







## Events


 Late-night Ceilidh  
St Andrews Town Hall  
Queen's Gardens, St Andrews, United Kingdom  
March 2, 2024

 Celtic Faire  
Calaveras County Fair, CA  
March 8, 2024

 St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival  
St. Augustine, FL  
March 9, 2024

 Celtic Fest Vancouver  
Vancouver, BC  
March 16, 2024

 Ceili at the Roundhouse Celtic Festival  
Evanston WY  
March 22, 2024

 Durango Celtic Festival  
Durango CO  
March 29, 2024

## Clan Ewing in Search of a Chief

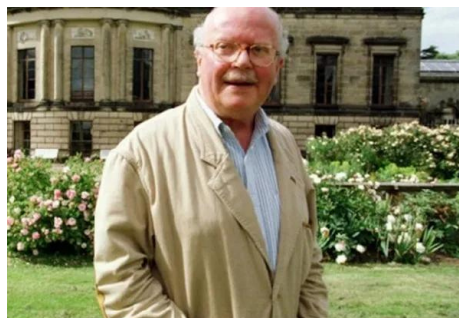
This year marks a historic moment for Clan Ewing as it prepares to appoint its first chief in nearly 250 years. Since the last known Chief, Robert Ewing of Craigtoun, passed in 1776, the lineage has remained unclear, prompting the need for a new leader. Under the interim leadership of Commander John Thor Ewing since the 2014 Family Convention, the clan has seen growth and increased recognition. The upcoming Family Convention, set for 21st September 2024 at Strathleven House, Scotland, and concurrently in Missouri, USA, will potentially see the election of a new chief, should no hereditary

claimant emerge. John Thor Ewing is among the candidates, and the event promises a pivotal moment in the clan's history, inviting participation from clansfolk worldwide. This occasion underscores Clan Ewing's commitment to its heritage and the future of its legacy.



## Clan Bruce's Legendary Chief Turns 100

As the legendary chief of Clan Bruce, Andrew Bruce, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, celebrates his centennial, his reflections highlight a profound connection with the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (the Elgins) stationed in Waterloo, Ontario. This remarkable milestone not only celebrates Bruce's long life but also his enduring relationship with a unit that embodies the spirit of resilience and excellence, traits synonymous with Clan Bruce itself. His tenure as honorary colonel underscores a shared legacy of bravery and service, a bond strengthened by his own storied military past and the regiment's



commitment to engineering prowess on and off the battlefield. Bruce's journey from leading Churchill tanks in WWII's Normandy to overseeing the Elgins' development mirrors a lineage of leadership and courage. His narrative intertwines with those of current regiment members, such as Cpl. Stephen Mann, who achieved his military aspirations later in life,

and Sapper Dylan Boyd, a young engineer motivated by a desire to serve Canada. These stories, alongside Bruce's centennial reflections, encapsulate the essence of dedication to country and clan.

The Elgins, praised for their "swift and true" responses to challenges, carry forward the legacy of their honorary colonel. As they build, train, and prepare for future endeavors, their actions reflect the values and history of Clan Bruce. Andrew Bruce's 100th birthday is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the enduring spirit of service and the powerful bonds that link past and present warriors.

## Restoring the Glencoe Clan Funeral Boat A Piece of Highland Clan Heritage

In a significant undertaking that resonates deeply with the Scottish clans' rich heritage, the Glencoe Folk Museum has embarked on an ambitious project to restore one of the last remaining Highland funeral boats. This historic vessel, once a vital part of the traditions surrounding death and remembrance in the Scottish Highlands, is set for conservation by Stephen Beresford, one of the UK's leading experts in historic boat restoration, at Windermere Jetty Museum in Cumbria.

The funeral boat, a relic of a bygone era, served a poignant purpose in Highland culture. It was used to transport the deceased across Loch Leven to their final resting place on Eilean Munde, an island that has been a sacred burial site for centuries. This vessel carried members of the local clans, including the MacDonalds of Glencoe, the Stewarts of Ballachulish, and the Camerons of Callart, linking the present with a past steeped in tradition and respect for the deceased.

Funding for this vital restoration comes from public donations and grants from prestigious organizations like the Association of Independent Museums, the Ballew Foundation, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This collective effort highlights the importance of the boat not only as a piece of history but as a cherished symbol of Scotland's cultural and social legacy.

The restoration process is not just about



repairing and preserving the boat's physical structure. It is a tribute to the boat's significance in carrying the stories and traditions of the Highland clans across generations. Project Director David Rounce and the team at Glencoe Folk Museum, along with the local group 'Munda's Men', who have been instrumental in preparing the boat for transportation, understand the weight of this responsibility. They are committed to ensuring that the boat continues to tell its evocative story of clan traditions, social history, and local folklore.

