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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for September 18, 2026

Electric Scotland News

I think I'm moving from tottering to hobbling which is an improvement :-)

Got a visit from my care giver and she's provided me with a seat for my shower which should make it a little safer for me.

My Canadian experience for this week covers the Toronto meeting of the world's largest investors and apparently raised some 500 billion dollars in new investment for Canadian projects. Also covered the Prime Ministers talk at the EU Parliament and other matters.

I confess I am confused as to Donald Trumps consistent persecution of Canada. It just makes no sense to me. Like yes the USA purchases more from Canada but that includes products that it needs like oil, gas, electricity, uranium, fertilizer and rare earths.

It's clear that America does actually need some of what Canada provides.

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...

Von der Leyen's Surprise Offer to Carney Draws Standing Ovation Amid Trump-Canada Feud

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed opening the door for Canada to become the European Union's first associate member. Speaking during her State of the Union address, von der Leyen also warned of growing threats from Russia, called for stronger European security coordination and announced tougher proposed restrictions on children's social media use. She also addressed Ukraine, Gaza, China, migration, climate change and Europe's AI strategy.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/MfWKMrpZxU0?si=R3cGW9ZEsNvKncZh>

Canada BEATS Trump's U.S., Global Investors APPLAUD Carney

At Canada's investment summit, Prime Minister Mark Carney told global investors the old model of deep

integration is no longer safe. Economic integration has been weaponized. Tariffs are used as leverage. Canada's answer is to build at home, diversify abroad, and become master in its own house. He said a country that cannot feed, fuel, or defend itself is not truly sovereign. To American friends, Carney said Canada will always be a neighbour, but arrangements work when sovereignty is respected. When that opportunity returns, Canada will be stronger and more independent. He announced a productivity mega deduction that he said gives Canada the lowest marginal effective tax rate in the G7 — less than half the US rate — and told reporters the incentive to invest in Canada is twice as high as in the United States, with foreign direct investment already running at twice the US pace.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/MadR5NWjkiE?si=iyBzqGH8sGeNJ7uD>

U.S. Empire in Decline: Richard Wolff on Iran War, Rising Inequality, \$40T National Debt & More

We speak to Richard Wolff, a prominent Marxist economist, about the economic fallout from the war on Iran, which recently reached the six-month mark. "Because it's only been going on for a few months, the impact on the prices we pay is about to unload itself," says Wolff. The U.S. national debt, which recently topped \$40 trillion, is "one of the many signs of an economy and of an empire that is now in decline," says Wolff. "There is an enormous increase in defense spending, or now war spending, that is scheduled, and no comparable increase in revenue." Wolff also discusses how a global selloff of U.S. government bonds means increasing borrowing costs for everyday consumers.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/DzzNk-XzWCw?si=RHhdo6K5fUlobr4d>

Conrad Black: The moral bankruptcy of Carney's Israel sanctions

It is a manifestly unjust gesture of symbolic impotence

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/Q8m4l>

I tried the 'world's best' chocolate from a Scottish chocolatier celebrating his 20th anniversary

To celebrate 20 years since he set up The Highland Chocolatier in Grandtully, Iain Burnett should treat himself to a much bigger trophy cabinet.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/i-tried-the-worlds-best-chocolate-from-a-scottish-chocolatier-celebrating-his-20th-anniversary-9056590>

EU Lawmaker Shouts 'USA! USA!' As Mark Carney Walks To Podium; Watch What Happens

Mark Carney smiles as "USA! USA!" chants echo through the European Parliament before delivering a major speech on Canada's relationship with Europe and the changing global order. The Canadian Prime Minister then turns to the growing use of trade as a tool of pressure, warning about the "weaponisation of trade" and arguing for stronger alliances, economic resilience and cooperation.

