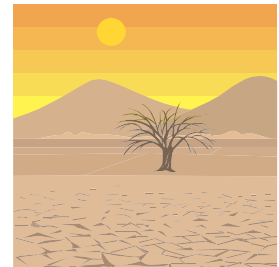




The Desert Scene

Welcome...we are back from our Summer break. What a summer it has been too. The Desert was positively scorching hot. The Vancouver, Canada area had a very hot summer as well and resembled Palm Springs more than a typical "British" summer. Here in the east coast summer evaded us until August. July in fact was the wettest on record in Ontario Canada.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of two of our members.



A Toast to Absent Friends

Mark Miller



Mark was a firefighter for the City of Rancho Mirage

Kevin and Ina attended a memorial for Mark. The facility where they had the memorial was jam packed, and the overflow was in the parking lot. Three of the Palm Springs pipe band members piped. There were seven of our society members in attendance. Mark leaves behind his wife Jill.

The Scottish Society of the Desert made a contribution to Blind Dogs of the Desert in Marks name as this was a favourite charity of his.

Sir John Porter



It is with sorrow that we have to announce the death of Sir John Porter. Sir John died on September 23rd, 2009 after a long battle with cancer. John has been an active member of the Scottish Society for the past six years and has served as our historian for the past five years.

The Society will hold a memorial for Sir John on Saturday, October 17th in the ballroom at Billie Reeds restaurant in Palm Springs, immediately following our monthly luncheon.

October 2009



The Executive Team

Here is your new executive team. The Historian position is vacant with the passing of Sir John.

President: Ina Gibbons

Vice President: Roberta Guy

Treasurer: David Whitaker

Secretary: Joyce McHattie

Historian:

Membership: Dwight Fine

Fundraising: Lois McAttee and Carolyn Sullivan

Newsletter: Alec Norrie

Mark your Calendars

Oct. 10-11, 2009 Seaside Highland Games, Ventura CA

Oct 17, 2009 Monthly luncheon at Billie Reeds Restaurant in Palm Springs at 12 noon. Memorial to Sir John Porter immediately afterwards.

Nov 14, 2009 Monthly luncheon and guest speaker (TBA)

Dec 5, 2009 St. Andrew's dinner at the Westin Hotel in Rancho Mirage

Jan 30, 2010 Burns Supper (location to be announced)

Feb. 13-14, 2010 Queen Mary Highland Games, Long Beach CA

Feb 20, 2010 Monthly luncheon and guest speaker (TBA)

October 2009



- Mar 1, 2010** ***Pipes and Drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland
(McCallum Theatre)***
- Mar, 13 2010** ***Monthly luncheon and guest speaker (TBA)***
- April 3, 2010** ***Monthly luncheon and guest speaker (TBA)***
- May 8, 2010** ***Monthly luncheon and guest speaker (TBA)***
- May 29-30, 2010** ***Costa Mesa Highland Games***
- June 26-27, 2010** ***Vista Highland Games, Vista CA***

The Homecoming

I would be interested to hear from any of our members who took the trip to Scotland for the homecoming Gathering. From videos I have seen it was a wonderful event and the weather could not have turned out better either. Meanwhile I have included a poem I came across which captures the spirit of all Scots, home or abroad.

The Gathering.

***What is it about the Scots?
What makes us so proud to be so?
I found the answer in Holyrood,
at the Gathering of the Clans.***

Surrounded by tartans of every weft and hue, by voices transatlantic and accents international, Scotland laid her culture bare, and I felt at home with those who love our land.

We proudly strode the 'mile' in company of our kin, how proud I was of those who came and cheered us on, Those crowds who waited patiently, God bless them everyone.

What is it about the Scots?

October 2009



***What makes us so proud to be so?
It's a mixture of pride and belonging,
of warmth that envelopes us all.
God made me Scots and I'm honoured.***

D.C. Macdonald

Earldom up for grabs

What a deal when the Dollar is strong against the Pound!!!

