



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

CULTURE & LANGUAGE
DONNA'S PAGE
ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET
FAMOUS SCOTS
FAMILYTREE
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
WHATS NEW

[HELP](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [CONTACT US](#)

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for September 25th, 2015

To see what we've added to the Electric Scotland site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/whatsnew.htm>

To see what we've added to the Electric Canadian site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

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

Electric Scotland News

Jim Robison has a new work pattern: 7am - 3:30pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. He's been announcing this for many weeks now so I thought I'd help him out by letting you know about it. If the matter is urgent you can contact his Manager Bill Gordon at 0191 269 6542 Mobile 07918 080074.

The 11 Health Benefits of Whisky

Whisky is one of the most popular alcoholic beverages in the world, thanks to its distinct flavors and the fact that it's the least likely to give you a hangover. Add to that the fact that whisky also holds several medicinal properties, and you've got yourself an obvious success story.

Please remember that whisky is alcoholic, so drink it responsibly and as always - in moderation.

A Brief History

The first confirmed accounts of whisky distillation are from the early 15th century, when the Irish and Scottish distilled it, calling it "Aqua Vitae" (Water of Life / Lively Water), for medicinal properties.

During the American Revolution, it was used as currency and George Washington even owned a distillery in Mount Vernon. During the Prohibition era (1920-1933), whisky was the only alcohol permitted for consumption, provided you had a doctor's prescription.

The Health Benefits of Whiskey:

- 1. Memory Boost:** Whisky contains antioxidants that help improve the health of the brain. Additionally, alcohol boosts blood circulation, both of which contribute to your memory. Also, the Ethanol in whisky helps your neurons function properly, which further aids recall.
- 2. Stress Relief:** In moderation, whisky can reduce stress and calm the nerves. The combination of slowing down brain activity and increasing circulation (which helps provide the body with oxygenated blood), are essential for achieving tranquility.
- 3. Fight Weight Gain:** Compared to its counterparts, whisky is a low-calorie alcohol, free of fat and cholesterol. If you're on a diet but still want a drink – it's your best choice.
- 4. Reduce the Risk of a Stroke:** Whisky prevents cholesterol from accumulating in the cardiovascular system and can help remove excess cholesterol from the body. It also relaxes the walls of the arteries, reducing the risk of obstruction. All of these factors help reduce the risk of stroke considerably.
- 5. Reduce the Risk of Cancer:** Whisky contains an antioxidant called 'ellagic acid', an acid that stops DNA from coming in contact with cancer-causing compounds, such as nitrosamines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. It is also beneficial in protecting the body from damage during chemotherapy.

6. Helps with Digestion: For centuries, whisky was considered a digestive aid, to be consumed after a heavy meal. Whisky's composition and high alcohol percentage also make it an effective appetite suppressant.
7. Live Longer: The antioxidants in whisky help fight free radicals – the number one cause of aging, as well as prevent various diseases. This double-whammy helps your body live a longer, healthier life.
8. Diabetic-Friendly: Containing zero carbs, whisky won't affect blood sugar levels, making it the number one choice for diabetics. However, it should be in moderation and never on an empty stomach. Consult your doctor before drinking.
9. Improve Your Heart's Health: Drinking whisky actually helps your heart stay healthy, similarly to red wine. It reduces the risk of blood clots, thus it can prevent strokes and heart attacks. The antioxidants in the whisky also inhibits the oxidation of low density lipoprotein - a main factor in heart disease.
10. Improve the Health of Your Brain: A 2003 study found that, thanks to the antioxidant qualities of the ellagic acid, moderate consumption of whisky reduces the risk of Alzheimer's and dementia, and also improves cognitive functions. Basically, one drink a day will keep the brain doctor away.
11. Prevent & Treat Cold and Flu: Whisky is known for its positive effects in battling allergies and colds. It's an effective cough syrup for people suffering from an itchy throat, and the alcohol helps kill bacteria in the throat. The best results are achieved by adding a little bit of whisky to a cup of hot water and lemon.

Corporate Companies wasting billions of dollars and shedding millions of jobs.

I have for some time thought that Corporate companies have been costing us billions of dollars and our jobs. I wanted to discuss this for some time and after watching the meltdown of the German car company VW in news this week I figured it was time to discuss this.

I have for years now felt that car companies are really a bunch of crooks and of course the VW car company shows I was correct. We also don't know if other car companies around the world are doing the same thing. GM is another car company that have been hiding issues with their cars and have now been found out and fined very heavily by the US Government. So these are now FACTS and not conjecture!

In my own research it seems to me that we've had very good electric cars for many years but after discovering that they very rarely needed any repairs they vanished from the market for quite some time.

At the end of the day any time a car fails it will usually costs you many hundreds or thousands to repair. You can take out extended warranty but when a part fails you then find it's not covered as it's judged as wear and tare not a failed part and thus not covered. I had the misfortune of having my air conditioning unit fail. Apparently three parts could be the issue when I went to the dealer to get it repaired. They replaced one part at \$1,000 and said it was fixed. The next day it failed again so another part was replaced at \$200 and the next day it failed again. They then replaced the third part at \$900 and that finally fixed the problem. To my mind this dealer was either a crook or their mechanics were not properly trained but whatever it cost me a lot of money and caused me to question the ability and honesty of the dealership.

I mind a friend found his fuel gauge was faulty and it ended up costing him \$900 to fix. In other words everything about a car is a major cost to repair and open to dubious practices.

Then when we look at Telco companies we find that due to very poor training sales people can sell you a plan that the techs say they can't provide. Comcast is one such company that regularly sell you a plan that they can't actually provide. For example I was offered bandwidth of 20 download and 7 upload which I accepted but when the techs came to configure the line they told me they couldn't provide that as the hardware wasn't available to provide it. I then phoned sales to report their response. The sales person said that was rubbish and they could configure the router themselves and after a few minutes said that it was configured. We actually had software available which could check this and when we ran it there was no increase in speed. Think of the cost both financial and lack of trust this engenders in their customers.

When moving to a new location our line went down and in total we lost around 2 days of service. Despite many phone calls we received no credit for our downtime. This situation also happened with Verizon which made us transfer to Comcast as their customer services department was pathetic in the extreme.

I am sure that the cost to those Telco companies is in the hundreds of millions if not billions and the blame must go to the very top of the company as they simply do not train their staff properly or monitor their performance. However we really have little choice in who we can use as they have a monopoly.

I will say in Canada I have been very pleased with the COGECO service but I cancelled my BELL service due to being hounded by them to upgrade. In my view they were trying to bully me into an upgrade by phoning me daily for a month. I have never accepted bullying and so discontinued my service with them.

Then consider that many people are made redundant through drive for profits by these corporate companies. Why is this? Well your pension company is likely one of the reasons as pension companies have trillions to invest. They want the best return they can get for their pensioners so they have a significant say in how the corporate companies perform. In many cases they cause these companies to shut plants that are not as profitable as they should be. That could actually mean your pension company is responsible for you losing your job!

Then lets look at BP. Now I know BP over many years. In the old days they used many sub contractors but they ensured that they were properly trained to do the task they were employed for safely and often provided special training to ensure they did the job well. Over the years they devolved this work to agents and these agents didn't have the same standards but they saved the company lots of money. Now some years ago the Grangemouth plant had several very bad incidents and they ended up selling it off. However now we see this drive for savings have cost them billions in fines with the Gulf disaster. So what savings they made has actually cost them a lot of money and far more than they saved trying to reduce their costs.

Over many years I have read of large companies cutting corners and when caught they either went out of business or it cost them tons of money to rectify the situation. If they had done a proper job in the first place they'd have been better off.

Then of course our Banks despite making billions keep seeking to add little charges for just about everything they can. Credit card interest rates are horrendous and yet they won't even police their systems. I found that a company was providing credit card facilities to people that didn't work for them. A company I complained about in Canada I was only able to try and contact them through the credit card company. When I phoned them I found it was the Black Cab company in Toronto who denied knowing anything about the company I dealt with. I then complained to the credit card company and they cited some obscure condition which meant they didn't need to do anything about this. So even our credit card companies are not doing their job very well. How much is this costing us?

