

Newsletter

CEANGAL CHLANN NA H-ALBA



Vol. 7

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Clan Events



2023 OKC Renaissance & Scottish Festival SAT NOV. 4 - Oklahoma City, OK



Festival Of Nations
November 5th, 2023
Empire State Plaza Convention Center,
279 Madison Ave, Albany, NY 12242,



Remembrance Day - Nov. 11 - Various Events



Oban Winter Festival - 17th - 26th
November 2023, Oban, Scotland



Korea 1952-1953: The Black Watch Story - Tuesday 21st November
6.30pm-8.00pm, Black Watch Museum



The White Heather Ceilidh Club
November 30th - 30th 2023
St James Square, Edinburgh



ST ANDREW'S DAY - 30 November
2023

In Memoriam: Donald Cameron of Lochiel

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to a true guardian of our cherished Scottish heritage, Donald Cameron of Lochiel. As the 27th Chief of Clan Cameron, his name is synonymous with a rich and storied history. A close friend of the King, Donald's leadership and service extended well beyond the boundaries of his beloved clan. For nearly two decades, he dutifully served as the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to our community.

More than a clan chief, Donald was a loving father, a devoted friend, and a steadfast advocate for the Lochaber region. His courage and

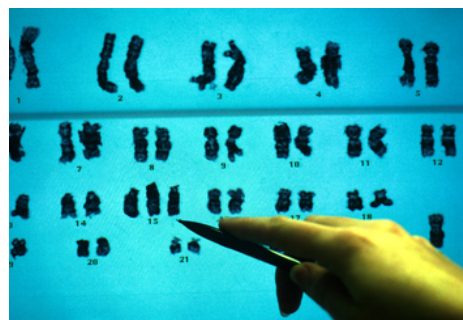
wisdom were equaled only by his compassion. The sudden loss of this remarkable man leaves a void in the hearts of his clan.



Clan Campbell's Major Branches Found to Be Genetically Unrelated

In a groundbreaking discovery, Scottish researchers at the University of Strathclyde have revealed an unexpected twist in the history of Clan Campbell, one of Scotland's most renowned clans. Through genetic profiling, they found that two prominent branches within Clan Campbell, the Campbells of Glenorchy and the Campbells of Argyll, are not genealogically related, despite sharing the same clan name.

Using the Y chromosome to trace the male-line ancestry, the researchers found that the Campbells of Glenorchy carry a unique genetic marker, R-Y33315,



with a common ancestor born around 1500. In contrast, the Campbells of Argyll, who descend from the first Lord Campbell, have a different genetic marker, R-L1065, with a common ancestor dating back to the third century.

This revelation prompts questions about the historical reasons behind this separation. It's possible that

an ancestor of the Campbells of Glenorchy adopted the Campbell name in the 13th century. However, the exact circumstances remain a mystery.

The research is ongoing, with findings to be published in West Highland Notes and Queries.

Clan Campbell members are encouraged to contribute to this intriguing exploration of the clan's history. This revelation underscores the ever-evolving nature of genealogy and Scotland's enduring spirit, emphasizing the depth and complexity of their heritage.

Treasures Beneath the Hearth: The Glencoe Coin Discovery

In August of this year, a young and eager archaeologist, Lucy Ankers, set foot in the breathtaking Glencoe, embarking on her very first dig. Little did she know that she was about to uncover a piece of history that would leave her—and all of us—astounded.

A collection of 17th-century coins, hidden beneath a stone fireplace, has resurfaced, shedding light on the infamous Massacre of Glencoe, an event etched into our clan's memory. Nearly 40 members of Clan MacDonald of Glencoe fell victim to a ruthless attack in February 1692, ordered by the government forces.

It was here, amid the breathtaking landscape that we know so well, that these coins lay dormant for centuries, nestled beneath a hearth stone slab in a house closely associated with the clan's chief, Alasdair Ruadh "Maclain" MacDonald of Glencoe, who was among the estimated 38 lives lost in that tragic massacre.

These coins offer us a unique glimpse into the past, and we can only imagine the stories they could tell if they could speak. The collection ranges from the late 1500s through the 1680s, bearing the reigns of Elizabeth I, James VI and I, Charles I, the Cromwellian Commonwealth, and Charles II. Their origins are as diverse as the era, featuring coins from France, the Spanish Netherlands, and even the Papal States, a testament to the travels and experiences of this clan chief.



So, why were these coins hidden beneath a fireplace? The archaeologists from the University of Glasgow suggest that they were likely deposited there just before or during the horrific events of the Massacre of Glencoe, perhaps for safekeeping. The most haunting detail is that they were never retrieved, indicating that the person who buried them may have become one of the victims of that gruesome day.

