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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for July 17, 2026

Electric Scotland News

A CALL TO THE NAME OF CURRIE

12 July 2026

Dear Members and Friends of the Currie Community,

This November, Curries from Scotland and around the world will gather for an extraordinary occasion: the 2026 Currie Family Convention.

The convention will take place on:

Saturday, 14 November 2026, at 1:00pm (8:00am Eastern Standard Time)
Glasgow City Chambers, Glasgow, Scotland

Conducted under the supervision of Unicorn Pursuivant and in accordance with the guidance of the Court of the Lord Lyon, the convention will consider the selection of a Chief of the Name and Arms of Currie.

This is a historic moment in the continuing story of the Currie and MacMhuirich kindred—and members of our worldwide community are invited to take part!

How to participate

Qualifications for potential voting Attendees to the Family Convention of Currie:

A person should bear the surname “Currie” – whether they bear the surname because it is their surname recorded at birth, they adopted use of that surname later in life or they bear that surname following upon marriage – and provide evidence of that fact.

Other names that can be traced to the original “MacMhuirich” (literally, “son of Muireach Albannach, the bard”) such as Curry, Currier, MacCurry, MacVurich, MacMureach, or sometimes on some of the Gaelic-speaking islands: MacPherson or MacMillan, may also qualify. (Qualified attendees may be required to provide documentation. Decisions are to be determined by Roderick Macpherson, Unicorn Pursuivant, appointed by the Lord Lyon.)

Authors note: Registration is required for both in-person and virtual attendance.

Attend in Glasgow

Those joining us at Glasgow City Chambers should complete the Attendee Registration Form and select In Person.

REGISTER TO ATTEND IN PERSON

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7637nm>

Participate online

A professionally produced livestream will allow registered participants around the world to follow the proceedings remotely. Those joining virtually should complete the same Attendee Registration Form and select Virtual.

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7637nm>

Further access instructions will be sent to registered virtual attendees before the convention.

Interested in being considered as a candidate?

A separate formal process is available for individuals who wish to be considered as a candidate for Chief of the Name and Arms of Currie.

Candidate eligibility, documentation requirements, and submission instructions are contained in the official Call for Candidates.

VIEW THE CALL FOR CANDIDATES

SUBMIT A CANDIDATE APPLICATION

<https://tinyurl.com/7hcz2dky>

Submission of an application does not guarantee eligibility. Applications will be reviewed under the procedures established for the convention.

Why this gathering matters

The Currie name is closely connected with the historic MacMhuirich bardic dynasty—the hereditary poets, historians, and learned tradition-bearers of the Lords of the Isles.

The November convention represents another important chapter in that long history: a worldwide family gathering rooted in heritage, service, scholarship, music, and community.

Whether you join us in Glasgow or participate from home, we hope you will be part of this remarkable occasion.

Learn more:

VISIT THE CONVENTION WEBSITE

<https://tinyurl.com/3r45r5m7>

Please share this announcement with Currie relatives, family historians, Scottish heritage organizations, and others connected with the name and kindred.

Yours aye,

The Learned Kindred of Currie

A worldwide family united by history, learning, and tradition

Making progress with my hip replacement. I must say that the Red Cross have been very helpful. They give you six weeks of support when you get back from hospital, In my case the first week they brought some microwave meals, The second week they did some cooking for me and put out my rubbish. Third week they did the same and then the other day they took me to my eye appointment.

They will do grocery shopping for you but you do need to pay in cash. However they provided me with a local organisation that will do grocery shopping and take credit card which is excellent.

I did an update of my hospital page which you can read at:

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

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...

The Capitalist Podcast: Gawain Towler – Farage under fire

Reform UK's onetime spinmeister on why the party's leader has gambled on re-election

You can watch this at:

<https://briefing.capx.co/p/the-capitalist-podcast-gawain-towler>

I Drove The First NEW BYD CHINESE EV In Canada!

We finally got our hands on a NEW BYD! In this Canadian exclusive Greg takes the 2026 BYD Shark out for a road test in Montreal and to see what's what! How does this Chinese Pickup Truck stack up against its western competitors and what is the big deal around BYD? Let's Find Out!

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/UCEWqafygkk?si=W_2lfbUbeH-6kfzc

The Bayeux Tapestry is at the British Museum after a secret journey from France

The Bayeux Tapestry has returned to England for the first time in nearly 1,000 years

Read more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5extp2z2>

Ann Widdecombe

A singular voice falls silent

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/07/ann-widdecombe-a-singular-voice-falls-silent/>

Six charts explaining Brexit outcomes accurately

Here is a selection of charts designed to challenge some of the shakier claims about the economic impacts of Brexit, including on the pound, investment, food prices, trade, and overall GDP.

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/07/six-charts-explaining-brexit-outcomes-accurately/>

US marks Memorial Day with wreaths, bagpipes and salutes

US President Donald Trump marked Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery during the 158th annual observance.

Watch this at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/c4gvvr2drpgo>

Electric Canadian

The Making of a Great Canadian Railway

The story of the search for and discovery of the route, and the construction of the nearly completed Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific with some account of the hardships and stirring adventures of its constructors in unexplored country by Frederick A. Talbot, author of "The new garden of Canada" (1912) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/making-of-a-great-Canadian-railway.pdf>

Life and Sport on the North Shore

Of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf containing chapters on Salmon Fishing, Trapping, the Folk-Lore of the Montagnais Indians and Tales of Adventure on the fringe of the Labrador Peninsula by Napoleon A. Comeau (1909) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/lifesportonnorth00comerich.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 12th day of July 2026 Gardens

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/3SoJk-s5K34?si=tYnyksatKLmh_kv5

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 1 Outfit 271 Junr 1940 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/TheBeaverJune1940.pdf>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 4 Outfit 270 March 1940 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeavermarch1940.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Programme and Book of Words OF SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONCERT In the COWDRAY HALL, On SATURDAY, 14th MARCH, 1936, AT 8 P.M

Of the Hall Russel Male Voice Choir (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/aberdeen/HRMVC17thannualconcert.pdf>

Isles of the West, Scotland, Stornoway, Hebrides, Distributed by Kinograph 1940.

