

ISSUE No 1
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Newsletter of the Clan Fleming Scottish Society

THE DOEED

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1306-1372**

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**THE TRADITIONAL FLEMING
HAGGIS HUNT**



Reginald Chambers is a paraeducator and a head coach.

As a young man he was an amateur athlete having played Rugby Union and other combat sports. He is married and has three sons. Besides coaching, his passions are history and genealogy.



A NOTE FROM OUR CFSS PRESIDENT

First, a brief word about myself. My 7th great grandfather, **Joseph Fleming**, was born in Argyllshire and my ancestors lived in the western lowlands of Scotland for hundreds of years before immigrating to the royal colonies. The discovery of my Flemish ancestry set me on an intense quest to find out more about the history of the Fleming family.

I discovered that once you begin researching the **Lords Fleming** (key figures in the history of the Flemings who had Flemish ancestral roots) and their influence on Scotland's history, you develop a deep sense of pride in the contributions our ancestors made. It has not been a simple task. **Clan Fleming** was not as well-known as some of the larger highland clans and, as it turned out, it was quite short-lived. It can be dated from its very first chief, **Sir Robert Fleming** – who many historians believe held up the severed head of Comyn for Bruce to announce his “**DEED**” – until our last chief, **Rev Charles Fleming of Wigtown**, who voted against the acts of union with England. The **Lords Fleming** were given their lands following their ardent backing of Robert the Bruce and their support for maintaining Scotland's independence. The Flemings held positions of importance such as ambassador and chamberlain but sometimes paid for their service with their lives in battle, as well as by assassination and execution.

It should not be surprising that the **Lords Fleming** had such high ambition. Resolute, they were a steadfast people, stoic in their commitment. The Flemish as a race were highly prized engineers and merchants. They stood second to none in the medieval textile industry. Their excellence as weavers made their tapestries the most coveted in Europe. Not only was their assiduousness sought after, but their prowess on the field of battle

Let
the
deed
shaw

as well. Most notably they accompanied **William the Conqueror** in his invasion of Britain in 1066. They were invited to Scotland by King **David I** to help pacify some of the indigenous population but they also brought with them the skills needed to help in the development of the country.

Fast forward several centuries and the Flemings were still making an impact. Most notably **Dr. Alexander Fleming**, the microbiologist responsible for discovering penicillin and author **Ian Fleming**, the creator of **James Bond**. More recently the renowned Flemish industriousness can be seen in a Belgian architectural renaissance. And one should not forget among their culinary delights their waffles! Moreover, I believe there has been a revival of interest of late in the role played by people with Flemish roots in Scotland's economic and social development.

Yet, while I have observed that many other Clans – some perhaps with less perceptible impact on Scotland than our own – have survived and prospered as volunteer organizations our own has not. This grieves me greatly.

I started this note with a few words about myself so please allow me to end it that way also. You are probably wondering why a man with the last name **Chambers** is championing a revival of the **Fleming Clan**? As I mentioned at the outset my 7th great grandfather was a Fleming. As genetic genealogists would explain it, I was the result of a “non-paternal event (NPE)”. When I discovered my true parentage, I was of course initially surprised but as time went on, and as my researches bore fruit, I became truly honored to be a Fleming. It goes without saying that I love my Chambers family but in truth I no longer feel an allegiance to the Chambers surname. This has allowed me the emotional freedom to fully embrace my Fleming heritage. Please join me in the effort to reinvigorate the **Fleming Clan**!

Let the Deed Shaw!

Reginald S Chambers
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EDITORS CORNER

By Alex Fleming

Welcome to this first newsletter of the Clan Fleming Scottish Society. Our President, Reg Chambers, referred in his introductory note to a **“DEED”** that a Fleming was purported to have performed in holding up the severed head of Comyn in the presence of Robert the Bruce. You will discover, on reading Charles Rigg's article, just why this was a quite pivotal act in Scottish history. It is also the reason that we have chosen “The Deed” as the name for the newsletter.