The Glencoe Massacre itself was a result of our clan's support for the exiled King James VII of Scotland and II of England, as we championed the restoration of the Stuart dynasty to the British throne. A missed deadline to deliver an oath of allegiance to the Protestant King William III led to our clan being branded as rebels, and the tragedy that ensued on that bleak February morning in 1692.

The significance of this find extends beyond our clan's tragic history. It provides a tangible link to the past, illuminating the lives of our ancestors who occupied Glencoe and worked the land. Alongside the coins, everyday objects such as spindle whorls, pitchforks, and dress pins have been discovered, offering us a glimpse into the ordinary lives of those who shared our lineage and heritage. We can now better understand the importance of Glencoe's uplands to local elites, as the discovery of the coin hoard adds an exciting dimension to this story.

As we reflect on this momentous discovery, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of the MacDonald clan. The treasure unearthed beneath that stone fireplace represents more than just coins; it represents our shared history, the strength of the community, and the stories of Scotland's ancestors.

Clan Crawford vs. Clan Kennedy Famous Clan Feud

In the heart of medieval Scotland's Ayrshire region, the 15th century bore witness to a bitter feud between the powerful Crawford and Kennedy clans. This rivalry was rooted in longstanding land disputes and simmering animosity, eventually reaching its zenith with an audacious provocation.

The feud's catalyst was Gilbert Kennedy, the Kennedy clan chief, who, in a daring move, declared his intention to move a sow onto Crawford territory on Lammas Day, a traditional Scottish holiday. The objective was to incite a clan battle and settle scores.

The Crawfords, led by their chief, responded by rallying their clansmen for a showdown at the holms of Skeldon near Boreland Farm in Dunscore. Government-mediated peace attempts

were futile, and the two clans clashed in a fiercely contested battle.

The fight began with the Crawfords' horsemen charging, but the muddy terrain hindered their advance. This led to brutal hand-to-hand combat, resulting in casualties on both sides, including the loss of Jock, a son of the Laird of Crawford.

In the end, the Crawfords, galvanized by Jock's death, successfully pushed the Kennedys into the

River Doon. Many Kennedy fighters perished in the treacherous waters while attempting to escape. The victory was celebrated on



the riverbank, and the old Crawford chief's response, inquiring if the sow was fitted and gleefully proclaiming, "My thumb for Jock! The Sow's Fitted!"

Historic Clan Castles of Scotland



Finlaggan Castle

Islay, Scotland

Scotland's landscape is dotted with historic treasures, and one such gem is Castle Finlaggan, nestled on the idyllic island of Islay. This castle, also known as Eilean Mòr Castle, has a storied past that echoes through the centuries.

The roots of Finlaggan Castle stretch back to the 13th century, serving as the administrative center



for the semi-autonomous Gaelic kingdom known as the Lordship of the Isles. It was here that the Clan Donald, one of Scotland's most prominent clans, held court, and important meetings took place among clan chiefs.

Today, the Finlaggan Trust works tirelessly to preserve this historical site. The trust has refurbished a derelict cottage into a museum that houses a treasure trove of artifacts uncovered during archaeological excavations. It's not just a place of old stones; it's a living, breathing testament to Scotland's vibrant past.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Finlaggan is the virtual reality reconstruction of the settlement, which offers a fascinating glimpse into the early 15th century. The project, developed by researchers at the University of St Andrews, allows visitors to step into the shoes of our ancestors and experience their world in a whole new way.

Castle Finlaggan isn't just a relic of the past; it's a testament to the enduring spirit of Scotland's people.

Donald Livingstone and The White Banner of the Stewarts

In the annals of Scottish history, the name Donald Livingstone shines as a beacon of unwavering commitment and valor. He was a remarkable figure whose heroic act during the Battle of Culloden in 1746 forever etched his name in the annals of Scottish legend.

Born into Clan Livingstone, Donald Livingstone became a key figure during the Jacobite Uprising of 1745. This historic event aimed to restore the Stuart dynasty to the British throne. As part of Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces, Clan Livingstone rallied to the Jacobite cause, joining a multitude of clans in their pursuit of a different destiny for Scotland.

On that fateful day, April 16, 1746, the bleak moorland of Culloden near Inverness witnessed the clash between the Jacobite forces and the Hanoverian army. While the odds were against them, the Jacobites charged with an indomitable spirit. It was in the midst of this brutal battle that Donald Livingstone's



extraordinary heroism unfolded.

At the heart of the story lies the White Banner of the Stewarts, an iconic symbol of the Jacobite cause. This rallying point for the Jacobite forces fell perilously close to the enemy during the battle. With unwavering determination and in the face of extreme danger, Donald Livingstone braved bullets and steel to rescue the fallen standard, preserving the hope and aspirations it represented. Despite the ultimate defeat at Culloden, the heroism of individuals like Donald Livingstone lives on in Scottish history. His courageous act continues to inspire and serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of Clan Livingstone and all who fought for the Jacobite cause.



Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

The Green Lady of Castle Crathes

In the heart of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, lies a place steeped in history and mystery—Crathes Castle. While this centuries-old castle boasts stunning architecture and picturesque gardens, it's the ghostly legend of the "Green Lady" that has captured the imaginations of countless visitors.

The tale begins in a bygone era when the Burnett family, descendants of Alexander



Burnett, took residence at Crathes Castle. The Green Lady, shrouded in mystery, is believed to be one of the Burnett Laird's daughters. According to local lore, she carried a dark secret: an illicit relationship with a stableboy that resulted in pregnancy. She concealed her condition for as long as possible, but eventually, the truth was unveiled when she gave birth. Her father, consumed by rage, allegedly ordered the girl and her baby to disappear. A tragic turn of events, indeed.

What lends eerie credence to this legend is a chilling discovery made during renovations in the 1800s. Workmen unearthed the bones of a young baby beneath the hearth of a fireplace. This grim find only added to the castle's enigmatic aura.

Over the years, numerous visitors have claimed to encounter the spectral presence of the Green Lady and her baby. Paranormal investigators have documented bizarre temperature fluctuations in her room, a chilling occurrence that defies explanation.

The Battle of Harpsdale, 1426

Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Harpasdale, which transpired in 1426 near Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, is a significant episode in the annals of Highland clan history. This clash embroiled the Clan Mackay, led by Angus-Dow Mackay and his son Neil, and their rivals, the Clan Gunn. The exact outcome of the battle remains shrouded in uncertainty, but it is evident that both sides sustained heavy losses.

Following the battle, Angus Du Mackay chose to

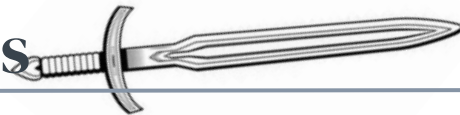


submit to the authority of King James I of Scotland. This marked a broader effort by the king to exert control over the tumultuous Highlands. Neil Mackay, however, found himself imprisoned on the Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth, along with other Highland chiefs, including Alexander MacDonald, Lord of the Isles. These actions were emblematic of the king's resolve to establish a more centralized and organized form of governance in the Highlands.

The Battle of Harpasdale thus played a crucial role in the transformation of the political landscape in the Highlands. Despite the violence and destruction it wrought, it contributed to a more orderly and regulated system of governance. It was part of a larger movement to bring stability and peace to a region known for its complex, clan-based power struggles.

In the tapestry of Scottish clan history, the Battle of Harpasdale serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of these ancient Highland clans. It highlights the struggle for power and authority during a time of transition and change, reminding us of the enduring legacy of these historic clans.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



The Clach na Bratach

The Clach na Bratach, a treasured relic of Clan Donnachaidh (also known as Clan Robertson), is a legendary and enigmatic stone that holds a prominent place in the clan's history and folklore. This unique artifact, often referred to as the "Stone of the Standard," is revered for its purported magical properties and remarkable significance.

According to clan legend, the Clach na Bratach was discovered during a critical moment in the clan's history. On the eve of a significant battle against their rivals, the MacDougalls of Lorn, Clan Chief Duncan pulled the clan's standard from the ground. To his astonishment, a quartz stone, resembling a crystal ball, was found beneath the staff. This stone was believed to possess mystical

qualities and was subsequently revered by the clan.

The Clach na Bratach served a dual purpose for Clan Donnachaidh. It was considered an oracle, consulted for

guidance and divination, helping chiefs make crucial decisions in times of uncertainty. Additionally, it was believed to have potent healing powers, further endearing it to the clan.

Today, this precious heirloom is carefully preserved at the Clan Donnachaidh Museum at Bruar, serving as a tangible link to the clan's past and a symbol of their enduring heritage. The Clach na Bratach remains a symbol of the clan's resilience, strength, and the mystical allure that enshrouds the history of the Scottish highland clans.



Fig. 17. Clach-na-Bratach.

Highland Games and Festivals

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](#)

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.

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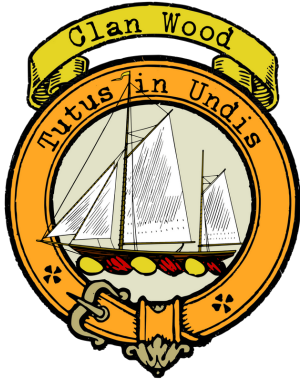
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Featured Clan Crest



CREST: A ship under sail Proper
MOTTO: Tutus in Undis
TRANSLATION: Safe on the waves

This common surname has two possible roots: it could be a topographic name, indicating someone who lived or worked in a wood or forest. Alternatively, it might have served as a nickname for individuals known for eccentric or even violent tendencies. These origins hint at the diverse personalities and backgrounds that shaped Clan Wood over the centuries.

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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