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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for August 9th, 2013

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Electric Scotland News

Should you enjoy a good ceilidh then each week you can listen to the Andy Ross Show from Moray Radio in Scotland. When you visit his site in the right column you'll see "Listen to the Show" and normally you'll have the opportunity to listen to both the current show as well as the previous one. There is also a link to allow you to download the show in .mp3 format to your computer.

You can get to his page at <http://www.andysceilidh.co.uk/>

The Common Weel Project.

Common Weal is an emerging movement which is developing a vision for economic and social development in Scotland which is distinct and different from the political orthodoxy that dominates politics and economics in London.

It is based on the conviction that we will get better outcomes for both society and individuals if we emphasise mutuality and equity rather than conflict and inequality.

All of this can be captured in one simple phrase: to build more we must share more.

It comes from the old Scots term, which carries the meanings of both 'shared wealth' and 'our wellbeing is common to us all'. These values are strong both in Scottish history and in contemporary Scottish life.

Many people who support a Common Weal vision support independence, but some don't. The aim is to create a programme for the economic and social transformation of Scotland. That programme will outline what powers are needed to achieve change and where they are held. It is then for others to explain how they would achieve this vision in their preferred constitutional outcome.

You can learn more about this project at <http://scottishcommonweal.org/>

Why Scottish Culture CAN'T & SHOULD NOT Be Separate From The Independence Movement

I found this an interesting and quite long article and if you are interested in the Independence debate then well worth a read at <http://t.co/QgFVqEyggc>

British Shop

For those of us in the Scots Diaspora that still remember living and working in Scotland we do have the occasional longing for some Scottish Food. And this week I found myself in that mode when I drove for 1.5 hours to get to London, Ontario to visit the British Shop there and I ended up spending some \$260.

I purchased some potato scones... although I have now decided not to purchase any more as frankly they don't seem to use much in the way of potato. I also purchased a cheese and onion bridie and again I won't be buying those again as they just aren't as good as they are in Scotland.

I did however purchase a number of steak and kidney pies which are excellent and so have some reserves in my freezer. I also purchased the traditional Forfar bridies which are not bad at all and especially served up with baked beans and fries.

I got in my supplies of sliced sausage and black pudding. I note that MacDonald's do a sausage and egg MacMuffin and so I do my own version of these and even add a bit of black pudding for extra taste.

Then of course I got supplies of my favourite HP Fruity Sauce which is now very hard to find. HP in Canada did the same sauce called "Chicken & Rib" but they seem to have delisted that as I can't find it anywhere.

I also purchased a number of tins of Heinz Tomato Soup and also a couple of jars of Ploughman's Pickle.

I did manage not to be tempted by all the chocolate biscuits.

I didn't purchase any haggis as I actually get that from Caledonian Kitchen in the USA as I happen to like their haggis the best. You can see their offerings at: <http://www.caledoniankitchen.com/>. I might add that I get the Lamb version.

When I was going to Toronto I used to call in at either Mrs Bridges or But 'n Ben. Mrs Bridges do a very good Haggis Scotch Pie topped with potato and turnip. But 'n Ben do an excellent 1lb steak pie.

You can find Mrs Bridges at: <http://www.bestbritishfoods.com/>

You can find But 'n Ben at: <http://www.butnbenbakery.com/>

Electric Canadian

Wild Life in Canada

By Captain Angus Buchanan, M.C. (1920).

I am going to add a chapter per day from this book until complete. Here is how the Preface starts...

Canada, in a great belt that runs from sea to sea, across the southern territory of her dominion, is the civilised, rapidly growing country which we all know to-day. Therein, in out-of-the-way places where mankind pass not too often, there are still quantities of big game and fur-bearing animals and wild-fowl to delight the lover of nature and solitude. But it is not of such places that I write in this narrative—not of the outdoor places that are within reach of those who inhabit the populated south country of Canada; for the wanderings which it has been my good fortune to experience, and which henceforth I will endeavour to describe, were through a part of the great unpeopled North, which even to-day comprises more than half of the large Dominion of Canada. So great is the far north territory that

there is many a hundred miles on which no white man has yet set foot, and even where the white man has been, in the distant interior near to the Barren Lands* in many cases the footprints have been so few that an old Indian inhabitant of a district could easily count those who had passed in a lifetime on his ten fingers.

You can read this book at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/wildlife/index.htm>

Rae Mears Bushcraft
A few interesting videos.

I've added three videos. The first is about building a birchbark canoe which is now a rare craft and so I also thought it worth while to preserve this in the event we lose the knowledge.

The second video is about Rae Mears taking a canoe trip through the Canadian lakes and rivers.

The third is actually a series of videos travelling through the Northern wilderness.

You can get to these at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/crafts.htm>

Arctic Economics in the 21st Century. Center for Strategic & International Studies (pdf)
The report explores the key economic dynamics at play in the rapidly changing Arctic region, and evaluates both the economic benefits of an increasingly open Arctic region and the costs of exploring the riches of the American Arctic.

