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AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE
ARTICLES
BETH'S FAMILY TREE
BOOKS
BUSINESS
CHILDREN'S STORIES
CLANS & FAMILIES

CULTURE & LANGUAGE
DONNA'S PAGE
ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET
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
WHAT'S NEW

HELP TERMS OF USE CONTACT US

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for October 16, 2026

Electric Scotland News

SpaceX's Starshield Disruption Leaves Ukraine 'Defenceless' - Oct 14

"The Ukrainians were unable to respond to Russian attacks. That killed half a dozen people."

Restrictions in the use of Space X's Starshield meant the Ukrainian military were unable to respond to Russian attacks overnight, says David Charter.

David Charter was speaking to Kait Borsay on The Evening Edition on Times Radio.

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/8s3brFCWbPs?si=V8DhD1hubrlKGwNn>

I'm really not political but I do support Ukraine and am concerned about how America seems to be turning away from supporting them.

Continued to update My Canadian Experience for October which you can view at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add38.htm which includes...

New salt mine in Newfoundland first one in North America in 30 years, Ontario's Port Hope Converted 11,200 Tonnes Of Uranium As America's Only Plant Is Rated For 7,000, Ukraine Just Took Out Russia's Google, Canada Sends Its Largest Trade Delegation To India In 30 Years, and Prime Minister Carney launches new National Council on Artificial Intelligence, amongst other items.

A SCOTCH WHIG—A CAMERONIAN.

Franklin House, Broadway, New York, May 25th, 1829.

Yesterday forenoon I accompanied Mr. Macintyre to Doctor Spring's church, in the Park, and as we were rather early, I took a walk among the monuments, an inscription on one of which will convince you that (Paul Jones exclusive) the Scotch of 1776 were not all Tories. The stone sets forth, that there lie the remains of General William Malcolm, a native of Scotland, who died in 1791 and that possessing "a cultivated understanding," and being animated by the "love of liberty," he was "one of the foremost of those who asserted the rights and secured the freedom of America." And I sincerely trust that that freedom is well secured, and that this truly meat and happy country may long continue to offer an asylum and a home to the oppressed of all nations, for where is the German, Russian, Prussian, Irishman, Italian, Portuguese or Spaniard, (and I had like to have added Englishman or Scotchman,) who sets his foot upon this soil but sees and feels the difference betwixt a popular government, strong and powerful in the love and affection of a whole people, and a despotism. where the natives are the slaves of a pampered few? In the afternoon I went to hear Doctor M'Leod, a steadfast Presbyterian of the old school; the genuine Cameronian, and a good preacher. There, the old and solemn tunes

of our fathers have not yet made way for ballad rhymes—there, the single line of old Scottish Psalmody is given out by the preacher in truly national style—there, the discourse is divided and subdivided into heads and observes in true covenanting fashion. I felt more at home in this church, the members of which are either Scotch, or generally from the north of Ireland, than I have often done while listening to the splendid eloquence of more fashionable pulpit orators.

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...

'Remarkable' Scottish Island where Bonnie Prince Charlie once hid up for sale

It offers privacy and a sense of escape in a spectacular setting."

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/scotland-now/gallery/remarkable-scottish-island-bonnie-prince-37748239>

A magnificent obsession

Ian Mitchell's Russia and the Rule of Law

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/10/a-magnificent-obsession-ian-mitchells-russia-and-the-rule-of-law/>

I do not have confidence UK is safe from Russian threats - Swinney

The SNP leader said the UK government, which is in charge of Britain's defences, did not have a sufficient "presence" in vulnerable areas off Scotland's coast.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/Deiub#selection-843.0-843.159>

US inflation rises more than expected - here's what is happening with prices

US inflation rose by more than expected in the year to September, according to official figures, in the final data release before the midterm elections next month. The pace of price rises increased to 3.7%, up from 3.4% in the 12 months to August.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy8lx3pg4k2o>

Conrad Black: Quebec's Gilbert and Sullivan election

Monday produced the most fragmented result in the province's history

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/rIH47>

The shocking figures that reveal how bad Scotland's A&E crisis has got under SNP

Emergency departments in two flagship hospitals can sometimes be forced to deal with more than double or

triple the number of patients they are designed to treat

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/017yx#selection-541.0-541.161>

Ukraine Just Put Russia Into a DARK AGE With ONE MOVE

Between October 8 and 11, 2026, Ukrainian long-range strike drones targeted the physical heart of the Russian internet, hitting three of Yandex's five massive data centers in Sasovo, Kaluga, and Vladimir. Knocking out major cloud availability zones, disabling supercomputers used to train YandexGPT, and taking down over 80 digital platforms, this campaign brings the war directly to Russia's tech sector. Discover how Ukraine's retaliatory data center strikes are paralyzing Russian digital services, damaging CNC missile-component tooling, and exposing critical domestic air defense shortages.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/Y3STWiTXwo8?si=rT78OLsnLkocvDI1>

