



clan STRACHAN

Clachnaben!

**They weren't
very kind to their
Scottish cousins**
A look at the Tudors



**Paying tribute
to Ben Strachan / 3**



**New Strachan
tartans / 4**



Clan news / 23



Clachnaben!

**Newsletter for the
Clan Strachan
Scottish Heritage
Society, Inc.**

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Incorporated in 2008, the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc. was organized for exclusively charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as except organizations under said Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Specifically, the Corporation will promote the history, tradition, and heritage of the Gaelic-Scottish culture; encourage education, the collection and preservation of records, traditions and historical material related to the history of Gaelic-Scottish culture wherever located; provide instruction on Genealogical research techniques; perform such charitable work as is compatible with the aims and objectives of Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.; to invest in any property worldwide that has relevance to the needs and objectives of the Society; and, to engage in any other lawful activities permitted under the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Law. The recital of these purposes as contained in this paragraph is intended to be exclusive of any and all other purposes, this Corporation being formed for those public and charitable purposes only.

Hello the Clan!

Hope all is well for each and every one of you.

Busy working on artwork for a standard Clan Strachan Society banner that can be used at various games and events. As of June, it was almost complete. Once we have the artwork, we will have banners made and distributed to all those who are doing games in their various regions. It has taken a tad bit longer than I thought but the artist who is doing this is really good (she designed our first banner).

In May, Jim Strachan and myself got together online with our Commander Rob and discussed some possible new tartans for the Clan. We came up with these new designs (on page 4) and put them to you the Clan for your consideration. These are all using the Strachan set with various colour changes.

If we all are in agreement with adding these to the Strachan modern, Strachan weathered, and the Mar District, then we will proceed with registering them as official Strachan tartans with the Tartan Authority in Edinburgh.

Having registered a tartan in the past I was pretty excited working with Jim and Rob on these new designs. The creative juices were flowing along with the whisky!

I hope you are all having a great summer.... Don't forget to post pictures and comments on our Clan Strachan Society FaceBook page.

Remember: we are looking to August, 2019 Aboyne Games in Aboyne, Scotland to celebrate Our Commander becoming our Chief of the Strachans. Start saving now so we can all be together as we take over these games!

We apologise for the delay in releasing the newsletter, which is usually released at the end of June, or the beginning of July. However, we wanted to pay tribute to Ben of Mill of Strachan (on page 3).

talk soon d

Gu Deoch Gu Cairdean Gu Spors



PHOTO BY JUDY STRAWN



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A tribute to Ben Strachan

Ben Strachan, of Mill of Strachan, in Strachan, Aberdeenshire, passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of July 12, with his family at his side, aged 92. He was a beloved husband of Lize, much loved father of Christian, Rob, Jamie, Trish and Chris and a loving Grandad to ten grandchildren. The Funeral Service was at Finzean Church, on Tuesday July 19 at 2 p.m. According to Rob Strachan, "We are all in acceptance. Dad has been in a long period of sustained care for nearly 8 years, and we are thankful that he now suffers no more and is at peace."

Born in Edinburgh, Ben Strachan is a former British ambassador. He saw war service in the Armored Corps in France and Germany during World War II, where he was wounded and captured. He was wounded again in the Malayan campaign and eventually commanded a squadron of tanks. Ben has studied widely: Classics at school, Applied Science at Durham University and the Military College of Science, Arabic in Lebanon and Pure Mathematics at Aberdeen University. He served as an intelligence staff officer in Egypt and ended his 20 year military career as Deputy Head of MI 10 (technical intelligence) in London.

He started his diplomatic career as head of the Middle East Section of the Foreign Office's counter-propaganda department and went on to head the information services of the British Colonial Government in Aden.

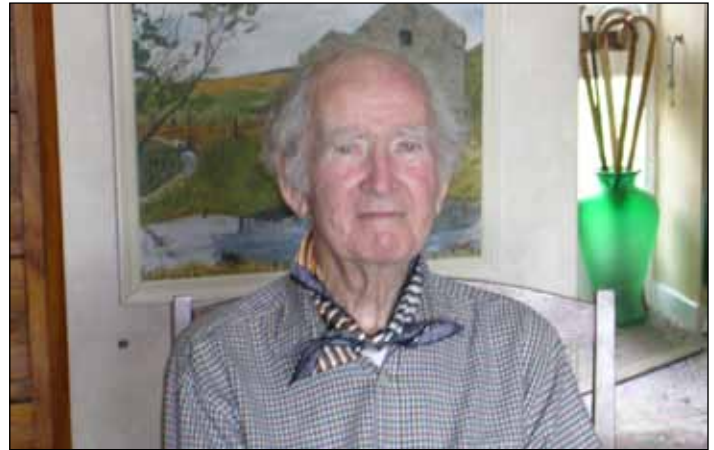
He returned to the Foreign Office in 1964, where he served as deputy head of the Scientific Relations Department, in which capacity he represented the British Government at various international scientific conferences, dealing in particular with nuclear energy and the space programme.

This was followed by posts in the British Embassies in Kuwait and Jordan, where, as Deputy to the Ambassador, he witnessed the civil war between the PLO and the Jordan Army.

This was followed by six years in Canada: 3 years in Toronto (as trade commissioner) and 3 years in Vancouver (as consul-general). Here he took advantage of the magnificent Canadian public libraries to read widely on scientific, philosophical and esoteric subjects.

In 1977 he returned to the Middle East to serve as ambassador to Yemen, where his knowledge of Arabic enabled him to enjoy Yemen's unique and ancient cultural life.

Next followed three years as ambassador in war-torn Beirut, scene of the appalling suffering of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He gained some notoriety in the British media by being the first senior British official to meet Yasser Arafat (privately and without government authorization). The two hit it off surprisingly well and the dialogue prospered, eventually gaining official acquiescence. Ben likes to think that his initiative started a dialogue that was crowned years later by the Oslo Peace Accords between Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin.



After three harrowing years in Beirut, he was transferred to his last post, as ambassador to Algeria. A more positive era in British-Algerian relations was marked by the signing of a wide ranging British-Algerian Defence Agreement, an event which also marked Ben's 60th birthday and automatic retirement.

In 1990, he was invited out of retirement to be "Special Adviser (Middle East)" at the Foreign Office for the duration of the first Gulf War. In his retirement in rural Scotland at the Mill of Strachan, Ben started several little businesses (with varying fortunes!) including a language school, a trout fishery, a small sheep farm and a wine importing business. He was also active in local and Scottish politics include a significant hand in the founding of the Scottish Liberal Democrats Policy Committee. At the age of 85, Ben completed a 4-year degree course in Mathematics at Aberdeen University.

Ben and Lize, for over 50 years have greeted all Strachan visitors (strangers for the most part) with warm hospitality and genuine charm to the Mill of Strachan. In fact, it is not at all uncommon even today that when a 'Strachan' appears on their doorstep, they and their family might be invited in for tea and biscuits during inclement weather; or might be taken on a tour of the Mill of Strachan, time permitting.

It was this charm that Dennis Strawhun and his wife first experienced in 2005 during a visit when they met Ben and Lize. Shortly after, Dennis Strawhun and Jim Strachan founded the Clan Strachan Society, and due to overwhelming support from an online survey, in 2008, the Clan Strachan Society made an attempt to recognise Ben as Chief of the Name and Arms. Robin Blair, Lord Lyon King of Arms, informed the Society it had gone about it all wrong. Years later, in 2014, Ben's second son, and first son to his wife, Lize, Rob Strachan, is recognized by the Court of the Lord Lyon as Commander of Clan Strachan, and our family is fast on its way to having a legally recognized Chief of the Name and Arms for the first time in nearly 200 years. Both Dennis and Jim attribute much of their motivation behind their efforts to Ben.

