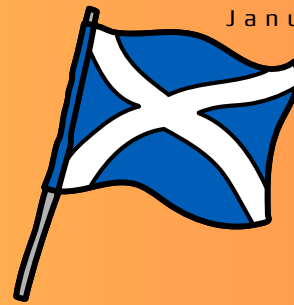


Newsletter

CEANGAL CHLANN NA H-ALBA



Vol. 9

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Clan Events



Winter Storm Weekend -
The Pipes and Drums Event
North Kansas City, MO
January 11 - 14, 2024



Boston Celtic Music Festival
Boston, MA
January 11 - 14, 2024



Battle of Falkirk Muir Conference
Galaxy Sports
Little Kerse, Grange Road Polmont
January 20, 2024



Burns Night
Various Locations
January 25, 2024



Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival
Caloosa Sound Amphitheater,
Fort Myers, FL
Saturday, January 27, 2024



V&A Dundee Highlights Tour With
Tartan Entry
Dundee, Scotland
January 29 - 31, 2024

Clan Gregor Society Marks 200th Anniversary

The Clan Gregor Society is set to commemorate its bicentennial with a week-long International Gathering from July 14-21, 2024, in the stunning Argyll region of Scotland. This historic event, anchored at the Loch Awe Hotel, promises a deep dive into the clan's rich heritage with tours of ancient castles, battlefields, and the iconic Scottish landscape.

A highlight of the celebration is the attendance at the Lochearnhead Highland Games, where clan members will participate in traditional events and the march of the clans. The grandeur culminates in a lavish banquet in a medieval

castle, hosted by Chief Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor.

This gathering is more than a celebration; it's a reunion of Clan Gregor members from around the world, a testament to their enduring spirit and legacy.



The Tartan Meets Technology: AI Designs Its First Scottish Pattern

In a groundbreaking development that marries Scottish heritage with cutting-edge technology, an artificial intelligence (AI) has collaborated with kiltmaker Steven Sim to create the first-ever tartan pattern designed by a non-human intelligence. This unique tartan has been officially accepted onto the Scottish Register of Tartans, signaling a new era in the world of tartan design.

Steven Sim, a seasoned tartan designer with 12 years of experience, embarked on this innovative journey with ChatGPT, an AI language model. Sim, initially playing the role of a mentor, was amazed by the AI's ability to grasp and contribute creatively to the



tartan design process. The result is a tartan that not only resonates with traditional Scottish values but also symbolizes the dawn of AI.

The colors chosen for the tartan carry deep meanings, each reflecting a different aspect of AI's impact. Bright gold signifies the brilliance and illumination AI brings, warm red represents the passion behind AI development, and light grey stands for the

neutrality and objectivity crucial in AI ethics. These color choices, suggested by ChatGPT, illustrate the AI's understanding of symbolic representation.

A particularly intriguing element of the tartan is its threadcount. One of the stripes features a threadcount of 42, a whimsical homage to Douglas Adams' "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." This number symbolizes the limitations of AI, echoing the idea that machines might not fully grasp the context of their output. This collaboration between Sim and ChatGPT showcases the potential for AI in creative fields traditionally dominated by human expertise.

Craigievar's Colorful Comeback Castle Restoration Unveiled

Nestled in the picturesque landscape of Aberdeenshire, Craigievar Castle, a remarkable example of Scottish Baronial architecture, has recently undergone a significant restoration, reviving its iconic pink hue. The castle's history stretches back to the 17th century, with its construction initiated in 1576 and completed in 1626 by William Forbes, a prosperous Aberdonian merchant. The Forbes family, who resided in the castle for over three centuries, played a pivotal role in its history and upkeep. This architectural masterpiece, now under the care of the National Trust for Scotland, holds a special place in Scottish heritage and stands as a testament to the Forbes family's legacy.

The castle's unique pink color, a distinctive feature that sets it apart from typical Scottish castles, was introduced in the 1820s. Sir John Forbes, inspired by the local granite, decided to change the exterior from its original off-white to the captivating pink that has now become synonymous with Craigievar. This bold choice not only accentuated the castle's fairy-tale appearance but also sparked curiosity and admiration worldwide.

