



# The Caledonian

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## An Autumn Evening with Scottish Folk Tales and Ghost Stories

Old beliefs have lingered long in the hills and glens and closes of Scotland. From clachan and shieling come tales of fairies who haunt green knolls and grey cliffs, of mermaids and witches, apparitions of the dead and the devil, magical animals, and incredible monsters in loch and river and sea, as well as phantasms of the past in dark corners of old stone houses. Hear some such tales on **Saturday, September 29, 2012**.

The next Society event, "**An Autumn Evening**," will start with a cozy potluck dinner, followed by **Scottish folk tales and ghost stories** told by several Society members in a firelit atmosphere. Plan to **arrive** about **5:30** and be ready for a **potluck dinner** at **6 p.m.** Stories of twilight, mystery, and strange knowledge will be told thereafter.

Croft houses being scarce in Hawaii, we'll meet in **The Ocean Terrace at Hokuia Condominium**, 1288 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu. Covered parking is available at the rear of the building, mauka of Tangos restaurant. A non-ghostly attendant at the lobby desk will validate your parking ticket.

Please phone Susan MacKinnon in advance at **591-9398** for **reservations**, as she must provide the front desk with a list of all expected visitors. Or send her an e-mail at [susanmack1@mac.com](mailto:susanmack1@mac.com)

Bring a potluck dish to share for our autumn evening meal. Drinks, including a dram or two, will be provided. Cost for this informal evening will be \$3 per person, payable at the door.

# Society News

## From The Craig By Chieftain Bruce McEwan



The new activity year is beginning and we are scheduling events that we hope will appeal to our members. As always, members are encouraged to participate, so volunteer to help out whenever the opportunity arises.

The Caledonian Society has always supported the *Falls of Clyde*, so I'd like to give a quick update on some work that has been done in July. An historic ship specialist from the National Park Service, Chris Jannini, was on loan to conduct a detailed internal survey of the ship. Working with volunteers he documented the internal condition of the ship with pictures and video. His

report will be used to discuss specific priority work that needs to be done when the ship goes into drydock. The Friends of Falls of Clyde board hopes that we will be able to negotiate terms with a local shipyard to drydock the ship later this year. There will be a capital fundraiser to offset the cost of the drydock and we will be reaching out to the community for support.

The other project that is underway is the building of a permanent pump system within the ship to allow ballast water to be pumped to any tanks in order to keep the ship in trim and to be available in the event of any leakage. The ship is getting the most care it has been given in decades. As we (Friends of Falls of Clyde) move forward, we will look to the Caledonian Society for continued support. Scottish support for a Scottish ship is an important message to send.



Yours aye,  
Bruce McEwan, Chieftain

## PRELIMINARY CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013 EVENTS

(Dates may change as necessary)

Sat., Sep. 29: *An Autumn Evening* Potluck with Scottish folk tales ghost stories

Sat., Nov. 3: *On Scottish Soil* Report from Billy O'Brien, SERG winner

Sat., Dec. 29: Pre-Hogmanay Ceilidh

## 2013 Schedule

Sat., Jan 26: Burns Night, Oahu Country Club

## Annual General Meeting

The 2012-2013 Caledonian Society year has begun. The previous year ended June 23, 2012, with the Annual General Meeting at the Ka'ikena Lau'ae Dining Room at Kapiolani Community College. If you missed this meeting, and therefore the Kalua pork sliders, the rest of us can tell you they were ono! They were so favored, the Council has already been asked to return there next year for those pork sliders. Keep in touch via the newsletter, emails & the website for next year's AGM.

At this meeting Chieftain McEwan said mahalo to two long-time members of the Society Council & welcomed two new members. Heather MacGregor and Athlyn Bruce have resigned to pursue other endeavors, or maybe just to relax and not have meetings to attend! We know they both will continue to be involved with the Society's events. Two new Council members were elected to take their places: Jeannie Ferrier and Richard Sherman. They have both been on the job already attending the July planning committee meeting for the coming year, Richard via phone from Philadelphia! Thank you to both of them for agreeing to serve on the Council.

The AGM this year featured scholarship recipient Billy O'Brien. He has since left on his trip to Scotland to observe organic farming along the West Coast of Scotland including the Isles of Skye, Eigg, and Lewis. He hopes he may be able to find similarities and differences between these islands and Hawaii organic farming practices. He will report back to the Society at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

We also viewed the DVD *Last of the Scottish Wildcats*. This film shows beautiful rare footage of these secretive creatures in the wild and interviews with people who are trying to protect them and save them from extinction. "It is estimated that fewer than 400 pure wildcats and around 3500 hybrid wildcats live in the Highlands." The DVD is available in the Society library.

## Visiting Robbie Burns

Member Helen Wynn's recent trip to New York City to attend Wagner's "Ring" Cycle at the Metropolitan Opera, turned into a trip down memory lane. Helen has spent many years participating in Hawaii's Burns Dinner, so during her trip, she decided to search out the Central Park Burns statue she'd read about some 20 years ago. During her six-mile run in the lush park, she found the imposing Burns statue along what is called "The Mall or Literary Walk." The Burns statue is located across from Sir Walter Scott and William Shakespeare—nice company.



