

SCOTTISH CLAN CONNECTION

# Newsletter

CEANGAL CHLANN NA H-ALBA

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## Clan Carruthers Officially Inaugurates Its First Chief in Over 200 Years

On August 24, 2024, Clan Carruthers made history by officially inaugurating its first chief in over 200 years at the Gathering of the Clans in Annan, Dumfriesshire. This long-awaited ceremony marked the formal recognition of Dr. Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains as Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers, following his confirmation by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 2019. The chiefship of Clan Carruthers had been in abeyance since the death of John Carruthers, 12th of Holmains, in 1809. For over two centuries, the clan lacked a recognized leader due to the complexities surrounding inheritance and legal recognition. After

extensive genealogical research and legal proceedings, Dr. Carruthers' lineage was finally confirmed, ending the period of dormancy and restoring the Carruthers family to its rightful place among the Scottish clans.



## The Last of The Clan Galleys

TA unique piece of Scottish maritime heritage, the only surviving replica of a 13th-century Highland Galley, has settled into its new permanent residence at the Kildonan Museum on South Uist. Known as the Aileach, this replica represents a bygone era when such vessels were crucial for transport and warfare across the Highlands and Islands, symbolizing the strength and independence of Scottish clans. The Aileach, the last of its kind, was constructed in the early 1990s under the guidance of Ranald Macdonald, the 24th Captain of Clanranald and a descendant of Somerled, a Norse-Gaelic leader who originally designed these galleys. The project was born from a desire to preserve the historical significance of the Highland Galley, or "birlinn" in Gaelic, after centuries of wear and destruction left no original examples intact.

Andrew Macdonald of Boisdale, Ranald's son and a member of the Lord of the Isles Galley Trust, expressed pride in the Aileach's new home and its potential to educate the public about the boat's pivotal role in Highland history. He highlighted the stark contrast between the frequent discoveries of Viking

longships in Scandinavia and the absence of Highland galleys, which were largely destroyed during the 18th century. The Aileach's creation involved painstaking research, drawing inspiration from ancient gravestones and clan chief tombs to accurately replicate the design of the original vessels. Over the years, the Aileach has embarked on numerous journeys, from the Faroe Islands to Stornoway, and has played a key role in educational programs, giving children and adults alike a hands-on experience of 15th-century seafaring life. Now at rest in the Kildonan Museum, the Aileach continues to serve as a living testament to Scotland's rich maritime history.



## A Highlander Reboot?

The rumored upcoming "Highlander" reboot may offer us a thrilling return to the world of the legendary Highlands. Initially set to star Henry Cavill, this new film seeks to revive a beloved franchise deeply rooted in the lore of Scotland's immortal warriors. The original "Highlander," released in 1986, introduced audiences to Connor MacLeod, an immortal Scottish clansman portrayed by Christopher Lambert. Born in the Scottish Highlands in the 16th century, Connor's journey through time—battling other immortals to the famous refrain, "There can be only one"—captivated viewers. The franchise's success continued with multiple sequels and a popular television series featuring Duncan MacLeod, another immortal clansman, played by Adrian Paul. Henry Cavill, widely known for his roles in "Superman" and "The Witcher," was originally slated to join the reboot. Speculation around Cavill's potential character stirred excitement among fans. Would he step into the shoes of Connor, Duncan, or perhaps a new member of the MacLeod Clan? Cavill, a self-professed fan of the original series, shared his enthusiasm on social media, reminiscing about his childhood love for the Highlander universe—a rich blend of historical fiction and fantasy elements like the Quickening, the mysterious energy source granting immortality. Chad Stahelski, co-director of the "John Wick" series, has taken the helm of the Highlander reboot. Stahelski, known for his expertise in creating compelling action sequences, brings a fresh perspective to the franchise. He has expressed a keen interest in delving into the burden of immortality—a central theme of the original films and series. His approach appears to balance a respect for the franchise's roots with an intent to introduce fresh storylines, potentially exploring more of the MacLeod clan's history to captivate both long-standing fans and a new audience. Stahelski is joined by writer Ryan J. Condal, known for his ability to craft expansive and detailed narratives. Together, they form a creative team set on honoring the original series while also making it relevant for today's viewers.



Although specific plot details for the reboot remain under wraps, there is speculation that the film might explore new aspects of the Highlander universe. This could include a deeper dive into the origins of the immortals and the ancient clans they hail from. With a significant gap since the last major Highlander release, revisiting the MacLeod history could be crucial in reinvigorating the franchise. The new film will reportedly be shot in Scotland, which pays homage to the series' origins and promises stunning visuals that showcase the rugged beauty of the Highlands—a perfect setting for the epic clashes between immortals. While Henry Cavill's involvement in the project remains uncertain, the Highlander reboot is set to start filming in 2025, with a potential release later that year. Fans of the series, along with those fascinated by Scottish history and mythology, eagerly await to see if this new iteration can capture the essence of the original while bringing something fresh to the table. The main challenge for the reboot will be balancing nostalgia with new ideas. Can the new Highlander story stay true to the rich history of the clan while adding innovative elements to appeal to contemporary viewers? Only time will tell if the reboot will live up to expectations or struggle under the legacy of its predecessors.



