



Sept-Oct 2021

The Caledonian

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Scottish Spooky Folklore *Saturday, October 23, 2021 @ 5:30PM* *Via Zoom (Link will be sent 10/22/21)*



Caledonian members will read scary Scottish stories for your enjoyment on Saturday, October 23rd starting at 5:30PM. A week before Halloween is a great time to hear some spooky, legendary Scottish stories. Let's treat this event rather like a ceilidh at which attendees may find and choose a ghostly Scottish tale to read or tell. Please let Lillian Cunningham know in advance what your story is so we can be sure we hear a variety of stories. (lillianc@hawaii.edu). Or Lillian would be glad to choose and send you a story for you to read. She has a collection of short

Highland folktales about fairies, haunted houses, witchcraft, monsters, merfolk, and the Highland second sight.

In addition to traditional supernatural tales, we will also hear from Council member Janice Choate-Zavakos about some contemporary, more urban ways of celebrating this season. As we won't have wreaths of blue peat-smoke or flickering flames from a fireplace to set our atmosphere, let's each light a candle and set it next to our computer. Turn the lights down a bit if you feel safe doing so. Of course, you may attend even if you would rather not read a story yourself. Everyone **please reserve** your spot at the virtual fireside by emailing Kevin Bogan at kevin.bogan@gmail.com.

Important Renewal Reminder!

Membership Renewal Fee In 2020 the Society Council voted to forgive dues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (from July 1 to June 30 each year). It is now time to renew the membership fee for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This fee allows the Society to underwrite events (especially for guest performers like Bill Mullen) and provide monies for the storage of our many books, event supplies, and archives of the history of the Society. Please see our website www.scotsinhawaii.org to use a credit card or mail your \$30 check to: The Caledonian Society, P.O. Box 4164, Honolulu, HI 96812-4164.

Caledonian Society Calendar

2021-2022 (Subject to Change)

Saturday, October 23, 2021 Scottish Spooky Folklore 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 **Via Zoom**

Pre-Hogmanay history & Scottish Heroes #9 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 29, 2022 Burns Night 5:30 p.m.

Venue TBD

Saturday, February 12, 2022 Festivals Held in Scotland 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12, 2022 Tartans & Kilts 5:30 p.m.

(Doug Herring & Tori Laitila)

Saturday & Sunday, April 2-3, 2022

Highland Festival & Games

Saturday, May 14, 2022 Genealogy with focus on Queen Elizabeth II Heritage and Scottish Genealogy 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 2, 2022 Queen Elizabeth II 70th Anniversary Celebration at Iolani Palace 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 Annual General Membership Meeting 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chieftain's Column: From the Craig



We've just finished our first event on the 2021-2022 event calendar and our member presentation was excellent as usual. While the following events are anticipated to be in-person, we will need to adjust based on pandemic protocols in place. We have begun planning for the 2022 Burns Night celebration, which we really hope will be an opportunity for live presentations, with the full pipe band stirring our Scottish blood. Let's think positively about what we will be able to enjoy.

The event calendar has been sent out, so you will see there are opportunities for members to participate, whether in-person or virtual. I know we have storytellers and presenters in our member ranks and hope that we will get volunteers. The October 23 meeting is a perfect time for the storytellers to entertain us. Please start planning your participation.

Slàinte, Bruce bemacewan@gmail.com

Member News

September Birthdays. Jodi Bearden, Shannon Brady, Carol Anne Gordon, Tory & Kristen Laitila, Heather MacGregor, Celia Main-Anakalea, and Bruce McEwan.

October Birthdays Kalani Brady, Donna Calkins, Skipper Calleon, Mary Fraser, Bill Gillespie, and Jamie McOuat.

Opportunity to Own

We recently received some Buchan stoneware from a member and would like to know if there are any members who would like to own these. There are 5 dinner plates, 5 cups, 4 saucers, 1 small plate, and one creamer. (All to go as a set) Please give a donation to the Caledonian Society.

Call Chieftain McEwan at 808-538-7077.



Note: If your birthday is in September or October 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 Kevin Campbell Bogan at 778-4697 or by email at kevin.bogan@email.com.

Another Opportunity

Member Jim Redmond was given items from a Scottish friend and would like to know if there are people in the Society interested in acquiring them.

These items can go separately or as a whole set. Please contact Jim at 808-277-1091. An appropriate donation to the Society is welcome.

2 Sgian Dubh; 1 Dirk (large) with scabbard and belt;
2 pair of flashes with garters; 1 Sporrans with chain belt;
1 large Scottish pin; 1 Scottish belt with buckle;
4 Scottish patches; 3 pairs of kilt hose; and 1 kilt pin.



GOING TO SCOTLAND? SOME NEW AND FUN THINGS TO DO.

By Bruce MacEwan

Lillian Cunningham and Bruce McEwan recently returned from Scotland and found some new activities that they wanted to share:

Glasgow: Take a tour of Central Station (*below*) the main train station in Glasgow. The guided tour takes you to the underground regions of the station. The tour covers the history of Central Station, the importance of trains in the development of Glasgow, a museum of railroad memorabilia, and a look at an abandoned rail area, where they plan to bring in a steam locomotive and set up a period exhibit. Check it out at www.glasgowcentraltours.co.uk.