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The artist, Aberdeen native John Steel, depicted Burns seated on a tree stump, quill pen in hand, eyes turned heavenward in a pose of inspiration. At his feet is a poem dedicated to his lost love, Mary Campbell. The sculpture was unveiled in 1880, she discovered, at a ceremony attended by 5000 people with the Caledonian club members in full Highland dress.

## Moanalua Picnic Merges with History

By Nanci Munroe

On a beautiful day, July 12, under the shade of two large kamani trees on the grounds of Moanalua Gardens, tables were set with Hawaiian-print tablecloths and a centerpiece of a basket of zinnias, with a CD of Scottish music playing in the background. With a bounteous variety of dishes to enjoy for potluck luncheon, members of the Caledonian Society enjoyed a lovely picnic on the lawn.



The original schedule included two speakers to provide a historical background of the Gardens, Hawaiian historian Nathan Napoka and Esme Damon, daughter of Caledonian Society member Dwight Damon. We were pleasantly surprised by the arrival of Dwight himself. After setting up & socializing for a bit, we got lunch underway and filled our plates. Nathan then shared the history of the valley from the days of Kamehameha I conquering the island of Oahu in the battle of Nu'uuanu, and setting up his own chosen chiefs to rule Moanalua Valley. The lands passed through the heirs of the Hawaiian Kingdom, to Kamehameha V, also known as Prince Lot, whose cottage is still on the grounds, and whose name is lent to the Hula Festival held on the Gardens annually. The valley passed ultimately into the hands of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. She had gone to school with Samuel M. Damon, who later became employed by her husband, Charles Bishop. She bequeathed the *ahu-pua'a* of Moanalua to Damon in her will.

At this point Esme Damon told the story of how her great-great-grandfather Samuel Mills Damon brought in Donald Macintyre from Scotland to create the Gardens, which stretched from the coast, including the Salt Lake area, to the upper valley. Macintyre brought in flowering plants and fruit trees from various parts of the world, but was careful to ensure no harmful plants or invasive species would damage the fragile ecosystem of the islands. The Damon family acquired their direct Scottish connection with Gertrude MacKinnon Damon, formerly of Glasgow, who married Samuel Mills Damon's eldest son, Edward. They built a house above Moanalua called "Topgallant." Gertrude Damon, Dwight's grandmother, published some of her letters under the title *Fort DeRussy Days*.



Esme Damon, Dwight Damon (behind), Samuel Akau (front) & Nathan Napoka

After Esme concluded, Dwight discussed how gradually the Gardens became smaller & smaller, due to the golf course being built, railroads & highways coming in, fishponds being filled in, and tracts being sold for housing. He had brought in several framed photos of views of the Valley before the big changes were made, including how the Salt Lake appeared in a crater on the Valley floor, and there was also a photo album of family members, letters and postcards of the Valley. We were also joined by a former resident who was actually born right there on the grounds, Mr. Samuel Akau. He talked about growing up in the Valley, and how things changed over the years, including the events of World War II after Pearl Harbor was bombed & his family & other families there had to move out.

As the sun moved toward the west, we knew this enjoyable time would have to come to an end. Thanks to all who helped set up to make this such a successful day!

## Hamish In Perth

*This is the second of three articles chronicling Hamish Burgess' recent trip to Scotland.*

Then I was off to Perthshire, and the edge of The Highlands, for the main reason of my Scottish odyssey, to report for my radio program on an international event, Dougie Maclean's Perthshire Amber Festival ([www.perthshireamber.com](http://www.perthshireamber.com)). The 10-day music festival is based in the ancient town of Dunkeld, nestled among the hills and forests on the banks of the River Tay, with truly spectacular autumn or fall colors, giving the festival its name.



The River Tay by Dunkeld, Perthshire

The town was bustling with musicians, and Celtic and folk music fans, with workshops, walks, talks, musical bus tours, and concerts every day. Singers came from Scotland, Ireland, England, the US and Canada to be part of the event. The concerts were held around the county of Perthshire, never more than 40 minutes drive from Dunkeld, in pubs, village halls, theaters, castles and cathedrals, and even an ancient Crannog (lake dwelling on stilts)!

My first afternoon at an open mic concert at 'Amber Central', the Royal Dunkeld Hotel, I walked into the room to be greeted by my friends from Celtic Music Radio Glasgow, who had set up a mobile broadcasting booth, and I was promptly put live on air on the radio! The rest of the week I bumped into many musicians I knew, and many whose music I have played on the radio, and now met for the first time. Some great pub music sessions lasted into the wee hours – as they say 'the craic was mighty' around Dunkeld that week.

