

Newsletter

CEANGAL CHLANN NA H-ALBA



Vol. 6

BROUGHT TO YOU BY BAGTOWNCLANS.COM

Clan Events



WAYO the Brave - Oct. 1st - Perth, WA, Australia



The Clan MacNicol Society of North America - Oct. 6-8 - Quebec City, Quebec, Canada



Celtic Colours International Festival - October 6th - 14th - Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada



The 2023 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Cinemas - October 14th - 15th - Various venues, Australia



The Royal National Mòd - October 13-21 - Paisley, Scotland



The Annual Scottish Gathering of the Clan Maclean Association - October 28 - Stepps, Scotland



Highland Ball 2023 - Oct. 28 - Canterbury Caledonian Society Hall, 5 Michelle Rd, Wigram, Christchurch

Unveiling Contin Parish Church's Hidden Past: The Archaeological Expedition

In the heart of Contin village lies the haunting history of Contin Parish Church. The chilling sound of bagpipes once served as a dire warning, urging villagers to seek refuge within its walls during a brutal assault by the MacDonald clan in the fifteenth century, born out of a feud with the Mackenzie clan. Founded by St. Maelrubha in the eighth century, this church carries centuries of religious significance.

Today, in partnership with ORCA Archaeology, a geophysical survey begins as part of the Contin's Hidden History project. Two pre-medieval carved stones discovered

in the churchyard ignited the community's curiosity, prompting this extraordinary archaeological journey. Beneath the untouched fields surrounding the church, untold stories and artifacts await discovery. Generously supported by Historic Environment Scotland, The Contin Parish Church's legacy is poised to endure for generations to come.



Clan MacFarlane's former Clan seat sold to a holiday company

The historic Clan MacFarlane's former clan seat, the Claymore Hotel in Arrochar, Scotland, has changed hands, now belonging to the holiday company Caledonian Leisure. Situated at the picturesque head of Loch Long, this iconic establishment, which once served as the ancestral home of the McFarlane Clan, comprises 96 bedrooms, two restaurants, and a vibrant bar offering live entertainment.

Previously owned by Coast & Country Hotels, the hotel has undergone a rebranding as the "Caledonian Claymore." Exciting plans for its future are on the horizon, including the introduction of coach holiday packages. This sale is part of a broader portfolio transaction that has seen several Coast & Country hotels find new owners, signaling a shift in the hospitality landscape.

The Claymore Hotel's rich historical significance, combined with its stunning location, continues to captivate visitors, promising a memorable Scottish experience under its new ownership.



Tales of Forgotten Scottish History

DELVE INTO THE PAST WITH **TALES OF FORGOTTEN SCOTTISH HISTORY**. A CAPTIVATING NEWSLETTER THAT UNVEILS THE HIDDEN NARRATIVES AND UNTOLD STORIES FROM THE RICH TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND'S PAST. UNEARTHING FORGOTTEN HEROES, ENIGMATIC LEGENDS, AND OVERLOOKED EVENTS, THIS NEWSLETTER BRINGS TO LIGHT THE INTRIGUING AND OFTEN OVERLOOKED ASPECTS OF SCOTTISH HISTORY.

EACH DAY WILL FEATURE A NEW FORGOTTEN STORY SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR EMAIL, FROM SUBSTACK. JUST \$8/MONTH OR \$80 FOR A YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, THAT'S JUST 22 CENTS PER DAY FOR A FASCINATING STORY FROM SCOTLAND'S PAST. **-IGNITE YOUR CURIOSITY WITH A 7-DAY FREE TRIAL.**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Bonnie Prince Charlie's Face Reconstructed: A Glimpse into History

the University of Dundee's Center for Anatomy and Human Identification has unveiled a captivating recreation of the visage of our beloved Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart. This remarkable achievement provides fresh insight into a pivotal era in Scottish clan history.

Charles Edward Stuart, affectionately known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, is a celebrated figure in Scotland's history. His resolute endeavor to reclaim the thrones of England, Scotland, and Ireland for his father, James Francis Edward Stuart, marked a turning point for Scotland.

In 1745, at the youthful age of 24, Bonnie Prince Charlie embarked on a daring mission known as the Jacobite Rising, aiming to restore his family's rightful claim to the British throne. Despite early successes on the battlefield, the valiant prince faced adversity at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

This groundbreaking project, led by the University of Dundee's Center for Anatomy and Human Identification, offers a novel perspective on history. Through meticulous research and advanced technology, a dedicated team of scholars has reconstructed Bonnie Prince Charlie's appearance during the Jacobite Rising.