Ben was a great friend to the Society, its Founders, and to many Strachan families who visited the Mill of Strachan. It is with a heavy heart, and much love that we extend our warmest thoughts and prayers to Lize, his children and their grandchildren.



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Clan Strachan hunting tartan



Mill of Strachan tartan



Strachan Christmas tartan



Strachan Deeside tartan



The Romans assaulted Scotland but failed to subdue savage tribes

By Rob Waugh

Reprinted from *The Daily Mail*

The Romans attacked Scotland with a far larger force than previously realised, assaulting the tribes north of Hadrian's Wall with a force bigger than the one used to hold all of England and Wales.

Researchers found 260 Roman military camps in Scotland, the largest number of any country in Europe, and 20 more than the 240 found in England and Wales. Many have been found recently by archaeological survey flights, looking for distinctive 'marks' in fields from ancient structures buried beneath crops.

Dr. Rebecca Jones, an expert on the Roman frontier who researched the camps for a new book, *Roman Camps in Scotland*, says that the camps, some of the least studied of all Roman monuments, were temporary homes and headquarters for the would-be conquerors' legions and armies. The 260 camps provided transient, basic accommodation for thousands of soldiers at a time.

They are some of the largest Roman remains to have survived, and the camps discovered in Scotland were significantly larger than those found south of Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall.

Dr. Jones said "For the first time we have a picture of the true extent of the Roman war machine in Scotland. The repeated campaigns to conquer Scotland were bloody, brutal and ultimately unsuccessful for the Roman Empire. They had to deal with tribes unwilling to be conquered, and strained resources, as soldiers were always needed to fight wars elsewhere throughout their vast Empire."

She added, "The Roman army in Britain left an archaeological legacy



that is the envy of the rest of the Roman world. The forts, fortresses and frontier defences are rightly celebrated but less well known are the temporary camps. These were constructed to house the army for short periods of time while on campaigns, patrols and manoeuvres.

"By mapping and recording the hundreds of army outposts in Scotland, we have provided an important benchmark for further research into the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire," Jones said.

Many of the camps have been discovered through archaeological aerial survey flights, particularly during dry summers, where the outlines of ancient structures lying beneath the soil show up as crop marks. A number of Roman camps - including Penymuir in the Scottish Borders - have survived despite thousands of years of changes to the landscape and are still remarkably well preserved.

The majority of camps are situated around the Borders and in the south



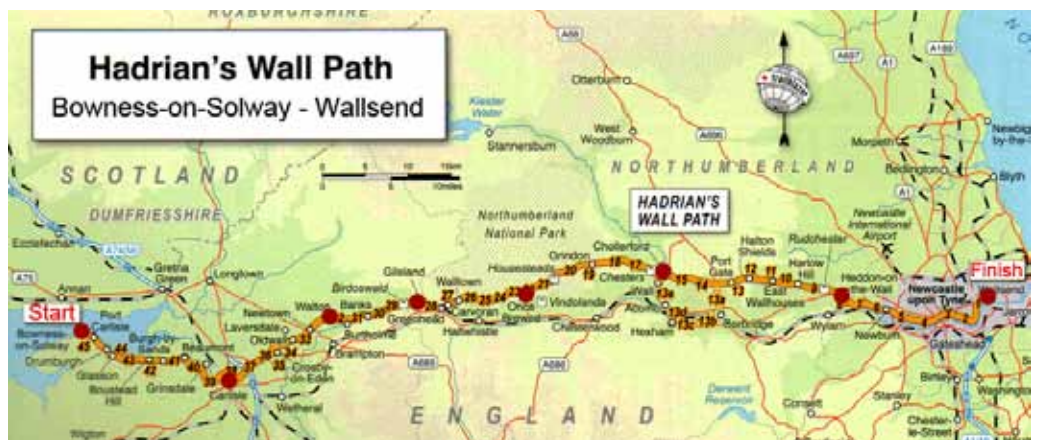


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The Romans built a fort every 20 miles (32 kilometres) along Hadrian's Wall.

of the country, but a first-century camp in Kintore in Aberdeenshire, the size of over 60 football pitches, has seen the largest excavation in the world of any camp left by the Roman Empire, revealing new information about the day-to-day lives of Roman soldiers while on the march. Over 180 Roman ovens have been recorded there alongside numerous pits. The debris recovered from these pits - often rubbish thrown away by the soldiers - gives an insight into the life of an army on the move during one of the first Roman campaigns in the northeast of Scotland.





The Tudors

They weren't very kind and gentle to their Scots cousins

They weren't to their English cousins either, but that's another story

MARGARET TUDOR, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

Margaret Tudor was Queen of Scots from 1503 until 1513 as the wife of King James IV of Scotland and then served as Regent for their son King James V. She was born at Westminster Palace as the elder surviving daughter of King Henry VII of England and Elizabeth of York.

Daughters were important political assets in a world where diplomacy and marriage were closely linked. Even before Margaret's sixth birthday, Henry VII thought about a marriage between Margaret and James IV. Henry may have believed that such a marriage alliance would be a step

towards uniting the English and Scottish thrones, something that his son, the future Henry VIII would also attempt during his reign and his own son, Edward VI would continue on during his reign.

On January 20, 1502, Scotland and England concluded the Treaty of Perpetual Peace, the first peace agreement between the two realms in over 170 years. The marriage treaty was concluded the same day and was viewed as a guarantee of the new peace.

However, during the first few years of Margaret's brother's (Henry VIII) reign, the relations between England and Scotland became strained, and would eventually erupt into war. In 1513, Henry VIII went to France to conduct military campaigns and made

his wife, Queen Catherine of Aragon regent of England in his absence, and in charge of forces that had remained in England. The Queen took these forces to the northern border, and lay in wait for the Scots to attack. At that time, Margaret was pregnant.

James actually did begin a march to the border of England in August and actually crossed the border into England. The final battle in this conflict would be on September 9th at Flodden Field where James IV died in battle leaving his and Margaret's infant son as King James V. The boy was crowned King on September 21st.

After her husband's death at the Battle of Flodden at the hands of her brother's

army, Margaret was named Regent for her small son, the new King James V of Scotland.

A woman was rarely welcome in a position of supreme power in those days, and Margaret's being the sister of an enemy king, Henry VIII, served to compound her challenges. Hoping for assistance with her political difficulties, Margaret married the powerful Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus. Their marriage stirred up the jealousy of other nobles. Civil war broke out, and Margaret lost the regency of her son. The next years of her life were filled with tragedy and unhappiness, closely pursued by intense intrigue.

Margaret and her husband fled to England in September



Margaret Tudor.



James IV of Scotland.



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1515, after her children by James IV (James V and Alexander) had been taken from her, she was denied the regency and she was not receiving her income from James' will or the revenues from her lands in Scotland. Her brother, Henry VIII, arranged for her to be lodged comfortably at Harbottle Castle in the north of England and it was there that she gave birth to her daughter, Margaret Douglas, in October. Her younger son by James IV, Alexander Duke of Ross, died in December of that year.

Margaret's husband, Angus, returned to Scotland, but she journeyed south to London, arriving in May 1516 where she was welcomed with festivities that lasted for a month. Margaret stayed in England for about a year before returning to Scotland under promise of safe conduct in June 1517.

The marriage of Margaret and Angus turned out to be disastrous. While he was in Scotland and she was in England, Angus had taken a mistress and was living off of Margaret's Scottish revenues. The next few years were terrible for Margaret, with a horrible marriage, no money, no power and very little contact with her son James.

In 1524, Margaret, in alliance with the Earl of Arran, overthrew the regency and her son was invested with his full royal authority. James V was still only 12, so Margaret was finally able to guide her son's government, but her triumph was short-lived.

