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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for April 24th, 2026

### Electric Scotland News

#### My Canadian Experience

Continued with the April report which you can view at:

[https://electriccanadian.com/canada\\_add32.htm](https://electriccanadian.com/canada_add32.htm)

Topics covered this week include...

Prime Minister Carney announces first-ever Canada Investment Summit, Trump's official comments on Canada draw criticism from political analysts , FURIOUS Canada PUTS THE DAGGER in Trump and TURNS THE TABLES!!!! - 129,797 views - Apr 18, 2026, Forward Guidance with Prime Minister Mark Carney, Defence Minister David McGuinty provides update on military recruitment, Jeremy Hansen's wife calls Artemis II re-entry 'the most terrifying day of my life', Prime Minister Carney announces new Advisory Committee on Canada-U.S. Economic Relations, Prime Minister Carney delivers on commitment to accelerate homebuilding in Ottawa, and more.

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Our Site Search Engine is having issues. Last week it went down for a day or so and at time of writing this newsletter it's reporting it can't be loaded. I use the commercial version of FreeFind so it looks like they are having some issues. At time of writing I'm unable to get to their web site to report the issue.

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Scribe AI is now available on the MyHeritage mobile app, making it possible to analyze historical documents and photos instantly — right from your phone.

Learn more at: <https://www.myheritage.com/scribe-ai>

#### Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

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...

##### And the winner is - The Absent Voters Party

Since 1999 of the roughly 4 million people registered to vote, those actually voting averaged out at around 2.2million. That's a difference of 1.8 million – meet the Absent Voters.

Read more at:

<https://sceptical.scot/2026/04/and-the-winner-is-the-absent-voters-party/>

## **Conrad Black: Trump has humiliated Iran**

A decisive victory for the United States and Israel is nearly here

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/kNxsa>

## **Forward Guidance with Prime Minister Mark Carney**

During my time as Governor of the Bank of Canada, I developed a practice to assure people that no matter how challenging the situation seemed, we had a plan and we would act on it until our problems were solved. I called it forward guidance, and the situation we find ourselves in today demands the same. Here's how I see things.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/uk2TZwkh4E?si=oZ5lV535Xqd8nzP9>

## **Dad brains: How fatherhood rewires the male mind**

By Diego Arguedas Ortiz

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20260417-fatherhood-how-the-male-brain-and-body-prepare-for-childcare>

## **China weathered Trump's tariffs - but the Iran war is taking a toll**

It's a sombre gathering in the backstreets of one of China's biggest manufacturing hubs, where workers are smoking under a tree in front of storefronts advertising temporary factory jobs.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn0ep28drll0>

## **Electric Canadian**

### **Memoir of Elizabeth Jones**

A Little Indian Girl who lived at the River-Credit Mission, Upper Canada (1838) (pdf)

You can read this account at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/ElizabethJones.pdf>

### **Customs and Arts of the Kwakwaka'wakw**

By George M. Dawson, D.S., F. G. S. (pdf)

You can read this article at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/CustomsandartsoftheKwakwaka'wakw.pdf>

### **Hochelagans and Mohawks**

A Link in Iroquois History by W. D. Lighthall, M.A., F.R.S.L. (Presented by John Betide and read May 26, 1899.) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/HochelagansandMohawks.pdf>

### **Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 19th of April 2026 - Praying**

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/tuXIQN3gp3s?si=osy66kFP1Sa26GR6>

### **The Honourable Company**

A history of the Hudson's Bay Company by Douglas MacKay (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/bcbooks.pdf>

### **The Beaver Magazine**

Added No. 4 Outfit 268 March 1938 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/TheBeaverMarch1938.pdf>

### **25 FORGOTTEN Poor Man One-Pot Meals for Canadian Seniors Living Alone**

Added this video to the foot of our Food page and you can watch it at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/food.htm>

## **Electric Scotland**

### **An Account of the Confederation of Clan Chattan**

By Charles Fraser-MacKintosh, of Drummond (1898) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/atoc/clanchattan.pdf>

### **Memorials of the Browns of Fordell**

Finmount and Vicarsgrange by Robert Riddle Stodart (1887) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/nation/Browns-of-Fordell-Finmount-and-Vicarsgrange.pdf>

### **Family of Dick**

Added a page for this family.

You can get to it at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/dtog/dick.htm>

### **I Found Scotland's CHEAPEST Pie...and a COMMUNITY I Won't Forget**

Added this video to the foot of our Scottish Restaurants page at;

<https://electricScotland.com/food/scottishrestaurants.htm>

### **William Alexander Clouston (1843-96)**

Folklorist: Introduction and Bibliography by Gareth Whittaker (2004)

You can get to this at:

[https://electricScotland.com/history/other/Whittaker\\_2004\\_Clouston\\_Bibliography.pdf](https://electricScotland.com/history/other/Whittaker_2004_Clouston_Bibliography.pdf)

### **Wine and Walnuts**

or Gossip of Great Writers, A Book of Anecdote, Laconic Saying and Gems of Thought in Prose and Verse Edited by W. A. Clouston (1876) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/other/wineandwalnuts.pdf>

## **Story**

## AN ORIGINAL ESSAY ON WITCHCRAFT

If we wish to form a just estimate of the human character in its progress through the various stages of civilization, from ignorance and barbarism, to science and refinement, we must search into the natural causes that actuate the human mind. The life of man is prolonged to a remoter period, but subjected to more casualties, and greater vicissitudes of fortune, than most other animals. From these causes arises his anxious solicitude about futurity, and an eager desire to know his destiny; and thus man becomes the most superstitious of all other creatures. In every nation there have been multitudes of oracles, augurs, soothsayers, diviners, fortune-tellers, witches, sorcerers, &c. whose business has been to communicate intelligence respecting futurity, to the rest of mankind. If we attend to history, we shall find this theory sufficiently confirmed by experience. The most superstitious part of the species are soldiers and sailors, who are more exposed to accidents than any other class. History is full of the superstitious observances of the Roman armies; their regard to omens; the entrails of victims; the flight of birds, &c. and there are thousands of brave sailors of the present day, who would not sail in the finest ship of the British navy, without a horse-shoe were nailed on the main-mast. This passion of diving into futurity, naturally produced a number of 'dealers in destiny's dark council,' who soon found it turn out a very lucrative profession. From knowing the secrets, it was naturally inferred, that they were the favourites of those powers who are supposed to have the future happiness of mankind at their disposal. This we apprehend is the real source of that power which the priesthood hath ever exercised over the human mind. Pleasure and pain are the two great principles of human action which has given rise to, the good and evil principle common to all nations. Those who held communication and commerce with the evil principle, are witches, wizards, sorcerers, &c.

Although we have various laws and injunctions against witchcraft in scripture, yet we are still as much in the dark as ever, as no definition is given on it, nor is the particular actions which constitute witchcraft enumerated, so as we can say wherein it consists. The story of the witch of Endor, is a case that throws more light on the subject than any other. But she appears to have acted more in the character of one of our second sighted seers, than one of our modern witches. According to our notions and ideas of witchcraft (as law down by that monarch James VI), it is a poor ignorant old woman, who, through misery or malice, gives herself to the devil, soul and body, and renounces her baptism; for which considerations Satan engages to assist her with his power to work a number of petty mischiefs on such as she has a spite at; and sometimes he advances a little of the which, unfortunately for the poor old hag, turns out to be naething but skilfulness and this most unaccountable contract is generally sealed by 'carnal copulation' And yet, after believing this, we call ourselves rational creatures, and other animals we term brutes!

Many people have wondered, how so exalted a personage as the devil formerly was in days of yore, should latterly have taken up with such low company as our modern witches, he who tempted the very fathers of the church in so many various ways; who kept the whole priesthood of the Catholic church constantly on the alert, with holy water, exorcisms, &c. only to keep him in check; who often attacked Luther and our other reformers, in very ungentlemanly disguises; and had even the audacity to insult our covenanted saints, by bellowing like a bull, grunting like a pig, or groaning like a dying man. These were pranks something worthier of a devil than the tricks played off by the witches. Our King James gives the reason, because 'the consummation of the world, and our deliverance drawing neere, makes Satan so rage the more in his instruments, knowing his kingdom to be so neere an end. James was a little out in his reckoning here, the consummation of the world not having taken place as yet, and the devil's kingdom turning out to be rather better established than his own. So far was it from being near an end, that it was on the increase, caused chiefly by the absurd and stupid laws that were enacted against, it himself and successors. The devil's kingdom is not to be destroyed by acts of parliament and burning of witches; these expedients have been tried in vain all over Europe and America, without effect; but now, when every person can bewitch with impunity, not a witch is to be found; and the devil, though left at large, has retreated to the Highlands and islands, where he is seldom seen, even by those who have the second sight. The tried engines for altering the strong holds of Satan, and driving him and his imps into utter darkness, are science and philosophy; these are the weapons that have compelled him to retrograde movements, after lavishing rivers of holy water in vain. Thus the terrific claws of the devil, when seen by the distempered eyes of ignorant bigotry, appear to us truly horrible, but when viewed through philosophical spectacles, look as harmless as the lamb-skin gloves of a fine lady.

These stories, however, convey a strong likeness of the times in which they were acted. In our day, it is almost impossible to believe, that human beings could give credit to such gross absurdities as we have laid before the public in this little work, were the evidence not indubitable. Far less, that judges, lawyers, and divines, should unite in murdering such numbers of poor ignorant helpless creatures, for such maid chimeras, when it is hard to say, whether the poor victim, or the insane judges, were under the greater delusion. These wonderful tales of the doings of the devil with the witches, are taken from their own confessions, and from their delating of one another, as it is called. To us it does not appear auprobable, but that too many of the poor deluded wretches actually imagined themselves to be witches. Nor will

this appear so very surprizing, if we consider the circumstances of the case. At that period, any person who doubted of witchcraft, was looked upon as an athicst, and worse than mad : the whole country, from one end to the other, was continually ringing with tales of witches, devils, and fairies, with such other trash. Is it not then most likely, that people should dream about them ? and is there any thing unnatural in supposing, that they should mistake these dreams for realities i as is evidently proved in several cases, and then confess, not the actions they really did, but the effects of their own disordered imagination. Moreover, when confined for this imaginary crime, they were tortured in all manner of ways, deprived of sleep, fiung into water, and brodii, as they called it, being striped naked and searched for the devil's mark, in the most indecent manner. These confessions, after they were made, were nothing more man the wild ra vings of a distempered imagination ; and such a tissue of inconsistencies, as no person of the present day would listen to. An old woman in the Isle of Teree (as related by Mr Frazer, page 165), took in her head that she was in heaven no less, and had vat and drank there ; and sc hriniy had the poor creature imbibed the notion, that it was with some di^ .culty she could be undeceived A curious account of a pretended meeting with the devil, is given by a. gentleman of Nonnandy, in the Memoirs of Literature for November 1711.

“The pretended meeting, about which those who believe they, have been at it, relate so many extravagant things, is only in their Pagnation I own. that some country people, especially shepherds, do now and then rub their skin with some narcotick grease or ointments, which cast them into a sound sleep, and fill then imagination with a thousand visions. When they are thus asleep, they fancy they see everything that was told them concerning the devil's meeting, by their fathers, who were also shepherds, or wizards, if you will have me to call them so. Whereupon I will inform you of wha' I have been told by a country friend of mine, who pretended to haw a mmd to go to the devil's meeting with his own shepherd, who had the reputation of being a great sorcerer. Having frequently urged that shepherd to carry him thither, at last he obtained his desire. He went to him in the night at the appointed time. The shepherd immediately gave him something to grease himself withal. He took the grease as if he had a mind to rub his skin with it, but he desired that the shepherd's son. who was to go to the devil's meeting with his father, should anoint himself first. Which being Jone, that gentleman told the shepherd, that he should be glad to know what would become of the young man. Not long after, the young man fell fast asleep, and when he awaked, though he had not stirred from that place, he gave an account of every thing he thought he had seen at the deuil's meeting; and even named sever's' persons whom he pretended to have seen there. My friend perceived then, that what is commonly said of the devil's meeting was a mere fancy. I base told you this story, that you may impart it to your brethren, who being prepossest with popular errors about witchcraft, do frequently hang and burn poor wretches, whose crime does only consist in the weakness of their imagination.”

A thousand more instances might be produced to show, that the devil hath no meetings any where, but in the perturbed brain of ignorant credulity. The history of superstition is however of great use; we there see its dangerous influence upon the peace and happiness of society—its degrading effects upon the character and manners of nations, morality, literature, jurisprudence, and science. Theology seems to have been particularly infected with this pestiferous contagion. The clergy were generally in the front rank of witch-hunters, and through their influence, the most of them were put to death. In places where the minister was jt flamed with a holy zeal against the devil and his emissaries, such as Pittenweem and Torryburn, the parish became a perfect hot-bed for the rearing of witches; and so plentiful a crop did it produce, that it appeared nothing else could thrive. But in places where the minister had some por bn of humanity, and a little common sense, the devil very rarely set foot on the territories, and witchcraft was not to be found. Since the repeal of the statutes against witchcraft, several prosecutions have been instituted against witches, who were convicted ana punished; but it was bewitching silly ignorant people out of their money, goods, and common sense, by pretending a knowledge of futurity—a power of relieving maladies in man or beast—or procuring the affection of some favourite swain to a love-sick maiden. The dupes of these impostors do not altogether escape, as they are made the laughing stock of their neighbours; and by these means even this trade is now nearly annihilated. Happily for our times, the refulgent brightness of philosophy and science, bath dispelled these dark clouds of benighted superstition, and left us in possession only of our natural powers aud faculties, which are quite enough.

Editor.

END.

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

Alastair