We are aware that many of you carrying the Fleming family name (and its variants) are interested in the origins of the family and how it impacted the passage of Scotland's history. Therefore, in this first newsletter we are focusing especially on topics in Fleming family history. We are very fortunate in having, in Jim Fleming and Charles Rigg, two of the world's leading authors on Fleming history, writing for us. I would also like to thank Tammy Schakett for her creative contribution. Finally, our thanks go to Ian Fleming for deploying his professional graphic skills on the newsletter.

While we hope that you will find this newsletter—and those that follow—interesting and informative, we would also like to also use it as a vehicle for communicating with Flemings (or other interested parties) around the world. If you have comments on anything we have written, or have Fleming related research or stories to share that would be of interest to a wider audience, please send these to the following email address: cfss.rchamb@gmail.com

Alex Fleming is guest editor for this newsletter and is probably best known for his 2019 publication “Scotland and the Flemish People”, that was co-edited with Professor Roger Mason.



LA BELLE ECOSSAISE

By Jim Fleming

Lady Janet Fleming was the daughter of one king; mistress of another; and governess to a queen. Many readers will be familiar with Mary Fleming, the long-time companion of Mary Queen of Scots and one of 'the Four Marys'. However, Mary's mother (though less well known) is equally intriguing.

Born on 17 July 1502, Lady Janet was the illegitimate daughter of King James IV of Scotland and his half second cousin, Agnes Stewart. One of Janet's half-brothers was King James V, her father's only surviving legitimate child.

When she was 6 years old her father married Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter of King Henry VIII of England. Three years later her mother married Adam Hepburn (2nd Earl of Bothwell) and became known as the Countess of Bothwell. She was 11 years old when both her father the king and her stepfather were killed at the Battle of Flodden.

Janet's mother quickly re-married to Alexander 3rd Lord Home whose forces had defeated the English right wing at Flodden before the Scottish army was destroyed. After the battle, he resisted the regency of John Stewart (Duke of Albany) but was captured and executed for rebellion in 1516. Janet's mother married thirdly Robert 5th Lord Maxwell and fourthly Cuthbert Ramsay, a burgess of Edinburgh, who survived her.

When she reached 21 years old in 1523, Janet married Malcolm 3rd Lord Fleming after they had obtained a marriage dispensation from Pope Clement VII "their being within the 3rd degree of affinity". It is not clear why they were deemed to be so closely related, because the only common ancestor that I can identify is their 4G-grandfather King Robert II (making Janet a only a 4th cousin, albeit she had dual descent from King Robert).

Now known as Lady Fleming, she and her husband raised seven daughters and two sons (including the 4th and 5th Lords Fleming) over the next twenty years. Janet was pregnant with their last child when her husband was captured by the English after the Battle of Solway in November 1542. He was released eight months later on payment of a ransom of 1000 merks sterling (666 pounds).

On 14 December 1542 Janet's half-brother King James V died, just six days after the birth of his daughter Mary, so she immediately became Mary Queen of Scots. During her childhood Scotland was governed by regents, first by the heir to the throne (James Hamilton, Earl of Arran) and then by Lady Fleming's mentor, the queen's mother (Mary of Guise).

she could not speak French, nevertheless, she managed very well and was widely admired in the French court as

La Belle Ecossaise

THE BEAUTIFUL SCOTSWOMAN

Even though Edward was the queen's grand-uncle, this could have avoided the bloodshed, intrigue and angst that was to plague Mary's life and lead to her eventual execution. But reactionary Catholic Cardinal Beaton objected vigorously to the prospect of a Scottish monarch marrying a Protestant and browbeat Parliament into rejecting this elegant solution to centuries of war.

Undeterred, King Henry launched a military campaign against Catholic Scotland that was termed "the rough wooing". In 1547 Scottish forces were heavily defeated at the Battle of Pinkie and Janet's husband of 24 years, Malcolm 3rd Lord Fleming, was killed.

Lady Fleming was appointed governess to her infant niece, the queen, soon after her youngest daughter Mary was born. Mary Fleming, one of "the four Marys", would become the queen's closest lifelong companion.