And finally I would point out the TV adverts that appear on commercial television. How many of these adverts contain tiny text on the screen that you simply can't read? Many is the answer so why don't the so called advertising standards people do something about this? Frankly I won't deal with any company that uses tiny text I can't read as I treat them the same way I'd treat crooks.

And of course we now know that many clerical and manual jobs are now ripe for computerisation. Robots are getting much better and more flexible so manual jobs are increasingly at risk. And if you consider that our Bank Managers don't actually make decisions as all they do is input data into the computer and then the computer tells them if they can lend or not. So why bother with bank managers? Also many people in the tech support industry could well be replaced right now as they just read from the screen. On making a complaint on a billing issue you'll find the person dealing with your complaint has no discretion as again they just read from the screen and have to obey what they read there. Then of course TV presenters are likely to be replaced by computers as they now have some very lifelike robots like the one I saw the other day from Japan.

See Meeting the pioneers of Japan's coming robot revolution
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-34272425>

See also <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02ys32f>

The time has come when people should start a conversation about all this and see if we can build a ground swell to change things.

SNP Government risks being branded anti-science

By banning genetically modified crops without any scientific advice or public consultation. Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/snp-government-risks-being-branded-anti-science-1-3896913>

Scotland's fishing curbs draconian and dangerous

PLANS for controversial marine conservation areas were attacked. Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/scotland-s-fishing-curbs-draconian-and-dangerous-1-3896413>

Interactive heart disease map that shows unhealthy Scotland is.

THE worst 10 heart disease hotspots in the UK are in Scotland and you can see if you are living in the regions worst affected by the condition. Read more at:

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/health/check-out-how-your-area-6501361>

The new Scottish rate of income tax

From 1 April 2016 the Scottish Parliament will have responsibility for a Scottish Rate of Income Tax. Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34333387>

Rise in number of teetotal Scots

THE number of Scots who do not drink has increased in the last 11 years, according to a new study. Read more at: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/rise-in-number-of-teetotal-scots-1-3894825>

Electric Canadian

The Maple-Leaf Canadian Annual

A publication in 1852-4 which has been repaired and enhanced from the very faint original (pdf). You can download this book at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/mapleleaf-1852.pdf>

Recipes

Added a page for Canadian Recipes at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/food.htm>

Canada: Inuit move to unify writing system

Fresh efforts are under way to finally give the Inuit people of Arctic Canada a common way to write their language.

A recently created task force is working on a plan to standardise the writing system for the Inuktitut language that'll be based on the Roman alphabet used in English, the National Post reports. Spoken by about 34,000 people across a vast area stretching from the Atlantic to Alaska, Inuktitut is currently written using two different scripts in Canada - a Latin-based version, and a script that uses symbols for Inuktitut syllables. There are also several regional variations for some words, the report points out. The word "moon" is written as tatqiq, takkik, tarqiq or a series of symbols, depending on location.

While attempts at standardisation have been in the works for decades, some Inuit leaders feel there is now a greater pressure to act, because young people are choosing English over Inuktitut. "With language erosion, we have to figure out a better way for young people to read and write in our language," Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik, a member of the task force, tells the National Post.

But any move away from a syllabic system may still be controversial, especially among Inuit people in the eastern Arctic. "They have a deep attachment to it," says James Eetoolook, who heads Nunavut Tunngavik, a legal body representing the Inuit. "Many associate syllabics with their Inuit identity."

Electric Scotland

Steve Young

Steve Young is an orphan whose uncle, Captain Young, has disappeared on a voyage to the Spitzbergen area, well to the north of Britain. Some of the Captain's friends charter a Norwegian vessel to go in search of him, and, much to the disgust of the ship's doctor, who thinks boys are nothing but a nuisance, Steve goes with them. Steve is a sixteen year old, unconscious of his own good looks, but needing a few hard lessons in life, which the trip provides in plenty.

You can download this story at http://www.electricscotland.com/kids/stories/Steve_Young.pdf

Le mystère des McIntyre du Restigouche

French language article in pdf format and have added a link to it from our MacIntyre index page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macinty.html>

And on that page we now have an English translation.

Scotland from Above in High Definition - Isle of Skye to Ben Nevis

Takes us on a route through Scotland from Isle of Skye - Eilean Donan Castle - Rum - Egg - Mull - Iona - & Fort William - also taking in spectacular highland lochs and glens.

You can view this video at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/skye/>

Catriona Matthew

Added a pdf file about some other famous Scottish Lady Golfers to her page at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/catriona_matthew.htm

Bridge of Allan

Added this third edition of this book to our Stirling page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/council/stirling.htm>

The Ballads and Songs of Ayrshire

Illustrated with Sketches, Historical, Traditional, Narrative and Biographical articles.

There are many great wee stories in this publication which you can read at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/council/east_ayrshire.htm

Geomantic Information Systems; Exploring Axis Mundi, the Earth Grid, the Holy Grail and Ley Lines

By Cort Lindahl

You can read this at <http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/4950-Geomantic-Information-Systems-Exploring-Axis-Mundi-the-Earth-Grid-the-Holy-Grail-and-Ley-Lines> in our Community.

Cort Lindahl

As we got in two of his articles we thought we should do a page about him so you'd know his background and you can get to this at

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/Lindahl.htm>

One of his articles is our Story for this week.

A Historic Review of the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and Malta

By Sir William Henry Lannin (1922).

Added a link to this book from our Knights Templar page at:

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

Boswelliana

The Commonplace Book of James Boswell which I've added to his page at:

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

The Burns Country

By Charles S. Douglas, M.A. (1904). a tour of the land of Burns. Added a link to this book from our Robert Burns page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/burns/index.html>

Robert Burns Lives!

Edited by Frank Shaw

Atlanta Robert Burns Cottage Rededication by E. Ross Wyllie, Editor, Burns Club of Atlanta Newsletter

There has been "many a good time" held at our Atlanta Burns Cottage since it was built in 1910 and used for the first time on January 25, 1911. The time had come for this grand old lady to undergo some reconstruction, and so she did. Members have expressed the idea that maybe, just maybe, she will last another 100 plus years. Guests from all over the world have visited this venerable structure, it being the only look-alike structure patterned after the very home where Robert Burns was born and lived as a child. The reconstruction project provided a new warming kitchen, restrooms, and a wet bar, where I estimate more whiskey has been consumed by Atlantans and guests since 1911 than in any other space of the same size in Atlanta, if not in the entire state! (My estimate only, but I'll bet anyone willing to lay down the money with me!)

A lot of hard work went into the renovation and a lot of money was raised by the membership for the occasion. The article by member Ross Wyllie below credits the movers and shakers in the club who got the job completed. The biggest holdup was the time it took getting the various permits from the governing powers that be in the City of Atlanta. Makes you wonder how the city has grown as much as it has over the years. But all of that is now over, and we have a beautiful home to meet in each month. Many of us can't wait until the first match is struck to light the timeworn fireplace to make the place feel even more home like.

For those of you who are not members but might be passing through Atlanta, let us know ahead of time and we'll do our best to accommodate your visit to one of Atlanta's best kept secrets! (FRS: 9.23.15)

You can read more about this and see some pictures at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_lives223.htm

Famous Frontiersmen

I thought I'd add this book to our American History section as it makes a good read.

You can get to this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/famousfrontiersmen.pdf>

A Trip Down The Clyde

Produced for a micro-radio broadcast as part of an exhibition at the Fairfield ship yards for the Glasgow international festival. It's an audio file in MP3 format.

You can listen to this at <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/trip.htm>

THE STORY

I'd like to thank Cort Lindahl for sending me in this article which I personally found fascinating and so hope you enjoy it.

The Strange Tale of the Kirkwall Scroll, The Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye, and the Great Seal of the United States of America.

By Cort Lindahl

The true origins of the Great Seal of the United States have already been exposed by researcher Gary Gianotti. It appears that the creation of the Great Seal was done in a tradition that dictates the talismanic use of symbols that have hidden meanings and histories to convey a message that possibly only adepts would be privy to. Mr. Gianotti's work has exposed the true meanings and origins of the Great Seal and he identifies Robert Scott as the person behind the engraving of the Great Seal and many other mysterious objects of United States History. Much of Mr. Gianotti's work has given us a new view of these symbols that may include many previously unknown tenets. Many conspiracy theories seem to have inaccurately placed the origins of this great part of American and Scottish history.

