

## Clan Events



Celtic Family Jamboree  
85 Myers Road, Brooksville, FL  
February 2-3, 2024



Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival  
Mount Dora, FL  
February 16-18, 2024



Asheville Celtic Festival  
761 Boylston Highway, Fletcher, North Carolina  
February 17-18, 2024



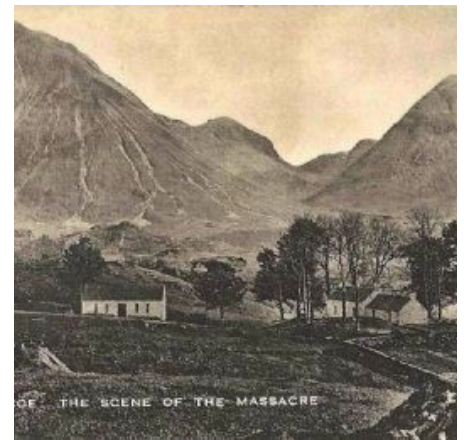
Celtic Calling  
Charleston, West Virginia, United States  
February 28 - March 2, 2024



## MacDonald Chiefship Petition Submitted

Alan MacDonald, current High window to respond or lodge objections. This event marks a Donald in New Zealand, has pivotal moment in the formally petitioned the Lord Lyon preservation and acknowledgment of Scottish clan heritage, with of the MacDonald of Glencoe clan. The petition requests not only the significant cultural implications for the MacDonald of Glencoe lineage.

The petition requests not only the affirmation of his chiefship but also the endorsement of the clan's ancient heraldic symbols, including the coat of arms, supporters, standard, and pinsel. The Court of the Lord Lyon, responsible for overseeing heraldic affairs in Scotland, has issued an Interlocutor acknowledging the petition. Interested parties or claimants have been given a 42-day



## The Oldest Scottish Tartan Reborn for the Modern Era

The textile and tartan community in Scotland is buzzing with excitement over the remarkable recreation of the oldest piece of Scottish tartan known, famously dubbed the "Glen Affric" tartan. Discovered in a peat bog in the Highlands and dating back to the period of 1500-1600, this fabric has undergone meticulous analysis and recreation to bring a piece of Scottish history into modern fashion.

The Scottish Tartans Authority, the custodian of tartan heritage, collaborated with the House of Edgar, a prestigious tartan fabric creator and weaver, to revive this ancient tartan. The process involved not just replicating the



pattern but also ensuring the colors matched the historical palette, creating a bridge between past and present fashion trends.

The Glen Affric tartan, distinct for its green, brown or black stripes, and hints of red and yellow from natural dyes, was identified as a significant status symbol, likely worn by a person of importance. The modern rendition of this tartan, part of the "The Seventeen

Eighty Three Collection," promises to be a testament to Scotland's rich textile heritage.

Emma Wilkinson of House of Edgar and Peter Eslea MacDonald from the Scottish Tartans Authority have voiced their excitement and honor in being part of this project. The tartan not only represents a revival of historical fabric but also stands as a symbol of Scottish identity and pride.

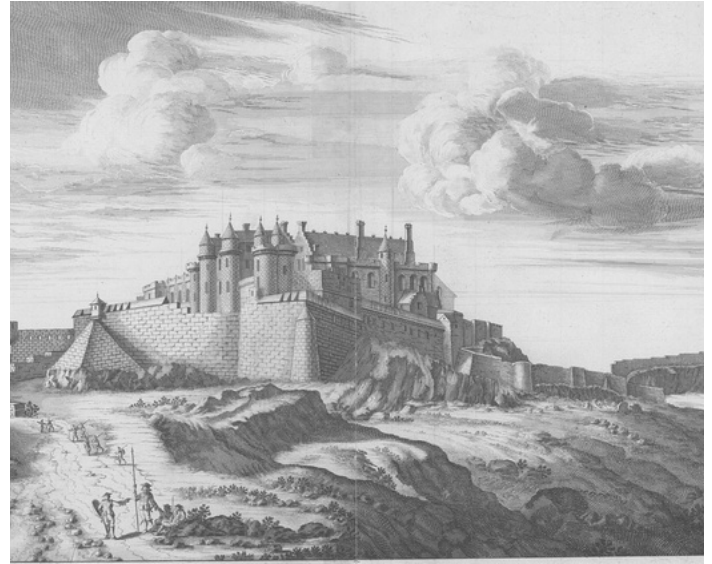
The reinterpreted Glen Affric tartan, now available for contemporary wear, is more than just fabric. It's a narrative woven through time, offering wearers and admirers a tangible connection to Scotland's vibrant history and the timeless allure of tartan.

## Archaeological Breakthrough Stirling's Gate Wounds Speak of 1746 Siege

In a remarkable discovery that connects the present to the tumultuous events of the 18th century, a team led by Stirling Council archaeologist Dr. Murray Cook has uncovered evidence of musket ball damage on a medieval gate in Stirling. This significant find provides tangible evidence of the last siege of Stirling Castle, conducted by Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army in January 1746, marking a crucial moment in the campaign to restore the Stuarts to the British throne.

The gate, located adjacent to the cemetery and Cowane's Hospital, stands at the western edge of the city's defensive walls, near a newly discovered defensive tower. This particular area of Stirling, laden with historical significance, has now yielded a poignant reminder of the city's turbulent past. Dr. Cook believes that the damage to the gate, thought to be caused by musket balls, is indicative of a previously unknown attacking probe by the Jacobite forces, aiming to breach the castle's defenses.

This discovery is not just about the physical marks of a siege; it's a portal to the past, offering a vivid glimpse into the intense military engagements that took place nearly 278 years ago. Dr. Cook eloquently conveyed the profound experience of standing at the site, a place where Jacobite soldiers and the city's defenders exchanged not just glares but gunfire, emphasizing the tangible



connection between past and present and the astonishing revelations still emerging from Scotland's best-preserved city wall.

Adding a layer of depth to the narrative, Stirling Council leader, Councillor Chris Kane, referenced a letter from Bonnie Prince Charlie, housed in the Stirling Council Archives. This letter, promising bloodshed if his forces were barred entry through the city gates, underscores the dire circumstances and difficult decisions faced by the town council, which ultimately chose to allow entry and avoid a potentially devastating conflict.

As Stirling prepares to celebrate its 900th anniversary, this discovery is a poignant reminder of the city's rich and varied history. It underscores the area's significance not just to the history of Scotland but to that of the United Kingdom. The ability of Stirling to continue revealing secrets from its past, like the newly discovered damage to the medieval gate, ensures that its historical narrative remains vibrant and engaging. It's a testament to the city's enduring legacy and its appeal to people from around the world who come to explore and experience the rich tapestry of stories that Stirling has to offer. This landmark year promises to be a special time for the city as it welcomes visitors and locals alike to celebrate and reflect on its storied past, a past that is still being uncovered and understood today.



## Clan Calder VS. Clan Campbell Famous Clan Feud

In the late 15th century, the succession of Clan Calder was in jeopardy when John Calder, the designated heir, died, leaving only daughters. The current chief, seeking to secure his lineage, had earlier obtained a royal charter to make John his successor over his older sons. This move set the stage for Muriel Calder, John's daughter and the chief's granddaughter, to inherit the chiefship and the title Thane of Cawdor.

Muriel's maternal grandfather, the chief of Clan Rose of Kilravock, faced financial troubles with Archibald Campbell, Chief of Clan Campbell. To settle debts, he agreed to marry Muriel to Campbell's third son, John, effectively promising the Cawdor lands to the Campbells upon the current Thane's death.

In 1499, to secure this alliance, Campbell sent men to fetch Muriel from Kilravock Castle. Learning of this, Muriel's uncles, Alexander and Hugh Calder, sought to intercept and eliminate Muriel to prevent the Campbells from claiming their lands. However, the Campbell party cleverly deceived the Calders using a decoy, allowing Muriel to reach Campbell territory safely.

