



Sep-Oct 2017 #17

# *The Caledonian*

Published by The Caledonian Society of Hawaii

## *Haunted Castles and Folktales*

*Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>*

*7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

**Hokua Condominium Ocean Terrace  
1288 Ala Moana Blvd.**



*Glamis Castle in Angus, Scotland—70 miles North of Edinburgh*

Ghostly inhabitants of castles are a common theme of tales of Scotland. The above home, Glamis Castle, has several legends and myths associated with it. In one The Earl of Beardie in the 15<sup>th</sup> C is said to have declared he'd play cards with the Devil himself even though it was the Sabbath. The Devil then comes disguised as a stranger and takes the Earl's soul, whereupon he is condemned to play cards until doomsday in a closed chamber of the castle.

On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, come enjoy ghost stories & folklore from Scotland. Bring a potluck dessert or a savory snack to share with your fellow Caledonians while listening to haunting tales. The first tales of the evening will be told by some Society members who have already volunteered and prepared to do so. We expect that there will be time for other tales, so if you would like to bring a Scottish folk tale or ghost story to tell or read, please do so. **Reservations are required** so please call Jeannie at 593-0966. There is no charge but please feel free to add to the calabash bowl.

### **Traditional Folklore Tales in Danger**

A recent survey by The Folklore Society shows that a majority of people in Britain have not heard a traditional story in two years and nearly a quarter of all respondents were unable to name even one myth. "These tales give a special character to our homes, and poetry to our landscape," said Jeremy Harte of the society. "However, we've seen from this research that our rich folkloric tradition may be slipping through our fingers, which is deeply saddening." (p. 13, *Scottish Life, Autumn 2017*)

*The Caledonian Society of Hawaii \* PO Box 4164 \* Honolulu, HI 96812-4164*



## ***Chieftain's Column: From the Craig***

We kicked off our new event year in September with another successful New Member party that offered many practical suggestions for traveling in Scotland and reports of Scottish trips including a tour arranged by a clan member; a study trip to prepare for and take exams in teaching Scottish dancing; living in a rented a flat in Edinburgh for a month; and taking theme journeys on special trains.

Our next event highlights storytelling, an ingrained part of Scottish culture. Come and hear some folk tales and ghost stories for the Halloween season.

The latest report on *Falls of Clyde* is that the Norwegian heavy lift ship company got an alternative job in September, so our Scottish partner is negotiating an alternative window for the Falls to return to her country of origin. Final preparation on the Hawaii side will commence once a firm date for departure is set. Our November 18<sup>th</sup> Caledonian event will honor the Scottish shipbuilding tradition with a sure-to-be interesting presentation by Dr. Hans Van Tilburg, an expert in maritime history.

Slàinte, Bruce

## ***Member News***

**September Birthdays** Francis (Scotty) Anderson, Jodi Beardon, Janice Chadwick, Carol Anne Gordon, Phillip Keat, Tory Laitila, Bruce McEwan, & Jackie Phillips.

**October Birthdays** Allen Armstrong, Mandy Bowers, Dr Kalani Brady, Donna Calkins, Skipper Calleon, Richard Chadwick, Mary Fraser, Nancy Hemphill, Jamie McOuat, & Barbara Price.

**Note:** 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 Jeannie Ferrier at 593-0966 or by email at [jferrier@msn.com](mailto:jferrier@msn.com).

## **Jeremy McOuat and Gregg Fraser** (right)

arrived at a recent Council meeting raving about a new restaurant in Ha'ena at the Hanalei Colony Resort on Kauai! **Opakapaka Grill & Bar** opened in August and we are all invited to get up there to enjoy it. Gregg is the owner and Jeremy opened the restaurant as the Executive Chef. I checked out the website and found they are open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Happy Hour from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Best wishes for a successful run.



**On Saturday, November 18, starting at 5:30 pm** we will have a fun **Potluck Dinner** followed by a very special presentation on Scottish Ship Building History. This is the tradition that produced our favorite sailing ship, *Falls of Clyde*, which will be 139 years old in December. The event will be held at the parish hall of St. Clement's Church on the corner of Wilder and Makiki streets.

