



# Scottish Heritage USA

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

*Nothing says Be My Valentine more than a Scottie with a Big Heart!*

ISSUE #2-2021

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

**W**ho was St. Valentine? St. Valentine (*who died in 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Rome*) is the name of one or two legendary Christian martyrs who's lives seem to be historically based. Although the Roman Catholic church continues to recognize St. Valentine as a saint of the church, he was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 because of the lack of reliable information about him. He is the patron saint of Lovers, Epileptics and Beekeepers!

By some accounts, St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270. He was buried on the Via Flaminia, and Pope Julius I reportedly built a basilica over his grave. Other narratives identify him as the bishop of Terni, Italy, who was martyred, apparently also in Rome, and whose relics were later taken to Tereni. It is possible these are different versions of the same original account and refer to only one person.

According to legend, while he was in prison, St. Valentine signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another common legend states that he defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war.

Whoever St. Valentine was, the church decided to make his feast day on 14 February and it wasn't until the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, that this day was linked to romantic love by medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer.

Chaucer often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375.

In his work "Parliament of Fowles," he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day – an association that did not exist until after his poem received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds (*and humans*) come together to find a mate. When Chaucer wrote:

*"For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/Whan every fowl cometh ther to choose his mate,"* he may very well have invented the holiday we know today!



St. Valentine

Article and picture courtesy of "History" and "Britannica"



# ROCKALL: WHY ALL THE FUSS?

**Rockall, an eroded volcano**, has been at the center of a controversy over ownership largely between Scotland and Ireland (*Iceland and Denmark have also laid claim*).

The Royal Navy laid claim to the islet in 1955 by hoisting the union flag and cementing a brass plaque at its summit. In 1972 parliament formally declared it to be part of Inverness-shire, even though the nearest permanent settlement is on North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

At stake are fishing and mineral rights. Rockall is home to the multi-million pound Rockall Fishery, which has several species of fish, including squid, monkfish and haddock and there are mineral deposits within its boundaries.

Scottish ministers have warned their Irish counterparts that they will take enforcement action against any Irish vessels they see within 12 nautical

miles of the islet. However, the legal position Scotland is taking is disputed by the Irish.

The UK does not make a claim to extended exclusive economic zone (EEZ) based on Rockall, as it has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which says that “rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf”. However, such features are entitled to a Territorial sea extending 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers). Ireland’s position is that Rockall does not generate a 12 nautical mile territorial sea for the UK. Although Ireland does not recognize the UK’s claim, it has never sought to claim sovereignty for itself.

We will just have to wait to see how all this plays out.



Article and Pictures courtesy of Wikipedia



## 1,400-YEAR-OLD MARLOW WARLORD FOUND

**Metal detectorists** accidentally stumbled across the grave of a rich sixth-century man thought to be an Anglo-Saxon warlord. He was buried with several weapons including an iron sword held in a decorated scabbard made of bronze, leather and wood. The scabbard showed a cut-mark where it might have been damaged by a warrior on foot who struck the wearer on horseback. Bowls found were imported from what is now Belgium or France, suggest he had far-reaching connections. Archaeologists believe the sword was made by an expert craftsman and a glass vessel also unearthed was a rare find from the period.

Dubbed the “Marlow Warlord” the 1,400-year-old skeleton reveals he would have been six feet tall, which was much higher than the average male height in Britain of that time.

Archaeologist Gabor Thomas, from the University of Reading said the burial (found near the Berkshire town Marlow) shed new light on the politics of the region. Before now, it was thought to be a borderland between large Anglo-Saxon communities around London and Oxford. This discovery suggests the region was more important than historians suspected.

Further study is being conducted to firmly date the age of the grave.

Article courtesy of Daily Record

## £5,000 KEY

**The French Emperor, Napoleon**, was held as a prisoner of the British on the island of St. Helena after his defeat at Waterloo. He died in 1821 and his bedroom key was taken by a British soldier (*Charles Richard Fox*), Charles took the key for his mother (*Baroness Holland*), a super fan of Napoleon, and it ended up in her country house outside of Edinburgh with her large collection of Napoleonic memorabilia including one of his socks.

The key was recently found while unpacking an old trunk. The Scottish descendants of the soldier and baroness have made the key available for auction at Southeby’s. The key, along with the envelope it was found in along with a note are estimated to be worth around £5,000. The key will go under the hammer at Southeby’s in London together with a piece of ageing yellow paper inscribed with Fox’s note: “Key of the room at Longwood, in which Napoleon died”. Fox also wrote that he took the key out of the lock himself on 6 September 1822 when he visited following Napoleon’s death.



