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AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE	DONNA'S PAGE	GENEALOGY	PICTURES	SONGS
ARTICLES	ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET	HISTORIC PLACES	POETRY	SPORT
BETH'S FAMILY TREE	FAMOUS SCOTS	HISTORY	POSTCARDS	SCOTS DIASPORA
BOOKS	FAMILY TREE	HUMOR	RELIGION	TARTANS
BUSINESS	FORUMS	JOHN'S PAGE	ROBERT BURNS	TRAVEL
CHILDREN'S STORIES	FOOD & DRINK	KIDS	SCOTS IRISH	TRIVIA
CLANS & FAMILIES	GAMES	LIFESTYLE	SCOTS REGIMENTS	VIDEOS
HELP	TERMS OF USE	MUSIC	SERVICES	WHAT'S NEW
CONTACT US				

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for May 8th, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Time to get my trees pruned as they are starting to encroach on my neighbours property, Power lines surround them making this a more difficult operation. Will also take the opportunity to get my high gutters cleaned.

Made a start at the May edition of My Canadian Experience which you can read along with me at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add33.htm

UK Local elections taking place today and the money in Scotland is on the SNP being the largest party albeit with perhaps a seven seat minority. Reform, while forecast to not win a seat is also forecast to hold the next highest number of seats due to the list votes.

Reform is forecast to win the highest number of seats in the England and Wales elections.

I'll report on the results in next weeks newsletter.

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...

A Levy on Exported Electricity

The SNP's only real attempt to explain how it could deliver a third off electricity bills with independence leans heavily on one idea in particular: "a levy on exported electricity"

Read more at:

https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i411/a_levy_on_exported_electricity.aspx

The SNP's energy bills pledge is fraudulent and undeliverable

Hardly anyone believes that John Swinney has a credible route to another independence referendum in the next parliament. But nobody should be surprised that the SNP is making bold pledges at this election about what independence would mean for Scotland.

Read more at:

https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i413/a_crooked_power_play.aspx

Ukraine is mastering 21st-century warfare

With Ukraine adapting faster than its invader, several early indicators suggest that the war's trajectory is shifting in Kyiv's favour.

Read more at:

<https://engelsbergideas.com/essays/ukraine-is-mastering-21st-century-warfare/>

Malcolm Offord has already changed the Holyrood election for the better

HE IS NOT even elected yet, but already Malcolm Offord and his legion of Reformers have started to change Scottish politics for the better.

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/05/malcolm-offord-has-already-changed-the-holyrood-election-for-the-better/>

Gulf economies face long-term hit from Iran conflict

Commentators say it will take years or even decades to repair the damage.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0k257g8jk5o>

Conrad Black: Canada's path back to prosperity

Mark Carney leaves room for hope but there is little sign that he is about to do what's necessary

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/AbNuJ>

The costs of independence

Northern Ireland offers sobering lessons on the consequences of devolutionary radicalism

Read more at:

<https://thecritic.co.uk/the-costs-of-independence/>

R&A makes history with first female captain in its 272 years

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews has appointed the first female captain in its 272-year history.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/boHmD#selection-1655.3-1659.83>

Electric Canadian

By Canoe and Dog-Train

Among the Cree and Salteaux Indians by Egerton Ryerson Young (1892) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/cree/ER_Young_By_Canoe_and_Dog_Train.pdf

Notes and Observations on the Kwakwaka'wakw People of Vancouver Island

By George M. Dawson, D.S., F.G.S. (1887) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/Kwakwaka'wakwpeople.pdf>

Canada and the Canadian Question

By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. with Map (1891) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadacanianqu.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 3rd day of May 2026 - Differences

As an individual, country, or world, does the internet unite or divide? Does it bring people together in harmony or set new parameters for what is acceptable? By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/fCcR5GanqvK?si=VmawgfLpgSmaJNEY>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 2 Outfit 269 September 1938 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverseptember1938.pdf>

My Canadian Experience

Completed the April entry.

You can watch the videos at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add32.htm

Electric Scotland

Lt.-Col. Otho Hamilton of Olivestor

Lieutenant-Governor of Placentia, Lieutenant-Colonel in the army, Major of the 40th Regiment of Foot, Member of the Nova Scotia Council from 1731 to 1744 by Rev. Arthur Wentworth Hamilton Eaton, B.A. (1899) (pdf)

You can this account of him and his family at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/htol/lt-colonel-otto.pdf>

Mary McLeod Bethune

And the National Council of Negro Women Pursuing a True and Unfettered Democracy For the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site National Park Service By Elaine M. Smith (1954) (pdf)

You can learn about her at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/america/negro/mary-mcleod-bethune.pdf>

Elgin Cathedral

The Cathedral Kirk of Moray, description by J. S. Richardson, H.R.S.A., LL.D., FSAScot., Formerly Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Scotland, history by J. MacKintosh, M.B.E., FSAScot. (1950) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/lossiemouth/ElginCathedralOfficialGuideSecondEdition.pdf>

Carlile

Added a page for this name which includes a few pdf books.