Some new information that may compliment Gary's findings with regard to the Great Seal would include family relations of Mr. Scott that had also practiced this hidden activity and value over a wide span of time prior to the creation of the United States. Gary had already established a clear bloodline in association with his theories with regard to the Great Seal. Indeed this activity appears to be still occurring in the modern world with many ancient symbols and architectural forms in this milieu still being created.

By examining some of the blood relatives earlier and later in Scott's genealogy some startling facts about the Great Seal, Kirkwall Scroll, Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye and more may be exposed. Along the way a study of the Great Seal and its symbolism may expose some historical events that have previously been ignored or simply theorized. It is clear that Scott was part of a dynasty of inter related families that also contributed a great deal to the settlement of Canada and the United States.

Part of the tradition of the so called 'First Families' of the United States included a vast knowledge of ancient symbolism and spirituality. It is clear that from the Declaration of Arbroath that Scottish nobility had a belief that they and the Irish had descended from Egyptian and Scythian Royalty. From this they likely believed that they had the right to fulfill the legacy of these ancient cultures in the modern world. Much of this value translates to the Great Seal of the United States via the ancient symbols that are present on the seal itself as well as the U.S. one dollar bill. In addition the Great Seal is featured on the entryways of many Federal courthouses and administrative buildings all over the country.

Three of the most easily recognizable symbols that comprise the Great Seal are the truncated pyramid, the all seeing eye, and the Phoenix bird that many feel the eagle on the seal actually represents. Indeed many early versions or drafts of the Great Seal include a bird with a plume on its crown that does not resemble the eagle and is representative of the Phoenix of the Mithraic faith of what was once the Persian Empire. Mithraism would also go on to be very popular in the Legions of Rome at about the time of Christ. Interestingly some of the origins of fabled Knighthoods may lay in the working and values of the Byzantine (Greek) and Roman (Latin) Legionaries themselves. The all seeing eye symbol is clearly associated and documented as being a product of dynastic Egypt.

By examining the involvement and value of these symbols by both the forebears and descendants of Robert Scott some new views of history may be revealed. In fact these revelations may indicate that men from Europe who felt they had an Egyptian pedigree may have actually attempted to claim the entire Nile basin for their home country. There are six men whose lives may be examined that seem to expose the true nature of why these symbols may have been featured on the Great Seal and also were representative of this family groups goals and philosophies.

Robert Scot (a distant forebear of the R. Scott who created the seal) was a thirteenth century scholar referred to as a 'travelling magi' by many accounts of the day. He served as advisor to Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and indeed was likely related to him via their common Norman heritage. During Fredericks reign he built the octagonal tower present at San Giovanni en Tumba at Monte 'Sant Angelo, Italy. It is likely that Robert Scot had a hand in the placement of this structure and its use as a temporal axis mundi used to mark additional places of value on the globe. The octagon of 'Sant Angelo points to the Tower of the Winds in Athens and the International Peace Garden on the border of the U.S. and Canada that was later created in the same tradition by the same familial group. Many of these octagonal structures were built to value the Tower of the Winds and the legacy of the octagons built by Emperor Constantine.

The original purpose of the site of the modern Peace Garden may have served as an axis mundi or datum used to measure property. Robert Scot clearly held the geometric and geographic skills to calculate a point on the earth in relation to another using star logs or ephemeris that had been collected at the Tower of the Winds in Athens in this case. Scot had studied extensively at the University in Toledo Spain and had learned many of the Moorish scientific concepts that may have been suppressed during the dark ages.

James Bruce was also what many considered a traveling magi or scholar. He lived in the late eighteenth century and was an amazing character of his day. His manifestation of the family tradition is undoubtedly linked to his ancestry that included none other than Robert

the Bruce King of Scotland. James Bruce was an amazing man that had an immense impact on the philosophies society at large, Masonry, and other occult oriented secret societies and orders. Bruce was a world traveler in an era when this was not necessarily a normal thing. Bruce was known to have travelled to Baalbek and Palmyra in Syria. Bruce traveled to Ethiopia to search for the headwaters of the Nile. He returned with the earliest verifiable copy of the Book of Enoch and Kebra Nagast found to that point. Later he would discover in Alexandria the original manuscripts that comprised the Pistis Sophia. Notably the Pistis Sophia contains an early rendering of the Gnostic Cross. This type of cross is associated with Egyptian Oriental Christianity and is similar to the well known Egyptian Ankh symbol.

The Gnostic Cross is a symbol that is featured prominently on both the Great Cross of Hendaye and the famous Kirkwall Scroll in Scotland. It is clear that both the Great Cross (mid seventeenth century) and scroll (fifteenth century) predate the discovery of these manuscripts by Bruce. What is significant is that Bruce was noted as being the first one to return with an ancient authenticated version of the Codex containing the Pistis Sophia, The Kebra Nagast, and Book of Enoch. He was said to have obtained his copy of the Book of Enoch and Kebra Nagast in Ethiopia and the codex that comprised the Pistis Sophia in Alexandria, Egypt. A value of these books and their associated symbols may in turn expose a value of the so called Oriental or Egyptian Coptic forms of mystical Christianity. In this regard these belief systems were not included in the accepted Christian cannon accepted at the Council of Nicea. There are also distant hints that this faith was valued by some Byzantine royal dynasties.

It may be no coincidence that some scholars compare the Kebra Nagast volume to the Book of Mormon. The Kebra Nagast tells the story of the origins of Ethiopia and its line of Solomnic Kings. The passages concerned with the arrival of the Israelites in Ethiopia may have inspired parts of the Book of Mormon since many note the similarities in these two stories. These volumes did become available during the era of creation of the Mormon faith so it is not out of the question that Mason Joseph Smith had heard of and read the works of James Bruce. As we may see this volume would have held a special importance to James Bruce and others that shared his noble Scottish heritage.

This association may have played out at a later date during the creation of the Mormon Religion by Joseph Smith. There are many clues that the faith of Mormon is somehow related to Masonry with a few speculating that it was outright created by Masons with Smith later taking the faith in his own direction and displeasing his Masonic masters. The Book of the Holy Grail by J.R. Ploughman states that Smith was a Knights Templar Strict Observance American Rite as was Thomas Jefferson. Many tales of Joseph Smith state that he displayed the 'hand up' Masonic distress signal at the time of his death.

This is curious because it is unknown how the Kebra Nagast, Pistis Sophia and Book of Enoch were viewed during at least the time of the creation of the Kirkwall Scroll, which is said to be in the fifteenth century long before the time of Bruce. How did the earlier creators of the scroll and those in Masonry that value Enochian concepts develop these values before Bruce had found copies of the originals? The answer would have to be that they had access to these ancient manuscripts for a long time before the era of James Bruce. It seems this value as displayed on the Kirkwall Scroll was well defined long before the time of James Bruce. Perhaps the views expressed on the Declaration of Arbroath had been backed up by their knowledge of these very concepts at that time. This may comprise the evidence that gave them the caveat to claim that they were descendants of Egypt. As we may see the significance of the true age of the scroll may pale in comparison to the information exposed when viewing it as a displaying the influence of James Bruce.

Logically it may be surmised that they had access to these ancient works at least during the time of the thirteenth century Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem or possibly just prior to their regime there. It is possible that somehow Bruce and other Scottish nobles had become privy to this information because of the Crusades. It may have been during this era that this family line actually discovered these concepts and adapted them as part of the cultural heritage displayed in the Declaration of Arbroath. Alternately they had found this information long before that time.

It is also highly likely that knowledge of the Ethiopian Jews existence was known of by the Ptolmaic Greek rulers of Egypt after the time of Alexander the Great (327BC). There are records of the Greeks and Romans visiting Merowe, Sudan and seeing the smaller steep sided pyramids that seem to be present on the Great Seal of the United States. An imperial knowledge in Rome of the pyramids of Merowe is also displayed in Rome. The Pyramid of Cestius was built in 18B.C. and is said to be based on the 'Nubian' pyramids of Sudan. Originally the Cestius Pyramid had a twin known as the Romulus pyramid located on what is the grounds of the Vatican today. So here we see a Ptolamaic Greek and Roman value of the same types of pyramids seen on the Great Seal. Is it possible that these Roman pyramids were the inspiration for the Great Seal and Drummond's Star Pyramid at Stirling. This is possible but it is known that both Bruce and Drummond traveled in the region of Sudan where these same type of pyramids are located and likely saw them in their original context. It may be assumed that both had also seen the Pyramid of Cestius in Rome.