King Henry VIII of England proposed the Treaty of Greenwich whereby the young Queen Mary would marry his son Edward in ten years' time, thus uniting Scotland and England.

King Henry II of France then opportunistically proposed to unite Catholic France and Scotland by marrying the young queen to his three-year-old son, the Dauphin Francis. This met with general agreement, so on 7 August 1548 the queen was moved to France for safety, accompanied by the widowed Lady Fleming and her daughter Mary.

Doubts were expressed about Lady Fleming's suitability to continue as governess because she could not speak French. Nevertheless, she managed very well and was widely admired in the French court as La Belle Ecossaise (the beautiful Scotswoman). She soon attracted the attention of the French King (Henry II), became his mistress and gave birth to his son in 1551. Her boy, called Henri de Valois-Angoulême (1551 – 1586) was the most highly favoured natural son of the King, who later legitimized him and appointed him as Grand Prior of France, Governor of Provence and Admiral of the Levantine Sea.

When the king's wife (Catherine de Medici) discovered his relationship with Lady Fleming, she began scheming to have her removed from the court. Janet was sent back to Scotland and replaced as governess by Françoise de Paroy. Nevertheless, she continued to live the high life. In 1555 the brother-in-law to her widowed daughter Johanna (William Lord Livingstone) provided her son James 4th Lord Fleming a sum of one thousand pounds "for the relief of Lady Fleming, his mother".

Three years later the Scottish Parliament appointed Lord Fleming as one of eight commissioners to go to France to conclude negotiations for the queen's marriage and to observe the nuptials. This was a dangerous assignment because the two sides had different ideas about how the crowns would be united. The Scots intended that Mary would remain Queen of Scotland with the dauphin as her consort. In time the dauphin would ascend the French throne while his wife remained Queen of Scotland. It would only be their future son or daughter who would eventually rule both countries. But the French king envisioned that his son would be co-ruler of Scotland from the day of his marriage to Queen Mary. This was complete anathema to the Scottish Parliament which instructed

the commissioners that they were not to make concessions on this point under any circumstances.

The commissioners' refusal to use their influence to have the Scottish Regalia sent to France so that the dauphin might be crowned king of Scotland gave such offence to the French king that it was strongly suspected that he would retaliate. Lord Fleming made haste to put his affairs in order and, sure enough, three of his co-commissioners died from poison on 28 November 1558 at Dieppe. He hurried back to Paris where he too died three weeks later. King Henry II had clearly ordered his assassination, despite the fact that he was the eldest son of his former mistress, Lady Fleming. Henry himself died seven months later from a jousting injury.

A year later Lady Fleming was one of the ladies-in-waiting who kept a vigil beside the deathbed of the queen's mother, Mary of Guise. Soon afterward she applied to the Privy Council for permission to leave Scotland with her French son Henri, which was granted. She died on 15 February 1562 in London on her way home and is buried at Boghall.



Jim Fleming is a retired Customs Director and lives on Sydney's lower north shore. He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists since then. Aside from genealogy he enjoys travelling and singing baritone in two choirs. He is Secretary and Historian of the Clan Fleming Scottish Society.

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THE FLEMING FAMILY

A brief history

The rise and fall of the earldom of Wigtown (first creation)

By Charles Rigg

In the first of four articles on the history of the Fleming family, Charles Rigg looks back to the fourteenth century and the years 1306-1372. This was a period of contrasting fortunes for the Fleming family: from 1306-1341 it was one of spectacular success culminating in Malcolm Fleming, a baron of low to middling status in 1314, becoming earl of Wigtown in 1341. However, following a calamitous defeat on English soil in 1346 the next eleven years were to be as unkind to him as the previous twenty-five had been rewarding. His grandson Thomas succeeded to the title around 1358 but in seeking to find a solution to increasing financial challenges he started to sell off lands and the earldom itself in 1372.

