

SCOTTISH CLAN CONNECTION

# Newsletter

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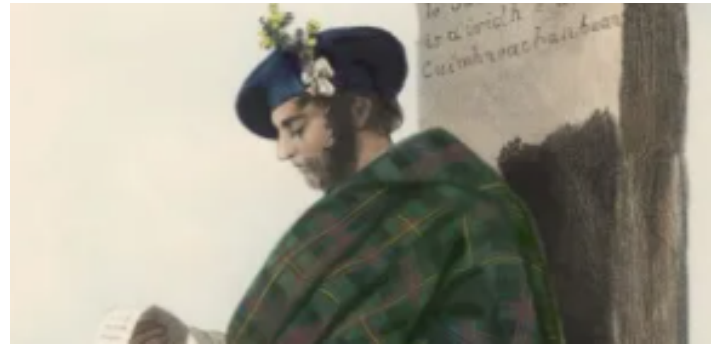
Vol. 25

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## Clan Logan Reunites to Rekindle Its Chiefship

For the first time in more than two centuries, the far-flung Logan family gathered in Edinburgh from 23–26 April for a Court-supervised Family Convention designed to revive its dormant chiefship. Delegates from Scotland, Canada, the United States, Australia, and elsewhere took their seats—some virtually, some in the historic capital—to review pedigrees, hear heraldic advice, and elect an interim leader. On 25 April, cheers greeted the unanimous selection of J. Kevin Logan of Michigan as Clan Commander. His three-year mandate is to knit together local societies, grow youth engagement, and identify the rightful heir

who can petition the Lord Lyon for formal recognition as Chief of the Name and Arms of Logan. Clan cousins worldwide are urged to share records and zeal to keep their quest alive



## Scottish Tartan Registry Records Its 10,000th Weave”

Tartan just stitched itself into a new chapter of Scottish history. On 4 April the Scottish Register of Tartans logged its ten-thousandth design: the deep-plum and gold “131 Argyle” sett, created for the Diocesan Boys’ School of Hong Kong. That global footprint captures tartan’s modern story—heritage born in Highland glens now colours classrooms, catwalks and comic-con halls from Toronto to Tokyo.

Founded by the Scottish Parliament in 2008, the Register approves hundreds of new setts each year, safeguarding clan heirlooms and reinventions alike. Recent arrivals show the spread: Rangers FC’s match-day check, the Balmoral Glen Gelder for the King’s estate, an “Edinburgh 900” plaid marking the capital’s nine centuries, and a Witches of Scotland sett honouring victims of the Witchcraft Acts. National Records of Scotland vets every pattern to ensure no two clash.

Entertainment keeps the looms humming. Outlander thrust Fraser and Mackenzie tartans onto TV screens and tourist itineraries; Doctor Who, Star Trek, Brave, and even The Simpsons sport official designs. Fashion houses riff on the grid for runways, while lifestyle brands now turn it

into leggings and picnic rugs.

NRS chief Alison Byrne says the 10 K mark proves “people everywhere love tartan and want their stories woven into Scotland’s fabric.” Anyone—Scot or not—can browse the database, adopt a pattern, or register a new one. Ten thousand down, countless threads to come.



## Will There Be New Relics Revealed Beneath the Culloden Sod?

On 7 April Highland Council's south planning committee approved outline plans for a 400-home estate immediately west of Culloden House, the Jacobite headquarters on the eve of the 1746 battle. The developer, Springfield Properties, proposes cul-de-sacs, green corridors and a primary school, but the chosen ground—known locally as Culloden Parks—formed part of the Jacobite camp and line of march. A council-commissioned heritage study therefore classifies the site as having “high potential” for artefacts linked to the last major clan battle of the rising.

Previous metal-detecting just beyond the boundary unearthed flattened musket balls, copper buttons and fragments of basket-hilt blades. Specialists now predict further relics only inches below the plough-soil: torn plaid brooches, brass heel plates, powder-horn caps and perhaps the personal effects of an officer cut down in the *mêlée*. Under the planning consent, professional archaeologists must supervise a phased excavation and maintain a continuous watching brief; construction must pause whenever significant finds surface, allowing cataloguing, conservation and removal to safe storage.

The National Trust for Scotland, steward of the core battlefield east of the new scheme, stresses that Culloden was fought across a broad, dynamic landscape rather than the neat rectangle marked by today's visitor paths. Military manoeuvres, camps and burial sites extended into surrounding farmland, so disturbing one corner risks erasing crucial evidence elsewhere. Clan organisations—MacDonalds, Camerons, Stewarts, MacGillivrays, Mackintoshes, Frasers and others—have lodged formal representations urging a wider protective buffer or an alternative land swap to spare this sensitive terrain.

