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**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.

President's address

Hello the Clan,

It was a very busy holiday season for my family so just a few things to say...

We held a CSS meeting in January. Details to come in a future newsletter.

Also, I started the registration process for the new Strachan Hunting Tartan in January as well.

I want to wish you all a joyful and prosperous New Year!

Happy New Year to you all!

talk soon d

Gu Deoch Gu Cairdean Gu Spors



**Upcoming Clan Activities in 2019
at the Village of Strachan and the Aboyne Games!**

See www.clanstrachan.org for details.



The Queen's surprise visit to the Aboyne Games

By Jim Strachan, Clan Strachan Sennachie

Those attending the Aboyne Highland Games this year had a very special treat. The Queen made her first visit to the Aboyne Highland Games in Deeside Saturday, August 5th, 2017; with an estimated crowd of more than 9,500 from around the world.

It was the 150th anniversary of the Aboyne Highland games, and Her Majesty's visit surprised thousands of those attending the annual celebration of Scottish culture.

The Aboyne Highland Games began in 1867, and sees the competition of various traditional sports, like the caber toss, where competitors throw a wooden beam.

According to the Deeside newspaper, *The Piper and Herald*, Alistair Grant, games chairman, said: "It was an honour and a privilege to welcome Her Majesty to Aboyne Highland Games to mark our 150th anniversary. She took a real interest in how our new Aboyne caber was crafted and seemed particularly taken to learn about the visits her ancestors had made to the games. Our first royal visit was in 1873, when the then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, attended and it is wonderful to continue that long association with the royal family today."

Queen Elizabeth made her rounds, shaking hands and meeting many of the Clan Chiefs and Commanders who reside in the area, one of these being our very own Rob Strachan, Commander of Clan Strachan.



The taller man standing behind the Queen, wearing a black cap with a red pip, is our Clan Commander Rob Strachan. As Clan Strachan is now accepted in Scotland as a legitimate Clan, Rob was asked to shake the Queen's hand and introduce himself. As Commander of the Honourable Clan Strachan, Rob considers this handshake one for the entire clan...not merely for himself. This is perhaps one of Rob's proudest moments as Commander as it confers full recognition by the Crown that Clan Strachan takes its seat among other established Clans in Scotland.

Sources:

Chapman, Catherine. Mailonline. "Queen makes surprise visit and opens the 150th annual Aboyne Highland Games with a dram of whisky." Published 5 August 2017, updated 6 August 2017. Available online: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4764206/Queen-makes-surprise-visit-150th-Aboyne-Highland-Games.html#ixzz4qjHf9M8d>

Deeside Piper & Herald. "Queen's surprise visit to Aboyne Games." Published 06 August 2017. Available online: <http://www.deesidepiper.co.uk/news/queen-s-surprise-visit-to-aboyne-games-1-4523617>



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Clan Strachan events



Laura Kealey

Clan Strachan was represented at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario in Canada on August 5, 2017. Walter Strachan, Clan Strachan Society Rep for the Maritimes came from Halifax to join us. His son Blake and family from Ottawa were also present, as were several other Clan members. For the first time, we had enough clan members to join the other clans in the Clan Parade with the Clan Strachan Society Clan Banner.

Clan Strachan to gather in 2019

By Jim Strachan

Mark your calendars for the first Clan Strachan World Gathering in 2019! The Clan Strachan Society is organizing tentative plans for the 2019 Gathering at the Aboyne Highland Games, and to hold a number of activities the week prior. More information should be available early this year.

If you have any ideas for topics of discussions or other activities, please send an email to jim@clanstrachan.org.

For more information, see:
www.clanstrachan.org/derbhfine/2019/default.html



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The Beaton

In the popular television series, *Outlander*, the lead character is asked if she is a Beaton. The Beaton medical kindred, also known as Clann Meic-bethad and Clan MacBeth, and by the Gaelic surnames MacBeatha, MacBeathad, and MacBhethad, was a Scottish kindred of professional physicians who practiced medicine in the classical Gaelic tradition from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Era.

Within the family, the position of medical doctor was inherited by the eldest son, and potential Beaton physicians were sent out to be trained by other mem-

bers of the family for several years before undertaking their own practice.

The kindred emigrated from Ireland, where members originally learned their craft, in the fourteenth century. According to tradition, the kindred first arrived in Scotland in the retinue of the Áine Ní Chatháin, daughter of Cú Maighe na nGall Ó Catháin, a woman who married Aonghus Óg Mac Domhnaill in about 1300.

In time the kindred came to be prominent in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, although the earli-



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est known member appears on record in the Lowlands, in Dumfries, during the early fourteenth century. The kindred first came to be associated with Islay in the early fifteenth century, then moved on to other islands. Eventually, the kindred became the largest and longest serving of the three major mediaeval medical dynasties in Gaelic Scotland.

The kindred is commonly confused with the unrelated Bethune or Beaton family, historically centered in Fife. In fact, the medical kindred adopted the surname Beaton in the fifteenth century. By the seventeenth century, most of the seventeen or so families within the kindred had adopted the surname Beaton, although two used the surname Bethune. Partly as a result, members of the medical kindred mistakenly came to think of themselves as descended from the Bethunes of Balfour, the principal branch of the aforesaid Bethune or Beaton family (who were of Continental origin).

Like other learned Gaelic families, members of the kindred copied and compiled manuscripts. According to Màrtainn



There have been as many as seventy-six physicians of the kindred identified between the years 1300 and 1750.



Màrtainn, a Scottish writer best known for his work *A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*, just before the turn of the eighteenth century, a member of the kindred possessed a library of manuscripts works of Avicenna, Averroes, Joannes de Vigo, Bernardus Gordonus, and Hippocrates. The most substantial surviving example of such a work compiled by the kindred is an early sixteenth-century Gaelic translation of Gordonus' *Lilium medicinae*, the largest Gaelic manuscript in Scotland.

There have been as many as seventy-six physicians of the kindred identified between the years 1300 and 1750. Members were employed by every Scottish monarch between Robert I, King of Scotland

(died 1329) and Charles I, King of Scotland (died 1649), and patronized by numerous Scottish clans such as the Frasers of Lovat, MacDonald Lords of the Isles, the MacLeans of Duart, the MacLeods of Dunvegan, and the Munros of Foulis. By 1715, the last Beaton in the family line had died.



Aberdeen native: Annie Lennox

Annie Lennox, OBE, is an award-winning singer/songwriter/political activist/philanthropist known for her work with the rock group, Eurythmics, and as a solo act. Her top hits include “Sweet Dreams,” “Who’s That Girl?” and “Why.” Annie was born in Aberdeen on Christmas Day, 1954.

She recently discovered that her great-great-grandmother, Jessie Fraser worked, at the age of 13, at the Broadford Flax Mill in Aberdeen. Her maternal grandmother, Dora Paton, was a dairy maid at the Balmoral Royal Estate and her maternal grandfather, William Ferguson, was a gamekeeper also at Balmoral, who on one occasion danced with the then queen consort of the United Kingdom, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Both of Lennox’s parents died of cancer. Lennox is an agnostic and a feminist.

In the 1970s, Lennox won a place at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied the flute, piano and harpsichord for three years. She lived on a student grant and worked at part-time jobs for extra money. “I have had to work as a waitress, barmaid, and shop assistant to keep me when not in musical work,” she has observed.

