

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com



April 2024 — Alba Gu Brath — Scotland Forever

The Highland Society of Harford County was incorporated for the preservation of the spirit, lore, poetry, art, dress, welfare, and history of the Scottish people dedicated to the promotion of these traditions among those of Scottish ancestry within Harford County and its environs.



Fellow HSHC Members –

Resignation of officers is always unfortunate but HSHC will live on, as it has for 57 years. Our immediate need is for volunteers to step up to serve as Aide de Laird and 2nd aide de Laird, at least on a temporary basis. I would appreciate hearing from any of you who would like to offer your service. They are needed. Please contact me, either at jfpolk@comcast.net or by phone at 410-939-0047.

Thank you –
John Polk, Acting Laird

HSHC Board Resignations

It is with regret that the HSHC Board of Directors has announced the resignations of Laird Keith Reagan, Aide de Laird Lady Crystal Hudson-Boyd, and 2nd Aide de Laird Erin Sullivan.

In the interim, Treasurer and former Laird John Polk will assume the role of Acting Laird and Jeanie Nesbit will remain as our Secretary.

We thank each of them for their service to the Society!



April 16 -

**OUR APRIL GATHERING
6:30 to 8:30-ish pm**

**MacGregor's Restaurant
331 St John St, Havre De Grace, MD 21078**



Theme: Todd Holden will regale us with tales of HSHC decades ago. We used to be a racus bunch, come hear all about it.

Welcome New Members!!!



Bill Fuentes,
Betsy Wasson,
Laird Keith Reagan,
Kallie & Mark Lyons

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

At our March 19th gathering, we welcomed four new members. Because of the 2024 By-Laws change, long-time member Betsy Wasson, Clan Pollack, became an individual member. She is married to Past Laird, Jim Wasson of Clan Buchanan. Kallie and Mark Lyons appeared in their new Clan Stewart tartan finery to officially join HSHC. William Fuentes, Clan Roxburg, also joined. In the absence of the long Claymore sword, Laird Keith Reagan, used his trusty dirk to dub the inductees and administered the pledge asking inductees to uphold the traditions of HSHC.

Betsy Wasson

I was an army brat, then an army wife, always moving every few years. It was a fairy tale childhood and a fun life! Both as a child and a wife.

I did 5th, 6th, and 7th grades in Austria. Learned Austrian German so well that Austrians didn't believe me when I told them I was American! Graduated from high school and college in Dublin, Ireland. Got my first driver's license there and was told there were only two traffic rules I needed to know: don't drive dangerously and don't drive discourteously.

Went to nursing school at Johns Hopkins in the 60's, but dropped out two years into a three-year program to marry Jim. Stayed home to raise our four daughters as we moved around the map, then went back to nursing school at Harford Community College and got my RN when our youngest was in middle school. Then worked 18 years at Perry Point VA Hospital. Retired from there and went to work at Brightview Assisted Living in Bel Air for 13 years.

Finally retired from there at age 75 and am now having the time of my life living here in Bulle Rock, with daily group exercise classes, golf, and cards with friends.

The patriotism and dedication of my husband and father, as they served their country in the army, overseas and at war, for a combined total of 59 years, created a rich wonderful life for me that I completely cherish.



Kallie & Mark Lyons

Kallie was born and raised in a very small town in Illinois, population 1,000, then due to the military moved around as an adult living in Florida, Maryland, and Nebraska before finally returning to Maryland in 1998. She served in the Army and Army Reserve for a total of 10 years and served during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm 1990-1991. Kallie's been employed in the logistics (warehousing) industry for 30+ years and has been at her current job as an HR Representative for 25.

Mark was born and raised in South Charleston, West Virginia. He joined the Army in 1985 and served in both Army and Army Reserve until he retired in 2006 after 21 years. He was stationed at APG in late 1985 and has lived in Maryland ever since. He served during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991 as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom 2005-2006. He spent most of that time in Balad, Iraq. Mark retired from his job at Evonik (formerly JM Huber) in 2022.

Mark and Kallie met in the Army back in 1990 and served together during Desert Shield/Storm. Some years later, a mutual friend got them together after both their previous marriages ended in divorce. They married in 1998 and as a blended family they have three children and five grandchildren. Kallie and Mark love to travel and are often on the go. Their international trips have been great but their main goal at present is to visit all 50 states. As of 2022, they have the 48 contiguous states visited. Hawaii will be checked off later this year and Alaska next year. Next up after that, Scotland!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FAMILY HERITAGE HSHC PICNIC & CELEBRATION of the TARTANS

Sunday, June 30, 2024 1:00- 5:00 PM - (lodge doors open at noon)

Harford County 4-H Center

6 Cherry Hill Rd, Street, MD 21154
(Google for directions)

Attire: Scottish (any century)

Food: Bring a favorite picnic food from your family to share.

Ample parking, onsite bathrooms, kitchen, electricity.

(Please let Andrea know by 6/20 (abowden@bcps.k12.md.us), so we are sure we have a variety of foods-appetizers, salads, meats, veggies, desserts, beverages. We need more than watermelon and beer.)



12:00 NOON LODGE OPENS

Drive up to the lodge and unload at the kitchen. Then park in the lot behind the building or down the short hill.