Our starting point however is 1306. It was on 10 February of that year in a Dumfries church that Robert the Bruce and his companions killed John Comyn, a rival to the throne, in what Professor Michael Brown described as the 'defining political act of fourteenth century Scotland'. It merited that statement because 'it precipitated Bruce into seizing the throne' six weeks later and, in doing so, 'altered the whole basis of Scottish opposition to Edward I', the English king. It has been contended in some quarters that one of Bruce's companions on that momentous day was Robert Fleming, father of Malcolm. Tradition has it that after Bruce told his companions waiting outside the church that "I doubt I have slain Comyn", Fleming and others went in to remove any shadow of doubt. On their return, Bruce asked them to confirm that Comyn was dead. Fleming's response was to hold aloft the victim's severed head and replied: "Let the deed show". This became the Fleming family motto.

Professor Richard Oram is hugely sceptical of the presence of a Robert Fleming at Dumfries on that day – there is no evidence to support it. However, the main thrust of Oram's compelling argument is that it was not a Robert Fleming who rose to prominence in the service of Bruce but Malcolm Fleming. At what stage Malcolm, the future earl of Wigtown, first gave his support to King Robert I (1306-29) and whether this included military involvement is unknown. What can be asserted is that by 1321 Bruce had granted him the sizeable Dunbartonshire barony of Kirkintilloch, previously held by the Comyns when it was known as Lenzie. It was on this land that the Flemings eventually built their main residence, a castle which they chose to call Cumbernauld.

The 1320s saw Malcolm granted more land and offices by a grateful king. At the time of Robert I's death in 1329 Malcolm was not only sheriff of Dunbartonshire and keeper of Dumbarton Castle but a steward of the king's household. Following Robert's death his five-year-old son succeeded to the throne as David II (1329-71). In his biography of David II, Dr Michael Penman describes Malcolm as having played 'the key role as surrogate parent to the child-king in the 1330s' and in some contemporary sources he is referred to as the king's 'foster-father'. The years 1332-34 saw a return to the wars of Scottish independence and the deaths of many leading magnates in the defeats at Dupplin Moor in 1332 and Halidon Hill the following year. A consequence of this was that Malcolm became an increasingly influential player in securing David's safety – at first at Dumbarton Castle and then in France.

The records are sketchy as to the role Malcolm played during David's seven year enforced exile but what happened on David's return in June 1341 points to them having been in regular contact. Within five months of the teenage king's return, David showed his gratitude to Malcolm for his loyalty and military abilities 'in good times and bad' by bestowing on him the hereditary earldom of Wigtown. This was a newly created earldom in the south-west of Scotland and propelled Malcolm into the highest echelons of noble society as one of only twelve earls in the kingdom.



Chateau Gaillard is where David II stayed while in France. Malcolm is likely to have visited him there.

There is no doubt that Malcolm was very much part of David II's inner circle but all that was to change in October 1346 when both Malcolm and David were wounded and taken prisoner in a heavy defeat by the English at Neville's Cross in Durham. Malcolm successfully bribed his gaoler with the offer of land in Scotland and was able to return home; David was removed to London where he remained until his release terms were agreed some eleven years later. During those years Malcolm was conspicuous by his absence in providing any sort of leadership in his Wigtown earldom or elsewhere. Perhaps this was due to some infirmity or unspecified wounds sustained in battle, but it might also have been the ageing process as at the time of Neville's Cross he must have been in his



Map showing the place names mentioned in the text

mid-to-late fifties. The date of his death is unrecorded but circumstantial evidence points to it being towards the end of 1357, and no later than 1362. In the considered opinion of Richard Oram, the earldom had by then been reduced to a 'virtual irrelevance'. In addition, once he lost the lucrative keepership of Dumbarton Castle he began to experience

financial difficulties which would be hard to stem. It was an unenviable inheritance to leave his grandson and heir who inherited the title at a time he was being held hostage in England.

Thomas Fleming was the second earl of Wigtown. In 1357 he was one of the twenty noble hostages delivered to the English to ensure the ransom figure for King David's release was paid up. The exact date of Thomas's return to Scotland is unknown but for one reason or another David II had made a judgement call that Thomas was not the sort of man capable of providing the level of political and military leadership his grandfather had done so successfully prior to 1346. One explanation offered by Richard Oram is that Thomas suffered from some disability and was physically unfit to do so. In effect Thomas was earl in name only after he was denied the regality powers which were previously associated with the title.

