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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for January 26th, 2018

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

In the news this week I bring you a couple of interesting articles around Robert Burns. Two videos on how to make a Burns Supper with a traditional Haggis meal of Haggis, Neeps and Taties and another on making Haggis Pakora. Hope you enjoy them.

I also note that MacSeens Haggis is now available in Canada but so far only through specialist outlets so a lot of us would need to dive a fair bit to obtain it.

Of course in the USA you can purchase haggis from Caledonian Kitchen which you can also order online. They have the traditional recipe with Lamb but they also do a beef version.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our ScotNews feed on our index page where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines. I might also add that in newspapers such as the Guardian, Scotsman, Courier, etc. you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish.

Inside the 19th Century time capsule found in the Highlands

The time capsule, from 1887, was found embedded in the wall of the old Coire Church, which overlooks Loch Torridon, Western Ross, and serves as a unique social document of those living in the area.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/inside-the-19th-century-time-capsule-found-in-the-highlands-1-4664847>

20 statues of Robert Burns around the world

THERE'S a lot of love out there for Robert Burns. Across the globe there are more than sixty statues dedicated to Scotia's bard.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/in-pictures-20-statues-of-robert-burns-around-the-world-1-4666229>

Europe's security depends on British and American generosity

The UK has effectively subsidised European security by \$23 billion in the past five years

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/the-us-and-uk-have-been-subsidising-europes-security-for-years/>

What is a normal sex life?

BBC Future explores the wide spectrum of sexual desires and behaviours.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160217-what-is-a-normal-sex-life>

18th Century inn abandoned during Clearances is unearthed

The remains of an 18th Century inn that was abandoned during the Highland Clearances have been unearthed by archaeologists.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/18th-century-inn-abandoned-during-clearances-is-unearthed-1-4666340>

Boris Johnson urges Britain to embrace a Donald Trump visit

Boris signalled that postponing any visit risks damaging the national interest saying the US people bought £100 billion of UK goods and services in 2016.

Read more at:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5389367/boris-johnson-donald-trump-visit-trade-ties-vital-security/>

Obituary: Jon Reid Oberlander

Academic, Professor of Epistemics, co-founder and first director of the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/obituary-jon-reid-oberlander-academic-professor-of-epistemics-co-founder-and-first-director-of-the-scottish-informatics-and-computer-science-alliance-1-4664767>

The SNP: Making the Case for Union

By arguing for a soft Brexit, the SNP are doing a great job of making the case for Scotland remaining in the UK.

Read more at:

<http://chokkablog.blogspot.ca/2018/01/the-snp-making-case-for-union.html>

Obituary: Major General Charles Ramsay

Career soldier who embodied the qualities of a leader

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/obituary-major-general-charles-ramsay-career-soldier-who-embodied-the-qualities-of-a-leader-1-4668194>

What's Happened to Scotland's Young Men?

By Kenneth Roy of the Scottish Review

Read more at:

<http://www.scottishreview.net/KennethRoy406a.html>

Video: How to make mouth-watering haggis pakora

You don't need to fill up on neeps and tatties to enjoy a haggis supper on Burns Night.

View this at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage/robert-burns/video-how-to-make-mouth-watering-haggis-pakora-1-4668892>

Caledonia - a simple love song to Scotland

Dougie MacLean's love song to his homeland has become an anthem of Scottish pride but it was written in just 10 minutes on a beach in France when he was in his early 20s.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-42787369>

Edinburgh's £153m repair bill may be just the start

The discovery that £153 million of repairs are needed to council-owned buildings in Edinburgh after years of neglect is alarming enough, but it could be just the tip of the iceberg.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/leader-comment-edinburgh-s-153m-repair-bill-may-be-just-the-start-1-4670241>

Dundee's greatest shame
New figures reveal 28% of city's children growing up in poverty

Read more at:

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/585662/dundeess-greatest-shame-new-figures-reveal-28-citys-children-growing-poverty/>

Scotland set for arrival of £100million stealth jets
Which boast devastating firepower and fly at 1200mph

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-air-bases-set-arrival-11908819>

Seven reasons why Scottish education is under-performing
Most commentators agree that it is facing serious challenges, whether in terms of the attainment gap between children from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds, problems of teacher recruitment and retention, or falling standards as judged by international comparisons.

Read more at:

<http://sceptical.scot/2018/01/seven-reasons-scottish-education-performing/>

China's Rise is Over
While IR experts marvel at China's growth, the PRC's own elites take a more sober view.

Read more at:

<http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2015/03/chinas-rise-is-over.html>

Europe Braces for the Next Italian Election
Italy's general election will be one of the most important political events for the European Union this year

Read more at:

<https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/europe-braces-next-italian-election>

Jacob Rees-Mogg and Philip Hammond at odds over Brexit
Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg has called for a fundamental change in ministers' tone on Brexit, accusing UK negotiators of being cowed by the EU.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42823654>

Video: How to make haggis, neeps and tatties
Celebrate Robert Burns' birthday with a verse, a dram and this simple haggis recipe.

View this at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/video-how-to-make-haggis-neeps-and-tatties-1-4668714>

President Trump predicts 'tremendous increase' in UK-US trade
President Donald Trump has predicted a tremendous increase in UK-US trade, after talks with Theresa May.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42819405>

Nicola Sturgeon faces fresh claims Government leant on police
Tory leader Ruth Davidson rounded on the First Minister over a lack of transparency on the part of the SNP Government in dealing with the leadership crisis at Police Scotland

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/fmqs-nicola-sturgeon-faces-fresh-claims-government-leant-on-police-1-4672114>

Electric Canadian

Transactions of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers

I discovered a lot of volumes of these transaction which are very detailed and note that they are very popular downloads so assume civil engineers are enjoying the details given in these transactions.

I've added the 1920 volume and will add others each week. You can view these at the above page at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/industrial/index.htm>

This issue's main articles are about The Future of Applied Science, An Instrument for Measurement of Rail Wear and Recent Experiments with Straw-Gas.

Grey Owl

The Ojibwa taught Archie their ideas about life and nature. He became angry at the "white man" for treating Indians and nature badly.

Added a page about him and a link to one of his books at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/greyowl.htm>

Saintly Smith

The School Upon The Hill By E. M. Morphy, A York Pioneer (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/schooluponthehill.pdf>

Conrad Black's articles

The Exhausted Racism Charge

<http://www.conradblack.com/1362/the-exhausted-racism-charge>

There can be no real justice when everyone is a victim

<http://www.conradblack.com/1363/there-can-be-no-real-justice-when-everyone-is>

Electric Scotland

The Genealogy of the Nicol Family, Kincardineshire Branch

By W. E. Nicol (1909)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/ntor/GenealogyofNicol.pdf>

Chips from old stones

By Christian Maclagan

By the author of "Hill Forts and Stone Circles of Ancient Scotland" which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/stones/Maclagan.pdf>

Historic Memorials & Reminiscences of Stockbridge

The Dean, and Water of Leith with Notices, Anecdotal, Descriptive and Biographical by Cumberland Hill (1887) (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/edinburgh/historicmemorialhill.pdf>

Major General Charles Ramsay

Career soldier who embodied the qualities of a leader.

You can read about him at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/ramsay_charles.htm

Quartermaster Supply

In the European Theater of Operations in World War II - Plans, Policies, and Procedures by Eudora Ramsay Richardson and Sherman Allan.

You can read this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/quartermastersupply.htm>

Scotland from Above in High Definition

Isle of Skye to Ben Nevis (HD) which you can watch at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5286-Scotland-from-Above-in-High-Definition>

Not happy with PayPal or Google and here I tell you why.

Did a YouTube video to explain my concerns about both companies and you can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5287-Not-happy-with-PayPal-or-Google-and-here-I-tell-you-why>

Life and Various Vicissitudes of Fortune, of Peter Williamson

Who was carried off from Aberdeen and sold as a slave in Pennsylvania. A poor scan of this book but worth effort to read it which you can at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/frenchindiancruelty.pdf>

The History of Ancient Caledonia

From the Time of Saint Caldea, the Founder of Christianity giving an Account of the first discoveries of Iron and Steel, the two sons of "Mackay of the Law", the Building and Destruction of Troy, the Returning of the Royal Slaves from the Siege of Jerusalem, their departure from Trials, Hardships, and Endurances till their Landing at Montrose. By John MacLaren, Dunning (Second Edition) (1879) (pdf)

You can read this fascinating account at:

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

The Story

I thought I'd include the Preface and Introduction from the above book as the story for this week. The book gives much information on how many of the Scottish clans were formed.

The History of Ancient Caledonia

The great Grampian mountains, stern and wild,
With proof their lives a true-born Israel child.
The Roman tyrants made them mourn:
Their backs to the foe they never yet did turn,
Tried on many a foreign field
The Clans of Caledonia were never known to yield.

PREFACE

In verification of the History of Ancient Caledonia, as contained in the following pages, and the prophecies mentioned therein, the Right Honourable Lord Rollo and Dunning was the first to discover any tangible proof in connection therewith; namely, in the discovering of a "tower" on his estate of Duncrub, and as spoken of in this History. He was also Patron to the First Edition of the work, and to whom the Author again dedicates these pages. Amongst the earliest subscribers to the first edition was the highly respected and deeply regretted minister of the parish of Dunning, the late Rev. John Wilson, D.D., and the Rev. Henry Stirling, U.P. Church, Dunning; together with a great many ladies, all of whom took a deep interest in the work, and in the bringing forward of proofs in connection with same.

An account is given in the work of the First Inventors of Steel — the two sons of Mackay of the Law — the building of Troy and the destruction of same, the Return of the Royal Slaves from the Siege of Jerusalem, their trials, hardships, and endurances until their landing at Montrose. (See Grote's History of Egypt.) The Boundaries as mentioned, is proved by the recent finding of the March Stone at Burrastouness. The Lava of iron, information as to this can be given and verified by Mr. John Stewart, farmer (and F.C. elder), Aulddooach, Athole.

The battle of Kilconquhar has been verified by the finding of bones and skulls in the vicinity of same, and as spoken of.

The prophecies of Saint Maclsaac — a great many of these have already been fulfilled, namely, the battle of Balgonie, where the first grant was given to the Douglas of Abernethy for his valour that day on the field; the Humes of Hume (Home) Castle was, by the marriage of Jane Lindsay, built by the assistance of both clans; and has been further verified as to the washing of the "Grey Dougstoun" (Glasgow) by the streams of Glengyle (viz., Loch Katrine); and more recently by the finding of the image of Saint Maclsaac near Ross-dhu, Luss, the seat of Sir James Colquhoun.

The Author, after repeated requests and solicitations from all parts of Scotland (as well as from some parts of England and Ireland), has been induced to issue a Second Edition (carefully revised), and trusts it may meet with as great a success as that accorded to

the First Edition.

With these few introductory remarks he begs to introduce the reader to the Ancient History of Caledonia.

The Author,

JOHN MACLAREN,

Born at Lochearnhead, Parish of Balquhidder, August 24th, 1820.

Dunning, 1879.

INTRODUCTORY

I think it necessary to state how I became possessed of the original copy of the "Ancient History of Caledonia." I was a sailor on board a man-of-war. Returning in 1842, I was one day sent on Store Duty to the Tower of London. One of my shipmates calling me by name, a gentleman who heard him came to me and said — "Am I like Jock at the fair — are there more M'Larens here than me?". I answered that I was a M'Laren. We became very intimate. He was Master Gunner at the Tower, by name David M'Laren. I remained there all night; and the topic of conversation happening to fall upon nationality, he informed me that he had seen a book in the shop of a Jew in Petticoat Lane, with the word "Chaldea" marked upon it. Through curiosity I went along with him to see it. What he called the book turned out to be a large roll of written skins, not very well preserved, there being holes here and there, and the writing in many places injured by damp. An oaken box which had contained the roll, attracted my attention. It was lined with copper, and had outside on the lid a great many ornaments in the same metal, including a large lion rampant with a sword in its paw. I offered him a sum of money for the box, but he would not part with it until he had first removed the mounting from it. I then offered him a piece of money for the book, which he refused; but when I left he followed after me with it, insisting that I should take it at the price offered, and to avoid being robbed, I paid the book, got possession of it, and left. After returning home I tried several clergymen with it, but received no encouragement, until I met with the Rev. Duncan M'Gregor, Roman Catholic Priest, Lochaber. He told me it was the "Ancient History of Caledonia." He translated it from the ancient Latin, in which it was written, into the Gaelic language, as I expected from the nature of the book that it would command a greater sale in that language. From various causes it never was printed in Gaelic, but from this translation, I have now got it translated into the English language, the original document being completely destroyed during the first translation by the means taken to make the writing legible.

I was in Lord Rollo's employment, on his estate of Duncrub, near Dunning, about the year 1862. I told his Lordship of the former existence of a tower on his estate, which I knew of from the "History." Becoming interested, he made inquiries on the subject, but the oldest man in the neighbourhood had never heard of it. He then ordered a search to be made under my direction, which was successful in laying bare the foundations of the tower. Several other statements in this History are proved by recent discoveries — for example, the sinking of St. Andrews has been verified by the fishermen, who have discovered walls and other remains three miles out at sea. The prophecies of St. M'Isaac are partly fulfilled.

The original writings from which this history is translated are believed to have been carried away by Edward I., along with the Marble Chair and Jacob's Pillow, upon which the Caledonians crowned their kings at Scone Palace.

JOHN MACLAREN.

And that's it for this week and hope you have a great weekend..

Alastair