This is a US publication but as Canada has a great interest in this area of the world I thought I'd make this available for you to read.

You can find this as a pdf publication at:
http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/130710_Conley_ArcticEconomics_WEB.pdf

Copyright Policy, Creativity, and Innovation in the Digital Economy
(Green Paper). Department of Commerce (pdf)

This Green Paper is the most thorough and comprehensive analysis of digital copyright policy issued by any administration since 1995. The report is a product of the Department of Commerce's Internet Policy Task Force (IPTF) with input from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

As in the paper above this is a worthy read and especially those that have to deal with copyright issues.

You can read this as a pdf publication at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/copyrightgreenpaper.pdf>

Young Canada's Nursery Rhymes
I came across these quite by chance and thought they'd make a worth while contribution. You can read these at:
http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/music/nursery_rhymes.htm

History of the Orange Order
It has often been said that the Orange Order ruled Toronto. That being the case I thought I'd make an old book available which provides the history of the Orange Order. It is in pdf format and you can download it at:
http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/orange_order.htm

Banking in Canada
An address given by Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., before The Institute of Bankers June 1911. (pdf)

Another pdf publication which gives an excellent overview of the banking industry in Canada at this time in our history and it can be downloaded at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/banking/banking.pdf>

The Flag in the Wind

This weeks issue was compiled by Margaret Hamilton. As the parliament is on summer holiday there is no Synopsis.

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

Electric Scotland

The Scottish Historical Review

We have now started Volume 10 by adding this week the January 1913 issue. You can get to this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/volume10.htm>

In this issue there is a good article about "Loose and Broken Men". Following that article is one on "A Forgotten Scottish Scholar", a Florence Wilson, who was born around 1506. The article quotes..."In recent years, Florence Wilson, for such is his name in the vernacular, has attracted the attention of three distinguished scholars, all of whom recognised in him a rare and choice spirit whom his countrymen do not well to forget."

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

Songs Of Scotland, Prior To Burns

This book is by Robert Chambers who is famous for collecting old Scottish Songs.

Added this week are...

Katherine Ogie

Annie Laurie

Were Na My Heart Licht I Wad Dee

You can get to this book at the foot of the page at:

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

The Scottish Naturalist

I mention in last weeks issue that I had found some copies of this magazine and so am now going to bring you the issues I've found. I think that these issues along with the ones I've already put up from The Annals of Scottish Natural History should together provide some really good information on Scotland's natural history. Here is the Preface from volume 1...

The Scottish Naturalist having now completed the second year of its existence, the Editor avails himself of the conclusion of the first volume to congratulate his friends—the contributors and subscribers—and himself on the amount of success that their magazine has attained.

In the matter of contributions, suggestions have been made that more papers of a "popular" nature should be introduced. The Editor has no objections to insert such papers, always provided that science and truth be not relinquished (as is too often the case) for the sake of "popularity." Complaints, too, have been received from some botanical readers, that their department is not sufficiently represented. While admitting that such is unfortunately the case, the Editor would suggest that the remedy lies in the complainers' own hands,—let them provide the papers, he will be only too happy to give them admission.

Financially The Scottish Naturalist has been also successful. Not only are all expenses of publication defrayed, but, if subscribers would kindly remember that their subscriptions are due in advance, there would be a sufficient surplus to allow of more frequent illustrations, or even of an increase of size without an increase of price.

In returning thanks for all the kind assistance received, the Editor hopes that the supporters of the magazine will continue their help, and endeavour to increase the circulation more and more.

September, 1872.

You can get to volume 1 at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/nature/naturalist.htm>

Thomas Dykes

(1850, Dundonald, Ayrshire - 1916, London, England) Journalist and Author

This week we added to his book "All Round Sport with Fish, Fur and Feather"...

Ptarmigan Shooting on Ben Lomond

In Highland Quarters

The Pick o' the Basket

The Races We've Sailed

You can read these at http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/dykes_thomas.htm

Enigma Machine

This is where we are publishing this set of puzzles created by Doug Ross which can now be found in Doctor's Surgeries, Old Folks Homes, etc.

Added Enigma Machine 26 puzzle which you can get to at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/enigma/enigma026.htm>

The other puzzles we've already published can be found at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/enigma/index.htm>

Songs from John Henderson
John has sent us in another song, Mr and Mrs House-Gecko In Cyprus, which you can read at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerel504.htm>

I might add that this song is in the English language rather than John's usual Doric.

His other songs can be read at <http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerels.htm>

Beauties of Dr. John Moore
Selected from the moral, philosophical, and miscellaneous works of that esteemed author, to which are added, a new biographical and critical account of the doctor and his writings, and notes, historical, classical, and explanatory.

Now added the next 50 pages of this book, Pages 151 to 202, which you can read at:
http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/moore_john.htm

The Scottish Fairy Book
By Elizabeth W. Grierson (1918)

We now have up the following tales...