Thomas was not at all comfortable with the situation he inherited in the south-west. His near neighbour in Galloway – Archibald Douglas, better known as Archibald the Grim – was an intimidating presence who had at his disposal a sizeable military backing. Thomas believed his best option was to extricate himself from the earldom and in February 1372 sold it to Archibald the Grim. Thomas

claimed 'the feuds between him and the great men and inhabitants of the Earldom' was the reason behind his decision and that was undoubtedly true, but the opportunity to have found in Archibald the Grim a purchaser willing to part with the considerable sum of £500 was an opportunity not to be missed by the financially stretched earl. The Fleming family held the earldom for less than 31 years; it was not until 1606 that they regained the title Earl of Wigtown.

Charles Rigg is a historian and a Director and Trustee of Biggar Museum. He has written extensively on the Fleming family and is currently writing a book on The Flemings: Lords of Biggar and Cumbernauld and Earls of Wigtown.

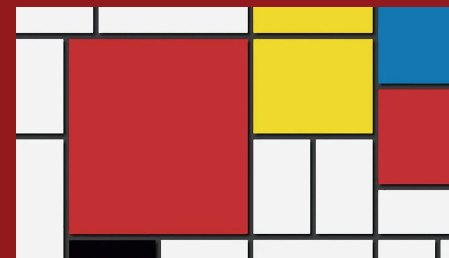
The next issue will include the second of four articles on the history of the Fleming family. Charles Rigg looks at the years 1372-1440. This was a period which began with the Flemings of Biggar securing some of the Lenzie lands but ended with the executioner's axe beheading Malcolm Fleming.



Choosing a new Clan Fleming Scottish Society Tartan...

We are currently considering adopting a clan tartan design. We love our Flemish roots, but it does have to be said, that we prefer to follow our Scottish Heritage in this regard!

Thats a little art joke in homage to Piet Mondrian, co-founder of the De Stijl abstract art movement



CLAN FLEMING TITLES

By Jim Fleming

Over several centuries Flemings of note have held various titles including Baron, Lord and Earl. They have also occupied numerous offices including Bailey, Burgess, knight, Sheriff, Governor and Chamberlain.

Today, the import of many of these words has changed or become obscured, so this article explores their meaning so that the significance of the many august Flemings in the history of Scotland can be appreciated.

Our first chief, Sir Robert Fleming, was employed by Robert the Bruce as a household knight during the 1290s and early 1300s. **Knights** were highly trained elite soldiers who served their liege lord as his own personal troop of bodyguards. In times of conflict a lord could be obliged to provide his knights and their attendants for the king's army.

Household knights were usually younger sons of noble birth who, outranked by older brothers, were not in line to inherit any land and therefore occupied the lowest rank of the nobility. Nevertheless, all knights were entitled to the title "**Sir**" (or Sire), derived from the Old French word Sieur (Lord). Thus, the modern French word monsieur translates literally as "my lord".

In battle, a landholding knight would fight under a banner displaying his personal arms and was known as a **knight banneret**, while one who fought under another's banner (such as a household knight or the heir of a knight banneret) was called a **knight bachelor**. Our 5th chief (David Fleming) was, as a 17-year-old in 1363, employed as a knight bachelor to King David II.

In about 1310, Robert the Bruce (now King Robert I) rewarded Robert Fleming's exemplary service by granting him the feudal baronies of Cumbernauld and Lenzie. Fleming also gained the

barony of Biggar through marriage to the heiress, Marjory of Biggar. Acquisition of these estates meant that he had now moved up a rung in the nobility from a landless knight to the rank of baron.

A **Baron** held his fief (lands and income) directly from the monarch. In Scotland, the title was not hereditary; if the land was ever transferred to a new holder, the title of baron went with it. Therefore, while barons were included in the nobility, they were not members of the peerage.