After Muriel married John Campbell in 1510, legal battles ensued over the Calder lands. Eventually, Muriel's rights were upheld in court. Upon her grandfather's death, she inherited the



titles and lands, passing them to her husband, John Campbell of Cawdor, marking the beginning of the Campbell of Cawdor lineage. The remaining Calders managed to retain some lands, preserving a portion of their heritage.

## Historic Clan Castles of Scotland



### Banff Castle

#### Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Banff Castle is a historic castle located in the town of Banff in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It was originally built in the 12th century as a motte and bailey castle, which was a type of fortification that was common in medieval Europe. The castle was held by the Comyns, Earl of Buchan, and was visited by King Edward I of England in the late



13th century. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, the castle was garrisoned with English troops, but it was later captured by the Scots in 1310.

After its capture, the castle passed through several different owners, including the Sharps and the Russells. In the 18th century, the old castle was demolished and a new mansion house was built in its place. The mansion house, which was designed by the architect John Adam, is now a Category A listed building and serves as a community and arts venue for the town of Banff and the surrounding area. The remains of the old castle, including the motte and bailey, are a scheduled ancient monument, which means that they are protected by law and are considered to be of national historical importance.



## The Black Baron of Fowlis

The Black Baron of Fowlis, an emblematic figure of the Munro Clan, epitomized the volatile nature of 18th-century Scottish nobility. His early tenure as Baron Fowlis was marked by prosperity and strength, earning him respect for his formidable presence in court and on the battlefield. However, his fortune took a drastic turn due to intricate clan politics and personal rivalries, leading to his swift and stunning fall from grace and subsequent exile.

In a quest for redemption, the Black Baron ventured across Europe, aligning himself with the forces of Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years' War. His military prowess shone anew on European battlefields, allowing him to regain his honor and contribute significantly to the Swedish victories. This period not only restored his standing but also enriched his life with invaluable military and political insights. Returning to Scotland, the Black Baron was a transformed figure, his experiences having



tempered his spirit and broadened his perspective. His legacy within the Munro Clan and Scottish history stands as a testament to resilience and the capacity for profound transformation. The story of the Black Baron, with its intense highs and lows, echoes the turbulent nature of Scottish clan history, embodying the perpetual dance of loyalty, power, and the enduring human spirit against the backdrop of Scotland's ever-changing landscape.



## Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

### The Mysterious Visitor at St. Mary's Well

In the rugged landscapes of the Braes O' Mar, Scotland, the legend of St. Mary's Well in Inverey narrates the transformative journey of an old man bearing the seeds of a new faith. Dressed in foreign attire and speaking an unfamiliar tongue, this weary traveler faced rejection and hardship as he wandered, seeking a morsel of food and a sip of water. His quest led him to Inverey, where locals, resistant to his message of a new doctrine, denied him even the simplest kindness.

Exhausted, the old man found solace at a small, bubbling fountain on a hill after crossing the tepid Ey river. He gratefully drank from the clear waters and dedicated the well to the Blessed Virgin, reminiscing his native France. However, his peace was short-lived as a local, opposed to the spread of this new religion, defiled the fountain. Miraculously, the fountain ceased to

flow only to burst forth anew, pure and fairer. The old man prophesied that, akin to the fountain's resilience, the truth he spoke would prevail.

This miraculous event sparked a transformation. The very man who cursed the fountain became an ardent supporter of the new faith, signifying the start of Christianity's spread in the Braes of Mar. Today, the legend of St. Mary's Well symbolizes not just a physical oasis but a spiritual genesis, marking a pivotal moment in Scottish history where ancient beliefs met new doctrines, weaving a rich tapestry of faith and folklore that continues to resonate through the ages.