Thomas the Rhymer
Gold-Tree and Silver-Tree
Whippety-Stourie
The Red-Etin
The Seal Catcher and the Merman
The Page-boy and the Silver Goblet
The Black Bull of Norrway
The Wee Bannock
The Elfin Knight

You can get to these at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/fairy/fairybook.htm>

Braemar Highlands
Their Tales, Traditions and History by Elizabeth Taylor (1869)

Have now completed Part the First...

Description of the Braemar Highlands

Chapter I.
General Appearance of Braemar—Its Mountains, Rivers, and Forests.
Chapter II.
Ben-Macdhui—Linn of Dee—Glen Lui—Glen Ey—Colonel's Cave — Inverey Castle—Falls of Corrymulzie — Linn of Quoich—Braemar Castle.
Chapter III.
Glen Callater—Loch Candor—Lochnagar—Priest's Well—Fairy Hillock, etc.
Chapter IV.
Glen Cluny—Castleton of Braemar—Auchendryne—Morrone—Kenneth's Craig—Croy, etc.
Chapter V.
Glen Candlic—Invercauld House—Lion's Face—Craig Cluny— Big Stone of Cluny—Falls of Garrawalt—Aberairdar— Cairn-a-Quheen — Monaltrie—Balmoral.
Chapter VI.
Abergeldie Castle — Craig-na-ban — Druidic Remains — Glen Muick—Glengairn—Pass of Ballater—Kirk of Tullich, and Legend—

Loch Kinoird—Hill of Mulloch, etc.

Chapter VII.

Braemar via Perth—Glenshee—Pass of the Cairnwell—Castleton —The Gathering, etc.

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

Lord Charles Neaves

Charles Neaves, Lord Neaves FRSE (1800-1876) was a Scottish advocate, judge, theologian and writer.

We thought we'd also serialize a book of poems he wrote and you can learn more about him and read his book at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/men/neaves_charles.htm

This week we added the following poems...

The Origin of Species

The Memory of Monboddo

The Darwinian Era of Farming

The Leather Bottle

The Origin of Language

Grimm's Law

The Three R's

John Muir Trail, Yosemite to Mount Whitney

John Muir Trail, Yosemite to Mount Whitney. 3 Weeks of Photos and Narrated Videos, by Jeremy Evans. Added this video to the foot of the page at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/muir>

Nature in the Highlands

Added a video about nature in the Scottish Highlands which you can view at:

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

OSMTH-I on Christian Crisis in Syria, Egypt with refugee needs in Jordon, Turkey & Iraq

This is a compilation of some of the correspondence I've been sent on efforts of OSMTH International (Knights Templar) to help with this crisis. Normally this type of information is confidential but I feel it is important for it to reach a wider audience so that the people of the world can see the results of all the mayhem going on and some of the efforts being made to help.

I have removed all email addresses from the correspondence but otherwise it is as I received it. I would also point out that many of the comments are expressed from a personal point of view and need not reflect any position that any of the Orders involved hold. Also, as this is a rather fraught situation any opinions expressed can naturally reflect frustration at lack of progress or barriers put up to hinder progress. However, this correspondence does reflect real people trying to do good in this part of our planet and the better we understand the issues hopefully the better the results will be.

This is a series of seven emails which you can view at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/christian_crisis.htm

Robert Burns Lives!

Edited by Frank Shaw

It is always good to hear from Patrick Scott, longtime supporter and contributor to the pages of RBL!. Patrick is Editor, *Studies in Scottish Literature* and Distinguished Professor of English, Emeritus, at the University of South Carolina Libraries. He has been a loyal friend of *Robert Burns Lives!* for many years, and it is always a joy to have him contribute to our web site. You will find the following article on the relationship between poet Marion Bernstein and Robert Burns to be like other articles submitted by Patrick - interesting, fascinating, and with something new to consider. Welcome back home, Patrick! (FRS: 8.8.13)

You can read this article, A Victorian Admirer Writes Back: Marion Bernstein and Robert Burns, by Patrick Scott at: http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_lives177.htm

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

And finally...

True Love!

An elderly gent was invited to an old friend's home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms such as: Darling, Honey, My Love, Pumpkin, Sweetheart, etc.

The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love.

While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over to his host, and said: "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names."

The old man hung his head. "I have to tell you the truth," he said. "Her name slipped my mind about 10 years ago, -- and I'm scared to death to ask the old girl what it is."

Reason For Not Resting In The Grave

Some years ago, when it was discovered that the body of a female had been taken from the burying ground belonging to a certain Gaelic chapel, the minister meeting a surgeon, well-known for his eccentricities, thus accosted him; "Well, Doctor, is it not a strange thing that the dead cannot get leave to rest in their graves now?"

"O my good sir," said the surgeon, "she could never lie yonder - the woman hadna a single word of Gaelic."

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

Alastair