Soon after Robert's son Malcolm "the Good" Fleming fought in the king's army at Bannockburn in 1314, he was rewarded with the additional baronies of Kirkintilloch, Auchendennan, Poulton and the Isle of Inchcaillock in Loch Lomond. By 1317 he had been appointed Sheriff of Dunbartonshire and Governor of Dumbarton Castle while his younger brother Patrick was appointed Sheriff of Peeblesshire (following his marriage to Joan Fraser, heiress of Oliver Castle in that shire). As well as these shires, later Fleming clan chiefs served as sheriffs in Edinburgh and Roxburgh. Their maternal Biggar ancestors had traditionally served as Sheriffs of Lanarkshire.

Both sheriff and governor were occupations, not titles. The term **sheriff** is a contraction of shire **reeve**, where the reeve was responsible to administer a shire on behalf of its owner (who held the rank of Earl). The sheriff's duties were to enforce decisions of shire courts; keep the peace; collect taxes on behalf of the earl and the crown; and oversee the provision of fighting men to support the king in times of war.

After the Norman Conquest, Scotland was dotted with many castles as an important line of defence against Viking raiders and invasions from rival kings. They were an innovation imported from Europe, where each castle was managed by a Castellan, whose duties were not unlike those of a sheriff. In Scotland each castle was managed by a **Governor** and usually the Sheriff was also appointed Governor of the strongest castle in his shire.

In 1332, Malcolm "the Good" Fleming was appointed as **tutor** to the eight-year-old King David II and his Royal Consort. This would



have involved providing him with an education to prepare him for the throne, while also acting as an informal foster-father and protector.

A year later Malcolm was one of the few Scottish nobles who escaped after the disastrous Battle of Halidon Hill, but he nevertheless managed to provide sanctuary to the young king (and his successor, the future King Robert II) in his fortress at Dumbarton Castle; and later guided them to safety in France. In recognition of this sterling service, one of the king's first acts on his return to Scotland in 1341 was to create Malcolm Fleming Earl of Wigtown.

In Scotland an **Earl** was responsible (under the king) for a shire and was therefore equivalent to a European Count and his county. The term earl comes from the Scandinavian word jarl meaning chieftain and reflects the fact that earls were entitled to exercise many regal powers within their shire. Importantly, since earl is a hereditary title, its holder is automatically a member of the peerage. The Fleming clan chief had moved an important rung higher in the Scottish nobility, now outranked only by Marquesses and Dukes.

Unfortunately, this higher status only lasted 30 years before Malcolm's grandson (3rd chief Thomas Fleming) sold the earldom in 1371 and thus reverted the chief of Clan Fleming to a mere baron; no longer a peer.

This comedown was partially redressed in 1451 when the 7th chief (Robert Fleming of Biggar, Lenzie and Cumbernauld) was created a **Lord of Parliament**, affording him the right to take part in sessions of Scotland's Parliament. It was a hereditary title and thus elevated him (and his heirs) once more onto the lowest rung of Scotland's peerage and entitled them to the title Lord Fleming.

In 1606, John 6th Lord Fleming (our 12th chief) was created Earl of Wigtown (the second creation of the title that had been sold in 1371), thus stepping up another rung in the Peerage of Scotland. Three years later he was appointed as a **Lord of the Articles**, a member of the select Parliamentary committee that drafted legislation for consideration by the full Parliament.

Since our clan chief now held two titles (Earl and Lord), he (and later chiefs) adopted the widespread practice of using the secondary title (Lord Fleming) as a courtesy title for his heir apparent. Thus, at any one time, the clan chief was Earl of Wigtown and his heir apparent was known as Lord Fleming. On the death of an earl, the previous Lord Fleming would become earl and the new heir apparent would gain the courtesy title of Lord Fleming.

While the earl continued to use the Wigtown arms (with the addition of an earl's coronet), the family now adopted new arms for the use of his heir apparent. These "Lorde Fleming" arms (pictured from an old armorial book) were clearly based on the arms originally granted to Robert Fleming three hundred years earlier, but with different tinctures (colours). The shield background is or (gold) rather than gules (red) and the chevron and double tressure are gules rather than argent (silver or white).