She had many more difficulties with her hus-

band, Angus. At one point she had him charged with treason. He retreated to England, then re-entered to Scotland with promises of support from Margaret's brother, Henry VIII, with whom he had made a close alliance. Margaret, however, refused to have anything to do with her husband. Therefore, Angus forced his way into Edinburgh, but was fired on by Margaret.

Angus now organized a large party of nobles against Margaret with the support of Henry VIII, and in February 1525, they entered Edinburgh and called a parliament. Angus wore the king's crown on the opening of the ses-

sion. Meanwhile, he held Margaret's son, James the king, under very close guard. In July 1526, the guardianship of the King James V was entrusted to Angus for a fixed period, but he refused at its close to retire, and advanced to Linlithgow to oust Margaret.

However, once the young king James V turned fourteen he was far from content under the Regency of Angus. Several attempts to free him from Angus were foiled. Angus enjoyed military successes, and in 1527 and 1528 was busy in restoring order throughout the country. In March 1527, Margaret was finally able to attain an annulment of her marriage to Angus from Pope Clement VII and by the next April she had married Henry Stewart.

Angus, in turn, simply attacked her at Stirling Castle and arrested her third husband on the grounds that he had mar-



King James IV with Margaret.



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ried the Queen without approval. Later, however, young King James escaped from Angus's custody and took refuge with Margaret at Stirling. King James immediately proscribed Angus and all the Douglases, forbidding them to come within seven miles of his person. This did not include his half-sister, Margaret Douglas, who was allowed to be at Stirling with him.

Margaret's relationship with her son remained relatively good, although she pushed for closer relations with England, where James preferred an alliance with France. In this, James won out and was married to Princess Madeleine, daughter of the King of France, in January 1537. Madeleine died in July and was buried at Holyrood Abbey. James sought another bride from France, this time taking Marie de Guise as a bride. By this same time, Margaret's third marriage had followed a path similar to her second one when Methven took a mistress and lived off his wife's money.

On October 18, 1541, Margaret Tudor died in Methven Castle in Scotland. Margaret was buried at the Carthusian Abbey of St. John's in Perth, Scotland. Although Margaret's heirs were left out of the succession to the English Throne by her brother, Henry VIII, and her nephew, Edward VI, ultimately it would be Margaret's great-grandson, James VI of Scotland, who would become King James I of

England after the death of Elizabeth I.

Angus, meanwhile having fortified himself in Tantallon, was attainted and his lands confiscated. In May 1529, Angus sought refuge with Margaret's brother, Henry VIII, in England where he remained until 1542, joining with Henry's Army in attacks on his countrymen. Henry VIII made demands to James V to allow Angus back into Scotland. But, James refused all demands from Henry VIII for his step-father's restoration.

When James V died in 1542, Angus was sent to Scotland by Henry VIII to negotiate a marriage between Margaret's granddaughter, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Henry VIII's son, Edward VI. In 1543, Angus successfully negotiated a peace treaty between England and Scotland, as well as negotiating a marriage between Mary of Scots and England's Edward VI. His forfeiture was rescinded, his estates restored and he was made a privy councilor and lieutenant-general. Angus still corresponded with Henry VIII, but with his newly won privileges in Scotland, he signed in 1546 the act cancelling the marriage and peace treaty with England.

When Margaret and Angus died, their only living heir was their daughter, Margaret Douglas, who married Matthew Stewart, 4th Earl of Lennox. She was the mother of Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, Margaret Tudor's grandson, who was

Linlithgow Castle





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the second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, Margaret Tudor's granddaughter. Margaret's daughter, Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, was Henry VIII's niece and his children's cousin. Lord Darnley and Mary, Queen of Scots were Henry VIII's greatnephew and greatniece and second cousins to his children.

MARGARET TUDOR'S HUSBAND: KING JAMES IV OF SCOTLAND

James was the son of James III and Margaret of Denmark. In 1474, his father arranged his betrothal to Princess Cecily of England, a daughter of Edward IV. Issues surrounding these marriage negotiations and dowry payments led to the invasion of Scotland by Edward IV's forces and the capture of Berwick in 1482. James' betrothal to Cecily of England came to nothing, but Scots interest in an English marriage remained.

During a rebellion against James III, the rebels set up the 15-year-old James as their nominal leader and fought James III at the Battle of Sauchieburn. The king was later assassinated while leaving battlefield on an out-of-control mount. The younger James took the throne and was crowned at Scone.

James IV was a true Renaissance prince with an interest in practical and scientific matters. He decreed education compulsory for barons and wealthy landowners, granted the Incorporation of Surgeons and Barbers of Edinburgh (later the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) a royal charter in 1506, turned Edinburgh Castle into one of Scotland's foremost gun foundries, and welcomed the establishment of Scotland's first printing press in 1507. He built a part of Falkland Palace, Great Halls at

Stirling and Edinburgh castles, and furnished his palaces with tapestries. James was a patron of the arts, including many literary figures, most notably the Scots makars whose diverse and socially observant works convey a vibrant and memorable picture of cultural life and intellectual concerns in the period. James was well educated and fluent in several languages, including Gaelic. At Stirling Castle, James maintained an alchemical workshop with a furnace of the quintessence. The project consumed quantities of quicksilver, golden litharge, and tin. It was said that one of his alchemists, Father Damian, attempted to fly from Stirling Castle.

Dashing, accomplished, highly intelligent and interested in everything, James IV maneuvered to secure a politically useful bride.

Recognizing that peace between Scotland and England was in the interest of both countries, James established good diplomatic relations with England, which was at that time emerging from the 30 Years' War. However, he later supported the Yorkist pretender to the English throne, Perkin Warbeck, which provoked a military response from Henry VII of England. This was patched up in the truce "of perpetual peace" in 1502 followed by further unification by joining the ruling house of Scotland with the ruling house of England in the marriage of James IV to Henry VII's daughter, Margaret Tudor.

However, James still maintained friendly relations with

France, which was considered an enemy of England at that time. Amid rumors that James would renew Scotland's Auld Alliance with France, Thomas Wolsey was sent to discuss Henry VII's concerns with James.

When war broke out between England and France as a result of the Italian Wars (The War of the Holy League,



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James IV with courtiers.



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fought basically because the Pope became concerned about the growing power of the French and that country's interest in Venice and Milan) being fought between France, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, the Pope and eventually, the Swiss, James found himself in a difficult position as an ally by treaty both to France and England. When his wife's brother, Henry VIII of England, invaded France James reacted by siding with the French and declaring war on England.

James sent the Scottish navy to join the ships of Louis XII of France, thus joining in the war of the Holy League. Hoping to take advantage of Henry VIII's absence from England while at his siege of Th rouanne in France, James led an invading army southward into Northumbria, in England, only to be killed along with most of the Scottish nobility and clergy, by Henry VIII's forces at the disastrous Battle of Flodden on September 9, 1513.

MARGARET TUDOR'S SON: KING JAMES V OF SCOTLAND

The death of James's mother, Margaret Tudor, in 1541 removed any incentive for peace with England and war broke out. Initially, the Scots won a victory at the Battle of Haddon Rig in August 1542. The Imperial ambassador in London, Eustace Chapuys, wrote on October 2 that the Scottish ambassadors ruled out a conciliatory meeting between James V and Henry VIII in England until the pregnant Mary of Guise, James V's wife, delivered their child. Henry VIII would not accept this condition and mobilized his army against Scotland.

Although James V hoped to invade England, his nobles were reluctant. His army suffered a serious defeat at the Battle of Solway Moss. He took ill shortly after this. By some accounts it was a nervous collapse caused by the defeat, and he may have died from results of his grief.

