



The Saltyre

September 2020

Message From The President

The SASS barbecue was a success this year in spite of the heat and modest turnout caused by COVID concerns. I'd like to thank Doug and Sandi Walters for opening their home to the club. Doug, great job on the lamb-be-cue, it was delicious.

At this time I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Phil Richey on his recent milestone birthday. You'll have to contact Phil to get the number. Happy birthday Phil.

Sadly the whole Scottish events calendar has been wiped clean by the Coronavirus. If there's any bright side to this it's the way organizations have jumped on the technology train and started using services like Skype, Zoom, and Teams to keep as much competition and interaction alive as possible. In my own case I have been able to compete against pipers from all over the globe because of the new online venues and formats.



To help keep everyone in touch with Scottish culture and activities I am going to start sending links to videos and live streaming web cameras on a regular basis. From time to time It may be as simple as a video of me playing a tune in my home office.

This year has been a wild ride and we still have nearly four months to endure. Please share with the club if you know when the Martians plan to invade or the zombies are due to arrive. There is a high likelihood that there will not be any fall/winter events this year. Event chairs are keeping tabs on COVID status and staying in touch with venues to know whether or not we will have our usual celebrations. I am going to include vendor information in this Saltyre for traditional Scottish foods should you wish to have a themed and well flavored Scottish event at home.

The Society has an opening for a Vice President. Please contact me if you have any interest in filling this position.

Please stay healthy and safe. Have an orange and wee dram every day to fend off scurvy, bad breath, and boredom.

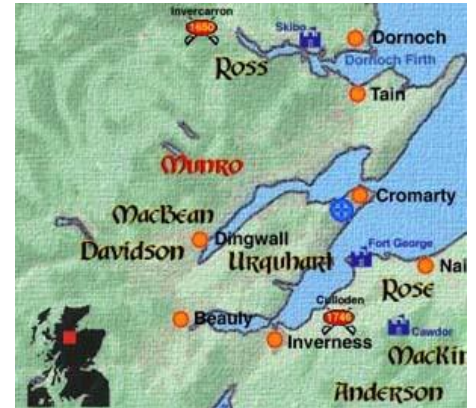
All the best,

Bruce Locken



Clans

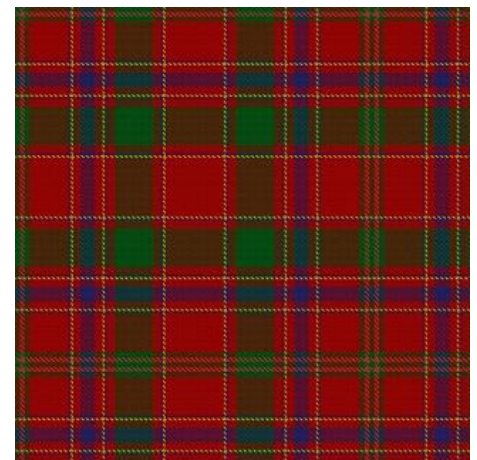
The origins of **Clan Munro** are uncertain. By tradition, the early clan was made up of 11th Century mercenary soldiers from Ireland. They were granted lands in Ross by the King after defeating Viking invaders in Scotland. Documentary evidence shows the soldiers were well established by the middle of the 14th Century on the shore of Cromarty Firth in Ferindonald (Donald's land) named after their first chief. From this base comprising the modern parishes of Kiltearn and Alness they gradually spread their influence north and east into the fertile plain of Easter Ross.



They initially held land as vassals of the Earls of Ross. Their lands later became the Barony of Foulis (pronounced "fowls") and thereafter the chief and his family were designated "of Foulis". The clans chiefs were Bailies to the Macdonalds, Earls of Ross and Lords of the Isles. Robert of Foulis supported Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314. Robert Mor, 15th chief, was a supporter of Mary Queen of Scots and favored by her son, James VI.

During the 17th century, the Munros fought in the continental wars and Robert, the 18th chief, joined the army of Gustavus Adolphus. He greatly distinguished himself and his Scots received the name the "Invincibles".

