



May-June 2020

The Caledonian

Published by The Caledonian Society of Hawaii

The Society Invites You to a Scheduled Zoom Meeting.

The Caledonian Society is doing our first online meeting **Saturday night, May 30, at 7:00 pm.** You are invited to attend this Zoom meeting titled **"The Wizard Meets the King: John Anderson meets King Kamehameha IV."** The presenter will be member Hardy Spoehr, who has made a detailed study of some of Hawaii's royal figures.

If you would like to attend, please register by using the link below and a confirmation email will be sent with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Time: Saturday, May 30, 2020 * 07:00 PM Hawaii Standard Time



Hardy Spoehr

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOipqTlvH9W5_aL3Rq46n_hI9IbLqj6M

If you have questions please contact Tina Yap at tinaeyap@hotmail.com.

Use your device's calendar to download the information, and it should save all the instructions needed to join the meeting on Saturday.

"ARE YE NO AFEARED O' THE WEE VIRUS?"

This was the question asked in February by a Glaswegian at the Queen Street train station in Glasgow where he and New Yorker writer, Anthony Lane, were waiting for the night train, the Caledonian Sleeper to London. Lane probably had given some thought to "the wee virus," but he says, "I was too excited by the thought of catching the wee train to be worried about catching anything else." He finished his much-anticipated journey and went on to write an intriguing article on the romance of traveling by sleeper trains in Europe. It was published in the **May 8th issue of *The New Yorker***. His send-off in Scots from his fellow tea drinker at the Burger King on the concourse in Glasgow was no doubt part of the charm of his journey.

A Scottish man visits Canada for the first time.

He goes for a hike and sees a moose. He asks the park ranger,

"Oi! What animal is that then?"

"That's a moose," the ranger replied.

"A moose!" exclaimed the Scotsman, "If that there's a moose, dear laddie, ye must have rats the size of elephants then!"



Chieftain's Column: From the Craig

This newsletter comes out in the midst of the COVID19 crisis and social distancing that we are hopefully all adhering to. Unfortunately, as with many organizations holding member meetings and events, we have had to defer some of ours until the State safely opens up and the events we had scheduled can be rescheduled. Our Annual General Membership meeting is normally held in June and will be deferred until later this year or scheduled online for June 27th. However, **we have openings** on the Council for Membership Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are both important to the Society's ability to function smoothly. Please contact me (Bruce) at 538-7707 if you are able to join the Council in one of these positions. Be well everyone. We dream about a time when a trip to Scotland will be possible, and I'm sure it will bring a smile. Slàinte, Bruce

Member News

May Birthdays Susan Anderson, Ian Birnie, Steve Craven, Stuart Donachie, Walter Killough, Ian Laing, Beth MacNeil, Ron MacPherson, Mary O'Brien-Ichikawa, Irene Robertson, Adele and William Sefrhans.

Honorable Mention *Scottish-born writers*
Sir James Matthew (J.M.) Barrie, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

June Birthdays Leslie Bray, Jean Bruce, Hamish Burgess, Leilani Maguire, and Marcy Moore.

Note: If your birthday is in May or June and you don't see your name listed here, we probably don't have it in our database. We want to celebrate your special month too, so please contact Jeannie Ferrier at 271-0779 or by email at jferrier@msn.com.

The Society Dues are due in June. We understand that the COVID19 pandemic has created economic hardships for many of our members. The Council has decided that any member who is unable to or would find it difficult to pay the 2020 dues may freely elect to forego payment of their dues this year without penalty or loss of membership in the Society. If you can afford the \$30, the Society is grateful. Also, life members who would like to help others by providing a donation please know it will help offset those dues as well and is a 501c(3) donation. Send your payments to: The Caledonian Society; P.O. Box 4164; Honolulu, HI 96812.

Member Jeannie Ferrier has been a regular caller to a show from Scotland "Thank Folk it's Friday" on www.celticmusicradio.net. She has thoroughly enjoyed listening to their programs and calls in often to talk to the host about things going on in Hawaii.

Member Tory Laitila has an interesting essay in the May 25-31 Honolulu Museum of Art (HOMA) newsletter titled **Staying "in" fashion, or the #infit**. He says "an infit is the opposite of an outfit." During times of distress, like the pandemics of COVID19 today and influenza in 1918-1919, people tend to stay inside and will dress in more leisure wear. Tory is the Curator of Textiles and Fashion at HOMA. Find the full article at www.blog.honoluluacademy.org.

