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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for March 1st, 2013

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Electric Scotland News

While following the Independence debate in Scotland I am still amazed how much the EU is dominating discussions while there is very little comment on an alternative plan to ditch the EU in favour of membership of EFTA and the EEA.

Not one of the mainstream newspapers or for that matter the new online newspapers are devoting any serious discussion on this alternative. Nor is there any serious analysis on what Scotland actually gets from EU membership. Every man, woman and child in Scotland would be better off by some £500 a year were we not to be a member of the EU.

Why is there such a conspiracy of silence?

I challenge you to read the Scotland in Europe paper produced by the SDA and then ask yourselves why there is no discussion going on about other options. See:

<http://www.scottishdemocraticalliance.com/images/PDF/Scotland%20in%20Europe.pdf>

I've been watching the newspaper circulation figures in Scotland and it's clear that newspapers are doomed with continued high drops in circulation...

ANOTHER month and another set of declining daily and Sunday newspaper sales figures in Scotland – according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

And says the auditing body, several newspapers have once again suffered double-digit percentage drops in their sales performance, this time between January last year and last month.

Elsewhere, The Scottish Sun on Sunday has no year-on-year figure, having been launched less than 12 months ago. Its January average was 201,988, up on the average 197,319 for December.

Meanwhile, there are no longer monthly ABCs for either The Herald or the Sunday Herald following a decision in August for the papers to be part of the twice-yearly regional newspapers sales survey.

In summary, the daily newspapers figures – issued at midday – concern sales in Scotland between January last year and last month and reveal the following:

Daily Record – 8.6 per cent drop = from 264,737 on average in January last year, to 242,012 last month;
Daily Star of Scotland – 15.9 per cent drop = 61,932 to 52,069;
The Scottish Sun – 11.3 per cent drop = 319,864 to 283,865;
Scottish Daily Express – 9.1 per cent drop = 60,986 to 55,436;
Scottish Daily Mail – 5.7 per cent drop = 109,933 to 103,611;
The Scotsman – 17.5 per cent drop = 38,844 to 32,035

Meanwhile, the Sunday titles' sales figures in Scotland were as follows:

Daily Star of Scotland – Sunday – 49.8 per cent down = 57,939 to 29,077;
Sunday Mail – 21.9 per cent down = 357,724 to 273,510;
Sunday Mirror – 50.1 per cent down = 40,993 to 20,442;
The People – 50.2 per cent down = 22,634 to 11,261;
Scottish Sunday Express – 19.8 per cent down = 39,845 to 31,948;
The Sunday Post – 19.3 per cent drop = 215,861 to 174,115;
Scottish Mail on Sunday – 8.4 per cent down = 98,710 to 90,458;
Scotland on Sunday – 24.4 per cent down = 48,388 to 36,597.

Scottish regional newspaper sales continue to slide...

Across the UK as a whole, almost every daily regional paper suffered a sales fall on the year

Big changes to the format of two of Scotland's biggest regional newspapers have failed to reverse sliding sales, according to new official figures.

The Press and Journal and the Courier both abandoned their traditional broadsheet format early last year and are now printed on tabloid-sized pages.

The Courier's average daily sale from June and December was 53,250 - down nearly 11% on the same period in 2011.

The Press and Journal's sales dropped 1.6% to 66,700.

Like those Dundee and Aberdeen-based titles, sales of the Glasgow-based Herald newspaper also dropped, to an average of 43,150 over the six months.

This is the first set of sales figures for the Herald and the Sunday Herald since a change in the way they are announced.

The Audit Bureau of Circulations, which produces the figures, was asked by the two papers to treat them as "regional" titles rather than national ones. This means their sales figures are now released every six months instead of monthly.

The Scotsman and the other papers that circulate widely across the whole of Scotland still have their sales figures published monthly.

A breakdown of the Herald's sales figures shows that, in December, it sold 42,500 copies a day compared to 46,300 in December 2011.

Previously released figures show its Edinburgh rival, The Scotsman, dropped much further and faster over the same period from, 38,650 to 32,500.

The Sunday Herald averaged 25,840 over the six months. Between December 2011 and December 2013, it dropped from 28,800 to 24,900.

Across the UK as a whole, almost every daily regional paper experienced a sales fall on the year.

One of the few exceptions was the Paisley Daily Express, while the Press and Journal's performance was actually one of the best in the country in relative terms.

I do note with interest that the online newspaper NewsnetScotland claims over 90,000 unique visitors a month.