Munro of Foulis was one of the original commanders of the six independant companies when they were raised in 1725. In 1740 when the companies of the "Black Watch" were formed into the 43rd (and later 42nd) Regiment, Sir Robert Munro, 6th Bart, was appointed Lieutenant Colonel. Sir Robert also published an account of his fortunes with the MacKay regiment in the Thirty Years War. The clan later supported the Protestant succession to the British Crown against the Catholic Stuarts during the Jacobite Risings of the 18th Century.



The Munro clan made their mark in other fields. One of the early Munro family is believed to have written what may be one of the earliest piobaireachds to be put on paper. A piece, entitled 'Bealach na Broige'.

The Munros also became known for their prominence in the Scottish clergy and in politics. The family boasted many ministers and Justices of the Peace. The most prestigious position attained by a Munro in politics was when James Monroe became President of the United States of America.



Castle Foulis, Seat Of The Clan Munro

Foulis (Gaelic "Fo-glais" a streamlet) has of old been the home of Clan Munro.

Acquired by a Munro Chief in the early 14th century. Plans of the original castle are lost, but the grounds still contain the remains of an 11th century

Mott (manmade mound topped by a wooden palisade).



The present Castle dates from the middle of the 18th century containing within its attractive Georgian structure the remains of a much earlier and altogether different defensive keep.

Sir Harry Munro returned after the 1745 Rising in which he lost both his father and uncle at the Battle of Falkirk, to find his ancient home destroyed by fire, and set about building the house you see today incorporating what he could of the old 16th century keep. The courtyard pierced by three arches with its semi-octagonal tower dated 1754 hints at an earlier form of Scottish architecture.

The slightly later and more formal Georgian front features a fine double entrance stair leading to a doorway formed from a first floor window in the pedimented center piece with its heraldic panel dated 1777. The short end elevations have elegant full height angled bays. The whole, very much in the manner of one of the Adams brothers.

Little has changed since, Foulis remains externally much as it was first built. Internally alterations made by succeeding generations add to the character of this interesting old building (still occupied by the Munros of Foulis), by here and there allowing glimpses of the vestiges of earlier architectural form exposed during renovations which can only hint as to how the Castle might have once looked.

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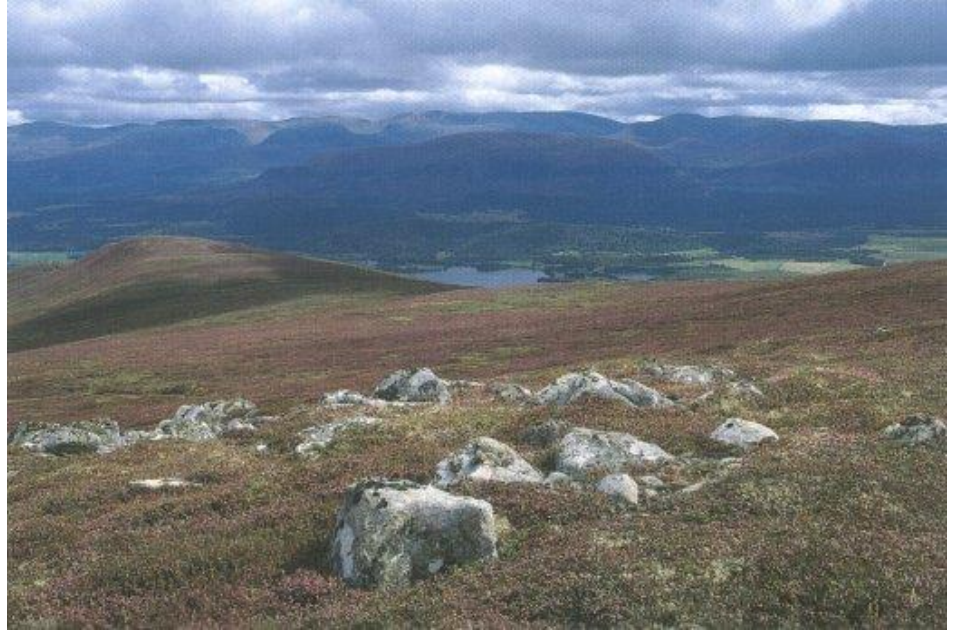
Courtesy of <https://www.clanmunro.org.uk/castle.htm>