There is a refrigerator, sink, and counters. Please bring serving bowls and utensils. We will provide plastic ware, paper plates, napkins, and cups. We will eat at round tables and have plastic chairs. You may bring a chair to sit on outside later, if you like.

1:00 PM Picnic Lunch begins

Toasts- please offer a family favorite.

2:30 PM Celebration and Blessing of the Tartans

Wear or bring something in your tartan.

There will be a table on which to put tartan articles.

We will display the HSHC tartan banners.

3:00 PM on- Fun: games, music, dancing, stories

CD player for music of all genres.

Line dancing? Highland fling? Scottish country? Hula?

Games - please bring....

Outdoor: horseshoes, ring toss, badminton, whiffle ball, pickle ball, corn hole, whatever you've got

Indoor: cards, board games, charades, Pictionary, story telling, whatever you've got

Ideas welcome.

"Here's to lying, cheating, stealing, and drinking... If you're going to lie, lie for a friend. If you're going to cheat, cheat death. If you're going to steal, steal a heart. If you're going to drink, drink with me."

"Here's to the great artistic genius, Pablo Picasso. His last words were "Drink to me." Who am I to question genius?"

"To our sons and daughters. "May they have rich fathers and beautiful mothers."

Laird's Letter



Laird Keith Reagan

My Highland Society Fellows,

This will be the last letter of my short-lived tenure as your Laird. Regrettably, I can no longer serve as Laird of the Highland Society and have informed the Board of Directors that this is effective immediately. My intent was to serve for one year, but circumstances are such that I am no longer able to continue to serve.

I have asked the Board to continue with the plan of having charter member Todd Holden speak at the April 16 meeting. As of this writing, the location of the meeting has not been confirmed yet, so I trust you will be hearing from the Board when they have decided on the location.

Alba gu bràth
Keith Reagan

Treasurer's Report Dr. John Polk

Period: 1–31 March 2024

OLD BALANCE	\$4626.37
Expenses:	
Bank Fee	3.00
Venue & catering fee, State Theatre	150.00
Reservation Deposit, 4-H Deer Creek	275.00
Income:	
Meals, March meeting	250.00
NEW BALANCE	\$4448.37

St Patrick's Day Gathering



new member Bill Fuentes



newly inducted
Kallie & Mark Lyons



CELEBRATE TARTAN DAY - APRIL 6th

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

Let's start with a definition: A TARTAN is a woolen cloth woven in one of several patterns especially associated with a Scottish clan. Tartans have an identical pattern of stripes running vertically and horizontally resulting in overlapping square grids. Regular plaids are not necessarily the same in both directions, with variation in color, size and/or pattern of stripes. Tartan is breacan in Scottish Gaelic and has been worn in what is now Scotland at least since 217 AD when it was documented by Roman writers. Tartan was used over the centuries and is described in many European languages. Tartan kilts and cloaks were extensively used by Highlanders to distinguish clans and tartans were incorporated into coats of arms and banners.

After the Jacobites were defeated at Culloden in 1746, the English put increasing restrictions on Highland "warriors" wearing tartans, bearing arms, and gathering. The Dress Act of 1746 banned the wearing of tartans and was not repealed until 1782. The tartan was adopted more widely as the symbolic dress of all Scotland when George IV wore a tartan kilt in his 1882 visit to Scotland. Use of tartan fabric was promoted by Queen Victoria who decorated Balmoral castle in Scotland in various colors of tartan. Prince Albert, her husband, is reputed to have designed a special Balmoral tartan in 1853. The muted grey tartan is frequently worn by the Royal Family while in Scotland. Queen Elizabeth's family tartan was Royal Stewart, a predominantly red tartan that is one of the most recognizable tartans in the world. She was descended from the Royal House of Stewart in Scotland on both sides of her family.

Tartan Day, observed in the United States on April 6th every year, commemorates the day that the Declaration of Arbroath (or the Scottish Declaration of Independence) was signed in 1320. The reason it's so important is that the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on the Declaration of Arbroath and quite a number of our Founding Fathers were of Scottish descent. Almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and nine of the 13 governors of the newly established United States, were Scottish.

Tartan Day originated in Canada in the March 1986, and it serves as a day for people of the Scottish diaspora to celebrate their heritage. Over 15% of Canadians are of Scottish descent, while about 8.5% of Americans are. By March 1988, a group of Americans lobbied Congress to designate Tartan Day as April 6th. The popularity of the commemoration spread all over the world and now it is observed from Australia to Argentina, albeit on different dates. About 8.6% of Australia's population claims Scottish heritage, but that is far fewer in number than in the U.S. because of the overall size of the respective populations. Argentina has the greatest number of people of Scottish descent outside of English-speaking countries. Interestingly, Tartan Day wasn't established in Scotland until 2004.