How El Niño could impact winter in Eastern Canada - Oct 14

The Weather Network's Chris Potter has more in this winter sneak peek for Eastern Canada.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/nJE7iompNeM?si=nfiHLfDCj-1cgA3L>

Electric Canadian

Shorthorn Cattle

A series of historical sketches, memoirs and records of the breed and its development in the United States and Canada by Alvin Howard Sanders, D.Agr., LL.D. (1916) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/ShorthornCattles.pdf>

Shorthorn Cattle in Canada

By Duncan Marshall (1932) can be borrowed on the Internet Archive

You can borrow this book at:

https://archive.org/details/bwb_W9-CSJ-425

The Story of Manitoba

By F. H. Schofield (1913) in 3 volumes. I just noticed that the three pdf files were not loading for some reason so have now replaced them and are now downloading correctly.

You can get to these volumes at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/manitoba/story/index.htm>

A Brief Sketch of the Life and Services of Retired Chief Factor R. MacFarlane

Extracted from the Third Volume of "The Story of Manitoba," Etc. (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/RoderickRossMacFarlane.pdf>

From Aberdeen to Ottawa in 1845

The diary of Alexander Muir. You can borrow this book on the Internet Archive.

You can borrow this book at:

<https://archive.org/details/fromaberdeentoot0000muir/page/n7/mode/1up>

Maple Leaf Forever

Music Score (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/music/mapleleafforever.pdf>

The Canadas

As they at present commend themselves to the Enterprize of Emigrants, Colonists and Capatalists by John Galt, Esq. (1832) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/canadasasthey.pdf>

Canada under the National Policy

Arts and Manufactures 1883 (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/canadanationalpolicy.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning the 11th of October 2026 Harvest Thanksgiving

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/qewPPtiY4XA?si=15uXG_yRA467msZ-

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 1 Outfit 274 June 1943 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverseptember1943.pdf>

Electric Scotland

General William Malcolm

A Scots-American (Wiki pdf)

You can read about him at:

https://electricscotland.com/history/america/william_malcolm.pdf

Clans, Septs & Regiments of the Scottish Highlands

By Frank Adams (1908) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/clansseptsregime01.pdf>

AI Data Centre Drive Throughout Scotland Causing Renewable Energy Anxieties

Over twenty AI-driven data centres are planned in Scotland as part of the global race to build such energy-sapping monoliths on a massive scale leading to looming planning battles. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this article at:

<https://electricscotland.com/magee/article0060.htm>

Lowering Infrastructure Costs

By Ben Hopkinson (pdf)

You can read this report at:

https://electricscotland.com/business/cps_lowering_infrastructure_costs.pdf

The Christian Cynosure

With an article about Drumclog. September 30, 1880 (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/picturesque/christiancynosurv13blan.pdf>

A Debate on Slavery

Held on First, Second, Third and Sixth days of October, 1815 in the City of Cincinnati between Rev. J. Blanchard, Pastor of the sixth Presbyterian Church and N. L. Rice, D. D. Pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church by Jonathan Blanchard (1846) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/america/DebateonSlavery.pdf>

Early death not premature

Being a Memoir of Francis L. Mackenzie, with notices of Henry Mackenzie by Charles Popham Miles (1863)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/EarlyDeathNotPremature.pdf>

Story

The Black Watch - Story of the "Red Heckle"

Since 1795 the soldiers of the 42nd have worn a red feather or "heckle" in their bonnets, being in this respect distinguished from all the other Highland regiments. The following is the story of the "glorious old red heckle", as told by Lieutenant-Colonel Wheatley, who, we believe, had his information directly from those who took part in the exploit on account of which the Black Watch is entitled to wear the plume.

In December 1794, when the Forty-Second were quartered at Thuyl, as above mentioned, they received orders for the night of the 31st to mark upon Bommell, distant some miles on the opposite side of the river Waal, which they reached by four o'clock on the morning of 1st January 1795. Here they were joined by a number of other regiments, and lay on their arms until daybreak, when they attacked the French army, and drove them across the river on the ice. The British held their position on the banks of the river until the evening of the 3d, when (the French having been reinforced) a partial retreat took place early on the morning of the 4th. The British retired upon the village of Guidermalson, where the 42d, with a number of other regiments, halted, and formed up to cover the retreat through the village. The French cavalry, however, cut through the retreating picquets, and made their way up to the regiments stationed at the village, where they were met and repulsed, and a number of them taken prisoners. Two field-pieces were placed in front of the village to protect the retreat of the picquets; but instead of resisting the charge of cavalry, they (the picquets) retreated to the rear of the village, leaving their guns in possession of the French, who commenced dragging them off. An A.D.C. (Major Rose)

ordered Major Dalrymple, commanding the 42d, to charge with his regiment, and retake the guns; which was immediately done, with the loss of 1 man killed and 3 wounded. The guns were this rescued and dragged in by the 42d, the horses having been disabled and the harness cut.

