



The Saltyre

December 2021

Message From The President

Hello,

Recently we held a successful Investiture for the first time in a couple years. Time away has left us a bit rusty on our rituals, but over the next year a bit of spit and polish should bring us back into fine shape.

Last night we had had our annual Christmas party for the first time in quite a while. I'd like to thank our hosts Chuck and Deb' Meng for opening their beautiful home to us. There was plenty of food, great conversation, and few people were even convinced to sing karaoke.



Christmas is almost here and it's my wish that each of you and your families have the best holiday season possible. Carry the spirit of Christmas in your hearts and share it with everyone around you. Do something kind for someone who doesn't expect it. Maybe reach out to that relative or friend you haven't spoken to in years with a phone call or Christmas card. Set out cookies for your mail carrier and delivery people.

Don't forget the Society when you're shopping online. You can do this by signing up at **smile.amazon.com**. Pick Sacramento St Andrews Society as your charity of choice. One half of one percent of your purchase will be donated to the Society.

All the best and Merry Christmas,

Bruce Locken



A History of Christmas in Scotland

It's hard to imagine that once upon a time Christmas was banned for over 400 years in Scotland. Today shops are full of anything and everything Christmas related you could ever need, you can spot Christmas trees in almost every sitting room window and fairy lights adorn houses and businesses across the land. Up until 54 years ago, Christmas day was just another working day in Scotland. The ban was surprisingly only lifted as recently as 1958 and Boxing Day was only recognized as a public holiday in 1974.



So where does this turbulent history of Christmas in Scotland begin? Celtic Pagans who were kicking about in Western Europe between 500 BCE and 500 CE held celebrations around the time of winter solstice (usually around the 21st or 22nd of December). The festivities were in part to brighten the dark winter days, and to appease the Gods to allow the sun to return. Traditions included the burning of the Yule log, with the charred remains being used to protect the house throughout the year, and kissing under mistletoe (a fertility rite). It is the pagans too who have been credited with the early tradition of decorating a tree. It is thought that they hung shapes from an evergreen brought into the house to symbolize life.

With the establishment of Roman Catholicism in Scotland in the 5th and 6th centuries, Pagan winter solstice traditions were mishmashes with Christian traditions, perhaps explaining why they are still around in some form or another to this day. Prior to the Scottish Reformation of 1560, Christmas in Scotland was known as Yule and celebrated in a similar fashion to the rest of Europe. Yule is a Scots word that comes from the Old Norse *jól*, their word for winter solstice festivities. Traditionally Yule refers not just to Christmas Day but the festive season associated with it, which began before Christmas day and continued till after the new year.

John Knox, Leader of the Scottish Reformation

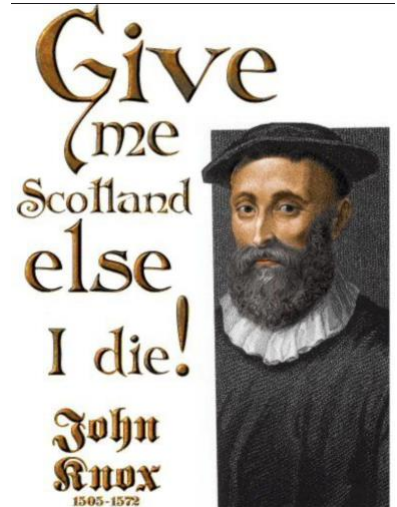
Post-Reformation of 1560, in which Scotland formally declared its split with the Catholic Church, anti-Catholic sentiment towards feast days and church holidays was high. John Knox, the leader of the Presbyterian movement, banned the celebration of Christmas in Scotland in 1580.



He saw the holiday (including St. Nicholas) as one created by the Catholic Church and instead favored the continuation of Hogmanay as a time to celebrate new life. This eventually led to the 1640 Act of Scottish Parliament which officially abolished the “Yule vacation and all observation thereof in time coming”, and was strictly enforced by law.

The Act stated (in Middle Scots):

“... the kirke within this kingdome is now purged of all superstitious observacione of dayes... thairfor the saidis estatis have dischaired and simply dischairges the foirsaid Yule vacance and all observation thairof in tyme comeing, and rescindis and annullis all acts, statutis and warrandis and ordinances whatsoever granted at any tyme heirtofor for keiping of the said Yule vacance, with all custome of observacione thairof, and findis and declaires the samene to be extinct, voyd and of no force nor effect in tyme comeing.”



(English translation: “... the kirk within this kingdom is now purged of all superstitious observation of days... therefore the said estates have discharged and simply discharge the foresaid Yule vacation and all observation thereof in time coming, and rescind and annul all acts, statutes and warrants and ordinances whatsoever granted at any time heretofore for keeping of the said Yule vacation, with all custom of observation thereof, and find and declare the same to be extinct, void and of no force nor effect in time coming.”)