The findings also reveal the collapse of The Times's online traffic since News International introduced a paywall strategy in July 2010. The Times website, which requires readers to subscribe, has a monthly UK audience of 295,000 users, rising to 497,000 when the Sunday Times site is included, but still a tiny fraction of its rivals.

Despite this, the rest of the quality sector has grown immensely thanks to the internet. More people now read The Guardian online than buy the newspaper, with the online audience adding 119 per cent to the monthly readership. The Daily Telegraph's audience has grown by 97.5 per cent with the addition of its website readers and The Independent's by 70.2 per cent.

Websites increased the total UK audience of the quality press by 49 per cent by bringing in readers that do not read the print products.

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 The Dominion: Political Evolution: Volume 7.

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

The Flag in the Wind

This weeks edition was Compiled by Fraser Hudghton.

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

Electric Scotland

The Scottish Historical Review

We have now started on Volume 3 and added this week April 1906 Part 1, 2 & 3 at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/volume03.htm>

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

Songs from John Henderson

John sent us in a new song this week and here is one to read here...

Ma Stravaigin Memory
Lyrics composed by John Henderson on the 21st of January, 2012,
to Frankie Yankovic's music for the song, '[Susy Waltz](#)'.

I mynd the sights an' soonds o' Stirling;
In memory I stravaig
Tae roch-caussied-wynds aa eildit,
An' schules biggit-oan a craig.
'The Schules upoan the Rock' fowks caa'd them
Fur centuries in the toon,
Tentit by twa-three-Kirks an' Cooncils,
An' thase fa weert-weel-lernit cap an' goon.

Ma thochts meeve-neist tae Logie Causey,
An' auncient Abbey Craig faar stans
The prood Moniment tae Wallace
As stark Guardian o' Scots' lans.
This man ne'er boo'd his knee tae ony,

Fyle earls an' thur waik-knichts seen fled,
In fear fae aa the Soothern sodgers,
An' fit ilk Royal Sassenach decreed.

I'm gled I wisna there in thase days,
Tho' born nar-by in Causeyheid,
I've ne'er hud ony truck wi' fechtin',
Bit murn the faithfu' sowls fa deed.
The wirl'd e'en noo sair-tempts the greedy
Tae seek siller-poo'r an' lan,
An' I weesh thit-aa-sich-like scunners
Wud luft thur gizzent-heids fae-oot the san.

You can read more of John's songs mostly in the Doric language at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerels.htm>

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...

The Souters of Selkirk
The Wooing of Jenny and Jock
Tak Your Auld Cloak About Ye

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...

James Moir
James Brand
John S. Kennedy
Walter Watson
Bryce Gray
John Sloane

Here is a wee bit about Walter Watson the 32nd President...

Walter Watson, the son of Archibald Aitken Watson and Mary Yeaman, was born on the 20th October, 1830, in Edinburgh, Scotland, and died on the 3d April, 1900, at his residence in The Nevada, Broadway and Seventieth Street, New York City.

As a boy he attended the Edinburgh High School, and there laid the foundation of his sound financial knowledge and future executive ability. His first position after leaving school was with the Bank of Scotland at Edinburgh, and after serving this institution faithfully for some years he determined to seek his fortune in the Province of Canada, then rapidly growing in commercial and agricultural importance. Setting out from his native land in 1854 he first went to London, Canada, as manager of the Bank of British North America, in which place and position he remained for the next ten years.

In 1864 he accepted the position of manager of a branch of the same bank at New York, and took up his residence in that city. He resigned this office a few years later to enter the banking house of Messrs. Morton, Bliss & Co., where he soon became a member of the firm. After remaining with and sharing the success of this well-known house for ten years, Mr. Watson withdrew in 1874 to accept the post of manager of the New York branch of the Bank of Montreal. It was in this last important position that he earned his well-deserved reputation for commercial sagacity and financial acumen. Under his management the business of the bank notably increased

and the institution became representative of the best banking interests in North America.

You can read the rest of this bio at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/newyork/bio32.htm>

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

Robert Burns Lives!

By Frank Shaw

Immortal Memory to Robert Burns, Burns Club of Atlanta by Frank Shaw

Often I have heard said, as have all of you, that there is nothing new to say about Robert Burns. One might be prone to think so when you consider the 5,000 books on Scotland's Bard in the G. Ross Roy Collection at the University of South Carolina or at The Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Yet, that statement is not true, and this brief look at new discoveries and current research on Burns will point significantly to much more needing to be said and learned about him.

