



Welcome to the September Newsletter!

It's been a busy summer, and tomorrow kicks off a new month! I'm back from my graduation trip to Scotland, and I have also been working on producing my upcoming new podcast, "Celebrating Scotland!" I hope to drop my first few episodes at the beginning of October.

Also, if you noticed that a newsletter didn't come out last month, that's because I have had so many new subscribers sign up so fast that I had to switch newsletter companies! Céad míle fáilte to all of the new subscribers! We are so happy you've joined us!

I hope you all have been enjoying the summer, and are as ready for Fall as I am! Until then, here are some upcoming events for September as well as our normal monthly features.

Slàinte Mhaith!



Genesis Moss Keefer, FSA Scot
Creator and Website Maven,
HighlandGamesandFestivals.com
Drinker of Beer and Wearer of Tartan

**Looking to support the website, these newsletters, and my upcoming podcast? [Click here to buy me a beer for \\$5!](#)*

(Yes, this is a shameless plug because this stuff is hella pricey!)

Upcoming Events!

Please check with events directly to confirm dates and possible cancellations

September 1 - September 3

[Wisconsin Highland Games](#)

Waukesha, WI

September 2 - September 3

[157th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games](#)

Pleasanton, CA

September 2

[Capital District Scottish Games](#)

Altamont, NY

September 2 - September 3

[49TH Virginia Scottish Games](#)

The Plains, VA

September 2 - September 3

[Canmore Highland Games](#)

Canmore, Alberta

September 3

[Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games](#)

Perthshire, Scotland

September 8 - September 9

[9th Annual Flathead Celtic Festival](#)

Kalispell, MT

September 8 - September 10

[Sherwood Music Festival & Highland Games](#)

McDade, TX

September 9 - September 10

[Middle Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival](#)

Hendersonville, TN

September 15 - September 17

[OK Scotfest 2023](#)

Tulsa, OK

September 16 - September 17

[Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games](#)

Lockport, NY

September 16

[64th Ligonier Highland Games](#)

Ligonier, PA

September 16

[Fresno Scottish Society Gathering & Games](#)

Fresno, CA

September 22 - September 23

[Celtic Classic Highland Games and Festival](#)

Bethlehem, PA

September 30

[Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival](#)

Dandridge, TN

September 30

[Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival](#)

Indianapolis, IN





Largs Viking Festival: September 2nd-10th!

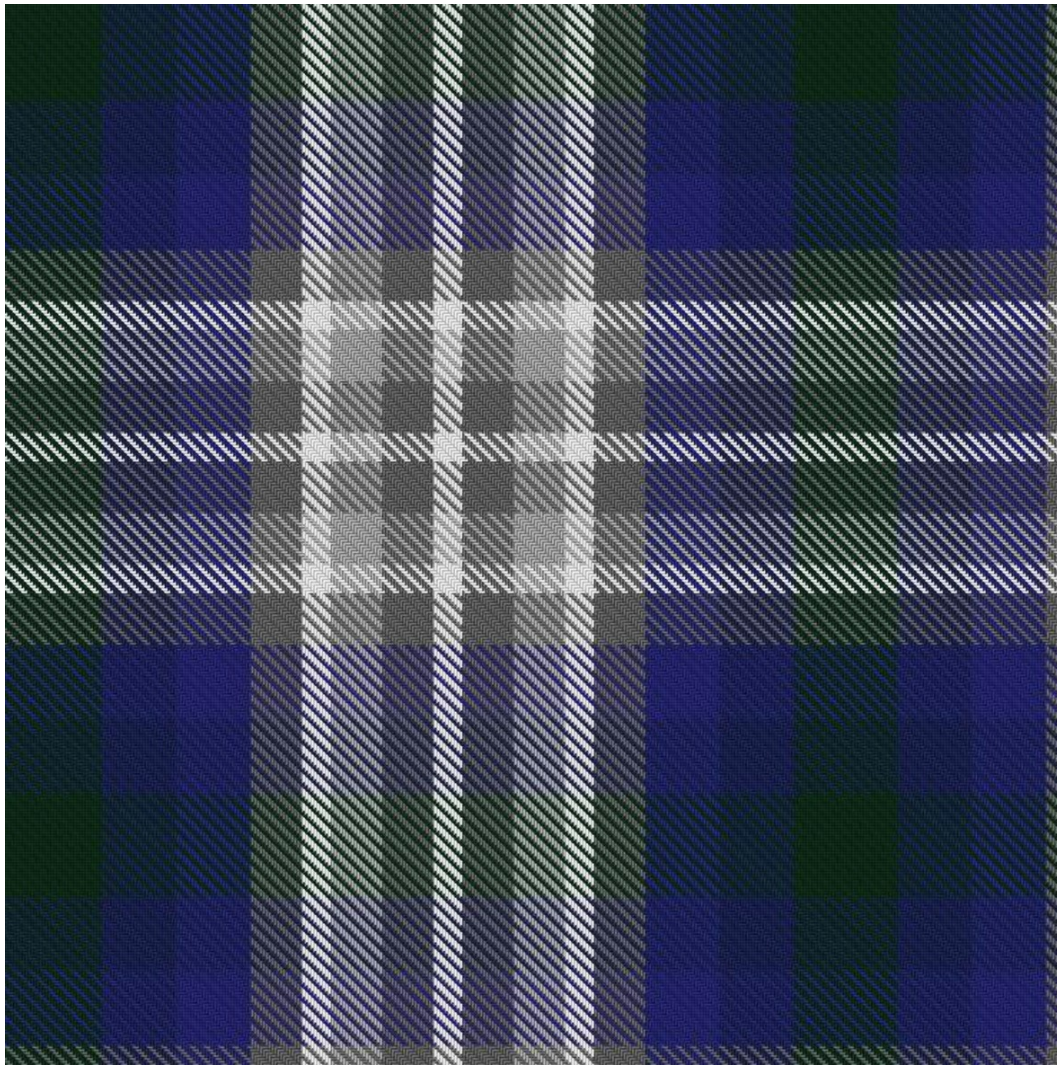
An event not listed above, but shouldn't be missed if you're in the Glasgow area is Largs Viking Festival!