Two old videos which I've added to the foot of the page

You can watch these at:

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

Scotland PLC warned of data centre "Hidden Tax" in energy demands

Scotland has been urged to take strong notice of a cautionary tale from across the Irish Sea where an influx of data centres, it is claimed, represent a "hidden tax" as its neighbouring country's energy demands absorb over one fifth of Ireland's electricity last year, costing households millions in extra bills. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this article at:

<https://electricscotland.com/magee/article0054.htm>

Memoir of William Wilson of Crummock

By James Dobie, FSAScot (pdf)

You can read this memoir at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/William-Wilson-of-Crummock.pdf>

Connecticut Researcher Calls for National Reassessment of America's Earliest Federal Diplomatic Artifacts Ahead of the Nation's 250th Anniversary

American Historic Relics & Art

You can read this article at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/america/artifacts.htm>

Examination of George Washington Peace Medals a Groundbreaking Discovery in Early American Optical Science

American Historic Relics & Art

You can read this article at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/america/opticalscience.htm>

Annals of the Four Masters

The Annals of the Four Masters is an extremely large and complex work and is considered anonymous but covers the history of Ireland from BC up to 1616. Volume 1 & 2. Edited by John O'Donovan (second edition) (1856)

You can read these volumes at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/ireland/annalsodon.pdf>

Stemmata Robertson et Durbin

Being Tables comprising the known ancestors of the children of Herbert Robertson and his wife Helen Alexandrina nee Durbin, by Herbert Robertson (1893-95) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/ntor/Stemmata-Robertson-et-Durbin.pdf>

Story

The Heather on Fire

By Mathilde Blind

I SEEM to hear many a reader ask whether such atrocities as are described in "The Heather on Fire" have indeed been committed within the memory of this generation. Let him be assured that this is no fancy picture; that, on the contrary, the author's aim has been to soften some of the worst features of the heart-rending scenes which were of such frequent occurrence during the Highland Clearances. Many of them are too revolting for the purposes of art; for the ferocity shown by some of the factors and ground-officers employed by the landlords in evicting their inoffensive tenantry, can only be matched by the brutal excesses of victorious troops on a foreign soil. But even in those cases where no actual violence was resorted to, the uprooting and transplantation of whole communities of Crofters from the straths and glens which they had tilled for so many generations must be regarded in the light of a national crime.

No traveller can have failed to be struck by the solitude and desolation which now constitute the prevalent character of the Scottish Highlands. "Mile after mile," says Macaulay, speaking of Glencoe, "Taveller looks in vain for the smoke of one hut, or for one human form wrapped in a plaid, and listens in vain for the bark of a shepherd's dog, or the bleat of a lamb. Mile after mile, the only sound that indicates life is the faint cry of a bird of prey from some storm-beaten pinnacle of rock." His words might appropriately stand for a description of a great part of the north of Scotland. But it was not always so. The moors and valleys, whose blank silence is only broken by the rush of tumbling streams or the cry of some solitary bird, were once enlivened by the manifold sounds of human industry and made musical with children's voices. The crumbling walls and decaying roof-trees of ruined villages still bear witness to the former populousness of many a deserted glen. Perhaps these humble remains touch our feelings more deeply than the imposing fragments of Greek temples and Roman amphitheatres. For it was but yesterday that they were inhabited by a brave, moral, and industrious peasantry, full of poetic instincts and ardent patriotism, ruthlessly expelled their native land to make way for sporting grounds rented by merchant princes and American millionaires.

During a visit I paid to the Isle of Arran in the summer of 1884, I stood on the site of such a ruined village. All that remained of the once flourishing community was a solitary old Scotchwoman, who well remembered her banished countrymen. Her simple story had a thrilling pathos, told as it was on the melancholy slopes of North Glen Sannox, looking across to the wild broken mountain ridges called "The Old Wife's Steps." Here, she said, and as far as one could see, had dwelt the Glen Sannox people, the largest population then collected in any one spot of the island, and evicted by the Duke of Hamilton in the year 1832. The lives of these crofters became an idyll in her mouth. She dwelt proudly on their patient labour, their simple joys, and the kind, helpful ways of them; and her brown eyes filled with tears as she recalled the day of their expulsion, when the people gathered from all parts of the island to see the last of the Glen Sannox folk ere they went on board the brig that was bound for New Brunswick, in Canada. "Ah, it was a sore day that," she sighed, "when the old people cast themselves down on the sea-shore and wept."

They were gone, these Crofters, and their dwellings laid low with the hill-side, and their fertile plots of corn overrun with ling and heather; but the stream went rushing on as of old, and as of old the cloven mountain peaks cast their shadow on the valley below whence the once happy people were all gone — gone, too, their dwelling-places, and, to use the touching words of a Highland minister, "There was not a smoke there now." For the progress of civilisation, which has redeemed many a wilderness, and gladdened the solitary places of the world, has come with a curse to these Highland glens, and turned green pastures and golden harvest-fields once more into a desert.

You can read the rest of this account at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/articles/heatheronfiretal00blin.pdf>

END.

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

