

Newsletter



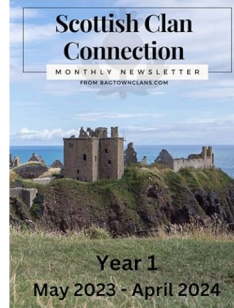
Clan Guthrie's Crusade to Protect Historic Kirk

In a race against time, Clan Guthrie has launched a fervent campaign to save the historic Guthrie Kirk, a cherished site that has served as a spiritual haven for over 1,200 years. Situated just behind the storied Guthrie Castle in Angus, Scotland, the kirk was constructed in 1826, though the site itself has hosted religious activities since the 9th century. The architecture of the kirk, with its serene surroundings and traditional design, holds a special place in the hearts of the Guthrie family and history enthusiasts alike.

Faced with imminent sale by the Church of Scotland, the future of the Guthrie Kirk hangs in the balance. The clan's initiative seeks not only to preserve the building but to repurpose it into a Guthrie Historical Visitor Center. This center aims to celebrate and educate visitors about the rich heritage of the Guthrie family and the broader Scottish history.

The importance of the kirk extends beyond its walls as a testament to the enduring legacy of religious and familial traditions in Scotland. Clan Guthrie's campaign underscores a community-driven effort to maintain their ancestral connections and ensure that this historic site continues to inspire and educate future generations.

Donations can be made at: <https://clanguthrie.org/saveguthriekirk/>



Scottish Clan Connect First Year Anniversary Yearbook:

May 2023 - April 2024 Hardcover – April 23, 2024

by Bagtown Clans (Author), Colby Threed (Author)

[See all formats and editions](#)

Delve into the heart of Scottish heritage with the "First Year Anniversary Yearbook" from Bagtown Clan Publishing, an all-encompassing chronicle that spans May 2023 to April 2024. This meticulously curated volume captures the essence of Scottish clan history, featuring engaging articles that celebrate the rich culture and tumultuous feuds of Scotland's storied clans. From the historic feuds between Clan MacGregor and Clan Colquhoun to the tales of the famous Scottish raider, Johnnie Armstrong, each story is steeped in drama and tradition.

Readers will explore sections on notable clan chiefs and their legacies, like Captain David R. Steuart Menzies, and significant events including the Lord Reay inauguration. The yearbook includes detailed accounts of the restoration of historical buildings such as Clan MacKenzie's Fairburn Tower and unfolds myths and legends like that of the Fairy Flag of Clan MacLeod.

This edition also highlights the ongoing efforts to preserve and digitize vital clan documents and artifacts, such as the ambitious "Lyon in Mourning" digitization project, bringing to light new insights into the Jacobite uprisings.

[View more information on features, on kindle, available on audiobook, and a comprehensive list of Scottish Highland](#)

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Chief Simon Fraser Expresses Concern Over SSEN's Expansion Plans on Traditional Clan Lands

In a recent development that has stirred concerns among the local community and heritage advocates, Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has disclosed plans to significantly expand its project area for a new electricity substation on ancient lands governed by the Fraser Clan. The proposed substation, a key component of SSEN's £7 billion infrastructure upgrade aimed at enhancing the UK's energy capacity, particularly in northern Scotland, has raised eyebrows due to its vast scale and potential impact on the scenic and historic Lovat Estates near Beaulieu.

The chief of Clan Fraser, Simon Fraser, the 18th Lord Lovat, who is



currently the 25th head of the clan, has voiced his surprise and concern regarding the sudden expansion of the project's scope. Initially, SSEN's proposal described a development covering 60 acres, but recent plans have shown an area exceeding 860 acres. This adjustment primarily accommodates ancillary works such as drainage systems, which SSEN claims are necessary for the substation's functionality.

The local community, supported by the clan chief, has expressed significant anxiety over what they term a "monstrosity." They fear that this large-scale industrialization could irrevocably alter the landscape of the Lovat Estates, which have been under the stewardship of Clan Fraser since the 13th century. The expansion of the project's boundaries could potentially lead to environmental degradation and affect the health and quality of life of local residents. Despite SSEN's reassurances that many of the development's components are temporary and aimed at minimizing visual impact,

Clan Chief's Shoe Buckle Found at Culloden

In a significant archaeological discovery at the Culloden Battlefield, researchers have unearthed a variety of artefacts, including a shoe buckle believed to have belonged to a clan chief who was wounded during the infamous battle. This find, revealed by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), comes ahead of the 278th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, a pivotal event that marked the end of the 1745 Jacobite rising.