There was little or no notice taken of this affair at the time, as all was bustle; but after their arrival in England, it was rumored that the 42d were to get some distinctive badge for their conduct in retaking the guns on the 4th of January; but the nature of the honor was kept a profound secret. On the 4th of June 1795, as the regiment, then quartered at Royston, Cambridgeshire, was out on parade to fire three rounds in honor of his Majesty's birthday, the men were surprised and delighted when a large box was brought on to the field, and a red feather distributed to each soldier. This distinctive ornament has ever since adorned the otherwise funereal headdress of the old Black Watch.

In 1822, from a mistaken direction in a book of dress for the guidance of the army, some of the other Highland regiments concluded that they also had a right to wear "a red vulture feather". The 42d, however, remonstrated, and their representations at headquarters called forth the following memorandum:-

"For Officers commanding Highland Regiments.

"Horse Guards, 20th Aug, 1822.

"The red vulture feather prescribed by the recent regulations for Highland regiments is intended to be used exclusively by the Forty-Second Regiment: other Highland corps will be allowed to continue to wear the same description of feather that may have been hitherto in use.

"H. Torrens, Adjutant-General".

The below email was received from Joseph Mad...

The article was taken from Canada's Red Hackle Magazine, Written by Mr. Earl Chapman and rewritten by Spañiard.

THE True Story of the Origins of 42nd Black Watch Red Heckle. We spell it with a A.

ORIGINS OF THE RED HACKLE

Over the years the origin of the Red Hackle has caused some confusion. For some time it was believed the famous Red Feathers were awarded as a campaign Distinction, for the regiment's service during the British retreat through the Flemish village of Glendermaisen in January 1795.

It's historically fact that the first "Official" use of the Red Hackle occurred when the 42nd Regiment at Royston Hertfordshire was issued Red Vulture feathers on June 4th 1795. The 42nd Regiment paraded to celebrate the birth, of King George III.

In fact, we know based on two letters discovered in 1967, stating that the 42nd Regiment had worn Red feathers twenty years earlier during the American War of Independence, (1775-1781). These letters are held in the Regimental archives at Balhousie Castle. The first letter was written by Lieutenant-Coronal Sir Robert Dick Commander of the 42nd on September 8th 1822, to General James Stirling who commanded the 42nd in 1804 and served with the Regiment during the American War of Independence.

In his letter to Stirling, LCOL Dick asks for advice as how the Regiment first acquired the right to wear the Red Hackle, stating that "I always understood that the Red Feather was given for taking or defeating a regiment of Grenadiers. But I can not remember when it took place. Stearling replied; "The origins of their wearing this feather commenced early in the American War of 1776 when the Regiment was Brigaded with the Grenadiers and a light infantry of the army under the command of the late Marquis Cornwallis. At this period there were no

regulation feathers. The Grenadiers wore White Feathers, the first battalion light infantry wore Green. The second battalion wore Red, and to make the whole uniform, General Sir William Howe, ordered the 42nd to get Red feathers". Stirling went on to state "When the Regiment arrived in England from Egypt in (1802) they were received by His late Majesty and Colonel Dickson who then commended them and asked his Majesty's permission for the regiment to wear the Red Feather, in which his Majesty graciously granted.

This tells us the 71st Highland Regiment of Foot, the re-raised Fraser Highlanders, Were the first to wear a red feather while servicing in North America around 1776. In hindsight the original Fraser Highlanders 78th of Foot, were raised in 1757 for Service during the French and Indian Wars and were disbanded in 1763.

LCOL John Maitland, then commanding the Fraser's and General George Washington. As old acquaintances, although apposed enemies they exchanged some intimidating letters. As one sent by LCOL Maitland to General George Washington warning him that in future his men would be distinguished by a Red feather in their bonnets, so that the General would not mistake them, nor avoid doing justice to their exploits.

After the War the only regiment not to be disbanded was the 42nd. However the trend of wearing a Red Feather appeared to have stopped sometime after the war. Then it was reintroduced at the parade in Royston on the occasion of the King's birth.

It wasn't until August 20th 1822 that the exclusive right to wear the Red Feather was finally safeguarded by the Horse Guards.

"For Officers commanding Highland Regiments.

General Order, The Red Vulture feather prescribed by the recent regulations, for the Highland Regiments, is intended to be used exclusively by the Forty-Second Regiment. Other Highland corps will be allowed to continue to wear the same description of feather that may have been hitherto in use.

"H. Torrens, Adjutant-General".