This paper is a synopsis of the Immortal Memory I gave at the Burns Club of Atlanta (BCOA) in its historic cottage. It is a wee look from my standpoint of some of the wonderful things that have been happening in the world of Burns over the past few years. I am indebted to and wish to thank Clark McGinn, Patrick Scott, Chris Rollie, Jennifer Orr and Robert Crawford for the inspiration to turn to their more current works on Burns. Each has published either a paper or book or will do so in the near future that throws new light on the man who is globally celebrated this weekend.

You can read the rest of this article at http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_lives165.htm

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

A Study in Scarlet

We've been serialising this book and now have the first 5 chapters up from Part II.

If you enjoy the Sherlock Holmes books you'll enjoy this book.

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

A History of Moray and Nairn

Have now completed this book

You can read the book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/moray/nairn.htm>

Outer Isles

By A. Goodrich-Freer (1902)

A new book we're starting.

PREFACE

THAT one half of the world knows not how the other half lives is a statement one accepts readily enough in the abstract, but which seems less comprehensible when we reduce it to the concrete fact that, even in this miniature land of Great Britain, there is a whole chain of islands, some hundred and fifty miles long, possessed of natural beauties and resources, having its own characteristic literature, archaeology and traditions, in some sort even its special language and religion, of which its nearest neighbours on the mainland know little, the rest of the world, for the most part, next to nothing.

Possibly, in the case of most Englishmen, even that little would have been less, had not the publication of Martin Martin's Description of the Western Isles in 1695 led to the visit of Dr. Samuel Johnson in 1773, a brave, not to say desperate undertaking for an Englishman of his customs and circumference.

From the discomforts of Johnson and Boswell, the salmon and sunsets of Black's novels, the dialect and depression of certain modern story-tellers, even if balanced in part by the sympathetic sketches of Norman Macleod, the casual reader has possibly constructed for himself a picture of desolation, ignorance and melancholy, which is very far from the truth, even in these darker days of alien landlords and uncultivated soil. Even the possession of a language and a dress banished by Act of Parliament (1695), a musical instrument suspected of contributing to rebellion, an alien faith superimposed as a matter of policy (the "religion of the yellow stick"), even a land laid bare, and homes made desolate, these things and more have not sufficed to subtract from the Hebrideans the inherent characteristics of a people who were Christianized long before S. Augustine, who were sending scholars to found continental

Universities two centuries before the existence of Oxford, and who, as we learn from early Gaelic poems, were drinking wine and burning wax candles, while English kings slept upon straw, and bought wine as a cordial from the apothecaries.

The earliest descriptive work to be depended upon for facts in regard to the Hebrides is the very interesting Statistical Account of Scotland (1798), written by various ministers, each describing his own parish, and edited by Sir John Sinclair. A later work, on the same lines, known as the New Statistical Account, was published in 1845, and these, together with the Report upon the Crofter Commission, most conveniently read in the form of Alexander Mackenzie's Analysis of the Report of the Crofter Royal Commission (Inverness, 1884), are practically the only books of general reference upon the subject of the Outer Isles. The student may nevertheless find passages of interest in The Abridgement of the Scots Chronicles, Monipennie (1612); Vol. iii. of The Miscellanies of the Maitland Club (1701); Present State of the Hebrides, James Anderson (1785); James Macdonald's Agricultural Survey of the Hebrides (1811); and, if he be a patient and tolerant student, in the writings of John Macculloch, who visited the islands in 1811-21.

The archaeologist and antiquarian will not fail to turn to the pages of W. F. Skene (Highlanders of Scotland, 1837, and Celtic Scotland, 1876), and Professor Anderson; more especially his Scotland in Early Christian Times (1881). He will also find certain descriptions of Churches and Crosses in the Outer Isles, in Thomas S. Muir's Ecclesiological Notes (1885), and in the anonymous Characteristics of Old Church Architecture (1876)

For the Folklorist there is always Campbell of Islay and, in relation to the Outer Isles, the even more precious volumes of Campbell of Tyree, edited by his sister, Mrs. Wallace, still living in the island. There are certain other volumes of folk-lore which have less of the essential accuracy of narration and scrupulous veracity in repetition, which the student of anthropology and the youngest child alike require in a fairy tale.

Those who would rightly understand the human interest of these islands, the sad story of depopulation, as effective as that of "Sweet Auburn," as tragic as that of Glencoe, should study David Stewart's Sketch of the Present State of the Highlands, preferably in the edition issued by W. Mackenzie of Inverness (1885); The Depopulation System by an Eye-witness (1849), and The Argyll Manifesto (No. 1, in the series of Land Tracts), a reply to the Duke of Argyll's Crofts and Farms. Though not directly relating to the islands, the student of the population and land problems should moreover not fail to read Macleod's Gloomy Memories, an essential contribution to the picture of the sad times when Highland property was "improved."

