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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for February 16th, 2024

### Electric Scotland News

I watched the interview by Tucker Carlson with Vladimir Putin on YouTube which made me want to know more about the history of Russia and so I have posted up some additional material on our Russia page including videos and historical books at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/russia/index.htm>

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I also note that in polling predications in the USA that Donald Trump is leading the polls and is currently predicted to win the election for President later this year.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBRIPpx4f8w>

### Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

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 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.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

SNP lost thousands of members during first year of Humza Yousaf leadership  
The First Minister was forced to reshuffle his Cabinet team this week after the dramatic resignation of Michael Matheson.

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-lost-thousands-members-during-32085990>

The Most Important Country No One Talks About

Once a peripheral power, Indonesia, which will elect a new president on February 14, is now a regional fulcrum the U.S. cannot afford to ignore.

Read more at:

<https://www.city-journal.org/article/indonesias-february-14-presidential-election>

Exclusive: Tucker Carlson Interviews Vladimir Putin

Tucker interviews Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Russia. February 6th, 2024.

Watch this at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOCWBhuDdDo>

Four years on

Four years after Brexit many people still regard it as a mistake. Much at fault here are Conservative ministers, who rarely if ever contradict the falsely negative Rejoinder claims.

Read more at:

[https://www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk/four-years-on/?mc\\_cid=7ad1478d85&mc\\_eid=775c261c5d](https://www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk/four-years-on/?mc_cid=7ad1478d85&mc_eid=775c261c5d)

This Is HUGE. Putin Exposes The CIA.

In his interview with Tucker Carlson, Vladimir Putin alleges that the CIA controls our Presidents. We already knew that due to the deep state's reaction to Trump, who they didn't expect. But now, Putin is confirming it. They are dumbing down and drugging Americans en masse while overthrowing governments worldwide. But to what end?

Watch this at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BdtMv-vyn0>

Diversity won't save an army unprepared for war

Many are shocked by revelations that the MoD has spent millions on senior 'diversity and inclusion officers' within all three branches of the Armed Forces. The Army doesn't need lessons in diversity: what it needs is soldiers. Particularly in a time of such geopolitical uncertainty.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/diversity-and-inclusion-wont-fix-an-army-unprepared-for-war/>

Why is SNP Humza Yousaf suddenly visiting Qatar without his kids? Why now?

Humza Yousaf, SNP First Minister and his wife are off to Qatar for a short visit while school kids are off yet they're away alone.

Watch this at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnUBN6Kqrrw>

Conrad Black: Justin Trudeau's debacle of misgovernment

Canada has never had a government so vehemently opposed to our national interests.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/3y2Ni>

The scourge of antisemitism

Staggering new statistics show that 2023 saw a 147% rise in antisemitism, with two thirds of these cases taking place after October 7. What has permitted this is timidity on the part of authorities and a willful ignorance among the left. That this is happening in 2024 should be a source of deep national shame.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/institutional-timidity-is-driving-antisemitism-on-our-streets>

Outside the EU, Britain can reward farmers

Farmers make up a comparatively small proportion of the electorate, but their footprint on rural communities is significant.

Read more at:

<https://conservativehome.com/2024/02/15/jordan-lee-outside-the-eu-britain-can-reward-farmers-encourage-agricultural-innovation-and-protect-our-natural-world>

Nicola Sturgeon's resignation one year ago turned Scottish politics on its head  
Voters can see the real possibility of a change of government at Westminster in the general election later this year.

Read more at:

<https://news.stv.tv/politics/insight-nicola-sturgeons-resignation-as-first-minister-one-year-ago-turned-scottish-politics-on-its-head>

## Electric Canadian

Sir Allan Napier MacNab

Politician, businessman, land speculator, lawyer, and soldier; b. 19 Feb. 1798 at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Upper Canada, third of seven children of Allan MacNab and Anne Napier; d. 8 Aug. 1862 at Hamilton, Canada West.