Nevertheless there are many accounts of folk who continued their Christmas festivities, with some receiving fines or even prison sentences. On 27 December 1583, five people in Glasgow were brought before the kirk session and sternly ordered to make public repentance for ‘keeping Yule’. In the same year the Scot’s Church forbade bakers from preparing mincemeat pies, a chiefly tradition in pre-Reformation Christmas festivities. Anyone found baking them would be punished, or as more often happened, bakers were encouraged to inform on the customers who ordered them. In order to fox the Church, mincemeat pies became smaller and easier to hide. During the Christmas of 1605, five Aberdonians were prosecuted for going through the town ‘maskit and dancing with bellis’

For anti-Christmas humbuggery on a spectacular scale, it’s hard to beat a demonstration by students at Edinburgh University in 1680. In a letter entitled *The Scots Demonstration of Their Abhorrence of Popery, with all its Adherents*, the author recounts how the students had themselves a jolly Christmas by burning an effigy of the Pope. “Our Chriftnafs, this morning very pleasantly began” begins the letter, describing how the students burnt the effigy in public, despite a plea by authorities against “tumultuous affemblies.”

Even though the Victorians revived Christmas traditions to some extent, up until the 1960s Scots were mostly indiffernt to Christmas. With the fading of the influence of the Church and influence from the rest of the UK and elsewhere, Christmas time in Scotland today is celebrated with all the trimmings.



December in Scottish History

December 1st

In 1787, the first modern lighthouse in Scotland was lit at Fraserburgh. The lighthouse was built on top of a 16th-century castle, and is now Scotland's Lighthouse Museum.

December 3rd

Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa in 1894. After considering professions in law and engineering, he pursued his interest in writing. A prolific literary career ensued, which included 'Treasure Island' (1883), 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' (1886) and 'Kidnapped' (1886).

December 5th

In 1560 King Francis II of France, the husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. Francis was the Dauphin of France – the eldest son of the king and heir to the throne.

December 6th

Today in 1745 Prince Charles Edward Stewart and the Jacobite Army began their retreat from Derby. After a decisive victory in the '45 campaign at the Battle of Prestonpans, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' reached Derby on the 4th December. With the Jacobites' arrival only 150 miles north of London, there was widespread panic. However, with the promised French and Spanish invasion of England conspicuously absent and with limited support from the English Jacobites, a reluctant Charles was forced to heed his advisers and withdraw from Derby only two days later.

December 7th

St. Columba was born in Donegal, Ireland on this day in 521AD. Also known as Colum-Cille, an aristocratically-born Columba was banished to Scotland, following battles over monastic possessions. In 563, with 12 companions, he established a monastery on Iona, possibly on the site of an existing church. Columba is credited with converting King Bridei, the leader of the Picts in Scotland, to Christianity.

December 8th

On this day Mary, Queen of Scots, was born at Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian in 1542. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old.

December 9th

This day in 1165 saw the death of Malcom IV King of Scotland. The eldest son of David I, Malcolm had been King since 1153, when he succeeded his grandfather at the age of 12.



December 10th

1747 saw the death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites.

December 12th

On this day in 1574, Anne of Denmark, the wife of King James VI, was born. Anne and James were a devoted couple, despite James' attachments to men. They had married by proxy in Oslo in 1589 and had a total of eight children together.

December 13th

Today in 1585 saw the birth of William Drummond of Hawthornden, the noted Scottish poet. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

December 14th

On this day in 1730, James Bruce, the Scottish explorer, was born. Bruce travelled extensively through north Africa in search of the source of the Nile, even becoming a respected friend of the Abyssinian royal family, and in 1790 he published a lengthy account of his travels.

December 15th

The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day in 1936. The Society was formed with the aim of establishing a zoo within the city of Glasgow.

December 16th

On this day in 1653 Cromwell became Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country.

Today in 1263 the Norwegian king, Haakon the Old, died in the Bishop's Palace, Kirkwall, Orkney. He had used Kirkwall as a base for his fruitless attempt to maintain Norse rule over the Western Isles.

December 18th

Today in 1745 the last battle ever fought on English soil occurred. The skirmish took place at Clifton between retreating Jacobite troops on their way back to Scotland under the command of Lord George Murray, and Hanoverian forces under General Bland. The Jacobites were triumphant.



December 19th

On this day in 1887 Balfour Stewart, the Scottish meteorologist and geophysicist, died. He was noted for his studies of terrestrial magnetism, and his research on radiant heat contributed to the foundation of spectrum analysis: he made the important discovery that objects radiate and absorb energy of the same wavelength.