In recent years, the National Trust for Scotland recognized the need to preserve Craigievar's enchanting allure and embarked on an extensive conservation project. The primary goal was to restore the castle's faded pink façade, ensuring it remains a vibrant symbol of Scottish history. The



restoration involved careful application of a special lime wash, following a secret recipe to achieve the perfect shade of pink. This meticulous process was crucial in maintaining the castle's historical integrity and aesthetic appeal.

The castle, set amidst a serene hillside, has been a source of inspiration and wonder for generations. Its whimsical design and striking color are said to have influenced Walt Disney's concept of fairy tale castles, including the iconic Cinderella Castle. This connection to popular culture has only heightened Craigievar's appeal, making it a must-visit destination for both history enthusiasts and Disney fans alike.

As the castle prepares to reopen its doors, visitors can look forward to experiencing its renewed splendor. The pink façade, refreshed and vibrant, stands ready to welcome guests from around the world. Inside, the castle boasts cozy interiors, adorned with rare antiquities and exquisite plasterwork ceilings, offering a glimpse into the life and times of the Forbes family.

Craigievar Castle's restoration marks not only the revival of its physical beauty but also the continuation of a rich historical narrative. As a cherished piece of Scotland's architectural heritage, it remains a vibrant testament to the past, bridging history and fantasy in its unique, pink-hued splendor.



Clan MacGregor vs. Clan Drummond

Famous Clan Feud

In the late 16th century, the serene forests of Glenarty witnessed a grim chapter in Scottish clan history. John Drummond-Ernock, the appointed royal forester, found himself in frequent conflict with the MacEagh, a sect of the MacGregor clan. His strict enforcement of forest laws often led to the execution of MacEaghs for various infringements. The tensions reached a harrowing peak when the MacGregors retaliated violently. In a brutal act of vengeance, they ambushed and beheaded Drummond-Ernock, subsequently presenting his head to his sister, Margaret, in a grotesque display at her home. The aftermath of this incident reverberated through the Scottish highlands. In preparation for Queen Anne of Denmark's crowning in 1590, a crackdown on rebellious clans was initiated. Leading this was

Lord Drummond of Perth, motivated by a deep-seated desire for revenge. He, along with Margaret's husband, Alexander Stewart, unleashed a fierce campaign against the MacGregors, marking one of the bloodiest episodes in clan conflicts. This feud left an indelible mark on Scottish history, influencing the relentless pursuit of the MacGregors for centuries. Even James Stewart, Margaret's son, perpetuated the family's vendetta, ensuring the continued outlaw status of the MacGregors. This long-standing



hostility culminated in an audacious attempt by the MacGregors to disrupt James Stewart's funeral procession, a testament to the enduring bitterness between the clans.

Historic Clan Castles of Scotland



Balquhain Castle

Aberdeenshire, Scotland

The castle's chronicles are etched with notable events, including the 1526 sacking by the Forbes family, and its subsequent reconstruction in 1530. History aficionados will revel in the fact that Mary Queen of Scots graced the castle before the pivotal Battle of Corrichie in 1562. Tragically, the castle met its demise in 1746, set



ablaze by the forces of Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, leading to its present-day ruins. Today, the remnants of Balquhain Castle, especially its 13.75 by 8.75-meter tower surrounded by a barmkin, continue to mesmerize visitors. The site, safeguarded as a scheduled monument, stands testament to Scotland's turbulent yet rich history. Despite its dilapidated state, Balquhain Castle remains a treasured tourist attraction. Visitors from around the globe are drawn to its enchanting ruins, seeking to capture its beauty and delve into its storied past. As one wanders through the ruins, set against the backdrop of Aberdeenshire's lush landscape, it's easy to be transported back in time, imagining the castle in its full glory. Balquhain Castle, more than just a relic, is a poignant reminder of Scotland's resilient spirit and enduring legacy. It's a must-visit for anyone exploring the depths of Scotland's historical tapestry.