Whatever the cause of his illness, James was on his deathbed at Falkland Palace when his only surviving legitimate child, a girl, was born. In his delirium James lamented the capture of his banner at Solway Moss.

Before he died, he is reported to have said, "it came wi a lass, it'll gang wi a lass" (meaning "It began with a girl and it will end with a girl"). This was either a reference to the Stewart dynasty's accession to the throne through Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce or to the medieval



King James V of Scotland.

origin myth of the Scots nation, recorded in the Scotichronicon in which the Scots people are descended from the Princess Scota.

James was succeeded by his infant daughter Mary, and Scotland, ruled by Regent Arran, was soon subjected to the war of the Rough Wooing.

MARGARET TUDOR'S DAUGHTER: LADY MARGARET DOUGLAS, COUNTESS OF LENNOX



Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox.

Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, was the daughter of Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, and Margaret Tudor, Queen Dowager of Scotland. In her youth she was high in the favour of her uncle, England's King Henry VIII, but twice incurred the King's anger, first for her unauthorized engagement to Lord Thomas Howard, who died in the Tower of London in 1537 because of his misalliance with



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her, and again in 1540 for an affair with Thomas Howard's nephew Sir Charles Howard, the brother of Queen consort Catherine Howard. In 1544, She married Matthew Stewart, 4th Earl of Lennox, one of Scotland's leading noblemen. Her son Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, married Mary, Queen of Scots and was the father of James VI of Scotland (James I of England).

Lady Margaret was born in Norhumberland, England, during a period when her parents faced political difficulties in Scotland due to their marriage and over the Regency of Lady Margaret's half-brother, King James V of Scotland. Her mother, Queen Margaret Tudor, had fled Scotland to seek the help of her brother, England's King Henry VIII.

Lady Margaret was sent to live in the household of her godfather, England's Cardinal Wolsey. Because of her nearness to the English crown, Lady Margaret Douglas was brought up chiefly at the English court and became a

lifelong friend of Henry VIII's elder daughter, Lady Mary Tudor, her cousin. When Cardinal Wolsey died, she lived for a while in the household of Lady Mary Tudor.

Margaret Douglas was considered a great prize, for she had a strong claim to the throne of England. Tudor blood ran in her veins. Margaret was courted and feared accordingly. But, Lady Margaret was imprisoned in the Tower of London by Henry VIII for treason. She was known to be headstrong and reckless, as well as spirited and beautiful.

When Anne Boleyn's court was established, Margaret was appointed as a lady-in-waiting. There she met Anne Boleyn's uncle, Lord Thomas Howard, and they began a clandestine courtship. By the end of 1535, Thomas and Margaret had fallen in love and become secretly engaged. King Henry turned against Anne Boleyn and soon after, learned of Lady Margaret's engagement to Thomas Howard (Anne's uncle). He was furious.



The Tower of London.

PHOTO BY JUDY STRAWN



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Henry VII had declared that his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, were bastards, leaving Lady Margaret next in the line of succession; for her to contract an unauthorized marriage was politically outrageous, especially with the son of a powerful nobleman and near kin of the disgraced queen. Both Lord Thomas and Lady Margaret were committed to the Tower. A Parliamentary Act of Attainder condemned Thomas to death. The Act also forbade the marriage of any member of the King's family without his permission. Thomas was spared execution, but remained in the Tower, even after Margaret broke off their relationship. He died there a little later.

Lady Margaret fell ill while imprisoned in the Tower, and King Henry allowed her to move to house arrest at Syon Abbey under the supervision of the abbess. She was finally released from imprisonment.

On Margaret's release she became first lady at the court of her unpredictable uncle, who had since married Jane Seymour. Margaret continued as heir to the throne of England until the birth of Prince Edward, Henry's son.

However, in 1540, Margaret was again in disgrace with King Henry when she had an affair with Lord Thomas Howard's half-nephew Sir Charles Howard. He was the son of Thomas' elder half-brother Lord Edmund Howard, and a brother of Henry VIII's fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

The king married her off to the Earl of Lennox, an arranged marriage which became a love match. He also gave them lands in Yorkshire where their son Henry, Lord Darnley, was born.

Margaret was cut out of Henry VIII's will after an argument, and kept to herself during the Protestant Edward VI's reign. However, she was treated well during the Catholic Mary I's reign, and attended Mary's marriage to Philip of Spain as Mary's chief lady.



Mary, around 13 years of age.

Margaret viewed Elizabeth I as illegitimate and supported Mary, Queen of Scots' claim to the English throne.

Margaret focused all her ambition on her boy, cleverly contriving his marriage to the widowed Mary Queen of Scots. Of course, the new Queen Elizabeth I of England was furious that her consent to this marriage had not been given, and since she could not get at Darnley to punish him, she threw his mother into the Tower of London, again.

Margaret later engineered the marriage of her surviving son, Charles, to Elizabeth, daughter of the Countess of Shrewsbury, Bess of Hardwick, for which Elizabeth imprisoned her in the Tower yet again.

From the Tower of London Margaret corresponded with her daughter-in-law, Mary Queen of Scots, with whom she achieved reconciliation, believing her to be

maligned as an alleged conspirator in her son, Darnley's death. Yet she constantly quarreled with her cousin Queen Elizabeth throughout the remainder of her life.

She died on March 9, 1578, after becoming sick at a dinner party attended by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. There were rumors that Dudley had poisoned her on Queen Elizabeth's behalf. Margaret was buried in Westminster Abbey, in the Henry VII Chapel.

MARGARET TUDOR'S GRANDDAUGHTER: QUEEN MARY OF SCOTS

King James V of Scotland, lay dying at his beloved Falkland Palace. He was devastated by his army's defeat by the English at Solway Moss and saw little hope for the future. At Falkland, he was told that Mary of Guise, his French-born wife once wooed by Henry VIII, had given birth to a daughter at Linlithgow Palace on December 8. Upon receiving this news of Mary's birth, he reportedly said,



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“Woe is me. My dynasty came with a lass. It will go with a lass.” James’s ancestor, Robert II, had become King of Scots in 1371. The son of Robert the Bruce’s daughter Marjorie and Walter, the High Steward of Scotland, Robert, was nearest in succession to the throne. He called his new dynasty ‘Stewart,’ a variation on his father’s title; in France, it was spelled Stuart. James V believed this lineage had ended with his daughter’s birth. James died within a week of Mary’s birth and, before she was even a year old, the child was crowned queen of Scots.

Mary, Queen of Scots was one of the most fascinating and controversial monarchs of the 16th century. Raised in the French court and educated by humanist tutors, Mary was briefly Queen of France, as well as Queen of Scotland. At one time, she claimed the crowns of four nations – Scotland, France, England and Ireland. This was during the time of the Reformation, a period full of religious turmoil. Great Britain was Protestant, France was Catholic, and Scotland was torn between the two of them. Early in her life she was a pawn in the battle between Protestantism and Catholicism. As time passed, she struggled for her independence and self-determination. Nearing the end of her life she was once again at the mercy of relatives and ultimately put to death by one of them. She is one of Scotland’s most intriguing and controversial women.

Soon after her birth, the regents of Scotland made a treaty with Henry VIII of England in which Edward VI, Henry’s son, would wed Mary. But Henry VIII became increasingly erratic and despotic and continued to send his army north to battle with Scotland. In 1546, Henry also encouraged the murder of Cardinal Beaton, a great Scots patriot; shortly before the murder, he had offered one thousand pounds for expenses associated with a plot to murder Beaton. After



Mary in her wedding dress.

this, the Scots were determined to avoid the proposed English marriage.

Henry then ordered a series of savage, yet unsuccessful, raids into Scotland known as ‘The Rough Wooing’ in an attempt to enforce the treaty and ensure the marriage. This rough wooing continued on into his son, Edward VI’s reign.