The Battle of Culloden, fought on April 16, 1746, was a brutal confrontation that lasted less than an hour yet resulted in the death of approximately 1,600 men. It was not just a battle but a decisive moment in British history that effectively ended the Jacobite efforts to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British throne.

The artefacts were discovered during test pit excavations and metal detecting across a 60 square-meter area near what was once the Government frontline. Among these finds, the shoe buckle is particularly intriguing because it is thought to have belonged to Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the hereditary chief of Clan Cameron. Known as "The Gentle Lochiel," Cameron was a staunch Jacobite who led his 400-strong regiment directly into the heat of battle.

According to Derek Alexander, NTS head of archaeology, the buckle's discovery alongside a piece of heavy lead grapeshot, which appears to have struck with significant force, suggests a



dramatic moment of impact. The position of these artefacts, found within 20-30 meters of the British Army frontline, supports accounts of Cameron being wounded by grapeshot in both ankles during the charge. This incident is one of the many harrowing stories of bravery and tragedy that unfolded during the brief yet intense battle.

The linkage between the grapeshot and the buckle, although not definitively proven, paints a vivid picture of the harsh realities faced on that fateful day. It's speculated that the buckle could have absorbed some of the impact from the grapeshot, potentially altering the injuries sustained by Lochiel. This find adds a personal dimension to our understanding of the battle, bringing us closer to the individuals who fought and suffered through those dire moments.

Donald Cameron of Lochiel's leadership and subsequent injury at Culloden are emblematic of the fierce loyalty and tragic fate that many experienced during the Jacobite risings. Despite his severe wounds, he managed to escape to France with Bonnie Prince Charlie, where he later died in 1748. His actions and leadership left a lasting legacy, remembered through stories passed down through generations and now, perhaps, through the discovery of his buckle.

As we approach the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, these artefacts remind us of the turbulent times that shaped the course of Scottish and British history.



Clan MacThomas vs. Clan Farquharson

Famous Clan Feud

The feud between Clan MacThomas and Clan Farquharson began in the early 1600s, rooted in land disputes and strategic marriages. After the murder of Robert MacThomas in 1600, his widow's marriage to Alexander Farquharson of Allanquoich, followed by his daughter Elspeth's marriage to John Farquharson, allowed the Farquharsons to claim the MacThomas lands in Glenshee, igniting tensions with the MacThomas clan who viewed these actions as a form of land theft.

The conflict intensified under the leadership of the 7th chief of Clan MacThomas, McComie Mor, known for his formidable strength and strategic acumen. He expanded the clan's territories in Scotland, enjoying initial support from the crown. However, political shifts with the restoration of

Charles II in 1660 led to disputes over land rights and further personal conflicts, particularly when Robert Farquharson reneged on a promise to marry McComie's daughter, marrying another woman instead.

The feud escalated with a violent episode on New Year's Day 1669 when Robert Farquharson captured McComie Mor in a surprise attack. The subsequent ambush led to the death of McComie's sons during a rescue attempt and a

costly ransom for McComie's release. More skirmishes followed, culminating in the Battle of Padarnarm in 1673, where McComie lost his remaining sons.

Following McComie Mor's death in 1676, weakened leadership and legal challenges forced the MacThomas clan to disperse. Many members sold their lands and relocated, adopting new surnames, effectively ending the feud.



Historic Clan Castles of Scotland

Tinnes Castle Drummelzier, Scotland

Tinnies Castle, also known as Tinnis Castle, stands as a historical testament to Scotland's turbulent past, particularly during the medieval era. Initially believed to be constructed in the 12th century, the castle was possibly built or fortified by Udark Fraser, marking it as a significant military stronghold. It later passed into the hands of the Tweedie family, who controlled it during the contentious periods of Scottish border



conflicts.

