

Newsletter



Events



Kilt and Cowboy Boots Clan Gathering
San Antonio, Texas
April 4 - 7, 2024



Tartan Day
Various Locations
April 6, 2024



Dills Celtic Festival
Dillsburg, Pennsylvania
April 12, 2024



Colorado Tartan Day
Longmont CO
April 13, 2024



Halifax Celtic Festival
Halifax, Nova Scotia
April 17, 2024



The Battle of Culloden Memorial
Knoydart, Nova Scotia
April 20, 2024



Scottish Tartan Festival
Minden LA
April 20, 2024

Remembering Chief Robin Malcolm

In a solemn announcement, the Clan MacCallum - Malcolm Society of North America shared the heartrending news of the passing of Robin Neill Lochnell Malcolm, the revered 19th Laird of Poltalloch, who left us peacefully on March 2, 2024, at his ancestral home. Born into a distinguished lineage on February 11, 1934, Robin's life was a testament to his rich heritage and the profound legacy of leadership and service he carried forward.

Robin's early years were marked by resilience during the tumult of the Second World War, leading to an education steeped in tradition at Eton and specialized agricultural studies in Scotland. His dedication to his country was evident in his service as a Second Lieutenant with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a reflection of his unwavering commitment to duty and honor.

Robin's personal life was filled with love and dedication, having been

married to Susan Hillary Phillipa Freeman with whom he had four children, and later to Patricia Currie, enriching his family and estate with their combined strength. A steward of the land, Robin passionately tended to the Poltalloch estate, ensuring its prosperity for future generations.

The mantle of leadership passes to Ian Rory Malcolm, the 20th Laird of Poltalloch.



Clan Hepburn's Historic Castle is for Sale

An extraordinary piece of Scottish history, Hailes Castle, is up for auction with an opening bid of just £284,000. This 14th-century fortress, nestled a mile and a half southwest of East Linton, East Lothian, by the picturesque Scottish River Tyne, boasts a storied past deeply intertwined with the Hepburn family, one of Scotland's most significant clans during the medieval period.

Originally founded by Hugo de Gourlay before 1300, the castle has witnessed the ebb and flow of Scottish history, from the Wars of Independence to the turbulent times of Mary, Queen of Scots. Following the forfeiture of the



deGourlay family lands for their allegiance to England, the property was granted to Sir Adam de Hepburn by the Scottish Crown, marking the beginning of the Hepburns' centuries-long association with the castle.

Significant extensions by Sir Patrick Hepburn in the 15th century, including the construction of a massive west tower and a lower

east tower, transformed Hailes Castle into a formidable stronghold. This expansion was not only architectural but also strategic, providing the Hepburns with a vantage point over the River Tyne and a key defense against English invasions.

Hailes Castle's historical importance is further underscored by its role in significant events, such as its successful defense against Harry Hotspur Percy in 1400 and its siege during the war of the Rough Wooing in 1547. Moreover, its connection to James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell, and Mary, Queen of Scots, adds a romantic yet somber note to its legacy.

The Stone of Destiny's Symbolic Homecoming

In a momentous homecoming that reverberates through the heart of Scotland and its storied clans, the Stone of Destiny has returned to Perthshire, its ancestral land. For more than 700 years, this iconic symbol of Scottish sovereignty and pride was absent from the region, encapsulating centuries of history, power, and the spirit of a nation. Its return marks not just a physical relocation but a profound reconnection with Scotland's ancient roots and the clans that have shaped its history.

The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, holds a place of unparalleled significance in the lore of Scotland and its clans. Traditionally used in the inauguration of Scottish kings, the stone is a tangible link to Scotland's early medieval past, where it witnessed the rise of the kingdom of Alba, the precursor to modern Scotland. Its original home at Scone, near Perth, was a major royal center, deeply intertwined with the destinies of the Scottish clans that played pivotal roles in the nation's formative years.

The stone's journey reflects the tumultuous history of Scotland itself. Seized by King Edward I in 1296, it became a spoils of war and a symbol of subjugation under English rule, only to be spirited back to Scotland by four patriotic students in 1950 in a daring act of nationalism. Though it was returned to Westminster Abbey shortly after, the stone's symbolic importance to Scottish



identity and independence remained undiminished. Its official return to Scotland in 1996, and now to Perthshire, is a testament to the enduring strength and resilience of Scottish culture and heritage.