Watch his speech at:

<https://youtu.be/5kPolJaWtSI?si=8yjHXCTjyddtT7eX>

Trump's comments show he is 'deeply worried' of Canada seeking other markets, political analyst says

CTV News' U.S. Political Analyst Eric Ham on Trump's latest threats towards Canada and Europe and how it may impact trade negotiations.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/AaZghX9pR24?si=xndqNVSmFNHXgFos>

Electric Canadian

My Canadian Experience

Updated the September entry to reflect the Investment summit in Toronto and also the Prime Minister's speech to the EU Parliament

You can view the videos and read the reports at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add37.htm

Duncan Campbell Scott CMG FRSC

Was a Canadian civil servant, poet and prose writer (Wikipedia pdf)

You can read about him at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/Duncan_Campbell_Scott.pdf

Canada under the National Policy

Information for the Electors (1891) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/nationalpolicy.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 13th day of September 2026 - Oaths & Promises

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/hRYLIUTzBvE?si=uFE7wLuHmoPm6qIP>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 2 Outfit 273 September 1942 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverseptember1942.pdf>

Electric Scotland

King Charles Chooses Scotland to Issue Warning to Largest Company on Planet of AI Dangers

Nvidia, with a stock market valuation of \$5.5 trillion (£4.1tn), has received a face-to-face warning from King Charles during a summit he organised at Dumfries House about the "existential dangers" of AI to each and everyone of us. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/magee/article0058.htm>

Traditionary Stories of Old Families

And legendary illustrations of Family History with notes, historical and biographical by Andrew Picken in two volumes (1833)

I've made the Preface to this publication the story for this week and you can read these volumes at:

https://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/picken_andrew.htm

Sunday Magazine 1872 (pdf)

You can read this volume at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/bible/sundaymagazine1872.pdf>

Strahan, Alexander

Publisher

You can read about him at:

https://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/strahan_alexander.htm

Scots-Massachusetts Link Up Significant Boost To Global Life Sciences

A novel "Scotland-Massachusetts Bio-Bridge" building on the twinning of cities Glasgow and Boston is set to create fresh opportunities for economic growth from the sector on both sides of the Atlantic. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this article at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/magee/article0057.htm>

The Dominie's Legacy

In three volumes written by Andrew Picken.

You can read these volumes at:

https://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/picken_andrew.htm

Scottish Society of Louisville

Got in their September 2026 newsletter which you can read at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/louisville>

The great Knockshinnoch mine rescue

Added this account to the foot of our coal mining page at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/history/industrial/industry1.htm>

Story

Traditionary Stories of Old Families

And legendary illustrations of Family History with notes, historical and biographical by Andrew Picken in two volumes (1833)

PREFACE

It is seldom that the title-page of a new book conveys fully the meaning and aim of the author. As the plan of the present is something out of the common, and is intended to embrace and to bring before the general public many matters in the history of families and of individuals, which otherwise might have little chance of seeing the light, the author may, therefore, be permitted a few prefatory words.

Among those distinguished families in whom high descent and influential connections, running through the varieties of many generations, may cause a just pride in tracing lineage and history, there are, in numerous instances, preserved in private archives, or even through the medium of colloquial tradition, many interesting facts, or remarkable incidents, arising out of the characters or fortunes of the men of the past, which, if given to the public in the requisite form, before they are lost to the world by the rapid changing of taste, and the death of their remaining depositaries, might be most illustrative of the great subject of human nature, and even convey valuable moral instruction. Besides this, there are, in old books and scarce tracts — such as only the patient

antiquary or the ardent literary enthusiast can plod through, — as well as among the quaint poetry of the olden time, occasional hints of life and manners which, when filled up by the fancy and illustrated by the judgment, or even unrolled from their original dryness, like a mummy of antiquity, are to us more interesting, from their basement in truth, than the most splendid illusions of mere invention.

If, in prosecuting a plan of this kind, and using the word “tradition” to designate our intent, it should be urged by any that we ought, in reference to family history, to amplify nothing, to extend nothing, but to confine ourselves to absolute recorded truth: — alas! (for the objection draws from us a moralising exclamation) how little of human life is put upon actual record, or even told from our fathers in traditionary story! The genealogists, if we are confined thus, are the true historians of the world. They say that we are born and die, marry and have children, inherit lands or titles, and transmit them to our posterity. But the tree of life hath a richer foliage than can be traced through the bald branches of a pedigree: it hath blooming flowers and mellow fruit; it stands lofty in the plain, spreading its roots abroad; or it struggles with its own nature on the barren face of the rock; a canker-worm eats out its sap and destroys its branches, or the storm from the mountains tears it up by the roots. Thus, even the oaks of the forest have a moral history, and man judgeth of man, and of his thoughts and deeds, because mind and feeling know all things.