This may be important because it is possible that Bruce was using ancient Ptolmaic or Roman accounts that included the pyramids to guide him up the Nile to his final destination. If a value of the Roman pyramids were included in the philosophies of Bruce it would still fit a value of ancient Kings whom he may have thought he was related to. The Royal line of Rome (Cestius) that valued this form in Rome may also possibly be related to the ancient lines the Scottish Kings referred to in the Declaration of Arbroath. Lots of signs point to a value of these strange smaller pyramids in Sudan. The question lingers as to why this small out of the way place would be valued in such a manner?

There are many theories of the Knights Templar and other groups existent at the time of the Latin Kingdom searching for lost knowledge and relics not only in the Holy Land but in other far ranging places like Aksum and Lalibela Ethiopia. Coincidentally a place that fascinated people like James Bruce and other later family members who would also travel this region in search of not only information but possibly to prove that an ancient claim had been made by their forebears on the entire Nile watershed. Aksum is also home to a far older civilization than that of the Christian or Jewish Ethiopians that includes monumental architecture comprised of many megalithic obelisks. These obelisks are again different from the Egyptian form. They appear as huge pylons with doorways carved into their base. Many of the motifs seen on these more ancient structures were later repeated in the construction of the rock hewn churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia.

In addition the story of the Queen of Sheba and her son Malik state that he brought the actual Ark of the Covenant first to Elephantine Island along the Nile in Egypt and then to Ethiopia where it changed locations several times including a stay in Lalibela finally resting in Aksum today. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church claims that the actual Ark of the Covenant resides in the Church of St. Mary to this day. These men's travels up the Nile River also followed what they may have believed to be the path of the Ark of the Covenant. Is it possible that the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt and then the Romans had also quested up the Nile to Ethiopia in search of something? Had these earlier groups laid claim to the Nile basin prompting a later blitz of European explorers in search of the claim markers so they could co-opt the claim themselves?

Some light may be shed on these questions by examining the development of the Egyptian culture. Most scholars agree that many of the concepts that are considered to be classic Egyptian originated in the Upper Nile or the region of Sudan and Ethiopia. The town of Merowe in Sudan has the largest concentration of these small steep sided pyramids and was indeed a large city prior to the times of dynastic Egypt. Though the small pyramids were added during a later era anthropologists point to this region also known as Nubia as the seed source of the Egyptian culture. Merowe was once the capitol of what would become Egypt. Is it possible that Bruce and the others had surmised this in their journeys and thus the value of the pyramids located there?

Supporting this notion are the facts surrounding a sojourn made to this region by two additional family relations of both the Robert Scot and James Bruce. All of these men are ultimately related to Scottish and Norman Royalty. Both of these later men would share the distinct Norman heritage that seems to be a hallmark of the value of these ancient concepts. Both William Drummond (creator of the Star Pyramid) and Antoine-Michel d'Abbadie and his brother Aurnaud d'Abbadie travelled extensively in the same region that Bruce did. Both of the d'Abbadie's were accomplished geographers. As we may see both of these men may have also had a hand in creating talismanic architecture that displayed both the concepts of the Gnostic Cross and the Great Seal of the United States. All concepts possibly related to the images on the Kirkwall scroll including the Gnostic Cross.

The legacy of the Drummond family of Scotland is well documented and amazingly three different men all named William Drummond would display tenets of their understanding of the symbology of the Gnostic Cross, and Great Seal. One of them would explore the Nile basin personally. The Gnostic Cross is also prominently featured on the Kirkwall scroll seemingly in a similar context as the one that adorns the Great Cross of Hendaye. The Scroll displays a monument similar to the Great Cross with the Gnostic Cross featured in a similar part of the statue displayed on the Hendaye monument. This may have not been an intentional illustration of the Great Cross of Hendaye but the coincidence is notable and may at least indicate a similar belief system or hidden message. The Gnostic Cross' presence on the Kirkwall Scroll may indicate that this symbol has a place in Masonic initiations as well.

First we should look to William Drummond who was one of the First Families of Virginia at Williamsburg during the early seventeenth century. This same Scottish Drummond family is the namesake of a lake in Virginia known as Lake Drummond. Amazingly the Native American legend of the lake states that a large fiery bird had left a smoking hole there that subsequently became a lake. This legend seems to reference the same Phoenix bird that was included on the original part of the Great Seal of the United States now occupied by an eagle.

This is an amazing association that predates the creation of the Great Seal by well over a hundred years. A Scottish Drummond somehow associated with a legend of the Phoenix. Early renderings of the Great Seal clearly display a Phoenix in place of the Eagle we see today. If this story is not a Native American legend why then would the tale of the Phoenix be propagated in early Virginia? The answer may involve the fact that the Phoenix is one of the symbols of the Drummond family of Scotland. The Phoenix is associated with Mithraic and Zoroastrian concept from the Persian Empire of antiquity.

This early American William Drummond was one of the only people actually executed for his role in Bacon's Rebellion in the Virginia Colony. This was the same era in which the Lee's (Robert E.), Beale's, Moncure's, Washington's, and many other First Families were establishing their dynasties in what would become the United States. The Drummond family would go on to make their mark on United States history without William. The Beale Treasure Legend, the octagons of Thomas Jefferson, and the creation of the 'Moncure' pyramid in Wyoming in the 1930's displays a continuation of the talismanic values of this family line in the same manner their forebears had displayed.

Secondly we have Sir William Drummond known for his expertise in ancient cultures and deciphering ancient inscriptions. Drummond

travelled extensively through the ancient world of the Mediterranean rim. He is most known for interpreting ancient rock art at Gibraltar that referred to Hani-Baal or the famous Carthaginian leader Hannibal. Sir Drummond's birthdate is unknown but he was a contemporary of James Bruce and it is likely that the two at least knew of each other. Sir Drummond passed in 1828 after having written a long document comparing the Bible as a metaphor for a faith based on astrology.

This is an amazing concept that actually seems to be displayed at Gothic Cathedrals especially at Chartres Cathedral and its Zodiac Rose Window. He never published this work for fear of censure by his academic peers but is today known for these views. Interestingly part of Drummond's career was spent as Scottish envoy to the Royal Court of Naples and the Ottoman Empire. The Kingdom of Naples and Sicily had long been the domain of Drummond's Norman ancestors and direct family. This was the same Royal Court that his forebear Robert Scot had been a part of during the time of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II.

The last Drummond in this tale actually once traveled to Ethiopia and what is today Sudan in a region known for its small steep sided pyramids just like the one featured on the Great Seal of the United States. He would also display his value of this form by returning to Scotland and building what is known of as Star Pyramid or the 'Salem Stone' on the grounds of Stirling Castle in Scotland. Star Pyramid is clearly a rendering of the same steep sided smaller pyramids that are located along the Upper Nile in what is today Sudan near Merowe. Is this symbol on the Great Seal telling us something more than the standard 'Illuminati' interpretation most researchers refer to? There is an amazing connection between the legend of Bacon's Vault in Williamsburg and a mystery existent at Stirling. Both mysteries involve coded messages left on gravestones and are deciphered using 'Books of Emblems.' (More on that in my next book). The Star Pyramid seems to be part of this mystery existent on the ground of Stirling Castle.

The type of Nubian Pyramid seen by Drummond and Bruce seem to be what is displayed on the Great Seal of the United States and not the more gently sloping pyramids featured at Giza in Lower Egypt. Given the fact that the later Scottish American Robert Scott was likely the creator of the Great Seal what connections or cultural values may be ascertained by this William Drummond's value of this type of pyramid? So far two William Drummonds directly reference symbols present on the Great Seal and the third contributed a wealth of academic knowledge that may have contributed to a value of these concepts. Why would William Drummond construct such a pyramid at Stirling of all places?

In addition we have James Bruce verifying and documenting the Pistis Sophia, Kebra Nagast, and Book of Enoch by obtaining ancient copies of both works. Both of these works are valued by Masons and seem to have had a role in the development of that craft. Were these men searching for some unknown relic or information in their sojourns to the upper Nile and Ethiopia or is there more to it? Why would they actually search for the headwaters of a water course? Were they there to simply log geographic features? It is clear that they all had an investment of family tradition and destiny in their travels. What they learned and searched for would go on to have an immense impact on the development of Masonry and the history of the western world. These men's academic prowess and travels may reflect a hidden quest for specific items or relics from antiquity they knew of and searched for.

Two other brothers from France both distant Norman relations to these men would go on to also search for the source of the Nile just as James Bruce and possibly the third William Drummond had done. These two men's family legacy also includes one of the most storied and mysterious monuments uncovered in any study of the axis mundi or the historical development of the art of navigation.

Arnaud-Michel d'Abbadie (24 July 1815 – 13 November 1893) described as a 'Basque Geographer' and his brother Antoine-Thomson d'Abbadie (3 January 1810 – 19 March 1897) again an accomplished geographer would also explore Ethiopia just as their other Scots Norman relations had. The d'Abbadie brothers were both born in Dublin, Ireland to what were said to have been Basque nobility. Their family home was in Soule, France. The d'Abbadies were a solidly Catholic family. Apparently some of the arms included in their Basque domains included likenesses of the flag of Scotland and the Fleur d' lies. The legacy of these two men would include a strange monument known as the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye in France.

Loosely translated d'Abbadie means 'of the abbey.' This is a reference to a monk or ecclesiastical figure. The d'Abbadie's family includes a rich legacy including a famous French Arcadian military leader Jean-Vincent d'Abbadie Saint-Castin. Jean-Vincent's descendants would go on to have a major impact on Canadian history. Other relations included a governor of Louisiana Jean-Jacques Blaise d'Abbadie (1763-65), and Daniel d'Abbadie of England and Ireland an employee of the East India Company. This link to the region of Arcadia by two of these men is interesting and notable. Louisiana is where all the Acadians were moved to from eastern Canada at one point. This is where the term 'Cajun or Ar'cajun comes from. Language of the Birds.

Seemingly the most important d'Abbadie in what would manifest the legacy of Antoine and Arnaud may their Heugenot ancestor Jakob d'Abbadie. The name Jakob may be interpreted with different pronunciations within the geographical bounds of Western Europe. In Germany and Switzerland Jakob was normal. In France this may have been pronounced Jacques. In English this would be pronounced James. Jakob was a clergyman of the late seventeenth century. He lived in England and Ireland after fleeing persecution of the Heugenots under Louis XIV in France. It is interesting that the form of James is included here. This variety of name pronunciations is one of the slightly hidden tenets of St. James himself. Is it possible that Jakob or a value of him has to do with a hidden value or alternate view of St. James or the Camino de Santiago. The Great Cross and Hendaye is included in one of the branch routes of the Camino itself.

His birthplace may be confused by many because Switzerland and France have towns called Hay(e) where he was supposed to be from. The French town of this name is in the Pyrenees Atlantique province of France. This is the same region as Hendaye and the traditional home of the d'Abbadie family. It is not clear if there is even a town named Hay in Switzerland where most biographies of Jakob place his birth. It is clear as a student Jakob was educated in southern France. Either way it is clear he is of the same line of d'Abbadies that later valued the Great Cross of Hendaye. Both Arnaud and Antoine were said to have been from Dublin, Ireland where Jakob resided for the latter part of his life.

Amazingly in addition to his ecclesiastical duties, Jakob d'Abbadie composed many religious and socially observational tracts of literature during his lifetime. He composed a memorial for deceased Queen Mary after her death and also a tract condemning a Jacobite plot to assassinate William III. The latter work was produced at the request of the King. One of his pieces may have later had a large impact on the hidden values of Arnaud and Antoine our Ethiopian explorers. The later d'Abbadies had created a millennial monument possibly warning one of cyclical changes in the earth. This tradition of millennial monuments has been repeated many times before and after the d'Abbadie's value of the Great Cross of Hendaye. Part of the secrets revealed in the Great Cross may include metaphors about how to navigate using the location of the cross and the star charts collected by the d'Abbadie's in their nearby observatory.

Jakob published his work "Le Triomphe de la Providence et de la Religion; ou, l'Ouverture des sept Seaux par le Fils de Dieu, où l'on trouvera la première partie de l'Apocalypse clairement expliquée par ce qu'il y a de plus connu dans l'Histoire et de moins contesté dans la Parole de Dieu. Avec une nouvelle et très-sensible Démonstration de la Vérité de la Religion Chrétienne (1723)" or "The Triumph of Providence and Religion; or the opening of the seven seals by the Son of God, where we find the first part of the Apocalypse clearly explained by what he experienced therein history and less challenged in the Word God. With a new and very sensitive Demonstration of the Truth of the Christian Religion."

This work is a millennially themed piece about the Book of Revelations and the Seven Seals. This is an amazingly similar theme to that assigned to the Great Cross of Hendaye as discussed in the book "Mystery of the Cathedrals." It may be possible that some of the value the d'Abbadie's had for the Cyclic Cross of Hendaye sprung from an appreciation of their forebear and the theme of the end of the world. Alexander Von Humboldt in the era just prior to the d'Abbadie brothers had unlocked the millennial secrets of the Aztec Sunstone using modern scientific methods. There is little doubt that the d'Abbadie brothers were aware of and valued the work of Von Humboldt.

One of the first monuments on earth to display the notion of the seven seals would include the Basilica San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy. One of the notable mosaics there displays a beardless and short haired Christ Pantokrator holding the seven seals in his hand. This is a clear reference to the Book of Revelations and the theme later repeated in the work of Jakob Abbadie and the symbology of the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye. The millennial theme in monuments has extended to the modern world at places like the Georgia Guidestones, and Star Chart of Hoover Dam.

Note that Basilica San Vitale is octagonal in form and does suggest important directions on the globe that may have been valued by its creators Justinian II and Arian Ostrogoth ruler Theodoric. It seems the creator of the Cross of Hendaye as well as the d'Abbadie brothers were aware of these concepts to the degree that they would both value or appreciate such a modest monument. Perhaps the monument was created by one of their ancestors from the seventeenth century. The latter seventeenth century was the era of Jakob Abbadie.

Many of the d'Abbadie's later actions would also value scientific and cultural information that may have been used as a rationale to prove religious concepts. Part of the d'Abbadie brothers stated reason for their expedition to Africa was to find the true source of the Nile River. The d'Abbadie family were noted astronomers and had even established an astronomical observatory in Hendaye France whose stated mission is to collect an extensive star log or ephemeris from that point. Ephemeris or star logs of this type are of value in fixing longitude in ancient navigation. There are also extensive links between the d'Abbadie's and the famous cartographers and astronomers of the Cassini family in France. This involvement of the d'Abbadie's may link directly to the storied Rennes le Chateau mystery via their relation to the Cassini's (Cassini Space Probe). In many ways the d'Abbadie's had created a legend very similar to the mythos of Rennes le Chateau. The Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye was a monument that fit in with the theme and stated purpose of their astronomical observatory. It does seem that a tradition of this bloodline includes the construction of talismanic architecture with a millennial theme and seemingly intentionally created mysteries.

Amazingly the d'Abbadie family are also said to be responsible for the installation of the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye (France) in its current location in the courtyard of the Church of St. Vincent in Hendaye. The Great Cross seems to be associated with what may be a talismanic value of the Axis Mundi as displayed in the book "Mystery of the Cathedrals" by Fulcanelli. In this book the symbols present on the Great Cross compel one (my interpretation) to use it as an octagonal axis oriented to the pole star. Many inferences and clues in the book suggest that luminaries such as Alexander Von Humboldt and Thomas Jefferson were likely aware of the Great Cross and its true interpretation.

The fact that the d'Abbadie's were actively recording star logs in Hendaye lends weight to the argument that this point on earth could

be used to compare other points to that had also had star logs collected there. In the end this practice could help to define the true shape of the earth making navigation even more accurate. If the d'Abbadie's collected ephemeris or knew the correct celestial body to sight they could then compare their location to that of Hendaye or any other site of observation from which a log had been collected. This would hold true even in far flung places like Ethiopia.