One highlight for me was the Dougie MacLean and Archie Fisher concert in the Great Hall of Blair Atholl Castle, with hundreds of deer antlers, ancient weapons and suits of armour hanging on the walls – two legends of Scottish songwriting performing in a fabulous setting. Dougie MacLean sang his most loved song, the world famous Scottish anthem "Caledonia", written when he was abroad and missing his homeland. Another spectacular venue was Dunkeld Cathedral for a concert one night. Two shows at Perth Concert Hall were amazing – one had Dougie with a full orchestra of strings, and 'Dougie & Friends' featured a host of great musicians and singers, including the 'father of Scottish folk' the legendary Jimmie MacGregor, of the famous duo Robin Hall & Jimmie MacGregor, who literally bounded on to the stage at the spry age of 80! I recorded an historic interview with Jimmie about his life and music, as well as one with Dougie and dozens of other musicians, all for air-play on my radio program.



Dougie MacLean, Archie Fisher,  
Buddy MacDonald – Blair Atholl Castle

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I stayed a beautiful 45 minute drive from Dunkeld, at the crofters cottage of my great friends Scot AnSgeulaiche, historical tour guide and storyteller who performed at the Hawaiian Scottish Festival some years ago, and Samantha MacKenzie, who runs 'Jamie and Claire' tours based on the 'Outlander' series of books by Diana Gabaldon. Their Highland hospitality is unparalleled, and Scot's knowledge of local and Scottish history is remarkable – we had an enjoyable day out with him showing me many nearby landmarks and their folklore.

Jimmie MacGregor and Hamish Burgess – Perth, Scotland

*Billy O'Brien is the 2012 SERG recipient. He is now on his trip to Scotland to study organic farms. He will be featured at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> event.*

### **Billy's Blog: Aug. 2, 2012**

I'm in Oban now and ready to go to my first farm in Ardfern tomorrow. I'm getting really excited about it. I traveled straight from the Dublin airport to stay in Belfast for 3 nights. I then took the ferry across and landed in Glasgow for one night before landing here in Oban for four nights. I really enjoyed the views from my trains/bus/ferry of the countryside. It kind of gave me a preview of the life I will expect to live for a couple of months on the farms. From here in Oban, I've also done a tour to the Isle of Mull and Iona, the scenery is so beautiful there and it made me excited about my trip to the Hebrides. I'm on a public computer at the Oban library now since I haven't brought a laptop with me, but I will keep in touch as much as possible when I'm on the farms. Thanks again for this educational journey. -Billy

**Happy August Birthdays** Jeanne Anderson, Paul Gracie, Christopher Haig, Michael Mahelona, Dr. Nancy Smiley, Gail Snodgrass, Arthur Thomson, Lee Vuillemot, Rev. Frances Weibanga, Marcia Wright.

**Happy September Birthdays** Janice Chadwick, Arlene Buchholz, Barbara Earle, Carol Ann Gordon, Tory Laitila, Chieftain Bruce McEwan, James Morrow, John Robertson, Megan Thurmond-Smith.

**Member Don Munro** has offered to contribute to the Caledonian Society's scholarship grant (**SERG**) if any Society member uses his real estate services to buy or sell property. Contact him at 235-1151.

**Congratulations** to member Susan Spangler & her husband John on their 50 years of marriage.



**John & Susan Spangler**

### **FLOWERS OF THE FOREST**

**Douglas Glenn Gibb** (6/5/1940 to 7/1/2012), former Honolulu Police Chief, past Caledonian Society 1990 Scot of the Year and life member of the Society, an accomplished bagpiper & slack-key guitar player. He was a strong supporter of the Celtic Pipes & Drums who played at his services on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his family.



**David Graham** passed away July 11, 2012 in Honolulu. David was a past Caledonian Society member, bagpiper, and friend to many in the Society. Our condolences to his wife, Dodie.

# Membership Renewal

## Annual Dues are Now Due

The Society membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. **Now is the time to renew your annual dues for 2012-2013.** The cost is still \$20 per person. Please check the address portion of your newsletter, and if there is a bright yellow line through your name, please send in your dues as soon as possible.

Use the renewal form found in this newsletter. If you are a Life Member please consider donating to the Society. We are a 501c(3) tax exempt organization. All donations are greatly appreciated to help pay our regular expenses such as the newsletter and mailings, insurance, venue rentals, and other program expenses. Donations can also be specified for the SERG fund.



## The Caledonian Society of Hawaii 2012-2013 Renewal

Annual Membership is \$20 per member, due by July 1st each year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30th of the next year.

Personal Information/Update as needed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Month/Day/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Membership payment (\$20 pp): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tax-deductible donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life Member Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Total:* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: The Caledonian Society of Hawaii. Mail to: PO. Box 4164, Honolulu, HI 96812-4164. Questions: Barbara Coons, Membership Secretary, 521-7022 or BFCoons@aol.com

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## The Bagpiper at the Cemetery

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost. And, being a typical male, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and the crew left, and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and no friends. I played for this homeless man like I've never played before. And as I played "Amazing Grace," the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I been puttin' in septic tanks for twenty years."

The Caledonian Society of Hawaii  
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See The Caledonian in color:  
[www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org)