



# CLAYMORE

The Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations

Spring Edition May 2023



## THE ROYAL MONTH

Courtesy of Buckingham Palace, April 2023





The Coronation of Their Majesties  
**KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA**

By Command of The King  
the Earl Marshal is directed to invite

to be present at the Abbey Church of  
Westminster on the 6th day of May 2023

Norfolk



# Stone of Scone leaves Scotland for Coronation of King Charles

The Stone of Scone will return to England for the first time in more than a quarter of century as it journeys to Westminster Abbey to play a role in the coronation of King Charles. At Edinburgh Castle a special ceremony was held to mark the legendary stone - which has become a symbol of Scottish nationhood - starting its journey south.

The procession was led by the Lord Lyon King of Arms - the monarch's representative in Scotland - and attended by First Minister Humza Yousaf in his capacity of Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland and one of the commissioners for safeguarding of the regalia.

Mr Yousaf said after the service, which saw the historic stone piped out: "It was a very significant, historical moment. I'm delighted to be a part of it." The stone also known as the Stone of Destiny will now make its way to Westminster Abbey and will be transported in a special oak carrier constructed largely from Scottish oak, made by carpenters at Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

When it reaches Westminster Abbey, it will be placed in the Coronation Chair for the enthronement of Charles, before returning to Scotland and put on display in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle in the weeks that follow.

Colin Muir, senior stone conservator at HES, has the task of helping to ensure that the stone gets to London safely and is installed into the Coronation Chair. "We've assembled a team that's involved in the transportation and installation of the stone and as part of today's events we were carrying it as a symbolic gesture through Edinburgh on its departure," he said.

## Moving stone is 'high-security operation'

The stone weighs 125kg but the team of six who carried it were lifting around 164kg given the equipment needed to transport it out of the Great Hall. The Coronation Chair was specially built with the stone underneath, and getting it back in will be a challenge. "It's extremely tight. In fact it will not go in straight. It's got bare millimetres to spare," Mr Muir said.

The stone is more fragile than it appears after it was repaired in the 1950s, and HES experts built a 3D print of the stone and chair to better work out how to reunite them.

Kathy Richmond, head of Collections and Applied Conservation at HES, said: "We've been working together with the collections team at Westminster Abbey to make sure that that's all done really carefully. "We've got to look after both objects because you've got to remember that the chair is also a very historic object that dates to around about 1300.

So the teams have been working to come up with a plan, and they've done all sorts of testing just to make sure that it's going to go smoothly."

## **‘Fitting return to Westminster Abbey’**

It is a high-security operation, with the stone a polarising object for many.

In 1950, it was taken from the Abbey in a daring raid by Ian Hamilton, Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson and Alan Stuart, with it eventually being found at Arbroath Abbey. Ms Richmond said: “We’ve been working very closely with Police Scotland to ensure that the transportation of the stone happens smoothly”.

The Lord Lyon said: “This occasion is not only historic but underpins the traditions and values of Scottish life. The stone has played its role in many royal occasions, and it is fitting it returns to Westminster Abbey to have its rightful position in the coronation of their majesties. It will be in safekeeping and returned to Scotland for future events.”

The Stone of Destiny has been used for centuries in the coronations of monarchs and the inauguration of Scottish kings. The earliest use of the stone and exactly how and when it became associated with king-making remains unknown, but legends around its origin strongly link it with kingship and the emergence of Scotland as a nation.

The last Scottish King to be inaugurated using the Stone at Scone was John Balliol in 1292. Since then it has been used by English monarchs, and then British ones when James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne upon the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603.

The last time it featured in a ceremony was for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. It was officially returned to Scotland in November 1996 and put on display at Edinburgh Castle on St Andrew’s Day that year.

(Original printed in *The Telegraph*, 28 April 2023)

### **Options for watching The Coronation**

**TV live: ABC, BBC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News**

**Streaming services: Paramount+, Sling, Hulu**

**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

**5:00 am ET talking heads**

**6:00 am - 8:00 am ET the Coronation Procession**

**3:00pm ET: The Coronation Concert**





Above: First Minister of Scotland Humza Yousaf, Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, checks out the Stone



Above: Presenting The Stone (top) and lifting The Stone prior to the procession (below)

Above: The Stone procession leaving Edinburgh

Right: The Royal Archers will protect the Stone on its trip south



# ANNUAL TARTAN DAY AWARDS

*The Annual Tartan Day Award* is presented each year to deserving Scottish-Americans by the Scottish Coalition, USA (TSCUSA). On April 6<sup>th</sup> of this year, it was presented as usual during the annual Tartan Day Reception in Washington, DC **to former Congressmen John Duncan (R-TN) and Mike McIntyre (D-NC), founding Co-Chairs of the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives (2002 - 2019 for Duncan, and 2002 - 2015 for McIntyre).** The award was presented jointly to them in recognition of their long and strong leadership in founding and chairing the House Scottish Caucus, and for sponsoring the House Tartan Day Resolution (H.R. 41), in 2005.

