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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for August 28, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Got an email in in which is the following...

While I have your attention Scottish Heritage USA of which I am currently the President. We are working on opening a Scottish Heritage Discovery Center in Moore County NC.

We launched a website a couple of months ago which gives a vision of our endeavor.

www.ScottishHeritageDiscoveryCenter.org

My Canadian Experience

As I have previously mentioned I am adding to the top of each months report my personal activities and observations under which I then provide text and videos on what is happening in Canada both with the tariff issues and Canada's effort to diversify its exports.

This week I've added a video about Giant Tiger which is a retailer in Canada that I have used myself although I didn't know about their 10% discount they offer seniors on the first Monday of each month.

I've been working on this project since coming to Canada in 2004 and you can get to this at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/canadandx.htm>

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

Scotland's dependency culture cannot be denied and must change

THIS MAY SEEM a bit obvious but sometimes one needs to go back to basics such is the nature of the discourse of the ruling political parties in Holyrood. They act like they are in penury when in reality they have taken almost all the gold.

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/08/scotlands-dependency-culture-cannot-be-denied-and-must-change/>

The hunger for taxing others has no limits

IT IS UNUSUAL for me to quote Aldous Huxley but he did observe that “men do not learn much from history”. In politics that goes for recent events too.

Read more at:

<https://thinksotland.org/2026/08/the-hunger-for-taxing-others-has-no-limits/>

How Canada could hit back to hurt the US economy - and Trump

What leverage does Canada, which sells about 70% of its goods to the US, actually have in this spiraling trade dispute with its southern neighbour, who also happens to be the world's largest economy?

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/gFiAi#selection-821.0-821.199>

It's Time

Success would be a society in which females live life free of fear and harm

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/its-time-sunday-post-campaign-against-gender-based-violence/>

Watchdog's battle over Branchform is about to begin

Having spent five years relentlessly pursuing the Scottish Government over the so-called "Salmond Files", Scotland's information commissioner is about to have Operation Branchform in his sights.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/QPPNQ#selection-1583.3-1591.15>

Why is “sales” a dirty word?

Why does the British business world rarely recognise the importance of selling?

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/L6N3p>

Remembering Dolly Parton: Stars Pay Tribute to Icon as Details of Death Surface

Tributes to Dolly Parton pour in, as stars mourn the death of the 80-year-old country icon. From collaborators to co-stars and fans, Hollywood shares stories and love for Dolly following the announcement of her death on Tuesday.

Watch this at:

https://youtu.be/xV_-2PB_Ai0?si=066tE8pNSws1h2nh

Electric Canadian

Peace River

A Canoe Voyage from Hudson's Bay to Pacific by the Late Sir George Simpson, (Governor, Hon. Hudson's Bay Company) in 1828 (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/peacriver.pdf>

Canadian Industry in 1871

Ontario County Series #25 Peterborough County Industries (pdf)

You can read this report at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/Peterborough.pdf>

On the Origin and Progress of the North West Company of Canada

With a History of the Fur Trade, as connected with that company (1811) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/nwcfilm.pdf>

The Indians, Their Manners and Customs

By John McLean, M.A., Ph.D. (John Rustler) (1889) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/indianstheirmann.pdf>

My Canadian Experience

Added text and videos on the new Trump tariffs and reactions.

You can read and watch text and videos in this work in progress at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add36.htm

Indians of Western Canada

By Andrew Browning Baird B.D. (1895) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/indiansofwestern.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Moening - the 23rd day of August 2026 Anticipation

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/Sj1wiFNOBTE?si=eVgGLOlQimHXaw3>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 3 Outfit 272 December 1941 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverdecember1941.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Ernest Thompson Seton

A biography (Wikipedia pdf) of this person born in England of Scottish parents.

You can read this at:

https://electricscotland.com/history/men/Ernest_Thompson_Seton.pdf

A contribution from Eric Macfie

Eric sent in his research on Clan MacFie which I've added to the foot of our Clan MacFie page at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macfie2.html>

Account of the Family of Vaux, Vans or De Vallibus 1800

And their Scottish connection (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/Vaux.pdf>

Notes on the Origins and Pedigree of the Clan Scott Chiefs v2

By Adrian C Grant (2026) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/stoz/scottchiefs.pdf>

Memoir of Dr Jamieson

The preserver of the Scots Language including his dictionary in 3 volumes.