Tartan Day usually involves wearing tartan kilts and other regalia, marching in parades, joining in gatherings to celebrate Scottish heritage, and enjoying Scottish food and drink. New York City is said to have the largest Tartan Day parade in the world and over a hundred pipe and drum units and Clan groups marching in the parade. Each year a notable person of Scottish descent is selected as Grand Marshal. For 2024 it is Dougray Scott, Emmy Award-winning Scottish actor. Past Marshals have included: Sir Sean Connery, actor Brian Cox, Sir Billy Connolly, KT Turnstall, Scottish singer-songwriter, who was the first female marshal, in 2018. In New York and a number of other cities, a whole week of activities is held. Among them is KIrkin' of the Tartans, a service usually held in churches in which tartans are blessed and Scottish heritage is celebrated. This American custom began in 1942 in Washington, D.C. to raise funds for the feeding civilians in the UK during the World War II.

There are over 4,000 recognized tartans. The official body is the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh (tartanregister.gov.uk) While most people know that clans and families have tartans, did you realize that countries, organizations, and militaries have tartans? See how you do on the quiz on the next page.



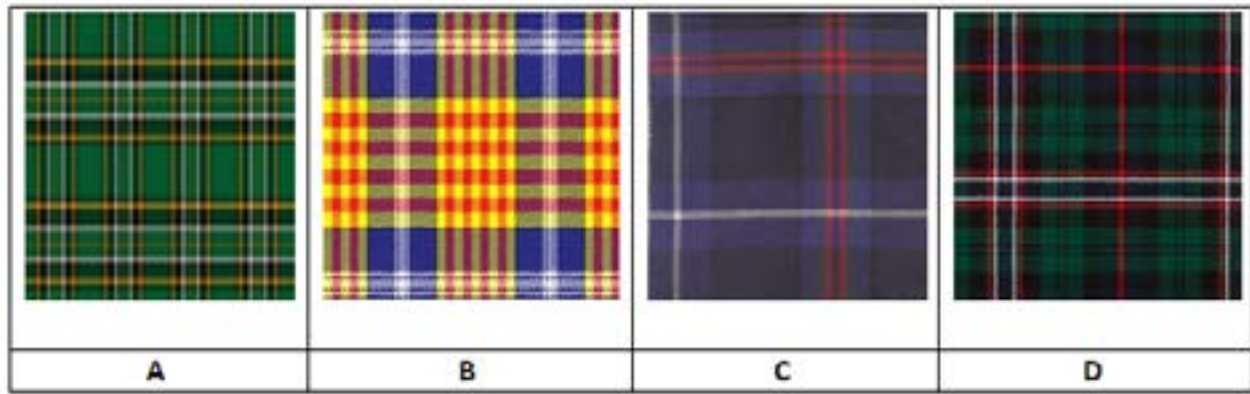
Dougray Scott

Tartan Quiz

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

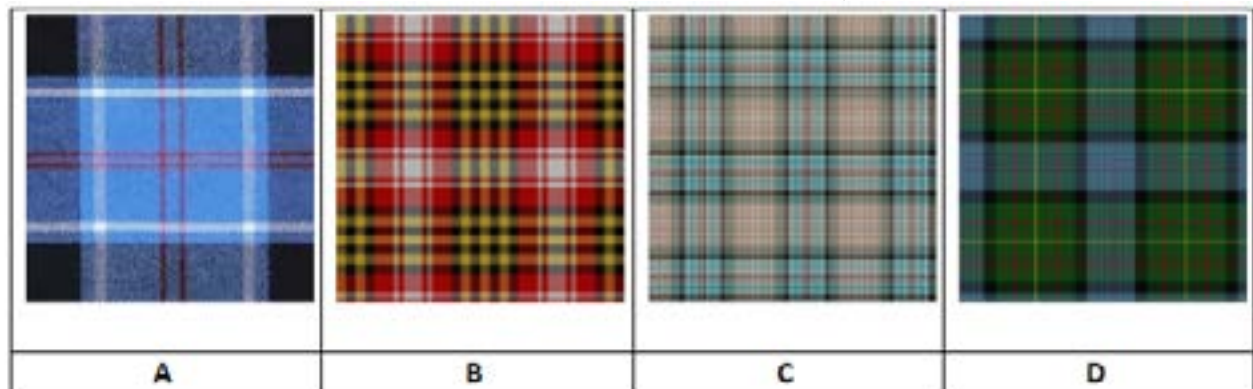
Try to match the TARTAN with the COUNTRY

NATIONAL TARTANS: SCOTLAND. IRELAND. ENGLAND. UNITED STATES



Try to match the TARTAN with the GROUP

PRINCESS DIANA MEMORIAL, U.S. NAVY, CALIFORNIA/JOHN MUIR, MARYLAND



FOR HSHC, I needed a reliable resource to find the tartan for a family name. Searching the internet yields way too many sites, most wanting you to buy all manner of merchandise in the tartan. Here is my recommendation for the BEST site to find a family name tartan: <https://www.lochcarron.co.uk/tartan-finder>

FOLLOWING UP ON THE ULSTER SCOTS, AKA SCOTS IRISH

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

At the March 19th Gathering I substituted for David Ray, who was ill, by showing my 2021 PowerPoint “Who were the Ulster Scots or Scotch Irish?” Several people asked interesting questions that motivated me to do more research.

Ancient Ireland was divided into four provinces: Munster (south), Leinster (east), Connaught (west), and Ulster (north). Modern Ireland is divided into two countries: Northern Ireland, composed of 6 counties, the ancient Ulster, plus three other counties. It was established in 1921 and is part of the United Kingdom. The remainder of ancient Ireland is now the Republic of Ireland, an independent country, comprised of 26 counties, which were established in 1937.

