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BUSINESS
CHILDREN'S STORIES
CLANS & FAMILIES

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FAMOUS SCOTS
FAMILY TREE
FORUMS
FOOD & DRINK
GAMES

GAZETTEER
GENEALOGY
HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORY
HUMOR
JOHN'S PAGE
KIDS
LIFESTYLE
MUSIC

NEWSLETTER
PICTURES
POETRY
POSTCARDS
RELIGION
ROBERT BURNS
SCOTS IRISH
SCOTS REGIMENTS
SERVICES

SHOPPING
SONGS
SPORT
SCOTS DIASPORA
TARTANS
TRAVEL
TRIVIA
VIDEOS
WHATS NEW

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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for April 1st, 2016

To see what we've added to the Electric Scotland site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/whatsnew.htm>

To see what we've added to the Electric Canadian site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/>

Electric Scotland News

Dear fellow members and friends of Scottish Studies,

2016 is the 30th anniversary of the Scottish Studies Foundation and we have a couple of events planned in April and May which we hope you will find of interest. Details are on our website: www.scottishstudies.com

For logistical reasons we have decided to split our annual Tartan Day Celebration and Scot of the Year Award into two separate events:

TARTAN DAY

Our Tartan Day Celebration will take place on Thursday, April 7, 2016 when members of the Boards of the Scottish Studies Foundation and Society invite you to an informal celebration of Tartan Day in the back room at Toronto's famous Scottish pub, "The Caledonian," 856 College Street, Toronto, (at Ossington). Our host, Donna Wolff, will introduce us to Scottish cuisine prepared by Caledonian's culinary team led by Chef Sara Phillips and during the evening, Scottish Studies Foundation President, David Hunter, will give a talk entitled "A Poetical Tour of Scotland."

There is no admission fee and it's a cash bar. So please join us -- we'd love to see you there! For more information please contact: Heather Bridge at 416-902-7872 or by e-mail at heather.bridgeconsulting@gmail.com.

SCOT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Friday, May 13, 2016

Reception: 5:30 p.m., Dinner: 6:45 p.m.

Venue: The Arts & Letters Club

14 Elm Street Toronto, ON

M5G 1G7

May 13, 2016 is the 30th anniversary of the Scottish Studies Foundation and we invite you to attend our annual Scot of the Year Award event during which we will pay tribute to this year's recipient: Canadian author and Nobel Prize winner, Alice Munro, whose Scots ancestry can be traced back to the Scottish Borders.

You will enjoy a magnificent evening of fine food, music and dance — all with a Scots-Canadian flavour in the historic environment of the Arts & Letters Club, designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2007, in which will recreate the ambiance reminiscent of a Scottish castle. The dress code for the evening will be formal (black tie or Highland dress) so this is your chance to dress up for one of the most sophisticated events in the Scots-Canadian calendar.

We do hope you will be able to join us for this memorable evening, the proceeds of which will go to support the Scottish Studies Foundation, a registered Canadian charity established to raise awareness of the Scottish heritage in Canada through education at the university level. Tickets are \$165 per guest and you can order online at www.scottishstudies.com or by mail using the attached order form.

For more information, please contact David Hunter by telephone at: 416-699-9942 or by e-mail at: davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

Thank you for your support and for keeping the Scottish tradition at the academic level alive and well in Canada.

David Hunter
President
Scottish Studies Foundation

Talked to Steve on Wednesday and he told me he's doing a clean up of old files and doing latest updates of the server software. He then plans to take a full copy of the server on Thursday evening and then dispatch the hard drive to SFU on the Friday. Of course he's said things like this in the past but hopefully he'll do it this time.

I might add I spent my Easter weekend in Toronto and took the train in. They served up Bangers and Mash for the meal and we also got an Easter Bunny chocolate for desert. I enjoyed my time with my friend Nola and her family and her son-in-law Alex provided the Easter Sunday lunch with joints of lamb, beef, ham as well as a choice of brunch with eggs anyway you liked them with bacon, sausage and dill potatoes. Lots of fruit and great desserts. We ended up back at Nola's for the family Easter Egg hunt. A good time was had by all.

Some stories from the Scottish Press this week...

Note that this is just a selection from our ScotNews Feed which is on our index page.

Unusual carved Pictish stone displayed at Elgin Museum
The Dandaleith Stone was uncovered by a farmer's plough three years ago.

Read more at:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-35862682>

Scotland facing deficit three times greater than UK
Forecast from the Institute for Fiscal Studies says a collapse in oil prices has left a growing gap between Scottish spending and tax income

Read more at:
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/24/ifs-scotland-debts-three-times-greater-uk>

The Price of Independence
This analysis uses the 2014-15 Government Expenditure & Revenue Scotland (GERS) report as its primary source.

Read more at:
<http://chokkablog.blogspot.ca/2016/03/the-price-of-independence.html>

Scotland and Poland - a 500 year relationship
Scotland and Poland have a long history of friendship.

Read more at:
<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/scotland-and-poland-a-500-year-relationship-1-4081795>

Approval to develop former John Brown shipyard in Clydebank
Plans have been approved to transform the Scottish shipyard where the QE2 and Queen Mary were built into a major housing and retail development.

Read more at:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-35916259>

Burns monument in Alloway at risk of irreversible damage
THE earliest monument erected in honour of Robert Burns could be closed to the public for the first time in almost 200 years

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/burns-monument-in-alloway-at-risk-of-irreversible-damage-1-4083398>

First official Jewish tartan unveiled

JEWS around the world with a love of all things Scottish will now be able to dress in an official kosher tartan.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/first-official-jewish-tartan-unveiled-1-4085232>

Pension crisis looming as UK firms face £800bn black hole

The warnings come amid a period of low returns on investments and higher life expectancy.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/pension-crisis-looming-as-uk-firms-face-800bn-black-hole-1-4084637>

Urgent debate required on frozen pensions, says Blackford

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford has called for an urgent debate on overseas frozen pensions.

Read more at:

<http://www.whfp.com/2016/03/25/urgent-debate-required-on-frozen-pensions-says-blackford/>

Electric Canadian

Sketch of the Life and Discoveries of Robert Campbell

Chief Factor of the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company by George Bryce, LLD. (1898)

You can read this sketch at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/sketchoflifedisc00bryc.pdf>

Narrative of a Journey round the World

During the years 1841 and 1842 by Sir George Simpson, Governor-In-Chief of the Hudson's Bay Company Territories in North America in two volumes (1847). Have added these to the foot of our Hudson's Bay page at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/index.htm>

Electric Scotland

Private Diary of Robert Dollar

On his recent visits to China which I've added to the foot of his page.

PREFACE

In presenting this small volume to my friends, it is done with two objects in view:

First—Inasmuch as I have had opportunities such as many of you have never had, to visit other lands and get in close touch with their peoples both in a business and social way, I felt it was a duty I owed to my associates to give them the information I have gathered in my travels; and while I have made a pleasure of the investigation as well as a pleasure in the business accomplished, I send this book to you with the hope that you will at least derive a part of the pleasure in reading it that I did in writing it from day to day.

The second reason for its publication is the hope that it may in a small way help to increase and strengthen the friendly relations and feelings that now exist between the United States and its possessions, the Philippine Islands, China, and Japan; and as a consequence, to increase trade and commerce; and, if possible, to increase the interest in shipping so that our laws may be changed to permit us to own and sail our own ships under our own flag to the end, that, by her Merchant Marine and Foreign Commerce, our country may become one of the Greatest Commercial Nations.

You can download this book at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/rdollar/privatediary.pdf>

The Birds of the West of Scotland

Including the Outer Hebrides with occasional Records of the Occurrence of the Rarer Species throughout Scotland by Robert Gray (1871) (pdf)

You can download this book at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/agriculture/birdsofscotland.pdf>

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Got in Section 1 of the April 2016 issue which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

Breakfast Blues all gone

A new song from John Henderson which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerel614.htm>

I might note here that over the past few weeks I've added over 100 mp3 files to the earlier songs from John's huge collection. We're up to song 363 now.

