



*Traprain Law – site of Roman Treasure*

# Scottish Heritage USA

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

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### ROMAN TREASURE IN SCOTLAND!

In 1919 the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland uncovered on Traprain Law in East Lothian a hoard of Roman silver plate. The robbers, Saxon or Celtic, had begun to reduce the treasure to bullion. But for some reason they cached their spoil and fled. None returned to claim it, and there lay, among the fragmented metal for some 1,500 years, one vessel which had escaped serious damage – a small triangular bowl with a rim of half beads cast solid.

Traprain Law, a volcanic ‘plug’ rising abruptly from the Lothian plain, is situated four miles east of Haddington and about one mile south of the A1 trunk road, the Great Post Road between Edinburgh and London in coaching days.

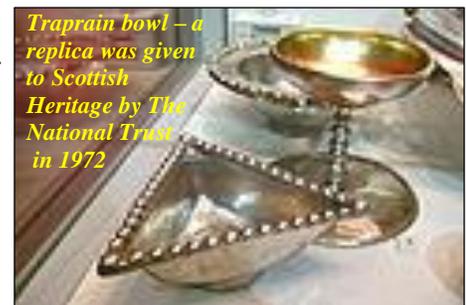
In primitive times the natural defenses of the Law were almost as formidable as those of the Castle Rock of Edinburgh. There is evidence of occupation through the later Stone Age (c. 2000 BC), the Bronze Age (c. 1500 BC) and the Iron Age (c. 200 BC).

The Votadini, whose princely house became allies of Rome before or soon after the first invasion of Scotland by Julius Agricola in AD 79, built a great fortified hill-top town. Traprain may indeed have been their capital, the high seat of chiefs who ruled Lothian, Berwickshire and Northumberland until the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

Facsimiles of the Traprain bowl, reproduced in Edinburgh by Messers. Hamilton and Inches, were presented in October 1972 to the Board of the Scottish American Heritage, Inc. (*now Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.*) by the Earl of Wemyss and March, Knight of the Thistle, President of the National Trust for Scotland, on behalf of the Council and Executive Committee in token of mutual affection and esteem.



*Site where the horde was found*



*Traprain bowl – a replica was given to Scottish Heritage by The National Trust in 1972*



### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

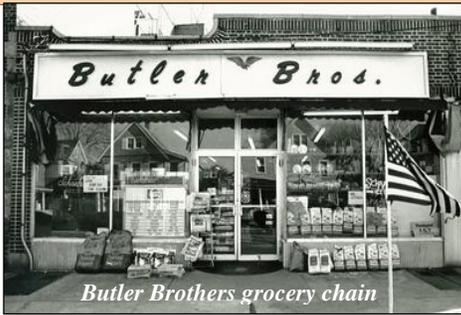
Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching and if you are looking for non-traditional Thanksgiving Day fare, how about a Scottish food to share with friends and family. After all, many Scots helped found the American nation, so it's appropriate – no?

We can start with a hearty Scottish breakfast. Typically eggs, bacon, beans, tomatoes and mushrooms – with Lorne Sausage and Black Pudding thrown in. Add a potato scone, a pot of tea and we have started the day right.

*(continued on page 3 Thanksgiving)*



## COL WALTER SCOT AND THE SCOTTISH LEGACY – 1861–1935

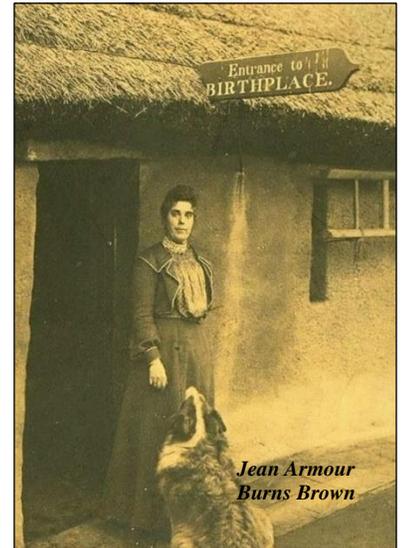


In some recent research, I came across a book, *A FEW THOUGHTS AND EXPRESSIONS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE*, by Col. Walter Scott, published in 1928. For many years, Colonel Scott was a familiar figure at all Scottish gatherings and was a member of several Robert Burns clubs. A self-made man who was born in Montreal to Scottish parents, he moved to Boston at age 3 and in his adult life became a retail and grocery chain manager of note (Butler Bros). Always aware of his Scottish heritage, he was a close friend of Miss Jean Armour Burns Brown of Dumfries, a great-great-grand-daughter of the poet and he was also a descendant of his name sake, Sir Walter Scott. Among his old friends

was Sir Harry Lauder (*Scottish singer & comedian during the Vaudeville era*). During World War I, he was a member of the New York Scottish Highlanders and was also a manager of the St. Andrew's Society of New York. Scott was also a strong supporter of the Order of Scottish Clans – a fraternal organization for expatriate Scots and their descendants and also its Ladies' Auxiliary *the Daughters of Scotia*. Notably, he was also a member of the *Scottish Society of America* – an organization whose goal was to unite the work of Scots and Scottish-Americans nationwide toward philanthropic works related to Scotland. Founded around 1914, the work of the organization was interrupted by World War I, and despite reorganization efforts following the war the Society ceased to exist around the coming of the Great Depression.

Col. Scott was very interested in the settlements of Scots throughout the United States but took particular interest in the Scots who settled in North Carolina. He was involved in the efforts to rename the *Southern Presbyterian Seminary for Women*, located in Red Springs, North Carolina to “Flora MacDonald College” at the suggestion of his friend, fellow Scottish Society of America member and Toronto Globe editor Dr. James A. MacDonald; and visited the region a number of times for Scottish related events including the dedication of a marker in 1928 at the college for an early MacNeill emigrant, “Sailor Hector” MacNeill where he gave the keynote address. Among the guests was the MacNeil of Barra, Chief of the Clan MacNeil.

In his speech, Scott noted the plethora of Scottish organizations nationwide – including the 25,000 members of the *Order of Scottish Clans* as well as another 18,000 in the *Daughters of Scotia*. Other organizations such as *St. Andrews Societies*, *Caledonian Clubs*, *Burns Societies* and the like were also noted for their good works. One of his favorite tag lines and the motto of the *Scottish Society of America* was ‘*Clanna nan Gaidheal ri Guailibh a chèile*’ (Children of the Gael shoulders together). Scottish Heritage USA is one of those organizations which shares the goals of Col Scott. (*cont. on page 3 Col Scott*)



## DOROTHY (DUNCAN) MacDonald

**I**t is with great sadness that we bring you the news of the death, on 18 July 2020, of one of the most active supporters of Scottish culture here in the US.

She was born in Beaumont TX on 4 November 1915 as Dorothy MacDonald and, at the age of six, she asserted her characteristic resolve when, upon learning that another girl in town shared the same name, she declared her name thereafter would be Duncan!

Growing up during the Depression, there was no money to attend college “And so I went to work. I have not been without a paycheck for almost 90 years, which is very useful,” she told one interviewer. She made her way to NYC at age 19, participating in the early days of television. “When Dumont Channel 5 – one of the first television networks – became a reality, I became the manager of women’s and religious programs. And being a woman in this brand-new industry gave me an edge, really over a lot of other people,” she recalled.

Her career with the New York Times radio station, WQXR included conducting live studio interviews covering a wide assortment of people from theater to politicians to public service workers.

She served as executive director and founding trustee of the National Friends of Public Broadcasting, and as NY President of American Women in Radio and TV. She was recognized for her work on behalf of the National Council of Women and received a UNICEF award for her work with the Organization of American States.

*Continued on page 4 Duncan MacDonald*



## COL. SCOTT (continued from page two)

Through nationwide membership and interest, we have been able to carry out substantial preservation projects relative to our Scottish heritage both in Scotland and the USA. When we have opportunities to make substantive contributions to the preservation of Scottish heritage and culture we must come together – “shoulder to shoulder,” as the old Gaelic motto implies – and support these efforts.

You will be hearing more about Scottish Heritage USA’s efforts to endow a Chair of Scottish Gaelic Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the coming weeks and months. The \$3,000,000 goal is a daunting challenge to meet over the coming three years, however THIS is our best – and perhaps LAST major chance to secure a permanent



opportunity for the further education of coming generations about our rich heritage and legacy. We have the interest and support of the institution, but it cannot happen without your help. When looking back, we can see the legacies of people like Col. Walter Scott, and Ward Melville, the founder of Scottish Heritage, USA. Many of you - our members – are also making these preservation legacies possible through your gifts. In the spirit of those many who came before us, let us hope that we will be able to realize this permanent and lasting legacy which honors our Scottish ancestors. Your help is needed, and a nationwide effort will make this dream a reality. So, fellow Scottish Americans let us rally – “shoulder to shoulder” and make this effort possible!



### COL. WALTER SCOTT

The donor of the Medal for Valour in the Garda Síochána, a noted philanthropist, friend of the international police community. In his letter to General Owen O’Duffy confirming the offer to endow a Medal for Valour for the new Irish police force, he wrote: “It was always been a practice of mine to present flowers during life, when one can enjoy their beauty and fragrance”.

He sponsored scholarships at Smith College, the Stevens Institute of Technology and the American International College; he was a founder of the New York Broad Street Hospital, President of the Walter Scott Free Industrial School for Crippled Children and, among his many other charities, he endowed numerous hospital beds.

A lifelong interest in police work was prompted, perhaps, by his contacts with the service in the course of his charitable work. He endowed medals for bravery by policemen in New York, Boston, Worcester, Holyoke, Detroit, in Argentina and, of course, in Ireland. The New York City Police made him one of their own by appointing him an honorary Commissioner.



Medal of Valour-Garda Síochána

Article contributed by Bill Caudill – member of the Board of Directors of Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.



## THANKSGIVING (continued from front page)



If you are unable to wait for the main meal of the day, how about some munchies. Scotch Woodcock - buttered toast with Gentleman’s Relish (an anchovy-based spread), topped with scrambled eggs and anchovy fillets – yummy. Pair the snack with Irn Bru. That should hold us till dinner.

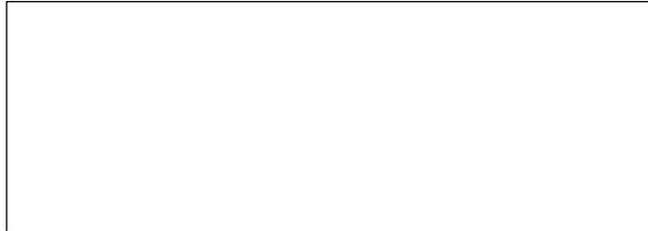
Time for the main meal: Cock a Leekie soup is a good choice for starters. It’s a chicken-based soup, garnished with... umm...prunes. And for the turkey substitute – Haggis! I think the Scottish Grocer carries some. Paired with Neeps and Tatties and sides of Scottish cheeses (Crowdie and Caboc are two good choices).

Finally, desert – What no apple pie! Let’s do Cranachan. Whip up some heavy cream, sugar, raspberries (a soft fruit for which Scotland is famous), mix in toasted pin-head oatmeal and your holiday meal is complete. *Aye*





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### SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. What does the name Glasgow mean?
2. Which island is known as ‘the jewel of the Hebrides’?
3. Which distillery is the oldest in Scotland?
4. Which story by A.C Doyle is the first to feature Sherlock Holmes?
5. Who/What was Peaty Sandy?
6. What is the name of the instrument that measures the proof of the spirit (whisky)?
7. Can Scotch whisky be made outside of Scotland?
8. Who was the leader of the Billy Boys (*if you read last month's newsletter you would know*)?
9. What is a clachan?
10. Who owns Brodick Castle?



Scottish Heritage now has a presence on facebook – just look for Scottish Heritage USA or follow the link below:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/698401680928383>

### DUNCAN MacDONALD *(Continued from page two)*

A late-in-life introduction to her Scottish heritage led to interest in all things Scottish and became a passion. She volunteered with the American Scottish Foundation, began attending Grandfather Mt. Highland Games and founded the American Friends of Scottish Opera. Duncan founded call the Caledonian Foundation and in 1979 she led a group that established the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations.



Likely Duncan’s most long lasting influence will be her early support for an American award and day of celebration to honor Scots and on 9 March 2005 the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress passed H. Res. 41 sponsored by U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre establishing 6 April as National Tartan Day.

Duncan served as long-time counsel and friend of Scottish Heritage USA and will be sorely missed.



**BONUS:** 1956, MacKae Meadows, Linville, NC

1. 'Green Hollows' 2. Islay 3. Glenurret 4. 'A Study in Scarlet'  
5. A racehorse 6. Sikes hydrometer  
7. No. The legal definition of Scotch whisky is whisky distilled in  
Scotland. 8. Billy Fullerton 9. A small hamlet 10. The National Trust  
for Scotland