



The Desert Scene

Hello everyone...another month goes by....how time flies when one is having fun in the desert!

At our monthly meeting held on January 21, it was pleasing to hear that our Society now has close to 100 paid members. There are others around who used to be on our Newsletter distribution and should be encouraged to sign up as members too. Perhaps reaching out to those is a task for each one of us.

As a "snowbird" I find the desert area such a wonderful place to be. Many might call it "Paradise" and I wouldn't argue with them in that account.

I thought I would share with you a few items which remind me that I am in California.....here is my top five.....

- 1. The amazing views of snow capped mountain tops with palm trees in the foreground.***
- 2. The priority the TV stations give to pending "storms" which may sprinkle us with a few drops of rain!***
- 3. The speed at which Trader Joe's whisky disappears from the shelves!***
- 4. The opportunity to see old time show biz favourites appearing live...Connie Francis who remains forever young in our mind and hearts is a good example.***
- 5. Wait for it...this one is my favourite and makes me chuckle each time I think about it.....the appearance of ladies out "walking" their wee dogs who are seated in doggie strollers!!! Whatever happened to walking the dog for exercise?***

The Executive Team

President: Ina Gibbons

Vice President: Greg Persall

Treasurer: Roberta Guy

March 2009



Secretary: Joyce McHattie

Historian: Sir John Porter

Membership: Dwight Fine

Regalia: Dennis Noble

Newsletter: Alec Norrie

Scottish Supplement

This month's collection includes:

~ Leucojum, also known as Summer Snowflake or Loddon Lily with their extra green and yellow markings distinguishing them from snowdrops; ~ a tram car (known locally as "Shooglies" from the way they swayed along the tracks) in the Transport Museum in Glasgow; ~ a horse-drawn Glasgow to London stagecoach; ~a "Coronation Tram" from the 1930s, which had the luxury of an enclosed cab for the driver who also had a seat for the first time; ~ the first production Hillman Imp motor car, produced in the 1960s at a manufacturing plant in Linwood near Paisley, west of Glasgow; ~ a mass of snowdrops photographed in the grounds of Braco Castle in Perthshire.

For all these graphics and further information, see:

<http://www.rampantscotland.com/colour/supplement090228.htm>

Who we are and where we are from.....

Greg Persall, Society Vice President.

Greg was born in Santa Monica, CA. in 1953, lived in L.A. until he turned 13, then moved to Beaumont. Greg started a career in law enforcement at age 18, and served for 32 yrs. in and around Riverside County, retiring as a Sgt. with the Riverside Co. Sheriff's Dept. Greg also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, his last assignment as a Special Agent, Coast Guard Intelligence. He hold a Master's degree in Criminal Justice Admin. from Chapman University.

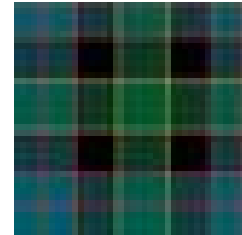
March 2009



Persall - as Greg understands – is an English name. In doing a little genealogy research, Greg found his Great-Grandfather (Charles Persall) was born in 1855 in Ontario, Canada. His maternal side is Duncan. Great-Grandfather (Robert Duncan) was born in 1872 in Alabama. Greg's wife - Randa Eden - was born in Kentucky and moved to Riverside as a child. Her ancestry is part of the Stewart clan. She is a Clerk with the Banning Unified School Dist. Greg and Randa have been married for four years and reside in Beaumont.

Tartan Day, April 6

Editor.....I thought that this mail from the Canadian Scottish Society would interest you. The USA has been much quicker at recognizing Scotland's contribution than the Canadian Federal Government.....



As many of us know, Canada has a long rich history of Scots immigrating to this Country from our early days to the present. Many of our institutions throughout our country can be attributed to these Scots ancestors and their contributions to our education, banking, government, and legal systems.



That is why I am writing you, on behalf of The United Council of Scots of Atlantic Canada, a council of representatives of Scottish societies, in the four Atlantic Provinces.

We are asking Scottish groups across Canada to come together, for the first time in history, to ask the Canadian government to proclaim, through legislation, April 6 as Tartan Day. We are, at the same time urging that the Maple Leaf Tartan be officially proclaimed as our nation's national tartan.

As you are aware, Tartan Day began 22 years ago by the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia to commemorate the contributions Scots have made to our country. They chose, in 1986, April 6 –

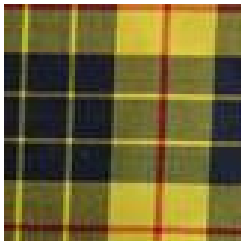
March 2009



the date the Treaty of Arbroath was signed seven centuries ago. Since Tartan Day was first proclaimed in Nova Scotia, that date has been adopted by Scots worldwide as a day to commemorate and celebrate their heritage. Tartan Day has been proclaimed as an official date of commemoration by nations around the world, including the United States but, even though it is recognized by all Canadian provinces, it is not yet recognized by our Canadian government and our Maple Tartan has never been officially recognized as Canada's Tartan.