Read about him at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/macnab-sir-william.htm>

The Canadian Scene

Sketches: Political and Historical by Hector Charlesworth (1927) (pdf)

An interesting book which you can read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadiansceneske0000unse.pdf>

Assunta Howard, and other stories and sketches  
1891 (pdf)

You can read this collection at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/AssuntaHoward.pdf>

The Canadian Pioneers

By Abbé H. R. Casgrain, Translated from the French by A. W. L. Gompertz (1896) (pdf)

You can read this translation at:

[http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadian\\_pioneers.pdf](http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadian_pioneers.pdf)

Photographic Record and Souvenir of the Canadian Grenadier Guards Overseas Battalion  
"Eighty Seventh" by Col. F.S. Meighen, Q.C. 1916

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/87thInfantryBattalion.pdf>

Native Trees of Canada

By B. R. Morton, B.Sc.F., With notes on nomenclature and utilization by R. G. Lewis B.Sc.F. (1921) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/nativetreesofcan00mortuoft.pdf>

The Mercantile Agency reference book and key [microform]:

Containing ratings of the merchants, manufacturers, and traders generally, throughout the dominion of Canada; with an appendix containing banking towns, banks, bankers, etc., collection laws of each province, etc., etc.

(March, 1887) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/industrial/merchants-guide.pdf>

Sir John William Dawson

Educator, added to our Makers of Canada section

You can read about him at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/william-dawson.htm>

## Electric Scotland

The Ancient Origins Of Medieval Scotland's Most Feared Military Tactics

Added this video to the foot of our Scottish Regiments page at:

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

Scythians - Rise and Fall of the Original Horselords

A video about Kings and Generals' historical animated documentary series on the history of Ancient Civilizations continues with a video on the rise and fall of the Scythians - the first nomadic conquerors in history, original horselords, who managed to take over most of the Ponto-Caspian Steppe in the Ancient era, fighting wars with Persians, Greeks and others.

You can watch this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/russia/index.htm>

The Scythians: Nomad Warriors of the Steppe

A video by Barry Cunliffe

You can watch this at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFsd\\_LyYZdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFsd_LyYZdo)

Ness of Brodgar Talk 2023 by Nick Card

A video by the Orkney Archeology Society

You can watch this at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5f\\_B\\_-E-y4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5f_B_-E-y4)

You can read the following books about Russia on our Russian page at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/russia/index.htm>

Russia and the Peace

By Bernard Pares (1945) (pdf)

A History Of Russia

By Bernard Pares (1944) (pdf)

History of Russia

By R. Gossip (1880) (pdf)

Canny Tales About Ministers & Elders

By Allan Junior (1924) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/humour/cannytalesaboutm00junirich.pdf>

Brexit - 4th Anniversary

Prepared by the Department for Business & Trade - January 2024 (pdf)

You can read this report at:

<https://electricScotland.com/independence/sip/brexit-4th-anniversary.pdf>

Susan Boyle

Singer, added to our Women in History page.

You can read about her and watch some videos at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/women/susanboylet.htm>

The History of the 9th (Scottish) Division 1914-1919

By John Ewing, M.C., Brevet-Maajor, Late 6th K.O.S.B., Introduction by Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. (1921) (pdf)

You can read this history at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/scotreg/9thScottishDivision19141919.pdf>

Scottish Society of Louisville

Got in their February 2024 newsletter which you can read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/familytree/newsletters/Louisville/index.htm>

Female Life in Prison

In two volumes in one by a Prison Matron, Robinson, F. W. (Frederick William); Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (1862) (pdf)

You can read this publication at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/kenneill/femalelifeinprison.pdf>

The Tower of Craigietocher

Following the building of a new Scottish Castle which is now complete and is now open for B & B.

Get the links to book your stay at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/articles/craigietocher.htm>

Story

#### NOMENCLATURE IN SCOTLAND

Taken from The Celtic Monthly:

A Magazine for Highlanders edited by John MacKay, Glasgow, Vol. XIV., 1906

Strength of the Highland Clans.