We are lucky to have as our speaker is Dr. Hans Van Tilburg, who is Maritime Heritage Coordinator for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration in the NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries, USA. Dr. Van Tilburg also teaches at UH Manoa where his students rate him as "an awesome teacher." Put this event on your calendar now. It is sure to be entertaining and enlightening.

**Reserve your place by calling Jeannie at 593-0966.** Cost for this evening is \$5 per person.



## ***Bart's Bulletins***

I heard through the grapevine that there were Caledonian Society members who want tips about what to do in Scotland. My Highland *coo* cousins are all over the country and everywhere they are within a cow pie's throw of a distillery. Yes, we know about those ubiquitous distilleries. They are important to us coos because we are often fed the *draff*, which is the spent barley after the sugars have been extracted.

I encourage all visitors to Scotland to take a tour of at least one distillery. Although whisky is produced everywhere with the same ingredients, barley, water, and yeast, each distillery has its own personality and presents the whisky making process in a somewhat different way. Every tour will be fun and enlightening.

For those who have a short time, going to the island of Islay with its eight distilleries and its ninth being developed, will offer a variety of wonderful, smoky drams (such as Laphroaig) and eight different perspectives on whisky production. For an intense introduction to Islay malts, try to attend the Feis Ile (Islay Malt & Music Festival) during the last week in May each year. Another option in early May is the Speyside Festival on mainland Scotland, where the distilleries are further apart and the whiskies (such as Glenlivet) are milder but still distinctive. Visit Scotland, visit a distillery, and wave from the highways to my Highland coo cousins in the meadows.

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## *New Member Party Pictures and Scottish Travel Questions Answered*



*New members Jon & Austen Cook  
With their son Noah, and Jeannie Ferrier*

**1.** Where is a good, somewhat central location for staying so that one is within an hour's drive of a few castles and quaint little towns with a few restaurants & groceries?

**A:** Try **Aberdeen**, a good center from which to visit nearby **Speyside** castles and distilleries.

**Inverness** has lots of accommodation and is near many visitor attractions: Culloden, Loch Ness, the Black Isle, access to the Highlands. **Pitlochry**, in central Scotland, is a small town resort destination in itself with Edradour the smallest commercial distillery, professional theater, and heather stems jewelry making.

Or stay in a small border town such as **Peebles** to explore border villages, abbeys and trails.



*Sharleen & Jim Putnam*

**2.** What time of year gives the best chance of good weather in Scotland?

**A:** **July & August** are the prime visiting months and are reasonably dry. The **Edinburgh Festival** & the military Tattoo occur in August. Flowers such as azaleas (pink) and broom (yellow) are lovely in **May & June** and bright yellow fields of rapeseed (for canola oil) are visible from the highways. **September** is usually pleasant. Expect some rain anytime, so always keep rain gear & warm clothes handy.

**3.** What are some important "Don't Miss" highlights to see in Scotland?

**A:** **Edinburgh** and **Glasgow** are both full of fascinating things to see and do. Edinburgh Castle, Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace, Scottish Parliament, Glasgow cathedral, good nightlife, lots of top-notch museums and galleries, often free.



*(Sitting) Marcy & Rob Moore, Stan Jones  
and Bruce McEwan & Lillian Cunningham*



*KC Collins & Sharon McPhee*

Go to **Falkirk** in the heart of Scotland to see two unique attractions, the Falkirk Wheel (an ingenious way of lifting boats between canals at different levels) and the **Kelpies** in Helix Park (huge metal horse sculptures named for the water horses of Scottish folklore, pictured p.4).

In the western Highlands make the pilgrimage to the peaceful island of **Iona** where the presence of St. Columba (c 591-97) can still be felt. The island of **Skye** is a visitor favorite for seeing island life and lovely scenery, and it is easy to reach.



