

Accommodation	Culture & Language	Gazetteer	John's Page	Postcards	Songs	Scots Diaspora
Agriculture & Wildlife	Donna's Page	Genealogy	Kids	Religion	Sport	USA
Articles	ElectricScotland.net	Haggis	Lifestyle	Robert Burns	Tartans	Canada
Beth's Family Tree	Famous Scots	Health	Music	Scots Irish	Travel	Australia
Books	Flag in the Wind	Highland Games	News	Scots Language	Trivia	India
Business	Forums	Historic Places	Newsletter	Scots Regiments	Videos	Germany
Children's Stories	Food & Drink	History	Pictures	Services	Weddings	France
Clans & Families	Games	Humor	Poetry	Shopping	What's New	New Zealand

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for May 18th 2012

CONTENTS

Electric Scotland News
 Electric Canadian
 The Flag in the Wind
 The Bards of Bon Accord 1375 - 1860
 Culross and Tulliallan
 Scotland Insured
 A History of the Border Counties
 A History of the County of Renfrew from the Earliest Times (New Book)
 Sport of Bowling
 Chic Murray
 The Capercaillie in Scotland
 Reminiscences of Golf on St Andrews Links
 Northern Notes and Queries
 An Account of the System of Husbandry



Electric Scotland News

Well I eventually got the presentation done that I started work on last week. Don't know if it will go anywhere but worth a bit of time to try and make something happen. If you are interested you can see the results at <http://www.eletricscotland.com/proposal.htm>

The video I did started off just short of 2 hours but I managed to get it down to 23 minutes.

ABOUT THE STORIES

Some of the stories in here are just parts of a larger story so do check out the site for the full versions. You can always find the link in our "What's New" section in our site menu and at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/whatsnew.htm> and also <http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

We try not to point to a pdf file and instead send you to page where the pdf can be downloaded.

Electric Canadian

Ten Thousand Miles Through Canada

The Natural Resources, Commercial Industries, Fish and Game, Sports and Pastimes of the Great Dominion by Joseph Adams.

I have been adding a new chapter of this book most days and we are now up to IX. In Chapter VIII we learn of Manitoba and the chapter starts...

WHEN we think of the years necessary to achieve the wealth and splendour of nations, and look at the Province of Manitoba, it almost seems as if some good genius had waved her wand, and lo, a barren lonely marsh and wild prairie are suddenly changed, and golden harvest-fields, lowing cattle, model dairies, comfortable homesteads and happy children rise as if by magic before our eyes. We not unnaturally ask, "Whence came these?" and then think of the city clerk's vision in Tennyson's "Sea Dreams," of a woman grown to enormous strength by "working in the mines," and like him wake to realize that honest toil—hard and matter-of-fact—is the secret of collective as well as individual growth.

The wealth that lies in the rich soil of this vast territory justifies the legend. Its output is seen in prosperous cities and towns, rapidly

spreading far and wide. When Manitoba incorporated itself in the Confederation in 1870, it had 17,000 inhabitants, and now upwards of 400,000 English-speaking people form its population. In 1870, its agricultural produce was not even recorded. In 1881, an acreage of 51,300 yielded 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, and 1,270,268 bushels of oats. In 1905, these odd millions jump up to over 55,000,000.

Only 5,000,000 acres of land are at present under cultivation, a patch compared with the actual possibilities, as Manitoba is larger than Scotland, Wales and Ireland combined, and contains 74,000 square miles of territory. Of this 30,000,000 acres are arable land.

You can read the rest of this chapter and the others at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/10000/index.htm>

Health in Canada

I decided to do some research on the health industry in Canada and so now have up an article on my own impressions since coming here as a kind of base marker for some future work. I have also added a page about Doctor's salaries in Canada and a couple of pdf books about early medicine in Canada which by one account at least wasn't very good.

You can get to this new section at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/health/index.htm>

Rugby in Canada

Managed to get a little history of the game in Canada which you can read at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/rugby.htm> and if you visit the Canadian Rugby page link I have provided you'll see that there are a few International matches coming up which you might want to go to.

Makers of Canada

I have discovered a 5 volume publication which gives small biographies of many of the principle people in Canada along with their portraits. This publication is called The Canadian Album: Men of Canada; or, Success by example, in religion, patriotism, business, law, medicine, education and agriculture; containing portraits of some of Canada's chief business men, statesmen, farmers, men of the learned professions, and others; also, an authentic sketch of their lives; object lessons for the present generation and examples to posterity (1891).

I have created an index file with the title page and index from the 5 volumes to enable you to check if there is a name you are interested in and if so in what volume. I will also say there are lots of Scots mentioned.

You can get to this at http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/canadian_album.htm

The Flag in the Wind

This issue was Compiled by Jamie Hepburn. I nice mix of articles in the Synopsis section.

You can read this issue at <http://www.scotsindependent.org>

The Bards of Bon Accord 1375 - 1860

By William Walker

Added the chapter on "John Ogilvie"

You can read this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/bonaccord/index.htm>

Culross and Tulliallan

or Perthshire on Forth, its History and Antiquities with elucidation on Scottish Life and Character from the Burgh and Kirk-Session Records of that District by David Beveridge (1885) in two volumes.