You can read these volumes at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/articles/jamieson.htm>

James Hastings

A Scottish United Free Church minister and biblical scholar. He is best known for producing major reference works, including a 5-volume Dictionary of the Bible and a 13-volume Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics, and establishing The Expository Times.

A lot to study here and you can get to all of it at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/james-hastings.htm>

Story

The Black Watch - Ticonderoga

General Abercromby, the commander-in chief, took charge of the expedition against Ticonderoga, with a force of 15,390 men, of whom 6337 were regulars (including Lord John Murray's Highlanders), and 9024 provincials, besides a train of artillery.

Fort Ticonderoga stands on a tongue of land between Lake Champlain and Lake George, and is surrounded on three sides by water; part of the fourth side is protected by a morass; the remaining part was strongly fortified with high entrenchments, supported and flanked by three batteries, and the whole front of that part which was accessible was intersected by deep traverses, and blocked up with felled trees, with their branches turned outwards and their points first sharpened and then hardened by fire, forming altogether a most formidable defence. On the 4th of July 1758 the commander-in-chief embarked his troops on Lake George, on board 900 batteaux and 135 whale-boats, with provisions, artillery, and ammunition; several pieces of cannon being mounted on rafts to cover the landing, which was effected next day without opposition. The troops were then formed into two parallel columns, and in this order marched towards the enemy's advanced post, consisting of one battalion, encamped behind a breast-work of logs. The enemy abandoned this defence without a shot, after setting the breast-work on fire and burning their tents and implements. The troops continued their march in the same order, but the route lying through a wood, and the guides being imperfectly acquainted with the country, the columns were broken by coming in contact with each other. The right column, at the head of which was Lord Howe, fell in with a detachment of the enemy who had also lost their way in the retreat from the advanced post, and a smart skirmish ensuing, the enemy were routed with considerable loss. Lord Howe unfortunately fell in the beginning of this action. He was much regretted, being "a young nobleman of the most promising talents,

who had distinguished himself in a peculiar manner by his courage, activity, and rigid observance of military discipline, and had acquired the esteem and affection of the soldiery by his generosity, sweetness of manners, and engaging address".

Perceiving that his men were greatly fatigued, General Abercromby ordered them to march back to their landing place, which they reached about eight o'clock in the morning. Having taken possession of a saw-mill in the neighbourhood of Ticonderoga, which the enemy had abandoned, General Abercromby advanced towards the place next morning. It was garrisoned by 5000 men, of whom 2800 were French troops of the line, who were stationed behind the traverses and felled trees in front of the fort. Receiving information from some prisoners that General Levi, with a force of 3000 men, was marching to the defence of Ticonderoga, the English commander resolved to anticipate him by striking, if possible, a decisive blow before a junction could be effected. He therefore sent an engineer across the river on the opposite side of the fort to reconnoitre the enemy's entrenchments, who reported that the works being still unfinished, might be attempted with a prospect of success. Preparations for the attack were therefore instantly made. The whole army being put in motion, the picquets, followed by the grenadiers, the battalions and reserve, which last consisted of the Highlanders and the 55th regiment, advanced with great alacrity towards the entrenchments, which they found to be much more formidable than they expected. The breast-work, which was regularly fortified, was eight feet high, and the ground before it was covered with an abatis or chevauz-de-frize, projecting in such a manner as to render the entrenchment almost inaccessible. Undismayed by these discouraging obstacles, the British troops marched up to the assault in the face of a destructive fire, and maintained their ground without flinching. Impatient in the rear, the Highlanders broke from the reserve, and, pushing forward to the front, endeavoured to cut their way through the trees with their broadswords. After a long and deadly struggle, the assailants penetrated the exterior defences and advanced to the breast-work; but being unprovided with scaling ladders, they attempted to gain the breast-work, partly by mounting on each other's shoulders, and partly by fixing their feet in the holes which they made with their swords and bayonets in the face of the work. No sooner, however, did a man reach the top, than he was thrown down by the troops behind the entrenchments. Captain John Campbell, with a few men, at length forced their way over the breast-work, but they were immediately despatched with the bayonet. After a desperate struggle, which lasted about four hours under such discouraging circumstances, General Abercromby seeing no possible chance of success, gave orders for a retreat. It was with difficulty, however, that the troops could be prevailed upon to retire, and it was not till the third order that the Highlanders were induced to retreat, after more than one-half of the men and twenty-five officers had been either killed or desperately wounded. No attempt was made to molest them in their retreat, and the whole retired in good order, carrying along with them the whole of the wounded, amounting to 65 officers and 1178 non-commissioned officers and soldiers. Twenty-three officers and 567 rank and file were killed.

