



Jan-Feb 2022

# *The Caledonian*

Published by The Caledonian Society of Hawaii

## ***Scottish Heroes XI*** ***Saturday, February 12, 2022*** ***Via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.***

As sometimes happens, our calendar of events for the year has to be changed. On the schedule for February 12<sup>th</sup> was a program we hoped to have on Scottish rituals. Unfortunately, it is not ready, so we have decided to present *Scottish Heroes XI*. Bruce McEwan will present the “National Trust for Scotland” which is a conservancy that is preserving Scottish heritage sites throughout the country. Castles, paintings, gardens, and natural habitats are a few of the treasures that the Trust cares for. There will also be a presentation by Lillian Cunningham on Sir Walter Scott, novelist, poet, and well-known civic figure. Brian Richardson is presenting Stanford Fleming, a Scottish civil engineer and scientist who was the foremost railway engineer of Canada in the 19th century.

**Please contact Kevin Bogan at [kevin.bogan@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.bogan@gmail.com) to receive a link for Scottish Heroes XI.**

All of the presenters and participants of these Scottish Heroes have expressed that they have learned much about Scotland and the persons presented at each of these events. If you would like to be a presenter at a future Scottish Hero event, please contact Bruce McEwan at [bemacewan@gmail.com](mailto:bemacewan@gmail.com).

### ***Burns Night a Success!***

We all have been staying in, enduring missing family and friends, wearing masks, and visiting via Zoom, FaceTime and Skype, for two years now. Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> we again celebrated Robert Burns’ birth via a Zoom link to over 40 enthusiastic members and friends. All the traditional aspects of the program were there: Toasts to Scotland, the US and Hawaii; Toast to the Haggis by Stuart Donachie; Toast to the Lasses by John Thompson and Reply From the Lasses by his daughter Karen Thompson; Music by Lisa Gomes; Country Dancing demonstration; and *Auld Lang Syne* sung by the group. The Toast to the Immortal Memory came direct from Scotland from writer & radio personality Billy Kay. A glitch prevented Tina Yap, Dan Quinn & Tracy Burnham from opening the program with a bagpipe medley, but Tina was given a big surprise when it was announced by Chieftain McEwan that she is the 2022 Scot of the Year awardee. It’s so much fun when it’s a surprise!

*(More on Burns 2022 on page 3)*

***Tina Yap was completely surprised to be named Scot of the Year! Congratulations Tina!***



## Chieftain's Column: From the Craig



We are just coming off our annual Burns Night, which was very successful. This is always an opportunity for members to participate in the classic program, and this year was no exception. Our now monthly events are always open to member participation. The Scottish Heroes series is especially available to members who want to learn about an interesting Scottish personality & share their discoveries. Contact [bemacewan@gmail.com](mailto:bemacewan@gmail.com).

January was also an opportunity for The Caledonian Society of Hawaii to be highlighted in a podcast. A man by the name of Sean Thomas Radcliff has a podcast where leaders of various historical, genealogical, and culture organizations are interviewed to discuss the history and work of their organizations. I was contacted last November to be interviewed on behalf of our Society. The interview was broadcast and made available from January 3, 2022. I was able to discuss the history and work of The Caledonian Society in our 56 years as a cultural and educational organization. My interview is still on the website [preservationoaks.podbean.com](http://preservationoaks.podbean.com), which can be accessed to by our members. It is program EP008 Hawaii Caledonian Society of Hawaii-Bruce McEwan.

Slàinte, Bruce

### Member News

**January Birthdays** Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Jean Jaycox, Michael Medieros, Kurt Melow, Gregg Robertson, and Tina Yap.

**February Birthdays** Doug Bauckham, Gregg Fraser, Philip Paradine, and Dottie Williams.

### **Falls of Clyde Status: An update from the President of the Friends of Falls of Clyde-- Bruce McEwan**

I am happy to report that the DOT-Harbors Division has accepted the proposal from Falls of Clyde International (FOCI) to return the historic ship *Falls of Clyde* to Scotland. However, they have not been able to officially announce the contract for removal until State administrative, read bureaucratic, procedures have been completed. There are apparently organizational and tax issues that are being worked through. FOCI is working with a mainland partner to create a U.S. organization that can expedite the process. At this stage, each report Friends of Falls of Clyde gets is that the process is moving forward. I personally am looking forward to visiting the ship in Scotland.