Started in 1980 this Annual Festival marks the 1263 Battle of Largs, the last mainland battle between the Scots and Norse.

Each year the Living History Viking Village is open to the public so that they can get a glimpse of what life would have been like in a 13th Century Viking Village.

This year they are excited to extend the timeline to include "Scandinavian Scotland" (8th – 15th century), including the Strathleven Artizans, who will be representing King Alexander III of Scotland!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Tartan of the Month:

The Viking Heritage Tartan!

It's very difficult to be of Scottish Ancestry and not have some Nordic roots somewhere in our woodpile! So I thought it was only fitting to feature this tartan. Prepared for weaving by Lochcarron of Scotland; House of Edgar; Strathmore Woollen Company; Marton Mills. It is only sold through USA Kilts and St Kilda Store.

Meaning behind the colors: Green represents the earth; Blue represents the sea; Grey represents the fjords of Norway and the white lines are intended to represent the realms of Norse mythology.



Congratulations to The Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band!

A warm congrats to *The Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band* on winning their first Glasgow World Pipe Band Championships on August 17th! This is their first time winning in their 52-year history after having been runner-up four times!

Click below to watch the new world champions march off!





Actor Graham McTavish launches his own Bourbon label!



Whether you're an Outlander fan or even a fan of the Hobbit, The Witcher, or House of the Dragon...we all love Graham McTavish! On August 10th Graham announced his newest venture, McTavish Spirits! He made his official announcement on Instagram saying to his fans that this had "been a dream" of his since he was young. Graham then went on to discuss the story behind his idea: "It's a dream of mine, from when I was very young in Scotland when I thought about the journey that I wanted to take, going to America and the opportunity it gave me. "This really is, well, the distillation of that experience," he remarked.

You can currently purchase a bottle of "The Warchief" through his website while they begin the rollout of offering it in retail stores worldwide.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)



Monthly Castle Feature: Kenmure Castle (and possible birthplace of John Balliol)

Kenmure Castle is an old castle balanced atop of a partially natural, rocky hill and once defended by the surrounding marshy grounds below. The site has been occupied since the early Middle Ages.

The Lords of Galloway were rulers of a semi-independent kingdom in southwest Scotland until the 13th-century. There may have also been a fort located in the area.

Kenmure is considered the possible birthplace of John Balliol, born in 1249, who went on to become King of Scotland. Kenmure passed to the hands of the Gordon family in 1297. The castle was the seat of the Gordon family of Lochinvar who were later raised to the peerage as the Viscounts of Kenmure.

Kenmure has had many famous visitors, it played host to James IV in March 1508 when he was on a pilgrimage to Whithorn. The king is said to have spent time playing a form of backgammon in the castle while visiting.

The early Gordon castle on the site was destroyed by opponents of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1568 after they defeated her supporters at the Battle of Langside.

What remains now is a ruin that consists of a largely 17th-century building including a 16th-century tower house, three stories high with an attic that was extended. The castle was recorded as a ruin in 1790, but the viscountcy was restored to captain John Gordon in 1824, the castle was then extensively restored and remodeled in the 19th century, which saw large sections of the courtyard and northeast tower removed with gunpowder.

Kenmure Castle has been derelict since the mid-20th century, not in a fire as commonly believed, but after the interior fittings and fixtures and roof were removed in 1958. The ruins were listed in 1971, and since 1998, it has been considered a Scheduled Monument.

Source: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/kenmure-castle>



Monthly Cocktail Feature: Try a Bourbon-Tea Julep!