THE following paper, slightly curtailed, drawn up by Dr. Stark, and printed in the Sixth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, for 1860, embodies so much curious and interesting information on the subject of surnames that it may be fitly inserted here.

It may be mentioned, as a striking peculiarity of the inhabitants of Scotland, that both among the Celtic race in the Highlands, and the Lowland races on the Border, it was the custom for all to assume as their surname the name held by the head of the family, either because they were actually his descendants, or because they were his vassals and property. Hence, in the Highlands, we have large clans of the name of Macdonald, Stewart, Campbell, Mackay, Maclean, Murray, Cameron, &c.; and among the inhabitants of the Border counties the names of Scott, Graham, Kerr, Johnston, Elliott, Armstrong, &c.

To ascertain the number of distinct surnames in Scotland, it may be mentioned that the index of the birth register of a whole year has been alone taken, and every separate surname enumerated in it, when they were found to amount to 6823 separate surnames, while the total registered entries of births amounted to 104,018. These numbers would give the proportion of 15.2 persons to every surname, or 6.5 different surnames to every 100 persons. The English proportion, ascertained in the same manner by the Registrar-General of England, in 1855, was 8.4 persons to every surname, or 11.9 surnames in every 100 persons. The above facts therefore appear to demonstrate that the effect of the

### CLAN SYSTEM OF SURNAMES IN SCOTLAND

is to cause a much larger number of persons to hold the same surname; in other words, that, in proportion to the population, fewer surnames exist in Scotland than in England. But the above figures do not exhibit the true proportion of Scottish surnames to the Scottish population, nor the full effect of clanship in diminishing the number of surnames; or rather in causing a smaller number of surnames to go over a larger portion of the population. Within the last sixty years a very large addition to the surnames has been made in Scotland, in consequence of the immense immigration from Ireland. This immigration, beginning about the year 1820, did not assume gigantic proportions till about the year 1840, when the demand for railway labourers brought the Irish over in hundreds and thousands. Since that period, in addition to bringing over about a thousand names which are common to Scotland and to Ireland, they have added to the Scottish surnames nearly a thousand, which, till that period, were peculiar to Ireland. Were it not, therefore, for the enormous addition to the surnames made in recent years, the proportion of persons attached to each surname in Scotland would be more than double the proportion of England.

Being, however, desirous of obtaining some more definite information relative to the surnames in most common use in Scotland, the complete indices of three years were examined, extracting all the surnames which had numerous entries under them, and carefully tabulating the number of entries in the several indices, as well as noting all the peculiar names. From that mass of surnames, the fifty in most common use in Scotland were abstracted; and the subjoined table shews not only what these fifty most common surnames are, but also the number of times in which each of these occurs in the general indices of births, deaths, and marriages for the three years, 1855, 1856, and 1857. During these three years the total names entered on the registers amounted to 609,639; and as the fifty surnames in that table included 180,748 of that number, it would appear that these fifty most common surnames embraced 29.6 per cent, of all the names entered on the registers. In England it was found that the fifty most common surnames only included about 18 per cent, of all the names entered on the indices; so that the above fact corroborates the conclusion previously drawn from the proportion of total surnames—viz., that the adoption of clan surnames in Scotland has had the effect of causing a larger proportion of persons to hold the same surname than in England, so that proportionally fewer surnames are used among the population. It has been endeavoured to render this table of the fifty most common surnames in Scotland more interesting, by adding the estimated number of the population attached to each surname. Such particulars will afford a valuable means of comparing the changes of surname which may occur in the course of ages.

To render the Scottish table of surnames more interesting by comparison, we have compared the English table of surnames, taken from the Sixteenth Report of the Registrar-General, which clearly shows that the clan predominance of surnames in Scotland, as compared with that of England, becomes very apparent. Thus,

while in the English fifty most common surnames, only twenty-seven can be referred to the Christian fore-name, or name of the sire or head of the family, thirty-seven may be so referred of the fifty most common surnames in Scotland. The great majority of these fifty Scottish names are therefore truly sire-names, either in their pure, unaltered state, as, Grant, Cameron, Duncan, Graham, Kerr, Martin, Allan, &c.; or altered so as to express the descent from the head of the family, as, Robertson, Thomson, Johnston, Watson, Morrison; or with the Gaelic Mac, which means "son," as, Macdonald, Mackay, Maclean, Macleod, &c.