If the plan of giving life and muscle, where it can be done satisfactorily, to the dry skeleton of tradition, or of filling up by the fancy the meagre outline of ill-recorded history, required any apology, after what has been done by the great magician of our age, it would be found in the fact, that the most interesting circumstances affecting conduct and happiness are often passed over altogether, among the names and dates of the records of exterior and showy events; or are handed down through generations, in the shape of brief hints or recollections, or treasured up as family secrets, or reach the world, perhaps, in short anecdotes, or mere surmises, where a world of anxiety joy, or grief, is compressed into the compass of half a page, or rhymed off in a few stanzas of a forgotten ballad.

In turning our enquiries, then, into the wide field of family history, and penetrating under the surface of generally known fact, a mine is opened, but little wrought as yet, of such richness and variety as, particularly if aided by private communication, will well repay the labours of the con amore enquirer, and not be unworthy, as we think, of the encouragement of the public. Our plan, also, offers, in future volumes, to the living representatives of ancient families, and others, an opportunity of bringing out much curious and always instructive matter, which might have little chance, otherwise, of obtaining the attention of the public. In his little experience, the author has already found that the most interesting circumstances of domestic biography, particularly when they imply suffering or misfortune, are often those that individuals consider in the light of family secrets, which they are the most reluctant to have known; and thus the world loses all the instruction of the warning or example of some painfully-earned experience. This delicacy, however, only adheres to certain minds; but where it does exist, it is easily provided for, in making use of its communications, by the simple plan of giving imaginary names and allusions where the nature of the case seems to require such concealment.

The more modern fragments of family history, which may be chiefly of this sort, we put into the mouth of the simple Dominie, who would travel a score of miles any day to learn an interesting fact; yet would go twice the distance, if, by so doing, he might avoid giving any living mortal offence.

The stories in these two volumes are more confined to Scotland than the author had intended, could he have got his materials out of the hands of some to whom he unfortunately submitted them, in proper time for the present publication; or had the English and Irish families entered with the same readiness into his views, that was done by his more facile countrymen of the North. Should the present, nevertheless, be encouraged, however imperfect as a first experiment, future volumes will, he trusts, show how much it is his own wish to avoid the charge of any national partiality.

To the early friends of this work, and its plan, who, by patronising it in private, or by supplying information for the present, or offering it for future volumes, have encouraged him to the publication, the author begs to offer his best thanks; and when he mentions, among these, the names of the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Bedford,

the Duke of Buccleugh, the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marquess and Marchioness of Hastings, the Earl Spencer, the Earl of Errol, the Earl of Glasgow, the Earl Cadogan, the Earl Mount-norris, the Lord Chancellor, the Viscount Melbourne, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, the Lord Leveson Gower, the Viscount Mahon, Lord Panmure, Lord Carberry, the late lamented Lord Dover, Sir Charles Forbes, Bart., Sir John Forbes, Bart., General Nathaniel Forbes, Mr. Forbes of Newe, Sir John Hay, Bart., M.P., Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart., M.P., Patrick Maxwell Stewart, M.P., the Hon. D. G. Halliburton, M.P., Sir Andrew Halliday, Knt., M.D., Sir Daniel K. Sandford, Knt., Robert Wallace, M.P., Robert Gordon, M.P., J. H. Callander, M.P., Edward T. Bainbridge, M.P., John Maxwell, M.P., James Ewing, M.P., James Oswald, M.P., J. A. Murray, M.P., Mr. Gordon of Fyvie, Mr. Gordon of Cairnbulg, Mr. Lockhart, Mr. Southey, Mr. Thomas Campbell, Mr. Wordsworth, Mr. Moore, and others with whose names the public are hardly less familiar, he may be justified in anticipating some portion of success.

Many defects and "short comings" of his own conceptions are incident to an author's first step in any literary undertaking, however humble. But, not to be further egotistical where the subject will hardly bear it, we shall end our preface by the quaint excusation of the learned "prentar" of Boece's black-letter chronicles: —

"And in this wark that I have here assailzett
To bring to lycht, maist humely I exhort
Zow nobill reders, quhare that I have failzett.
In letter, sillabe, poyntis lang, or schort,
That ye will of your gentrice it support,
And take the present the best wyse ze may,
I sail do better (will God) maybe ane other day."

You can read these two volumes at:

https://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/picken_andrew.htm

END.

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

Alastair