History shows that Nearly 250,000 Scottish Presbyterians settled in the Ulster province of Ireland in the 1600s to escape control of the Church of England. Their symbol was the burning bush and the motto “burning, but flourishing”. Besides religion, what were the other reasons that Scottish people left their homeland to reside in Ireland in the 1600s and 1700s? Here is the answer.

Starting in 1609, Scots began arriving in state-sponsored settlements as part of the “Plantation of Ulster”. This scheme was intended to confiscate all the lands of the Gaelic Irish nobility in Ulster and to settle the province with Protestant Scots and English. Dissident Scottish Presbyterians were among these emigres.

During the Irish Rebellion of 1641, the native Irish gentry attempted to extirpate the English and Scottish settlers in revenge for being driven off their ancestral land, resulting in severe violence, massacres and ultimately leading to the deaths of between four and six thousand settlers over the winter of 1641–1642. Many Ulster-Scot Presbyterians joined with the Irish in rebellion and aided them in driving out the English.

The Ulster-Scot population in Ireland was possibly preserved from complete annihilation during the subsequent Irish Confederate Wars, when a Scottish Covenanter army was sent to the province to protect the Ulster-Scot settlers from native Irish landowners. The war

itself, part of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, ended in the 1650s, with the Cromwell conquest of Ireland.

At the head of the army, Oliver Cromwell conquered all of Ireland. He defeated the Irish Confederates and English Royalists on behalf of the English Parliamentarians. Cromwell and his forces employed methods and inflicted casualties among the civilian Irish population and committed atrocities that have long been considered by reputable sources, historians and popular culture, to be outside of accepted military ethics. After the Cromwellian war in Ireland was over, many of their soldiers settled permanently in eastern Ulster.

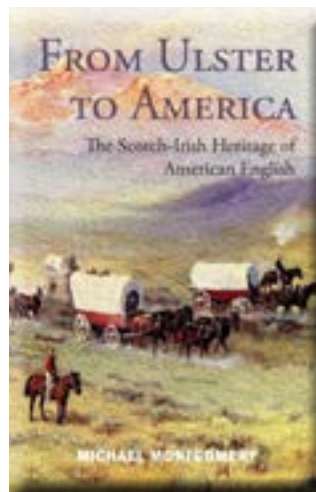
Under the Act of Settlement 1652, all Catholic-owned land was confiscated and the British Plantations in Ireland, which had been destroyed by the rebellion of 1641, were restored. However, due to the Scots’ enmity to the English Parliament in the final stages of the English Civil War, English settlers rather than Scots were the main beneficiary of this scheme.

There was a generation of calm in Ireland until another war broke out in 1689, again due to political conflict closely aligned with ethnic and religious differences. The Williamite War in Ireland (1689–1691) was fought between Jacobites who supported the restoration of the Catholic James II to the throne of England and Williamites, who supported the Protestant William of Orange.

The majority of the Protestant colonists throughout Ireland, but particularly in Ulster, fought on the Williamite side in the war against the Jacobites.

The fear of a repeat of the massacres of 1641, fear of retribution for religious persecution, as well as their wish to hold on to lands which had been confiscated from Catholic landowners, were all principal motivating factors. The Williamite forces, composed of British, Dutch, Huguenot and Danish armies, as well as troops raised in Ulster, ended Jacobite resistance by 1691, confirming the Protestant minority’s monopoly on power in Ireland. Their victories at Derry, the Boyne and Aughrim are still commemorated by the Orange Order into the 21st century.

Finally, another major influx of Scots into northern



Ireland occurred in the late 1690s, when tens of thousands of people fled a famine in Scotland to come to Ulster.

It was only after the 1690s that Scottish settlers and their descendants, the majority of whom were Presbyterian, gained numeric superiority in Ulster, though still a minority in Ireland as a whole. Along with Catholics, they were legally disadvantaged by the Penal Laws, which gave full rights only to members of the Church of Ireland (the Anglican state church), who were mainly Anglo-Irish (themselves often absentee landlords), native Irish converts or the descendants of English settlers. For this reason, up until the 1800s, there was considerable disharmony between Dissenters and the ruling Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland. With the enforcement of Queen Anne's 1703 Test Act, which caused further discrimination against all who did not participate in the established Anglican church, considerable numbers of Ulster-Scots migrated to the colonies in British America throughout the 1700s and 1800s. In fact, these 'Scots-Irish' or 'Scotch Irish' from Ulster and Lowland Scotland comprised the most numerous group of immigrants from Great Britain and Ireland to the American colonies in the years prior the

American Revolution, with an estimated 150,000 leaving northern Ireland at the time.

Partial toleration was granted to the Presbyterians in Ireland by the English government under King William III (reigned 1689–1702), but, until 1869, when complete religious toleration was granted, their harsh situation led hundreds of thousands of the Scots-Irish to migrate to North America.