Possibly in every country the surnames may be divided into four great classes; and it is possible, also, that the chief peculiarities of each country, in so far as the surnames are concerned, may depend on the relative preponderance which each of these classes bears to the other in the general population. These four classes may be regarded as—1st, Surnames derived from patronymics, that is, from the Christian fore-name of the head of the family; 2nd, Surnames derived from the rank or occupation of the persons; 3d, Surnames taken from the locality in which the persons dwelt; 4th Surnames, or soubriquets, given to persons from some supposed personal quality or resemblance.

1st, Almost all the names of our

#### BORDER AND HIGHLAND CLANS

belong to the first class, and they are peculiarly Scottish—neither belonging to England nor to Ireland. These surnames include all those beginning with Mac—as, Macgregor, Mactaggart, &c.; beside those simple ones—as, Fraser, Douglas, Cameron, Kerr, Grant, &c.

2nd, The surnames derived from

#### RANK AND OCCUPATION

are very numerous, but are equally common to England as to Scotland. Of these, in both countries, Smith is the most common name; after which follow, in Scotland, Stewart, Miller, Clark, Taylor, Walker, and Hunter; but in England, after Smith comes Taylor, Wright, Walker, Turner, Clark, and Cooper.

3d, Surnames taken from the locality in which the persons originally resided form a very numerous class, and they also are, to a great extent, peculiar to Scotland, seeing that there is scarcely a county, parish, town, river, or remarkable locality, but has its name perpetuated in the surnames. Thus, for instance, of the counties we have, as surnames, Fife, Nairn, Stirling, Ross, Lothian, Sutherland, Berwick, Roxburgh, &c. Of parishes, we have Abbey, Fordyce, Alves, Peebles, Farr, Bathgate, Callander, Traquair, Campsie, Cullen, Kirkpatrick, Bothwell, &c. Of towns, we have Glasgow, Leith, Aberdeen, Montrose, Biggar, Lauder, Melrose, Hamilton, &c.

4th, That soubriquets, perpetuated

#### AS SURNAMES,

are perhaps the most varied of all, and embrace every personal or mental quality supposed to reside in different individuals to whom they were originally given. They may hence be divided into dozens of subdivisions, according as they were given from the person's general appearance, or the colour of his skin or hair—hence, Black, White, Green, Gray, Brown, &c.; or from his supposed likeness to the animal creation—as, Lyon, Bull, Stott, Bullock, Lamb, Hogg (which does not mean a pig or sow, but a lamb a year old), Collie, Tod (which is the Scottish name for the fox), Fish, Haddock, Salmon, Finch, Swan, Heron, &c.; or from its size and make—as, Meikle, Little, Long, Thin, Meiklejohn, Littlejohn; or from his strength, swiftness, or other qualities—as, Strong, Stark, Swift, Bold, Bauld, Good, Noble, &c.

It would have been very interesting, in comparing some of the commoner surnames of England and of

Scotland, to have shewn how the language of each country has altered the name, so as to make the families of each country whose names are derived from the same occupation, similitude, or quality, equally distinct. Thus, the common surname Baker in England, is almost completely supplanted by the name Baxter in Scotland, and all the Bakers may be considered as of English origin. The English surname Fox is quite superseded by the Scottish form Tod, which is a very common name having the same meaning. The English surname Bullock is known in Scotland by the common surname of Stott, which has the same meaning. The English surname Crow takes the form of Craw. The English surname Dove takes the form of Dow, as does the English surname Love the Scottish form of Low, &c.; but even one of the cosmopolitan and very common surnames receives its characteristic modification in the two countries, seeing Robinsons in England become converted into Robertsons in Scotland.