Maurice Elwin

Added three more of his songs and a medley to the foot of his page at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/blair_norman.htm

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada

Got in their Spring 2016 newsletter which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/lachlan/index.htm>

The Surrender of Napoleon

Which also includes a memoir of Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Lewis Maintland, K.C.B.

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/surrender.pdf>

Hylton Newsletter

A new newsletter from an American who is now working for the University of the Highlands and Islands. In it he's documenting his stay in Scotland where he is currently based in Thurso along with many pictures.

You can read the first one at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/hylton/index.htm>

Poetical Works of John Struthers

With Autobiography in 2 volumes (1850)

You can read these from his page at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/struthers_john.htm

Berwickshire Natural History Club

Instituted September 22, 1831 and which there are several volumes on the Internet archive. I have made their first volume available at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/nature/historyofberwick01.pdf>

Tours in Scotland

1747, 1750, 1760 by Richard Pococke, Bishop of Meath.

This was published as it shows many interesting facts on old Scotland during this time frame.

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/travel/toursinscotland.pdf>

THE STORY

Old Contracts of Friendship

From the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness

In the sale catalogue of the Abertarff books and papers, which were disposed of at Inverness towards the close of last autumn, I was attracted by the entry, " Contract of friendship, Alexander Lord Lovat and John Chisholm, John Mackenzie, and Kenneth Mackenzie, 2nd May 1549 and having given a commission for the purchase of this document, I became the possessor of a rather torn and ragged half sheet of foolscap, which was folded and endorsed "Contract of mutuall frendship betwix my Lord Louat and Jone M'Kenze of Kintaill." Internally the writing was in good preservation, except where the paper was torn ; but it contained some words in which the characters and abbreviations were almost illegible. As illustrative of the state of society in the Highlands in the middle of the 16th century, it may have an interest for the Gaelic Society of Inverness, one of whose objects is to rescue from oblivion manuscripts bearing on the history of the Gaelic people. The document, which, so far as I am aware, has not hitherto been published, is as follows

:—

“At Bewling ye second day of may in ye yeir of God ane thousand vc and xlix yiers it is appointit aggreit ife fynale endit betwex ane nobill & potent lord Alexander Lord frayser of Louet Johne Chessolm of Comer on ye tane part and Joline M'Kenze of Kyntaill and Kennocht M'Kenze his sone and apperand ayr on ye toyr part in maner form and effect as efr followis, that is to say ye sayd Johne M'Kenze of Kyntaill and Kennocht M'Kenze his sone hes bundin and oblist yam sellhs be ye faytht and treutht in yair bodeis ye haly ewangelist tucheit corporly that yai sail defend matayne & tak afald pt wt ye sayd Lord frayser of Louet and Johne Ohessolm of Comer in yair querellis quhat sumeuyr in contrar all mortall man ye authorite my Lord of huntlie ye Erie of Suthyrland & James Grant of Fruquhy allanerly exceppit And in lykwyss ye sayd Lord frayser & Johne Chessolm of Comer hes bundin & oblist yam selffis be ye faytht and treutht in yr bodeis ye haly ewangelist tucheit corporly yat yai sail defend matayne and tak afald pt wt ye sayde Johne Mckenze and Kennocht his sone in contrar all man mortall ye authorite my lord of hunt-lye & ye lard of Balnagowyn allanerle exceppit and yis band of kyndnes mayd becauss of ye tendyrnes & kyndnes qlk hes beyne abefoyr betwex or forbears ; and [for observing ?] and keeping and fulfilling of yis or band of kyndnes ye sayd Johne McKenze and Kennocht my sone hes subscribit and selit our part hereof to remane interchengeble wt ye sayd Lord frayser and Johne Chessolm. At Bewling the yeir day effoyr wretin before yir wytness Hewehon Symson off Brigend Alexander Bayne and Sir Wylleam Dow chaplane wt wderis diueress. And in lykws ye sayds peis abune wretin hes bundin &, oblist yair kyn freyns [and serwands ?] in maner form as is abune wretin.