Annie Lennox performing at the Rally for Human Rights during the International AIDS Conference 2010 in Vienna as part of her SING Campaign.





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vessel, Rainbow Warrior II, where they played a mixture of old and new songs. A subsequent concert tour was completed, with profits going to Greenpeace and Amnesty International.

Her debut solo album was “Diva”. Although Lennox’s profile decreased for a period because of her desire to bring up her two children outside of the media’s glare, she continued to record. Her second album, “Medusa”, was released in March 1995. It consisted solely of cover songs, all originally recorded by male artists including Bob Marley, The Clash, and Neil Young. It entered the UK album chart at No. 1 and peaked in the U.S. at No. 11, spending 60 weeks on the Billboard 200 chart and selling over 2,000,000 in the United States. It has achieved double platinum status in both the UK and the U.S. Other solo efforts include “Bare” and “Songs of Mass Destruction”.

In 1997, Lennox re-recorded the Eurythmics track “Angel” for the “Diana, Princess of Wales Tribute Album”, and also recorded the song “Mama” for “The Avengers” soundtrack album. In 2004, she won a Grammy, a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar for Best Original Song for her work on “Into the West”, which she co-wrote with screenwriter Fran Walsh and composer Howard Shore, for the soundtrack to the feature film “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King”. Her “Step by Step” was later a hit for Whitney Houston for



By Elmar J. Lordemann, CC BY-SA 2.0 de, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6353875>

Annie Lennox (far right) and David A. Stewart (left) performing as Eurythmics in 1987.

the soundtrack of the film “The Preacher’s Wife”.

In 2005, Lennox and Stewart collaborated on two new songs for their Eurythmics compilation album, *Ultimate Collection*, of which “I’ve Got a Life” was released as a single in October 2005. The promotional video for the song features Lennox and Stewart performing in the present day, with images of past Eurythmics videos playing on television screens behind them. The single peaked at No. 14 in the UK Singles Chart and was a No. 1 U.S. Dance hit.

In November 2005, Sony BMG repackaged and released Eurythmics’ back catalogue as “2005 Deluxe Edition Reissues”. Lennox also collaborated with Herbie Hancock doing the song “Hush, Hush, Hush” on his collaboration album

“Possibilitie” in August 2005.

Lennox’s fourth solo album “Songs of Mass Destruction” was recorded in Los Angeles with veteran producer Glen Ballard (known for producing Alanis Morissette’s album, *Jagged Little Pill*). It was released in October 2007 and peaked at No. 7 in the UK and No. 9 in the U.S.

Lennox stated that she believed the album consisted of “twelve strong, powerful, really emotive songs that people can connect to”. If she achieves that, she said, “I can feel proud of, no matter if it sells ten copies or 50 million.” Lennox described it as “a dark album, but the world is a dark place. It’s fraught, it’s turbulent. Most people’s lives are underscored with dramas of all kinds: there’s ups, there’s downs – the flickering



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candle.” She added, “Half the people are drinking or drugging themselves to numb it. A lot of people are in pain.”

With a total of eight British Awards, including “Best British Female Artist” six times, Lennox has won more than any other female artist. She has been named the “Brits Champion of Champions”.

Lennox has also been named “The Greatest White Soul Singer Alive” by VH1 and as one of “The 100 Greatest Singers of All Time” by Rolling Stone.

In 2012, she was rated No. 22 on VH1’s “100 Greatest Women in Music”. She has earned the distinction of “most successful female British artist in UK music history” due to her commercial success since the early 1980s. Including her work within the Eurythmics, Lennox has sold well over 80 million records worldwide.

In addition to her career as a musician, Lennox is also a politi-



Lindsay Mgbor/DFID

HIV campaigners, Memory Sachikonye (l) and Annie Lennox (r) met with Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell ahead of World AIDS Day, on behalf of the Stop AIDS Campaign and Act V, calling on the UK to lead the effort to bring an end to AIDS.

cal and social activist, notable for raising money and awareness for HIV/AIDS as it affects women and children in Africa. In June 2010, Lennox was named as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for AIDS, a role that continues.

In 2011, Lennox was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for her “tireless charity campaigns and championing of humanitarian causes”. On June 4, 2012, she performed at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Concert in front of Buckingham Palace. Lennox performed the song “Little Bird” during the 2012 Summer Olympics closing

ceremony in London on August 12, 2012.

“She is one of those exemplary human beings who chose to put her success in her chosen career to work in order to benefit others. She is a true friend of Africa and of South Africa. Her Aids activism in general, and support for the treatment action campaign in-

particular, contributed significantly to turning the pandemic around in our country,” said Archbishop Desmond Tutu, paying tribute to Annie Lennox in November 2013.

Lennox has been married three times. Her first marriage, from 1984 to 1985, was to German Hare Krishna devotee Radha Raman. From 1988 to 2000, she was married to Israeli film and record producer Uri Fruchtmann. The couple have two daughters, Lola and Tali. A son, Daniel, was stillborn in 1988. In September 2012, Lennox married Mitch Besser, in London.



Felis Silvestris Grampa: the Scottish Wildcat

There was a time when many native cats roamed England, Wales, and Scotland. Fourteen thousand years ago, UK forests were home to cave lions. By the time rising sea levels separated Great Britain from the rest of Europe, a few Eurasian cat species had settled there.