For her safekeeping, Mary was sent to France to marry Francis II, the Dauphin, in return for France’s aid in helping the Scots rid themselves of the English. Mary sailed from Dumbarton Castle to France, using this route to avoid English ships patrolling the English Channel.

According to most contemporary reports, as a youngster Mary was exceptionally lovely, intelligent and full of vitality. She was given a royal welcome in France by King Henry II. He ordered that she would have precedence over his own daughters as she was sovereign of an independent country and also because she was to wed his

heir, the Dauphin. The king also became very fond of the child, saying, “The little Queen of Scots is the most perfect child I have ever seen.” While in France, Mary’s maternal grandmother, Antoinette de Guise, wrote to her daughter in Scotland that Mary was ‘very pretty, graceful and self-assured.’

Mary was educated in the traditional manner of French princesses; she spoke French and learned Latin, Italian, Spanish and a little Greek. She learned to dance, sing, play the lute as well as converse on religious matters.

In 1558, Mary’s cousin, Queen Mary I, of England, passed away and Henry II, of France, encouraged his daughter-in-law, Mary Queen of Scots, to assume the royal arms of England. In his opinion – and that of most of Catholic Europe – Mary of Scotland was the next heir to the English throne. This belief, of course, would have serious repercus-



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sions throughout Mary's life. Elizabeth I never forgot this offense and never rested easily while her Catholic relative was alive.

Mary was fifteen and Francis fourteen when they were married with spectacular pageantry and magnificence in the cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, by the Cardinal Archbishop of Rouen, in the presence of Henry II, Queen Catherine de' Medici, the princes and princesses of the blood and a glittering throng of cardinals and nobles.

Then, in 1559, Henry II of France, died at the age of 40. Mary and her husband were crowned Queen and King of France. But, in June of 1560, Mary's mother died in Scotland at the age of 45. And just six months later, her young husband also died of an ear infection.

Mary was sent back to Scotland by her mother-in-law, Catherine de' Medici. Without waiting for a safe-conduct pass from Elizabeth I, whose ships were patrolling her route, Mary sailed toward a land rife at the time with religious and civil discord. Mary knew very well that she was succeeding to a most troubled heritage. But after her recent years of loss and grief, she was determined to create a bright future. Also, in an age of religious persecution which earned her second cousin, Mary Tudor, the nickname 'Bloody Mary,' Mary was determined that every one of her Scottish subjects should worship God as their conscience bade; there would be no religious persecution under her rule. In this, she resembled her second cousin Elizabeth I.

The Scots received their new queen with great joy and celebration. At once, she began to try to help them; within a year of her arrival, one-sixth of all Church benefices was given to the Protestant ministers to relieve their poverty.



Lord Darnley and Mary Queen of Scots.

She also attempted to strengthen the power of the Crown against Scotland's notoriously difficult-to-control nobles. Of course, such a strategy would lead to more peace and stability within the realm. As a result, she was popular with the common people, but not with the nobility. Her physical beauty and kind heart were acknowledged even by her

enemies. Yet she lacked the political skills to rule successfully in Scotland during her short and turbulent Scottish reign (1561-8).

Besides ruling, she played croquet, golfed, hunted, practiced archery, sang, danced, and, in general, showed an admirable zest for life. As queen though, Mary was more than aware that she should marry and provide heirs to the throne. In July of 1565, she wed her cousin, the very attractive Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, who was also a grandchild of Henry VIII's sister, Margaret. Soon After their marriage, Henry proved that his handsomeness was the limit of his positive characteristics. He proved to be a weak, vain, and unstable young man who was superficially charming and overfond of courtly amusements. Why Mary married Darnley remains a mystery. He was arrogant, politically incompetent, and fond of frequenting the taverns. Mary eventually excluded him from all court life. He never seemed to care for Mary and sought far more power than she was willing to give him.

When Mary was six months pregnant in March 1566, Darnley led a group of Scottish nobles who broke into her supper-room at Holyrood Palace, dragged her secretary, David Riccio, into another room and stabbed him to death. They claimed this was done because Riccio had undue in-



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fluence over her foreign policy but, in reality, they probably meant to cause Mary, from watching this horrific crime, to suffer a miscarriage, thus losing her child and her own life as well since one usually meant the other in the 16th century. Mary certainly believed that Darnley, angry because she had denied him the crown matrimonial, wanted to kill her and the child, and attempt to become King of the Scots.

After Riccio's death, the nobles who had attacked him kept Mary prisoner at Holyrood Palace. Entering the later stages of her pregnancy, she was desperate to escape and – somehow – won over Darnley. They escaped together. Three months later the future James VI of Scotland was born and congratulations arrived from all over Europe. Still young and healthy after the birth, Mary now had an heir. This was the apex of her reign, her greatest and happiest moment.

The nobles who had previously plotted with Darnley now felt betrayed by him; after all, they had captured the queen and her potential heir, murdered her dear friend, and were in a position to demand anything. But Darnley's decision to help Mary escape infuriated them. In February 1567 they had a house where Darnley was staying, Kirk o' Field, blown up; Darnley's strangled body was later found in the garden behind the house. Many nobles were implicated, most particularly James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell.

In the immediate aftermath of Darnley's murder, Bothwell accosted Mary about six miles outside of Edinburgh. He had 600 armed men with him and strongly suggested that they escort Mary to his castle at Dunbar; he told her she was in danger if she went to Edinburgh. Mary, unwilling to cause further bloodshed and understandably terrified, followed his suggestions. Bothwell's noble friends

had previously pressed her to marry him and he, too, had told her she needed a strong husband who could help unify the nobles behind her. Mary had refused his proposal then, preferring to marry Darnley. Now, she consented to wed Bothwell, hoping that this would finally stabilize the country. There are some scholars who believe that Mary was forced into the marriage, repeatedly raped, and was not a willing partner in the marriage. Bride kidnapping, also known as marriage by abduction or marriage by capture, is a practice in which a man abducts the woman he wishes to marry. Bride kidnapping has been practiced around the world and throughout history. It continues to occur in some



Elizabeth I of England.

countries today. In Scotland, Ireland and the English border counties, the old custom had been elaborately regulated through many centuries by ancient folk laws which required payment of "body price" and "honour price." Two types of abduction were recognized: voluntary abduction in which the bride went willingly but without her family's prior consent; and involuntary abduction in which she was taken by force. Both types of abduction were practiced as late as the eighteenth century. However, all of Scotland was shocked and outraged.



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Scots nobles were angry that Bothwell would now be all-powerful and they decided to wage war against him. Mary and the Earl were besieged in Borthwick Castle while still on their honeymoon. Then, barely a month after the marriage, rebel nobles and their forces met Mary's troops at Carberry Hill, eight miles south-east of Edinburgh. The nobles demanded that Mary abandon Bothwell, whom they had earlier ordered her to wed. She refused and reminded them of their earlier order. To avoid the bloodshed of battle, she turned herself over and the rebels took her to Edinburgh while Bothwell struggled to rally troops of his own and continue fighting. Mary was taken to Lochleven Castle and held prisoner; fearing for her life, she became desperately ill. She was forced to sign a document abdicating the crown in favor of her year-old son. At the end of that month, July 1567, James was crowned king and James Stewart, the Earl of Moray, Mary's bastard half-brother, became regent.

George Douglas, one of the brothers of her keeper at Lochleven, with assistance from her Catholic supporters, helped Mary escape. After months of captivity, she was free to fight for her throne. Her supporters gathered an army and, on their way to Dumbarton Castle, a battle was fought at Langside, Glasgow. Mary's forces lost and she was forced to flee with her supporters.