*Donna & Steve Craven*

**The Robert Burns Dinner** has been a long-standing favorite of the Society for many years. We have celebrated the Bard with music, poetry, humor, theatrics, ghosts and so many outstanding volunteer toasts and speeches. All of these dinners have been at hotels, the Japanese Cultural Center, the Convention Center, and for the past 4 years, at the Oahu Country Club. We always try to keep the costs to a minimum, but even with a few members graciously donating money (and their time), the costs go up each year. We have been informed that the Country Club will raise their charges by about 5% for 2018; however in 2019, they will begin charging a service charge of 20% for the first time in their history. Plus, the favorable corkage fee we have been able to maintain will significantly go up. I have again been looking into other venues but am finding roadblocks regarding, 1) the making of haggis; and 2) bringing in donated whisky. And the fees at other places are even higher than the Country Club has been! The coming 2018 dinner will be at the Oahu Country Club but expect the price to be slightly more than last year. We are planning to keep the early bird price at \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members for the 2018 Burns dinner. More info will be coming soon. We welcome ideas and comments regarding the future of this event. Should we try to continue Burns Night as a formal event beyond 2018 regardless of larger expected costs? If not, how would you suggest we honor the Scottish bard in the future? Please contact me at [susanmack1@mac.com](mailto:susanmack1@mac.com).

Susan MacKinnon, Vice Chieftain



## 2017 Council

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#### The Caledonian Newsletter

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#### Society Website

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[www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org)

#### Consolidated Celtic Calendar

<http://www.saintandrewsocietyofhawaii.com/calendar.html>

**Kathy Titchen** sent this information: At the New Member Party,

I asked Chieftain McEwan "Just how big is Scotland anyway?" Bruce replied, "Well, you could drive from the (English) border to Thurso in the north in about 9 hours."

Not that any of us would do that of course. You wouldn't see much. But I tend to keep forgetting that Europe is a much smaller continent than we live on and countries are smaller than many of our states.

It's been many years since I traveled to Europe, so for fun I went online and learned this:

Scotland is about 2,000 square miles (sqmi) smaller than South Carolina in size, and if it were a U.S. state would be 41<sup>st</sup> in size, 30,414 sqmi to SC's 32,000 sqmi plus. England is a little smaller than Alabama, in the 50,000 sqmi range. Ireland is about 27,000 sqmi and would be close to the size of Indiana IF you include Northern Ireland. Wales, at 8,022 sqmi, is closest to the size of New Jersey, 8,721 sqmi.

## A Kelpie Story -- By Lillian Cunningham

When Bruce and I were on the western Scottish island of Islay this past May for the Malt and Music Festival, I wandered into the book section of a good store looking for something to read. There I discovered a book by Jess Smith called *Jessie's Journey, Autobiography of a Traveller Girl*. the first volume of her autobiographical trilogy. The author was described as "a traditional storyteller...in great demand for live performances throughout Scotland." I was intrigued by the book and started to read it that evening.

The next day at the Ardbeg Distillery Festival Day, we saw that among other special events, there was storytelling in a small cabin—by Jess Smith! Surprised, we went in for her next performance. While the rain drenched the festival goes outside, we and maybe 15 other people heard Jess Smith tell a haunting story about a girl and a kelpie, one of the malevolent water horses said to endanger Scottish passersby near some lochs and waterways. Such tales usually end badly for the human beings, as did this one, but for me, hearing and then meeting this friendly tale teller felt like a magical blessing.

No doubt Jess Smith told a kelpie story on that day because this year's featured Ardbeg whisky expression is named Kelpie, (and very good it is, too). Just for the record, the huge steel horse statues near the Forth and Clyde canal on the other side of Scotland are said to honor the very real contributions made over the centuries by big Scottish horses like the Clydesdales. Only the name of the statues calls to mind the legendary, shape-shifting water horses with flaming red eyes and evil intentions.



## Birthday Checkup for The Kelpies

Andy Scott's Kelpies (pictured above) are the largest equine statues in the world. The shining steel figures, nearly 100 feet tall and weighing more than 300 tons each, rear their heads on either side of the Forth and Clyde canal, creating a dramatic entrance to Scotland's east coast. Dedicated in 2014, they have received an overwhelming public response, drawing nearly a million visitors in the first year alone. Earlier this year on the Kelpies' third birthday, a 15-person crew spent eight weeks going over the sculpture, inside and out, cleaning the thousands of plates, checking the integrity of the protective coating and inspecting connections. "This will ensure that these icons are here over the next century and beyond, continuing to capture the imaginations of people all over the planet and helping to put Falkirk and Grangemouth on tourists' must-see lists," said Richard Millar, director of infrastructure at Scottish Canals. For information on visiting the Kelpies, go to [www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/the-kelpies](http://www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/the-kelpies). (p. 17, *Scottish Life*, Autumn 2017)