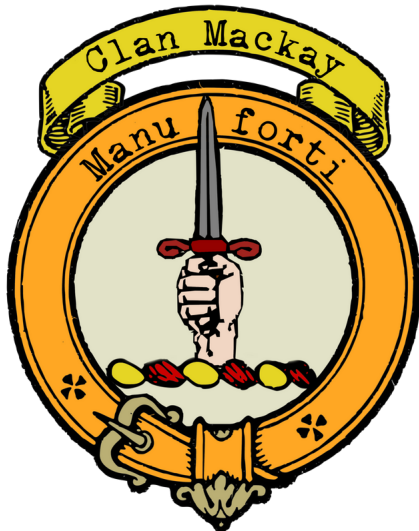
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Featured Clan Crest



CREST: A dexter arm erect couped at the elbow the hand grasping a dagger also erect all Proper
MOTTO: Manu forti
TRANSLATION: With a strong hand

The McKay clan, known as Macaoidh in Gaelic, has a rich history tied to Scottish royalty. According to Sir Iain Moncreiffe, they may stem from a branch of the ancient Celtic royal house. Their lineage traces back to Aedh, the last Abbot of Dunkeld and the first Earl of Fife, who married Queen Gruoch's granddaughter. The McKays expanded their influence through strategic marriages and held their ground against territorial disputes with the Earls of Sutherland. Notable figures include General Mackay, who led William and Mary's forces in the Battle of Killiecrankie, and James Mackay, the chairman of P&O and Earl of Inchcape. Donald Mackay made history as the first non-English Lord Chancellor of Great Britain.

About Us

Our Scottish clan newsletter is a publication dedicated to exploring the rich history and culture of the Scottish clans. As a community of proud Scots, we are passionate about preserving and sharing our heritage with the world.

We are committed to celebrating the unique character and identity of each Scottish clan, highlighting their achievements, and exploring their place in Scottish history. Whether you are a member of a clan, a descendant, or simply a lover of Scottish culture, our newsletter has something for you

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 THE SCOTLAND TOURIST NEWSLETTER

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- Featured Monument

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