Not every detail of the permission draws criticism. The blueprint protects an adjacent Bronze-Age cremation mound by keeping it within an open green and requires Springfield to host public archaeology days. Local pupils may stand beside trench edges while curators lift grapeshot from freshly



turned earth—an arrangement expected to spark interest in Highland history. Street names such as Prince's View or Claymore Crescent are also pencilled in, though historians point out that authentic heritage resides beneath the sod, not on signposts. Monitoring now moves to the discharge of conditions: the timing of the archaeological dig, publication of interim reports, and the handling of any Jacobite or Government relics recovered. With the 279th anniversary of Culloden only weeks away, the fields surrounding Culloden House again draw watchful eyes—not from mustered clan regiments, but from curators, planners and descendants determined that every shard of that fateful morning is recorded before modern foundations take hold.





## Clan Mackay

vs.

## Clan Ross

### Famous Clan Feud

The Mackay–Ross feud may date to the 13th c., when Kenneth MacHeth, a Mackay forebear, tried to grab Ross land and was beheaded for it. It roared back in 1486 at Portmahomack on the Tarbat peninsula. Alexander Ross of Balnagown ambushed Mackay raiders and burned the church where survivors hid, killing their chief, Angus Mackay of Strathnaver.

Angus's son raised Mackays and Sutherlands to avenge him. In 1487 they met the Ross force at Alt a' Charrais, Strathcarron. The Ross line collapsed; their chief and many clansmen were slain. King James IV answered with royal justice—he stripped Mackay lands in Strathoikel and Strathcarron for Ross loyalty, and in 1496 the Lord High Chancellor threatened a 500-merk penalty for renewed fighting.

Peace didn't hold. In 1517 the clans clashed at

Torran Dubh near Rogart. Mackays, aided by Mathesons and Polsons, were winning until the Gunns boosted the Ross–Murray side; Mackays and Mathesons escaped, Polsons were almost annihilated.

Months later Mackays struck back at Loch Salchie, killing William Mackay of Aberach, his brother, and Ross ally John Murray of Aberscross, then burned Pitfure in Strathfleet.

The feud simmered on.

In 1550 Donald Mackay and kin raided Balnagown again;

indicted for Ross murders, they walked

free when Alexander Ross failed to prove the case. At last, by the late 1500s, exhaustion and a new quarrel with the powerful Sutherlands turned Mackay fury elsewhere.



## Historic Clan Castles of Scotland

### Cadzow Castle

#### Avon Water, Scotland

Perched above the wooded gorge of the Avon Water, Cadzow Castle is more than a romantic ruin—it's the ancestral heart of Clan Hamilton. King David I granted the Cadzow estate to Walter fitz Gilbert c1315 for valour during the Wars of Independence. By adopting the territorial surname “of Cadzow,” Walter sparked the Hamilton line that would rise to



rival the Stewarts.

The towers that crumble today date to the 1530s, when James Hamilton, 1st Earl of Arran, replaced an older keep with a Renaissance-inspired stronghold fit for royal guests. Its halls soon echoed with drama: in May 1568 the fugitive Mary, Queen of Scots, sheltered here after escaping Loch Leven, protected by her kinsman James, Duke of Châtellherault. Hamilton devotion to Mary later cost the clan dearly at Langside and through the Marian civil wars.

After the Union of the Crowns in 1603 the fortress lost strategic value, and Cromwell's troops battered its walls in 1650. The family abandoned it in the 18th century for Hamilton Palace, leaving Cadzow's shell to whisper of bygone influence. Today, within Chatellherault Country Park, the ruin reminds us that clan fortunes—like its ancient sandstone blocks—are carved by ambition, and the shifting currents of Scottish history. Legends linger, inspiring Scottish pride, curiosity, and timeless historical wonder.

## James Andrew Broun-Ramsay Architect of Modern India's Map

James Andrew Broun-Ramsay, 1st Marquess and 10th Earl of Dalhousie (1812–1860), towers above every Ramsay for the sheer scope of his imprint on world history. As Governor-General of India (1848–56) he wielded the Doctrine of Lapse to bring Punjab, Satara, Nagpur, Jhansi, Oudh and other realms under direct British rule, creating the political map of modern India. At the same time he launched Asia's first railway from Bombay to Thane, authorised 3 900km of track, upgraded the Grand Trunk Road, laid a continent-spanning telegraph, and introduced a uniform penny-post—networks that still bind South Asia's economy. A rigorous administrator, he professionalised the civil service, founded own public-works departments, and opened colleges at Calcutta, Bombay and Lahore that became seeds of India's universities. Dalhousie's sweeping changes also lit the fuse of the 1857 Rebellion, ending East India Company rule and ushering in direct Crown governance. Even before India, he had



shaped Victorian Britain by steering the Railway Gauge and Harbours Acts through Parliament. Towns from India to Nova Scotia and an expanding Dalhousie University carry his name. Transformative, technocratic and deeply divisive, he altered the destiny of more than 250 million people—an influence no other member of Clan Ramsay can rival. Historians debate his legacy.

