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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for February 8th, 2013

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Electric Scotland News

It's that time again when I look to getting a new laptop computer. I will say my laptops usually last me 5 years and my current one is now 5.5 years old so really way past time I got a new one. I normally purchase the most up to date one I can find and add 4 years extra warranty so that I am covered for 5 years. I've used Dell for the past 10 years or so and the only thing that has gone wrong is the DVD drive on both models. However once they diagnose the fault they ship me a new one next day delivery and I simply replace it and then send the old one back in the packaging they provide at no cost to me. And so it's another Dell for me this year as they do offer next business day on-site cover.

I have also purchased a 1Tb Clickfree drive that automatically backs up all my files and does a system image backup as well. This means if my hard disk failed I just need to insert a new one and then boot from the Clickfree device and it will restore the system with all my programs and files. It's a USB system so doesn't require a power supply so can take it with me if I'm away for a few days. I actually schedule a daily backup at 3am each day so am always well backed up.

And talking about being away for a few days... later this month I'm heading to Michigan to spend a few days with Steve. During that time I hope to get a couple of outstanding issues fixed and then we'll be looking at adding new features to our Community and web site. Then I'll be doing a complete mirror of the server to send to Simon Fraser University so they can start mirroring our site.

Electric Canadian

Canada and its Provinces

In 22 volumes and Index

I have now started to add these volumes and the idea is to make one volume available each week until complete. Should you be interested in this series then you'll be able to dip into each volume during the week and thus be ready for the next volume appearing.



Now added Volume 4.

You can get to this collection towards the foot of our Canadian History page at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/canada/index.htm>

Jack L Cooke

Jack L Cooke was born October 17th 1928 and spent his growing up years on the old farm on the Mitchell Road, near the village of Motherwell, in Fullarton township of Perth County, Ontario, Canada. Jack was a child of the 30's thus he has a much larger dimension of life than those who were born later. He learned early in life the difference between necessities of life and the luxuries. Thus he is better able to appreciate the good things life offers today, yet mourn some of what he left behind.

There was a time when no one locked their doors and milk came from your own cow or was delivered to your door. The mailman came 6 days a week and delivered mail and picked up letters from your mailbox. It was a time when the whole family walked friends or uncles and aunts to the horse and buggy or to the car to say their "Good Byes" because they knew they loved them.

However no one thing changed Jack's life so much as his hearing loss due to scarlet fever when he was 12 years old. It seemed all plans for a normal future were dashed. The world at that time, much more so than today did not know how to accept the deaf.

After wandering western Canada as a hired man for several years he returned to Ontario and took up barbering. Jack ran his own shop cutting hair for over 50 years in South London. He is now comfortably retired in London. Jack is the author of "Getting By In A Silent World" and a 2nd book "Motherwell - A Walk Down Memory Lane" and a 3rd book called, "Looking Back Over My Shoulder"

We'd like to thank Jack for giving his permission to put up his book. It is a thoroughly good read and I highly recommend it. My thanks also to Robert Stewart Publishing who first brought this book to my attention and facilitated contact with Jack.

You can read this book at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/jcooke/index.htm>

The Flag in the Wind

This weeks edition was Compiled by Claire Adamson.

Lots of interesting articles which you can read at <http://www.scotsindependent.org>

Electric Scotland

The Scottish Historical Review

We have now added the July 1905 issue at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/volume02.htm>

You can read the previous issues at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/>

Songs from John Henderson

John sent us in a couple of new songs this week and here is one to read here...

The Strushie [The Disturbance]

Lyrics composed by John Henderson on the 24th of January, 2004,
to part of a tune called, '[Gairloch Waltz](#)'.

Fan the sin drapp'd 'hint his snoot,
Lomond Ben wi'oot a doot
Howp'd pirr-winnies thraw the nicht
Seen his broo wud dicht.
Bit he loodly mean'd as gif tae say,
"Losh it's been a lang-thrang day;
Climers stompin' up an' doon
Upoan ma eildit croon!"