# Clan Elliott vs. Clan Scott

## Famous Clan Battle

The feud between Clan Scott and Clan Elliott, two prominent Scottish clans, began in early 1564 with the murder of David Scott by a group of Elliott men led by William Elliott, the illegitimate nephew of Robert Elliott of Redbeuch, the clan chief. This event ignited a violent conflict between the two clans, which continued unabated until the Scottish Lords of the Council intervened. On October 21, 1564, a trial was held in Edinburgh, where five clansmen—four from Clan Elliott and one from Clan Scott—were tried. Three were sentenced to death and executed that evening, while William Elliott was banished from Teviotdale.

The Council hoped that these actions would end the feud, but they instead intensified the conflict. In the spring of 1565, the Elliots invaded Scott lands, burning houses, seizing goods, and killing clan members. The Scotts

appealed to the court for revenge, and although it is unclear if permission was granted, the Elliots sought protection from Lord Scrope, Warden of the West March of England, offering allegiance to Queen Elizabeth in exchange. While waiting for a response, the Elliots launched another offensive in May 1565, devastating Scott territory and killing many.

The Scotts retaliated by raiding Elliott lands, killing seven vassals and taking cattle. The Elliots countered with an attack in Hawick,



continuing the cycle of violence. This back-and-forth continued until Queen Mary of Scotland intervened, directing the suppression of the unrest. Despite a brief peace negotiated under the protection of English Wardens, the feud flared up again the following year when the Elliots were accused of killing two of Scott of Buccleuch's men. The Elliots ultimately pledged to align with the Scottish border clans, quelling tensions temporarily.

## Historic Clan Castles of Scotland



### Fruide Castle

#### Tweedsmuir, Scotland

Fruide Castle was historically linked to the Tweedie family, a prominent Scottish clan active in the legal and social spheres of 16th and 17th-century Scotland. The Tweedies were frequently involved in disputes over land, including those concerning Fruide Castle, reflecting the era's volatile landownership dynamics. Their engagement in numerous legal matters demonstrated their significant social status and the complexities of managing their



extensive landholdings, which included Fruide. The use of legal instruments such as sasines and charters was essential for transferring and recording land ownership, underscoring the legal frameworks governing estates like Fruide Castle. The Tweedies faced various challenges, including financial difficulties and conflicts with other prominent families, highlighting the precarious nature of maintaining land and titles during this period. A pivotal moment was the sale of Drummelzier, potentially including Fruide, to John Lord Hay of Yester, marking a turning point in the family's fortunes. This transaction illustrates the interconnectedness and shifting alliances among the Scottish nobility. Fruide Castle's history with the Tweedies reflects the broader societal and cultural dynamics of the time, highlighting the clan's role in shaping Scotland's landscape and legal precedents. The sale marked the end of the Tweedie family's association with Fruide Castle, concluding an era.

## Angus of the Isles

In the mid-15th century, Scotland was a land of shifting loyalties, clan rivalries, and political intrigue. One of the most notorious figures of this period was Angus of the Isles, a fierce and ambitious leader known for his rebellious spirit and relentless pursuit of power.

Angus was the illegitimate son of the Earl of Ross, a powerful figure in the Scottish Highlands. The political landscape was turbulent following the death of King James II in 1460, and Angus, alongside his father, saw an opportunity to assert greater autonomy. In 1461, the Earl of Ross allied with Edward IV of England, hoping to carve out an independent realm in the north of Scotland. This bold alliance led to a rebellion against the Scottish crown, with Angus and his allies seizing Inverness and proclaiming their defiance.

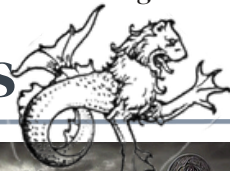
The ensuing years saw Angus embroiled in numerous conflicts, most notably the Battle of the Bloody Bay, a fierce naval engagement near the Isle of Mull. The battle, fought



against his father's loyalists, highlighted the deep divisions within the clans of the Isles, with Angus emerging as a formidable leader. His ambitions, however, did not stop at internal power struggles; he also led the infamous Raid of Athole, a devastating attack on the Earl of Athole's lands, marked by plunder and destruction.

Despite his military successes, Angus's reign of terror was short-lived. His ruthless tactics and disregard for peace ultimately led to his downfall. In a twist of fate, his own life was cut short by an assassin's blade in 1490, ending the career of one of Scotland's most turbulent figures.