The museum itself is undergoing a transformation, with plans to reopen in the summer of 2025. The restored funeral boat will take pride of place in the museum's new exhibitions, serving as a centerpiece that connects visitors with the ancestral customs that have shaped the Highlands.

As part of the ongoing research for its new exhibitions, the museum is also collecting local reminiscences, seeking contributions from anyone with memories of burials on Eilean Munde. This initiative underscores the museum's dedication to preserving not just physical artifacts but the intangible heritage that these objects represent.

This restoration project is a testament to the enduring connection between the Scottish clans and their heritage. It embodies a collective commitment to preserving the history and traditions that define the Scottish Highlands, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and honor the depth of their cultural roots.



## Clan MacKinnon vs. Clan MacLean Famous Clan Feud

At the onset of the 15th century, the Mackinnon and Maclean Clans, initially allies, found themselves embroiled in rivalry and conflict, particularly after their failed attempt to challenge the MacDonald Clan's dominance in the Scottish Western Isles following the death of John, the Lord of the Isles. The failed coup led to the execution of the Mackinnon leader, while the MacLeans, unscathed, gained considerable influence over Mull, escalating tensions. A pivotal moment occurred in 1400 when, under the guise of a hunting trip, the MacLeans murdered the Mackinnon chief, seizing both the Mackinnon ship and the Lord of the Isles' galley for ransom. This brutal act of betrayal intensified the rivalry, leading to the Mackinnon chief's eventual exile and refuge-seeking in Ireland, from where he

launched a daring but symbolic assault on the MacLean stronghold, regaining his lands through a display of might and mercy.

The feud culminated in the battle at Doire Shuaig, where the Mackinnons nearly secured victory until a significant defection to the MacLeans turned the tide, leading to the Mackinnons' defeat and the chief's desperate escape to Skye, marking the clan's loss of significant territories. This series of events, marked by betrayal, strategic marriages,

and shifting allegiances, not only reshaped the power dynamics in the Scottish Isles but also signaled a profound transformation in the

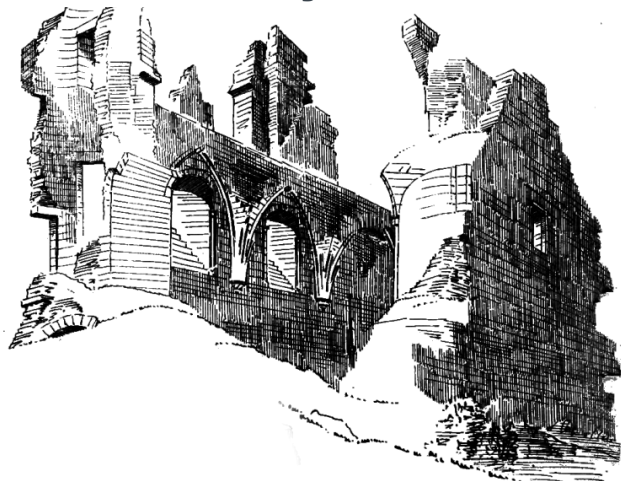
socio-political landscape, with the Mackinnons retreating to Skye, effectively ending their dominance in the contested territories. This historical episode encapsulates the intricate web of feudal loyalty, familial bonds, and the relentless pursuit of power.



## Historic Clan Castles of Scotland

### Craigie Castle Ayrshire, Scotland

Craigie Castle, nestled in Ayrshire, Scotland, embodies a historical saga stretching from its 15th-century inception to its current status as a cherished heritage site. Constructed by the influential Kennedy family, it epitomized the wealth and might of one of Scotland's most formidable clans. This grand fortress, with its



robust defenses, was not just a military stronghold but a bastion of lavish aristocratic life, where the Kennedys entertained nobility, indulged in the arts, and engaged in intellectual pursuits amidst opulent surroundings.

The castle's architecture, adorned with exquisite artworks and set against the backdrop of extensive gardens and estates, reflected the Kennedys' affluence and their patronage of the arts and outdoor activities. However, the late 1400s marked a decline in the family's fortunes, leading to the castle's gradual abandonment. By the 1800s, it had deteriorated significantly, serving merely as a farmhouse before being completely forsaken in the early 20th century.

Rescued in the late 20th century by a preservation society, Craigie Castle has been meticulously restored, with its structures, gardens, and historical essence rejuvenated. It now stands as a testament to Scotland's rich heritage, drawing visitors globally to admire its historical significance and architectural beauty.

## William Maitland and the fall of Edinburgh Castle

William Maitland of Lethington, a central figure in 16th-century Scottish politics, met a mysterious end following the dramatic siege and fall of Edinburgh Castle. A staunch ally of Mary, Queen of Scots, Maitland's capture symbolized a significant shift in Scotland's power dynamics. His subsequent rapid health decline, characterized by progressive paralysis, sparked speculation over its cause: was it natural or induced? The era, notorious for political assassinations disguised as natural deaths, fueled theories of foul play.