We are now up to chapter XXII of the second volume. In Chapter XXI we read...

SCOTLAND has long been pre-eminent as the "Land o' Cakes"—an epithet which, if Burns did not coin, he has certainly rendered immortal, by the opening lines in his elegy on Captain Grose:—

"Hear, Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots,
Frae Maidenkirke to John o' Groat's."

For, up to comparatively recent times, the great "staff of life" in Caledonia was oatmeal, whether in the form of cakes, porridge, or

brose—the last being the simplest preparation, as it merely involved the pouring of boiling water on the raw material. Though wheaten bread was always known, it was generally regarded as a luxury, only to be partaken of on special occasions; whilst the baker, as a public artist and purveyor, was a much less important personage than he is now—most households being, to a large extent, quite independent of his services. Amid all ranks, oatcakes, barley-bannocks, and occasionally flour-scones, were articles of universal consumption, and a regular baking of these commonly took place every week. It will readily be comprehended that this must have formed an important domestic institution, and that every house must have been provided with the proper implements for accomplishing this work. Of these the girdle, [Dr Jamieson derives this word from the ancient Swedish grind, the shovel used for the oven—or the verb graedda, to bake.] or circular iron plate, for toasting cakes over the fire, was the most necessary, and, as such, constituted a requisite in every Scottish family—as indispensable as the broth-pot or the washing-tub. And for many long years the only source of supply of so necessary a utensil was the town of Culross, which held a monopoly of the manufacture of girdles. Sir Walter Scott puts into the mouth of Madge Wildfire, in the ‘Heart of Mid-Lothian,’ the following reference to it:—

“The hammermen of Edinburgh are, to my mind, afore the world for making stancheons, ring-bolts, fetter-bolts, bars, and locks. And they arena that bad at girdles for carcakes neither, though the Cu’ross hammermen have the gree for that My mother had ance a bonny Cu’ross girdle, and I thought to have baked carcakes on it for my puir wean that’s dead and gane nae fair way.”

Another evidence of the celebrity of the manufacture is to be found in the threat which, it is said, an angry mother would sometimes hold over a troublesome child: “If ye dinna behave yoursel’ better, I’ll gar your lugs ring like a Culross girdle!”

You can get to this book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/culross/index.htm>

Scotland Insured

By J. M. Hogge, M.P.

We’ve now completed this book by adding...

Chapter VI - The National Insurance Amendment Act. 1913

Chapter VII - What the Insured person under the National Insurance Act should do.

Appendix - The Scottish Insurance Commission, complete list of useful addresses, etc. and List of addresses of Officers of Customs and Excise in Scotland.

You can read this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/medical/insured.htm>

A History of the Border Counties

Roxburgh, Selkirk, Peebles by Sir George Douglas Bart.

We’re now up to Chapter XI. Chapter X is about the aftermath of the Battle of Flodden and here is how it starts...

Nothing could exceed the desolation into which the country at large was plunged by the disaster of Flodden, The Scottish losses were estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000—including thirteen earls, fifteen lords and heads of clans, and, in fact—with the sole exception of Lord Home—almost every leading man in the country. There was scarce a Scottish family of note but lost at least one member. And, amid the general mourning, the Borders in all likelihood had most cause to mourn. The historian of Selkirk says that probably no district suffered more than that county, whose yeomen, as Crown tenants, would form the king’s bodyguard. There are traces of an old lament, of much sweetness and pathos, over the fallen sons of the Forest. But, by a strange freak of inspiration, Flodden waited long for its poet, and it was not till two centuries afterwards that the wail of the district found perfect articulation on the lips of Jane Elliot of Minto.

It was natural that local traditions should gather around this period of sorrow. Thus at Selkirk we find the story that, of eighty inhabitants who had gone forth to the battle, one alone returned. This was the leader, William Brydone, the town-clerk, who brought with him a banner captured in the fray, and was knighted by James V. for his services. Local tradition identifies the banner with that of the Weavers’ Corporation, which is still borne in triumph to the “common riding,” when the burgh bounds are ridden; whilst an ancient sword, supposed to have been Brydone’s, has also been preserved. A second story associates the sculptured figures on the burgh seal with a burghess wife of the period, who, beginning to despair of her husband’s return, wandered forth to look for him, and was found dead, at a spot thence called Ladywood-edge, with her baby at her breast. These tales scarcely stand investigation. The seal is, in fact, that of Kelso Abbey — whose connection with Selkirk has been described—the figures representing the Holy Virgin and Child. Yet, when stript of the overgrowth of fancy, the facts remain, and are supported by documentary evidence, that the inhabitants of Selkirk responded with spirit to the king’s summons to the field, that the bailies carefully superintended the necessary arrangements, and that every capable hand was impressed to assist in the labour of strengthening the defences of the town. A subsequent silence of two months in the burgh records is perhaps more eloquent than words.

You can read the rest of this chapter and the others at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/borders/counties.htm>

A History of the County of Renfrew from the Earliest Times

By William M. Metcalfe, D.D. (1905)

This is a new book we're starting on and we have the Introduction and the first Chapter up for you to read. I haven't found any decent videos of the area as yet but did put up one of a parade through the town. Even with it snowing many were in shirts as they paraded through the town.