Using death masks and cutting-edge software, the team has expertly "de-aged" the prince's image, granting us a glimpse into his visage at the pivotal age of 24. The resulting portrait is



truly remarkable—a face adorned with blond ringlets, a white shirt, and intriguing blotchy patches on the skin. This reconstruction vividly paints the picture of our beloved prince as a young man during one of Scotland's most critical moments in history.

The University of Dundee's commitment to preserving our history is commendable. Their diligent efforts to resurrect Bonnie Prince Charlie's image underscore the importance of safeguarding heritage for future generations. It serves as a poignant reminder that shared history is a repository of valuable lessons, inspiring us to cherish and protect our cultural legacy.

The University of Dundee's remarkable project will be featured as part of their annual master's show, highlighting the significance of this achievement.

Clan Ross' Little Tarrel Castle is Listed for Sale

Little Tarrel Castle, a cherished piece of clan Ross history, has been listed for sale. Built in 1559 by Alexander Ross, the legitimated son of Walter Ross of Balnagown, Clan Chief and eighth Laird of Balnagown, Little Tarrel Castle holds centuries of history within its stone walls. This "B" listed small fortalice has been thoughtfully restored over the years, preserving its traditional features, including magnificent stonework, fireplaces, timber beams, and original defensive elements such as arrow slits.



Clan Tweedie vs. Clan Flemings Famous Clan Feud

The feud between the Flemings of Biggar and the Tweedies of Drummelzier in 16th-century Scotland centered around the inheritance of Catherine Fraser, heiress of Sir Simon Fraser's substantial estates in Upper Tweeddale. The Fleming clan sought to gain control of these valuable lands by arranging Catherine's marriage to one of their illegitimate sons. In contrast, the Tweedies, led by James Tweedie, aimed to marry Catherine to James, the nephew of their clan chief, thus securing control of the Fraser properties.

Tensions reached a boiling point during a hunting trip when the Tweedies ambushed a small group of Flemings. The altercation resulted in the death of Lord Fleming, and the Tweedies captured his heir, Malcolm. They demanded Catherine Fraser's

delivery and the release of Malcolm in exchange for his safe return.

Catherine Fraser, with support from the Flemings, drafted legal documents to protect her interests during this turbulent time. Civil authorities got involved, declaring the Tweedies as criminals and arresting some of their clan members. In an attempt to reconcile, the Tweedies offered their support, services, and even a marriage proposal

between James Tweedie and one of Lord Fleming's sisters.

Ultimately, the Crown declared the

Tweedies deserving

of retribution, leading to the transfer of Tweedie lands to the Flemings. Despite their initial hopes of redemption, the Tweedies could not regain ownership of their properties, leading to their decline.



Historic Clan Castles of Scotland

Caldwell Tower

Glasgow, Scotland

Nestled atop a scenic hill, Caldwell Tower beckons travelers from afar, a timeless relic hailing from the 16th century. Its distinctive appearance, shaped partly by its previous role within Clan Montgomery's grand courtyard castle, whispers tales of the past.

This tower, proudly ascending three stories,



presents a captivating blend of old and new. Its vaulted ceilings, distinctive chequered corbelling, and small windows are enduring symbols of its original purpose, safeguarding its inhabitants during turbulent times. However, the tower's roof and certain upper sections have witnessed modern reconstructions, a reflection of the ongoing commitment to preserving this historic gem.

Within its stout stone walls, Caldwell Tower bears witness to a history of adaptation and evolution. The contemporary addition of an external stairway for access to its upper floors is a testament to the challenges faced over centuries in maintaining and enhancing this treasure.

Caldwell Tower has not traversed time without facing its share of trials. Through numerous restoration endeavors, it has endured, with the most recent chapter featuring in the TV series 'Restoration Man.' The tower's journey through planning permissions and intricate preservation decisions reflects its tenacity as well as its historical importance to Clan Montgomery.

The Wolf of Badenoch Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan

Alexander Stewart better known as the "Wolf of Badenoch," was a significant and controversial figure in 14th-century Scotland. Born in 1343 as the third son of King Robert II and Elizabeth Mure, he rose to prominence through a combination of royal connections and territorial acquisitions.

Alexander's life was characterized by a turbulent mix of power struggles, territorial disputes, and conflicts with both the church and the Scottish nobility. He held vast territories in the northern regions of Scotland, including Badenoch, Urquhart, and Ross, often acquiring them through marriages and political maneuvers. However, his rule was marked by ruthless and controversial actions.