Amidst this backdrop, rumors proliferated regarding Maitland's death. Some posited that, confronted with defeat and potential execution, Maitland chose suicide to avoid disgrace. Others speculated murder by political adversaries, given his influential status and the enemies he amassed. This speculation was further complicated by John Knox's prophecy, which foretold doom for those opposing the

Protestant Reformation, adding a mystical dimension to Maitland's demise.

Maitland's death carried profound political implications, symbolizing the decline of the Marian cause and bolstering the Protestant faction's position in Scotland. The posthumous treatment of his body, left unburied initially due to political animosities, underscored the deep divisions he had engendered. His eventual burial, delayed until intervention by higher powers, did little to quell the swirling rumors and theories.

The circumstances surrounding William Maitland's death remain a captivating historical puzzle. Whether he fell victim to political assassination, succumbed to health issues, or chose his own fate, the true circumstances of his end are likely to remain debated. His life and mysterious death, set against the backdrop of Scotland's tumultuous history, continue to intrigue and foster speculation, epitomizing the complexity and uncertainty of this pivotal historical period.



## Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

### The MacLeod's Maidens: Guardians of Skye's Mystical Heritage

Off the Isle of Skye's rugged coast, amidst the Atlantic's fury, rise the MacLeod's Maidens, three colossal sea stacks veiled in the MacLeod clan's folklore. These geological marvels, intertwined with Scottish legend, reflect nature's artistry and cultural narratives. The Maidens—comprising the towering Mother and her smaller Daughters—owe their names to a tragic tale of a widow and her daughters lost to a tempest, their memory etched into stone by the remorseful sea.

Geologically, these basalt pillars are remnants of volcanic activity, sculpted over millennia by wind and water, symbolizing the Earth's dynamic evolution. To the MacLeod clan, they signify a deep-rooted bond with Skye, embodying resilience and clan identity through stories passed down generations.

Beyond clan lore, the Maidens enrich Scottish folklore, blending natural grandeur with mythical narratives.

They inspire artists and poets, capturing their majesty and mystery, and stand as a beacon for nature lovers, geologists, and photographers, drawn by their natural splendor.

As custodians of Skye's mystical heritage, the MacLeod's Maidens champion the preservation of natural and cultural legacies. Their tale, a blend of beauty, tragedy, and Highland spirit, continues to resonate, ensuring their legend endures as a testament to the Isle of Skye's enchantment and wonder.



# The Battle of Harpsdale 1426

## Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Harpsdale, also known by the names Battle of Achardale or Battle of Harpasdal, marks a pivotal moment in Scottish history, occurring in 1426. This conflict unfolded in Caithness, Scotland, specifically at Achardale, located approximately 8 miles south of Thurso. It pitted two prominent clans against each other: Clan Mackay and Clan Gunn, showcasing the turbulent nature of Scottish clan



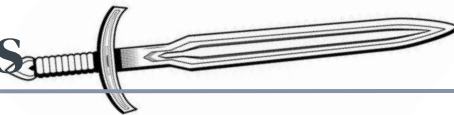
dynamics during the era.

Sir Robert Gordon's authoritative work, "Genealogical History of the Earldom of Sutherland," chronicles the events leading up to and following the battle. Angus-Dow Mackay, leading Clan Mackay alongside his son Neil, initiated an aggressive incursion into Caithness. This move sparked widespread destruction and prompted the local populace to mobilize in defense, culminating in the fierce confrontation at Harpsdale. The clash was marked by significant casualties on both sides, leaving the outcome ambiguous in terms of a clear victor.

In the aftermath, Angus Du Mackay sought to reconcile with King James I of Scotland, offering his son Neil as a guarantee of his future loyalty. Neil was then detained on the Bass Rock, highlighting the king's broader strategy to subdue and control the Highland chieftains. This included the capture and punishment of other key figures such as Alexander MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, and his mother, Mary, the Countess of Ross. While some were eventually freed, others faced execution.

This battle is emblematic of the numerous conflicts that scarred the Highlands during this period, reflecting King James I's concerted efforts to impose order and consolidate royal power.