For the clans of Scotland, the Stone of Destiny is more than an ancient artifact; it is an emblem of unity, tradition, and the indomitable Scottish spirit. Each clan, with its own rich history and legacy, is bound by a common heritage that the stone embodies. It is a reminder of their ancestral leaders who once gathered around it, of the shared struggles and triumphs that have defined Scotland's path, and of the enduring bonds that unite the clans as one people with a common past and a collective future.

The stone's new home in Perth Museum, following a £27 million redevelopment project, offers not just a venue for its display but a focal point for reflection on what it means to be Scottish. As clans and communities across Scotland and the diaspora celebrate its return, the Stone of Destiny stands as a beacon of pride, a symbol of Scotland's ongoing journey, and a touchstone for the enduring legacy of its clans. It invites us to remember our past, to celebrate our present, and to look forward to our future with hope and unity.

As we welcome the Stone of Destiny back to Perthshire, let us renew our commitment to preserving our heritage, strengthening our bonds, and carrying forward the spirit of Scotland and its clans into the future.



Clan Forbes vs. Clan Gordon Famous Clan Feud

The feud between Clan Gordon and Clan Forbes during the 16th century encapsulates the volatile clan dynamics and the impact of religious and political shifts in Scotland. Initially, the Forbes, a dominant power in the North, faced a rising challenge from the Gordons, leading to a bitter rivalry marked by violence and power struggles. The conflict escalated following the murder of Alexander Seton by the Master of Forbes, leading to legal and retaliatory actions that underscored the intertwining of personal vendettas with broader political systems.

The Protestant Reformation added a religious dimension, with the Gordons staying Catholic and the Forbes converting to Protestantism, deepening the feud. Attempts at reconciliation, such as strategic marriages, failed disastrously,

culminating in the massacre at Druminnor Castle. Significant battles, like Tillieangus and the attack on Cargarff Castle, demonstrated the brutal tactics and severe consequences of clan warfare, with significant casualties and lasting animosities.

The involvement of the Scottish Protestant Government and legislative efforts to end the conflict illustrate the broader societal attempts to mitigate such destructive feuds. However, by

the end of the century, the feud had financially crippled the Forbes, leading to the sale of clan properties and



illustrating the

devastating long-term effects of sustained conflict on clan stability and prosperity. This feud not only highlights the complex interplay of personal, religious, and political loyalties but also the profound impact of clan rivalries on Scotland's historical landscape.

Historic Clan Castles of Scotland



Drummelzier Castle

Tweed Valley, Scotland

Drummelzier Castle, with its evocative ruins lying quietly near the River Tweed, is a site steeped in the rich tapestry of Scottish Borders history. Once the proud seat of the Tweedie family, this ancient stronghold's legacy is a blend of power, decline, and enduring mystique. Strategically positioned within the Tweed Valley, Drummelzier Castle was part of an extensive network of peel towers designed to guard and oversee this historically



tumultuous region. The fortress was first bestowed upon Roger de Twydyn around the year 1320, marking the beginning of centuries of Tweedie stewardship.

However, as the centuries wore on, the fortunes of the Tweedie family waned, culminating in the sale of the barony in 1633. The once mighty castle, having lost its noble residents, was left to succumb to the ravages of time and neglect. Today, the remnants of its grandeur are embedded within the landscape of modern agricultural life, with only the base of its south tower left standing as a stark reminder of its past glory.

Despite the physical decay, the essence of Drummelzier Castle lives on. It embodies stories of familial legacies, feudal strife, and the inevitable passage of history. Its place in Scottish lore is further romanticized by associations with legendary figures and tales of ancient feuds. As a relic of Scotland's turbulent past, Drummelzier Castle remains a poignant landmark, inviting reflection on the layers of history that have shaped the Scottish Borders.

Sir John Dalrymple

The Architect of Scotland's Glorious Revolution?