“Johne McKenze of Kyntail wt my hand led at ye pen
“Kennocht McKenze wt my hand led at ye pen.”

Bonds of this nature seem to have been not uncommon at the period when the above contract was entered into. Law received but doubtful recognition, or at least its rule was too frequently superseded by that of might; and men who could not rely on their own strength as sufficient for their protection were glad to purchase the support of their more powerful neighbours, or exemption from their ill-will, or to strengthen the bonds of alliance with their kinsmen and friends. There seem to have been at least three distinct classes of bonds employed for these purposes.

(1) There were bonds of assurance in which one man undertook not to molest another. Thus, on 22nd October 1527, Hector Mackintosh, Captain of the Clan Chat tan, assures Ewen Alan son, Captain of the Clan Cameron, “ hymeself, his kyne, party, purcheis and enyrdance, his & thare landis, gudis purcheis and enyrdance” up to “ye fest of St Anclrow nixt to come.” We may feel pretty sure that Ewen Alanson would need to keep good watch after the feast of St Andrew, the 30th of November following, hut this bond secures him forty night's of peaceful sleep, so far at least as the Clan Chattan were concerned. Bonds of assurance were not always so limited in point of time. In 1593 Hugh Rose of Ivilravock received² a bond of assurance from Huntly securing him and his dependents against molestation “ be ws, our army, kyn, freyndis or Allane McConill dw off Locheall, Alexr. Mc-Rennald of Gargawche, our dependaris, their serwandis, depen-daris or awaitteris wpoune thame, in ony maner of way and this assurance was to hold good till recalled.

(2) Another class of protective bond was that of manrent given by inferiors to superiors, under which protection was stipulated for, in return for a life-long obligation of military service. This seems to have been very commonly resorted to. It must not be supposed that all bonds of manrent were of this nature. Tn some the obligation was for menial service, and the stipulated return was a mere matter of wages. There has been preserved a bond of this kind in which Thomas Davidson binds himself with a servant, to serve Hugh Rose of Kilravock as a gardener for a year, and thereafter if it pleases Kilravock for the rest of his life, receiving therefor during the first year meat for himself and his servant, and four pennies each working day, with a fee of one mark for the servant for the year, and also a chamber to lodge in ; thereafter Kilravock, if he retains him, is to build him a house and give him such wages as are usually given to men of his craft. Four pennies a day, or two shillings Scots for six days work, is twopence of our money as weekly wage, while the servant's annual fee was but ls. ljd. The special feature of bonds of manrent, whether the obligations undertaken were of military or menial service, appears to be that they bound for life to a state of vassalage. They seem to be, indeed, a relic of slavery or serfdom, the manrent service being even assignable.

When Sir Jno. Campbell, brother to Colin, 3rd Earl of Argyll, made good his claim in right of his wife, Lady Muriel Calder, to the Cawdor estates, he found himself far from home and friends. Sheriff Nicolson, quoting Gregory, gives the proverb, “Is fada an eubh o Loch Obha, 'us cobhair o Chlann O'Duibhne,” as having originated at a battle in Glenlivat between Huntly and Argyll in 1594. But in the book of the Thaness of Cawdor, where the proverb is given thus, “ S' fhada glaoth o Lochow ; s' fhada cobhair o chlann dhoinne ” [the last word evidently misspelt], it is said to have originated in a contest for the possession of the person of Lady Muriel Calder in 1500. Campbell of Inverliver had been sent by Archibald, 2nd Earl of Argyll, to take the child from her maternal grandfather at Kilravock, and bring her to Inveraray, Argyll and Kilravock having obtained a gift of tutors dative to her, and Argyll having the ward of her marriage. Inverliver was opposed by two of her uncles, Alexander and Hugh Calder, who overtook him with a superior party at Daltull'ich, and, pressing him to fight, caused him to utter the ejaculation which has passed into a proverb. Whichever story is true, whether the proverb originated before or after Sir John Campbell's time, there can be little doubt that the idea it expresses, a sense of imminent danger, and of distant relief, might very well have been uppermost in the knight's mind as he took possession of his wife's heritage. It was in these circumstances that his brother, the Earl of Argyll, assigned to him in the year 1522,t “ the manrent and seruice of our traist frendis, and seruandis Alexander McAllane McRoyri and Donald Gromach McDonald Gallach and all thar kyne frendis and seruandis that dependis one them, etc.” Such an assignation, though rare, is said by Mr Cosmo Innes to be “not without parallel.” When bonds of manrent were given by considerable personages, they may sometimes have been compelled to do so by the