**Addendum: The final requirements have been met and the contract award will be announced shortly.**

**Note:** If your birthday is in Jan. or Feb. 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](mailto:kevin.bogan@email.com).

**Member Tory Laitila** sent this interesting article by a blogger named Heather Sheen ([madmimi.com](http://madmimi.com) and the "Cockade Column") entitled *A Poet, a Lady and a White Cockade*. The poem *The White Cockade* was written by Robert Burns in 1790 and tells the story of Margaret Ferguson Murray who in 1745 made white cockades, the emblem of the Jacobites, to distribute to the men and boys of Edinburgh and get them to join the rebel army.

*My love was born in Aberdeen,  
The bonniest lad that e'er was seen,  
But now he makes our hearts fu' sad,  
He takes the Field wi' his White Cockade.*

*I'll sell my rock, my reel, my tow,  
My gude grey mare and hawkit cow;  
To buy mysel a tartan plaid,  
To follow the boy wi the White Cockade.*

**Chorus:**  
*O he's a ranting, roving lad,  
He is brisk an a bonny lad,  
Betide what may, I will wed,  
And follow the boy wi the White Cockade.*



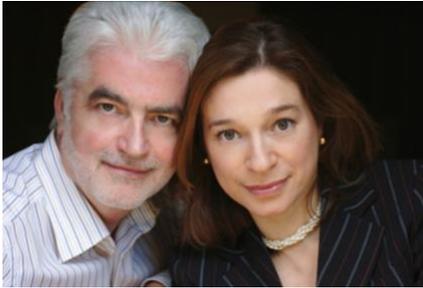
*Bonnie Prince Charlie with the White Cockade—his emblem, or badge, for his followers. See article at right.*

## ***Billy, Burns and Scots***

**By Lillian Cunningham**

*Burns 2022 (Continued from Page 1)*

Our featured guest at this year's Burns Night was Billy Kay, who delivered the most important toast of the evening, "The Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns". He also recited (from memory no less!) Burns' longest and most adventurous and exciting poem, *Tam o' Shanter*.



*(Billy Kay with his wife João)*

Billy, who was born and raised in Galston, Ayrshire, was always encouraged by his parents to speak Scots, the distinctly Scottish language he heard around him. He defines Scots as a set of dialects, which grew from the same Anglo-Saxon roots as English, but which developed in different ways. Most of Burns' poetry is written in the Scots of his day and his region. Billy is a particularly appropriate reciter of Burns poetry because he grew up in the same dialect area that Robert Burns did. He says that along with Elvis in the '50s and the Beatles in the '60's, Burns' songs were part of the popular working-class culture that surrounded him in Galston.

As an adult Billy has become a very strong promoter of maintaining and promoting the Scots language, as essential to the culture and identity of Scots as a people. He learned Standard English as well, because it was and is used in schools, in the Kirk, and on radio and television. He calls Scots and Standard English as two "registers." He and many Scots speakers learn to switch between "registers" depending on the context. Unfortunately, the Scots dialects have sometimes been looked down on as "incorrect" ways of speaking, and children have often been punished for using Scots in their classrooms. Billy maintains that both Scots and English are part of the heritage of Scottish people. "But our English linguistic heritage seems able to look after itself; it is the other tongues, Scots and Gaelic, we need to promote. If we don't, we are in danger of becoming strangers to the cultural background that made us what we are. . . We can and should be at home with both."

Besides being known as a TV and radio presenter, Billy is known as the writer of several books, the most famous of which is *Scots: The Mither Tongue*, a standard study of the Scots language. A second interesting book is *The Scottish World: A Journey into the Scottish Diaspora*. This book is partly based on Billy's 1975 gap year trip around the world including a visit to Hawaii. He calls one chapter of that book "To Smile in Ka'iulani's Eye," a quotation from R. L. Stevenson's poem for the Hawaiian-Scottish princess.