Edinburgh: Some people may be familiar with a National Trust for Scotland property on the Royal Mile in Old Town called Gladstone's Land. This is a property that dates back to the 16th C. It's a three-story building that has been refurbished to show life in this part of Edinburgh in three different centuries and is very visitor friendly. The top floor is a bed sit for local workers set in 1911. You can see how a bachelor would be living. The landlady put out an ad for "two or three respectable men."

The second floor is set up as a draper's shop owned by a couple and some fashions of the day can be seen. The time is 1766 and shows the prosperousness of a successful business. The first floor shows the apartment of a wealthy couple in 1632. It shows how the wealthier class invested in decorations and furniture of the period. There is also a café and a treat is an elderflower and lemon curd ice cream made from a recipe that was discovered as a popular flavour in the early centuries. It is delicious. *The picture above is from The Edinburgh Reporter.*



Edinburgh:

New Town has a marvelous exhibit built by the international drinks giant Diageo. They have invested millions of pounds to create the Johnnie Walker Experience. It is located in the West End of Princes Street and it is spectacular.

JOHNNIE WALKER LABELS



LIMITED EDITIONS

From JohnnieWalker.com

Johnnie Walker is a flagship brand for Diageo, which owns a couple dozen distilleries in Scotland. The exhibit is a multi-story event venue with a couple of special tours available. We took the Flavour of Johnnie Walker Tour, which covered the history of John Walker and the growth of the company he founded. This was done in a very dramatic stage presentation. Besides going into the production of whisky, there is emphasis on blending, since the Johnnie Walker products are blends. What makes this tour unique is the survey done for each guest before the tour begins. It is a series of questions about your personal taste for specific flavours. The result is a personal flavour profile preference. There are about six options. The purpose of identifying the personal preferences is to direct the guests to specific whisky cocktails that support the flavour profile. The first cocktail comes near the beginning of the tour and the second and third, if you wish, at the end of the tour. There is, of course, a giant shop, where you can purchase all of the Johnnie Walker products and memorabilia, plus the various single malts from the Diageo-owned distilleries. There are bright lights, music, and a group of young, visitor-oriented young people staffing the shop. If this catches your fancy, check out: www.johnnieWalker.com/princesstreet.

Look who we found in a MacEwan clan reunion picture in *Scotland Magazine* Issue 117, September 2021. This get-together was in 2019. On the left side is the ancient ruin of their castle.



Impressions of Scotland Sept., 2021

By Lillian Cunningham

Rowan Trees

On earlier trips to Scotland I've been intrigued by colors, such as the bright pinks and fuchsias of azaleas and rhododendrons in spring and the blazing yellow fields of rape seed in summer, grown for fodder and for oil. The compelling color of Scotland this year was bright red—the color of the rowan berries hanging in heavy clusters on their trees.



Rowan tree in bloom www.Gardenbeast.com

In Scotland, the rowan tree is traditionally said to have been planted near doorways for protection against witches or other evil influences. It is a mountain ash tree of the rose family, sometimes known as the Tree of Life and, for the Celts, symbolizing courage, wisdom, and protection. The tree is fairly small or medium size and graceful in shape. It blooms with abundant white blossoms in spring and has pinnate leaves arranged opposite each other on each side of a common stem like a feather.

We could see such a tree with its festive red berries from the bedroom window in our bed and breakfast accommodation in Port Ellen on the island of Islay, and on this trip we saw lots of rowan trees laden with berries as we drove around on the island.

Here's a discussion of Scottish beliefs about the rowan from *The Collins Encyclopedia of Scotland* by John Keay and Julia Keay:

"Rowan trees can still be seen growing beside many cairns, stone circles and Scottish houses both old and

new, attesting to long belief in the rowan's magic powers. Rowan wood was thought more potent than any other against evil or bad luck—perhaps because it bears bright berries in the magic colour red—and was incorporated into nearly every object that might need protection: house and byre, butter churn and barrel, yoke and plough, cart and boat, spinning wheel and mill wheel, and finally the coffin.

"A rowan switch would be used to herd sheep and cattle, while a sprig of rowan over the byre door and tied to the cow's tail (often with red string) protected milk and beast, and on a horse's tail kept the evil eye from travelers. No witch could enter a house past a rowan tree by the door, and at Beltain (1 May) the whole house would be decorated with rowan branches and all sheep and lambs made to jump through a rowan hoop.

"More practical uses for rowan were in dyeing (black and orange), and the berries were fermented into a cider-like drink as well as making the familiar rowan jelly. The bark made a poultice for adder bites."

I've long wondered about the proper pronunciation of this tree, whether the first syllable was pronounced with an "o" sound or with an "ow" sound, so that it rhymes with "now." As far as I can determine, both pronunciations are correct.

For some time, I've been aware of the rowan tree through Scottish songs such as "Mairi's Wedding," which celebrates the charms of the bride, including the line "Red her cheeks as rowans are." I know there is a traditional tune often played by pipe bands called "The Rowan Tree." It has sentimental words by Lady Nairne (1766-1845), a contemporary of Robert Burns. I'm sure there are other musical mentions of the rowan in Scottish music, but I don't remember where. Would anyone else who remembers a mention of a rowan tree in a Scottish song or poem, please remind me where it appears? (lillianc@hawaii.edu)

In the meantime, I'll remember the red rowan berry clusters as a lovely symbol of our September trip to Scotland.



Rowan Berries; www.Treesforlife.org.uk