



The Caledonian

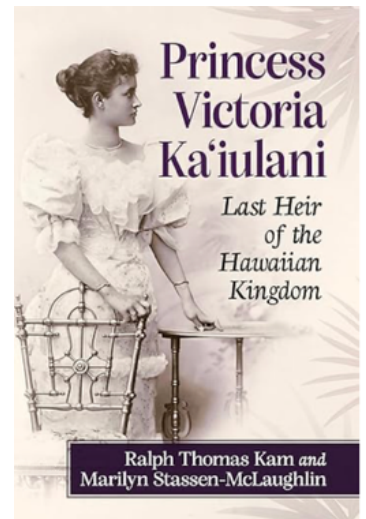
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Rescheduled Tribute to Princess Ka`iulani, April 9th at the Royal Mausoleum State Park

The rains have hopefully stopped, all of us have weathered this time well, the Islands are drying out, and now the tribute to Princess Ka`iulani has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 9. Due to time and attendance restrictions, the event will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and **limited to 24 attendees and 12 vehicles only**. Contact Chieftain McEwan at bemacewan@gmail.com for required reservations or call him at 808-538-7707.

Traditionally, the poem that is most associated with the life of Princess Ka`iulani is the one wrote to her by Scotsman and author Robert Louis Stevenson shortly before she left for Great Britain and schooling to prepare her for the future and a time when she would become Queen of the Kingdom of Hawai`i. The current biography *Princess Victoria Ka`iulani: Last Heir of the Hawaiian Kingdom* by Ralph Thomas Kam and Marilyn Stassen-McLaughlin includes sixteen (16) poems and songs in honor of the Princess. Chieftain McEwan has selected nine (9) to recite at this year's tribute. This is an opportunity to see how various people honored Princess Ka`iulani both while she was alive and to her memory after she passed.



Scottish Heroes XV via Zoom



Saturday, April 25, is the next Scottish Heroes research event beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This meeting will focus on the Kings & Queens of Scotland. From the first monarch of Scotland, Kenneth MacAlpin, in 848, to the last, Queen Anne, in 1707, there were 51 monarchs. If you would like to research one of these please contact Chieftain McEwan for coordination, bemacewan@gmail.com or phone him at 808-538-7707. Our Scottish Heroes program has been very informative about the many contributions of the Scots and is an example of the education mandate of our association.

King James VI—longest reigning monarch in the years before 1700 (1567-1625).

Seen in THE WEEK magazine (March 6, 2026) and on WIRED.com (February 28, 2026)

In Scotland a robotic dog is being used to sniff whisky barrels to find leaks. It uses an ethanol sensor as a nose. Not surprisingly, the robot can only survey the lowest row of the ceiling high room of barrels!

Chieftain's Column: *From the Craig*



With the postponement of the Highland Festival & Games this year, an important annual Scottish event is being missed. The planning for the 2027 festival is focused on making it bigger and better and the plan is to be back at McCoy Pavilion to make that happen. The Caledonian Society has 5 positions on the Hawaiian Scottish Association board that provides the management structure for the festival. If any of our members are interested in being part of the planning for the 2027 festival, they can be appointed to represent our organization on the board. If you have interest and want to know more, please contact me at bemacewan@gmail.com.

For another opportunity to participate in a Caledonian event, consider reporting on a King or Queen of England for our Scottish Heroes XV meeting on Saturday, April 25. This will be a Zoom only event. Contact Bruce to coordinate the person you are interested in investigating. Email bemacewan@gmail.com Slàinte, Bruce

Member News

March Birthdays Chris Carr, Yoshi Clack, Donna Jinbo, Karin Sorge Jones, Brian Richardson, & John Rockie.

April Birthdays Terr-Lee Bixby, Tom Boyd, Janice Choate-Zavakos, Craig Hawley, Scott MacKinnon, & Kelley Forbes Snead.

Note: If your birthday is in March or April, 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 808-778-4697 or by email at kevin.bogan@gmail.com

Events Calendar for 2026

(Subject to change)

Thursday, April 9: Princess Ka'iulani Tribute. Mauna 'Ala Mausoleum. 3:30 – 4:30. Reservations required. See article.

Saturday, April 25: Via Zoom: Scottish Heroes XV "Important Kings & Queens of Scotland". 5:30 pm. More info TBD.

Saturday, May 23: Scottish Music Session & Play Along with Lisa Gomes instructing. 2:00 – 5:00. Cathedral of St. Andrew, Von Holt Room. More information TBD.