Towards the end of the 1700s, many Ulster-Scots Presbyterians ignored religious differences and, along with many Catholic Gaelic Irish, joined the United Irishmen to participate in the Irish Rebellion of 1798 in support of republican and egalitarian ideals. Just a few generations after arriving in Ulster, considerable numbers of Ulster-Scots emigrated to the North American colonies of Great Britain. Between 1717 and 1775, an estimated 200,000 migrated to what became the United States of America. Around the same time, the British took control of the territory of New France (Canada), allowing many Ulster-Scots to migrate to these areas as well. By the mid -1800s, Ulster Scots would call themselves Scots Irish or Scotch Irish to differentiate themselves from the poor, Catholic emigres escaping the potato famine.



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.

WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

compiled by Dr. Andrea Bowden

KATE MIDDLETON, PRINCESS OF WALES, REVEALS CANCER DIAGNOSIS BBC

Kate Middleton has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy — a revelation the Princess of Wales shared on Friday in a personal 2.5 minute video message released by Kensington Palace. Sitting on a bench, with a field of daffodils - the symbol of hope - behind her, she spoke in a strong voice to deliver her message. She said that at the time of her abdominal surgery in January, it was understood that the issue was non-cancerous. Ultimately, post-operative tests “found cancer had been present.”

She indicated that she has been undergoing adjuvant chemotherapy since February. She asked for understanding because it has taken time for her young family to adjust. Princess Kate assured viewers “I am well and getting stronger every day by focusing on the things that will help me heal; in my mind, body and spirits.”

The type of cancer was not revealed in Princess Kate’s message, and a Kensington Palace spokesperson says, “We will not be sharing any further private medical information. The Princess has a right to medical privacy, as we all do.”

Many rushed to send words of support to Kate, including her brother-in-law Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, who wished her “health and healing.” Kate’s news makes her the third member of the royal family to publicly reveal that they have been recently diagnosed with cancer. King Charles and Sarah, Duchess of York, had both previously revealed that they had been diagnosed with cancer.

[Click here](#) for the video.



HENRY BELL’S COMET DESIGNATED WRECK from the Scottish Banner

The wreck of the Comet, Europe’s first commercial steamship, has been designated as a scheduled monument by Historic Environment Scotland. This means that visitors can dive on the wreck but must not disturb the wreck or remove artefacts. This follows the recent discovery of the wreck of Henry Bell’s Comet in the fast tidal waters of the Dorus Mor, west of Crinan, Argyll and Bute. Created by Henry Bell, a noted 19th century entrepreneur from Helensburgh, Comet was a wooden paddle steamer, built in Port Glasgow by John Wood & Sons in 1811-12. Designed to carry passengers between Port Glasgow and Helensburgh, the name ‘Comet’ is a direct reference to the Great Comet of 1811, a celestial event in which a comet passed by the earth and was visible to the naked eye for 260 days. Comet was operational for eight years on the Clyde, then the Forth and from September 1819, on a new Glasgow to Fort William service. Wrecked off Craginish Point, west of Crinan, on 19 December 1820, the vessel is believed to have split in half after running aground due to a navigational error. Henry Bell’s Comet is of international significance as Europe’s first commercial steamship and occupies an important place in the history of steam powered navigation.



SIX SCOTTISH CLANS TO CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE AND RENEW ALLIANCES AT KILTS & COWBOY BOOTS from the Scottish Banner

The first-ever “Kilts and Cowboy Boots,” sponsored by Clan Colquhoun International Society, is an exciting three-day event, to be held April 4-7, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas, coinciding with the Scottish Games & Festival, held April 5-6 at Helotes Festival Grounds. Invited clans include: Colquhoun, MacFarlane, MacEwen, Graham, Buchanan and Hunter. Members and guests of the six clans are invited to join in the inaugural celebration. A little background history: For hundreds of years Scottish clans in the Lennox fought for domination and resources. Ancient alliances between the MacFarlane’s and MacGregors against Clan Colquhoun are well documented. The Battle of Glen Fruin is one of the most famous events. In modern times, clans in the U.S. share space in Scottish Games across the country. “This is a historically significant event,” says Michael Lloyd-Stern, executive director of Clan Colquhoun International Society. “We’re bringing together clans in our shared love of Scotland and its heritage. But instead of fighting, we will be feasting – and line dancing, Texas style!” After all, an estimated 20 million people in the US are of Scottish descent.

NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND GIFTED FLEECE OF DOLLY THE SHEEP

THE SHEEP from the Scottish Banner

National Museums Scotland has acquired a fleece from Dolly the Sheep. The fleece, which recently appeared on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, has been donated to the National Collections by Dr William A. Ritchie, the embryologist on the Roslin Institute team that created Dolly, the world's first mammal cloned from an adult cell. In addition to the fleece, glass pipettes, and an electrical fusion machine have been donated. The tools were crucial to the success of the Roslin Institute's groundbreaking cloning procedure.



Dolly the Sheep was born in 1996 at the Roslin Institute just outside Edinburgh. Her birth captured the public imagination and transformed scientific understanding of biology and medicine. Inspired by the adult mammary gland cell used to create her, Dolly was named after Dolly Parton, the American country and western singer. She spent her entire life in Roslin where she gave birth to six healthy lambs and died in 2003 aged six. Preserved on a custom-built fiber glass frame, Dolly has been on display at the National Museum of Scotland for almost 20 years and remains one of the museum's most popular exhibits.