Lomond Loch, his narby freen,
Hard Ben's gant an' fit'd been deen,

Gled at least thit he cud kirn,
An' cowp boaties in.
Syne he bicker'd rauchly tae the wids,
An' the hoolets in thur midst,
"Soond yer hoots faar rattins creep
An' bid them strush fowks' sleep."

Lomond Ben syne fu' o' glee,
Jilpit aff a shoo'r o' scree,
Whilk sent furats oot an' in
Gnappin' banes an' skin.
Ools' 'To-Wit-To-Woos' kept up the ficht,
As feart chiels fled left an' richt,
Fyle freen Loch in sheer delicht
Bid aabody, "Guid Nicht!"

Glossary:

sin=sun; 'hint=behind; snoot=summit; seen=soon; pirr-winnies=breezes; dicht=wipe;
mean'd=moaned; thrang=busy; eildit=aged; narby=near by; gant=complaint;
kirn=churn-up (the water); bicker'd rauchly = moved quicky and noisily; hoolets/ools=owls;
rattins=rats; strush=disturb; jilpit=spilled; scree=loose stones; furats=weasels; gnappin'=biting.

Mind that John mainly writes in the Doric language of the North East of Scotland.

You can read more of John's songs mostly in the Doric language at <http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerels.htm>

Some Reminiscences and the Bagpipe

By Alexander Duncan Fraser

Have added the following chapters this week...

Chapter XXVII — The Romans and the Bagpipe
Chapter XXVIII — The Spread of the Bagpipe
Chapter XXIX — The Piper
Chapter XXX — The Bagpipe in Scotland
Chapter XXXI — Piping and Dancing dying out in the Highlands
Chapter XXXIa — Skye in 1876
Chapter XXXII — The Chorus

In the chapter "The Piper" we read...

"Who being- a Gentleman, I should have mentioned .sooner."— Burt's Letters, 1730.

"I KNOW no man," writes. M. Barrie, "who is so capable on occasion of looking like twenty as a Highland piper."

Dr M'Culloch, who wrote nearly one hundred years earlier, says the same thing, but in somewhat different fashion.

"The very sight of the important personage,—the piper — the eye of pride, and the cheek of energy, the strut of defiance, and the streaming of the pennons over the shoulder, form in themselves an inspiring sight."

No book on the Bagpipe would be complete which did not devote a chapter to the piper.

The piper, as Captain Burt said, was a Gentleman in the old days, and a very important member of the clan. None was more useful than he in piping times of peace; none more in evidence when the glen resounded to the tocsin of war. The clan piper was frequently a cousin or near relative of the chiefs, and held his lands in fee simple, and never needed to soil his hands with manual labour.

He was often an educated man, and a much-travelled one, as it was his duty to follow his chief to the wars.

He was welcome in the best company, and was treated as an equal by the gentlemen of the clan, and had every reason for holding his head high, and "looking like twenty."

You can read the rest of this chapter at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/bagpipe/chapter29.htm>

You can read the other chapters at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/bagpipe>

Songs Of Scotland, Prior To Burns

This book is by Robert Chambers who is famous for collecting old Scottish Songs. His publishing house produced numerous very important works many of which he authored himself. On the page for this book is a biography of him along with another song book he published.

We are adding individual songs in pdf format so you can print them out. As each song provides the sheet music, words and notes about the song it should be of great help to anyone wanting to play these. Added this week are...

Here's to the King Sir
The Black Bird
The White Cockade
Johnie Cope

You can get to this book at the foot of the page at http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/chambers_robert.htm

History of the St Andrew's Society of the State of New York 1756 - 1906

By George Austin Morrison, General Secretary of the Society

I have already published the [History of the St Andrews Society of Toronto](#) so thought this would be a great addition to our understanding of what the Scots got up to in New York.

This week we've added bios on the following Presidents...

Lord Drummond
David Johnston
Hon. Robert L. Livingston
Robert Lenox
James Tillary
Archibald Gracie
Robert Halliday

Here is a wee bit about Hon. Robert L. Livingston the 14th President...