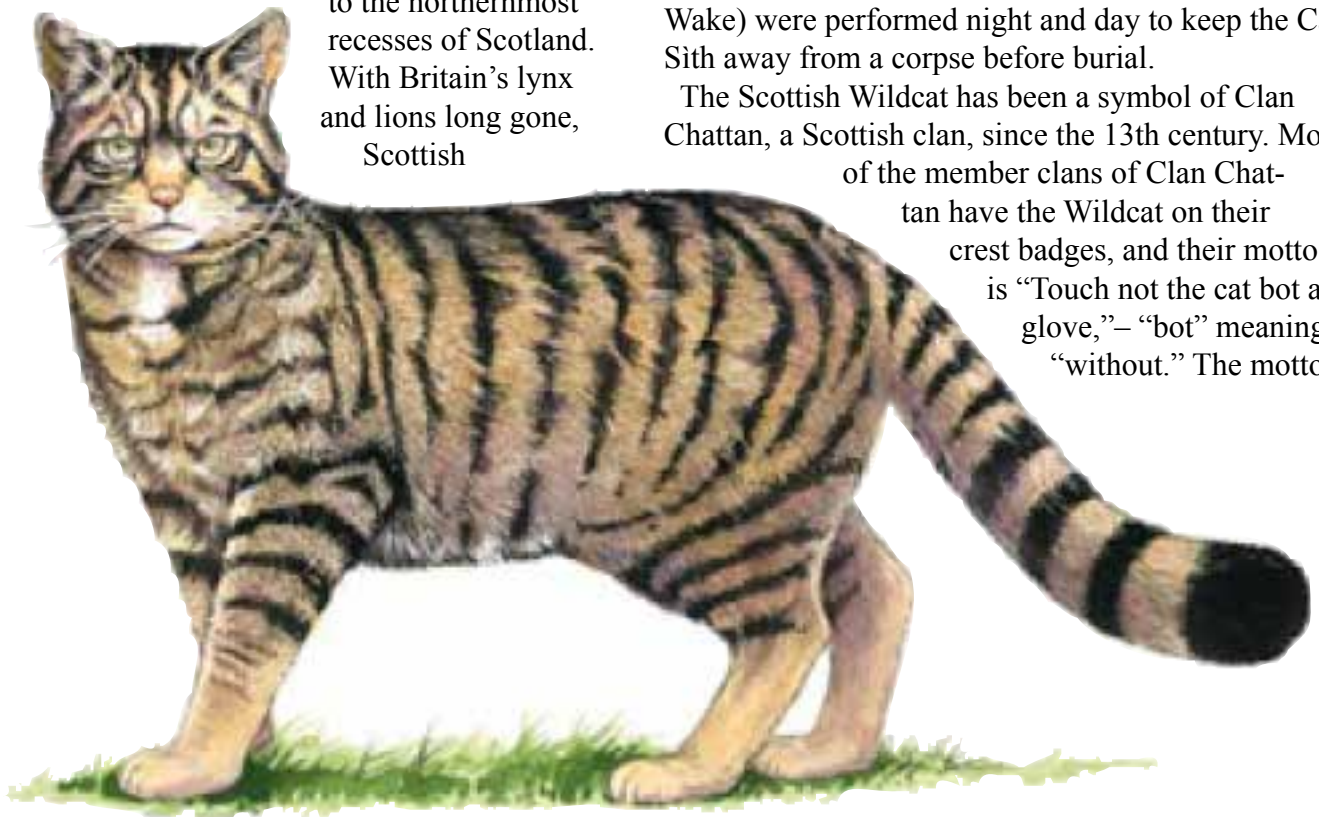
At some point, a population of so-called Wildcats was also established in Britain. Comparable in both size and appearance to housecats, these creatures are still at large on the island—although habitat loss illness and overhunting have restricted their range to the northernmost recesses of Scotland. With Britain's lynx and lions long gone, Scottish

Wildcats are the only indigenous felines left in the United Kingdom.

More commonly known as the Scottish Wildcat or the Highlands Tiger, *Felis Silvestris Grampia* is a dark colored iconic subspecies of the European Wildcat native to Scotland, now possibly numbering fewer than 300, whose continued existence is far from guaranteed. The name *grampia* likely comes from the name of a Scottish mountain range, the Grampian Mountains.

The Wildcat is an icon of the Scottish wilderness, and is very likely the inspiration for a mythological cat-like Scottish creature, Cat sìth. Traditionally, Scottish Highlanders did not trust the Cat Sìth. They believe that it could steal a person's soul before it was claimed by the gods by passing over a corpse before burial; therefore, watches called the Feill Fadalach (Late Wake) were performed night and day to keep the Cat Sìth away from a corpse before burial.

The Scottish Wildcat has been a symbol of Clan Chattan, a Scottish clan, since the 13th century. Most of the member clans of Clan Chattan have the Wildcat on their crest badges, and their motto is "Touch not the cat bot a glove,"—"bot" meaning "without." The motto is





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a reference to the ferocity of Wildcats. Clan Chattan has participated in Wildcat conservation efforts since 2010.

Scottish Wildcats can be distinguished from domestic cats by their heavier skulls and larger body. Their coats have distinctly solid-striped tabby patterning without white feet. Their tails are thick, ringed and black at the tips. The following coloration or patterns are unlikely to be found in Scottish Wildcats: white chins, striped cheeks, spotted undersides, striped hind legs, colored backs of ears, white on flanks, or white on backs. Their ears are capable of 180° rotation. They can live at least 15 years in captivity, but may only live 2-3 years in the wild due to unfortunate

incidents with cars and diseases transmitted by feral domestic cats, including feline calicivirus, feline coronavirus, feline foamy virus, and the fatal feline leukemia virus.

Scottish Wildcats are commonly found in colder, drier parts of Scotland, such as Cairngorms, Black Isle, Aberdeenshire, and Ardnamurchan, that are less suitable for farming. Their preferred habitat includes woodland and shrubland.

Scottish Wildcats are solitary, with kittens leaving their mothers around six months of age. Breeding generally occurs from January to March. After a gestation period of 63-68 days, females typically give birth to a litter of kittens in a den. Although females some-



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times give birth in winter, kittens born in the winter have much higher likelihood of dying from starvation. In 1975–1978, all monitored kittens born in winter starved. The average litter size for the Wildcat is 4.3. Both males and females reach sexual maturity before one year of age.

Wildcats are mainly crepuscular, or nocturnal, though they may hunt at all hours during the winter when food is scarce. A main food source for Wildcats is rabbits, voles, mice, and hares. Any uneaten remnants of a kill will be buried in a cache and saved for later. Wildcats will defend good hunting habitat from other Wildcats using scent markings. Territory sizes can exceed 9.7 square miles. While male Wildcats' ranges sometimes overlap with female ranges, female ranges do not overlap.

While the Scottish Wildcat was given protected status under the 1981 United Kingdom's Wildlife and Countryside Act, many believe the subspecies needs conservation action to maintain a viable population, which is made difficult by its hybridization with domestic cats. It is likely that most Wildcats today have at least some domestic cat ancestry.

Efforts to conserve Wildcats include neutering feral domestic cats and euthanizing diseased feral domestic cats to prevent hybridization and spread of disease. While Scottish Wildcats are legally protected in the United Kingdom, feral domestic cats can be killed throughout the year, and it is possible that people who mean to kill feral domestic cats may kill the protected Wildcat instead.

In one conservation effort, the independent Wildcat Haven project in the West Highlands, has created a threat-free safe haven for Wildcats of over 250 square miles and using only neutering of feral domestic cats. Some 150 cameras have been mounted in the woodlands outside Morvern which, triggered by heat and movement, have been gathering images of both feral

domestic cats and Wildcats. That data has allowed conservationists to lay targeted traps to catch specific domestic feral cats living close to Wildcats. Veterinarian Alice Bacon, of Dingwall, one of the vets who has been neutering feral domestic cats, commented, "We know that domestic cats - feral and pet domestic cats - are now the major threat to Wildcats because of hybridization and disease control, so without reducing the entire population of feral domesticated cats we'll be unable to secure a future for Scottish Wildcats."

The WH plan contrasts sharply with the captive breeding program which now exists in Scotland. Working with Wildcats that pass genetic and morphological tests sufficiently to be considered Wildcats with minimal hybridization. Between 2011 to 2016, 15

surviving Wildcat kittens were born at the Highland Wildlife Park. The overall breeding program involves other facilities, including the Alladale Wilderness Reserve, Chester Zoo, British Wildlife Centre, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, and

the Aigas Field Centre. But, the captive breeding program has drawn criticism from animal-rights organizations like Captive Animals Protection Society, which complained that the breeding program has "...little to do with conservation and everything to do with these zoos stocking their cages." As of December 2016, around 80 Scottish Wildcats were in captivity.

Minutes from a meeting organized by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, indicated that the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) approved the trapping of endangered Scottish Wildcats for captivity. Also present at this meeting were other UK zoos such as Chester Zoo, New Forest Wildlife Park and Aigas Field Centre. The RZSS confirmed that one staff member would carry out assessments of potential release sites when they had no other work to do.

Implemented in 2013, this move to capture free ranging Wildcats is part of the Lottery-funded SNH

*It is likely that most
Wildcats today have at least
some domestic cat ancestry.*



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Wildcat Action Plan, and has continued to come under fire from conservationists, animal welfare groups and even their own scientists over the last several years. Accusations of putting PR before conservation, conning the public over the genetic purity of Wildcats in captivity and falsifying survey and genetics research have made this Government approved plan extremely controversial.

Anti-captivity charity the Captive Animals' Protection Society (CAPS) expressed serious concerns about the planned trapping, highlighting that the meeting included discussions on the use of 'honey-traps', where live female hybrid cats are planted in cages in the wild to lure male Wildcats, and a "barbaric concept," outlined by Sir John Lister-Kaye of Aigas Field Centre, of feeding live animals to captive cats.

Of greatest concern perhaps, for local cat owners were extensive discussions regarding the killing of domestic cats to prevent their breeding with Wildcats, a move to prevent hybridization. This was noted to be of preference for many in attendance at the meeting rather than neutering programs such as that carried out by Wildcat Haven.

Emily O'Donoghue, director of the Wildcat Haven project stated, "We use humane feral cat neutering under a scientific methodology as a solution to stop the breeding of Wildcats with feral domestic cats in a bid to preserve the true, Scottish Wildcats. We expect to confirm expansion to 600 square miles next winter. Wildcats living here are safe from any threat and much loved by the entire community; we will strongly oppose any effort to remove Wildcats from the Haven region, and will be opening several new sites in the hope of protecting other Wildcats against these plans. There is no justification for healthy Scottish Wildcats to be in cages anymore."

And, Wildcat expert Steve Piper, one of the most vocal critics of the Action Plan after walking out on it in 2013, commented, "There's about 35 Wildcats left and you need an absolute minimum of 20 to found a captive population. This is the extinction of the Scot-

tish Wildcat from the wild." As he observed, only a few pure Wildcats are believed to survive in Scotland, raising fears from conservationists that captive breeding would mean its extinction in the wild.

Meanwhile, coordinating the captive breeding program (or the Scottish Wildcat studbook, as it is known) is a job that is often dictated by the time of year. From January to March, cats need to be moved and paired for breeding. From April to June breeders wait nervously and prepare for births, and from October to December juvenile cats are pushed away by their parents and are moved on for breeding of their own. This all works hand in hand with close management of the population dataset (studbook) and regular communication between Wildcat holders.

More specifically, a newly captured Wildcat is sedated and given a detailed health check, during which samples are collected for disease screening and genetic testing, and images are taken for pelage scoring. If the results show that the cat is free from disease, in great physical condition and passes the genetic and pelage test, it can be used for breeding in the program.

As the male Wildcat grows, he is provided a "dispersal" process, where he will move away from his mother and find a mate of his own. In studbook terms this means assessing the captive populations at various locations to see which collection of Wildcats may need a young male, which has space for another cat and, more importantly, who has a female that is unrelated to this male. Then, the important questions arise: Will we form a new pair for a new collection?; Will we replace an older male with this young male?; Is there an unrelated female somewhere?

This program is viewed as an insurance policy for the subspecies which is provided through the support and collaboration of various Wildcat holders, with the general hope that at the end of it, when cats are needed for release across Scotland, everyone in the country will be glad there is a Scottish Wildcat captive breeding program.



Stone circles in Scotland

Fans of the television series, *Outlander*, visit Inverness wanting to see Craigh na Dun, the fictional name of a faux stone circle featured on the series said to be located near Inverness, only to find that there is no such stone circle. However, there are standing stone circles throughout Scotland.

A stone circle is a monument of stones arranged in a circle or ellipse, constructed throughout history for many different reasons. The best known tradition of stone circle construction occurred across the British Isles in the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, with over 1,000 surviving examples.

Here is an incomplete list of stone circles located in Scotland:

An Carra (near) Kildonan, South Uist

Also known as Loch an Aithan standing stone, this striking prehistoric monument dating back to the neolithic age, is the tallest standing stone in the Southern Isles, measuring over 17 feet high. Carra means stone pillar and the purpose and role of this solitary, very tall, pillar is unknown. There is no visible evidence of other stones nearby to accompany

it or of other purposes. It is now covered in a fine lichen almost like a beard and in its solitary splendor has a wonderfully mysterious quality to it. It is set on the western slope of Beinn a' Charra. Unlike some prehistoric monuments in the Western Isles, it is actually quite easy to get to the stone, which is located immediately downhill of a modern water reservoir. The access road to the reservoir leads almost directly to the stone.

Baile Meadhonach - (the middle settlement) Kilmartin Glen, Scotland

Beile Meadhonach is a complex of neolithic structures that includes an avenue of two rows of standing stones, a stone circle, and a henge with a small burial cairn. The circle and standing stones are the older structures whose construction dates back to 4000 years ago, or more. The tallest stone is 12 feet high. The two stones are heavily carved with cup and ring marks. The complex is designated a scheduled ancient monument by Historic Environment Scotland. These stones are located on a privately owned sheep farm but can be accessed via a series of paths that run between fences.



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Achavanich Caithness, Highland

Achavanich is an unusual megalithic horseshoe-shaped structure near Loch Stemster in Caithness, Scotland. Meaning “field of the stones”, 36 of the original 54 stones remain today. The arrangement of these stones is extremely rare as the slabs are pointing

towards the centre of the circle, rather than the typical side-by-side arrangement. Although the site stood for several decades neglected and overgrown within a fenced off area, access has recently been vastly improved with a recent clearance of the site, the repositioning of fence boundaries and the installation of information boards.

The purpose and date of this setting are unknown, but they are generally assumed to belong to the Bronze Age. Outside the stone setting are some small slabs protruding through the turf that are possibly the remains of cist burials. There is also a cairn situated on a nearby knoll. The fact that these later sites were built in the same area shows that the region remained one of ritual importance over the centuries.

Calanais (Callanish I) Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides

This site dates from about 1800 BCE, but precise dates and proven functions have been hard to establish. Callanish I consists of a 43 x 37 foot circle of 13 tall slender Lewisian gneiss stones. In the middle is another stone, the tallest of all, 15 feet 6 inches. Four incomplete avenues lead away, with single rows of stones to the east, south and west, and a double row just east of north. Had all the rows been completed, their axial alignments would have converged at the centre stone.

Inside the circle are the remains of a chambered round cairn of Neolithic type, but archaeologists are undecided



*Above: Cullerlie Stone Circle, near Echt, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.
Opposite page: Torhouse Stone Circle, Dumfries and Galloway.*

whether this was built before or after the stone circle and stone rows.

Local tradition explains the presence of these stones by saying that when giants of old who then lived on the island refused to be Christianized, St. Kieran turned them to stone. Another local belief of this Gaelic-speaking com-

munity was that when the sun rose on midsummer morn, the ‘shining one’ walked along the stone avenue, his arrival heralded by the cuckoo’s call. This could be a remnant of the astronomical significance of the Callanish stones.

Cullerlie Gordon, Grampian

Excavated and reconstructed, this Bronze Age stone circle of eight boulders encloses an area where many small fires have been lit. Eight small cairns have been constructed over pits where corpses have been burned. This use of the circle as a burial ground very probably followed long after its construction, when the real significance of the stone circle was forgotten or no longer important.

The circle is 33 feet in diameter and instead of being squared-off, its stones are unshaped, although most have a pointed tip and are embedded in a pit of gravel.

Temple Wood (or, Half Moon Wood) Argyll, Strathclyde

This almost perfect circle (40 feet in diameter) is an ancient site located in Kilmartin Glen, near Kintyre, Argyll, Scotland. The site includes two circles. The southern circle contains a ring of 13 standing stones about 40 feet in diameter. In the centre is a burial cist surrounded by a circle of stones about 10 feet in diameter. Burials are associated with this circle. The southern circle’s first incarnation may have been constructed around 3000 BCE.



The Battle of Mons Graupius

'They make a desert and call it peace'

The traditional view of the Roman incursion into Scotland was that Gnaeus Julius Agricola, who became governor of Britain in the late summer of 77 CE, pushed further north after a campaign in Wales. The main source for this information is the Roman historian, Tacitus, Agricola's son-in-law.

Tradition holds that Agricola was the first Roman to push beyond present-day Perth and build a series of wooden forts and watch-towers, known as the Gask Ridge, around 80 CE. But recent research has established that the forts were built ten years earlier than this, during the governorship of Petilius Cerealis, though it appears that Agricola was responsible for some reconstruction of these fortifications, and no doubt, had others built. It is thought that these forts were constructed to protect the Romans' new-found trading partners and farmers from Caledonii incursions from the north. According to Tacitus, the Caledonii were "the most distant inhabitants on earth".

The word Caledonii is an exonym: the Ancient Greeks and Romans knew the Caledonii territory as Caledonia and used the term vaguely in reference to its inhabitants. The Caledonians were initially considered to be a group of Britons,

but were later distinguished as the Picts, a related people who nonetheless spoke a Brittonic language. The Caledonian Britons were enemies of the Roman Empire, which was the occupying force then administering most of Great Britain as the Roman province of Britannia.

Galgacus or Calgacus was said by the Roman invaders to have been a chief of the Caledonii. Calgacus is thus the first Scot to be named in written history. He initially fought a determined resistance to the Romans in a series of skirmishes as the Roman legions, led by Agricola, marched up the east coast of Scotland, reaching as far as Moray and the river Spey, possibly even further.

According to Tacitus, Calgacus led a Caledonian Confederacy who fought the Roman army of Agricola at the Battle



Calgacus.



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of Mons Graupius in northern Scotland in 83 or 84 CE. His name can be interpreted as Celtic calg-ac-os, “possessing a blade”, and is seemingly related to the Gaelic “calgach”. Whether the word is a name or a given title is unknown.

The only historical source that features him is Tacitus’ book about Agricola, which describes Calgacus as “the most distinguished for birth and valor among the chieftains”. Tacitus wrote a speech which he attributed to Calgacus, stating that Calgacus delivered it in advance of the Battle of Mons Graupius. In it, Calgacus’ decries the exploitation of Britain by Rome and roused his troops to fight.

A phrase in the speech, “they make a desert and call it peace,” is often quoted. Calgacus’ battle speech follows:

“Whenever I consider the origin of this war and the necessities of our position, I have a sure confidence that this day, and this union of yours, will be the beginning of

freedom to the whole of Britain. To all of us slavery is a thing unknown; there are no lands beyond us, and even the sea is not safe, menaced as we are by a Roman fleet. And thus in war and battle, in which the brave find glory, even the coward will find safety. Former contests, in which, with varying fortune, the Romans were resisted, still left in us a last hope of succor, inasmuch as being the most renowned nation of Britain, dwelling in the very heart of the country, and out of sight of the shores of the conquered, we could keep even our eyes unpolluted by the contagion of slavery. To us who dwell on the uttermost confines of the earth and of freedom, this remote sanctuary of Britain’s glory has up to this time been a defense. Now, however, the furthest limits of Britain are thrown open, and the unknown always passes for the marvelous. But there are no tribes beyond us, nothing indeed but waves and rocks, and the yet more terrible Romans, from whose oppression escape is vainly



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sought by obedience and submission. Robbers of the world, having by their universal plunder exhausted the land, they rifle the deep. If the enemy be rich, they are rapacious; if he be poor, they lust for dominion; neither the east nor the west has been able to satisfy them. Alone among men they covet with equal eagerness poverty and riches. To robbery, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire; they make a solitude and call it peace.”

Gnaeus Julius Agricola was a Gallo-Roman statesman from a prominent family and the general responsible for much of the Roman conquest of Britain. The *De vita et moribus Iulii Agricolae*, by Tacitus, is the primary source for most of what is known about him, along with detailed archaeological evidence from northern Britain and Scotland.

Agricola began his career as a military tribune in Britain, serving under governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus. His subsequent career saw him serve in a variety of positions; he was appointed Quaestor in Asia province in 64 CE, then became a Plebeian Tribune in 66 CE, and Praetor in 68 CE. He supported Vespasian during the Year of the Four Emperors, and was appointed to the command of the Legio XX Valeria Victrix, stationed in Britain, when Vespasian became Emperor, Agricola reimposed discipline on the legion and helped to consolidate Roman rule, campaigning to assert Roman authority in north Wales. When this command ended in 73 CE, he was made a Patrician in Rome and appointed Governor of Gallia Aquitania.

He was then named Consul and Governor of Britannia in 77 CE. While there, he completed the conquest of what is now Wales and northern England, and led his army to the far north of Scotland where he raised a fleet and attempted to encircle tribes beyond the Forth. Along the way, he consolidated Roman military control and masterminded the building of a string of forts across the country from west to east. Agricola's permanent occupation of Scotland reached the fringe of the highlands, where he blocked the main passes with more forts.

Even though the Romans were outnumbered in their campaign against the tribes of Britain, they often had difficul-



Agricola.

ties in getting their foes to face them in open battle. The Caledonii repeatedly attacked the extended Roman supply and communication lines, but the Romans managed to beat them off with difficulty. In a surprise night-attack, the Caledonians very nearly wiped out the whole 9th legion until it was saved by Agricola's cavalry.

After many years of avoiding the main fray, the Caledonians were forced to join battle when the Romans marched on their main granaries, just after they had been filled from the harvest. The Caledonians had no choice but to fight, or starve over the winter.

In the summer of 83 CE, Agricola campaigned north of the Forth-Clyde line, sent his fleet ahead to panic the Caledonians but instead, found the massed armies of the Caledonians, headed by Calgacus, waiting for him. Tacitus estimated the Caledonian numbers at more than 30,000. The Caledonians attacked the Legio IX Hispana camp at night, and the Battle of Mons Graupius was on.

The Caledonians stationed themselves mostly on higher ground with the front ranks taking level ground. Other ranks rose in tiers, up the slope of a hill in horseshoe formation.

Caledonian chariotry charged about on level plain between the two armies. Everything depended on this encounter. They held the higher ground, but they lacked the organization and military expertise and tactics of a Roman legion.

Tacitus also wrote that 8,000 Roman allied auxiliary infantry of Germanic troops from Holland and Belgium were stationed in the center, while 3,000 cavalry were placed on the flanks, with the Roman legionaries, who apparently never joined the Battle, stationed in front of their camp in reserve. Estimates for the size of the Roman army range from 17,000 to 30,000. Tacitus says that 11,000 auxiliaries were engaged, along with a further four squadrons of cavalry, the number of legionaries in reserve is uncertain.

After a brief exchange of missiles, Agricola advanced quickly to confront the assembled Caledonii in a pitched battle - the first and only one recorded. The Caledonii war chariots were useless on the uneven ground and the Romans successfully beat off their initial attacks. Agricola's



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auxiliaries launched a frontal attack on the enemy. At one point the Caledonians, using their greater numbers, outflanked the auxiliaries only to meet hidden Roman cavalry suddenly closing on them. Agricola relied on close-quarters fighting by four cohorts of Batavians and two cohorts of Tungrian swordsmen, to render the Caledonians' unpointed slashing swords useless as they were unable to swing them properly or utilize their usual thrusting attacks.

The Caledonians were cut down and trampled on the lower slopes of the hill. Those at the top were outflanked by Roman cavalry. Battle casualties were estimated by Tacitus to be about 10,000 on the Caledonian side and 360 on the Roman side.

Even though the Caledonians were routed and lost this battle, twenty thousand warriors managed to escape and hide in the Highlands, or the "trackless wilds," as Tacitus called them, where they were relentlessly pursued by well-organized Roman units, who were ultimately unable to locate them. In fear of Roman reprisals, many burned their houses and killed their wives and children. The following day Tacitus wrote, "... an awful silence reigned on every hand; the hills were deserted, houses smoking in the distance, and our scouts did not meet a soul."

The exact location of the battle remains a matter of debate. A number of authors have reckoned the battle to have occurred in the Grampian Mountain range within sight of the North Sea, near the Village of Strachan in Aberdeenshire, and to have been named after the Grampian Mountains. However, following the discovery of a Roman camp at Durno in 1975, some scholars now believe that the battle took place around Bennachie in Aberdeenshire.

Satisfied with his victory, Agricola extracted hostages from the Caledonian tribes. Agricola may then have marched his army to the northern coast of Britain, as evidenced by the discovery of a Roman fort at Cawdor (near Inverness). He also instructed the Prefect of his fleet to sail around the north coast, confirming (allegedly for the first time) that Britain was in fact an island. Following this, it was proclaimed that Agricola had finally subdued all the tribes of Britain, which is not strictly true, as the Caledonians and their allies remained a threat.

Agricola was recalled from Britain in 85 CE after an unusually lengthy service, was awarded triumphal honors and was offered another governorship in a different part of the empire, but instead, he retired from military and public life.

There are no references in early regimental histories per-

taining to the auxiliaries that took part in the Battle of Mons Graupius other than Tacitus', and there are no legends or traditions inherited by Scottish descendants describing such a battle, or Calgacus, the great Caledonian leader. All we know about this battle comes from Tacitus, who is generally regarded as one of the most reliable historians of the period.

Tacitus described the frustration experienced by the Romans during their campaign, noting the Caledonian preference for guerrilla warfare, including fort raids, ambushes and other hit-and-run tactics and their reluctance to offer a pitched battle. The Romans found these tactics very frustrating to deal with because they had to spread their forces out, which conflicted with Roman military doctrine. The lightly armored and fast-moving Caledonian skirmishers and horsemen, with their knowledge of the terrain, could easily outrun and outmaneuver marching Roman columns, ambushing isolated elements and then disappearing again before reinforcements could arrive.

Clearly, the Caledonians understood they had little chance of winning an outright battle and sought to avoid one until Agricola had penetrated deep into their territory and reduced them to the necessity of risking such a dangerous gambit. As noted above, Agricola had advanced far enough to threaten their vital interests. Indeed, his strategy was no doubt formulated with the end in mind of forcing just such an engagement as Mons Graupius.

Agricola's victory, though impressive, was not comprehensive, and occurred late in the campaigning season, giving him little chance to exploit his success. The construction of a series of forts beyond the Forth were perhaps intended to act as a springboard for further Roman advance, and at the very least were intended to control the territory over which Agricola advanced.

Despite this, within the next few decades, military requirements elsewhere in the empire necessitated a staged troop withdrawal towards Hadrian's Wall. Although it is probable that Agricola's campaign was a severe shock and setback for the British tribes inhabiting the area that would become Scotland, it did not ultimately achieve the aim of incorporating them into the empire, nor was that ever achieved. The Caledonii were the last unconquered British tribe (and were never fully subdued).

After the Battle, the heroic Caledonian leader, Calgacus, faded into the mists of time and there is no further record of him.



The Press and Journal

News notes from the Aberdeen Press and Journal:

➤ SCOTTISH MINISTERS BAN FRACKING AMID 'OVERWHELMING' PUBLIC OPPOSITION

By Press Association

"The decision that I am announcing today means that fracking cannot, and will not take place in Scotland," declared Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse recently. An immediate ban would be enacted by using planning powers to extend the current moratorium "indefinitely", removing the need for legislation, he said. Mr. Wheelhouse further told MSPs: "Let me be clear that the action is sufficient to effectively ban the development of unconventional oil and gas extraction in Scotland."

The Minister continued that a public consultation on the issue received more than 60,000 responses, an "overwhelming" 99% of which were opposed to fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, which involves injecting water at high pressure into shale formations, fracturing the rock and allowing natural gas to flow out.

The government will seek Holyrood's endorsement for the ban by extending the moratorium on fracking in Scotland that has been in place since January 2015.

Opponents of fracking have raised concerns over its impact



on health and the environment. Labour's environment spokeswoman, Claudia Beamish, and Green MSP, Mark Ruskell, both called on the government to commit to a full legal ban, with Ms Beamish concluding that the proposal did not go "far enough". Liberal Democrats welcomed the government's announcement but criticized the time taken to reach a decision. And, environmental charities hailed the ban.

Friends of the Earth Scotland head of campaigns, Mary Church, stated: "This is a huge win for the anti-fracking movement, particularly for those on the frontline of this dirty industry here in Scotland, who have been working for a ban these last six years."

Industrial sources claimed Scotland

would miss out on an economic boost, holding that regulation could mitigate any adverse effects of fracking. Conservative MSP, Dean Lockhart, observed that a decision for the ban meant Scotland's economy was being "left behind" indicating that reports show that fracking could bring up to £4.6 billion in additional GVA and thousands of jobs.

Hydraulic fracturing (also known as, fracking, fraccing, frac'ing, hydrofracturing or hydrofracking) involves the high-pressure injection of 'fracking fluid' (primarily water, containing sand or other "proppants" suspended with the aid of thickening agents) into a wellbore to create cracks in deep-rock formations through which natural gas, petroleum, and brine will flow more freely. When the hydraulic pressure is removed from the well, the small grains of hydraulic fracturing proppants hold the fractures open.

Hydraulic fracturing began as an experiment in 1947, and the first commercially successful application followed in 1950. As of 2012, 2.5 million "frac jobs" had been performed worldwide on oil and gas



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wells; over one million of those were within the U.S.