ANCIENT FACES BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AT SCOTTISH MUSEUM

from Perth Museum

Dramatic reconstructions of local people who lived up to 4,000 years ago will go on display thanks to advanced DNA techniques. A Bronze Age woman who suffered lower back pain 4,000 years ago and an Iron Age Pictish man who lived a life of hard labour 1,500 years ago are among our ancient ancestors who have been brought to life in dramatic facial reconstructions. Cutting-edge technology will enable visitors to Scotland's new Perth Museum to come face to face with four individuals from our past in modern-day Perthshire. Scientists at Aberdeen University have analyzed human remains in the museum's collection, using the latest advances in ancient DNA, isotopes and radiocarbon analysis, as well as reconstruction forensics. The tests have revealed new and surprising findings about four very different people who lived in Perthshire over the last two millennia.



They include a 14th-century man, who was aged between 18 and 25 when he was apparently murdered, and a 16th-century nun from the medieval Cistercian nunnery of Elcho, who probably had a limp, as she had broken her foot at some stage. The Bronze Age woman's remains were found during ploughing at Lochlands farm, Perthshire, when a tractor broke into a burial chamber in 1962. She was about five foot tall and is thought to have been in her thirties or forties at her death. Remains of the Pictish man were unearthed during construction work at Bridge of Tilt, Blair Atholl, in the 1980s. The analysis has revealed that he spent his childhood on the west coast, or possibly in Ireland, and endured years of hard agricultural work, judging from a level of osteoarthritis that would not be expected in an individual who died in his forties. In the museum each individual moves with extraordinary realism in the digital portraits, peering out at the onlooker as they turn their head and look around. If they were to be alive today, they would not stand out in a crowd, the scientists said.

SHETLAND'S UP HELLY AA BREAKS ALL MALE TRADITION



from the Scottish Banner

This year's Up Helly Aa fire festival in Lerwick has broken a 143-year-old tradition, by welcoming females of all ages into its main procession squad for the first time. Up Helly Aa is a historic event which takes place on the streets of Lerwick, Shetland.

Europe's largest fire festival traditionally takes place every year on the last Tuesday in January and attracts many visitors. It marks the end of Yuletide and a tribute to Shetland's Viking heritage. The very first torchlit procession took place in 1881. Tradition had dictated women were not part of the main squad celebrations, as they were expected to prepare the halls with food and drink for the men. This year saw women wielding axes for the first time and joining hundreds of men dressed in traditional Viking outfits and carrying flaming torches through the narrow Lerwick streets.

MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
7:03pm - 8:32pm

Greetings and Welcome to all were given by Laird Keith. Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

A few opening announcements:

Our scheduled presenter Dave Ray called out sick. Dave was to present a talk on 'Scots who migrated to Ireland'. Since he cannot be with us tonight, Andrea graciously stepped in in his absence and presented her prepared piece on the topic. Aide-de-Laird Crystal is also out this evening, as well as 2nd Aide-de-Laird Erin, who was scheduled to be out on medical leave.

Pledge of Allegiance - Laird Keith Reagan

Toast to the Presidency - Ray Buchanan

Toast to the Monarchy - John Polk

Toast to Scotland - Jim Wasson

Laird Keith raised a toast to all celebrating birthdays - Brian Nesbit's birthday is today! - and to warmer weather ahead.... And to the Buchanan's on 53 years of marriage!

Announcements:

- Three folks will be inducted into the Society this evening after dinner.
- In April, Todd Holden will speak about the history of the Society. (Jeanie and Brian Nesbit will be in Scotland; Erin will be taking meeting minutes this month)
- In May, Nancy will hold a gin tasting. (Keith and Joanna will be in Morocco; Crystal will lead this month's meeting)

- June will be the Society picnic.

Laird Keith is wearing the kilt tartan of County Cork. Where Scottish tartans identify Clan names, Irish tartans identify the Counties of Ireland.

Everyone enjoyed a potluck dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, brown bread, broccoli salad, fruit salad, Brussels sprouts... as well as wonderful sweets including Guinness cake, mint fudge, brownies and birthday cupcakes.

Society Business:

- Mark & Kallie Lyons and Bill Fuentes recited the oath of the Society and were officially inducted by Laird Keith and welcomed by the members of the HSHC. Additionally, Betsy Wasson has changed her membership from spouse to individual member.
- Laird Keith has confirmed with all in attendance that emails are reaching everyone for Society communications.
- A July social activity is being considered, possibly an Ironbirds game or boat ride. Discussion was also brought up to potentially start Hogmanay again this year after an absence for a few years.
- Andrea would like any recipes from the potluck or recent events sent to her via email. Also, if you would like your photo in the member directory changed, send Andrea a photo you would like her to use (jpg or png are preferred).
- The June Picnic has been confirmed for June 30th at the 4H Center from 1pm-5pm. Theme: Family Heritage,



Jeanie Nesbit

traditional food. Start thinking about what you would like to bring and let Andrea know so she can start a list.

- Calling of the Clans at the Picnic will be a recognition of the Tartans. Details will be coming.
- Our March feature: Who Are The Ulster Scots? Presented by Andrea Bowden. Followed by, How do you pronounce 'Scone'?
- Reminder - Keith and Crystal are researching MacGregor's for a potential new venue for alternating our meeting location with the State Theater. More information to come!