We know we cannot do this alone and therefore we need support from Scottish groups from coast to coast. We are asking your group to contact us if you are interested in taking part in this historic movement. I would also ask that you contact any group or provide us with their contact information for a group you may think might be interested in joining the campaign. Once we make contact we will begin the process of implementing our plan of action.



If someone from your group could reply by March 31, 2009, I would be most appreciative.

Dan Taylor, Executive Director

United Council of Scots of Atlantic Canada

taylor@nbnet.ca

International Folk Dancing.....Article from Dwight Fine

***Here is some information about international folk dancing:
SSD member Dwight Fine is a co-instructor of Desert International Folk Dancers (DIFD), along with Helen Smith of Indio and Shelley Miller-Mantell of Palm Springs. Members Kay Adkins and Liz Norrie are regular attendees. DIFD meets Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Step By Step Dance Studio, 316 N. Palm Canyon (downstairs, near Amado). The group does mostly non-partner dances from areas such as the Balkans and Israel. Sessions begin with easy level dances and progress to intermediate level. New people are welcome during the first hour. If there is sufficient demand, Dwight is willing to throw in a Scottish country dance or two on the evenings when he is in charge. For further information, call Dwight at 760-327-8684 or Helen at 760-342-1297.***

March 2009



Mark your Calendars

March 14, 2009

April 4, 2009

May 9, 2009

June 13, 2009

Luncheon at Billie Reeds Restaurant

Celebrate National Tartan Day at Desert Falls Country Club

TBA

TBA

This month in History

March 3 1847

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone was born in Edinburgh to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Grace Symonds. Bell immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1870 and married Mabel Hubbard in Boston on 11 July 1877. Both his mother and wife were hearing impaired and he was greatly interested in training teachers of the deaf.

March 6 1725

Henry Benedict Maria Clement Stuart, the last legitimate male Stuart heir to the British throne was born in Rome, Italy. He was the second son of James Edward Stuart, the self styled King James III and VIII, though also known as 'The Old Pretender.'

March 7 1676

Robert 'Rob Roy' MacGregor, third son of Donald Glas MacGregor, a Clan Chieftain, and his wife, Margaret Campbell, was baptized as a Presbyterian at Buchanan, then known as Inchcailleash, near Loch Katrine. Rob was a renowned swordsman with an eye for other men's cattle and an active Jacobite during the 1715 rebellion.

March 9 1566

The murder of David Riccio (Rizzio), favourite courtier and suspected lover of Mary, Queen of Scots, by men led by Lord Ruthven and the Earl of Morton. The violent deed was performed in the Queen's presence despite the fact that she was pregnant with the future King James VI and I, and with the cooperation of her husband, Henry, Lord Darnley.

March 2009



March 17 1058

Lulach, King of Scots, and sometimes referred to as 'the Fool,' stepson of MacBeth and son of Gruoch, was killed in battle at Essie in Strathbogie by Malcolm Canmore, who would reign as Malcolm until 1093. Canmore, whose father Duncan had been slain in battle in 1040 by MacBeth, and not poisoned according to Shakespeare's famous 'Scottish play,'

March 19 1702

Death of William of Orange, who had reigned since 1689 as William III of England and II of Scotland, and was also ruler of the Netherlands, 1672-1702, with the title of Stadholder. He was married to Mary, daughter of James II of England and VII of Scotland, who was deposed in 1688 in their favour.

March 24 1603

The death of Queen Elizabeth I of England and accession of King James VI of Scotland as James I of England. This event was one of the happiest of James' life and something he had worked toward for years. He had even accepted Elizabeth's execution of his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots, and had cultivated a friendship with Elizabeth's chief minister, Sir Robert Cecil, who would prove instrumental in securing the succession.

March 25 1306

Robert the Bruce, Earl of Carrick was crowned King of Scots at Scone, just six weeks after he had murdered rival, John 'the Red' Comyn, before the altar of the Greyfriar's Abbey in Dumfries.

Membership

For Membership information please contact Dwight Fine

2343 Via Sonoma #E

Palm Springs, CA 92264

Telephone: 760-327-8684

Email: dwigf@msn.com

March 2009



Contact us

Any short pieces of interesting and relevant articles for future newsletters will be most welcome. Please contact us on topics with a Scottish connection and we will do our best to publish in future editions. Your newsletter contact is Alec Norrie at anorrie@radarinteractive.com.

Visit our web site; <http://www.thesd.org/> for past newsletters and association news.

March 2009