# The Battle of Harlaw 1411

## Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Harlaw, fought on July 24, 1411, was a pivotal clash in Scottish history, marking intense rivalry over the Earldom of Ross. This earldom, spanning from Skye to Inverness-shire, was initially held by William, Earl of Ross, but on his death without a direct heir in 1372, the title passed to his daughter, Euphemia. Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany and Regent of Scotland, became her guardian, effectively controlling the earldom.

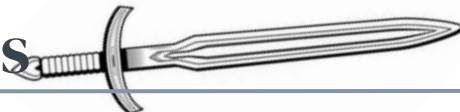


This stewardship was challenged by Donald, Lord of the Isles, who had familial ties to the earldom through his marriage to Euphemia's aunt, Mariota. Asserting his claim, Donald led a force of 10,000 clansmen into Ross, capturing Dingwall Castle after defeating the Mackays at the Battle of Dingwall. His campaign aimed at seizing Aberdeen, a strategic northern city.

The defense of Aberdeen was hastily organized by the Earl of Mar, who rallied 1,000-2,000 local gentry, many armored, to confront Donald's advancing army near Inverurie. The ensuing battle was fierce and bloody, earning the name "Red Harlaw." Both sides suffered heavy losses: Donald's forces lost 900 men, while Mar's forces lost 600. Despite the high casualties, there was no decisive victor. Donald retreated, and within a year, Albany regained control of Ross and coerced Donald into surrendering. In a twist, the earldom was later granted to Mariota in 1424, securing the title within the Lordship of the Isles for much of the 15th century.

The Battle of Harlaw stands out for its ferocity and the scale of the confrontation, reflecting the broader conflict between northeastern barons and western clans. It is memorialized by a 40-foot monument near Inverurie.

## Scottish Clan Artifacts



### The Flodden Flag

The Flodden Flag is a significant Scottish relic preserved by the Faculty of Advocates, emblematic of the historic Battle of Flodden on September 9, 1513. It served as the standard for William Keith, 3rd Earl Marischal of Scotland, and was carried by "Black" John Skirving of Plewlandhill, East Lothian. Despite the catastrophic defeat suffered by the Scots and the capture of Skirving by the English, the flag was ingeniously hidden by Skirving throughout his captivity, safeguarding it from enemy hands.

After centuries within the Skirving family, the flag was bestowed upon the Faculty of Advocates in the early 19th century by William Skirving of Edinburgh. In an 1808 letter, Skirving detailed its lineage and his ancestor's bravery at Flodden,



emphasizing the banderole's historical significance. The Flodden Flag, though now faded to beige, was originally blue and is hand-stitched from silk, trimmed with pale gold silk fringe. The three stags' heads, a symbol of the Keith family, are painted on it. Signs of repair are evident, likely due to the damage incurred when Skirving concealed it during his imprisonment. The flag has been honored in significant exhibitions, such as the 1891 Heraldry exhibition at the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and the 1999 exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery, underlining its cultural and historical importance.

# Highland Games and Festivals

## 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

## March 2024

**Phoenix Scottish Highland Games**  
**March 1, 2024**  
 Phoenix, AZ  
 United States

**Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games**  
**March 2, 2024**  
 Plantation Heritage Park, FL.  
 United States

**Fort Boise Highland Games**  
**March 16, 2024**  
 Parma, ID  
 United States

**Sherman Celtic Festival and Highland Games**  
**March 23, 2024**  
 Sherman, TX  
 United States

**Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival**  
**March 24, 2024**  
 Wantirna  
 Australia

**Maclean Highland Gathering**  
**March 29, 2024**  
 23a Roderick Street, Maclean NSW  
 Australia

## *Correspondence (In response to The Battle of Dingwall - Jan. 2024 SCC)*

I enjoyed the newsletter but thought you fell into the Lowland mindset of thinking Harlaw was "inconclusive". Not so. In my research for my novel *The Strongest Heart*, published in 2023, I discovered the following, which I included in my Author's Note: To say Donald had the victory at Harlaw is an understatement, as many sources attest. It has been a constant frustration to me how many websites and sources suggest Donald was "surprised" by Mar's forces and that Donald "lost" the battle. That is just not believable. Both armies had spies scouting ahead so Donald was not surprised. At Harlaw's conclusion, the Lord of the Isles still had at least 9100 warriors on the field while the Earl of Mar and the men he had left were lying on the field wounded. It is believed Mar started with around one thousand men and half were slain. (Keith Norman Macdonald, M.D., in his book *Macdonald Bards*, says Mar's men were "cut to pieces".)