December 22nd

Today in 1715 James Francis Stewart, 'The Old Pretender,' landed in Scotland from France. Many Scots considered him the rightful heir to the throne. Louis XIV of France promised to recognize him as James VIII of Britain, but in 1713, Louis made peace with Britain and James was forced to leave France and settle in Rome.

December 24th

On this day in 1165 William I, "The Lion," was crowned at Scone. He was known as 'The Lion' because of his standard, a red lion rampant on a yellow background, which remains Scotland's royal standard today.

December 25th

On Christmas Day in 1950 four young Scots retrieved the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10th century, and supposedly a relic from biblical times, the stone was taken to England by Edward I as a symbol of his overlordship. A group of four Nationalist students removed it and took it north of the border in a Ford Anglia. It remained hidden until they placed it in Arbroath Abbey in April 1951, where it was discovered and returned to England. In 1996 the stone was placed in Edinburgh Castle amid much ceremony on St. Andrew's Day.

December 26th

Today in 1251 Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York.

December 27th

On this day in 1904 J M Barrie's play "Peter Pan" premiered at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir. Though he first gained recognition as a writer of novels set in rural Scotland, it is as a playwright that he has become a household name with his timeless creation, Peter Pan.

December 29th

Today in 1766 saw the birth of Charles Macintosh, the inventor of waterproof clothing. Macintosh was born in Glasgow, where he was first employed as a clerk.

Courtesy of ScotClans.com



Robert the Bruce's Posthumous Pilgrimage

Contributed by Ed Moore III

Whereas Richard I of England took his lion heart on crusade and brought it safely home again, Robert I "the Bruce," king of Scotland, died before he had time to fulfill his crusading vow; but he tried to send his heart to Jerusalem after he died, by way of proxy. Whether this technicality would have satisfied his vow is a moot point, because his heart never made it any further than Spain.

Robert the Bruce became King of Scotland in 1306. He is best remembered for having soundly defeated a large English army at Bannockburn in 1314. He died of leprosy after a twenty-three year reign; most of it spent fighting the English. This left him no convenient time to go on crusade, but he always intended to go, and he never gave up easily on anything he wanted to achieve. As his disease rendered him ever more helpless, he summoned one of his retainers, Lord James Douglas. According to Froissart's *Chronicles*, before he died on June 7, 1329, Robert told Douglas, "Since my body cannot accomplish what my heart wishes, I will send my heart instead of my body to fulfill my vow . . . take my heart from my body, and have it well embalmed . . . (and) you will then deposit your charge at the Holy Sepulcher of our Lord."

When the king was dead, his followers, acceding to his wishes, removed and embalmed his heart. A document still exists in which Pope John XXII granted absolution to those who, in breach of Church edicts against mutilating or dividing the bodies of dead Christians, extracted Robert's heart for this pious purpose. The body was carried in a funeral procession of great splendor to Dumfermline Abbey and buried near to his Queen Elizabeth and among the former kings and queens of Scotland. When it was exhumed during church alterations in 1819, the cracked sternum clearly showed that the heart had been removed.

The suitably prepared noble heart was delivered to the faithful Lord Douglas, who set out for the Holy Land in the spring of 1330. He carried the king's heart next to his own, in an enameled silver case hung around his neck.

Hume of Godscroft, the historian of the Douglas clan, asserts that Lord Douglas succeeded in his assignment and buried the royal heart in a gold box before the high altar of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. But the evidence does not support this. First of all, an extant letter from King Robert to his son clearly states that Douglas was to lay his heart before the altar in Jerusalem, and rather than bury it there, to return with it to Scotland and inter it in Melrose Abbey. Second, poor Douglas never got to Jerusalem. He made the mistake of landing in Spain and, by way of getting a little advance practice at crusading, agreed to get involved in a war then in progress between King Alphonso of Castile and the Andalusian Saracens. At a battle near Cordoba, Douglas and his forces became hopelessly outnumbered. Throwing the casket into the midst of the battle, Sir James cried, 'Now go before, brave heart, as you always did, and I shall follow you or die.' Lord Douglas and his men were killed. Douglas' body, and the king's heart, were packed up and sent back to



Scotland. There, the heart was entombed, as intended, at Melrose Abbey. The box containing it was found during renovations in 1921. So, even though Robert the Bruce's clever attempt to carry out his crusader's vow after death was a failure, at least his heart was in the right place.

References:

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Murphy, Edwin. (1995). After the Funeral – The Posthumous Adventures of Famous Corpses. Barnes & Nobles Book: New York.

Scott, Ronald McNair. (1982). Robert the Bruce – King of Scots, Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc: New York.