pressure of circumstances ; but quite as frequently such bonds had a commercial character, and were given as a quid pro quod, a return for gifts of land or other favours. The bond of the Grants in 1546, which is cited in the footnote, J was given by them in consideration of their having been infeft in liferent by Huntly in " his sex dawachs of his landis of Strathoune with the forest and glen of Glenawne, and keping of the hous and for-talice of Drummyne, togidder with the bailliorie of the lorscheipe of Strathoune," and similarly in 1550 the Laird of Fowlis gives his bond of manrent to Huntly " for the quhilk (he says) the said nobill and mychty Lord hes giffen me his bond of mantenans, togidder with the sume of foarte pundis wsuall ruone of Scotland to be payit yeirlie induring the said space of ray lifyme." There are many bonds extant approaching in character those of manrent, but in which the obligation is not expressly stated to be for life. They are generally between persons more nearly of equal station, and they may be met with, shading imperceptibly into deeds of the next class.

(3) This third class of protective bond is that between friends and equals, of which the transcript from the Abertarff papers is a fair specimen. The chief of Kintail and his son, who were parties to it, are also parties to a much more formal agreement of a similar kind* between them, and Campbell of Cawdor, Grant of Fruquhy, and Ross of Balnagown. This agreement, which is entered into at the Chanonry of Ross January 15-45, contains a provision that if any of the parties fail in fulfilling their part thereof, the remainder shall take part against " the brekar fray their consall." It is difficult to understand by what other sanctions such a contract could have been enforced. A bread) of its covenants could hardly have formed the ground of a civil action, not to mention that the very fact of such agreements been made, presupposed a state of society in which submission to law was uncertain. In the case of the contract between Lovat, Chisholm, and Kintail, which has been the foundation for these remarks, the covenant is affirmed with an oath on " the haly ewangel," a disregard of which might perhaps have been dealt with ecclesiastically. In 1570 Lord Lovat and Huntly entered into a contract of friendship! for the enforcement of which there is neither oath nor any other visible provision beyond the sanction which mutual interest supplied. Lovat wanted a feu farm of " the landis k names of Beowlyne with the salmond fischeing thereof," etc., and Huntley's influence is promised to obtain this for him from the Abbot of Kinloss. On the other hand, Huntly, who belonged to Queen Mary's party, had to maintain his position in the North against Lennox, who had been appointed Regent by Elizabeth, and wanting all the support he could get, he secures Lovat's aid by this agreement.

On the face of the contract between Lovat and Chisholm "on the tane part," and the two Mackenzies "on the toyr," there is nothing to show why it was entered into, nor does tradition or history so far as I am aware mention any special circumstance which called for a strengthening of alliances on the borders of Ross and Inverness at that particular juncture; and I am inclined to suppose that it may have been with some view of avenging his clan on the Macdonalds, with whom the Mackenzies had a hereditary feud, that Alexander Lord Lovat entered into this agreement. He was the son of Hugh, the fifth Lord, who with his eldest son by his first wife Ann Grant of Freuchy, and with most of his clan, fell in tight with the Macdonalds at the Battle of Blar na Leinne, on Loch-Lochy in 1544. Sir Robert Gordon says that 300 of the blood and surname of Fraser were killed at this battle, and there was a rumor spread that there wes not one of the familie left alyve that was of manes state. Bot it happened by the singular benefite of God, that they left their wyffs with chyld when they went to the feight : by which meanes that familie wes afterwards raised and restored." But as yet five years only had elapsed : the Frasers who, in the interval, had come to man's estate could not have been very numerous, and their Chief might be willing enough to strengthen himself by alliances whether for defence or for vengeance.