## Scottish Clan Myths and Legends



### The Prophecy of Thomas The Rhymer

The Fraser family, one of Scotland's most renowned clans, is steeped in history, and their lineage is woven with both historical facts and intriguing legends. Among these tales is a prophecy attributed to Thomas the Rhymer, a legendary 13th-century Scottish seer and poet. The prophecy states, "While a cock crawls in the north, there'll be a Fraser at Philorth," suggesting an enduring presence of the Fraser family at Philorth, their ancestral home.

Thomas the Rhymer, also known as Thomas of Erceldoune, is a figure shrouded in myth and folklore. He was believed to have the gift of prophecy, a gift that earned him a place in Scottish legend. His predictions often carried significant weight, influencing the thoughts and beliefs of many across Scotland.

The prophecy regarding the Frasers is thought to signify the family's unbroken continuity and enduring influence in the northern part of Scotland. The estate of



Philorth, located in Aberdeenshire, became synonymous with the Fraser family from the 14th century onward, and the prophecy speaks to the clan's steadfast hold on their ancestral lands, despite the many challenges they faced over the centuries, including wars, political upheavals, and economic hardships.

For generations, the Frasers of Philorth have held this prophecy close, seeing it as a testament to their resilience and their deep-rooted connection to the land. The prophecy of Thomas the Rhymer serves not only as a mystical foresight but also as a powerful symbol of the Fraser clan's determination to maintain their heritage and legacy.



The Battle of Mamsha was a notable 15th-century conflict in Scotland, involving a clash between the Fraser and Macdonald clans. The Macdonalds, led by Alexander, Lord of the Isles, initiated the conflict by laying siege to Inverness Castle and subsequently burning the town to ashes. Lord Fraser, the chief of the Fraser clan, opposed the Macdonalds' attempt to pass through his territories, forcing them to take a longer, more arduous route. In retaliation, the Macdonalds decided to punish Lord Fraser and his clan for this affront. To achieve this, a force was left near Inverness specifically to attack the Fraser stronghold, while the main body of the Macdonald clan continued on their journey to Lochaber. This force was soon reinforced by new arrivals from the west, bolstering their strength and enabling them to lay siege to Lord Fraser's castle. However, the Frasers, being more numerous and well-prepared, managed to repel the Macdonald assault and drive them away from their territory.

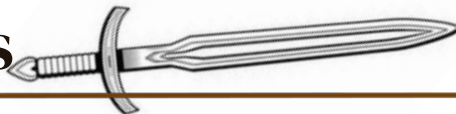
The retreating Macdonalds were pursued by the Frasers, leading to a series of skirmishes along their route. The final confrontation occurred on the moor of Caiplich, a few miles west of Inverness, where the



Macdonalds chose to make a stand against their pursuers. Despite their bravery and determination, the Macdonalds were decisively defeated and routed by the Frasers and their allies.

The Battle of Mamsha was a significant victory for the Fraser clan, reinforcing their position as a dominant force in the region. This victory not only boosted the Frasers' reputation but also served as a stark warning to other clans, including the Macdonalds, to avoid infringing upon Fraser territory in Inverness-shire. The memory of this battle had a lasting impact, with the Macdonalds becoming notably hesitant to confront the Frasers again, mindful of the defeat they had suffered.

## Scottish Clan Artifacts



### Monument to George Hay

The Kinnoull Parish Church, located in Perth, Scotland, is home to a significant monument dedicated to George Hay, the 1st Earl of Kinnoull. This monument is an intriguing feature within the church, capturing both historical and artistic interest. It depicts George Hay, who served as the Lord Chancellor of Scotland, in his official robes, standing within a grand, ivy-clad Corinthian portico. The monument's intricate design includes a table displaying the Great Seal of Scotland, symbolizing his high office. Above, a detailed heraldic panel adds a further layer of historical significance, adorned with fruit, unicorns, shields, and spearhead finials.

This monument is a testament to the Earl's prominent role in Scottish history. Born in 1572, George Hay rose to prominence as a loyal servant to King James VI of Scotland

and later King James I of England. He was elevated to the peerage as Earl of Kinnoull in 1633 by King Charles I, reflecting his significant influence and contributions to the Scottish court. The monument within Kinnoull Parish Church serves as a lasting tribute to his legacy and is an integral part of the church's rich historical tapestry. Visitors to the church can witness this remarkable piece of history, which stands as a reminder of Scotland's storied past and the notable figures who shaped its course.