The ancestry of the Fourteenth President must be sought in the archives of the ancient Livingston Family of Monyabroch and Ancrum, Scotland, which gave so many distinguished men to the Province and State of New York, and whose worthy representative, Robert Livingston, was the first to locate in the new land.

Robert R. Livingston, lineal descendant of Robert Livingston and of close kin to Philip Livingston, the first President, was the son of Judge Robert Livingston of "Clermont," Dutchess County, New York, and Margaret Beekman. He was born on the 27th November, 1746, in New York, and died on the 26th February, 1813, at his country residence at Clermont in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

He graduated from King's (now Columbia) College in 1765 at eighteen years of age and forthwith commenced the study of law in the office of William Smith, the historian of New York, and his kinsman, William Livingston. Admitted to practice in October, 1773, he was for a short period in partnership with John Jav, his class-mate at college.

Owing to his natural talents and the influence and importance of his family connections, he achieved success in his profession from the start, and was appointed Recorder of the City of New York by Governor William Trvon in 1773, but his lively sympathy with the Independent Party lost him this position in 1775. In the Spring of 1775 he was elected to the Provincial Assembly as deputy from Dutchess County, and on the 22d April, 1775, he was chosen by this body as one of the twelve delegates to represent the Colony of New York in the Continental Congress, and took his seat in that historic body on the 15th May, 1775. Here his talent and legal acumen earned for him immediate recognition and he was placed upon important committees, viz.: The committee of three to prepare an address to the inhabitants of Great Britain; the committee to draw up instructions "touching the most effectual method of continuing, supplying and regulating a Continental Army"; the secret committee of nine to contract for the importation and delivery of gunpowder and other military stores in which the American Army was lacking.

You can read the rest of this bio at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/newyork/bio14.htm>

The other bios can be read at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/newyork>

Robert Burns Lives!

Edited by Frank Shaw

This following article appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of the *Burns Chronicle*, a publication of The Robert Burns World Federation. It was written by editor Bill Dawson and relates to our web site *Robert Burns Lives!*. I wish to extend my thanks to each contributor over the years for their help in making our site what it is today. It is always a surprise to be reading a journal, turn a page, and there suddenly is an article concerning your efforts. Bill wrote in a recent email that "certainly (the) Chronicle endorses RBL! as I always have myself." The first *Burns Chronicle and Club Directory* was published on 25 January 1892.

I am grateful for the kind remarks, and thus their article becomes Chapter 162 on *Robert Burns Lives!*.

Robert Burns Lives! Publishes its 150th Chapter

You can read this article at http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_lives162.htm

The other articles in the series can be read at <http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns.htm>

Popular Tales

An interesting article by Alexander Macbain, M.A.

The first characteristic of folk-tale is its frank disregard of the ordinary conditions of our existence, and its equally frank belief in the human kinship of the whole world—animate and inanimate, The hero, in his seven-league boots, or on his wind-outstripping steed, annihilates space and time with almost electric speed, and sea and land are the same to him; for his boots and his steed can carry him with equal ease over both—nay, his powers of jumping fiery or prickly hedges, or of springing from his spear point to the window of his fair one high aloft in the towers, show scant respect to the law of gravitation. Animals have a human reason, and often a power of speech; indeed, they appear in the tales as far more intelligent and knowing than the heroes, for it is generally by their means they perform, or are kept from performing, those wonderful tasks they have been called upon to accomplish.

Dogs, birds, frogs, and all animals speak on occasions; and more than this, they may marry the heroes or the heroines! Not only are I animals humanised, or made to act like human beings, but all nature besides, plants and trees, stocks and stones, mountain and fell, wind and rain and sky, the sun and the moon—all are alive with the life and spirit we see in man and beast. A piece of apple or a human spittle answers to enquiries put. The stones of the earth tell Luga of the Long Arms that his father is buried beneath where they are. "Here thy father lies, O Luga; grievous was Kian's strait when he was forced to take the shape of a pig on seeing the three sons of Turenn." And as here, men may turn themselves, or be turned, into animals; and more than that, they may even be turned into plant, tree, stone, or any inanimate object, and still retain reason and power of self-recovery, or of being recovered by others.