One of the most notorious events associated with Alexander was the burning of the royal burgh of Elgin and its cathedral in 1390, an act that earned him infamy and the nickname "Wolf of Badenoch." This act of destruction

brought him into conflict with both the church and the Scottish crown.

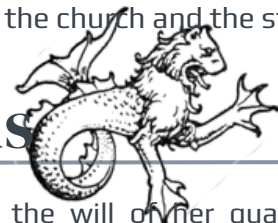
Alexander's influence and power gradually declined in the face of political changes and opposition from rival nobles. He faced excommunication by the Church, the loss of territories, and conflicts with his own family members.

He died around July

1405 and was buried in Dunkeld Cathedral. Despite his controversial legacy, Alexander Stewart remains a significant figure in Scottish history, remembered for his ruthless pursuit of power and his tumultuous relationship with both the church and the state.



Scottish Clan Myths and Legends



The Ghost of Marion Carruthers

Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Scotland, the ancient Comlongan Castle conceals a chilling secret—the ghostly apparition of Marion Carruthers, a tragic figure from the 16th century. Marion's spectral presence haunts the corridors and chambers of this historic edifice, invoking a sense of sorrow and mystery that has endured through the ages.

Marion Carruthers, a young woman of spirit and



determination, resisted the will of her guardian, Sir James Douglas, in matters of love and land. Her defiance in the face of arranged marriages and legal disputes ultimately led to a most enigmatic end. Some say she plunged to her death from the castle's tower, while others whisper of darker, more sinister forces at play.

Visitors and castle denizens alike have reported spine-chilling encounters with Marion's ghost. She is often seen wandering the ancient halls, her ethereal form wreathed in a pale, mournful light. Eerie cries and mournful sobbing emanate from the castle's darkest corners, a spectral echo of Marion's inner turmoil.

The legend surrounding Marion Carruthers serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of human emotions and the unresolved mysteries that linger in the hallowed halls of history. Her restless spirit continues to beckon to those who dare to step into the haunted shadows of Comlongan Castle, where the past and present converge in a timeless tale of love, loss, and the afterlife.

The Battle of Tuiteam Tarbhach, 1406

Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Tuiteam Tarbhach, also known as Tuttim-Tarwach, occurred in 1406 in Scotland and pitted the Mackays against the MacLeods of Lewis. The conflict ignited when the MacLeods conducted a raid on Mackay lands in Strathnaver. In response, the Mackays, with assistance from Alexander Murray of Cubin and Earl of Sutherland's men, pursued the raiders to reclaim their stolen property. The battle unfolded on the north bank of the River



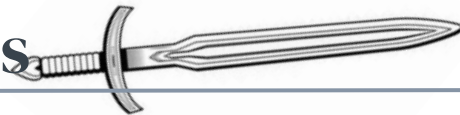
Oykel, resulting in a fierce confrontation.

Leading the Mackays was Hugh Mackay, often called Black Hugh or Uistean Dow, who served as a regent for his nephews Angus Dow and Rory Gald, heirs of his deceased brother Angus Mackay. The Mackays emerged victorious in the battle, annihilating the MacLeods, save for one survivor who conveyed the news of the defeat to Lewis before succumbing to his wounds.

Angus Dow eventually succeeded his uncle Hugh as the chief of the Mackays. Despite a subsequent defeat at the Battle of Dingwall in 1411 against Donald, Lord of the Isles, Angus Dow's leadership brought prosperity and expansion to the Mackays. He commanded a formidable force of 4,000 men and earned the moniker "Angus the Absolute."

The battlefield was once marked by cairns, though they have since been dismantled for dry stone walls. A cemetery on the hillside east of the battlefield is said to incorporate stones from these cairns. Today, the A837 road runs through the historic site, preserving the memory of this significant clan battle in Scottish history.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



The Seal of Sir John Campbell

The seal of Sir John Campbell, unearthed at Dunyvaig Castle on Islay, has added a significant layer to Scotland's history. This remarkable artifact, discovered in [Add Date Here], opens a window into a captivating chapter defined by conflict and rivalry. The 1593 seal not only bears the mark of a powerful individual but also reflects the intense feud between the Campbell and MacDonald clans during the early 17th century. Impeccably preserved, this circular lead disc is inscribed with "IOANNIS CAMPBELL DE CALDER" (with Calder being the earlier spelling of Cawdor). It proudly showcases the Cawdor coat of arms, featuring a galley ship and a stag, serving as a seal for charters and legal documents of its era.