Strategically located at the entrance of the Strath of Biggar Water to the Tweed, Tinnies Castle was vital for overseeing and controlling the surrounding territories. Its architecture was robust and designed for defense, featuring quadrangular structures with walls approximately two Scots' ells thick (around 1.2 meters) and round towers at each corner. These design elements were not just for fortification but also accommodated living quarters above vaulted ground floors, which served as storage or refuge during sieges.

Despite its formidable defenses, Tinnies Castle's prominence in regional power dynamics made it a target during power struggles. In 1592, under orders from James Stewart, the castle was demolished, a decision reflecting its significant role in the ongoing regional conflicts of the time.

Today, the ruins of Tinnies Castle still evoke the landscape's medieval character and the historical importance of the Tweedies in the region. The site provides a panoramic view of Drummelzier.

Mary Forbes

"The Dumb Lady of Skene"

Mary Forbes, known as "The Dumb Lady of Skene," is a poignant figure in Scottish history, epitomizing resilience and the power of non-verbal communication. Born into the noble Forbes family, her life is notably marked by a controversial marriage to a Skene laird, orchestrated under deceitful circumstances that supposedly cursed the Skene lineage. Despite her inability to speak, Mary navigated her new role within a powerful clan with remarkable adeptness, employing non-verbal cues and possibly written notes to manage the Skene estate and assert her influence.

This forced marriage transformed her life, embedding her deeply in the Skene family's fortunes. Mary's tenure as the lady of the estate demonstrated her indomitable spirit and intelligence, as she overcame communication barriers and societal marginalization due to her disability. She earned widespread respect and significantly shaped the family's social



standing, challenging the prevailing stereotypes associated with disability by showcasing her capabilities and dignity.

Mary's legacy offers profound insights into historical perceptions of disability, emphasizing that it does not equate to inability. Her story, which has taken on a near-legendary status, underscores the often underappreciated role of women in Scottish clan societies, particularly in leadership and management. Her life continues to inspire, serving as a testament to the enduring human spirit and the impact of overcoming adversity.



Scottish Clan Myths and Legends

The Story of Michael Scott

Michael Scott, a scholar from the 13th century, was a legendary figure whose life is woven with tales of the mystical and the arcane. According to myth, Michael was not only a man of deep learning but also someone who could commune with otherworldly beings, specifically fairies or "wee folk." This extraordinary ability allowed him to accomplish architectural wonders overnight, such as the swift construction of buildings and bridges with the aid of these magical entities.

One of the most thrilling tales from his lore occurred during a journey to Edinburgh with his companions. As they traversed a remote area, they encountered a fearsome white serpent. Unlike his terrified companions, Michael confronted the creature with unmatched bravery, using his staff to sever it into three parts. This encounter underscored his reputation as a fearless and powerful figure, capable of overcoming malevolent forces.

However, the adventure took a deeper turn when they met a wise woman who revealed that the serpent possessed the ability to regenerate and seek revenge. Following her counsel, Michael sought to prevent the serpent's full recovery, thus adding layers to his mystical capabilities.

The origin of Michael Scott's myth likely stems from the historical figure's reputation combined with the rich folklore of Scotland. His tales blend real-life achievements in scholarship with fantastical elements, creating a vibrant legacy that highlights the interplay between human endeavor and the supernatural.



The Battle of Palm Sunday, 1427

Famous Clan Battle

The Battle of Palm Sunday, also known as the Massacre of Palm Sunday, unfolded tragically in the Scottish Highlands in 1429, marking a brutal chapter between Clan Cameron and the Clan Chattan confederation. Historical chronicles like Walter Bower's *Scotichronicon*, John Major's *History of Greater Britain*, and George Buchanan's *Rerum*

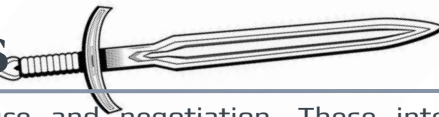


Scoticarum Historia, recount this bloody clan confrontation. The origins of the clash trace back to both clans' abandonment of Alexander of Islay, Earl of Ross, to align with the king. On Palm Sunday, while the Clan Cameron members were engaged in church worship, they were violently attacked by Clan Chattan, igniting a fierce battle that resulted in significant casualties on both sides.

