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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for September 20th, 2013

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Electric Scotland News

We have a new advertiser under our Classified page... Tartan WordPress Theme and here is a bit about them...

Tartans Theme - Scottish Website Template

Create a website styled in your clan tartan! The Tartans Theme is the only website template that allows you to choose a style from over 100 Scottish clan tartans, from Anderson to Wallace and every other major clan in between.

The Tartans Theme is for WordPress powered websites. Key features include:

- simple but stylish design
- mobile responsive (works perfectly on smartphones and tablets)
- easy-to-use (no coding knowledge required)
- search engine friendly (get found in search engines)
- quality code and midge resistant!

The Tartans Theme is the brainchild of web designer Duncan Weddell, who has a keen interest in all things Scottish. When not

making websites, Duncan loves to study Scottish History and explore the remains of castles in his native East Lothian.

If you want a Scottish tartan website, but need assistance installing WordPress and setting up the theme, Duncan also offers an installation service.

For more info go to www.tartanstheme.com

Duncan Weddell
Web Designer & SEO Consultant

I wrote to Prince Charles asking if he could help with providing some pictures of the area around Balmoral to go with our book Leaves from my Journal by Queen Victoria. I did actually get a reply albeit from one of his staff but saying he couldn't help but suggested I check out some paintings on a web site but when I checked that site there weren't any paintings to be seen. Oh well!

I also wrote to Scottish Development International asking if they could provide some information on Scotland's Food & Drink Industry and supply some names that I might contact for further information. In short the reply I got was...

SDI is not allowed to divulge the names of companies we work with due to UK data confidentiality legislation. The companies we work with often don't promote the fact that we work with them to provide support.

Sad really and is why I feel we need some agency that can supply such information. I mean I'm not after any confidential information just some info on what various Scottish companies are doing in Scotland today. Seems Scots live in a secret world these days.

Was away over the weekend attending the St James Priory annual investiture and had a great time and ate far too much. On the Friday night I ordered what I thought was an 8 oz steak but it turned out I'd ordered an 18 oz steak! Mind you I did finish it <grin>

Then the banquet on the Saturday night was unusual in that not only did we get a fantastic meal but lo and behold they came around offering seconds! That I'd never seen!

Electric Canadian

Memoir of the Right Reverend John Strachan, First Bishop of Toronto by A. N. Bethune, his successor in the See (1870)

Now got the first 7 chapters up for you to read at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/strachan/index.htm>

The Flag in the Wind

This weeks issue was compiled by Grant Thoms. No Synopsis in this issue.

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

Electric Scotland

The Scottish Historical Review
We are on Volume 11 and have now added the April 1914 issue. You can get to this at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/volume11.htm>

In Part 1 we get an interesting article about the Battle of Bannockburn.

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 another three songs...

Tweedside
The Bush Aboon Traquair
My Dearie, If Thou 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 added Volume 8 - 1885/1886

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

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

Added a couple more articles to his "All Round Sport" book.

Killed by a Book
Bagging a Husband

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 32 puzzle which you can get to at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/enigma/enigma032.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 two songs, "Culloden - 16th of April, 1746" and "Mhairi An' Tam" which you can read at the foot of his page 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.

Added Pages 401 to 451.

The book is available at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/moore_john.htm

Leaves from the Journal
From our life in the Highlands from 1848 to 1861 (1868)

We're adding new chapters to this book daily which you can read at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/leaves/>

At this period she comments...

August 30, 1856.

On arriving at Balmoral at seven o'clock in the evening, we found the tower finished as well as the offices, and the poor old house gone! The effect of the whole is very fine.

Gardens, &c. round the New Castle.

August 31, 1856.

We walked along the river and outside the house. The new offices and the yard are excellent; and the little garden on the west side, with the eagle fountain which the King of Prussia gave me, and which used to be in the greenhouse at Windsor, is extremely pretty; as are also the flower-beds under the walls of the side which faces the Dee. There are sculptured arms on the different shields, gilt, which has a very good effect; and a bas-relief under our windows—not gilt—representing St. Hubert, with St. Andrew on one side and St. George on the other side: all done by Mr. Thomas.

Ardenmohr

Among the Hills, A Record of Scenery and Sports in the Highlands of Scotland by Samuel Abbott (1876)

Added more chapters this week.

In Chapter XVII it starts...

This morning at breakfast Ward asked Mrs. Peyton what she proposed to do, as the weather was fine.

"Anything you desire," she replied; "pray, what should it be, Major Duncan?"

"I have been thinking of an arrangement which may suit you," Mrs. Peyton; "which is, that I drive you round to the great loch in the pony-phaeton for the view; and that the young ladies and the rest might go there now and picnic on the island. Would that do?"

"Excellent! I have no doubt; but this may sacrifice your shooting."

"Hardly a sacrifice," he replied, gravely bowing like a courtier of Louis Quatorze. "So, that's settled."

"How, pray, young people, don't hurry," said Fred (as the girls started up to get ready); "the tackle and things must be sent on first to the loch."

"Annie," inquired Ward, "can Miss Clive go on foot?"

"Ask her."

"Pray, Miss Clive," he said, "can you walk well, as you can get a quiet pony, and the loch is some distance away?"

"Is the climbing very bad? for I had some practice in Savoy last year; but the heather may be too much."

"Ha! Alpine climber! Miss Clive; then anything here, even the ptarmigan range, will be mere sauntering to you; and Annie is a don at walking, so you will both see Ardenmohr properly."

Every one now prepared to go out; and the young ladies presently came equipped in plain looped-up dresses and stout shoes, with the heels in the proper place.

"Get me a stick, Fred, please," Annie said; "and an alpenstock, or something, for Miss Clive."

"Thank you," Charley remarked, "a switch will do; I like to walk free, when practicable."

You can read the rest of this chapter at

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/ardenmohr/chapter17.htm>

You can read the other chapters at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/ardenmohr/index.htm>

Merchant's Guide to Stirling & District

A new book we're starting which we're adding to the foot of our History of Stirlingshire page.

This week I added the chapter on the Entrance Gateway to Stirling Castle.

You can get to this book which we'll be adding to over the next few weeks at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/stirlingshire> at the foot of the page.

Lord Charles Neaves

Added two more of his poems...

Dust and Disease Keep Your Mouth Shut

You can view these at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/men/neaves_charles.htm

Robert Burns Lives! Edited by Frank Shaw

Seceders and Satire: Ulster Poetry of the Romantic Period by Dr. Jennifer Orr.

Jennifer Orr received her PhD from Glasgow University after completing undergraduate work at Oxford University. She recently accepted a position to lecture at Newcastle University in northeast England in the School of Literature, Language and Linguistics. I met Jennifer, then a student at the University of Glasgow, at a Burns conference hosted by Ross Roy and the University of South Carolina in 2009 where she was one of the guest speakers. She is author of *The Correspondence of Samuel Thomson (1766-1816)*, a magical book that has many pages on Robert Burns. (See Chapter 138 of *Robert Burns Lives!* for a review of Dr. Orr's book.)

Jennifer recently completed a trip to Georgia and South Carolina where she spoke at the Burns Club of Atlanta, the University of Georgia's Cobb House, Georgia Southern University where she taught a class, and to the Irish Heritage Association of Sun City in Bluffton, South Carolina. Her trip was made possible by the Atlanta Irish Counsel Paul Gleeson and the Burns Club of Atlanta. I tip my hat to them for sending this rising star in the field of Irish and Scottish academics to us. Their money was well spent!

Jennie, as she is called by family and friends, enjoyed her whirlwind trip and will write a summary of her visit to be posted on *Robert Burns Lives!* in the near future. There is an old Scottish saying that we offer to this talented Irish lass: "Haste ye back", Jennie.

You can read this article at: http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_lives181.htm

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

Dumfries House Restoration

This is a video of the restoration of Dumfries House by Prince Charles.

You can view this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/gazetteer/vol2page397.htm>

Cassillis House

Found a video about a restoration project to restore Cassillis House which you can view at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/men/john_thomson6.htm

Castle Ghosts of Scotland

A one hour video which you can view at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/Castle_ghosts.htm

The Picts of Scotland - The Last of the Free

This is a 6 part video series on the Picts. I might add the second video deals with Crannogs.

You can view these at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/picts3.htm>

Or and Sable

A Book of the Graemes and Grahams. Came across this book quite by chance as the title really had nothing to do with what I was searching for so a good find.

You can download this book at <http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/dtog/graham.html>

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Got in Section 1 of Beth's Newfangled Family Tree for October 2013.

You can view this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>

Rainy Scotland

Another poem by Daniel McIntyre Henderson.

You can view this poem at http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/daniel_henderson.htm

Christina McKelvie's Column

Got in her column for 19th September 2013. You can view this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/mckelvie/130919.htm>

You can read her other entries at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/mckelvie>

And finally...

Whoa!

A lady who pulled into a car park with her labrador puppy in the back of her 4x4 was just nipping into the shops for a minute, walked to the kerb backwards, then held up her hand towards the car and said sternly: "Stay!"

A chap passing her asked:

"Can you no' use the hand-brake like everyone else?"

Hotel Trouble

A Scot now living in America, heavy with child, tells us she and her husband checked out the local hospital where the baby was due to be born, and discovered the facilities were more like a hotel. The birthing room had a spa bath, soft music and candles.

"What do you think?" she asked her husband.

"It was a place like this," he replied, "that got us into this trouble in the first place."

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

Alastair