Heather

Thanks to the Speyside Heather Garden & Visitor Centre for this information

When God first made the world, He looked at the barren hillsides and thought how nice it would be to cover them with some kind of beautiful tree or flower. He turned to the Oak, the biggest and strongest of all of the trees he had made, and asked him if he would be willing to go up to the bare hills to help make them look more attractive. But the oak explained that he needed deep soil to grow and the hillsides would be too rocky for him to take root.



So God left the oak tree and turned to the honeysuckle with its lovely yellow flower and beautiful sweet fragrance. He asked the honeysuckle if she would care to grow on the hillsides and spread her beauty and fragrance amongst the barren slopes. But the honeysuckle explained that she needed a wall or a fence or even another plant to grow against, and for that reason, it would be quite impossible for her to grow in the hills.

So God then turned to one of the sweetest and most beautiful of all the flowers - the rose. God asked the rose if she would care to grace the rugged highlands with her splendour. But the rose explained that the wind and the rain and the cold on the hills would destroy her, and so she would not be able to grow on the hills.

Disappointed with the oak, the honeysuckle and the rose, God turned away. At length, he came across a small, low lying, green shrub with a flower of tiny petals -some purple and some white. It was a heather.

God asked the heather the same question that he'd asked the others. "Will you go and grow upon the hillsides to make them more beautiful?"



The heather thought about the poor soil, the wind and the rain - and wasn't very sure that she could do a good job. But turning to God she replied that if he wanted her to do it, she would certainly give it a try.

God was so pleased that he decided to give the heather some gifts as a reward for her willingness to do as he had asked.

First he gave her the strength of the oak tree - the bark of the heather is the strongest of any tree or shrub in the whole world.

Next he gave her the fragrance of the honeysuckle - a fragrance which is frequently used to gently perfume soaps and potpouris.

Finally he gave her the sweetness of the rose - so much so that heather is one of the bees favorite flowers. And to this day, heather is renowned especially for these three God given gifts.

Heather, the name most commonly used for this plant, is of Scottish origin, presumably derived from the Scots word HAEDDRE. Haeddre has been recorded as far back as the fourteenth century, and it is this word which seems always to have been associated with ericaceous plants.

Heather moors cover a vast amount of Scottish countryside. With approximately 2 to 3 million acres of Heather Moors in the East and only slightly fewer in the South and West, Heather is without doubt one of Scotland's most prolific and abundant plants.



There are a number of reasons why heathers are so abundant with such a wide distribution. Firstly, the plant's reproductive capacity is high, seeds are produced in very large numbers. Heather can survive in many soil types, from peaty with a high water content to free draining and relatively dry.

The hardiness of heather is able to tolerate temperature extremes from as low as -18°F to as high as 100°F in summer. The life expectancy of heather is approx. 40-50 years.

Heather has been acknowledged as a medicinal plant by doctors since the 1930's. Heather honey is also considered to have curative properties. It is indeed an amazing plant.

Courtesy of Electric Scotland



The Story of Scotch

Uisge beatha, The Water of Life, Scotch Whisky...Whatever you call Scotland's national drink, and whichever Scotch you discover, you know that it is a product of quality, crafted in Scotland, with a unique heritage stretching back more than 500 years.

Early beginnings

The story of Scotch begins as early as the 15th century. The earliest documented record of distilling in Scotland occurred in 1494 in the tax records of the day, the Exchequer Rolls. An entry lists *"Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor wherewith to make aqua vitae."*

Friar John was in luck – this was enough malted barley to produce almost 1,500 bottles of a potent spirit which would be refined and improved in the years ahead.



Illicit stills and running from the tax man

The increasing popularity of Scotch attracted the attention of the Scottish Parliament, looking to profit from the fledgling industry. The first taxes on Scotch were introduced in 1644 which led to an increase in illicit whisky distilling across Scotland.

Smuggling became standard practice for the next 150 years. The excisemen, or gaugers, as they were known, and the illicit distillers began a game of cat and mouse, with canny Scots coming up with increasingly ingenious ways of shielding the spirit from taxation. Even usually honest members of the clergy would hide Scotch under the pulpit, and the illicit spirit was even transported by coffin to avoid the taxman!

By the 1820s, as many as 14,000 illicit stills were being confiscated every year, and more than half the whisky consumed in Scotland was being enjoyed without the taxman taking his cut.

Scotland's most famous tax collector

One of the most well-known tax collectors of the 18th century was Robert Burns - Scotland's bard. He trained as an exciseman before turning his attention to writing some of Scotland's most loved poetry. In 1785, Burns wrote "Scotch Drink" - an ode to whisky and the nature of happiness - of community, cooperation, warmth and a friendly welcome - and his points went to the true spirit of Scotch.



Moving towards a modern industry

The continued flouting of the law eventually prompted the Duke of Gordon, on whose extensive lands some of the finest illicit whisky in Scotland was being produced, to propose in the House of Lords that the Government should make it profitable to produce whisky legally.

In 1823 the Excise Act was passed, which sanctioned the distilling of whisky in return for a licence fee of £10, and a set payment per gallon of proof spirit.

Smuggling died out almost completely over the next decade and, in fact, a great many of the present day distilleries stand on sites used by the smugglers over two centuries ago.

The rise of grain whisky

Until now, the spirit – illicit or otherwise – had been Malt Whisky. But, in 1831, Aeneas Coffey invented the Patent Still which enabled a continuous process of distillation to take place.

This led to the production of Grain Whisky, a different, less intense spirit than Malt Whisky. The lighter flavoured Grain Whisky, when blended with the more potent and fiery malts, extended the appeal of Scotch Whisky to a considerably wider market.

Scotch moves out into the world

During the 19th century, titans of the whisky world like James Buchanan, Tommy Dewar, Johnnie Walker & James Chivas took Scotch out of Scotland for the first time. Using their entrepreneurial spirit, they took whisky out to the British empire and far beyond, creating an enduring love of Scotch from Hong Kong to Hanoi, Sydney to San Francisco, Montreal to Mumbai, Bogota to Berlin, Cape Town to the Cape Verde islands. The export markets they built are the foundation stone of Scotch whisky's success today.

A spot of luck also helped global expansion. In the 1880s, the phylloxera beetle devastated French vineyards, and within a few years, wine and brandy had virtually disappeared from cellars everywhere.

Once again canny Scots were quick to take advantage. By the time the French industry recovered, Scotch Whisky had replaced brandy as the preferred spirit of choice.

The SWA emerges

The Scotch Whisky Association was created against a backdrop of rising taxes, global expansion and the need for a united industry voice. Brand owners held a series of conferences to discuss how to protect the sector which led to major gathering in London on



3 October 1912. On this day, it was agreed to set-up the Wine & Sprit Brand Association which would become the Scotch Whisky Association in 1942. Find out more about the role of the SWA here.

Prohibition

In 1920, prohibition was introduced in the United States. Whisky was exempt, as long as it was prescribed by a doctor for medicinal purposes. Some famous faces used this to their advantage...

Global Scotch

Churchill's connection to Scotch goes further than prohibition. World War II re-shaped the industry as distillers increasingly looked to international opportunities. At the time, one Minister said: "...the country needs food, dollars mean food, and whisky means dollars." Annual export targets were agreed with the government and Scotch's journey to become the world's premier whisky continued.