Early in Billy's 6-week stay in Hawaii, he found his way to a meeting of The Caledonian Society, where I met him. I was then a fairly new member of the Society and had spent a year as a scholarship student at the University of Edinburgh, so we found some common interests and have kept in occasional contact since.

In the Hawaii chapter of his *Scottish World* book, Billy also tells about taking bagpipe lessons from Hawaii bagpiper Aggie Wallace and reciting *Tam o' Shanter* from beginning to end with an old Ayrshire man, whom I suspect may have been Society member Duncan Campbell. Older members of the Society may remember hearing Duncan Campbell singing "The Star of Rabbie Burns" at many Burns Nights in the early days of the Society.

*Duncan Campbell*



Robert Burns apparently spoke and wrote in both Scots and English, but his great poems were in Scots. Billy says, "Interestingly, while many of his nobler contemporaries spoke Scots and wrote English, Burns appears to have been at home speaking both Scots and English, a forerunner of the truly bilingual society that Lowland Scotland was to become." He not only wrote great poems in Scots, but also appreciated, collected, and preserved many Scots songs, for which we can be grateful. But most importantly he used his powerful native Scots to "attack with vigorous directness all the ills in his society" and became "one of the world's genuinely popular yet great poets."

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### Consolidated Celtic Calendar

<https://goo.gl/mCnvsU>

### Haggis English?! What?

The January 2022 issue of *The Economist* had an article entitled *Sorry Scotland, Haggis is Actually English. The offal truth behind the Burns Night favorite*. Intriguing title!

Member Bruce Graham sent this; we read it, checked its validity, and found out that there was indeed an English recipe of haggis (or *hagese* as it was called) in a verse cookbook called *Liber Cure Cocorum* from around the 1430's. It was the 1600's before Scotland started reporting about haggis, and then, the English no longer talked about haggis! Robert Burns wrote about the haggis in 1786 (*Address to a Haggis*).

### Sir Walter Scott & Robert Burns

Member Chris Haig enjoys remembering it was Robert Burns who inspired and accelerated the prolific literary genius of Sir Walter Scott.



"When Sir Walter Scott was a boy, he was not considered very bright. As a result, most folks ignored him. When he was twelve, he went to a social gathering where a number of literary figures were present. Sir Walter Scott 1771-1832.

Robert Burns, the famous Scottish poet, was admiring a painting under which was written a couplet of poetry. He asked about the author, but nobody knew who had written the lines! That was when Walter Scott very shyly gave the author's name and quoted the rest of the poem. Burns placed his hand on the young boy's head and said, "Son, you will be a great man in Scotland someday!"

Years later, Scott remembered Burns' encouraging words as the turning point in his life. They made the difference between a man settling for a life of obscurity or reaching for greatness." Steve Brown, *The Power of Speech, How to Talk, so people will Listen*, 2014.

### Door Prizes at Burns

This year we had numerous door prizes for guests at the Burns online celebration. Establishments and members that donated were: J Dolan's, Murphy's, Tango Café, Fujioka's, California Pizza Kitchen, Kokua Market, Starbucks, Jackie & Larry Phillips, Hardy Spoehr and Bruce McEwan. A special audio copy of Billy's book, *The Mither Tongue*, was donated after the event by Billy. We did a random drawing from the members present, and Carol Anne Gordon was gifted this book. Congratulations to everyone who received these prizes and thank you to all the donors.

Thank you to Billy Kay for being up early in Scotland for the *Immortal Memory*, and the discussion on the Scots language with Lillian Cunningham. Thank you to all of the Caledonian Council who came up with ideas to make this online event a success. We appreciate Stuart Donachie and his daughter, Anela, for their continued creativity with *The Address to the Haggis* during these Covid times. Also, Karen Thompson & her father John Thompson, and Tory & Kristin Laitila.