Depending on where you are in the world, there's a possibility it may still be sweltering hot outside! So why not try something refreshing such as a Bourbon-Tea Julep!

Tannins from black tea add a beautiful hint of bitterness to a classic mint julep. Oleo saccharum, also known as citrus oil, is made here by steeping lemon peels in sugar; its bright flavor is the perfect lift to finish each sip.

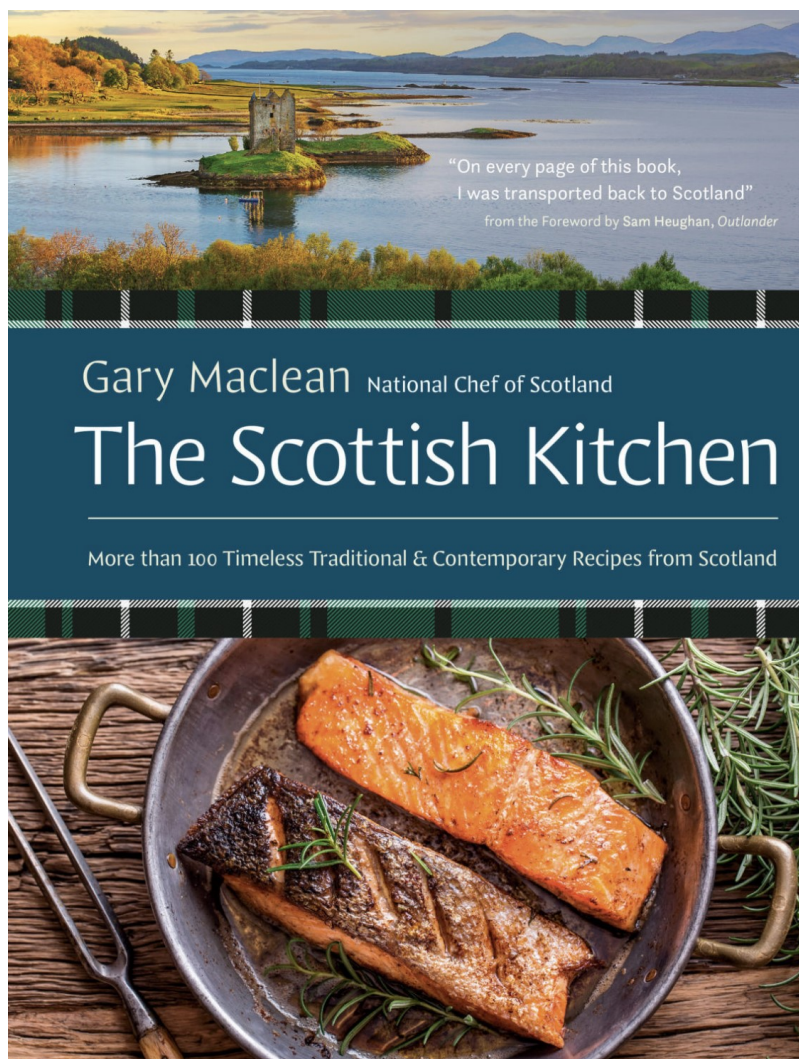
Ingredients:

- * 1 1/2 cups bourbon
- * 2 black tea bags or 2 teaspoons of loose black tea
- * 1/2 cup Oleo Saccharum (citrus oil)
- * 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, plus mint sprigs, for garnish
- * Crushed ice

Combine bourbon and tea bags in a 1-quart mason jar. Let steep 15 minutes. Discard tea bags (or strain mixture, if using loose tea), and return infused bourbon to jar. Add oleo saccharum, mint leaves, and 1

cup ice; cover tightly with lid. Shake vigorously until chilled. Fill 6 chilled mint julep cups with crushed ice; strain mixture into prepared cups. Garnish with mint sprigs.

Source: [Food & Wine Magazine](#)



The Scottish Kitchen: More than 100 Timeless Traditional and Contemporary Recipes from Scotland

Scottish cuisine is known and loved the world over—from its historic beginning hundreds of years ago to its current position on the world’s food stage—but no cookbook has ever gathered the country’s finest traditional and contemporary recipes together in one volume until The

Scottish Kitchen.

With a treasure trove of over 100 recipes, *The Scottish Kitchen* connects you to the landscape, history and ingredients that make Scottish food so distinctive—showcasing some of the world's most sought-after food, from langoustines to black puddings, hot smoked salmon to a whole chapter on haggis (including the neeps and tatties). This is the definitive Scottish cookbook from the country's National Chef. Inside you'll find a recipe for every meal and occasion, whether you're looking for tablet or shortbread to enjoy with your tea, or a feast to feed the family on Robert Burns night, *The Scottish Kitchen* combines cherished family recipes passed down through generations with innovative new twists on beloved local favorites.

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