Antione d' Abbadie was likely the more influential of the two brothers in this realm though they were both geographers and naturalists. He had indeed searched for the source of the Nile and had claimed its source as the start of the Blue Nile. Unlike Drummond and Bruce the d'Abbadie's promoted the notion of Catholic missionaries in Ethiopia so this may represent a difference in these two distantly related families who none the less seemed to have similar hidden values. It is interesting to speculate what they saw there that would have them compel a Catholic church presence in such a place. This is also interesting in light of the Ethiopians earlier expulsion of Portuguese missionaries.

Antione had once even invented a new type of theodolite or surveying instrument. He was also the Mayor of Hendaye France from 1871 to 1875. This is the same d'Abbadie that established the astronomical observatory at Hendaye and it is also just prior to his stint as mayor that the Great Cross was moved to its current location. It is possible that Antione had interpreted the symbols on the Great Cross and understood their significance. Some of the appeal of the Great Cross may have to do with the fact that Hendaye is a stop on the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route that ends in Santiago de Compostela.

The Camino and Santiago de Compostela are also themes covered in Fulcanelli's book 'Mystery of the Cathedrals' that also discusses the Great Cross. Both of the d'Abbadie's, Bruce, and Drummond had careers very similar to that of Alexander Von Humboldt who had traveled the world in search of scientific and gnostic secrets and may have been the first to unlock the secrets of the Aztec Sunstone. All of these men had gone on amazing journeys and found symbols and history that would be strangely valued by their peers and families. Many of these concepts would manifest themselves in the symbolic values and architecture of the United States.

The studies of this author (Cort Lindahl) have also revealed a distinct value of the linear orientation of many Gothic Cathedrals including all of the structures discussed in Fulcanelli's book. Each Cathedral may act as an axis or place from which to measure using an octagonal stellation of arcs on the globe along which additional talismans were built. Many Cathedrals contain an octagonal element in their domes or ceilings. Using buildings in this manner creates a virtual map projection using the building as the center of the mapped area. Calculations can be made from these points that are valid without even displaying them on a map or globe. This method makes each axis a virtual nadir or center for a map projection. The octagonal Kings Knot at Stirling Castle is such a structure as well.

This is an ancient tradition extending back to the Tower of the Winds in Athens, Heliopolis in Egypt, and likely the 'other' Heliopolis known as Baalbek. The Cathedral of Amiens as discussed in "Mystery of the Cathedrals" and its octagonal labyrinth displays this notion in an exemplary manner. Just as the octagonal Kings Knot at Stirling points to the Dome of the Rock and Star Pyramid the long axis orientation of the Amiens Cathedral points to the Dome of the Rock as well. This was likely in both cases an intentional arrangement. As these studies progress it is becoming more and more obvious that a certain caste of this unique family line were privy to the secrets being exposed here. They had mastered a way to accurately map the globe. In order to execute these plans they had a very advanced grasp of geodesy, geometry, and cartography.

Given the d' Abbadie's family history and legacy it is not surprising that they would also travel to Africa to find the source of the Nile. Apparently both of the d'Abbadie brothers were been a trained geographers and cartographers who would have been able to accurately mark the origin of this great river on the world grid. The d' Abbadies are clearly related via Norman blood to Richard the Lion Hearted of England and also the Drummond's and Scotts discussed above. Still the entire scenario of these men's involvement begs the question: "What did they find in their search for the source of the Nile?" What part of this story is not being told? It is possible that part of their quest included verifying what Bruce had found earlier and to locate whatever new information they could gather.

Why would these men be so obsessed with establishing the origin point of this great river? What family legacy would compel them to search for such things? What hidden information had been uncovered in Jerusalem that would lend credence to this theory?

The answer to that question may lay in the fact the Upper Nile region and what is today Egypt (Lower Nile) could have been claimed by their forebears that were part of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Alternately the Latin Kings may have been attempting to coopt an earlier Greek or Byzantine claim. The tradition of claiming property in that era would have involved knowledge of astronomy and cartography. These skills would allow a nationality or royal group to claim property in terms that the others could understand. It is a legal precedent somewhat similar to aspects of maritime law in the modern world.

In order to do this they would have had to establish observatories in the tradition of the Tower of the Winds in many far flung places. This is apparently what was done on the estates of many landed gentry in England and France during the same period Bruce was traveling Ethiopia. Places like Shugborough Hall, and The West Wycombe estate of Sir Francis Dashwood included reproductions of the Tower of the Winds in Athens that functioned in the same manner as the original. Even earlier in America the Powder Magazine

in Williamsburg and the Newport Tower had been constructed in this tradition. It is not out of the question that Lalibela Ethiopia's rock hewn churches were created in this tradition. The array of obelisk and windrose markers at the Vatican points directly to Lalibela.

In order to claim the Nile watershed someone would have had to have left a marker at a point near the origin of this watercourse that could be defined on the globe and accepted by competitors. The entire notion of these men searching the upper Nile fits a pattern of behavior that suggests they may have been looking for a claim marker left by the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem that virtually claimed all of Upper and Lower Egypt as well as the environs of what is today Ethiopia. This very same conflict and search for property defining stones would later be repeated between the French and English in the settlement of America. Both parties seemed to have been searching for items that had been left prior and may have established ownership of vast regions. It is also possible that the Portuguese and Spanish pilots claimed land in this manner for their sovereign.

There are many tales of so called 'Templars' coming to Lalibela and Aksum Ethiopia in search of the Lost Ark of the Covenant. Any seekers of the Lost Ark would have had good reason to think it is there in that there are references to this story in the Old Testament. Some of the rock hewn churches in Lalibela form a Greek Cross from plan view that in turn suggests an octagon. The legacy of Mescal Lalibela later building rock hewn churches in Lalibela post dates any visits by the Templars. More weight may be added to this theory due to the fact that a legend exists that Lalibela had been built to serve as a kind of proxy for Jerusalem during its Muslim occupation.

A more practical value of their travels up the Nile may have been to claim property as part of their rights to do so as understood by the rest of the western world. Is it possible that somehow this is true? It is certainly inferred that there was more to their interest in this region than simply defining the source of a great river. It fits the paradigms set forth for the claiming of property and may also explain some of the more arcane subjects such as the origins of the Great Seal. If true each one of the Knights that had travelled from the Holy Land to Ethiopia would have seen the unique small steep sided pyramids that exist in Sudan right along the river. Both explorers Drummond, Bruce, and the d'Abbadie's in their travels may have also seen these sights.

In this way this symbol may have worked its way into the mythology and lore of the bloodline that had created the United States of America and its inclusion on the Great Seal of the United States. It is possible that at the time of these men's visits that they did not realize the pyramids in Morowe were more recent additions not associated with the original Kings they may have valued or been seeking information about.

Some evidence that may display how James Bruce's discoveries were valued by Masonry may be observed in a relic known as the Kirkwall Scroll. The Kirkwall Scroll resides at the Masonic Lodge of Kirkwall Killwinning no. 38(2) in the Orkney Islands of Scotland. This artifact has had a hotly debated origin in Masonic and historical circles. Different portions of the scroll that have been radiocarbon dated bring back a date of anywhere from the late eighteenth century to sometime in the fifteenth century. The scroll seems to be composed of a wide central portion with two more narrow strips of cloth having been added to the margins of both sides of the scroll. The older date comes from the wider central portion while the later dates came from the outer margins. It is possible that the outer margins were added later.

Other Masonic historians and researchers have gathered information that suggests that the entire scroll was likely produced in the late eighteenth century. By comparing the origins of some of the words, script, and symbols used on the scroll it may be difficult to assume it was created in the fifteenth century. A fifteenth century date for the Kirkwall Scroll may help to support the notion that some of the cultural affiliations mentioned in tandem with Scottish nobility on the Declaration of Arbroath may indeed be true. This may be why it is at least theorized to be of a much older time than it actually is.

The Declaration of Arbroath states that these nobles including Robert the Bruce believed they had descended from Egyptian and Scythian nobility at a much earlier time. This coincides with the story of Queen Scota emigrating to Ireland and Scotland from Galicia (Spain) with her travels beginning in Egypt. If one disregards how old the scroll is either way some interesting possibilities are still exposed. As it turns out either creation date for the Kirkwall Scroll may help to prove that they were indeed related to ancient nobility and even possibly some characters mentioned in the Old Testament. One unique discovery or realization of James Bruce during his Ethiopian sojourn serves to illustrate this point.

Many of the notable explorers discussed already had traveled to the realms depicted on the margins of the scroll. Most analysts of the scroll all agree that it seems to depict Mesopotamia and the Nile basin on the two added margins. Some of the script on the scroll is interpreted as being Enochian by some observers so this would fit an Ethiopian theme related to James Bruce bringing back sacred manuscripts (or copies of) that all seemed to play a central role in Masonic thought and philosophy. Indeed many of these manuscripts are valued by others outside of the Masonic sphere as well. If the script on the scroll was known prior to Bruce this may be significant. If this script was not known of until Bruce returned from Ethiopia then this is also important.

Given the themes present on the scroll a good guess to at least the inspiration of its subject matter would be the travels of James Bruce. It is doubtful that James Bruce created the Kirkwall scroll but he did live and thrive during the period that the later radiocarbon dates of the scroll indicate. This date range may also match the period during which some scholars suppose the symbology on the

scroll was first used in Masonry. This is also the era in which the Great Seal of the United States was being designed and developed.

Did James Bruce inspire the creation of the Kirkwall Scroll? This is at the very least a possibility. Bruce had traveled to all the places displayed on the scroll and so had both explorers Drummond and likely the d'Abbadie's as well. In a strange way the Kirkwall scroll may have been a result of these men's quest to identify the headwaters of the Nile River or what ever else they may have been searching for. The entire story of all of these men searching the outback of Africa for the headwaters of a river does seem implausible at times. They must have been looking for something else.

There may be many surprising revelations in this vein present in James Bruce's book "Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile, In the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1773." This tome tells the tale of Bruce's adventures in Ethiopia some of which are spectacular and adventurous. Perhaps the outrageousness the things that happened to Bruce caused some of his critics to accuse him of fabricating some of the story. History went on to bear out all the claims of Bruce as others explored the region in his footsteps. In fact Bruce had been preceded in his quest for the headwaters of the Nile by Portuguese explorers who later even brought Catholic missionaries to Ethiopia. Ultimately the presence of these missionaries caused them to ban the Portuguese in their country with severe penalties for any that were found there.

Bruce was a highly educated man who had the skills of an geographer, anthropologist, writer, and artist. While his narrative style is descriptive in a scientific and informational sense the adventure is laid bare as one reads along. Much of what is said in the book as well as the majority of what Bruce spent his time doing there may indicate that he had an ulterior motive for coming to Ethiopia in the first place. Had his mission been to secure these ancient manuscripts rather than identifying what turned out to be the source of the Blue Nile even though the Portuguese had done so years before?

There is even a passage in the book that describes how Bruce found some striking similarities between his heritage and that of Ethiopian Royalty. As he got to know the gentry and priesthood of Ethiopia it seems that they gradually came to trust James Bruce as an equal and not a European who had come to subjugate them as others had before. Some biographies of Bruce state that he was offered a command in the Ethiopian Kings Calvary.

The Ethiopians have a strong identity and have always displayed a willingness to ruthlessly defend their land. At one point the entire royal lineage of the Ethiopian Kings was laid out for Bruce to examine. It was during his studies and discussions of Ethiopian Royalty that he came to an amazing and personal discovery. It is likely this information came from the Kebra Nagast; one of the volumes that he would eventually have copied and returned home with. This volume illustrates the succession of Kings of Ethiopia descendant of King Solomon of Jerusalem.

It seems that Bruce discovered that there had been an Ethiopian King ninety-eight years before Christ who shared the same name as the Royal family he was a part of. There had been an Ethiopian King named Brus. Interesting in this sense that both the Royal arms of Scotland and Ethiopia include a Lion. Bruce also noted this similarity, as this discovery seemed to delight him immensely. He even wrote of discussing the similarities between the two royal lines while having to also not say that he was part of the same lineage or had the same status as the Ethiopian Kings.

What Bruce likely did not convey to his hosts is that he and his ancestors had a strong belief that they may have evolved from similar origins to King Solomon just as the Ethiopian Kings had. Here Bruce had independent confirmation of this ancient belief. The fact that there was once an Ethiopian King of this name distantly connected to his heritage may have been easier for Bruce to believe or consider as truth than his hosts could guess. This discovery must have given Bruce great cause to ponder the possibilities as it likely amazed him on many different levels. This is a unique and synchronous occurrence. To Bruce this may have meant he was related to King Solomon himself. In turn he may have deduced that he was descendant of the very kings the Egyptian culture had sprung from!

It is well known via the legend of the Queen of Sheba and her son Malik I that the Ark of the Covenant had been brought to Ethiopia in the ninth century B.C. Malik I also seemed to have brought the faith of Judaism along with him when he left Jerusalem with the Ark as that faith has an ancient tradition in Ethiopia. Malik I was said to be the son of King Solomon he who brought this bloodline to Ethiopia. There are images of the Queen of Sheba and the Ark of the Covenant featured in the statuary of Chartres Cathedral displaying the widespread acceptance of this tale. (See my other work. 'The Path of the Ark of the Covenant' for some amazing geographic associations between the Vatican axis, Lalibela, and Chartres. Both places are pointed to in opposite directions using the windrose and obelisk at the Vatican as a datum).

It is likely that Judaism was the primary faith in Ethiopia from the time of Malik I until Coptic Egyptians (Greeks/Byzantines) introduced Christianity to them sometime after Christ. Many Ethiopian art and architecture motifs resemble that of the Byzantines. Some of the rock hewn churches of Lalibela are even seen as a Greek Cross from plan view also suggestive of an octagon. Further comparisons would include similarities with the traditional Greek Orthodox Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Some of the symbols present in Ethiopia could easily be mistaken as 'Templar' revealing this association with Egyptian Coptics in Alexandria. In the end the Templar Cross is a type of Greek Cross. Even though some 'Templars' may have visited Lalibela it may be that these symbols were already there and valued at the time of their arrival.

Given what James Bruce had found in Ethiopia and his possible true motives for visiting there what may we assume of the involvement of the Portuguese earlier as well as similar adventures by the d'Abbadie brothers? If per chance claim markers had been left at the headwaters of the Nile they were likely left by Portuguese explorers who may have allegiances to a specific order of knighthood or secret society. They had lived during the era when this may have been more common though the Greeks may have utilized this method as well. This information may have leaked out to some of the members of these sects in other countries later becoming available to the Latin Kings of Jerusalem.

During the Portuguese tenure in Ethiopia a great Jesuit European scholar named Athanasius Kircher was fascinated by and wrote of Ethiopia. Many of his assumptions about Ethiopia were incorrect though he was a brilliant mathematician and scholar. Even Nicolas Poussin a figure central to the Rennes le Chateau mystery had been a student of Kircher's. Poussin had painted the painting 'The Shepherds of Arcadia' that included a rendering of the inscription 'Et in Arcadia Ego' that is featured in Henry Lincoln's version of the Rennes le Chateau mystery. This imagery is also featured on the famous Shepherd's monument at Shugborough Hall in England. Is it possible that these Arcadia references are related to d'Abbadie's that actually existed in French Arcadia at about the time of the production of Poussin's painting?

Shugborough is also home to many mysteries itself including being the location at which researcher Louis Buff Parry believes the true stone of destiny is hidden. This distant connection to Poussin and Kircher is interesting in that Bruce continually refers to the Ethiopians as the 'Shepherds' throughout his writing. Was Bruce giving us a subtle hint that he considered Ethiopia 'Arcadia?' At the least he was referring to the way that they had preserved ancient writings that had been destroyed in Egypt and were no longer available anywhere else. The Ethiopians were indeed shepherds of ancient knowledge and information.

Perhaps 'Arcadia' and 'Arcadians' are simply terms for sacred places of knowledge and those who maintain them? We do see this term kind of leaving a pathway to the d'Abbadie's involvement in many different regions of the Globe. Firstly they are from the Basque region of Spain and France, which is home to a culture of shepherd's and once part of the domain of Queen Scotia the namesake of Scotland. Next d'Abbadie's go to French Arcadia and settle there establishing a military dynasty. Finally a d'Abbadie, governor of Louisiana, domain of the 'Cajun's, completes the Arcadia connection.