A little known fact

**Traditionally
the Scots used
the Sporan
to carry their
war kittens
into battle**

THE TRADITIONAL FLEMING WILD HAGGIS HUNT

By Tammy Schakett

On Sunday, March 25 in 1612, John Fleming gathered his family to celebrate the traditional Celtic new year. To honor the new year, John and his siblings decided to have a great wild haggis hunt.

Traditionally, this involved the younger male children waiting to catch the wild haggis that would be flushed from the hills and forests by the adult men.



This is a wild Forest Haggis in its natural Scottish habit. Sadly, the wild haggis is currently on the endangered species list and as a result modern wild haggis hunts are catch and release basis only.

The boys were given specific instructions on how to catch wild haggis, but first they were tutored on the proper haggis that would provide for the greatest feast. There are several types of haggis depending on where in Scotland the Flemings lived: short right legs, which live on the right side of the mountains; short left legs, which live on the left side of the mountains; and the same leg length, which live in the forests.

All agreed that the same leg length had the best flavor and most meat. Fleming further explained that the wild haggis was small, and it may be necessary to catch more than one to feed everyone at the feast. Everyone knew that the haggis was nocturnal thus the hunt would start at dusk.

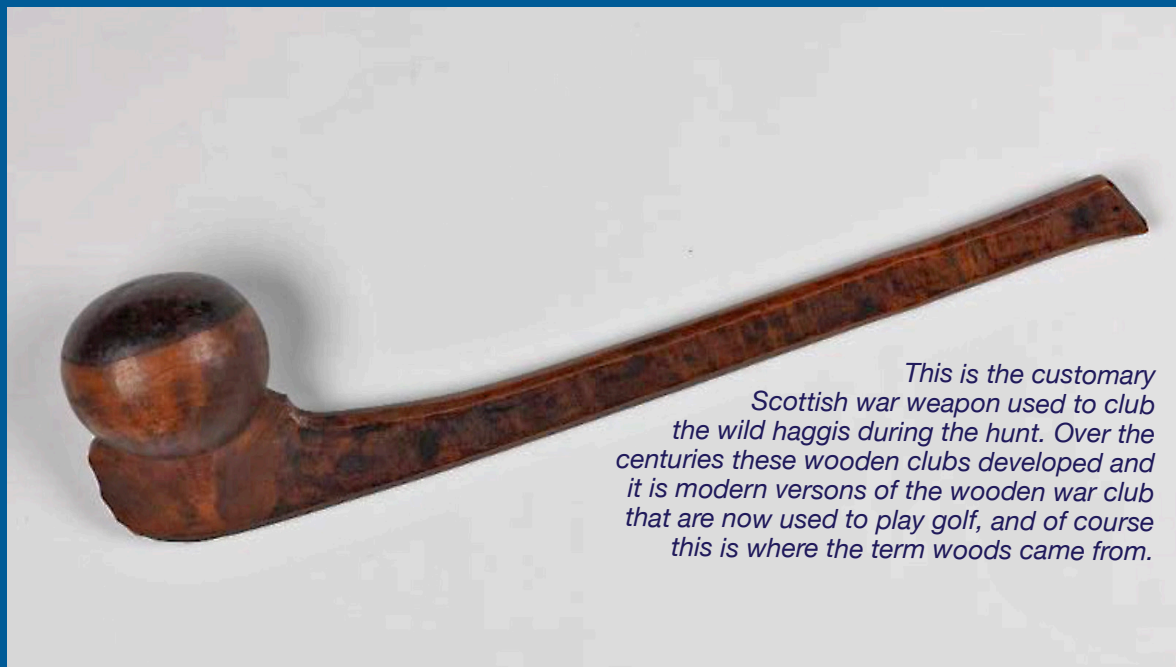
The young Flemings were gathered and given the proper tools for the hunt: large sacks, clubs, and sporran whistles; haggis are close to the wild sporrans and come to their aid when they hear them cry. The boys needed to catch a haggis in their sack and then stun it with their club.

The men took the boys out to the forest and set them into strategic places to be far enough apart to catch a haggis, but close enough to communicate if a haggis was headed their way. The boys had to be very quiet in the gathering night, except to blow their sporran whistle.