You can read these books at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/atoc/carlile.html>

A Brief Genealogical Account of the Family of McLean

From the First Settlement in the Island of Mull and parts Adjacent by Alexander MacLean (1872) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/familyofmclean.pdf>

American Clan Lockhart Society

Got in a pdf of their April - June 2026 newsletter

You can read this issue at:

<https://electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/lockhart>

Coghill

Added a page for this name showing Scottish connections.

You can see this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/atoc/coghill.htm>

Story

HAMILTON, OTHO, military officer, secretary and member of the Nova Scotia Council, lieutenant governor of Placentia, Newfoundland; b. c. 1690 in Edinburgh, Scotland, one of 12 children of Thomas and Grizel Hamilton; d. 26 Feb. 1770 at Waterford (Republic of Ireland).

The Edinburgh family of Otho Hamilton had a tradition of military service, which was probably a factor in his choice of a career. On 16 June 1710 he was commissioned an ensign in the Earl of Portmore's (2nd Queen's) Regiment of Foot, and the same year he was among the recruits arriving at Boston to serve in the planned attack on Port-Royal (Annapolis Royal, N.S.) under Francis Nicholson and Samuel Vetch. It is not known, however, whether Hamilton went to Port-Royal at this time. He next appears as an ensign in the garrison at Annapolis Royal in October 1714; by this time he had left Portmore's regiment. In 1717 he was absorbed into the newly created regiment of Colonel Richard Philipps (later the 40th Regiment of Foot), which supplanted the independent companies serving in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Hamilton became a lieutenant on 9 Aug. 1718. In June 1729 Robert Wroth* resigned his commission as adjutant of Philipps' regiment "in favour of Lt. Otho Hamilton." The latter continued his career in this regiment, rising to captain on 3 Sept. 1739 and major in January 1745/46. There is limited evidence that on his retirement from the regiment in 1761 he received the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Like other officers stationed in Nova Scotia during this period, Hamilton soon found himself involved in the government of the colony. When William Shirreff resigned as secretary of the Nova Scotia Council in July 1727, Lieutenant Governor Lawrence Armstrong was "obliged . . . to employ a Lieut. of the Garrison who acts now in that office," and thus Hamilton temporarily became provincial secretary. The departure of Paul Mascarene for Boston in 1731 necessitated a new appointment to the council to meet the required quorum, and in October Hamilton, whom Armstrong described as "a gentleman of an untainted character," was chosen to fill the vacancy. For about 14 years he was an active member of the council. In 1736 he again accepted the job of secretary temporarily when Shirreff was on leave in England.

Hamilton received another civil role in 1737, when the Lords of Trade and Plantations appointed him, along with William Skene and Erasmus James Philipps, to a colonial commission to resolve the boundary difficulties between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was chosen again in 1740 as a Nova Scotia representative for a similar commission concerning the boundaries between Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

On 25 Dec. 1744 Hamilton's diligent fulfilment of his various duties was rewarded by his appointment as lieutenant governor of Placentia, Newfoundland. He went to Newfoundland shortly afterwards and served first at St John's, before moving on to Placentia in the summer of 1747. Hamilton apparently regarded this post as more than a sinecure, for on several occasions he made an honest attempt to improve the conditions of the colony. Charles Knowles, English governor of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, wrote to the Duke of Newcastle late in 1746 concerning the report he had received from Hamilton of "the miserable condition the Soldiers of that Garrison [Placentia] are in both for want of Bedding Pay and Cloathing. . . ." In the fall of 1747 Hamilton wrote to the Board of Trade and Plantations "complaining of the want of civil officers" at Placentia, particularly justices of the peace. He was also troubled that he had no authority

over the justices, as they were responsible solely to the official governor of the island, the commodore of the Newfoundland squadron, who was resident there for only a few months each year. In general, Hamilton carried out his duties at Placentia capably and conscientiously. He may also have been involved in the fishery there as he vigorously defended the involvement of some of the men under his command.

Hamilton remained at Placentia until at least 1764. Little is known of his activities after 1760 and the fact that one of his sons bore the same name makes it difficult to pursue his career at this period. Otho Hamilton Jr followed his father in the 40th regiment, joining as an ensign in 1744 and purchasing the rank of major in 1761. The elder Hamilton had two other children, John and Grizel. By 1768 he had taken up permanent residence at Waterford, Ireland. There he drafted his will in August of that year, and there he died on 26 Feb. 1770.

William G. Godfrey

You might also want to read more about him and his family at:
<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/htol/lt-colonel-otto.pdf>

END.

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

Alastair