John Erskine

Earl of Mar: "Bobbing John"

In the rich tapestry of Scottish history, few characters are as enigmatic as John Erskine, the 6th Earl of Mar. Known colloquially as "Bobbing John," Erskine's life and political maneuvers during the early 18th century encapsulate the complexities of Scotland's aristocracy and the tumultuous era they navigated. Born in 1675 into a lineage of Scottish nobility, Erskine was no stranger to the intricate dance of court politics. His upbringing in a family steeped in political influence undoubtedly shaped his future actions and his ability to adeptly shift allegiances in Scotland's volatile political arena. Erskine's political career was marked by a series of strategic, albeit sometimes criticized, changes in loyalty. This propensity for shifting sides, often seen as opportunistic, was in many ways a reflection of the survival tactics in the volatile political climate of the time. It was these frequent changes in allegiance that earned him the moniker "Bobbing John." Prior



to his notable involvement in the Jacobite uprising of 1715, Erskine initially allied himself with the House of Hanover and King George I. His reception at the Court of St. James in London highlighted his prominence and seemingly steadfast support for the Hanoverian cause. However, this allegiance was short-lived as the political winds shifted. The Jacobite uprising of 1715 saw Erskine's most significant and dramatic political shift. Abandoning his Hanoverian ties, he emerged as a central figure in this rebellion, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy. His actions, particularly his raising of the Jacobite standard at Kirkmichael, signaled a decisive turn in Scottish history and in his own personal narrative.



Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

The Golden Cradle of Abernethy A Timeless Scottish Legend

The Myth of the Golden Cradle of Abernethy is a narrative that beautifully intertwines the rich history and folklore of the Scottish Highlands. The legend takes us back to the era of the Picts, an ancient kingdom that thrived in Scotland until its downfall in 843 AD. The Pictish kingdom, known for its formidable presence, met its end when King Kenneth Macalpine of the Scots emerged victorious. Abernethy Law, a site of historical significance, stands as a silent testament to this pivotal moment in Scottish history. At the heart of this legend is a symbol of both hope and despair - a cradle crafted from pure gold. As the story goes, the Queen of the Picts, facing the imminent defeat of her kingdom, made a heart-wrenching decision. To protect the future of her infant son and heir, she concealed the golden cradle in the depths of a tranquil lake near Abernethy. Centuries

later, the allure of the Golden Cradle continues to fascinate. Adventurers are drawn to the lake, spurred by tales of its hidden treasure. The legend states that encircling the lake at midnight with a green thread might reveal the cradle's secrets, yet this quest is fraught with challenges. Mysterious storms and ethereal apparitions are said to haunt the lake, adding to the enigma.



The Battle of Dingwall 1411

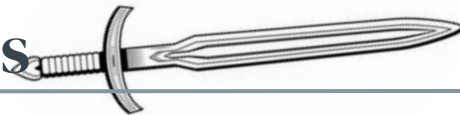
Famous Clan Battle

In the year 1411, the Scottish Highlands witnessed a defining moment in its tumultuous history: the Battle of Dingwall. This fierce confrontation, a vivid tableau of medieval clan rivalry, was fought between the formidable forces of the Clan Mackay and the Clan Donald. The skirmish, set against the rugged backdrop of Dingwall in Ross and Cromarty, was spurred by the bold actions of Donald, Lord of the Isles, leader of the Clan Donald. His aggression



against allies of Angus Du Mackay, the chief of Clan Mackay, lit the fuse of conflict. In retaliation, Angus Du Mackay rallied a diverse coalition comprising members of the Mackay, Munro, Mackenzie, and Dingwall clans. The battle, as chronicled by historians Sir Robert Gordon and Robert Mackay, culminated in a poignant mix of triumph and tragedy. Despite their valiant efforts, the Mackay-led alliance suffered a significant blow. Angus Du Mackay was captured, and his brother Roderick fell on the battlefield, etching a somber note in the annals of Highland history. However, in a remarkable turn of events, Angus Du Mackay's captivity morphed into an alliance through his marriage into Donald's family – a strategic move, blending familial bonds with political acumen. The Battle of Dingwall was more than a mere clash of swords; it was a precursor to the larger Battle of Harlaw later that year. These consecutive battles dramatically reshaped the Highland power landscape. While Angus's defeat in Dingwall bolstered Donald's regional sway, the inconclusive outcome at Harlaw checked his expansionist ambitions, underscoring the complex interplay of power, politics, and family ties in the storied history of the Scottish Highlands.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