The men returned to the celebration and enjoyed copious amounts of whisky; certainly, Aberlour that was founded by the Flemings.



Standard cloth sack plaited by the village weavers in Biggar, Scotland. This should still be used today as it is environmentally friendly.



This is the customary Scottish war weapon used to club the wild haggis during the hunt. Over the centuries these wooden clubs developed and it is modern versions of the wooden war club that are now used to play golf, and of course this is where the term woods came from.

Eventually, the boys appeared from the forest without any haggis being caught much to their chagrin. John Fleming sadly announced that there would be no haggis for the celebration to the delight of all present. However, as we all know, they had plenty of sheep.

COMMON TYPES OF HAGGIS

- **short right legs** - *which live on the right side of the mountains*
- **short left legs** - *which live on the left side of the mountains*
- **same leg length** - *which are mainly forest dwellers*



Example of an ancient carved sporran whistle.



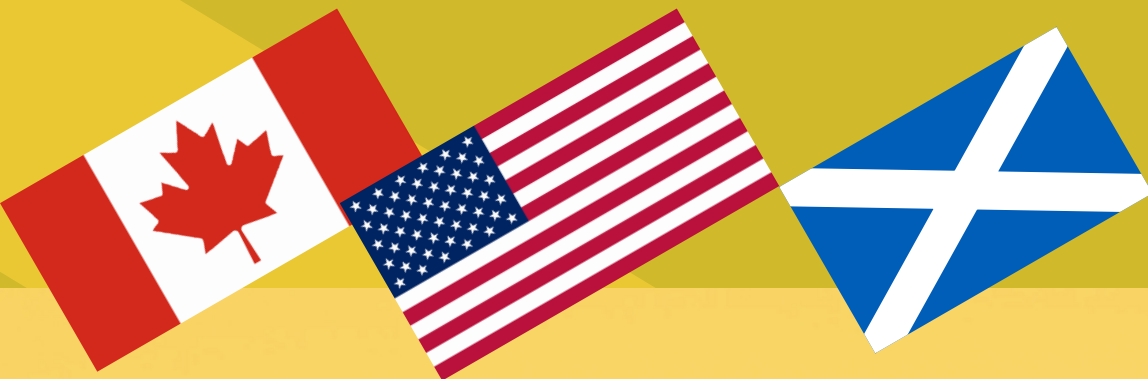
Each clan had their own whistle design. Today, generally a smaller high pitched whistle that reverberates well around the Glens are more popular for the haggis hunt.

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Tammy on location in Scotland conducting research for this article and abstaining totally from any temptation to sample the Aberlour!



HIGHLAND GAMES AND OTHER EVENTS IN 2024

Selected events in Scotland

- The Atholl Gathering, Blair Castle, 26 May 2024
- St. Andrews Highland Games, 28 July 2024
- Aberlour Strathspey Highland Games, 3 August 2024
- Perth Highland Games, 11 August 2024
- Stirling Highland Games, 17 August 2024
- Braemar Gathering, 7 September 2024

A complete list can be found on

www.scotlandwelcomesyou.com/scottish-highland-games-calendar-2024

Selected events in the United States and Canada

- New York Tartan Day Parade, 6 April 2024
- Savannah Scottish Games GA, 4 May 2024
- Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival BC, 4 May 2024
- Gallabree-Greenville Scottish Games SC, 24-25 May 2024
- Ohio Scottish Games and Celtic Festival, OH, 21-22 June 2024
- Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, NC, 11-14 July 2024
- Scotland County Highland Games, NC, 4-5 October 2024
- Stone Mountain Highland Games, GA, 18-20 October 2024
- Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, VA, 7 December 2024

Selected events in Australia and New Zealand

- Scottish Week, Sydney NSW, 28 June - 2 July 2024
- Brigadoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon NSW, 3 August 2024
- Hororata Highland Games, NZ, 9 November 2024



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COVER IMAGE

The rampant and armed Lion of Flanders symbolises the Fleming family's ancient origins.

Illustration, design and artwork: Ian Fleming

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THE DEAD