A hero or heroine may become an animal, beast or bird or fish or insect; he or she may become a ship or a sword or a ladder, as the exigencies of the occasion may demand. People's hearts and people's strength may lie in some object or other, either about their own person, or well hidden somewhere else. Giants may have no heart in their body ; a hero's strength may be, Samson-like, in his hair, or his prowess may depend on an old knapsack, a hat, and a horn. The life of this earth is not differentiated from the life beyond. Heroes pay flying visits to the realms of the departed; nay, a tailor, neither good nor honest, may accidentally squeeze himself into heaven, and sitting on the best chair he saw there—the Throne of the most High, for the occupant happened to be away—he may see an old woman washing clothes down on earth at a stream, and secretly stealing handkerchiefs, and he may throw the footstool at her head in his virtuous wrath. Social life in these tales takes peculiar features. We have kings and queens and princes as our commonest acquaintances; gorgeous palaces, with surfeit of gold and silver, are our usual places of rest and abode.

Families have a habit of going in threes, the youngest of whom is the best; step-mothers are nearly always wicked, and always witches; stepchildren are always ill-treated. Husbands and wives get separated over the infringement of some command, or the unwitting breaking of some mystic rule. In the Gaelic tale of the Hoodie, the husband, who had already been a hoodie and had been rescued by the bride from this form, asks her, as they proceed in a coach to one of their country houses, whether she had forgotten anything, and she said, "I forgot my coarse comb." "The coach in which they were fell a withered faggot, and he went away as a hoodie." Such are the leading characteristics of the popular or folk-tales. There is pervading all over their world a supernatural power which manifests itself in magic and enchantments, and no higher power is known ; and to this power of magic, embodied in the medicine man of modern savage life, and in the wicked and in the wise ones of the folk-tales, all else must bow and yield.

You can read the rest of this article at http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/popular_tales.htm

MacDonells of Barisdale

An article by Mr Fraser-Mackintosh.

It is but right that the Gaelic Society of Inverness should, with other objects, endeavour to preserve memorials of families in the Highlands once of importance, who, from lapse of time, have been scattered or become extinct.

The two most important offshoots of Glengarry were those of Scotus and Barisdale, springing respectively from Angus and Archibald, second and fifth sons of Reginald, counted 17th of Glengarry. Lochgarry was of the third son. Through the failure of the direct male line, Æneas Ronald Macdonell, the last proprietor of Scotus, succeeded to the chiefship, his grandson being now chief. The history of the Scotus branch is pretty generally known, as is that of Lochgarry.

Of the once important family of Barisdale, little has been recorded, and even the name of the last Archibald Macdonell of Barisdale, though he left a considerable fortune, is not recorded in the ancient churchyard of Kilchoan. Kilchoan, now united with Glenelg, was anciently an independent parish, dedicated to St Coan. This saint was held in great repute, and Mr Mackenzie, in his history of the Glengarries, when referring to the 15th chief, commonly called "Donald Mac Angus," who died, aged over 100 years, 2nd February, 1645, the day the battle of Inverlochy was fought, says that "the Rev. John Mackenzie of Dingwall charged Glengarry, with other offences, as ' being an idolater, who had a man in Loch Broom making images, in testimony of which he (Mackenzie) carried South the image of St Coan, which Glengarry worshipped, called in Edinburgh Glengarry's god, and which was burnt at the Town Cross."

You can read the rest of this article at <http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macdonn3.html>

Clava Cairns and Circles

An article by George Bain.

The subject to which I wish to direct your attention this evening is that of "The Cairns and Circles" so abundantly scattered over the Valley of the Naira. So numerous are they, it is impossible for any one to move about the district without having his attention challenged by their appearance, and his interest quickened in the discussion of questions connected with their origin and structure.

The subject of these remains, I am perfectly well aware, has been a matter of familiar study to many members of this Society, and, therefore, in laying before you the observations I shall make to-night. I do so not in the expectation that I will add anything to what you already know, but simply to revive the discussion, and to concentrate attention on certain points of importance.