Against all advice, she was determined to go south into England to ask Elizabeth I for support. As her son's Godmother and Mary's second cousin, as well as being a fellow independent Queen, Mary felt certain Elizabeth I would help her; Mary expected a queen to help a queen. Secondly, Mary assumed that their family ties would prove strong. However, the presence of a rival, female and Catholic sovereign on English soil created a politically volatile situation for Elizabeth, especially as Mary had a very legitimate claim to the English throne.

Elizabeth had brought what might have passed as religious stability to England. Certainly the religious discord under her

half-sister Mary I's rule, had greatly weakened England. Elizabeth had a belief that if someone was a Catholic and practiced their beliefs privately and represented no threat to the queen, then she was willing to tolerate their religion. If the Catholics were respectful to the queen and obedient, then Elizabeth could see no reason why they should not be tolerated. The nation greatly benefited from this religious stability. Mary, Queen of Scots, threatened this stability. As a Catholic, Mary might become a focus for all the Catholics who still lived in England, a leader for them and a potential rallying point for an uprising against the Protestant throne. In this sense, Mary was a very real threat to Elizabeth.

Additionally, there were many who believed that Henry VIII's marriage to his second wife, Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth's mother, had been illegal. Catholics certainly did not recognize Henry's divorce from his first wife, the Catholic Catherine of Aragon, and there were rumors that Henry had secretly married Anne before his divorce from Catherine had actually come through. Therefore, if that marriage was illegal, Elizabeth I was then illegitimate and had no right to the throne. If Elizabeth had no right to the throne, the nearest actual legal heir to the English throne was Mary, Queen of Scots. It was generally feared that this could act as an incentive for the Catholics in England to rebel against Elizabeth and put Mary onto the throne. It may also have been a reason for Elizabeth's advisors to decide that England was better off with Mary dead – though they would need proof to convince a court of law about her guilt.



Lochleven Castle.

Elizabeth now hit a major dilemma. If Mary was sent back to Scotland, from where she had escaped, she may well be killed by the Scots nobles and Elizabeth would not accept that a queen (and family) should be treated in such a way. But, on the other hand, by being in England, Mary might act as a spur for Catholics to rebel.

Elizabeth did not know what to do and kept Mary guarded and under surveillance in northern England.

<http://pinningforthewest.co.uk/2015/07/18/loch-leven-castle/>



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After all, without Mary's knowledge, Elizabeth had been aiding and abetting Mary's enemies in Scotland, promising money and sanctuary in return for treacherous behavior against their Queen. Elizabeth's motives for this were obvious – Mary was the closest Catholic claimant to the now-Protestant English throne and Elizabeth knew some of her subjects were not above hoping she could be deposed and Mary made queen of both Scotland and England. So, she had determined to keep her cousin's own kingdom in continual strife, after all, if Mary was busy at home, she would have less chance to plot against Elizabeth.

But, Elizabeth was determined that her own conscience would be clear in this great matter, so she appointed commissioners to look into the new situation involving Mary. They met throughout 1568 and 1569. In December 1569, the so-called Casket Letters were first presented at Westminster. They were supposedly letters and other papers belonging to Bothwell and found in his casket (letter box) left behind when he fled Scotland. Among them were eight purported letters from Mary to Bothwell and some sonnets she had written, which supposedly proved her collusion in the murder of Darnley. They disappeared and only translations and copies remained. However, few believed they were either real or important to Elizabeth. An official statement was released proclaiming: "Nothing had been sufficiently proved, whereby the Queen of England should conceive an evil opinion of her good sister." Everyone took this to mean that for overriding political reasons, Queen Elizabeth neither wished to accuse Queen Mary of murder nor outright acquit her of same, so the Conference was intended as a political show. Queen Mary was refused the



Execution of Mary Queen of Scots. Painting by Robert Herdman (1829 to 1888), reproduced on a postcard in 1867.

right to be present, though her accusers were permitted to be present.

The outcome was that the Casket letters were accepted by English commissioners as genuine after a study of the handwriting, and of the information contained therein. However, Queen Mary's representatives were refused access to the letters to review or to study them. Yet, as Queen Elizabeth had wished, the inquiry reached the conclusion

that nothing was proven. The outcome of the enquiry was to prolong doubts about Mary's character that Elizabeth used to prevent the Queens ever meeting in person.

Elizabeth's solution to the situation was to keep Mary imprisoned in a series of English aristocratic houses under surveillance for some years. During this time, Mary did not help herself. She made it clear to anybody who would listen that she felt that she should be the queen of England. In 1570, she even received the backing of the Pope. This meant that there was no reason why a Catholic should not assassinate Elizabeth because it would not be a sin as the Pope had said that Mary should be queen of England. Mary was clearly becoming an overwhelming problem for Elizabeth and her advisors.

Over the next 19 years, Mary became the focus of numerous Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth and put Mary on the English throne. As Mary was not directly involved in these plots Elizabeth was reluctant to act against her.

It took many years for the government to build up a case against Mary. This work was carried out by Elizabeth's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham. His network kept a close eye on Mary.

In 1586, a man called Anthony Babington devised a plot to kill Elizabeth, rescue Mary and then set her upon the



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throne as the next queen of England. Babington wrote in code to Mary to explain what he was doing. Mary wrote back, stating that she agreed with what he was doing. Walsingham's spies intercepted both letters. This was the evidence he needed to convince Elizabeth that, while she lived, Mary would always be a danger to her.

Babington was arrested and charged with treason. He admitted his part in the plot and admitted that Mary knew about the plot against Elizabeth all along. However, it is almost certain that his confession was as a result of torture. In September 1586, Babington was executed. Now, the government felt it had a strong case and could take action against Mary.

Mary was put on trial in October 1586. She defended herself well but the judges found her guilty of treason. To the judges, who would not listen to her arguments, she said "You are indeed my enemies." The reply was "We are the enemy of the enemies of our queen." The trial lasted just 2 days.

Mary was found guilty of plotting to kill Elizabeth. She was sentenced to death. In February 1587, Mary was given just 24 hours' notice that she would be executed the next day. Elizabeth hesitated to sign Mary's death warrant. Eventually she did and Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle, 70 miles north of London, on February 8, 1587. Mary was not allowed to have her chaplain present at her execution. She was only 45 years of age.

It is generally believed that Mary's execution – ordered by Elizabeth I – was the final reason Philip II launched the Spanish Armada against England in 1588.

Mary's son, James, went on to succeed Elizabeth I in 1603, thus uniting Scotland and England. In 1612, he had his mother's body exhumed and placed in the vault of King Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. James



James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots.

later did his best to vindicate the memory of his mother. He defended her reputation, turned on his tutor Buchanan for libels on his mother and termed her treacherous illegitimate half-brother, James, Earl of Moray, as that "bastard that who un-naturally rebelled and procured the ruin of his own sovereign and sister." However, James' true feelings toward the mother he had not seen since baby-hood remain an enigma.

Whether Mary Stuart was the champion of women's rights in the 16th Century as some admirers claim, or the conspiring and murderous woman that her critics claim, she was one of the most interesting women

of her time. Her life possessed all the qualities of a tragic hero. She was beautiful and had the world in the palm of her hand, yet it was not meant to be. She would fall from her glorious status due to circumstances that may or may not have been out of her control.



All that remains of the site upon which once stood the Castle of Fotheringhay.

<http://scotlandsmary.com/james-1/>

<http://www.marie-stuart.co.uk/Castles/Fotheringhay.htm>



The impressive Gaulcross Hoard

100 Roman-era silver pieces unearthed in Scotland

By Natalia Klimczak

Adapted from *Ancient Origins*, June 16, 2016

Archaeologists discovered a hoard of 100 silver items, including coins and jewelry, which come from the 4th and 5th centuries CE. The treasure belongs to the period of the Roman Empire's domination in Scotland, or perhaps later.