As in years past, the award was presented by the members of the steering committee of the five Scottish heritage organizations that together make up TSCUSA—a confederation founded in the late 90's expressly to lobby Congress to recognize April 6<sup>th</sup> of each year (anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland's declaration of independence from the English Crown, dating from 1320) as National Tartan Day—a holiday created by Standing Resolution of both Houses of Congress to recognize the many contributions of Scots, and Scottish-Americans, to the founding and subsequent development of the United States, in all fields of endeavor—political, economic, social and cultural. (This year, 2023, is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the original Senate resolution creating the holiday, which was followed several years later by a House resolution, containing virtually the same wording.)

Both Mr. Duncan and Mr. McIntyre attended the event and delivered extended remarks at the Reception. (For more details, see [www.nationalcapitaltartanday.com](http://www.nationalcapitaltartanday.com), Website of the DC-based National Capital Tartan Day Committee (NCTDC), which sponsored the Reception, together with a day-long educational Symposium, which preceded it.

The award was presented to Messrs. Duncan and McIntyre by Camilla Hellman, President of the America-Scottish Foundation (ASF); Peter Wilson, President of Scottish Heritage, USA (SHUSA); Kenneth Lloyd, the new National Commander of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS); and John King Bellassai, President of the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA)—all member organizations of TSCUSA. Both recipients were introduced to the assembled guests (about 100 Scottish-Americans from across the USA, as well as some in from Scotland for the occasion) by Dana Linnet, our host for the evening—a longtime friend of the Scottish American heritage community. (Dana was chief of station for the U.S. State Department in Edinburgh during the Obama Administration.)

The venue for the event was the DACOR Bacon House—an historic mansion house dating from the early 1800s, with deep Scottish roots, which is located in downtown Washington, DC, right down the street from the White House. (It is the headquarters of the retired foreign services officers' association.)



DACOR - Diplomatic And Consular Officers, Retired

Bacon House - named after Virginia and Robert Bacon





# NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

## H. Res. 41

### *U.S. House of Representatives*

**Whereas**, April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320, and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled in part on that inspirational document;

**Whereas**, this resolution honors the major role that Scottish-Americans played in the founding of the Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, and Scottish-Americans successfully helped shape the Nation in its formative years and guide it through its most troubled times;

**Whereas**, this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish-Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts;

**Whereas**, this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success; and

**Whereas**, these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as 'National Tartan Day' to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States.

passed, U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005, by unanimous vote.

S. Representative Mike McIntyre  
District, North Carolina  
Original Sponsor

*Mike McIntyre*







# 2023 Tartan Day Parade in New York City



The second of two articles of interest concerning the Orkney Islands will be published in the next issue of Claymore

# Ancient Civilizations in Orkney

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Editor, Photographer, Navigator

Part 2 of 2

## The Ring of Brodgar

“Looks like an assemblage of ancient druids, mysteriously stern and invincibly silent and shaggy”

*Scottish geologist Hugh Miller in 1846*

“..a common theory has been that they had some connection with the religion of the Druids, and may have been places of sacrifice.”

*J. Gunn - Orkney the Magnetic North (1932)*







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## Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc

*A 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

*COSCA was founded in 1976 by Dr. Herbert MacNeal and a handful of other dedicated volunteers for the purpose of supporting Scottish Clan organizations and preserving Scottish heritage.*

*COSCA's founding statement of charter and mission continues today as our current Trustees, members and volunteers continue to work towards the goals of:*

- Strengthening the Scottish American community by bringing individuals together with their Scottish Clans and Associations;
- Supporting our member Scottish organizations with training and resources to help them meet their own missions;
- Providing education and learning opportunities in Scottish fields;
- Building relationships with Scotland and the global diaspora.

*COSCA is not chartered nor interested in assuming management of individual Clan societies. This newsletter does not accept any responsibility for the opinions expressed within the newsletter, nor does it restrict the reasonable opinions of other groups.*

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