The loss sustained by the 42d was as follows, viz - 8 officers, 9 sergeants, and 306 soldiers wounded. The officers killed were Major Duncan Campbell of Inveraw, Captain John Campbell, Lieutenants George Farquharson, Hugh MacPherson, William Baillie, and John Sitherland; Ensigns Patrick Stewart, brother of Bonskeid, and George Rattray. The wounded were Captain Gordon Graham, Thomas Graham of Duchray, John Campbell of Strachur, James Stewart of Urrard, James Grant, Robert Gary, John Campbell, William Grant, John Graham, brother of Duchray, Alexander Campbell, Alexander Mackintosh, Archibald Campbell, David Miller, Patrick Balneaves; and Ensigns John Smith and Peter Grant.

The intrepid conduct of the Highlanders on this occasion was made the topic of universal panegyric in Great Britain, and the public spirits teemed with honourable testimonies to their bravery. If anything could add to the gratification they received from the approbation of their country, nothing was better calculated to enhance it than the handsome way in which their services were appreciated by their companions in arms. "With a mixture of esteem, grief, and envy (says an officer of the 55th), I consider the great loss and immortal glory acquired by the Scots Highlanders in the late bloody affair. Impatient for orders, they rushed forward to the entrenchments, which many of them actually mounted. They appeared like lions breaking from their chains. Their intrepidity was rather animated than damped by seeing their comrades fall on every side. I have only to say of them, that they seemed more anxious to revenge the cause of their deceased friends, than careful to avoid the same fate. By their assistance, we expect soon to give a good account of the enemy and of ourselves. There is much

harmony and friendship between us". The following extract of a letter from Lieutenant William Grant, an officer of the regiment, seems to contain no exaggerated detail: - "The attack began a little past one in the afternoon, and about two the fire became general on both sides, which was exceedingly heavy, and without any intermission, insomuch that the oldest soldier present never saw so furious and incessant a fire. The affair at Fontenoy was nothing to it: I saw both. We laboured under insurmountable difficulties. The enemy's breast-work was about nine or ten feet high, upon the top of which they had plenty of wall-pieces fixed, and which was well lined in the inside with small arms. But the difficult access to their lines was what gave them a fatal advantage over us. They took care to cut down monstrous large oak trees which covered all the ground from the foot of their breast-work about the distance of a cannon-shot every way in their front. This not only broke our ranks, and made it impossible for us to keep our order, but put it entirely out of our power to advance till we cut our way through. I have seen men behave with courage and resolution before now, but so much determined bravery can hardly be equalled in any part of the history of ancient Rome. Even those that were mortally wounded cried aloud to their companions, not to mind or lose a thought upon them, but to follow their officers, and to mind the honour of their country. Nay, their ardour was such, that it was difficult to bring them off. They paid dearly for their intrepidity. The remains of the regiment had the honour to cover the retreat of the army, and brought off the wounded as we did at Fontenoy. When shall we have so fine a regiment again? I hope we shall be allowed to recruit. Lieutenant Grant's wish had been anticipated, as letters of service had been issued, before the affair of Ticonderoga was known in England, for raising a second battalion. Moreover, previous to the arrival of the news of the affair at Ticonderoga, his majesty George II had issued a warrant conferring upon the regiment the title of Royal, so that after this it was known as the 42d Royal Highland Regiment.

The Black Watch at Ticonderoga

By Frederick B. Richards, A. B., Glens Falls, N. Y. (1906) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/scotreg/bwatch/blackwatchattico00rich.pdf>

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair