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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for July 23rd, 2021

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:  
<https://electricscotland.com/scotnews.htm>

### Electric Scotland News

I was messaging with one of our long time visitors to the site and he was of the opinion that I'm covering too much politics these days and mostly anti-SNP. I agree with his analysis but I have a reason for this and here I'm telling you why this is the case.

We are a history site and just like the Act of Union in 1707 it is the major talking point in Scotland and thus deserves to be covered. Problem I have is that the Scottish Press are mostly SNP supporters and thus are not holding the SNP to account and so I am going further afield to get information.

I don't in fact post most of my findings onto the web site and instead use the weekly newsletter to do this. When I do post content onto the site it is because I believe it is important and thus needs to have a permanent place on the site.

The last time I added a story to the site was on April 2021 when I posted the report from Think Scotland - THE SNP RECORD: Good or bad? A review of the impacts and outcomes of the SNP Government's policies. In it was a report of the Case study: "The Calmac ferries scandal" and today I read in the press an article on "Disruption as three more CalMac vessels are hit by technical issues in one day".

My issue is that in my opinion it is hard to find any good stories of the SNP's success in running Scotland. So perhaps have a read of the above report at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/independence/snprecord.pdf> and in particular read the case study which is on pages 57-59 of the report and then read the current reporting at:

<https://www.ardrossanherald.com/news/national/uk-today/19461424.disruption-three-calmac-vessels-hit-technical-issues-one-day/>

I can quote no better evidence than this as to why I want people to question why the SNP is so popular in Scotland as in my opinion an SNP government is incapable of running an Independent Scotland.

I do post up some information which could be said to promote Independence as in this weeks article at <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1465905/nicola-sturgeon-independent-scotland-eu-wind-energy-renewable-green-spt> which I have added to the site today.

No matter what is decided on Independence it is certain that the debate won't stop and people will want to pour over various aspects over the years and that is where this site will be a great resource for researchers.

I will end this by saying that I did recommend people vote YES for Independence but with reservations on how the SNP would be able to run Scotland. What put me over the edge was that once we were independent Scotland could choose their own political parties to run Scotland and I thus hoped the people would vote in

competent people to run the country.

## 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 and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

### The Northern Ireland Protocol

Yesterday a group of MPs held a debate about the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Read more at:

<https://johnredwoodsdiary.com/2021/07/16/the-northern-ireland-protocol-2>

SNP MP admits Sturgeon is holding off on Indyref2 vote as HALF of Scots do not support it

SNP MP Dr Phillipa Whitford has admitted her party needs to do more to convince Scots to back Scottish independence as currently half of nation does not believe in the cause.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1463628/SNP-news-Nicola-Sturgeon-Indyref2-Scottish-independence-referendum-latest-update-vn>

### What Parliament agreed concerning the EU and Northern Ireland

This week the Commons passed unanimously an important motion to sort out the issues with the EU concerning Northern Ireland.

Read more at:

<https://johnredwoodsdiary.com/2021/07/18/what-parliament-agreed-concerning-the-eu-and-northern-ireland/>

### Canada's vaccination rate overtakes US

Canada has overtaken the US in second dose vaccination rates, after months of lagging behind its southern neighbour.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57869947>

### Scotland's mysterious ancient artificial islands

While no one is sure exactly why these ingenious islets were constructed, they provide a unique window on human life all the way back to Neolithic times in Britain.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210718-scotlands-mysterious-ancient-artificial-islands>

### Royal Navy tests drones above and below waves

Swarms of military drones have accompanied Royal Marines both above and below the water in the Royal Navy's first test of new combat technology. Marines tested stealthy reconnaissance drones, heavy-lift resupply models and a self-driving boat.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57890066>

SNP face fresh fraud allegations into missing' £600,000

NICOLA STURGEON is facing a crisis after the SNP has been inundated with fresh fraud allegations in a police probe into £600,000 of missing party donations.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1464504/snp-news-fraud-allegations-police-scotland-nicola-sturgeon-party-donations-latest-scotland>

How a next generation Human Genome Project could save countless lives

There's a quiet revolution underway in the biomedical sciences. The cost of sequencing a human genome has fallen by an estimated 10,000 times in the last 15 years. New gene therapies and immunotherapies, which are growing rapidly, are now able to target specific disease-associated genes and proteins with extraordinary precision.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/how-a-next-generation-human-genome-project-could-save-countless-lives>

Emergency wards: Doctors reveal Scotland's A&E is understaffed, overworked and on the brink

Accident and emergency wards in Scotland's hospitals are overwhelmed and buckling under the pressure of too many patients and too few staff, doctors warn today

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/scotland-ae-understaffed/>

Yesterday the Borders Bill passed the Commons

I thought I would reproduce the government's statement on its Borders bill, as some of you are complaining that the government is not doing enough to stop illegal migration and some are concerned about government intentions.

Read more at:

<https://johnredwoodsdiary.com/2021/07/21/yesterday-the-borders-bill-passed-the-commons>

Reshaping spaces is not just an economic imperative, but a political one

There are several simple steps the Government can take to rejuvenate neglected high streets

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/reshaping-spaces-is-not-just-an-economic-imperative-but-a-political-one>

Getting on with the neighbours

Article 8.1 The Union shall develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Union may conclude specific agreements with the countries concerned. These agreements may contain reciprocal rights and obligations as well as the possibility of undertaking activities jointly. Their implementation shall be the subject of periodic consultation.

Read more at:

<https://johnredwoodsdiary.com/2021/07/22/getting-on-with-the-neighbours>

## Electric Canadian

Thoughts on a Sunday morning - the 18th day of July 2021

By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26066-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-18th-july-2021>

Our Words, Our Ways

Teaching First Nations, Metis and Inuit Learners (2005) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/ourwordsourwayst00albe.pdf>

Canada - The Last Open Door

This booklet is issued with the object of placing before the public a few facts regarding the opening and development of Western Canada. The story is told so as to cover the subject as fully as possible in the small space at our disposal and convey to the reader some idea of the immense possibilities of this last open door to the Anglo-Saxon from an agricultural and stock raising point of view. (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/canadaopendoor.pdf>

Whispered Gently through Time

First Nations Quality Child Care: A National Study. Study sponsored by the Assembly of First Nations, Office of the Regional Vice Chief. Funded by the Child Care Visions Program of the Employability and Social Partnerships Division, HRDC (2020)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/whispered.htm>

## Electric Scotland

Beth's Video Talks

Beth has another video for you for July 21st - Fix your will to save your genealogy

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

Jigsaws

Added two more jigsaws to our Pictures of Scotland - "The River Cononish at Dalrigh" and "Ben Lui from the West Highland Way north of Tyndrum"

You can play these at: <https://electricscotland.com/kids/jigsaws/index.htm>

Iorram (Boat Song)

An impressionistic portrait of the Gaelic fishing community in the Outer Hebrides, past and present.

A great Gaelic resource and learn more about this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/gaelic/iorran.htm>

Clan Leslie Society International

Got in there July 2021 newsletter which you can read at:

<https://electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslieint/index.htm>

## The Brave Sons of Skye

By Lieut.-Col. John MacInnes, V.D., 5th Volunteer Battalion (Princess Louise's) Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1899). Also included is information about the book on the "Life and Experiences of the 92nd Foot Highlander 'Private Donald Campbell'" written by Malcolm 'Don' Campbell and also includes a pdf file "Life in Teangue" from 'Private Donald Campbell 92nd Foot 1803-1822 which is part of the book with it's social history.

You can read all this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/scotreg/bravesonsofskye.htm>

## Off the Chain

Notes and Essays from the West Highlands By "Gowrie" (W. A. Smith) (1868)

The following notes were written out at the time of my visit, and express the exact feelings with which the various districts mentioned impressed me; they ought thus to be more trustworthy than if viewed through a veil of memory, however slight. Dealing with scenes and subjects somewhat out of the usual track, I hope to have drawn some little information and amusement therefrom, for the benefit of kindred lovers of nature, and at any rate to have succeeded in securing for these parts some of that superabundant attention at present lavished upon the remainder of the "Land of brown heath and shaggy wood."

You can read this at:

[https://electricScotland.com/history/waifs/Off\\_the\\_Chain.pdf](https://electricScotland.com/history/waifs/Off_the_Chain.pdf)

History of the House of Ochiltree of Ayrshire Scotland and of those who came to America and some of the allied families 1124—1916

By Clementine Brown Railey (1916) Sterling, Kansas

You can read this book and notes about it at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/stoz/stewarth4.htm>

## Nerine McIntyre

Winner of the Landscape Artist of the Year in 2015 and includes a video of her painting.

You can get to this at:

[https://electricScotland.com/art/nerine\\_mcintyre.htm](https://electricScotland.com/art/nerine_mcintyre.htm)

# Story

Scotland, Historic and Romantic

By Maria Hornor Lansdale in two volumes (1901)

This is a book review I found in an old 1904 copy of the Scottish Historical Review which led me to search for the book and then adding it to the site. The edition I found is in two volumes and here is the review...

This volume of nearly 600 pages appears to have been suggested by a tour made by three American sisters, for the purpose of seeing with their own eyes the scenes of historic interest which had become familiar to them in the literature of the country. One of them afterwards set herself to record what they had seen, not, however, in a personal narrative of travel, but in a simple matter-of-fact digest of all that had most interested them in the course of their journeys. Writing for an American public she very properly thought it her duty to repeat many a well-known anecdote and legend, but she had made her reading wide enough to enable her to introduce also mention of events and personages which, even to the average Scot, are not as familiar as they should be. Her book was published in the United States two years ago. The present edition of it, revised and partly re-written,

has been prepared for the use of readers in Scotland.

The volume makes no pretension to be an original contribution to Scottish history. But the authoress, fascinated by the romantic associations of the country, has evidently read with great diligence and has endeavoured to select and arrange some of the more interesting memories that cling to the old towns, the ruined abbeys, the mouldering castles, the crumbling keeps and the battlefields all over the kingdom. These materials she has grouped topographically by counties—perhaps the most convenient arrangement for the tourist. In her selection of incidents, however, she seems to have had regard rather to their romantic attractions than to their chronological sequence or sometimes even to their historical credibility. An obvious objection to her arrangement is met by her with a chronological table of the most important events in her narrative and a genealogical chart of the Scottish sovereigns from the year 1005 down to the present time. Her enthusiasm disarms criticism. She may be congratulated on having produced a very readable book, which can hardly fail to awaken in the minds of readers abroad a lively appreciation of the sources from which the romance of Scotland springs. In this new edition, Scottish readers, to whom it more directly appeals, will be pleased to recognise this tribute to the glamour of their native land, and will find in it not a little information which to many of them will be fresh. The book is not too large to find a corner in a travelling bag, as an interesting companion to the tourist. It is well illustrated with maps and portraits of historical personages.

Archibald Geikie.

Preface to the two volumes...

Books have been written about Scotland from many points of view. Its prehistoric annals have been the theme of a number of writers. Its mythical history from the reign of Fergus in 330 B.c. is given by its early historians. It has too a Roman history and a Celtic history; of these but little will be found in the present volumes. The object has been rather to give a sketch, however incomplete, of the country from the great War of Independence in the time of Wallace and Bruce; to indicate that connection of the present with the past that adds so great a charm to scenes of historical interest, and to give some account of ancient castles and ecclesiastical buildings round which circle so much history and romance.

The plan followed is topographical, taking up the country county by county; and although much has necessarily been omitted, still an attempt has been made to give the cream of the history as associated with the scenes of the events. It naturally happens from adopting this system that there is sometimes overlapping, and not infrequently repetition and confusion of sequence. To assist the reader a chronological table of the principal events of Scottish history referred to, and a genealogical chart of the sovereigns of Scotland from the beginning of the eleventh century, have been added.

I desire here to express my thanks to a well-known writer on Scottish history who has given me notes on a number of incidents not usually found in books on Scotland, as well as many passages elucidating matters of history not easily understood by an American, and has given me the kindest assistance in other ways in the preparation of this book.

M. H. L.

Edinburgh, April 22, 1901.

You can read the two volumes at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/ScotlandHistoricandRomantic.htm>

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

Alastair

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