As further reinforcement of the origins of the Red Hackle, a pamphlet publish in 1862 Entitled "An Account of the Scottish Regiments "with the statistics of each from 1808 to 1861, notes under the 42nd Regiment that," We cannot recollect our authority. But have always understood that the Red feather worn in their bonnets was given as a mark of distinction for their gallantry in America" this pamphlet was compiled by MacKerlie, who is know to have access to the old record books.

The Canadian unit, then known as the Royal Scots of Canada, was officially permitted To wear the Red Hackle by General Order dated May 25th 1895.

It's my Right and privilege to wear a Red Hackle but also my responsibility, Under the Canadian Black Watch general standing orders to keep my Red Hackle Bloomed. In order to distinguish me from my Scottish Cousins.

6 beats to the drum HOY!

[LT COL DICK CO 42ND TO GEN JAMES STIRLING]

Tullymet House. Sept 1822

"Dear General, Colonel Cowell received a letter from Greenwood and Cox some time ago by desire of the Adjutant General to acquaint them for the information of the latter, from what period and by what authority, the 42nd Regiment had worn the red feather the same as is now ordered for the other Highland regiments. So many of the old orderly books have been lost that we have no official document by which to answer their question. I have therefore desired Colonel Cowell to write to the agent to that effect. But as you served in the

Corps and Commanded it so many years, I think you may be able perhaps to give me necessary information on the subject and take the liberty of addressing you- I have always understood since I have been in the Regiment that the Red Feather was given them for taking or defeating a regiment of Grenadiers and that the Lt Company of the 48th [sic] who were with them on that occasion got it at the same time, but I cannot remember when I heard this took place. May I beg the favour of a few lines from you soon.

I remain

Dear General

Yours very truly

RH Dick"

[GEN STIRLING'S REPLY]

"In answer to your letter of 8th inst. relative to know how the 42nd Regt came to wear the Red Feather. The origin of their wearing this feather commenced early in the American War of 1776 when the regiment was Brigaded with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army under the command of the late Marquis Cornwallis- at this period there were no regulation feathers - the grenadiers wore White Feathers, the first battalion Light Infantry wore Green,- the 2nd Light Infantry wore Red, and to make the whole uniform General Sir William Howe, then Commander- in-Chief, ordered the 42nd to get red feathers which they have wore [sic] ever since."

When the regiment arrived in England from Egypt they were reviewed by His late Majesty and Colonel Dickson who then Commanded them asked His Majesty's permission for the Regiment to wear the red feather, which he was graciously pleased to grant- at this time the regulation feather had come out. It was great neglect of Colonel Dickson in his not getting a Government order for the Regiment to wear this feather, and to have it recorded in the Standing Orderly Book of the Regiment. This is all the information I can give you on the subject."

The two mentions of the Regulation Feather in General Stirling's reply presumably refer to the white feather that was ordered to be worn by all regiments in one of the War Office/Ministry of Defence's periodic efforts to impose some uniformity on Army dress- as unsuccessful then as it is today.

In addition to these two letters, there is evidence in Stewart of Garth's 'Sketches of the Highlanders' that Fraser's Highlanders, at least, wore a Red Feather in 1776 or 1777. Taken with General Stirling's letter it can be assumed that all Highland Regiments engaged in that campaign took to wearing a Red Feather. Of these regiments only the 42nd were not disbanded after the war.

All this proves fairly conclusively that the Red Hackle was not won at Guildermalsen but that it had been worn by the Regiment for at least 20 years before. This means that January 5th is not Red Hackle Day!

Where, then, did Sgt Cameron and Pte Dowie get their version? No doubt they were correct in remembering a parade at Royston in June 1795 and an issue of Red Hackles and no doubt the C.O., at that parade, referred to the Regiment's action at Guildermalsen the previous January. Where Cameron and Dowie must have gone wrong was in associating the issue of the Hackle with an honour for the action. In any case the award of such an honour would seem to be extremely unlikely for the 42nd's part in the action at Guildermalsen was not even mentioned in General Dundas's official despatch and most telling of all, who ever heard of a Ministry of Defence Dress Committee taking a decision stemming from a battle in January in time for a parade the following June!

Sadly, then, there is no short and glamorous answer to the question "How did the Black Watch get the Red Hackle-?" Perhaps it was the result of General Howe wanting a distinctive badge for Lord Cornwallis's makeshift brigade, perhaps the custom started in Fraser's Highlanders as a defiant gesture and spread to the other Highland regiments involved in the campaign, perhaps the Red Feather came to the regiment with the drafts from the disbanded Fraser's Highlanders. However it came, this unique regimental badge has been worn continuously in every form of headdress except the glengarry for over 200 years. Today's Highlanders can continue to wear it with pride.

[COLONEL HON. DAVID ARBUTHNOTT]

END.

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

Alastair