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CLAN MACKAY BANNER



May 2018



A Note from our President

Last month we celebrated Tartan Day in New York City with a parade down 6th Avenue. What a great experience with so many Scots and several Mackays. Next year we hope to have even more Mackays marching.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) later this month in Costa Mesa, CA at ScotFest. Right now, it is scheduled for Saturday, the 26th at 2:30 pm. We will have a call-in number for members that are unable to attend. We will announce that number on Facebook prior to the meeting.

I also want to remind our members about Scotland 2020, where we will be holding our AGM in Edinburgh Scotland. I hope that everyone planning to attend is getting along with their plans and that you do not wait to the last minute to get the small things done. Do what you can as we go along. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in Scotland. I have setup a Facebook group for all those planning to attend.

Aye, John Grogan



Loch Eriboll -- Photo taken by John Grogan

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Membership Chair: [Sandy Wheeler](#), CO/
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Banner Editor: [Jaime Chambers](#), CA

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Chaplain: [Mark W. Polson](#), OK



The Clan Mackay Home will be held at the [Scottish Club in Costa Mesa, CA](#) on May 26. The Home Meeting will be at 2:30pm Pacific time. If you cannot make it, you can call in! The Clan dinner will be held at the tent at 6pm. Tickets are on sale now. Please [RSVP for the dinner](#). If you would like call in information it will be posted on the Clan Mackay USA Facebook page, or [contact John](#).

New York City Tartan Day Parade

April 6th was chosen as Tartan Day as it marked the anniversary of the signing of the Deceleration of Arbroath in 1320. National Tartan Day was originally to recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States but today is a celebration of all things Scottish! Celebrations took place all over the USA, but one of the largest is in New York City. And of course, Clan Mackay was there!



Here are some fun facts about all things tartan!

- The world's first color photograph (taken in 1861) was of a tartan ribbon
- America is the top destination for receiving Scottish exports
- The Tartan Day celebrations didn't come to Scotland until 2004
- The Falkirk Tartan is the oldest known tartan, discovered around AD260 in a jar of coins

Scottish Influence on The American Revolution

by Stephanie Cruz www.electricscotland.com.

though Scotland would have maintained the freedom from the crown, but times were getting harder for the Scot's, they were losing everything, their homes and land were being burnt leaving them homeless, hopeless, and desperate. Between the years of 715 and 1745 hundreds of Scot's left their mother home for the "Land of Opportunity." Those who stayed faced the most atrocious battle Scotland has ever seen; Culloden. It left 2,000 casualties, and England took control of Scotland. Some of the survivors of the battle set sail to America.

By the year 1776 there were an estimated one hundred thousand Scot's living in the thirteen colonies. After leaving their mother land due to the turmoil, they come to America facing the same situation - England rule. There were those who were loyal to the crown, but the rest took up arms to fight.

The thirteen colonies were in rebellion and were tired of being taxed to death by England. There was the Sugar Tax, Tea Tax, and the Stamp Act all forcing the colonists to pay. The colonists said, "That's enough we aren't taking this any longer". Representatives from each state gathered and declared their independence, hence the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776 declaring separation from England. The battle went from 1777 to 1783. England surrendered to the America in Yorktown in October of 1781.

Here is a note from Caledonian Mercury; *But just a cursory look at the men involved in drafting and signing the declaration reveal a strong Scottish influence. Of the 56 signatories of the declaration it is estimated that at the least a third were either Scots by birth or of Scottish descent. Whilst it is probable that most of the signatories held non-American ancestry, it is clear that Scottish blood, education and ideas were strongly represented in the drawing up and signing of the document.*

The committee set up to draft the declaration comprised five men: Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Of these five, the drafting was entrusted mostly to Jefferson. Jefferson was himself of Scottish descent, tracing his lineage back to King Robert I of Scotland. But if his claims to Scottish ancestry may be sketchy, his education amongst Scots is not.

My question is I wonder what went through their minds as they signed the Declaration of Independence; could it have been? ***Our mother land we have lost, but this war we have won.....freedom!***

Olympic Curling Stones Come from a Unique Island

Cork Gaines Feb. 24, 2018, www.businessinsider.com

Curling is the darling sport of the Winter Olympics. Every four years fans become transfixed by athletes that look like us sliding and curling 40-pound rocks down a 50-yard ice track with often laser-like precision. Those stones spend a lot of time banging into each other and yet they rarely break. It turns out that is due to where they come from, the tiny and unique Scottish island of Ailsa Craig, better known as the beautiful backdrop island for the Ailsa Course at Turnberry, the Scottish golf course owned by President Donald Trump. Turnberry has hosted the Open Championship four times, most recently in 2009.

rare — granite smooth enough to be predictable on ice and strong enough to withstand banging into other large and heavy stones... The stones' performance traces back to the island's formation about 60 million years ago. Ailsa Craig is a volcanic intrusion—a mass of magma that forced its way up between existing formations—explains John Faithfull, a geologist at the University of Glasgow. The magma then cooled relatively quickly to form granite, and the surrounding rock eroded away, "leaving just the very resistant hard mass of Ailsa Craig poking up out of the water," Faithfull says.



As the volcanic rock crystallized, it developed a strong, uniform surface... This led to the formation of three types of granite on the island, two of which are used to make curling stones. Blue hone granite makes up the layer of the stone that glides on ice and common green granite is used for the middle layer that strikes other stones. "The layer of rock that runs along the ice doesn't chip or absorb water, but most important, it's very predictable on ice — you know what your shots are going to do," U.S. women's team skipper Erika Brown told Scientific American. "And the middle layer doesn't break when the stones collide."

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