## Scottish Clan Artifacts



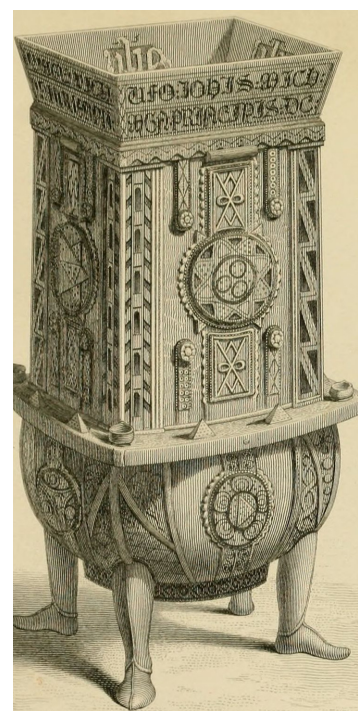
### The Dunvegan Cup

The Dunvegan Cup, housed in Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye, is a symbol of history and legend, connecting to the MacLeod clan's heritage. Dating back to the 15th century, this oak chalice, adorned with silver and coral, was a gift from the O'Neils of Ireland, signifying the bond between two powerful clans. Its inscription links it to historical figures, enhancing its significance. Traditionally used in clan rituals and celebrations, the cup symbolizes continuity and honor, integral to the MacLeod identity and Scottish clan culture. It represents resilience, history, and alliances, encapsulating the essence of Scottish clans through its craftsmanship and legacy.

The cup's significance extends beyond its role as a ceremonial object; it's a cultural emblem that

narrates Scottish history, clan loyalties, and social structures. Today, it attracts visitors worldwide, serving as a revered artifact and a reminder of Scotland's clan past. Its story is preserved through the efforts of historians, conservation experts, and clan members, ensuring its place in Scottish heritage.

Educationally, the Dunvegan Cup offers insights into Scottish history and clan systems, acting as a tangible link to the past. It also influences popular culture and artistic expressions, exploring themes of heritage, leadership, and tradition. For the MacLeod clan, it's a source of pride and identity.



# Highland Games and Festivals

## 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

**Kansai Highland Games**  
**March 24, 2024**  
Hattori Ryokuchi Koen  
Japan

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

## April 2024

**Dunedin Highland Games**  
**April 6, 2024**  
Dunedin Community Center, 1920 Pinehurst Rd., Dunedin FL 34683  
United States

**Winnipeg Scottish Festival**  
**April 6, 2024**  
Canadian Mennonite University, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg MB R3P 2N2  
Canada

**Hawaiian Scottish Festival & Highland Games**  
**April 6, 2024**  
Jefferson School, 324 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96815  
United States

**San Antonio Highland Games**  
**April 6, 2024**  
Hefotes Festival Grounds, 12210 Leslie Road, Helotes TX 78023  
United States

**Redstone Highland Games & Festival**  
**April 12, 2024**  
Sand Town Park, 600 N. Bluff St., St. George UT 84770  
United States

**Las Vegas Celtic Gathering**  
**April 13, 2024**  
Craig Ranch Park, 628 W Craig Rd., North Las Vegas NV 89032  
United States

**Halifax Celtic Festival**  
**April 17, 2024**  
Halifax Forum, Windsor St. and Young St, Halifax NS B3K 5E5  
Canada

**Loch Norman Highland Games**  
**April 20, 2024**  
Rural Hill Plantation, 4431 Neck Road, Huntersville NC 28078  
United States

**Ormand Beach Celtic Festival**  
**April 20, 2024**  
Fortunato Park, 2 John Anderson Dr, Ormand Beach FL 32176  
United States

**Great Plains Renaissance & Scottish Festival**  
**April 20, 2024**  
Sedgwick County Park, 6300 W 13th St., Wichita KS 67207  
United States

**Lone Star Celtic Festival & Highland Games**  
**April 20, 2024**  
Myers Park, 7117 County Road 166, McKinney TX 75071  
United States

**Kern County Scottish Games & Gathering**  
**April 20, 2024**  
Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P St, Bakersfield CA 93307  
United States

**Southern Maryland Celtic Festival**  
**April 27, 2024**  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, 10515 MacKall Rd, St. Leonard MD 20685  
United States

**Dragonstone Springs Highland Games**  
**April 27, 2024**  
Dragonstone Springs, 275 Adkisson Rd, Mt. Vernon AR 72111  
United States

**Stonehenge Celtic Festival and Highland Games**  
**April 27, 2024**  
Hill County Arts Foundation, 120 point Theater Rd South, Ingram TX 78025  
United States

## 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/>



**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>



**Clan MacInnes**  
July 11-14, 2024  
Grandfather Mountain  
Highland Games



**Clan Matheson**  
July 20, 2024  
Atterdale, Scotland

**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 boar passant Sable, armed Argent and langued gules

**MOTTO:** I byd it

**TRANSLATION:** I shall endure or I shall preserve

**VARIATIONS:** Nesbit

The origin of Clan Nesbitt traces back to the name's derivation from a geographical feature, likely indicating a "nose-shaped hill" or "nose-bend," associated with the lands of Nesbit near Edrom, symbolizing Scottish heritage. Alexander Nisbet (1657-1725), a notable clan member and heraldry authority, authored "System of Heraldry," cementing the clan's historical significance. Historical figures like William de Nesbite, marking the clan's early record in the 1160s, and Philip de Nesbit in the Ragman Roll of 1296, showcase the clan's longstanding presence in Scotland.

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

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