By David Leask, Scotland On Sunday, 03 August 2009

Once they had the power of life and death over serfs and the title may still open doors to exclusive establishments. A rare feudal earldom is about to come up for sale in Scotland and it might be the last time. Whoever buys the title will be able to call themselves earl, but they may have to pay £500,000 for the privilege.

The title is understood to be one of just six outstanding Scottish feudal earldoms left over from the medieval era. Along with less-prestigious feudal baronies, they are the only titles that can be legally bought or sold rather than inherited. The seller is Dumfriesshire-based entrepreneur Brian Hamilton, dubbed the Raider of the Lost Titles, who last night said he believed the earldom would be the last to go on the open market, such is its rarity.

Hamilton refused to say which earldom he will be offering or what it would cost. But the Earldom of Arran recently changed hands for more than £200,000, while the Barony of Macdonald in Skye was reputedly sold for £1 million.

Baronies and earldoms were rediscovered – and first traded with land – in the second half of the 20th century. Since 2004, and the abolition of feudalism in Scotland, the titles have been separated from the land. The title is not the same as a peerage earldom, an inherited rank that can earn a seat in the House of Lords. Titleholders can, however, be able to petition the Lord Lyon for a coat of arms.

October 2009



Queens Last Letter to go on Show

The last letter ever written by Mary Queen of Scots is to go on display for the first time in 30 years. The 422-year-old manuscript - written six hours before her execution - will go on show at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh on 15 September. The letter, which will be displayed for seven days, was written on 8 February, 1587 to the King of France, Henri III. The Catholic Queen told her brother-in-law she would die a religious martyr and not for purely political reasons. King Henri III was the brother of her late husband, Francois II. The letter revealed that, just hours from death, Mary asked Henri to ensure her servants' wages were paid. The document will be one of the key exhibits unveiled by the National Library to mark the official launch of its new visitor centre.

Conservation reasons

Its bosses said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a "fascinating piece" of history. Since the letter was last seen in public 30 years ago, the library's visitors have only been able to view a digitally-enhanced reproduction as it is stored under tightly-controlled conditions to prevent damage from heat, light and humidity. It will only be on display for seven days within a glass case for conservation reasons. It is not known when, or if, the original will go on display again. The precious manuscript will join 10 other exhibits, which will remain on show until 8 November.

The library's new visitor facilities are the result of a £2.24m investment programme, undertaken over the last three years to make it more accessible. Its chief executive, Martyn Wade, said: "The completion of the visitor centre marks an exciting new chapter for the National Library of Scotland."

October 2009



Notable Scots ...This is a wonderful story.....BUT

The article about Sir Alexander Fleming in the May edition is, unfortunately, one of those fabricated stories which make their rounds now and again. Thanks to one of our members, Dr. Roy Pitkin for providing me with the details and clarification.

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

I would like to get this started again. Please consider sending me a little bit about oneself which can be shared with others with Scottish backgrounds

This month in History

October 4 1694

The birth of Jacobite General, Lord George Murray, at Huntingtown, Perthshire, a son of John Murray, First Duke of Atholl. He entered the English army in 1711, but supported the unsuccessful Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1719.

October 6 1744

The birth of Canadian merchant and politician, James McGill, at Glasgow. After attending Glasgow University, he emigrated to Canada, making his headquarters in Montreal and becoming an important figure in the fur trade.

16 October 1430

The birth of King James II, only surviving son of James I and the English Joan Beaufort, at Holyrood in Edinburgh. He became King in February 1437 at age six upon the assassination of his father.

October 23 2000

The election of Michael Martin, a Roman Catholic from Glasgow, as

Speaker of the British House of Commons. He had served as Deputy Speaker from 1997 to 2000 and became the first Catholic to hold the office since the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century.

Membership

For Membership information please contact Dwight Fine

October 2009



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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.

October 2009