Jamie MacPherson's Broken Fiddle

Jamie MacPherson, born around 1675, was the son of a Highland laird and a beautiful Tinker woman. His life, marked by contrasts, began in the luxury of Invereshie House near Kincaig, yet destiny intertwined his path with the Travelling folk. Jamie, known for his striking appearance with jet-black hair and swarthy skin, grew into a man of formidable strength and talent, renowned as a swordsman and a gifted fiddler. His tale takes a dramatic turn in Keith, Moray, during the Saint Rufus Fair of 1700. An ambush led by Alexander Duff of Braco ensued, resulting in Jamie's capture. Despite his renowned courage and prowess, fate had its way, and Jamie found himself condemned under the then-capital crime of being a Gypsy. While imprisoned, Jamie composed the haunting

"MacPherson's Lament" or "MacPherson's Rant," a piece he played beneath the gallows on his beloved fiddle. In a final act of defiance, he broke the instrument, declaring that no one else shall play his fiddle. On

November 16, 1700, Jamie leapt from the gallows, choosing to meet his end on his own terms. Today, the fragments of Jamie MacPherson's fiddle, a tangible link to this gripping tale, are proudly displayed at the Clan MacPherson Museum. This exhibit not only showcases the fiddle but also tells the story of a man whose life and death have been woven into the fabric of Scottish folklore. This artifact isn't just a piece of wood and strings; it's a symbol of a life lived fiercely and freely, echoing a story that rivals the most captivating of folk tales.



Highland Games and Festivals

January 2024

Waipu Highland Games
January 1
Waipu Waipu
New Zealand

Florida Keys Celtic Festival
January 6
Marathon Community Par, Marathon FL
United States

Boston Celtic Music Festival
January 11
Boston, MA
United States

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
January 13
Central Winds Park, Winter Springs, FL
United States

Turakina Highland Games
January 27
Turakina Domain, Turakina,
New Zealand

February 2024

Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival
February 3, 2024
Sarasota, FL
United States

Tally Highland Games
February 3, 2024
Tallahassee, FL
United States

Suncoast Scots Highland Games & Celtic Festival
February 10, 2024
Almetto, FL
United States

Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo
February 10, 2024
Paeroa Domain
New Zealand

Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games
February 24, 2024
Green Cove Springs, FL
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.

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.**

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Upcoming Clan Gatherings



Clan Cameron NZ
May 4, 2024
Hawkes Bay Club
Napier, New Zealand
<https://www.clancameronnz.co.nz/events/>



Clan MacLennan
July 4-8, 2024
Ben Wyvis Hotel
Inverness, Scotland
<https://www.clanmaclellan-worldwide.com/clan-maclellan-2024-gathering/>



Clan Gregor
July 14-21, 2024
Loch Awe Hotel
Argyll, Scotland
<https://www.clanregor.com/post-clanregorinternationaleathering>



Clan Lamont
July 20, 2024
Location: TBA
<https://clanlamontsociety.co.uk/clan-gathering/>



Clan MacDougall
July 30 - August 4, 2024
Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds
Oban, Scotland
<https://www.dunollie.org/clan-macdougall-gathering-2024>



Clan MacAulay
August 7-10, 2024
Baddeck, Cape Breton
Nova Scotia, Canada
<https://clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-announcement/>



Clan MacNicol
October 3-6, 2024
Portree
Isle of Skye, Scotland
<https://www.clanmacnicol.org/news/clan-macnicol-international-clan-gathering-oct-2024>

**If you know of an upcoming Clan Gathering (not already on this list), please let us know at:
bagtownclans@gmail.com
Thank you**

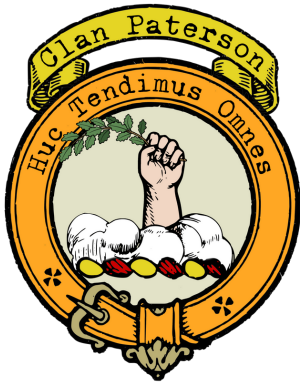
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Featured Clan Crest



CREST: A dexter hand issuing out of a cloud holding a branch of laurel, all Proper

MOTTO: Hic tendimus omnes

TRANSLATION: We strive for this

The Paterson clan, tracing its origins to the Gaelic "MacPhadraig" meaning "son of the devotee of St. Patrick," has deep roots in the Celtic church, suggesting early ecclesiastical roles among its ancestors. By the late 13th century, the clan established itself along the shores of Loch Fyne in the Lowlands of Scotland, marking the start of their significant presence in the region and leading to "Paterson" becoming one of the twenty most common surnames in Lowland Scotland. This history highlights the clan's spiritual connections and influential role in Scottish history.

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

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