You can read this article at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/clava.htm>

Scottish Independence and Scotland's Future

Added this week...

Scotland's Future: from the Referendum to Independence and a Written Constitution
<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/00413757.pdf>

The Waldheim Affair in Austrian Politics

http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/wilkie_1_update.pdf

This is a paper by James Wilkie and while not about Scotland is illustrative of the type of politics that can be seen in the EU and that Scotland must be prepared to deal with. I personally found this a fascinating article. This is a pdf file.

The Scotland-UN Committee

The brief story at <http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/uncommittee.htm>

An online comment that was deleted by Newsnet Scotland

It's by Dr James Wilkie and provides a good overview of security and defence issues.

<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/wilkie01.htm>

Scotland in Europe

An illuminating article about how the EU is set to change.

<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/130127-3.htm>

Great Celtic Demonstration

A special evening in honour of Charles Fraser-Mackintosh M.P. for his work in promoting Gaelic language education in schools.

On Wednesday, April 24, 1878, what has not been unappropriately called "The Great Celtic Demonstration" took place in Inverness. On the 13th of March, the Gaelic Society of Inverness resolved to recognise, in a public way, the services which Mr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., had rendered to the cause of Highland education by presenting him with an Address, and afterwards entertaining him at a public dinner. The result of that resolution was the "Great Celtic Demonstration." Other Highland Societies were invited to co-operate in the matter; and all those communicated with cordially approved of the proposal—many of them sending representatives to Inverness. In short, so heartily was the matter gone into that not only were the proposed honours done to Mr. Mackintosh, but also the cause which this Society has at heart received a fresh impetus—the whole demonstration clearly proving there is still more vitality in the "Celtic cause" than even the most enthusiastic Celt could readily believe. The order of the programme was (1) Presentation of the

Address, and the passing of resolutions relative to the teaching of Gaelic, (2) Federation meeting, and (3) the Dinner.

You can read about this great event at http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/fraser_mackintosh.htm

Social Life in the Highlands in Olden Times

I previously published Paper 1 of 2 and have now found the second paper which I've added to the current page about half way down under the horizontal line.

He knows but little, I think, of Highland history who does not admit and deplore the absence in our day of some of those splendid elements of character, the kindly feelings of mutual confidence that bound the people to each other and all to their chiefs, the conditions of life and surroundings under which the people lived, so favourable as these were to the strengthening of those ties and the development of those traits of character for which our ancestors were distinguished. Contrast those times with the present, and look upon the almost distracted condition of the Highlands—agricultural and almost every other industry on the verge of ruin ; and instead of the old feelings of mutual confidence and attachment to their chiefs, you have almost everywhere a discontented people, in some districts at open variance with their proprietors, the natural successors of those to whom in a former age they were so firmly attached. Look at the wilderness aspect of those straths and glens, which even in times and under circumstances less favourable to agriculture and stock-rearing in the Highlands, supported thriving contented communities. Look at the uncomfortable condition of the landless masses, who either struggle on patches of unsuitable soil or form the unproductive populations of the towns and sea-coast villages ; and I think it must be admitted that whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the causes and remedies, there can be no difference of opinion as to the fact that the social condition of the Highlands is not satisfactory, and contrasts unfavourably with the past, in days not long gone by.

About half way down this page you'll see a horizontal line where this second paper appears.

You can get to this at http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/social_highlands.htm

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

As Beth is still working on her new software she is sending me in some snippets in word format. I've converted them to a pdf file and while not up to the usual presentation standards are very readable. Since the last newsletter we've added an issue for 7th Feb. You can get to these at the foot of the page at <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/archives> under "Best we can do".

And finally...

Seeing Red

"WOMEN - so hard to please," said the chap in the east end boozery at the weekend.

"Valentine's night, booked a table for me and the missus for eight o'clock,"

"But her face was still tripping her.

I swear it was half eight before she'd even potted her first red."

Stands To Reason

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, wee Davie stood up.

The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Davie?"

"Naw, miss, but I hate tae see ye staunin there a' by yersell!"

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

Alastair