### Here's an illustration from Billy's book

#### The Mither Tongue:

**Scots spoken** with a full range of old dialect:

"Afore I gaed ower the brig, the toon nock chappit hauf twa an thir lassies spierit gin I had got lousit shuiner nor I ettled."

**English:** "Before I went over the bridge, the town clock struck half past two and these girls asked if I had stopped work sooner than expected."

**Normal Scots for Billy:** "Afore I went ower the brig, the toon nock chappit hauf twa and thir lassies asked if I had stopped work shuiner than I expected."



*Delivering the Haggis Tasting Bag to Helen Wynn and her brother David Crandall. Lisa Gomes on fiddle and Jackie Phillips watching.*



*Kevin Bogan delivered the Haggis Tasting Bag to Tory Laitila while Chuck Jamison played the Bagpipes--at the Honolulu Museum of Art.*

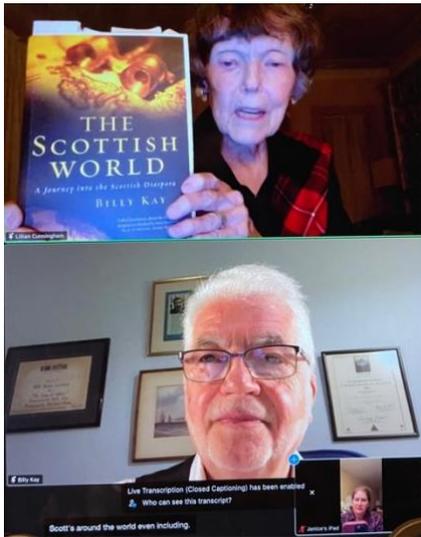


*Chieftain McEwan announcing Tina Yap as Scot of the Year 2022*

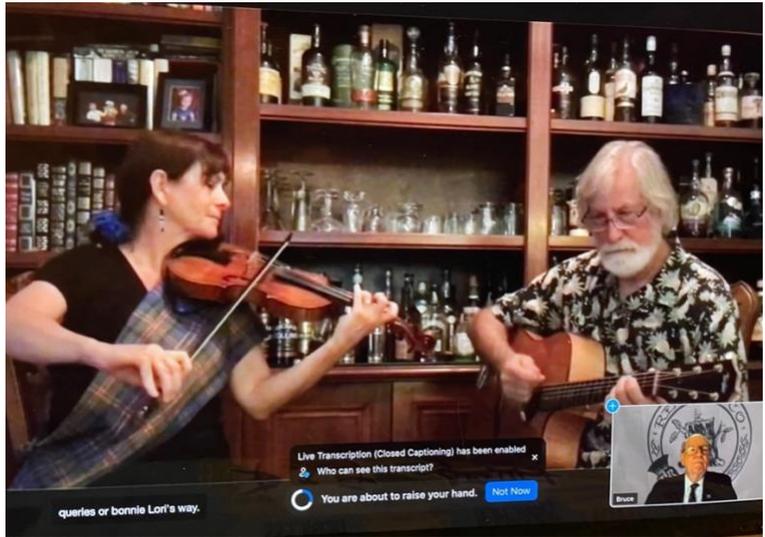


*Top Row: Lillian Cunningham, Robin Sagadraca, Ian Birnie & Keene Rees, Larry & Jackie Phillips, & Mary O'Brien-Ichikawa.*

*Second Row: Carol Anne Gordon, Christopher Haig, Rita Thompson, Alexandra Donachie (from Scotland—Stuart Donachie's mother), and Eve Shere.*



*Lillian Cunningham discussed Billy’s book “The Scottish World” with him.*



*Lisa Gomes with Lawson Cannon video music presentation*

*Top to Bottom:  
Janice Choate-Zavakos,  
Kevin Bogan,  
Jackie & Larry Phillips, &  
Brian Richardson*



*Dougie MacLean—Caledonia-- via YouTube video sang “Auld Lang Syne” for the Burns group at the end of the program. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)*

*Scottish singer, “Robyn Stapleton, Songs of Robert Burns.” Billy called her “our best Burns singer at the moment.” Streaming available on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).*

*Robert Burns portrait (Internet image)*