Almost 200 years ago, a team of Scottish laborers cleared a rocky field with dynamite. They discovered three magnificent silver artifacts: a chain, a spiral bangle, and a hand pin. However, they didn't search any deeper to check if there were any more treasures. They turned the field into a farmland.

Now, archaeologists have returned to the site and discovered a hoard of 100 silver items. According to Live Science, the treasure is called the Gaulcross hoard. The artifacts belonged to the Pict people who lived in Scotland before, during, and after the Roman era.

The artifacts were found by a team led by Gordon Noble, head of archaeology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. When they started work in the field, they didn't think to search for more artifacts, but were trying to learn more about the context of the discovery made nearly two centuries ago. The researchers say that the field also contained two man-made stone circles - one dating to the Neolithic period and the other from the Bronze Age (1670 to 1500 BCE).

The three previously discovered pieces were given to Banff Museum in Aberdeenshire, and are now on loan and display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

In 2013, two groups of researchers studied the field in north-eastern Scotland with the help of metal detectors. During their second day of work, they uncovered three Late-Roman-era silver "siliquae," or coins, that dated to the 4th or 5th century C.E.

They also found a part of a silver bracelet, silver strap-end, and several pieces of folded hacksilver (pieces of cut or bent silver). They examined the field over the next 18 months, and unearthed 100 pieces of silver all together.

The silver was not mined in Scotland during the Roman period, and instead came from somewhere else in the Roman world. During the Late Roman period, silver was recycled and recast into high-status objects that underpinned the development of elite society in the post-Roman period. Researchers believe that some of these silver pieces, such as the chunks of silver called ingots, may have served as currency, much as a gold bar did in more modern times.

The recent discoveries help shed light on the date of the Gaul-



National Museums Scotland

Some of the finds from Gaulcross: A) crescent-shaped pendant with silver loops; B) a small brooch; C) one of the bracelet fragments.

cross hoard. It seems that some of the objects were connected with elite Romans. The silver hand pins and bracelets are very rare finds, thus researchers concluded that the objects would have belonged to some of the most powerful members of the post-Roman society.

Another important hoard has previously been uncovered in Scotland. Actually, on October 13, 2014, April Holloway of *Ancient Origins* reported on the discovery of one of the most significant Viking hoards found there to date. She wrote:

An amateur treasure hunter equipped with a metal detector has unearthed a massive hoard of Viking artifacts in Dumfries and Galloway, in what has been described as one of the most significant archaeological finds in Scottish history. According to the *Herald Scotland*, more than 100 Viking relics were found, including silver ingots, armbands, brooches, and gold objects."

The findings also included "an early Christian cross from the 9th or 10 century CE made from solid silver, described as having unique and unusual decorations. There was also a rare Carolingian vessel, believed to be the largest Carolingian pot ever discovered."



Fish and chips in batter with mushy peas

INGREDIENTS

The Mushy Peas

2 cups dried marrowfat peas (or dry, split green peas)
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon Bicarbonate of Soda
1 cup boiling water
1/4 cup heavy cream
Malt vinegar (enough to moisten peas)
Salt to taste
Pepper to taste

The Batter

1/3 cup All-Purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 cup sparkling mineral water or beer
2 Tbsp malt vinegar
Pinch of salt
1/2 cup All Purpose flour to dust fish.

The Chips

Coarse ground pepper to taste
Sea salt to taste
1/4 cup olive oil

The main ingredients

4 or 5 floury potatoes
4 fresh or frozen haddock fillets - skinless, cut into large pieces
Newspaper

SERVING:

Serve fish & chips wrapped in newspaper with lemon slices or lemon juice and mushy peas on the side and include an ice cold glass bottle of Irn Bru, Scotland's "other" national drink.

If you live outside Scotland, you can order Scottish food online from Caledonian Kitchen through Amazon.com.

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 450F
Heat canola or sunflower oil in deep fryer to 325F.

MUSHY PEAS:

Place the peas in a large bowl or stock pot. They will swell and need plenty of room to expand. Add the soda, vinegar, salt and boiling water. Stir well. Leave peas to soak overnight, or for a minimum of 12 hours. Rinse with cold water.

Return the peas to the pan and cover with cold water, with 1/2 inch extra. Add salt to taste, bring to a boil and then reduce the heat to a simmer. During the simmering, discard any pea foam that forms on top using a slotted spoon. The peas are done cooking once they just lose their bite, 30 to 40 minutes. Overcooking results in soup.

Remove from heat and drain most, but not all, of the water. Add cream, butter and additional vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Mash the peas with a fork until there are just small chunks of peas in the mixture.

CHIPS:

Peel and cut potatoes lengthwise into three sections, then soak them briefly in ice cold water.

Parboil potatoes for approximately 5 minutes. Drain and place potatoes on a towel or rack to rid them of excess moisture.

Sprinkle potatoes with olive oil, coarse ground pepper and sea salt to taste. Bake chips in oven at 450F for 20 minutes, or until golden brown.

BATTER:

Sieve flour, baking powder and salt into bowl. Add mineral water or beer. Whisk until the batter is smooth and creamy and bubbles appear on top. Add 2 tablespoons of vinegar. Mix well.

FISH:

Test temperature of oil in the deep fryer by dropping in a small amount of batter. The oil is hot enough if the batter quickly turns golden and crisp.

Dry the haddock on a towel or rack. Lightly dust the pieces with flour, then dip them in the batter, thoroughly coating them. Place the coated haddock pieces (not in a wire basket, as they will stick to it) in deep fryer.

Deep-fry the fillets until they float and have a golden-brown crust, about three or four minutes. Do not allow the pieces to become too brown.

Remove the fillets one at a time with tongs or a slotted spoon and place them on a plate or tray lined with paper towels. Keep them warm in oven until all the fish has been fried.





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PHOTO: BBC

Road works in Scotland uncover 9,000-year-old hunting camp

By April Holloway

Adapted from *Ancient Origins*, May 15, 2014

A treasure trove of artifacts has been unearthed in Scotland during the building of a new road in Wigtownshire, Scotland, according to a report in *The Scotsman*. The discovery includes a Mesolithic hunting camp dating back to 7,000 BCE, an Iron Age village, and numerous relics spanning a period of thousands of years.

The find was made during the building of the A75 Dunragit bypass in Dumfries and Galloway.

“The concentration of artifacts from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods was highly unexpected, but gives an invaluable insight into the land use and settlement of south west Scotland over the past 9,000 years,” according to Transport Minister Keith Brown.

The dwellings uncovered during the project are the earliest known Mesolithic dwellings in south west Scotland, and are believed to have been part of a small temporary hunting camp. Researchers also uncovered more than 13,500

Mesolithic flints. The Mesolithic period (9,000 to 4,500 BC) dates from the end of the last Ice Age and saw human groups spread throughout mainland and island Scotland. The people were hunter-gatherers, but they were also beginning to ‘domesticate’ animals such as cattle and sheep.

A 130-piece jet bead necklace dating back 4,000 years was of particular interest to archaeologists, who were able to trace its origin in Whitby, North Yorkshire, around 155 miles from where it was found.

“The necklaces are of particular interest because they are the first such necklaces to be uncovered in the south west of Scotland,” said Brown, who added that they are “truly remarkable” and help “shine a light on Scotland’s ancient past.”

Other finds include a settlement and flint tools from the early Neolithic period (4,500 to 2,000 BCE), a cemetery complex, cremation urns, stone-lined cist burials and grave goods from the Bronze Age (2,500 to 800 BCE), and six roundhouses and pottery from the Iron Age (800 BCE to 500 CE).