Upcoming Events -

Dillsburg Celtic Festival, April 13 & 14

Fairhill Scottish Games May 18

Carroll County Celtic Festival June 8 & 9

PenMar Irish Festival June 15 & 16

Celtic Fling PA June 22 & 23

Meeting adjourned 8:32pm

Andrea Bowden's email:
abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

THE CROWN OF THE CELTS – RED HAIR

by Dr. Andrea Bowden



Typical depictions of Irish people, from leprechauns to movie stars, portray them with red or “ginger” hair. Ireland has the highest per capita percentage of redheads in the world -- anywhere from 10 to 30 %, according to Eupedia, a website that explores European genetics and ancestry. They are almost equally prevalent in Scotland (6 to 28 percent) and other pockets of Celtic pride. A slightly lower percentage hail from Cornwall in England and western parts of Switzerland. What do we know about red hair?

Famous modern people with red hair are Prince Harry, Sarah Ferguson, Conon O’Brien, many of the Kennedy clan, Ed Sheeran, Chuck Norris, Emma Stone, Juliana Moore, Adele, Brendan Gleeson, Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley of Harry Potter fame), Shaun White, Reba McEntire, Willie Nelson, David Bowie, Dale Earnhardt, Maureen O’Hara, Rita Hayworth, Lucille Ball, Malcolm X, Ron Hubbard, James Cagney, Mickey Rooney. Historians also count these notables as ginger-haired: Leonardo Da Vinci, Galileo Galilei, Richard Lionheart, Genghis Khan, Queen Elizabeth I, King Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Eric the Red, Christopher Columbus, Isabella of Spain, Vincent Van Gogh, Oliver Cromwell, Vivaldi, Alexander II of Scotland, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, Emily Dickinson, Andrew Jackson, Mark Twain, Florence Nightingale, Vladimir Lenin, James Joyce, and Winston Churchill.

Red hair is associated with the gene MC1R, a recessive and somewhat rare gene that occurs in only about 2 percent of the world's population, according to the National Institutes of Health. That means both parents must carry a copy of the gene to produce a red-haired child and often the trait skips generations. Rarest of all are redheads with blue eyes. The majority have brown eyes or hazel or green shades. My mother’s eyes were brown and her hair was auburn, which darkened with age. There were several redheads in her Burns and McMahon families, which were of Irish descent. My father’s hair was medium brown and his eyes were blue, but there were several redheads among his Scottish ancestors in the McMillan and Bell families. My eyes are blue and my hair is red, and I have lots of freckles, an excellent example of the recessive nature of genes for blue eyes and red hair which I inherited from my parents and their Scottish and Irish ancestors.



Lady Crystal Hudson-Boyd, a redhead, recalls, “Neither of my parents had red hair. Dad had grass green eyes and Mom had gray eyes and was brunette. Dad’s hair was white-blonde when he was a child but darkened to nearly black as an adult. My maternal grandmother’s family was full of redheads. My Mom’s side had the most redheads in the MacNeil branch. That side also has many of the classic Celtic combo of black hair and blue eyes. Dad’s side of the family only had one redhead that I knew of, and she was my father’s aunt on the Hudson side.”

WHY SO MANY REDHEADS IN THE UK?

So why are there so many redheads in Ireland, Scotland, and Northern England? The popular theory is that Vikings brought blonde- and red-haired genes via their many raids. (Remember the plundering Scandinavian Erik the Red?) Another newer and more genetically based theory is that the genes actually originated in Ireland, Scotland, and England and were spread from these countries to the Scandinavian countries by the Vikings. Genetic genealogy has revealed a high percentage of people from southwest Norway have what is known as haplogroup Rib-L21, including its subclade, Rib-M222, which is also typical of northern Ireland. Genealogists speculate that may be because the Vikings took Celtic female slaves from Ireland to that part of Norway.

According to an Article in Edinburgh News, “Scientists working on Scotland's DNA project have discovered that variants of the red-hair gene are carried by 40 percent of the population in the south-east region, compared to rates of 35 percent in the west and 37 percent in northeast Scotland. In northwest Scotland, taking in the isle of Lewis, the proportion of carriers drops to just 29 percent - putting it on a par with Devon and Cornwall in England. The researchers behind the DNA project now believe that the red-hair gene emerged in Scotland thousands of years ago, contradicting commonly held beliefs that it was brought here by the Vikings or successive waves of Celtic migration.”

“The place where the gene is found in the highest frequency is its likeliest country of origin, and nowhere else in Britain or Ireland has matched the 40 percent rate detected in Scotland. The gene spread and became rife: the 1st-century Roman historian Tacitus described

the tribal people living in the north of Britain, known as Caledonians, as "red-haired and large-limbed". The reason the gene took hold so strongly is believed to be its role in increasing vitamin D absorption from sunlight in the dull and cloudy climate of northern Britain."

One ancestry company, BritainsDNA, now offers parents the chance to see if they carry the recessive gene by sending in their saliva for testing. If both do, they have a one in four chance of conceiving a redhead. BritainsDNA conducted the biggest study of redhead genetics in the country, with more than 2,300 people who have undergone DNA tests.