The present volume is so far from being exhaustive even of the notes and material I already possess, that I can offer it only as possibly suggestive to others, specialists or observers, who may wander further in the same fields. There is abundance of pasture, and those who go as friends, and not critics, to learn, not to discover fault, will assuredly find, as we have never failed to find, a hearty welcome.

To name all who have facilitated our enquiries, and added to the pleasure of our wanderings, would be impossible in a country where courtesy, hospitality, and even friendship, have never failed. I must however mention, with especial gratitude and esteem, the Rev. Allan Macdonald, Catholic priest, of Eriskay, whose practical kindness and companionship alone made possible some of the more difficult of our journeyings, and without whose help much of this book (especially chapters VII-XIII) could never have been written. As priest, and even more perhaps as friend, to a people whose hearts can never open fully but to one of their own faith, living daily in their midst, he has had, and has used to the full, opportunities which are in the most literal sense unique, and to his generous help I acknowledge the deepest obligation.

I would recall, in grateful memory, that to the late Marquess of Bute I owe the first stimulus to visit these islands, in many of which his name is still dear in the hearts of the people to whom he showed such timely and spontaneous liberality.

I would cordially thank Mr. Allan Baraud, of Bushey Heath, for the skill with which he has entered into the spirit of the work, and has made of my imperfect photographs, pictures which I hope may contribute largely to the right understanding of my attempts to describe the Outer Hebrides.

I would thank my friend, Walter B. Blaikie, Esq., of Edinburgh, for the use of two photographs, those of "Prince Charlie's House," [As this book is parsing through the press, I hear with deep regret that this cottage, where the Prince slept for the first time in his own kingdom, has been lately demolished by permission of Lady Gordon Cathcart.] in Eriskay, and of "Shealing Life," as well as for pleasant memories of companionship on land and sea.

Finally I have to express much obligation to Miss Ruth Landon for the patient kindness with which she has corrected the proof sheets of this book, and has made herself responsible for the tedious work of compiling an index.

From a distant land, where nevertheless much in the country, the customs, the folk-lore and the traditions reminds me daily of the western Highlands—pointing to the homogeneity of the less conventional types of the human race—I herewith greet my many friends in Outer Isles.

A. GOODRICH-FREER.

Jerusalem, May, 1902.

You can read this book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/outer/>

Selections from the Family Papers of the MacKay's of Bighouse
Consisting mainly of letters addressed to John Campbell of Barcaldine, some time one of the Government Factors on the Forfeited Estates after the '45.

This book is in pdf format but have scanned in the contents which will show the great breadth of information you can find in this book.

You can read this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/bighouse.htm>

Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk

A three volume collection of letters from a former editor of Blackwoods Magazine giving sketches of people in the Scottish Enlightenment.

This is another of my collection of pdf files which I decided not to ocr onto the site so now make it available for you to read at http://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/peters_letters.htm

Archibald

Found some history on this Scottish family which spread to New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

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

History and Directory of Motherwell

I found a pdf file giving the history of Motherwell and have made this available for download at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/council/north_lanarkshire.htm

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Got another issue in from Beth dated Feb 19th. It actually arrived just after I had sent out last weeks newsletter.

The latest issue can always be found at <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

And finally...

Bus Off-On

A golfer playing a links course in Ayrshire badly hooked his drive and watched the ball bounce on to the road to his left where, by good fortune, it hit the wheel of a passing bus and bounced back on to the course.

"How did you do that?" asked his playing companion.

"Well, you really need to know the bus timetable," he replied.

Baptising an Irishman

An Irishman, is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptising people in the river.

He proceeds to walk into the water and subsequently bumps into the preacher.

The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon he asks the drunk, 'Are you ready to find Jesus?'

The drunk shouts, 'Yes, oi am.'

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water.

He pulls him up and asks the drunk, 'Brother have you found Jesus?'

The drunk replies, 'No, oi haven't found Jesus.'

The preacher shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again for a little longer.

He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, 'Have you found Jesus me brother?'

The drunk again answers, 'No,oi I haven't found Jesus.'

By this time the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk in the water again --- but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds and when he begins kicking his arms and legs he pulls him up.

The preacher again asks the drunk, 'For the love of God have you found Jesus?'

The drunk wipes his eyes and catches his breath and says to the preacher, 'Are you sure dis is where he fell in?'

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

Alastair