As for Donald, even assuming 900 of his remaining 9100 men were wounded, with 8,000 fighting men remaining, he could easily have taken what was left of Mar's army and marched on to Aberdeen. As Donald J. Macdonald said in his book, *Clan Donald*, at p. 86, "That Macdonald of the Isles at the head of 8000 clansmen, or even half that number, retreated in dismay before a wounded leader lying prostrate on the field of battle surrounded by a mere handful of men, most of whom were crippled with wounds, cannot easily be believed by any unprejudiced person." Hence, another explanation for Donald's return to the Isles must be found, and I tried to present one that is logical given what I know of the man.

The nearest contemporary record is found in the *Irish Annals of Connacht* where, under the year 1411, it is stated, "Mac Domnaill of Scotland won a great victory over the Galls of Scotland." The 2011 article by Iain G. MacDonald, *Donald of the Isles and the Earldom of Ross: West-Highland Perspectives on the Battle of Harlaw*, is excellent and records the victory. The book *Bludie Harlaw* by Ian Olson discusses some of the primary sources that touch on the battle, though the author gets Clan Donald's history wrong in several places. The McKean Historical Notes, relating to the MacIain MacDonalds of Ardnamurchan, compiled by Fred G. McKean, 1906, at p. 38, refers to the Annals of the Old Abbey of Inis-Maccreen and mentions the "great victory" of the Macdonald of Scotland in 1411.

According to Donald Gregory, whose manuscripts are cited in the *Highland Papers* for May 1914, "Macdonald enjoyed the Earldom of Ross all his lifetime without any competition or trouble...but as long as the king was captive in England, the Duke of Albany the Regent used all his power to oppose him and impair his greatness, being vexed he lost the Battle of Harlaw." (*Highland Papers*, vol. 1, at p. 34).

It is thus an accurate statement to call Donald "the Hero of Harlaw", as I do, notwithstanding the Lowland accounts that say otherwise despite the glaring facts of the rout of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar. It is why he is known to this day as Donald of Harlaw. "In short, the upshot of the Battle of Harlaw is thus wittily summarized," said Patrick, Earl of Tullibardin, as he and other noblemen were speaking of the battle, "We know that Macdonald had the victory, but the governor had the printer!" (Macdonald of the Isles by A.M.W. Stirling, 1913, at p. 88.)

*From: Regan Walker (Author of The Strongest Heart)*

## Upcoming Clan Gatherings



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



**Clan MacKinnon**  
June 18, 2024  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
<https://www.themackinnon.com/scotland2024.html>



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



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



**Clan Lamont**  
July 20, 2024  
Location: TBA  
[https://clanlamontsociety.co.uk/Clan\\_gathering/](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](mailto:bagtownclans@gmail.com)**

**Thank you**



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## Featured Clan Crest



**CREST:** A lady affrontée from the middle upwards Proper in Azure vestments richly attired holding a portcullis Gules

**MOTTO:** A fin

**TRANSLATION:** To the end

The Clan Ogilvie originated in Angus, Scotland, tracing its roots to the ancient Celtic nobles known as mormaers. The name "Ogilvie" derives from the old British "Ocle-fa," meaning "high plain." The clan's history began before 1177 when Gillebride, Earl of Angus, granted the lands of Ogilvy to his son, Gilbert. Establishing themselves as influential local leaders, the Ogilvies played pivotal roles in Scotland's medieval history, serving as hereditary sheriffs and engaging in significant diplomatic and military activities, all while maintaining staunch loyalty to the Stuart monarchs through turbulent times of civil war and rebellion.

## 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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