# Highland Games and Festivals

## September 2024

**Longs Peak Scottish-Irish  
Highland Festival September 6**  
Estes Park Event Complex 1209 Manford Ave., Estes Park, CO  
**United States**

**Columbus Scottish Festival  
September 7**  
Bartholomew County Fairgrounds 750 W 200 S., Columbus, IN  
**United States**

**Middle Tennessee Highland  
Games  
September 7**  
Sanders Ferry Park 513 Sanders Ferry Rd, Hendersonville, TN  
**United States**

**Festival Celtique de Québec  
September 7**  
Quebec city, Quebec  
**Canada**

**Braemar Highland Gathering  
September 7**  
Braemar, Aberdeenshire  
**Scotland**

**The Kalamazoo Scottish Festival  
September 7**  
Kindleberger Park 122 N Riverview Dr., Parchment, MI  
**United States**

**Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland  
Games September 7**  
Bogles Field Essendy Road, Blairgowrie, Perthshire  
**Scotland**

**Flathead Celtic Festival  
September 13**  
Centennial Farm 563 McMannamy Draw, Kalispell, MT  
**United States**

**Scotfest Oklahoma September 13**  
Broken Arrow Event Complex 21101 E 101st St., Broken Arrow, OK  
**United States**

**Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival &  
Highland Games September 14**  
Niagara County Fairgrounds 4487 Lake Ave., Lockport, NY  
**United States**

**Ligonier Highland Games  
September 14**  
Idlewild Park Route 30, Ligonier, PA  
**United States**

**Pitlochry Highland Games  
September 14**  
Recreation Ground Ferry Road, Pitlochry  
**Scotland**

**Bowhill Highland Games  
September 15**  
Wallsgreen Park Station Rd, Cardenden  
**Scotland**

**Mittelland Highland Games  
September 27**  
Neuendorf,  
**Germany**

**Mittelland Highland Games  
September 27**  
Neuendorf,  
**Germany**

**North Georgia Highland Games  
September 28**  
201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA  
**United States**

**Prescott Highland Games & Celtic  
Faire  
September 28**  
3101 Watson Lake Park Rd., Prescott, AZ  
**United States**

## October 2024

**Scotland County Highland Games  
October 4**  
North Carolina Rural Heritage Center  
**United States**

**Aztec Highland Games  
October 4**  
500 S. Light Plant Rd., Aztec, NM  
**United States**

**Scottish Athletics Masters World  
Championships  
October 4**  
2497 FL-16, Green Cove Springs, FL  
**United States**

**Scottish Athletics Masters World  
Championships  
October 4**  
2497 FL-16, Green Cove Springs, FL  
**United States**

**TylerScotFest  
October 5**  
17002 US Hwy 69 S., Tyler, TX  
**United States**

**Rocket City Scottish Festival &  
Highland Games  
October 5**  
783 Coleman Road, New Market, Alabama  
**United States**

**Harpers Ferry Highland Games  
October 5**  
235 Sam Michael's Lane., Harpers Ferry, WV  
**United States**

**Oklahoma Highland Gathering  
October 11**  
2001 N HARPER RD, Choctaw, OK  
**United States**

**CelticFest Mississippi Highland  
Games  
October 11**  
1112 NORTH SHORE PARKWAY, Brandon, MS  
**United States**

**Seaside Highland Games  
October 12**  
10 W. HARBOR BLVD, Ventura, CA  
**United States**

**Indianapolis Scottish Highland  
Games and Festival  
October 12**  
7300 E Troy Ave, Indianapolis, IN  
**United States**

**Highland Festival & Games of  
Scotland  
October 13**  
Route 169 / Fair Grounds Road, Brooklyn, CT  
**United States**

**Arkansas Scottish Festival  
October 18**  
2300 Highland Road, Batesville, AR  
**United States**

**Stone Mountain Highland Games  
October 18**  
1000 Robert E. Lee Blvd, Stone Mountain, GA  
**United States**

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## Featured Clan Crest



**CREST:** A savage with dexter cubit arm couped and holding a club erect all Proper  
**MOTTO:** Fide et fortitudine  
**TRANSLATION:** By faith and fortitude

Clan Shaw's history begins with Shaw Macduff, who was entrusted with guarding the royal castle at Inverness by King Malcolm IV, marking the clan's entry into Scottish history. The clan expanded its influence in Inverness, faced conflicts with neighboring clans like Clan Comyn, and formed strategic alliances, notably becoming part of the larger Clan Chattan confederation in the 13th century. Clan Shaw played significant roles in key Scottish historical events, including the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and the Jacobite uprisings of the 18th century. Today, the clan's legacy is preserved through its distinctive tartans and the recognition of its lineage by the Lord Lyon in 1970.



We are excited to introduce "A Clan A Day," a new podcast hosted by Colin MacDonald that delves into the history of a different Scottish clan each day. Through engaging stories of legendary battles, key figures, and enduring traditions, Colin brings Scotland's rich heritage to life. Whether you're of Scottish descent, a history enthusiast, or just love a good tale, this podcast offers something for everyone. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Substack, or YouTube Podcasts to join us in exploring the fascinating stories of Scotland's clans.

## 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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