Thanks to Member Mary O'Brien-Ichikawa ** "I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?"

Member Kathy Titchen would like to share some of her family's ancestry with us.

"Recently there was a story about a woman named Connie Titchen in Birmingham, England who had the C-virus and recovered. She is 106 years old! I never knew much about the Scottish side of my hubby's family but their name was evidently MacAlasdair. At some point they changed it with a few variations. I found recently that I am part Native American. Scots went all over the world, had many achievements, and some of their sons of mixed blood in this country became Native American chiefs."

Bill Comerford, owner of O'Toole's and other Irish pubs in Honolulu, was featured on the front page of the *Star Advertiser* on May 18th. As the restaurants are beginning to open and we are venturing out again, let's all remember to patronize businesses in Hawaii.

Fun YouTube Andrew Cotter, a Scottish BBC sportscaster, has play by play videos of his dogs and other animals and situations.



J.M.BARRIE, Scottish author 1860-1937



J.M. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland, on May 9, 1860. He grew up to be the author of *Peter Pan* and a number of other plays and novels.

Incidentally Kirriemuir, a small town north of Dundee, was the birthplace of more than 70 immigrants to Hawaii in the late 1800's. In our Caledonian Society book, *The Story of Scots in Hawaii*, a chapter by the late Alexander Pratt introduces some of these immigrants and is titled, "They Came from Kirriemuir."

Barrie was the 9th of 10 children, who lived in two rooms upstairs from the father's weaving workshop. The National Trust for Scotland now owns the building and grounds and has refurbished the upstairs with built-in box beds as the rooms would have been in Barrie's time. A washhouse outside may have been the inspiration for the Wendy House in *Peter Pan*. Centerpiece of the newly refurbished garden is now Tick-Tock, a sculpture of a crocodile fashioned out of driftwood by James Doran-Webb to represent the crocodile who ate Captain Hook's hand in *Peter Pan* (shown at right).



For more on Barrie's life see *The National Trust for Scotland* article by Ian Riches at: nts.org.uk/stories/a-glimpse-into-the-life-of-j-m-barrie.

The National Trust for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland is a major conservation charity organization, whose mission is to protect and care for Scotland's heritage and to make historical sites available for people to experience. The Trust owns and manages more than 130 properties and 180,000 acres of land including castles, dwellings, historic sites, gardens and remote rural areas, including islands and mountains.

We recommend joining the American Foundation for the National Trust for Scotland, NTSUSA. Use these letters to find it online. The group has a substantial presence online featuring beautiful pictures and videos. Members who join the trust are admitted free to all trust properties for visits and receive a seasonal magazine featuring specific properties and projects. Special events are often held at Trust properties, such as concerts and seasonal events such as an Easter Egg hunt.



*"The Pineapple" is located 1 mile west of Airth and 7 miles east of Stirling.
Pineapples were first grown in Scotland in 1731.*

The Trust's most popular site is the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. One of its big current projects is building a replica cottage at Glencoe. Many of the trust properties are places that any visitor to Scotland might want to include on an itinerary anyway. Two such properties in Edinburgh are The Georgian House and Gladstone's Land, representing two very different eras of Scottish urban living.

How the English Failed to Stamp Out the Scots Language

Against all odds, 28 percent of Scottish people still use it.

Atlas Obscura Dan Nosowitz

Caledonian Society council member Brian Richardson found on getpocket.com an article which discusses the Scots language. Scotland is predominately an English-speaking country with Scots Gaelic making a strong comeback. But there is another language struggling to stay alive and vibrant—Scots. The author of the article, Dan Nosowitz, describes the Scots language this way:

What Scots really is is a fascinating centuries-old Germanic language that happens to be one of the most widely spoken minority native languages, by national percentage of speakers, in the world. You may not have heard of it, but the story of Scots is a story of linguistic imperialism done most effectively, a method of stamping out a country’s independence, and also, unexpectedly, an optimistic story of survival. Scots has faced every pressure a language can face, and yet it’s not only still here—it’s growing.

The article includes several quotes from Billy Kay, Scots language advocate and author of *The Mither Tongue*. Billy and his wife visited Hawaii in 2016, and subsequently he wrote and aired a radio show on the Scots who came to Hawaii.

You can read the whole article at:

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-the-english-failed-to-stamp-out-the-scots-language>