Another explanation of this contract may be that it was a token of reconciliation between Lovat and Kintail. Hugh, Master of Lovat, who had been killed at Loch-Lochy, was a son of Ann Grant of Freuchy, and tradition says was left at home intentionally by his father, who did not wish his life endangered. But stung by the taunts of his step-mother, Janet Ross of Balnagown, who wished the succession opened to her own son (the Lovat of this contract), the Master followed his father, and with him lost his life. It might very well be, therefore, that the Grants of Freuchy felt some coldness towards the young Lovat and his mother. John Mackenzie of Kintail was married to one of these Grants (a daughter of John, the tenth laird, says the historian of the Mackenzies), and if so a sister of the deceased Anne Lady Lovat, and aunt of Hugh, who was the victim of his stepmother's taunts. There was thus a reason for coldness between the two families of Lovat and Kintail, which were, nevertheless, closely allied by blood—John of Kintail's mother having been a daughter of Hugh, 3rd Lord Lovat; and it is not unnatural to suppose that as this contract was " made because of the tenderness and kindness which has been before betwixt our forbears," so it bore witness to the close of a temporary estrangement.

This would seem to be the most reasonable explanation, were it not for the introduction of Chisholm as a party to the deed. I have been unable to trace any near connection by blood between him and either Lovat or Kintail, and though there had been early alliances between their families, I think lie must have been here conjoined with Lovat, rather because his lands, lying interspersed among those of the Frasers, the interests of the two families as regards defence from aggression were inseparable. The contract thus receives the colour of a defensive alliance rather than that of a deed of reconciliation. It may have been both ; and the reservation by the Mackenzies of their freedom in the case of quarrel between Lovat and Grant, shows that if there had been a reconciliation between these families, doubts were felt as to its permanence.

The reservations made by each of the parties to the contract are not without interest. Both admit a prior allegiance to "ye autorite," i.e. the Crown, and to "my Lord of Huntlie." Huntly was at this time Chancellor of the Kingdom and Earl of Moray, and at a previous time had been her Majesty's Lieutenant-General for the North of Scotland; but "ye autorite" having been alieady "exceppit," it is evident that Huntly here stands for himself, and not for the Crown. AVhen during the Queen's minority, he held the Lieutenancy of the Northern parts of Scotland, he had obtained a general bond from the nobility and barons of the North,* pledging them to obedience, and to maintenance of the law, and among the names attached to it are those of Lovat, Chisholm, and John Mackenzie of

Kintail. Possibly this bond was regarded as one personal to Huntly, but unless his distinctive qualities and hereditary position had secured for him the attachment of the Highland Chiefs, one can hardly suppose that it would have been long regarded as of perpetual obligation.

The Mackenzies further exempt from their part of the agreement the Earl of Sutherland and Grant of Freuchy. The cause for this last has been already mentioned, and Kintail was bound by a bond of manrent of 1545 to the Earl of Sutherland.

On his part, besides the Crown and Huntly, Lovat only excepts from the contract his mother's relative, the Laird of Balnagown.

The document, signed by the Mackenzies, is described as "our part hereof," showing that there was a counterpart signed by Lovat and Chisholm to remain with the Mackenzies. Neither John nor Kenneth Mackenzie could write their own names, a rather unusual circumstance in persons of their degree at that period.

In a deed, cited by Mr Fraser-Mackintosh, of the 9th August 1550, we find the names of the witnesses Hugh Simsonne and William Dow, and we learn that Brigend was Easter Kinmylies, near Inverness.

Perhaps some members of the Society may know where the Brig stood. In a document of this sort there is some interest in filling up local details, and a local association is peculiarly fitted for doing it; but it is as illustrating the nature of social relations in Inverness-shire three centuries ago, that I have brought this interesting contract of friendship under the notice of the Gaelic Society of Inverness; and I hope it may be considered a not unsuitable contribution to the Society's Transactions.

And that's it for this week and hope you all enjoy your weekend.

Alastair