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Clan activities you can participate in!

We will have booths at these events:

- * The Glengarry Highland Games, Home of the North American Pipe Band Championships, in Maxville, Ontario, Canada, between Ottawa and Montreal on Saturday, July 30.
- * The Aboyne Highland Games, in Aboyne, Scotland, near the Village of Strachan in Aberdeenshire on Saturday, August 6, 2016.
- * The North Lanark Highland Games, in Almonte, Ontario, Canada, near Ottawa on Saturday, August 27.
- * The Seaside Highland Games, in Ventura, California, north of Los Angeles, on October 7 to 9, 2016.

Highland Games are Celtic heritage festivals which gather clans, societies and bagpipe and drum bands to celebrate our heritage. Family entertainment festivities include numerous competitions in pipes, drums, dance, athletics, darts, drum majoring and fiddles. Festival goers can also enjoy activities such as a petting zoos, Haggis eating contests, Celtic craft demonstrations for children, storytelling, parades, Gaelic lessons, history sessions, sheep herding demonstrations, food vendors and more!





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Scottish Christmas walk parade

Each year, Clan Strachan enthusiastically participates in the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade in Alexandria, Virginia. This year it will be held on December 3, 2016. Enjoy marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, including Clan Strachan, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more. The parade begins at St. Asaph and Wilkes Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert.

Connecting with your clan

Are you interested in meeting up online with your long-lost kinfolk?

The Clan Strachan Historical Society has created a Facebook Group for Society and non-society members to meet and stay in touch, and to assist you with researching your family's roots.

Mike Strahan, who is Vice President/Director of the Clan Strachan Historical Society, is host of our Facebook group. He is a published fiction author who has worked in marketing for Barnes and Noble, Intel and Interactive Intelligence, a telecommunications company. He lives in Indianapolis, with his wife and two daughters.

If you already have a Facebook account, look us up by typing 'Clan Strachan' in the search toolbar.

If you do not have an account, signing up, and starting your own Face Page, is free! Go to www.Facebook.com for details.

We look forward to having you join us as friends and as Clan Strachan Historical Society group members!



Sir Hew Strachan wins \$100,000 military award

The Associated Press
Adapted from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, June 21, 2016

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Sir Hew Strachan, a Scottish-born historian who specializes in the British military and in World War I, has won a \$100,000 lifetime achievement prize.

Strachan, 66, is the 10th recipient of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library Literature Award for military writing. His books include "The First World War," "The First World War in Africa" and "The Politics of the British Army."



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Clan Strachan's new chaplain

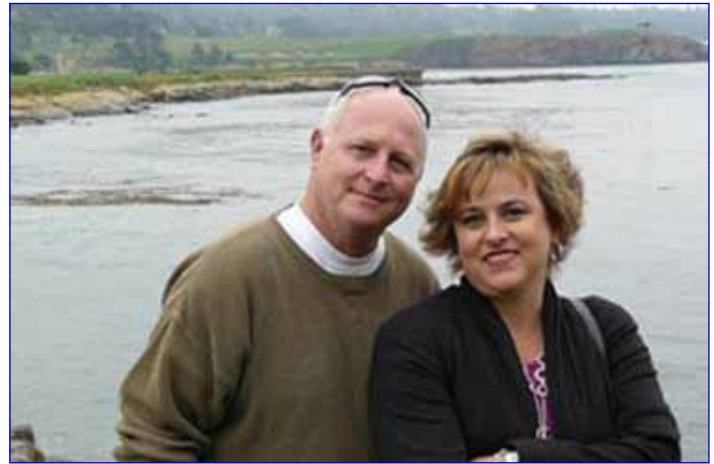
Our Clan Chaplain, Andy Strachan, is a native of Tacoma, Washington, who soon began moving, attending schools in California, Texas, Alabama, and in the Philippines.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Birmingham, Alabama, then moved to Portland, Oregon where he secured a Master of Divinity Degree in 1978, shortly after marrying. He has since attended Golden Gate Seminary where he earned a Doctorate of Ministry Degree.

He pastored in Carmel Valley, California for nearly 20 years. During that time, his three children graduated from High School, his first wife passed away from cancer and he married Jennifer, his second wife.

In 2002, he and Jen moved to Clearwater, Florida and he has pastored the North Dunedin Baptist Church since 2005.

Besides pastoring, he has spoken at Youth Camps, Pastor Retreats and Couple Retreats all the way from California to



Berlin, Germany.

"I'm thrilled to have found so much of the Strachan history," he says, and he is "honored to be a part of this historic time for our family lineage."

David Strachan, Arlington National Cemetery

While visiting Washington, D.C. recently, Ralph Strahan visited the Arlington National Cemetery. Many years ago on a previous visit, he had noticed the grave of David J. Strachan, but believing David was not of his lineage because the name was spelled differently, Ralph thought nothing of it. However, on his recent visit, Ralph thought of the Clan and decided to share.

David Strachan was one of the first to be buried individually on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Prior to this many veterans were interred in potter's fields, which were paupers' common graves for unknown or indigent people. The row of

graves that includes David backs up to Mrs. Robert E. Lee's Rose Garden (the Custis/Lee Mansion is located nearby).

There is a spectacular view from David Strachan's gravesite across the Potomac River toward the Jefferson Memorial in the distance.



Above: The grave stone.
Left: A view toward the Potomac River from David's grave.

Photos by Ralph Strahan



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HONOURARY BOARD MEMBERS:

Rob Strachan, Sir Hew Strachan, Roddy Strachan of Benholm



Valeri Strachan-Severson (center), is the daughter of Donald Strachan and grand-daughter of James Strachan, whose father moved from Scotland to Berkeley, California, prior to 1900. James Strachan remembered standing on the porch of their home as a young boy, looking across the water at the smoke over San Francisco as it burned after the great 1906 earthquake.

Valerie's oldest son, Jason Russell (left), was married on January 3, 2016 and insisted that the gentlemen in the wedding party wear kilts. Pictured here are Valeri with her sons, Jason and Philip Russell (right), posing in front of Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, California. Philip was a groomsman at Jason's wedding.



clan STRACHAN

Membership Application

First name: _____

Middle name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Spouse's date of birth: _____

Interests in Society: _____

Genealogy: _____

Clan affiliation or Scottish surname history: _____

Member benefits

- Lifetime membership: you choose the level.
- Full transparency: access to the previous year's financial statements.
- Full voting rights: to elect Officers and Directors and the eligibility to hold office.
- Genealogy database services.
- Access to Genealogy record archival services.
- Free consultation in obtaining Armorial bearings.
- Access to the Scottish Heritage and Genealogy Library.
- Access to the Members' Only section of our website, which contains:
 - ⊗ Confidential member directory
 - ⊗ Past issues of our newsletter
 - ⊗ Additional information on heritage
 - ⊗ Genealogy links and information
 - ⊗ Custom address labels, music downloads, PC wallpaper, and much more!
 - ⊗ Full benefits disclosure is available in our Bylaws.

History provided from Black's *Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History*

Membership application also available on the Internet at www.clanstrachan.org

Method of payment

- Cheque
- Bill me
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "The Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society Inc."

Select Lifetime Membership Level *

- Individual \$20 US
- Family \$40 US
- Platinum \$250 US

* Please see the "Types of Membership" page on our website at www.clanstrachan.org for membership levels and offerings.

Name on credit card: _____

Billing address: _____

Credit card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Security code: _____

Member acknowledgement

Society bylaws and membership terms and conditions are available online at www.clanstrachan.org. If applicable, the Clan Strachan Heritage Society has my authorization to bill my credit card provided above.

Signature: _____

Clachnaben!

Newsletter for the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.
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