The Glorious Revolution of 1688-1689 in Britain marked the end of King James II's reign due to his Catholic faith and autocratic rule, contrasting with the Protestant majority and a parliament seeking more power. This relatively bloodless shift established constitutional monarchy and parliamentary sovereignty. Central to the events in Scotland was Sir John Dalrymple, born in 1648 into a prominent legal and political family. Initially supportive of King James II, Dalrymple's Protestant beliefs and legal principles led him to oppose James's efforts to restore Catholicism and consolidate royal authority, particularly through the Declarations of Indulgence, which threatened Protestant dominance.

Dalrymple played a key role in secretly communicating with William of Orange, ensuring support in Scotland for William's invasion and the transition towards Protestant rule and constitutional governance. Despite his



contributions to the Glorious Revolution, Dalrymple's legacy is marred by his involvement in the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe, where members of the MacDonald clan were killed for not promptly pledging allegiance to the new monarchs. This act underscored the extreme measures political power could exert. Dalrymple's life exemplifies the complexities of political maneuvering, showcasing his strategic importance in navigating Scotland through a pivotal historical moment while also highlighting the moral ambiguities of his actions. His influence on Scottish history is significant, yet his legacy is a blend of political acumen and controversy, particularly regarding the Glencoe massacre.

Scottish Clan Myths and Legends



The Enchanting Tale of Macpherson of Invereshie and the Shaw of Delnavert

In the mid-17th century, the Scottish Highlands were the backdrop to a story that has become emblematic of Scottish clan history: the romance between Macpherson of Invereshie and his bride from the Shaw family of Delnavert. This narrative intertwines love, tragedy, and the supernatural, showcasing the complexities of life in the Highlands and the intertwined destinies of the Macpherson and Shaw clans. The saga unfolds with Invereshie, described as a figure of considerable charm and determination, whose life changes upon meeting the Shaw lady. Educated and refined, she captivated him immediately.

Their courtship, set against ancient chapel ruins under moonlight, was as enchanting as any folklore, with Invereshie professing his love in a scene of ethereal beauty. However, doubt soon plagued Invereshie, pondering if his beloved was

mortal or a spectral entity of Highland lore.

Their wedding, a significant event merging two clans, turned tragic when the bride collapsed, sparking whispers of curses and her spectral nature. Consumed by superstition, Invereshie threw her into the Testae river in a fit of madness, only to realize his error and save her, an act redeeming himself and solidifying their bond beyond the reach of superstition.

Their tale, dating back to the 1650s, transcends a simple love story, embodying the rich tapestry of Scottish clan history.



The Battle of Drumnacoub, 1427

Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Drumnacoub was a clan battle fought in the far northwest of Scotland between the [Clan Mackay](#) and the [Clan Sutherland](#). The battle took place between 1427 and 1433 on a hill called Carn Fada, between Ben Loyal and the village of Tongue. The background to the conflict was a power struggle within the Mackay clan, with the elderly chief Angus Du Mackay and his second son John

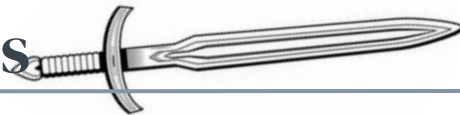


Mackay opposed by Angus's cousins Morgan Neilson Mackay and Niel Neilson Mackay. The Mackays were divided after the imprisonment of Niel Vasse Mackay, the eldest son of Angus Du Mackay, by King James I of Scotland in 1427. The Earl of Sutherland supported Niel and Morgan Mackay in their efforts to take the Mackay lands from Angus Du Mackay.

The battle was recorded by the 15th century chronicler Walter Bower in his work *Scotichronicon*. Bower's account of the battle describes it as a fierce encounter with hardly any survivors on either side. Other 16th century accounts by George Buchanan, John Lesley, and Sir Robert Gordon provide similar descriptions of the battle as a brutal and bloody conflict. The outcome of the battle is not clear, but it is believed that few of the fighters on either side survived.