Hydraulic fracturing is highly controversial in many countries. Its proponents advocate the economic benefits of more extensively accessible hydrocarbons. Opponents argue that these are outweighed by the potential environmental impacts, which include risks of ground and surface water contamination, air and noise pollution, and the triggering of earthquakes, along with the consequential hazards to public health and the environment.

Increases in seismic activity following hydraulic fracturing along dormant or previously unknown

faults are sometimes caused by the deep-injection disposal of hydraulic fracturing flowback. For this reason, hydraulic fracturing is under international scrutiny, restricted in some countries, and banned altogether in others. However, the European



Union is drafting regulations that would permit the controlled application of hydraulic fracturing.

➔ DRIVE TO RECRUIT YOUNG PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

By Joanne Warnock

An overhaul of the way networks of local bodies operate throughout Aberdeenshire was approved by Councilors recently. Among them is a new rule that 16 year-olds can be elected onto Community Councils. Young people, aged 14 and 15, can also be involved as junior members, but cannot become office holders until they turn 16.

Stonehaven Community Council Chairman, Phil Mills-Bishop, has been pivotal in attracting teenagers to his ranks and has been working closely with Mackie Academy pupils. He said, "We could potentially take on seven young members, which I think is very exciting. We need new blood and enthusiasm." Head of Mackie Academy, Louise Moir, indicated that student time volunteering on a Community Council could apply



towards a number of qualifications, both for the students and the Academy.

Fifteen year-old Mackie Academy student, Kirsty Ferguson,

16, comments, "I feel I have got something to contribute to the Community Council and I could represent young people in Stonehaven."



JOHN STRAHAN

A Scot in London at the time of Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots

By Garry Strachan

John Strahande, Scottish Subject, obtained denization by letters patent from Elizabeth I, dated 22 October 1565, fee 10 shillings.

Note: Denization - The granting to an alien of some of the privileges of naturalization but without full citizenship.

In November 1571, a survey of all the strangers in London and it's environs was carried out. The return for the parish of St. Christopher le Stocks, compiled by the rector, included a certain Scot:

John Strawhande
born in Edenburghe in Scotland, hath byn in this realme about xiii yrs. he was a draper and a tailor's servante, and useth the trade of selling fishe, and cometh to our parishe church.

A survey of religious denominations 1582 - 83, lists John Stroham, a denizen, residing in the Ward of Brodstrete and belonging to the English Church.

Contemporary taxation records also confirm John Strahan's continuing residence in London:

Lay subsidy additional 1581- 82; The parish of St. Christopher's in the Ward of Brodstrete.

Strangers - John Strohand v lib. xs. (£5 - 10 shillings)

Lay subsidy of 1599; The parish of St. Christopher's in the Ward of Brodstrete.

Strangers - John Strangham iii lib xviii. (£3-16 shillings)

John Strahan died in 1605, he had lived through a period which witnessed the execution of Mary Queen of Scots at the English castle of Fotheringhay, and the union of the crowns of England and Scotland, which saw the arrival of King James VI of Scotland in London, to be crowned James I.

John Strahan left a will, which tells us an enormous amount about his life in England, without the need of typing a full transcript, we are able to comment on the bequests he made to the people with whom he had associated.

associated.

The will commences:

John Strahan of London, gentleman, being sick in body - to be buried in the parish church of St. Michael, Cornhill. Mr. Hayward, minister of the church of St Mary Woolchurch, shall make a sermon.

Unto the Hospital of the City of Edinburgh 100 pounds

Unto the Hospital of

Chistchurch, London 30 pounds

Unto the poor of the parish of St. Christopher where-in I now dwell £2-10 shillings

Unto the poor of the parish of St. Michael Cornhil, the like sum

Unto the poor of the French congregation in London £5

Unto the poor of the Dutch congregation in London,



Map of London in 1593.



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Trinity College and Hospital in Edinburgh.

the like sum

Unto Mr. Doctor Swaine of Peterhouse, Cambridge,
my golde ringe wherein my arms are graven.

This indicates that John Strahan, had visited the University of Cambridge and spent some time there.

The following clergymen, are bequeathed 40 shillings each, to make a mourning ring:

Mr. Doctor Archwoole, minister of the parish Church of St. Peter and St. Michael Cornhill

Mr. Doctor Dix, minister of the parish Church of St. Bartholomew near the Royal Exchange

Mr. Hayward, minister of St. Mary Woolchurch

Mr. Arnolde, minister of St. Christopher

The following two Citizens and Knights of London, are bequeathed 40 shillings each, to make a ring:

Sir John Swnyton, Knight and Alderman and his father

Sir William Ryder, Knight and Alderman

To Sir William Stone of London, Knight, my spectacle of christall set in gold, with the pearl thereunto appending and the green velvet case wherein the same lyeth.



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Unto Lady Killegray widow 40 shillings to make a ring.

Note: Lady Killigrew was the widow of Sir Henry Killigrew the diplomat (see below).

Unto Mr. Doctor Cragge, the King's Majesties Phisician 40 shillings to make a ring.

It is notable that King James may have sent his personal physician to treat John Strahan

Forty shillings each are bequeathed to two of the King's Band of Gentlemen Pensioners:

The Lord of Woorestone one of his majesties pensioners (This would be Johnston of Wariston a prominent Scottish laird).

Captain William Murray one of his majesties pensioners. (Scottish)

Unto Mr. James Sommers, renter of Magdalen College, Oxford, 40 shillings for a ring.

Evidence that John Strahan had spent some time at Oxford University.

Forty shillings each are bequeathed to two royal clerks:

Mr. Robert Johnson, gent. secretary to the Honourable Master of the Rolls

Mr. Dyall one of the gentlemen to the said Master of the Rolls.

Unto Mr. John Erskine of Balgonie, Scotland. 40 shillings to make a ring.

John Erskine was a prominent Stirlingshire laird.

Unto Mr. James Munroe of Powes ? in Scotland, 40 shillings to make a ring.

Unto Mr. Archibald Primrose, gent., 40 shillings to make a ring.

Archibald was a Scot, probably related to Gilbert Primrose the King's chaplain.

Bequests were made to some prominent gentlemen in Northamptonshire, a county in central England.

Mr. Francis Harvey of Northampton, esquire (40 shillings).

Mr. Nathaniel Edward, gent. (40 shillings).

Mr. Gifford Watkin of Moulton Park (40 shillings).

The wife of the said Mr. Watkin (40 shillings).

Mr. Thomas Ivat, merchant (40 shillings).

The most remarkable bequest, is to Mr. Henry Beecher of Fotheringhay (the very place where Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned before her execution).

Unto Mr. Henry Beecher of Fotheringhay, my chair of ease, covered with red muscovy leather and also my cushion of cloth of gold.

Unto William and Edward his two sons, 40 shillings each to make a ring.

Beecher had an estate at Fotheringhay. It is obvious that John Strahan had visited, and been given hospitality by Henry Beecher, either before Queen Mary's death or soon after.

John Strahan's will continues with many bequests to Londoners:

Unto Richard Bladewell, merchant, my best night gown and 40 shillings for a ring.

Unto Christopher Clutterbooke, mercer, dwelling in Westercheape, London, 40 shillings for a ring.

Unto John Brande, taylor, dwelling in St. Martins Le Grand, London, 40 shillings for a ring; unto to his wife and son Phillip 40 shillings each for a ring.