#### BY FAR THE MOST COMMON SURNAME

is Smith. Of the 609,639 entries on the index in the three years above named, Smith occurred 8835 times; thus, of itself, constituting nearly 11 per cent, of the total entries, and corresponding to a total population of 44,378 Smiths in Scotland in 1861. It is also the most common surname in England, but not quite so prevalent as in Scotland; for while England only has one Smith in every 73 persons, Scotland has one Smith in every 68.

After the cosmopolitan surname Smith, the next most common is a purely Scottish one—Macdonald. In this respect England agrees with Scotland that, after its cosmopolitan name Smith, comes a purely English and Welsh surname—Jones. Of the total names on the three years' indices, Macdonald claims 7480, being about 1.2 per cent, of the whole, and corresponding to a population of 37,572 Macdonalds in Scotland in 1861.

The cosmopolitan name Brown is the third most common surname in Scotland, but only the sixth in England, and constituted rather more than 1 per cent, of the total names.

Robertson and Thomson, with their varied spellings, constituted the fourth and fifth most common surnames; the English forms Robinson and Thompson being swamped by the great preponderance of the Scottish forms of these names. These two surnames may be regarded as equally prevalent in the population, and, as such, constituting 1 per cent, of the population.

Stewart—with its rarer spelling of Stuart— and Campbell, both purely Scottish names, are the sixth and seventh most common surnames in Scotland; and they are followed by Wilson, a name equally common to the two countries.

These names are followed, in succession, by Anderson, Mackay, Mackenzie, Scott, Johnston, Miller, Reid, and Ross, all of which may be regarded as purely Scottish names, for the English form of one of them is Johnson, which is rare in Scotland; and these surnames are succeeded by Paterson, Fraser, Murray, Maclean, and Cameron, all of them also of Scottish origin. Of these fifty most common surnames in Scotland, 32, in the forms in which they occur in Scotland, may be reckoned as having originated in the country, and as being peculiar to it—a very large proportion, considering all circumstances. The remainder are common also to England.

The following table shows the fifty most common surnames in Scotland, from the indices of the registers of the years 1855, 1856, and 1858, with the number on the indices, and the estimated population holding the surname in 1861. [Of course, the numbers have greatly increased since this date, probably doubled, and it is to be hoped that some reader may examine the last register and furnish us with a table of the strength of the clans at the present time.— Editor]

Surname / Number on Indices / Pop. holding Surname in 1861

Smith 8835 44,378

Macdonald 7480 37,572



Brown 6733 33,820  
Robertson 6490 32,600  
Thomson 6482 32,560  
Stewart 6338 31,836  
Campbell 6282 31,555  
Wilson 5921 29,741  
Anderson 5734 28,300  
Mackay 4746 23,840  
Mackenzie 4633 23,272  
Scott 4448 22,342  
Johnston 4294 21,569  
Miller 4244 21,318  
Reid 3991 20,047  
Ross 3634 18,254  
Paterson 3593 18,048  
Fraser 3586 18,013  
Murray 3 505 17,606  
Maclean 3459 17,375  
Cameron 3345 16,802  
Clark 3344 16,797  
Young 3318 16,705  
Henderson 3264 16,394  
Macleod 3100 15,571  
Taylor 3092 15,535  
Mitchell 3019 15,164  
Watson 2973 14,933  
Ferguson 2952 14,828  
Walker 2877 14,549  
Morrison 2883 14,482  
Davidson 2525 12,683  
Gray 2500 16,557  
Duncan 2482 12,467  
Hamilton 2445 12,282  
Grant 2426 12,186  
Hunter 2355 11,829  
White 2353 11,819  
Graham 2331 11,709  
Allan 2305 11,578  
Kerr 2219 11,146  
Macgregor 2204 11,870  
Bell 2115 10,624  
Simpson 2100 10,548  
Martin 2064 10,367  
Black 2021 10,151  
Munro 2015 10,098  
Sinclair 1967 9,880  
Sutherland 1954 9,818  
Gibson 1853 9,307

50 Surnames 180,748 909,920

The total names on the indices amount to 609,689.

END

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair