

THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue XXVII

Newsletter of the Scottish Studies Society: ISSN No. 1491-2759

Spring 2008

Tartan Day at the Top of the Tower

A grand celebration of the talents and achievements of Scots at home and abroad

On Thursday April 3rd, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Toronto's iconic landmark, the CN Tower, will be the venue for this year's Tartan Day and our 17th Annual Scot of the Year Award Presentation.

This event will be hosted by the Government of Scotland in conjunction with Scottish Development International who will showcase modern Scotland's key strengths in knowledge, high level skills, technology and innovation. We are delighted that we have been invited to participate in this event which will also be a fundraiser for The Scottish Studies Foundation. During the evening we will be presenting our

annual "Scot of the Year Award" which was initiated in 1993 to honour individuals with a Scottish connection who have achieved distinction through their contribution to Canadian society or the international community at large. This year's recipient will be announced soon.

Unlike previous Tartan Day Dinners there will be no entrance fee so in lieu of this we have set an objective of raising \$15,000 during the evening to support the Foundation in the funding of the Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph, the acquisition of significant materials for their library and bursaries for Canadian students studying in Scotland.

We do hope you will be able to join us for this memorable evening and make a contribution to our cause. As the Scottish Studies Foundation is a registered Canadian Charity all contributions are tax deductible and appropriate tax receipts will be issued for each donation.

The venue at the CN Tower is limited to approximately 250 guests so if you would like to attend this function, please contact David Hunter as soon as possible by telephone at 416-699-9942 or by e-mail at: davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

For those who would like to continue celebrating after the event at the CN Tower, we are planning a ceilidh at a venue nearby and more details will be forthcoming shortly. So please check our website (www.scottishstudies.com) as we get closer to April 3 for up-to-date information. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at the event.



Treasurer David Campbell, Scottish Studies Society President Nola Crewe, and Scottish Studies Foundation Vice President Maggie McEwan at our Tall Ship Cruise. This year's cruise will take place on August 31. See page 6 for more details.

Photo: Jeanne Isley

Scots Wha Hae

*a desire to nurture and preserve
their heritage in Canada
are invited to join*



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION

*a charitable organization dedicated
to actively supporting the
Scottish Studies Program*

at

The University of Guelph

Charitable registration
No. 119253490 RR0001
www.scottishstudies.com

SCOTTISH STUDIES SPRING COLLOQUIUM

Saturday April 5, 2008
Knox College
University of Toronto
59 St. George Street

- Registration and lunch from 12.15pm
- Talk by representative from *Scotland's People*
- Launch of 1871 Scottish and Canadian Census Digitization project
- Launch of online *International Review of Scottish Studies*
- Sarah Tolmie (University of Waterloo): *Robert Henryson*
- Andrew Hinson (University of Guelph): *The Scots in Toronto*

Fee: \$20 for members of the Scottish Studies Foundation, \$25 for non-members.

Registration/General Information:
Scottish Studies
Department of History
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1
Tel: (519) 824 4120, ext 53209
Email: scottish@uoguelph.ca

The Fall Colloquium 2007

"Full House – again" was the cry at the 2007 Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium held at the University of Guelph on 29th September. With one of the most prestigious line-ups in recent years, a memorable day was in the making. After the welcome sight of coffee and treats, the day began with an outstanding talk by Douglas Richmond, the 2006 recipient of the Edward Stewart Graduate Scholarship in Scottish Studies. Impressing all with his minimal use of notes, Doug Richmond gave an impassioned account of Revd. Dr William Bell, the Secessionist Minister who first brought religion to Perth in Ontario's Lanark County in the 1820s.

This opening session then featured University of Guelph professor Dr Linda Mahood. Focusing on how juveniles were disciplined in Victorian Scotland, giving particular attention to those found in institutional care, Dr Mahood told tales that were both horrific and uplifting. With an extensive Q & A session which showed the interest around the room, more than one would reflect later that it was no surprise to learn Dr Mahood received the College of Arts Teaching Award for 2007 as well as a Teaching Innovation Award from the Faculty Association.

The University of Guelph's Scottish Studies Foundation Chair Dr Graeme Morton then introduced Mr Alan McKenzie to announce the creation of the Jill McKenzie Memorial Lecture. Named in honour of Alan and his late wife Jill, the lecture series was established to bring the best Scottish Historians to the Fall Colloquium each year. The inaugural lecture was given by Professor Christopher Whatley, Vice Principal and Head of College of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Dundee. His talk was based on his new book analysing the Union of Scotland and England in 1707 on its 300th anniversary, a book that has since gone on to win the Saltire Society Prize for the best book in Scottish History in 2007. It was a fascinating new analysis, which has dramatically advanced our understanding of that momentous political treaty. If you would like to contribute to the Jill McKenzie Memorial lecture fund, then please direct your mouse to www.uoguelph.ca/scottish and click on 'News'.

There then followed the annual report of the Scottish Studies Office. Dr Morton announced that we have a new name: The Centre for Scottish Studies. It marks a change of status just in time for the 40th anniversary colloquium in 2008. If anyone was at the first (1968), or the very early

colloquia, then please get in touch with Dr Morton (gmorton@uoguelph.ca) – we would love to have you at the anniversary event.

The 2007 Grand Tour of Scotland led by Dr Morton was then featured in some wonderful pictures, with the beauty of Skye causing more than one sharp intake of breath. News also that Dr Kevin James has received funding from the Social and Humanities Research Council to research 'Rural tourist development in Ireland, 1885-1914'.

Then came the graduate awards ceremony. The recipient of the 2007 Edward Stewart Graduate Scholarship in Scottish Studies was Shannon O'Connor. Shannon is a 2nd year MA student working on the St Andrew's Society of Toronto during the late 19th century and early 20th centuries. This, the most prestigious award, is presented to the top performing MA or PhD student in Scottish Studies. The award is a scholarship of \$5000 which, for those who secure an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, rises to \$15,000.

The recipient of the 2007 Jane Grier Award was Jill McMillan. Jill is a 2nd year MA student working on the Crichton Royal Institution, a lunatic asylum in Dumfries, in the 19th century. Established by Ms. Jane Grier, this \$1000 scholarship is awarded to a student in his/her first or second year of graduate study in the field of Scottish Studies within the MA or PhD programs in History.

The winner of the 2007 St Andrew's Society of Toronto Research Travel Award was Katie McCullough. Katy will travel to Scotland in the Spring to undertake archival work in the National Archives of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland and the University Archives of both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Her project is entitled *Stolen Identities: the Appropriation and Misappropriation of Celtic Identity in Early Modern Britain*.

The winner of the 2007 St Andrew's Society of Montreal Research Travel Award was Erin Grant. Erin will travel to the Glasgow Piping Centre to examine their records, in particular their complete set of the Piping Times Magazine, as well as several other magazines that are less well known and have gone out of print.

After the excitement of the awards ceremony, the momentum was carried forward with the next speaker, Dr Penelope Cole, from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr Cole gave an elegant talk on 'Joanna Baillie and the construction of Scottish national identity after Union'. She was followed by Dr John Kissick (Director of the School of Fine Art and Music at the University of Guelph) with his illustrated talk on the Murals of Belfast (from one side of the tradition!?).

The day ended with the presentation of the 2007 Frank Watson Prize for the best book in

Scottish History. The winner, Dr Richard Sher, is Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Federated Department of History at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is one of the leading academics of the Enlightenment and has published extensively in this field. He was awarded the Prize for *The Enlightenment & the Book: Scottish Authors & Their Publishers in Eighteenth-Century Britain, Ireland & America* (Chicago, 2006). Dr Sher produced a stunning book and his lecture was an equal match – a worthy end to a superb day.

Dr Morton thanked the audience and reminded them that the 2008 Spring Colloquium is coming to Knox College (Toronto) in April and the 40th anniversary Fall Colloquium will be held at the University of Guelph at the end of September.

Scottish Studies graduate students 2007-2008

PhD STUDENTS:

Jodi Campbell

Jodi is a first-year PhD student. She received her M.A. in British history from the University of Delaware. Her current research pertains to the role of religion and national identity in the Union of 1707.

Heather Parker

Heather is a first year PhD student from Kingston. She completed her BA at Dalhousie University and her MSc at University of Edinburgh. She is currently looking at late medieval Scottish marriage contracts to evaluate the social and financial impacts and effects of the formation of marriages.

Kris Gies

Kris is a PhD Candidate entering his fourth year of study at the University of Guelph. Before attending U of G, he has earned degrees in both the United States (Central Michigan University) and in Scotland (University of Strathclyde). He is currently an office manager at the Centre for Scottish Studies and a co-managing editor for the International Review of Scottish Studies. In addition, he is a sessional instructor for the Fall 2007 semester, and a past recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award as top Teaching Assistant in the College of Arts. The subject of his dissertation research is the relationship between part-time

volunteer soldiering and Scottish society in the early twentieth century. More specifically, how the city of Glasgow reacted to a series of military reforms which took place between the Boer War and the First World War, the main result being the creation of the Territorial Force/Army. Thanks to the generous support of individuals and groups affiliated with Scottish Studies, such as the Watson family and the St. Andrews Society of Montreal, Kris has completed research trips to Scotland, where he accessed a number of archives and libraries in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Any ex-servicemen or their relatives with questions or information pertaining to Glaswegian Territorial Force/Army regiments are welcome to contact Kris at kgies@uoguelph.ca

Andrew Hinson

Andrew is beginning the third year of his PhD. From Glasgow, he completed his BA at the University of Sunderland before going on to do his M-Phil in history at the University of Glasgow. Andrew is researching the Scottish community in Toronto between the years 1870 and 1914. In spite of the significant number of Scots residing in the city, surprisingly little research has been carried out on this group. Using census returns, church records, city directories, St Andrew's Society records and other documentation, he hopes to shed light on the dynamics of the Scottish community, with particular emphasis on the role of the Presbyterian Church. Ultimately he would like to ascertain to what extent Scots in Toronto retained their sense of Scottishness and what influence, if any, this had on their everyday lives.

Susan Murray

Susan Murray B.A., MA (University of Memphis) concentrates on the social history of medieval and early modern Scotland. Her specific interests include the experiences of women in Fife and the surrounding area. Susan is also interested in literature and gender studies.

Elizabeth Ritchie

Elizabeth is from Crieff, in Perthshire and did her undergraduate degree in History and Masters in American Studies at the University of Glasgow. She is now starting the fourth year of her PhD. Her academic interests lie in the society and culture of the Highlands and Islands, with her dissertation focusing on the intersection of faith with community, family and gender in a Roman Catholic and a Presbyterian island in the early nineteenth century. Between 1793 and 1853 Highlanders became increasingly Christianised. Despite theological differences and sectarian tension, there were strong

similarities between Catholic and Protestant experience, exemplified in the islands of South Uist and Skye. Religion increasingly shaped community, family and individual experience, often in a gendered manner. Each society responded uniquely to the challenges of religious education, sectarianism, revivalism and Disruption. The communities lived in parallel: although there was a gap between the faith systems in terms of doctrine, ritual and tradition, the faiths had strong similarities in their impact on community, family and gender experience.

MA STUDENTS:

Steven Cunneen

Steven is a first year MA student who completed his B.A. at Brock University. He is interested in Medieval Scottish and Irish relations, notable the Bruce Invasion of Ireland and the failed development of a "Celtic Alliance".

Ryan Davidson

Ryan is a second year MA student. His Master's thesis will focus on the historiography of Macbeth from the 11th through 21st centuries in relation to the development of the Scottish constitution and his incorporation in national mythology. He has recently expanded his research into the historiography of Gruoch, Macbeth's queen, demonstrating that her depiction as wicked and manipulative is largely the creation of 16th century historians writing in opposition to female rule as women such as Mary of Gueldres, Margaret of Denmark, Margaret Tudor, and Mary Queen of Scots commanded tremendous influence on Scottish politics during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Erin Grant

Erin is a first year MA student who also completed her BA-hons at the University of Guelph where she became particularly interested in Scottish Studies. Her research interests are mainly in nineteenth century social and cultural history of Scotland and Scottish identity in both Scotland and Canada. Her thesis will look at some aspect of the Highland bagpipes during the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century and will probably focus on civilian pipe bands due to her background as a piper in one of North America's top grade and ranking competition bands.

Katie McCullough

Katie is a first year MA student who completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. For her MA she hopes to explore the images and attitudes towards the Celt within Scotland and the ideological use of Celtic

identity in the formation of a post-Union national identity in Scotland.

Jill McMillan

Jill is a second year MA student whose thesis research concerns the use and purpose of *The New Moon*, a periodical written and edited by patients at the Crichton Royal Institution, a lunatic asylum in Dumfries, Scotland. Printed almost without interruption between 1844 and 1937, this periodical contains an assortment of material, ranging from historical notices and short stories to obituaries and personal notes. Introduced as a means to educate and amuse patients, *The New Moon* provides valuable insight into nineteenth- and early twentieth-century asylum life through the writings of patients. Previous research has similarly focused on nineteenth-century Scotland and has included analysis of a travel diary, lunacy, and gypsies.

Ronald Morris

Ronald is a first year Masters student from Toronto. His research interests are in intellectual history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, particularly the Scottish Enlightenment.

Shannon O'Connor

Shannon is in the second year of her MA. Her research interests include social and immigration history in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Canada and Scotland. For her major research paper she has been examining the dynamics of Scottish ethnic associational culture in Toronto, with a particular focus on the Toronto St. Andrew's Society during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Katy Saffery

Katy is in the final semester of her MA in history at the University of Guelph. Her Major Research Paper, "Chapbooks and Audiences: An Examination of Representations of Family in Scottish Chapbook Literature, 1801-1829," makes use of the extensive Scottish Chapbook Collection held in the Archival and Special Collections of the University's library. Focusing on seventy-six items produced exclusively in Glasgow, the work examines literary depictions of children and parents within the concept of family as well as weddings, courtship and married life. Indeed, chapbook literature – entertaining, crude, popular and widely read – reflects for the historian many aspects of the culture of its readership. Katy hopes to continue her studies at the PhD level in the coming year.

Graeme's Grand Tour

The 2007 Scottish Studies Grand Tour of Scotland was not quite a journey into the unknown, but it crossed into a new political landscape and opened up a country that continues to use its history to sway its future. Led by the University of Guelph's Scottish Studies Foundation Chair Dr Graeme Morton, the hardy explorers left Toronto on 30th May for fifteen days experiencing the best of Scotland.

Not only did the weather prove to be kind, except perhaps for a little wind in Orkney, the trip was made all the more enjoyable by the humour, knowledge and dedication of coach driver Jim Dudts from Air and Tour Golf Links. Like the pro that he is, his first task was to take us to St Andrews for a tour round the Cathedral and then lunch overlooking the 17th hole of the Old Course. Food, in particular the search for the best Cullen Skink, was to be a recurrent theme. More than once we were grateful to Jim's GPS to locate the best eateries around. From the Old Course we visited the Secret Bunker, but it had nothing to do with golf this time. It was a relic of the Cold War, a nuclear bunker, and now turned into one of Scotland's best tourist sites.

We stayed our first night on Scottish soil in Perth before making the dramatically scenic drive up to Sutherland to catch the ferry over to the Orkney Islands. Along the way we stopped in Dunkeld to view the 18th century Ossian folly, but once we got to Orkney we really were in a place unlike any other. Stromness was our home for the next three nights, and what could be better than a hotel with three bars - especially with the cheapest Highland Park whisky on offer (as we were later to reminisce). While in Orkney the party visited the UNESCO world heritage site which is Skara Brae, a Neolithic village over 5000 years old. We also welcomed the first of our speakers, Dr. Donna Heddle, Director of the Centre for Nordic Studies, UHI Millennium Institute. Battling against first the wind and then a rather loud staff member in the coffee room at Skara Brae, Dr Heddle spoke about Orkney's stunning past. We finished our day with a talk on Orkney's connection to Canada through the Hudson's Bay Company, delivered by Cameron Taylor, Director of Seabridge Consultants and former CEO of Orkney Tourist Board. Mr. Taylor is an old friend of Scottish Studies having helped to look after the audience the day the Rt. Hon Jack McConnell, MSP, First Minister of Scotland,

and renowned historian Professor Tom Devine, had come to visit the Scottish Studies Programme. The stunning Italian Chapel, created from two Nissen huts by Italian prisoners of war during WWII, and the Churchill barriers built to protect the Royal Navy, but now used as causeways between the larger islands of the group, were amazing contrasts to the archaeological sites seen the previous day.

Upon leaving Orkney we traveled back to mainland Scotland to stop off at Cawdor Castle outside Inverness in search of Macbeth, and which impressed with its gardens, before visiting the battlefield site at Culloden (1746). The audio-visual display, the re-enactments and the piping were well done and confirmed the continuing solemnity of the last battle on British soil and the terrible aftermath that followed its conclusion. The next day saw the party circling Loch Ness (no monsters spotted) before taking the bridge to the Isle of Skye. A visit to the Talisker distillery was highly educational as was the tour of Armadale Castle. While there we were treated to a talk by historian Dr Karen Cullen of the UHI Millennium Institute and by her colleague the influential highland historian Professor Jim Hunter. Professor Hunter explained the role of crofters and the impact of the Clearances on the island. From Skye we took the boat (and sang the Skye Boat Song) to Mallaig and then headed through Glencoe to the bright lights of Glasgow. The magnificently renovated Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and the eclectic Burrell Collection, were highlights for many, especially for those that came across Professor Hunter as an exhibit (well, on video) in the former. Our party was then given a private tour of the Scottish Executive's Scottish Enterprise operation in Glasgow, an event led by Russell Walker from the Executive's Global Friends of Scotland network. It was an opportunity for the Scottish government to learn from this group of Scottish-Canadians and for us all to get a privileged insight into how devolution is impacting on business, culture and education. From this meeting, the party headed for Glasgow University, where the University of Guelph's post-doctoral fellow Dr Karly Kehoe was waiting to speak about the work and influence of the celebrated designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The talk was clearly a labour of love and its good humour was followed up by a lively dinner in



The group at Cawdor Castle, near Inverness, forever associated with Macbeth.

one of Glasgow's celebrated restaurants, The Ubiquitous Chip.

From Glasgow we then headed for Stirling - to the castle and the National Wallace Monument, a particular treat for Dr Morton. All managed to get up the hill to the monument and the view from Abbey Craig was superb. Bannockburn battlefield was toured on our way back to Edinburgh, noting that its facilities for children to learn about the medieval Wars of Independence were impressive. In Edinburgh we visited the new Scottish Parliament building and were amazed at the facilities provided for the politicians and their administrators as well as the quality of the finish and eco-friendly features of the building. Perhaps it was because there were four former Deputy Ministers for Ontario on the Tour, but we went away with the impression that the £414m price tag to build the Parliament was far from excessive!

That visit was followed by a walking tour of Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile by urban historian Professor Bob Morris. Prof Morris's talk took us through some of the early-modern wynds and vennels of the street, and the Victorian attempts to preserve them, and ended up in St Giles Cathedral, a Presbyterian cathedral (which surprised a few of us). We then headed to Edinburgh University for a talk by Dr Trevor Griffiths. Scottish film and the cinema were the topics covered and Dr Griffiths showed us, again perhaps surprisingly, that an educational film on VD topped the box office in Scotland in the 1930s (with separate male and female screenings). The next day we visited our second UNESCO World Heritage site, the eighteenth-century New Lanark Mill. Once inspired by the social vision of Robert Owen (1771-1858), these mills and the housing, schools and health care for the people who worked and lived there, came to be at the forefront of enlightened employer practices. Another wonder was visited in the recently

opened Falkirk Wheel, a rotating boat lift connecting the Forth & Clyde and Union canals. Sir Walter Scott's home, Abbotsford, was our destination in the Scottish Borders, and we were fortunate to enjoy a brilliantly informative guided tour of Scott's library and antiquarian collection. It was the last of our planned events, before a free day, and then a formal farewell dinner in Edinburgh's Hilton hotel.

For those who joined in the fun, the Grand Tour of Scotland was a great experience. Without doubt, the University of Guelph and the Scottish Studies Foundation are delighted to have made so many new friends. ■

The Case of the Missing Baby

By Elizabeth Ritchie

In 1832 Margaret MacDonald was 23 and living with her parents on the farm of Tigharry, North Uist where her father was a tenant farmer. Whereas the east is rocky and inhospitable, the west coast is excellent for livestock and crops, supporting a string of townships and farms. That spring a liaison with Alexander MacDonald left her pregnant.¹ In a panic-stricken quandary Margaret laid plans with her fifteen-year-old niece to leave the island, perhaps to escape family disapproval or church discipline. Kirk Session records for North Uist no longer exist, but the cases of 40 illegitimate children in the 1830s were attended to in a neighbouring parish.² Offenders were reprimanded but the chief function of prosecutions was to enforce paternal support for mother and child. Such community censure was part of the system for sexual regulation and community incorporation of the children.³ Illegitimacy was far from unknown, but still involved loss of social status and marriage prospects. Fear of the

Elizabeth Ritchie is from Crieff, in Perthshire and did her undergraduate degree in History and Masters in American Studies at the University of Glasgow. She is now starting the fourth year of her PhD. Her academic interests lie in the society and culture of the Highlands and Islands, with her dissertation focusing on the intersection of faith with community, family and gender in a Roman Catholic and a Presbyterian island in the early nineteenth century. Elizabeth was the inaugural winner of the Edward Stewart Graduate Scholarship in Scottish Studies in 2005.

response to her pregnancy drove Margaret to escape the island for a while.

For seven weeks the women lived on Eigg with a cousin then moved to Arisaig for two weeks, staying with a cottar family. Under questioning from the cottar's wife Margaret created her cover story: that she was married to a North Uist man and was returning home for her confinement, delaying because she felt unwell. They sailed to Skye and walked through the parish of Sleat, staying with families for three weeks. In Broadford she went into labour and was assisted by the miller's wife. Margaret was unsure whether or not it was a premature birth, being "quite ignorant of the length of time in which a woman goes with child." She worried her daughter was not healthy as she was always crying, but a local man disagreed and added Margaret seemed fond of the girl, nursing her and feeding her porridge gruel, fearing she had insufficient milk. One day as they trekked towards Dunvegan port, rain made them seek shelter. As it cleared up and the child was asleep and warm, they carried on. To her horror, when Margaret next checked the baby, she was dead. The child had refused to feed all day so may have been weakened, or ailing and unable to contend with the January climate.

A study of infanticide in Shetland suggests baby deaths usually occurred because of motherly neglect rather than being premeditated, yet in Galloway brutality appeared common.⁴ Margaret falls into neither category easily, seeming to care for the baby yet lacking knowledge. Having removed herself from the guidance and support of the female community in North Uist, the baby was at the mercy of her mother's ignorance.

Alone, and with a body on their hands, the girls sat behind some peat stacks by the road



Looking towards the Island of Eigg from Arisaig.

and cried. They buried the baby in a ruinous hut "loosly covered over with turf ... wrapped in a checked apron". Over a week after their return home they confessed to Margaret's sister. Her brother John was sent to disinter the body and Margaret was accused of child murder. Several Skye men helped John dig up the corpse which smelled too badly to ascertain whether the child had been injured. She was buried at Bracadale, Skye.

Had she been accused fifty years previously, Margaret would probably have hanged. Instead she benefited from an 1809 legal change which required proof of three things: that pregnancy was concealed, no help was called for at the birth and that there was no living child. The birthing assistance of the Broadford miller's wife may therefore have saved her. Margaret escaped the noose, although how the episode and the subsequent notoriety affected the rest of her life, we are left in ignorance. ■

¹ AD14/32/125, 1832 Child Murder at Broadford, Margaret MacDonald

² Kirk Session of Durinish, CH2/877/1

³ Lynn Abrams: *From Demon to Victim: The Infanticidal Mother in Shetland, 1699-1899* in Yvonne Galloway Brown and Rona Ferguson, eds, *Twisted Sisters: Women, Crime and Deviance in Scotland since 1400*, (East Linton: Tuckwell Press, 2002), 183

⁴ Anne-Marie Kilday, *Maternal Monsters: Murdering Mothers in South West Scotland, 1750-1815*, in Brown and Ferguson, 170; Abrams, 198

Dark Secret of the Campsie Fells

By Ian C. Lees

It was a strange caprice of Fate that sent the Rev. John Collins to Campsie. He had made up his mind before he went there that he would remain a bachelor, but he was not long in his charge until he married the fairest woman in the district. Others had sought her hand, but all, save one, retired from the field when it became evident that the new minister was the favourite suitor.

The exception was the Laird of Balglass, who lived about a mile from the manse. He had made all the running before the arrival of the minister, and, naturally, he was angry that the prize should be snatched from his hand. No one, however, suspected from his conduct that he would seek to destroy the happiness of the minister and his wife, whose confidence he won by friendly overtures. And so he became a welcome guest at the manse.

Balglass thought that by frequent visits he would re-ignite the old flame in the heart of his former sweetheart, but he soon found that he could only hope to win her by first getting rid of the husband. He was a desperate man, and he made up his mind to use desperate means to gain his end. But he retained perfect control over his feelings, and nothing was visible in his manner of the rage and hatred which surged within him. His chance came one day in November, 1648. He knew that on that day the minister was to attend a presbytery meeting in Glasgow, and would return in the evening. Accordingly he laid his plans.

Balglass went along the Glasgow road, and waited at a dark part of the route. The minister arrived on horseback, and Balglass dragged him from his horse and murdered him. He took his victim's watch and money so that suspicion might fall on highwaymen. He left the body by the roadside, and made for home.

The minister's pony arrived at the manse without its owner. Mrs. Collins, anxious about her husband's safety, ran to her neighbours, and a search party was organized. A messenger ran to Balglass -- this the laird had anticipated -- and he hastened to the manse. He joined in the search, and some time later helped to carry the minister's body home. He broke the news of the minister's death to Mrs. Collins, who collapsed. His care and attention were unremitting, and his eagerness to bring the murderer to justice seemed unbounded. But



The Campsie Fells and Duntreath Castle. Located about 10 miles north of Glasgow, the Campsie Fells are a prominent feature that can be seen from most locations in that city and its surrounding countryside. The term "Fell" comes from the Norse word "fjall" and is a common name for "hill" in the north of Britain -- a legacy of the Viking heritage of this part of Europe. Ian C. Lees relates the story behind the inscription on the tombstone over the grave of the Rev. John Collins in the old churchyard of St. Machan at the foot of Campsie Glen not far from where the photo was taken.

the murder seemed beyond solution. He said nothing about marriage until it became necessary for Mrs. Collins to leave the manse to make room for her husband's successor. At first she refused to listen to his proposal, but, having no home, she gave way, and they were married.

His villainy had triumphed. He was happy for a time, and then his conscience began to trouble him. He could not sleep; he became restless; he evaded company; he refused to talk. His conduct made his wife anxious, and she resolved to seek the cause of the trouble. She thought that some light might be thrown on the mystery if she could examine his papers, which were kept in a box. He guarded the key jealously, but in the end she secured it. She made her way to his room when he was out. She found the box. Should she open it or not? She fingered the key hesitatingly. If she were to learn his secret she must do it.

The box opened easily. Papers were almost tumbling out of it. She looked at each in turn as they came uppermost, and laid them on a table. Then she came on her former husband's watch in a corner of the box. At that moment Balglass entered the room. He saw an extraordinary change come over her face. It came and went quickly like a warning flash of a beacon out of the darkness of the night. She recoiled instinctively before the shock of the surprise discovery. Then she looked up, and read the guilt in her husband's face. In that moment of self-betrayal he had torn the scales from her eyes, and she saw him as he really was -- a murderer, the man

who had killed her husband that he might win her. A sickening sense of disgust and humiliation swept over her as she realized that it was for this that she had sacrificed herself. Then she fainted.

Balglass left the house, and was never seen again. Nothing more is known of his wife. ■



Arrival of Scottish settlers, Pictou, N.S. / Arrivée des colons écossais à Pictou (N-E)

Canada 8

The Scottish Studies Foundation invites you and your family and friends to commemorate the voyage of Scots Pioneer ship *The Hector* on our 17th Annual Tall Ship Cruise on Lake Ontario on Sunday, August 31 aboard Canada's largest sailing ship, the *Empire Sandy*.

There are two sailings: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children (15 and under) or \$25 and \$8 respectively if purchased on the day. For more information please contact Maggie McEwan at 905-301-5475, or by email at: magmcewan@gmail.com

In Pursuit of the Romantic: J.S. Birley and Travels in Early Nineteenth-Century Scotland

By Jill McMillan

When John Shepherd Birley, a young man from Lancashire, embarked on a three week tour of Scotland on July 25 1825, he was taking part in what was rapidly becoming a ritualized excursion for many Britons.¹ Following already established tourist routes that linked the great cities – Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh – to such rustic areas as Loch Lomond, Loch Katrine, and Glencoe, Birley was an early participant in a popular trend, arriving in Scotland seventeen years before Queen Victoria’s first official visit.

Yet, even prior to this royal endorsement, Scotland’s appeal to visitors was multifaceted, symbolizing a romantic ideal, where history, nature and the exotic together created a landscape designed for contemplation, reflection and an escape from modern stressors. In this respect Birley’s travel journal offers a fascinating glimpse into the tourist experience, illustrating the role romanticism played in encouraging Scottish tourism in the early nineteenth century.²

Departing from Liverpool, Birley’s first encounter with Scotland was in the form of a “drunken Scotchman” who “proposed a

Scotch toast ‘concord among our fellow passengers’.”

From this amiable beginning, Birley spent the next three weeks touring historical monuments and communing with nature. Like many other tourists, he was attracted to features like Scone Palace, which he observed “remarkable for having been the residence of several Kings of Scotland,” and the abundance of castles, abbeys and Roman ruins.

This widespread interest in history has been explained in part by the political upheaval and industrialization of the nineteenth century, and it has been argued that, for the Victorians, the past could be viewed as “an antidote to contemporary times.”³

For persons like Birley, however, the most popular attractions were natural ones. From the lochs and mountains, to the valleys and glens, Scottish scenery increasingly became defined in terms of the sublime and picturesque. This sentiment was clearly embodied in Birley’s description of two lochs, comparing one to a “Highland Chieftain, the other a courtly knight, refined in the arts of war. The one is Juno, the other a Minerva or rather Mars.” With its references to Greco-Roman mythology, as well as medieval imagery, Birley’s account echoed larger romantic influences. It also alluded to Scotland’s unique and exotic culture, namely the presence of Highlanders.

The Victorians were especially interested in Highlanders, viewing them as a living link to the past. Though Birley commented on the “genuine hospitable and inquisitive

highlanders,” his interactions with the “Scotch” are largely notable for their scarcity. In describing these infrequent encounters, Birley commented on the “picturesque appearance” of Highland dress and wrote of cultural differences, cautioning that “[a] highlander shudders when he hears one ridicule the Goblin which his Fathers

feared. He thinks it a little short of blasphemy.” Still, Birley’s infrequent interaction with locals is not easily explained. He may have felt that such interactions were not worth noting in his journal, or he may have truly been isolated from Scots during his travels.

At the end of his tour, a place he determined “well calculated to afford delight and satisfaction to the tourist,” Birley enthused about his experience. Indeed, in his postscript he recommended that men of all different temperaments and backgrounds would benefit

from travel there.

This postscript also sheds light on the preconceived ideas that some tourists likely held prior to traveling to Scotland. Tourists like Birley sought out experiences that fulfilled such expectations, which ensured a positive encounter with an idealized, romantic and anticipated version of traditional Scottish culture. ■

Jill McMillan is a second year MA student in the University of Guelph’s Scottish Studies Program. Her thesis research concerns the use and purpose of *The New Moon*, a periodical written and edited by patients at the Crichton Royal Institution, a lunatic asylum in Dumfries, Scotland. This article comes from previous research conducted on nineteenth-century travel diaries in Scotland.



View across Loch Leven to Glencoe – one of the 19th century’s most popular tourist destinations

¹ Katherine Haldane Grenier, *Tourism and Identity in Scotland, 1770-1914: Creating Caledonia, vol. 30, Studies in European Cultural Transition* (Burlington: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), 49.

² Birley’s 1825 travel journal, *Journal of a Three Week Tour in Scotland*, was purchased by the University of Guelph Archives in December 1986, and is located in the Archives’ Scottish Collection.

³ Haldane Grenier, *Tourism*, 135.

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