Facial reconstruction experts use cast of skull to recreate Bannockburn hero's face in 3D digital images



📷 Reconstructed face of Robert the Bruce before leprosy (left) and after. Photograph: Face Lab/Liverpool John Moores University



Clan MacKay, Gaelic Mac Aoidh

The name MacKay comes from the Gaelic Mac Aoidh meaning Son of Fire. The women were called Nic Aoidh, meaning Daughter of Fire. They are one of the most influential Clans of Scottish history. From the roots of the Clan in the Province called Moray to even further back to the most popular tales of the origins. Their Crest was of a dagger held erect and the clans' tune is titled MacKay's March and The White Banner of MacKay. The surname Mackay (McKay, Mackay) is the English equivalent of the Gaelic "MacAoidh" from Mac (son) and Aoidh (the genitive of the proper name Aodh). Aodh was a popular Celtic name and is said to be a form of Aed which is translated as "The fiery or impetuous one".

The Mackays claim descent from the Royal House of Moray through the line of Morgund of Pluscarden and were originally known as Clan Morgan. The clansmen were removed to Sutherland where they rose to a powerful position, at one time owning lands from Drimholisten to Kylescue. Their later title of MacKay comes from a chief so named living at the time of David II.



White Banner of Mackay



They were originally from Ireland but after losing in a battle, they were deported and settled in Moray, defeated and dishonored. But out of the blood of battle their Clan will live on. The first Chieftain of the Clan was born around 1210 A.D. and was a direct descendant the 1st Earl of Ross, Malcolm MacHeth, his name was Iye MacKay. It is said that after a conflict between the clan and their supporters against King Malcolm IV of Scotland, they fled north to the hills of Ross and Strathnaver. While in the north they met Norse Harald Maddadsson, Mormaer of Caithness who was an enemy to the King as well. The first record of the name was in 1326, when Gilchrist M'ay, progenitor of the Mackays of Ugadale, made a payment to the Constable of Tarbert. The Mackays supported Bruce and fought with him at Bannockburn and by 1427 the chief, Angus Dubh Mackay was described as leader of "4 000 Strathnaver men". Their fortunes fluctuated over the centuries and many bitter feuds ensued with the Sutherlands and Rosses.

In the troubles of the 17th and 18th centuries the Mackays supported the Hanovarian forces against the Jacobites and helped secure the far north for the government. The Mackays of Strathnaver are especially remembered for the famous "Mackay Regiment" raised for the service of the Dutch and Swedish crowns during the 17th century. As a result of this many clansmen settled in Holland and Sweden and gave rise to a number of noble families there.



In 1628, Sir Donald Mackay was raised to the peerage of Lord Reay by Charles I. His grandson, Colonel Aeneas Mackay of the Scotch-Dutch Brigade, married the heiress of the Baron van Haefton. The Mackays suffered badly in the Strathnaver clearances between 1815 and 1818 and finally in 1829 the Reay estate was sold to the Sutherland family and in 1875 the chiefship passed to Baron Mackay van Ophermett who became 10th Lord Reay. His nephew Baron Aeneas Mackay, prime minister of the Netherlands was the great grandfather of the present chief.

With the passing of time, the spelling of "MacAoidh" has taken many forms including Iye, Y, Aytho, MacIye, Makky, Macky, Maky, McKye, McKeye, Mackie, Mackey, McKy, McAy, McCei, MacCay, Mackee, Makgie, Ison, Eason, Easson, and many others. The name MacIsaac is said to be a corruption of MacIye.

From: "The Clan Mackay", by Margaret O. MacDougall
Clan MacKay Genealogy, Janet MacKay, Seanachaidh
<http://clan-mackay.co.uk>



The hilltop outpost of Clan Mackay's Castle Varrich; Tongue, Scotland



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.



<u>Society Board</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>Society Finances</u>
<u>President</u>	*****	
<u>Bruce Locken</u>	Fall Ceilidh	Through October 31
<u>Vice President</u>	Investiture	
<u>Travis Chatters</u>	Christmas Party	Checking - \$3,201.88
<u>Treasurer</u>	Burns Supper Jan. 15, 2022	Savings - \$29,767.16
<u>Thomas Melton</u>	North Ridge Country Club	Scholarship - \$2,243.29
<u>Secretary</u>	Spring Tea TBD	Total - \$35,212.33
<u>Chuck Jamison</u>	AGM May 2022	
<u>Directors of the Board</u>	½ Way To Burns Day TBD	
<u>Chuck Meng</u>		
<u>Doug Walters</u>	Board meetings are currently being held at the VFW post on Kruitoff Way, Fair Oaks. The Board meets between 5:30 & 6:00 for dinner, RSVP required 5 days in advance.	
<u>Ed Moore</u>	Third Monday of the month	
<u>James Morgan</u>		

Check out this Celtic Calendar for a huge list of upcoming events from other groups and communities:

<http://www.2jamisons.com/calendar.html>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

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