The County of Renfrew lies between 55° 40' and 55° 58' north latitude, and between 4° 14' and 4° 54' west longitude. It is bounded on the east and north-east by the county of Lanark, on the south by Ayrshire, and on the west and north by the Clyde, with the exception of a small portion, opposite to the town of Renfrew, on the north bank of the Clyde, adjacent to the county of Dumbarton. The greatest length of the county, which is from south-east to north-west, is 31½ miles, and its greatest breadth, which is from north to south, is 13½ miles. Its area is 254 square miles, or 162,427 acres, 1294 of which are on the north of the Clyde. In 1901 the population of the county was 293,451.

The coast line of the shire, which on the west and north-west is bold and rocky, but elsewhere low and flat, extends from the Kelly Burn, near Wemyss Bay, to the lands of the House of Elderslie, in the parish of Renfrew, and is about 30 miles long. The chief promontories are Wemyss Point, Ardgowan Point, Cloch Point, Kempoch Point, Fort Matilda Point, and Garvel Point. The chief indentations are Wemyss Bay, Inverkip Bay, Lunderton Bay, Gourrock Bay, the Bay of St. Lawrence, and Newark Bay.

There are two islands in the shire : Newshot Island in the Clyde, about 50 acres in extent, and Colin's Isle in the Cart. Formerly the Clyde ran close to the Burgh of Renfrew and cut through the grounds of Elderslie House, and thus formed a third island, known as the King's Inch.

You can read this book as we get it up at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/renfrew/intro.htm>

Sport of Bowling

Added a couple of articles, "Bowling, a brief history" which you can read at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/bowling1.htm> and "The Game of Lawn Bowls", an introduction, which you can read at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/bowling.htm>

Chic Murray

This is a tribute to Chic Murray, one of Scotland's best comedians. You can read this and watch a few videos at <http://www.electricscotland.com/humour/chicmurray.htm>

The Capercaillie in Scotland

By J A Harvie-Brown (1888)

Found this book and thought I'd add it to the site as it was for a while extinct in Scotland due to over hunting. You can read the book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/agriculture/capercaillie.htm>

Reminiscences of Golf on St Andrews Links

By James Balfour (1887). This is charming wee book in pdf format that I got sent and wanted to share it with you. Those interested in the early days of the game will likely enjoy it. There are a couple of pages missing but you can read this book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/ReminiscencesGolfStAndrewaBalfour.pdf>

Northern Notes and Queries

We've managed to find other issues of this publication and so now continue the series by adding the March 1890 edition.

March 1890 Edition

CONTENTS.

NOTES.	PAGE		PAGE
248. Records of the monastery of Kinloss,	145	266. Knight of the Pope's Kirk, . . .	180
249. Old Date at Falkland Palace, . . .	147	267. Livingstones of Westquarter, . .	181
250. Scot's Transcript,	148	268. Slaughter of Sir James Stewart in 1445,	182
251. Shoemaker's Account, 1678, . . .	153	269. Pen,	183
252. Old Painting at Crail,	153	270. Linen Weaving,	183
253. Hogmanay,	155	271. Erskine of Dun,	183
254. Curious entry in Govan Register, .	157	QUERIES.	
255. Royal Pastimes in the Fifteenth Century,	157	CXXXVI. Marykin Maker,	187
256. Extracts from Culross Kirk-Session Records,	160	CXXXVII. Fothergill Family,	187
257. The Lyon Office,	161	CXXXVIII. Keith of Dunottar, . . .	187
258. The Ross Family,	163	CXXXIX. Submerged Cities,	188
259. Scottish Colony in Poland,	173	CXL. Kinneswood,	188
260. Extracts from Register of Baptisms, Edinburgh,	174	REPLIES TO QUERIES.	
261. Names of Places and Persons, . . .	175	XCI. Bennet Family,	188
262. Old Dutch Box,	176	XCVI. Sir William Sharp of Stonyhill,	189
263. Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, .	178	CIX. John Sobieski Stuart,	189
264. Scotland's Intercourse with Northern Europe,	178	CXXVIII. Walkinshaw of Barrowfield, .	190
265. Rose of Bellivat,	180	CXXXI. Napier Family,	192
		BOOKS RECEIVED,	192

This can be viewed at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/northern/index.htm>

An Account of the System of Husbandry

Adopted in the more Improved Districts of Scotland bly Sir John Sinclair, Bart. (1812).

Should you be interested in agriculture then I suspect you'll enjoy reading this book which you can get to at <http://www.electricscotland.com/agriculture/husbandry.htm>

And finally...

- Fitness Fanatic

"I've done 50 press-ups," the old fella in the pub proudly announced to his pals the other morning after returning from the local 'Geriatrics Gymnasium' . "Mind you," he added. "I did start doing them last November."

- Overheard in Edinburgh ...

An English visitor asking a shop assistant: "Do you have a CD of Rabbe Burns reading his own poetry?"

And that's all for now and hope you all have a great weekend.

Alastair