## Scottish Clan Myths and Legends



### How the Kerrs Fought Southpaw

Clan Kerr's legend of left-handedness is a Borders classic—half tactic, half boast. Chronicles claim the Norman de Ker rode north after 1066 gripping reins in the right and swords in the left, so foes misread their stance. By the 1500s ballads warned never clash blades with a 'corrie-fisted Kerr'. Ferniehirst Castle near Jedburgh confirms the lore: its stair winds anticlockwise, letting a defender descend and slash freely with the left while a right-handed attacker bumps the newel. Arrow loops cant the opposite way, aiding left-eyed archers. Victorian writers, ever florid, counted Kerr survivors at Flodden and said their shields on the 'wrong' arm spared them. An 1899 Jedburgh school survey found a surplus of lefties and blamed 'patrilineal habit'. Linguists add that Gaelic 'cear' means left or sinister, gluing wordplay to fact. Genetics offers no proof, yet the myth persists. Borders rugby fans cheer the 'Kerr curve', a left hook echoing ancestral sword craft, and



at clan gatherings the chief still lifts the quaich with his left hand. Born of stonework, training, or sheer border bravado, the story twists, like that castle stair, against the usual spin. Even Borders recruits still get teased for 'Kerr-handed' salutes—a nod to the legend's stubborn life still.



## The Battle of Clachnaharry 1454

Fought in 1454 on the rocky slope of Clachnaharry overlooking the Beaully Firth, this clan battle matched the returning raiders of Clan Munro against Clan Mackintosh of the Chattan Confederation. The Munros had lifted cattle in Perthshire; at Inverness the Mackintoshes blocked their way and claimed the customary “road-collop” toll. George Munro of Foulis was willing to cede a token share, yet Mackintosh heralds demanded half the herd. When terms failed, fifty Munros hurried the cattle east under Fraser of Lovat’s protection, while the rest formed a shield-wall at Clachnaharry and awaited pursuit.

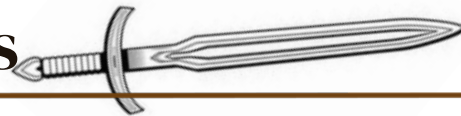
No contemporary chronicle survives, so all accounts were written long after and contradict one another. Sir Robert Gordon (c.1630s) and the Wardlaw Manuscript (c.1674) say the Mackintosh chief was present and slain. A Mackintosh family narrative of 1679, echoed by Mackintosh-Shaw (1880) and Shaw (1882), insists the chief stayed away and that only his grandson fought. John Anderson (1825) and William Anderson (1863) repeat the earlier version, calling the encounter “fierce and



bloody” and describing a crushing Mackintosh defeat. All writers agree the Munros held the ground and their pursuers suffered heavy losses.

A granite obelisk raised in the 19th century now marks the spot, ensuring that, despite the tangled oral record, the skirmish remains a vivid symbol of Highland raiding culture and the stubborn honour of rival clans today.

## Scottish Clan Artifacts



### The Appin Murder Gun

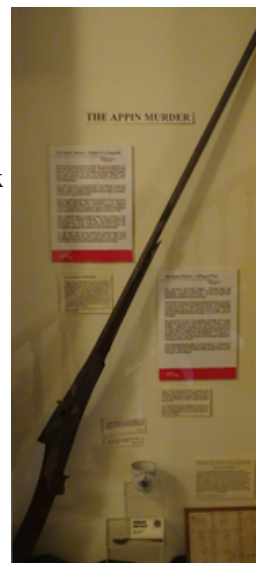
In a dim case at Fort William’s West Highland Museum stands a musket whose lone shot haunts Appin. Gaelic speakers call it An t-Slinneanach, “the Shoulder-gun”; lore brands it the “black gun of misfortune,” blamed for killing Colin Roy Campbell, the Red Fox, on 14 May 1752.

Spanish-built c. 1720, the miquelet flintlock fires a .66-inch ball. Legend says it could land a ball and “chaser” within an inch at 100 yd—matching Campbell’s twin wounds. After Culloden only three guns evaded seizure; secret trials chose this one and marksman Allan Breck Stewart.

About 1880 a shepherd girl found the weapon wedged in an elder tree above Ballachulish. “That’s the gun of misfortune!” cried the laird. From Dalness House it reached the museum in the 1930s, its chain firmer than three rival claimants. The bore is too

corroded for proof, so guilt lingers: James of the Glens hanged, Allan Breck fled, and Robert Louis Stevenson folded the tale into *Kidnapped*.

Note the faint brass inlay on stock and butt-plate, hints of Iberian routes that funnelled arms to Jacobite hands. Visitors often overlook a small indentation on the left side of the stock—a scar burnt by smouldering matchcord, evidence it once hung ready above a hearth. Curators say touching that charred hollow still leaves a faint whiff of black powder. The musket hides near the “Fort” gallery entrance; ask a steward if it eludes you.



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## Featured Clan Crest



### Clan Hannay Crest

**CREST:** A cross cressel fitchée issuing out of a crescent Sable

**MOTTO:** Per ardua ad alta

**TRANSLATION:** Through difficulties to higher things

The Scottish Clan Hannay, native to Galloway, traces its line to Gilbert de Hannehe, recorded on the Ragman Roll of 1296. From their stronghold at Sorbie Tower in Wigtownshire, the Hannays secured neighbouring baronies at Mochrum, Knock and Kirkdale, supplying soldiers and courtiers to the crown. Their fortunes peaked in 1630 when Sir Robert Hannay of Mochrum was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia.



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## 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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