500 years on

Five centuries after it all started, 1994 the Scotch Whisky industry celebrated the 500th anniversary of whisky production in Scotland – and did it in style! For the first time, global exports of Scotch Whisky broke through the £2 billion mark.

Protecting Scotch Whisky in the modern world

Scotch Whisky must, by law, be distilled and matured in Scotland in oak casks for at least three years and bottled at a minimum alcoholic strength of 40% abv. The robust legal protection of Scotch – vital to safeguard a spirit globally renowned for its quality – has grown over time.

The first definition of Scotch in UK law was secured by 1933, with a dedicated Scotch Whisky Act in 1988 and new Scotch Whisky Regulations in 2009. These comprehensive rules govern the Scotch Whisky industry – you can find out more here.

Whisky for the World

Today Scotch Whisky is enjoyed in 175 countries throughout the world. Each second, 42 bottles of Scotch are shipped from Scotland across the globe, helping to support tens of thousands of jobs in Scotland and ensuring that millions of consumers can enjoy a dram. A global industry, 500 years in the making.

Courtesy of the Scotch Whisky Association <https://www.scotch-whisky.org.uk/discover/story-of-scotch/>



Flowers of the Forest

Herman Chambers.....	1930-2020	Felix D. Othon	1929-2007
Clyde Le Roy Scott	1938-2019	William Arnold Butler	1943-2006
Malcolm MacClenaghan.	1924-2019	George Santrizos	1914-2005
Alex Doig	1938-2019	Daniel Stephens	1911-2003
Gordon Scott	1946-2019	David F. McGeary	1940-2002
Alasdair Harding.	2018	Leroy Coulter Pierson	1913-1999
Walter (Skip) W. Hastings	1945-2018	Rev. J.P. Edwards III	1925-1997
Calvert Lawton Crawford	1933-2018	Watson Burns	1996
William Leroy Wilson	1929-2017	James McCracken	1920-1994
Gary D. Stevenson	1949-2017	Alexander W. McTavish	1906-1992
David Mercer	1935-2016	Rev. Howard Perry	1921-1989
Charles Preston Thomson	1940-2015	Wallace Gibson Holt	1919-1989
Donald Calavan-MacRae	1932-2013	James C. C. Wallace.	1926-1989
Edison Alva McFarland II –	1925-2012	Angus Murray	1984
Moton Bryant Holt	1929-2012	Robert Jeffreys	
James C "Jim" Richey	1931-2009	Alec Cowan	
George W. Burns	1925-2008	Tom Ross	
George Eric Martin	1921-2008	Bob MacDonald	
BG Harry McIvor Nicolson	1920-2008	Larry Cameron	
		Shakey Johnson	
		Frank M. Clark	
		Richard Russo	

The Society plants trees in Scotland on behalf of departed brothers of the Society. This is done as a remembrance and contributes to the replanting of the Great Caledonian Forest. Any time you wish you may donate via this link:

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees/grove/5067/>



Charitable giving may help you minimize taxes while supporting the causes that are meaningful to you. Please consider making a donation to the Society when estate planning.



Society Board	Calendar	Society Finances
<p>President Bruce Locken</p> <p>Vice President</p> <p>Treasurer Thomas Melton</p> <p>Secretary Chuck Jamison</p> <p>Directors of the Board Chuck Meng Doug Walters Ed Moore James Morgan</p>	<p>*****</p> <p>ALL EVENTS AFTER THE BBQ ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Investiture Nov. 30, 2020 Arden Hilton, West</p> <p>Christmas Party Maybe Dec. 12</p> <p>Burns Supper 2021 Jan. 30</p> <p>Spring Tea March 2021</p> <p>Dining In/AGM, June TBA North Ridge Country Club</p> <p>Halfway to Burns Day July TBA</p> <p>Board meetings temporarily being handled online.</p> <p>8890 Roediger Lane, Fair Oaks, 7pm</p>	<p>No changes to report</p>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

St Andrews Society of Sacramento,
5150 Fair Oaks Blvd, #101-167, Carmichael, CA 95608