Details on the battle vary across sources, but all concur on its violent nature and profound impact on both clans involved. Reports suggest that the Clan Mackintosh, leaders of the Chattan Confederation, orchestrated the attack, leading to heavy losses among the Mackintoshes and near annihilation of the Camerons. Some narratives describe the Camerons being almost entirely "cut to pieces," with devastating losses for the Mackintoshes as well.

The immediate aftermath of the battle remains unclear, but it undoubtedly deepened the longstanding feud, rooted in disputes over the lands of Glenlui and Locharkaig dating back to 1336. The Battle of Palm Sunday not only exacerbated these tensions but also likely set the stage for continued conflict, influencing the historical trajectory of the relations between Clan Cameron and Clan Chattan for generations.

Scottish Clan Artifacts



Lochmaben Stone

The Lochmaben Stone, a historic megalith located in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland, holds a profound connection to Scottish history and culture. Positioned nearly a mile west of the Sark mouth on the Solway Firth, this ancient stone stands prominently on the farm of Old Graitney. Known also by several names such as Lochmabonstone and Old Graitney stone, its historical significance is deeply interwoven with the Scottish clan culture and the local geography.

Historically, the stone served as a pivotal marker on the Scottish Marches. It was a site where Scottish and English forces met, either in hostility or parley. It was here in 1398, for instance, where an exchange of prisoners occurred without ransoms, marking it a site of

truce and negotiation. These interactions underline the stone's importance in medieval Scottish diplomacy and clan gatherings.

Etymologically, the name "Lochmaben Stone" reflects its ancient Celtic roots, derived from 'Mabon', a name associated with the Celtic god Maponus. This connection suggests that the area was once a center for the cult of Mabon, linking it to the divine and mythological heritage of Scotland.

Archaeologically, the stone is what remains of a larger stone circle dating back to around 3000 BC, pointing to its longstanding cultural and religious significance. Despite the loss of other stones over time, the Lochmaben Stone continues to captivate as a symbol of Scotland's enduring history and its deep ties to the land and its people.



Highland Games and Festivals

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

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

St. Louis Scottish Games
May 11, 2024
Manchester MO
United States

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

June 2024

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival
June 1
Central Park Wingham Isabella St, Wingham, New South Wales
Australia

Garrett County Celtic Festival
June 1
Friendsville Community Park Old River Rd., Friendsville, MD
United States

Port City Highland Games
June 1
3600 Burnt Mill Dr., Wilmington, NC
United States

Bellingham Scottish gathering
June 1
200 Marine Drive, Blaine, WA
United States

Milwaukee Highland Games
June 1
9100 S. 76th Street, Franklin, WI
United States

Cornhill Highland Games
June 1
Cornhill,
Scotland

Helensburgh & Lomond Highland Games
June 1
June 1Rhu Rd Higher, Helensburgh
Scotland

Markinch Highland Games
June 2
Markinch, Glenrothes
Scotland

Gathering of the Scots
June
Perth-Andover, New Brunswick
Canada

National Celtic Folk Festival
June 7
J87 Newcombe Street, Portarlington, Victoria
Australia

Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games
June 8
490 Meeks Park Rd., Blairsville, GA
United States

Carroll County Celtic Festival
June 8
706 Agriculture Center Drive, Westminster, MD
United States

Georgetown Highland Games
June 8
Georgetown, Ontario
Canada

Bearsden & Milngavie Highland Games
June 8
Glasgow Rd. Milngavie,
Scotland

Strathmore Highland Games
June 9
Glamis Castle, Strathmore
Scotland

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



Clan Hunter
 July 26, 2024
 Hunterston Castle, West Kilbride,
 Ayrshire, Scotland

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Featured Clan Crest



CREST: An anchor Proper
MOTTO: Spero meliora
TRANSLATION: I hope for better things

The Rait clan, with Germanic roots likely originating from the name "Rhet," settled in Scotland during the early medieval period. They were granted lands near Nairn and expanded into Perthshire and Fife. Notable members include Sir Gervase de Rathe, a constable in 1292, who appeared in the Ragman Roll, pledging allegiance to Edward I. Sir Alexander Rait's dramatic involvement in the killing of the Thane of Calder highlights the clan's turbulent history. The Raits solidified their status through marriages and military achievements, influencing Scottish society significantly over generations.

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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