Saturday, June 20: Society Annual General Meeting, Waioli Kitchen & Bake Shop. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

To be rescheduled: Movie Night with potluck dinner, Venue & movie TBD

Announcing a music activity for all!

Come join us on Saturday, May 23, for a singalong of some popular Scottish songs to be taught by Lisa Gomes, followed by an instrumental workshop of Scottish dance tunes. All are welcome! The event will be held in the Von Holt Room at St. Andrew's Cathedral from 2:00 – 5:00pm.

We begin with the singalong from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., then pull out your instruments for a workshop from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and parking is available in the cathedral lot.

For more information contact Lisa Gomes at fiddlegal123@yahoo.com.



Tartan Day Monday, April 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Come to the Capitol building, wear your tartan, and wave to support both the Caledonian Society and the St. Andrew Society of Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Scottish Association Festival is cancelled for 2026. To be able to provide for an exceptional festival, the HSA is organizing for an April 2027, Highland Festival.

Of Mist and Imagination: The Brollachan in Scottish Folklore By Dr. Anton Anderssen

Among the many fairy figures that inhabit the rich imaginative landscape of Scotland, there exists one of a particularly curious and elusive kind, known as the brollachan. It is not among the most famous of Highland beings, and yet it possesses a distinction that sets it apart from nearly all others, for it is described not by what it is, but by what it lacks. Where other creatures of folklore are given clear outlines, recognizable features, and familiar habits, the brollachan resists such definition and is remembered instead as something without fixed form.

This unusual figure is most closely associated with the Highlands and the Hebrides, especially the Outer Hebrides, where Gaelic language and storytelling traditions endured with remarkable strength well into the nineteenth century. In these island communities, where daily life unfolded amid shifting weather, sea mist, and long stretches of quiet landscape, the imagination was naturally attentive to forms that appeared and disappeared with little warning. It is within such surroundings that the brollachan seems most at home, a being that reflects the uncertainty of shapes glimpsed through fog or shadow.

The history of the brollachan is not preserved in a single written account, but rather in the oral tradition, passed from one generation to the next in spoken narrative. It likely has roots that extend back several centuries, though it was most actively believed in during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when folklore still played a central role in explaining the unfamiliar and giving shape to shared experience. As education expanded and communication with the wider world increased, belief in such beings gradually declined, though the stories themselves have remained as part of Scotland's cultural inheritance.



Descriptions of the brollachan are notable for their lack of consistency, which is itself quite fitting. It is often said to appear as a dark mass, or a kind of lump without clear edges, sometimes likened to a bundle or a shifting shadow that cannot be fully grasped by the eye. It is described as having no face, no limbs, and no settled structure, and in some accounts, it seems almost as though it were a portion of darkness that had taken on a temporary and uncertain presence. The essential idea is that it cannot be easily recognized, and that any attempt to define it too precisely seems to fall short.

In the same regions where the brollachan is remembered, many other beings are more clearly described and widely known. The waters are said to be inhabited by the each-uisge, a shape-shifting spirit that often takes the form of a horse, while the sea between the islands is associated with the Blue Men of the Minch, who are said to challenge sailors with riddles.

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Continued There are also tales of the bean nighe, a washerwoman whose appearance is taken as an omen, and of the sith, the fair folk who dwell beneath hills and mounds. Compared with these figures, the brollachan is striking in its lack of narrative detail and defined purpose, occupying instead a quieter and more ambiguous place in the tradition.

From an anthropological perspective, the brollachan may be understood as a way of giving expression to experiences that are difficult to describe. In a landscape where mist can obscure familiar features and where light and shadow change rapidly, it is not uncommon to perceive something that seems present but cannot be clearly identified. The brollachan provides a name for that moment of uncertainty, allowing it to be shared and remembered within the community. It may also reflect a broader human tendency to acknowledge that not everything can be immediately understood, and that some aspects of experience remain indistinct.

There is, too, a small detail that connects the brollachan to a wider body of Celtic belief, namely the idea that it may be repelled by iron, a material often regarded as protective against supernatural influence. This detail, modest though it may seem, suggests that even a being so undefined could be situated within a familiar framework of understanding, one that reassured as much as it explained.

The brollachan, though less celebrated than other figures of Scottish folklore, offers a particularly interesting glimpse into the ways in which people have responded to the unknown. It does not present a dramatic story or a vivid character, but rather a quiet and persistent question about how we perceive the world around us. In its very lack of form, it reminds us that uncertainty itself has long been recognized as part of human experience, and that even the most indistinct impressions may find a place within the shared imagination.

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Consolidated Celtic Calendar

<https://goo.gl/mCnvsU>