After the battle, it is not known what happened to the Mackay clan or the individuals involved in the conflict. It is possible that the power struggle within the clan continued, or that the surviving members of the Mackay clan reconciled and moved on from the events of the Battle of Drumnacoub.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



Prince Charlie's Targe

Prince Charlie's Targe is an exceptional artifact from the 18th century, embodying the rich history and cultural significance of the Jacobite risings. This targe, a type of shield used traditionally in Scotland, stands out not only for its historical context but also for its intricate craftsmanship and the symbolism embedded within its decoration. Displayed at the National Museum of Scotland, it is a testament to the tumultuous period of the 1745 Jacobite rising and the personal story of Charles Edward Stuart, better known as the "Young Pretender."

The shield itself is a marvel of artisanal skill, featuring a tooled leather surface stretched over a wooden frame, measuring 20 inches across. Its decoration is lavish, with silver ornaments that include a representation of Medusa's head at the

center, surrounded by various arms and crests. These decorations are not just ornamental but are laden with symbolism, reflecting the power, protection, and defiance associated with the Jacobite cause.

The targe's provenance is equally fascinating. Initially presented to Charles around 1740 by James Drummond, the 3rd Duke of Perth, it highlights the network of support and loyalty around the Young Pretender. After the devastating defeat at the Battle of Culloden, the targe was recovered by government forces and subsequently presented to the Duke of Cumberland, marking a poignant moment of loss and transition in Scottish history.

In 2016, this historic piece was exhibited at Perth Museum, allowing a wider audience to appreciate its significance and beauty.



Highland Games and Festivals

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 Menonite University, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg MB R3P 2N2

Canada

Hawaiian Scottish Festival & Highland Games

April 6, 2024

Jefferson School, 324 Kapaehulu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96815

United States

San Antonio Highland Games

April 6, 2024

Helotes 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

May 2024

Savannah Scottish Games

May 4, 2024

Bethesda Academy, Savannah, Georgia

United States

Great Basin Scottish Highland Games

May 4, 2024

2200 Loop Road, Sparks NV

United States

Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games

May 4, 2024

Albuquerque NM

United States

St. Louis Scottish Games

May 11, 2024

Manchester MO

United States

Loch Badin Celtic Festival and Highland Games

May 11, 2024

Badin, NC

United States

Grand Valley Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

May 17, 2024

Grand Junction CO

United States

Saskatchewan Highland Games

May 18, 2024

Regina SK

Canada

Blue River Highland Games

May 18, 2024

Shelbyville IN

United States

Fair Hill Scottish Games

May 18, 2024

Elkton, MD

United States

Victoria Highland Games

May 18, 2024

Victoria BC

Canada

Smoky Mountain Highland Games

May 18, 2024

Townsend TN

United States

Alma Highland Games

May 24, 2024

Alma MI

United States

Ouachita Highland Games

May 25, 2024

Hot Springs AR

United States

Greenville Scottish Games

May 25, 2024

Greenville SC

United States

Greenville Scottish Games

May 25, 2024

Greenville SC

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-maclellan-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



Clan Hannay
 May 24 - 27, 2024
 Garlieston Village, Scotland



Clan Chattan
 August 1, 2024
 The Kingsmills Hotel,
 Inverness, Scotland



Clan Arthur
 May 10 - 12, 2024
 Loch Awe Side Dalmally,
 Scotland



Clan Grant
 August 9, 2024
 Nethy Bridge,
 Strathspey, Scotland

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

WEBSITE:

BAGTOWNCLANS.COM

CONTACT:

BAGTOWNCLANS@GMAIL.COM

Featured Clan Crest



CREST: A broken terrestrial globe surmounted by a rainbow issuing out of a cloud at each end all Proper

MOTTO: At spes infracta

TRANSLATION: But hope is unbroken

The Clan Hope traces its origins to Scotland and possibly France, with early members like John de Hope arriving in Scotland in 1537, intertwining with Scottish history and nobility. The family's influence grew significantly through figures like Sir Thomas Hope, a prominent lawyer appointed as Lord Advocate by Charles I, contributing vastly to Scotland's legal system. The Hopes expanded their legacy, acquiring estates like Craighall in Fife and Hopetoun in West Lothian, with members actively participating in Scotland's religious, political, and agricultural development.

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



Glen to Glen
THE SCOTLAND TOURIST 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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