Unto David Strahan, one of his majesties household servants, 40 shillings for a ring. And unto his wife, I give my gowne of black cavrell.

David Strahan a servant from Scotland, who had accompanied the royal court to London at the time of the coronation of James I, in 1603.

Unto my Taylor, dwelling at the sign of the Kings Arms in Birchin Lane, London, 20 shillings sterling.

Unto John Dallington, upholder, dwelling in St. Christopher parish, 40 Shillings.

Unto John Greathead, late my servant, 40 shillings for a ring.

Unto Mistress Spirinck, widow of Cornelius Spirinck, my ring of gold graven with a pellican, pulling out her harte.

Unto John Evans, of London, notary public, forty shillings for a ring.

Unto William Robberts, clerk of St. Christopher, 20 shillings sterling.

Unto Thomas Crosyer, sexton of the same parish, 20



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shillings sterling.

Unto Goodwife Dumforde the wife of Goodman Dumforde, dwelling in the said parish, 20 shilings.

Unto the wife of Mr. Dale, also dwelling in this parish, 20 shillings.

Unto Symon Crosse, my barber, 20 shillings.

Unto my water bearer, 20 shillings.

Unto Widow Spray, dwelling in the said parish of St. Christopher, 20 shillings

Unto Anthony Jenkins, porter, dwelling in St. Christopher, four shillings.

Unto Mrs. Minroll, the wife of Robert Minroll, broker, £4.

Unto Elizabeth Freeman, daughter of William Freeman, Citizen and Haberdasher of London, a finale chain of gold, with a large tablet of gold thereunto appending.

Unto Mrs. Elizabeth Austouse, the wife of William Austouse, Esquire, a chain of gold weighing about 10 ounces.

Unto Mrs. Freeman, the wife of the aforesaid William Freeman, my quylt which is made of a Tyke, also my bedstead and divane bed, wherein I ordinarily sleep. And also the curtoynes, bolstere, pillows, coverings and other things belonging to the bedstead.

Two paire of the ordinary blankets, I give to John Portesfield, my servant, also I give to John the bed and bedstead wherein he ordinarily sleeps, with the covering and all the furniture belonging, likewise my trunke with all the lynnens therein. Also my hose and dublet of black rash, which I daily wear, with my starch ruff cloak, also twelve pounds money.

Unto Mr. James Kraimshell, schoolmaster of the said Lady Killegrew, my longe black cloak with a velvet cape.

Unto Emmanuell Deanne, merchant, my longe black cloak, faced with velvet.

Unto the aforesaid William Freeman, all my darnope and other hangings, belonging to my house or habitation. Also my wainscot table and court cupboarde, and my great chest, with the seventeen iron bandes and all therein.

Unto Mr. Ralph Freeman, Citizen and Cloth-worker of London, my finale chest covered with black leather and all therein.

Unto Mrs. Freeman, wife of Ralph, my four new pillows of white million fustian filled with downe and my two large greene cushions filled with downe, also a square damask table with a damask towell, length six English yardes. Also eight damask napkins and my best payle and cap-panne.

Unto William Austouse, the son of George Austouse, my best plain black satin suit of apparel, to be translated and made to fit the said William.

The residue of my estate to William and Ralph Freeman, to be divided between them. I appoint them my executors.

Dated 19 April Anno Domini 1605. In the year of the reign of King James (in his 3rd. regnal year of England, Ireland and Scotland etc. and his 38th regnal year of Scotland).

Henry Killigrew c1528 - 1603

Henry Killigrew, was an important diplomat serving Queen Elizabeth I of England. Killigrew made several visits to Scotland on behalf of Elizabeth. He was a major influence in the *Pacification of Perth*:

A treaty was agreed at a Privy Council meeting at Perth on 23 Feb. 1573. The treaty brought an end to the war between the Roman Catholic supporters of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots (1542 - 87) and the Protestant Lords who had forced her to abdicate in 1567, in favour of her young son, King James VI (1566-1625).

The peace treaty was facilitated by Henry Killigrew, as the English envoy. The principal parties to the agreement were the protestants: James Douglas, Earl of Morton, Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll and Mary's Catholic supporters: George Gordon, Earl of Huntly, the Hamilton family and other Catholic nobles. Mary's supporters agreed to recognise Morton as Regent, and end hostilities in return for a full pardon, with the return of their lands.

The peace ended any chance of Mary regaining the Scottish throne and re-enforced the position of the



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Post-Reformation Protestant Church.

It is possible that John Strahan travelled to Scotland with Henry Killigrew, for in the published Calendar of State Papers Relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots, Vol. 5, pages 214-215, we find a letter sent by the highly placed, Alexander Hay, Clerk Register of Scotland, to Henry Killigrew, in which he supplies news of events in Scotland. in 1575-76. The final note refers to an enclosure: *I must further burden your worship to "caus deliver" my letter to Mr. Straquhyn.*

There is little doubt that the letter in question, was intended for John Strahan in London.

Conclusion

John Strahan, came to London at a time before the Union of Crowns, which saw England and Scotland united, under the Kingship of James Stuart, son of Mary, Queen of Scots. He was clearly an entrepreneur, who had risen from selling fish, to the status of a wealthy merchant with associates at the highest levels of society.

Strahan was evidently known to King James and had taken an interest in the location where the King's mother had been executed. He had probably been



Mary Queen of Scots' execution at Fotheringay Castle.

tended by Dr. Craig, the King's physician before his death. He obviously wanted to be remembered by the people he knew in his adopted home of London.

He also acknowledged a kinship connection with David Strahan, the King's servant.

The parish register of St. Michael, Cornhill, records his burial:

16 May 1605, John Strahan a Scottish man that dyed in St. Christophers parish, where he had lyen a sojourner some xxiii yeares and upwards: he gave charitable legacies both in Edinborough and here in London.

Sources

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- State Papers Domestic Elizabeth I, vol. 82: The Report of the Search of all the Strangers within London and its Liberties, 10 Nov. 1571.
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Rhubarb crumble

Ingredients:

1 lb. rhubarb
1/4 cup water
Juice of 1 lemon
2 oz. super fine white sugar
1 tsp. mixed spices*

Directions:

Chop the rhubarb into pieces. Add all other filling ingredients and stir. Simmer on the stove for 5 minutes. Transfer to an oven-proof pie pan.

Crumble Top Ingredients:

2 oz. Plain White Flour
1 oz. Uncooked Rolled Oats
1 Tsp. Mixed Spices*
2 oz. Butter
2 oz. Soft Brown Sugar

Directions:

Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl and mix in the butter until the mixture looks like small

breadcrumbs. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Spread the crumble evenly over the rhubarb. Bake in a heated oven at 400 F for 30 minutes until golden brown. Serve hot with custard or ice cream.

* Mixed Spices:

2 parts ginger
1 part nutmeg
1 part Jamaica pepper (also known as Allspice)
1 part cinnamon
1 part cloves
1 part black pepper



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: _____

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."*

Clachnaben!

Newsletter for the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.
 30730 San Pascual Road
 Temecula, California, 92591
 United States of America

Phone: 951-760-8575
 Email: jim@clanstrachan.org

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.

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: _____