Article & photo courtesy of BBC News



# RECIPE CORNER

## TIPSY LAIRD

### Ingredients:

¼ Cup raspberry jelly or seedless jam  
4 cups fresh or frozen raspberries, plus more for garnish  
3 cups half-and-half  
6 Tbs sugar  
Pinch kosher salt  
1 cup whipping cream  
½ cup Drambuie

6 large egg yolks  
3 TBS cornstarch  
1 package ladyfingers (7oz)  
Sliced almonds for garnish



### Directions:

In microwave or small saucepan, melt jelly. Combine with raspberries gently stirring to coat. Set aside

In large saucepan over medium-low heat, bring half-and-half, sugar and salt to simmer, stirring to dissolve sugar. Meanwhile, whisk egg yolks and cornstarch together in large bowl until smooth.

Whisking yolks constantly, slowly pour in half-and-half mixture. Return mixture to saucepan. Stirring frequently, cook until thick, like soft pudding, about 8 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in 1 Tbs Drambuie. Transfer to bowl press plastic wrap on surface and refrigerate until cooled. Whisk to loosen.

To assemble: cover bottom of trifle bowl or deep glass dish with layer of ladyfingers, breaking them to fit, if necessary. Brush or drizzle with half the remaining Drambuie. Layer in half of raspberries, then half custard. Repeat layers. Press plastic wrap on surface and refrigerate 2-12 hours.

When ready to serve, whip cream until it holds soft peaks. Spread or pipe decoratively over trifle. Garnish with almonds and raspberries just before serving. Serves 8-12. *This dish is typically served on Burns Night*



*Recipe and photo courtesy of winemag.com*

## UNC GAELIC STUDIES UPDATE

**The current epidemic** has certainly created a hiccup in our efforts toward establishing the Scottish Heritage USA Chair of Scottish Gaelic Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Nonetheless, in this “down time” we have been working to establish further connections nationwide among individuals and groups who are interested in our initiative.

As this effort will be the largest ever taken on by Scottish Heritage USA, we have decided to enlist the services of a professional fundraising team to assist us in reaching the \$3 million goal. Nonetheless, it is important that the news of this initiative be spread far and wide. Please help us by getting in touch with your Clan association, local Scottish or St. Andrews Societies, as well as other Scottish organizations and help spread the word of this effort. We need YOU!

Why are we taking on this huge challenge? In these days of changing interpretations of history and culture, and a focus on multi-culturalism, there is an increased interest in the academic study of the various groups which have combined into the “melting pot” of America. There is currently no academic program in the United States focusing on the Scottish diaspora! American students who wish to pursue further studies connected to Scottish history and culture are forced to go to either the UK or Canada for such focused programs. Often times the expenses involved in such international study are exorbitant. Though there are a number of Clans and Societies which offer scholarship assistance to offset those expenses, the ability of these scholarships is limited and only provide a small portion in most cases of the costs involved in such study. Students are thus forced to postpone their further studies or to direct their interests to other topics.

The new proposed program for Scottish Gaelic Studies will be housed within the American Studies Department at UNC Chapel Hill that is also home to respected programs in Native American Studies (one of few institutions where the Cherokee language is taught), as well as housing a Jewish-American Studies program and others. It is a natural fit for our efforts, and the faculty of that department welcome our program.

So, as we begin to return to some sense of normality following this pandemic, our efforts will be gearing up. The old Gaelic rallying cry of “Clanna Nan Gaidheal Ri Guailibh A Cheile!” – or “Children of the Gael, shoulders together! - has a clear meaning for us as we move forward. WE can do it together with your help.

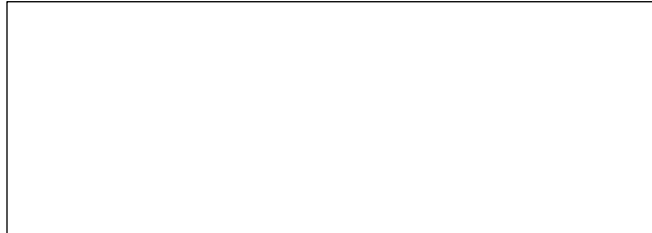
*Flowers of the Forest*

*Our thoughts and prayers are  
with the family of:*

Duncan Munro – Worcester, MA  
26 December 2020



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## SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. What kind of dog was Greyfriar's Bobby?
2. How high is Arthur's seat?
3. Why is the Edinburgh zoo's penguin (*in the picture to the right*) famous?
4. Burke and Hare were famous killers and grave robbers during the 1800's. What were their first names?
5. What was the original name of Princes Street?
6. Where is the Scott Monument?
7. Where was the Nor` loch?
8. What is the name of the famous cannon at Edinburgh Castle?
9. What is the name of Edinburgh's extinct volcano?
10. Which hotel stands at the corner of Lothian Rd. & Princes St.?

**Bonus:** What was the first city in the WORLD to have its own fire service?

For Scottish History buffs, here is a YouTube link of interest <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKlq2R7PqlwD0y93Lg0bApg>



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>



1. Skye Terrier 2. 822 ft. 3. He was knighted by the Norwegian Guard and is now a brigadier! 4. William & William 5. St. Giles Street 6. Princes Street 7. The site of Princes St. Gardens 8. Mons Meg 9. Arthur's Seat 10. The Caledonian

**BONUS:** Edinburgh

We can also be found on Instagram – check us out.