Archaeologists and historians are buzzing with excitement over this find, which was hidden beneath layers of rubble. It invites speculation about the dramatic scenarios

that may have led to its concealment, from hurried retreats during attacks to the possibility of it being stashed away within the castle walls and forgotten.

This discovery is not just a historical artifact; it's a tangible connection to Sir John Campbell's role in Scotland's past. It deepens our appreciation of Dunyvaig Castle's rich history and reminds us of the importance of preserving and unearthing such treasures that shape our collective heritage.



Highland Games and Festivals

October

Kilt Fest USA

October 5
186 Scotch Rd, Ewing Township, NJ 08628
[United States](#)

Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival

October 7
820 Kiroff Rd, West Monroe, LA, United States, 71291
[United States](#)

Scotland County Highland Games

October 7
13043 X-Way Road, Laurinburg, NC
[United States](#)

MAC Scottish Festival

October 7
YAMHILL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MCMINNVILLE, OREGON USA
[United States](#)

Aztec Highland Games & Celtic Festival

October 7
Riverside Park, Aztec, New Mexico
[United States](#)

Harpers Ferry Highland Games

October 7
235 Sam Michael's Lane, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
[United States](#)

Scotland, Connecticut Highland Festival & Games

October 8
96 Waldo Road, Scotland, CT 06264
[United States](#)

CelticFest Mississippi

October 13
1112 NORTH SHORE PARKWAY BRANDON, MS 39047
[United States](#)

Houston Highland Games

October 14
Humble Civic Center Arena in Humble, Texas
[United States](#)

Radford Highlanders Festival

October 14
801 East Main St., Radford, Virginia 24142
[United States](#)

Seaside Highland Games

October 14
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA
[United States](#)

Moab Celtic Festival

October 20
center street ballpark, Moab UT
[United States](#)

Oklahoma Highland Gathering

October 20
2001 N Harper Rd, Choctaw, OK 73020
[United States](#)

Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival

October 20
Stone Mountain Park, 1000 Robert E. Lee Blvd, Stone Mountain, GA. 30083
[United States](#)

Crystal Coast Highland Games

October 21
293 W Beaufort Road Ext., Beaufort NC 28516
[United States](#)

RedStone Highland Games & Festival

October 21
293 W Beaufort Road Ext., Beaufort NC 28516
[United States](#)

ARKANSAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

October 27
2300 Highland Road, Batesville, Arkansas 72501
[United States](#)

November

Fenrir Viking Festival

November 3
Eminence, KY
[United States](#)

Tucson Celtic Festival

November 3
Tucson, AZ
[United States](#)

Austin Celtic Festival

November 4
Austin, TX
[United States](#)

The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games

November 4
Richmond, VA
[United States](#)

Huntington Weather Fest

November 4
Huntington, OR
[United States](#)

Charleston Highland Games

November 4
Mt. Pleasant, SC
[United States](#)

Salado Scottish Clan Gathering and Highland Games

November 11
Salado, TX
[United States](#)

Celtic Music Festival and Scottish Highland Games

November 11
Gulfport, MS
[United States](#)

Clover Highland Games

November 13
Clover, SC
[United States](#)

WEBSITE:

BAGTOWNCLANS.COM

CONTACT:

BAGTOWNCLANS@GMAIL.COM

Featured Clan Crest



CREST: A gull's head cabossed Sable, horned Or, Between two flags Gules, staved of the First
MOTTO: Hold fast

At the heart of the Macleod legend lies Leod, the younger son of Olaf the Black, a Norse king of Man and the North Isles. Upon Olaf's demise around 1237, Leod inherited the Western Isles, including Lewis, Harris, and part of Skye. It is this inheritance that paved the way for the rise of the powerful Clan Macleod.

Leod's marriage to the daughter of the Norse seneschal of Skye marked the Macleod family's entry into Dunvegan. For generations, this iconic castle has stood as the chief's seat, witnessing the tumultuous yet illustrious history of the Macleods. To this day, Dunvegan remains a testament to their enduring legacy.

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

Subscribe to our companion Newsletter

Featured in each Months Newsletter

- Scotland Travel Tip
- A Must Eat
- Featured Castle
- Beach Lovers
- Featured Adventure
- Museum Buffs
- Island Adventure
- The Whiskey Admirer
- Hiking/Biking Trail
- The Beer Connoisseur
- A Must See
- Featured Monument

Click to Subscribe