Interestingly, redheads are more sensitive to hot and cold. One 2008 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed they need about 20 percent more anesthesia to knock them out for surgery. Redheads are also better at making their own vitamin D, which helps protect against osteoporosis, because their bodies are more efficient at soaking up sunlight, according to Yahoo Health. Scottish researcher Jonathan Rees suggests the "ginger gene" may have helped protect redheads from rickets.

According to an article in Huffington Post UK, redheads share some other interesting traits: their hair is harder to dye than other shades; they have fewer, but thicker strands of hair, and they go gray more slowly—usually the hair just gets lighter, but not gray. But there

are also health disadvantages. The color of human skin, hair and eyes is dictated by two types of melanin pigment that are produced in the upper layers of the skin: pheomelanin, which is reddish-yellow, and eumelanin, which is brownish-black. A 2012 study from the journal Nature, found that the pigment pheomelanin, which gives hair the red color, makes redheads more susceptible to the melanoma than fair-skinned blonds, even when they cover up their skin.

The personality traits of red heads - real and imagined - are varied. They are said to have a quick, "fiery" tempers, but are unusually loyal and courageous. There is evidence that they are intelligent and creative in both the arts and sciences and many redheads have distinguished themselves as natural leaders. It seems the advantages of being redheaded far outweigh the disadvantages. With redheads comprising only 2 percent of the world's population, they are indeed rare breed!

(SJ's note: While walking past my redheaded daughter's desk, the Irish owners of the company (on a visit to the U.S.) overheard her refer to herself as "this ginger". They all stopped on a dime, turned to her, and stared. She saw their horror and told them ginger isn't a vile, derogatory word in the U.S., and can even be used with pride when talking about themselves. Whew, crisis averted. // For you newcomers, Maryann was our HSHC secretary for 10+ years.)

NOT AN APRIL FOOL JOKE!

from Getty Museum, contributed by Dr. Andrea Bowden

The Bonnacon is quite an amusing animal of the medieval bestiary, a type of European manuscript filled with images of animals mythical and real, common and exotic. Almost all of the animals in the bestiary are associated with a Christian moral allegory. The bonnacon is set apart from these, however, because it seems to have no moral attached to its story.

The bonnacon is a mythical, bull-like beast with the mane of a horse and horns that spiral inward on top of its head. The bonnacon's curved horns are not effective for defending itself against hunters, so instead it shoots a stream of potent dung that can burn anything in its path. In manuscripts the attacking hunters are depicted either with full armor, or just spears and shields, to defend themselves from the fiery jet of excrement. The hunter's facial expressions show wide eyes, and postures of defense. Perhaps the moral of this story is beware of the FIERY FART!



Easter Chocolate Truffles Recipe

<https://www.scottishrecipes.co.uk/Easter-Chocolate-Truffles-Recipe.php>

This quick and easy Easter chocolate truffles recipe will make about sixteen egg like shapes

Ingredients

- 1-1/4 C (175g) of dark chocolate
- 2 T (25g) of butter
- 1/5 C (45mls) of double cream*
- 3 T (30mls) of cocoa powder

Directions

Break the dark chocolate into small pieces and place into a bowl along with the double cream and the butter. Melt over a boiling pan of water or in the microwave for about 30 seconds on full power.

Stir the mixture until it becomes smooth, then set aside for about an hour to cool and set.

Take a piece of the mixture and form into the shape of an egg. Repeat until there is no chocolate mixture left.

Sprinkle the cocoa powder on a large piece of greaseproof paper, then roll the egg-shaped chocolates in the cocoa powder until they are fully coated.

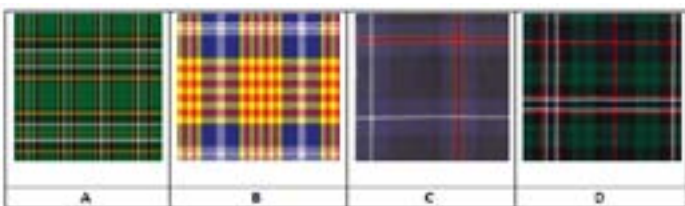
Place into a decorative box if gifting for Easter or put into paper cases.

* Double cream lives up to its name by boasting one of the highest butterfat contents of all the cream varieties, weighing in at 48%. (For extra context, heavy cream or heavy whipping cream's fat content is 36-38%, and whipping cream's is 30%.)



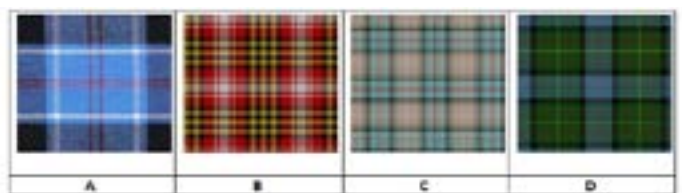
Answers to the Tartan Quiz

NATIONAL TARTANS:



SCOTLAND= D, IRELAND= A, ENGLAND= B,
UNITED STATES=C

TARTAN GROUPS:



PRINCESS DIANA MEMORIAL= C, U.S. NAVY= A,
CALIFORNIA/JOHN MUIR= D, MARYLAND= B