It is clear that a similar scenario of the French and English leaving and searching for claim markers was played out in N. America with each side looking for and either stealing or eliminating the others claims which were traditionally set at the headwaters of a river system to claim the entire watershed. As land changed hands they may have been seeking to replace these makers with their own. This activity could involve many interesting legends and truths such as the Kensington Rune, The sandstone pillar and Hebrew inscription discovered by Louis Buff Parry, the Oak Island Treasure and much more. There are several monuments in the tale of land claims in N. America many of which were added later by family members displaying knowledge of this tradition.

The d'Abbadies created the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye mystery even if they did not create the cross themselves. They had obviously deciphered it and put it in a place of value outside the church of St. Vincent that they paid to have had restored (Weidner, Bridges). Could the Kirkwall Scroll have been a by-product of things James Bruce and the Drummond's had learned in their travels? All of these families were interwoven with the Stewarts and many other Scottish and English nobles. It is also clear via an examination of many of the gentry families of the world that some of their influence includes leaving monuments to their family legacies in churches of which they are the major benefactors. The Great Cross of Hendaye fits this bill. In this saga we see first families of the America leaving mysteries in this tradition at the Bruton Parish Church, All Saints Maidstone (Beale, Washington), and Bruton Parish Church Williamsburg, Virginia (Beale, Bacon, Moncure, Washington). The mysteries of Rosslyn Chapel itself may indicate that the St. Clair family had left a path of discovery more having to do with their own family than any other far reaching theories concerning Masonry and widespread conspiracy.

The Kirkwall Scroll mystery fits this pattern in a Masonic context. It appears someone may have read the works of Bruce after he had returned from his travels and created this enigmatic scroll as a response. Some comments on Bruce's work at that time suggest its distribution was limited to Masonic groups. The scroll itself also seems to act as a kind of Masonic tracing board that may teach lessons to initiates at different levels suggesting only parts of the scroll were revealed as one progressed. If the scroll does depict episodes in Bruce's life then he had gone through the ultimate path of initiation.

The bonus information revealed to initiates at Kirkwall using this scroll may have also included a mystery as to what the strange map like qualities of the scroll actually meant. If they were to examine the most well known adventurer of their day as the source of these mysteries they would inevitably be led to at least the suspicion that the scroll had been inspired by the travels and gnostic influence of James Bruce descendant of Robert the Bruce King of Scotland.

Amazingly there are indications of a strong family link between William Graham (Graeme) who donated the Kirkwall Scroll to the Kirkwall lodge and James Bruce. Part of the genealogy of the Bruce family of Kinnaird reads as such:

"Robert Bruce of Life Gds. d. 1650, had an only heir and daughter, Helen, who married David Hay of Woodcockdale. Helen retained the name of Bruce and therefore he became David Hay-Bruce, and retained the title of Kinnaird. They had a son, David Hay-Bruce

who married a daughter of James Graham, Esq. of Airth. Their son, James "Hay" Bruce was the famous African Traveler and discoverer of the white Nile. James had 6 brothers and 2 sisters, from his father's second marriage."

*(Bruce is said to have discovered the source of the Blue Nile)

This entry clearly states that James Bruce's mother was from the Graham family. Here the excerpt said to be from the Kirkwall Lodge records from December, 27, 1785:

"Bro. William Graeme, visiting brother from Lodge no 128 Ancient Constitution of England [Lodge Prince Edwin, In Bury East Lancs] was at his own desire admitted to become a member of this Lodge, and he accordingly signed the articles and Rules thereof"

Seven months after this entry the log book records Graeme (Graham) donating a 'floor cloth' that is now referred to as the Kirkwall Scroll. There is some debate if this scroll is indeed the 'floor cloth' yet most agree the scroll seen today is the floor cloth being referred to.

It is important to note that James Bruce's Grandfather from his mothers line was the famous Judge Graham of the Admiralty and defender of loyalists after the first Jacobite risings. Judge Graham's had a son named William who also produced another William Graham. Though it is tempting to ascribe the creation of the scroll to one of these two good men we may consider an alternative.

It may be that a collateral relative of James Bruce's mother was the William Graham who donated the scroll. The entire legacy of the Graham's and Bruce's crosses paths several times through history. A quick check reveals two marriages between the families. In addition James Bruce's mother's second marriage was to a Hamilton whose family still held the title of Earl of Orkney where Kirkwall is located. James Bruce had a half brother who was a Hamilton. A Hamilton Earl of Orkney had also once been defacto Governor of Colonial Virginia. His Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood was a family relation and creator of the octagonal Powder Magazine in Williamsburg, Virginia. It is then no coincidence that the Graham who had donated the scroll was the customs inspector for Kirkwall.

Given the era in which the Scroll appeared it is likely that the William Graham who donated the Kirkwall Scroll may have several different links to noble blood including a value of the legacy of James Bruce. He lived during the same era as Bruce so it is even likely that they knew each other and were aware of their familial relation. Given the dynamics of how gentry value each other one may assume that these two men carried the same blood. The Graham family also is one of the influential gentry families of Scotland. James Bruce's grandfather Robert is also important in the overall interests of this family at large. Robert marks the second association of James Bruce and his family with the creation of the Hudson's Bay Company originally established by Prince Rupert of the Rhine. The Graham family was intimately associated with shipping with and for the Hudson's Bay Company. James Bruce's great grandfather 'Robert Bruce of the Life Guards' was a Cavalier bodyguard of Charles I. This is an amazing association with John Beale also a Life Guard during this era whose family may be responsible for the legend of the Bruton Parish Church Vault (Bacon's Vault) in Williamsburg as well as the Beale Treasure Legend of Bedford County, Virginia.

Both of these men may have been under the command of Prince Rupert who was the head of the Life Guards during this period. All of these associations may infer that all of these men were loyal to the Jacobite cause and may have had motives of their own in the establishment of the United States of America and other ventures such as the Hudson's Bay Company. Some well known monuments in the U.S. and Canada may be associated with the way land was claimed in the past.

In the end we would be forced to at least consider a historical personage(s) being the impetus for maps of Mesopotamia and the Nile being featured on the Kirkwall Scroll. During the very same time frame only within a few years of each other we have Bruce and Sir Drummond traveling the ancient world followed closely by the d' Abbadie's and yet another William Drummond. The d' Abbadie's and later William Drummond left monuments in their wake at Hedaye and Stirling Castle using themes that were valued in places they had visited. These men's work had brought real evidence home to prove the reality of the symbols and cultures they valued. Their tradition and family legacy from the Kings of Egypt and the old world had been given a great deal of rationale in reality as well which undoubtedly inspired them personally. Some of this information was likely shared with their families who would have appreciated it as well.

In addition it should not be overlooked that many of these symbols would be incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States of America. The same families and more would go on to play a large role in the creation of the United States of America. In the colonies the dynamics of the first families of New England, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia seemed to mirror those of and include members of English and Scottish gentry. The symbolic values of these people would be incorporated into our architecture, money, artwork, and legacy. Works of art like the Great Seal of the United States and the Washington monument reflect these values in an overt manner. Washington D.C. and countless other places in the U.S. serve as testimony to the artwork and mysteries solved by people like Bruce and Drummond. It is no surprise then that the same values would be apparent in organizations like Masonry who did play a substantial role in the creation of the country as well.

These concepts have been developed in some cases into historical mysteries that may serve as paths of initiation valued by certain

orders or specific groups of people. There seems to be a clear evolution through time with regard to mysterious conundrums such as the Kirkwall Scroll.

The more modern form of these quests may be exemplified by places such as Rennes le Chateau, the Georgia Guidestones, Coral Castle, The Star Chart at Hoover Dam, The Maryhill Stonehenge, and The Peace Arch and International Peace Garden. At each of these places a monument is included that may be considered a millennial monument. Each of these places has the influence of one of this family line. Ultimately the lesson these places teach you may be rooted in practical geometry and navigation which was once a cloistered and at points an alchemical art.

You can read more about James Bruce and his writings at:

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

Also of William Drummond at:

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

And that's it for this week and hope you all enjoy your weekend.

Alastair