



*April Fool's Prank - Denmark News (city was building a subway)*

Scottish  
Heritage  
USA  
  
NEWSLETTER  
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# APRIL FOOL'S DAY

**A**pril Fool's Day is a day when many of us show our truly creative side in crafting some of the most ingenious pranks to play on our friends and family. April first can be one of the most anxiety ridden but fun days of the year and it is pretty much a world-wide phenomenon.

April Foolishness is thought to have been mentioned in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* "Nun's Priest Tale" where a vain Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox in "Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two" which would be the first of April (some scholars claim it is actually 2 May since the story also says the tale takes place when the sun is "in the signe of Taurus had y-runne Twenty degrees and one". Regardless of the scholars' arguments, April first is the designated prank day. In 1508, the French poet Eloy d'Amerval referred to "poisson d'avril" (literally "April's fish"), possibly the first reference to the celebration in France. In the Netherlands, the origin of the day is often attributed to the Dutch victory in 1572 at Brielle where it was often referred to as "On the first of April, Alva lost his glasses". And it is thought that the first British reference to the day was in 1686 when John Aubrey noted "Fool's holy day". In a 1908 edition of the Harper's Weekly, cartoonist Bertha R. McDonald wrote: "The mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated, on the first day of April, and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them upon some sleeveless (foolish) errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch".

In Scotland, April Fools' Day was originally called "Huntigowk Day". The name is a corruption of "hunt the gowk", gowk being Scots for a cuckoo or a foolish person; alternative terms in Gaelic would be Là na Gocaireachd "gowking day" or Là Ruith na Cuthaige, "the day of running the cuckoo". The traditional prank is to ask someone to deliver a sealed message that supposedly requests help of some sort. In fact, the message reads "Dinna laugh, dinna smile. Hunt the gowk another mile." The recipient, upon reading it, will explain they can only help if another person is contacted first and sends the victim to the next person with the same message. I wonder how long the "gowk" will fall for the prank!



*Send a "gowk" out for some Tartan Paint!*



Danes, Finns, Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes celebrate Aprilsnar, Aprillipäivä; aprilskämt, respectively. Most news media outlets will publish exactly one false story on April first; for newspapers this will typically be on page one.

In Italy, France, Belgium and French-speaking areas of Switzerland and Canada, the 1 April tradition is often known as "April Fish" (dating back to d'Amerval's note) poisson d'avril, April vis and pesce d'aprile, respectively. Pranks include attempting to attach a paper fish to the victim's back - unnoticed. This fish is featured on many late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century French April Fool's Day postcards. Many news media outlets will spread a false story with a subtle reference to a fish which gives a clue to the fact that it is an April Fool's prank.



# HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



Easter and Passover are very late this year. Why? Well Easter, because it is a “moveable” feast meaning its date on the calendar can vary since Christian tradition sets the holiday on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox the start of spring. Got That?

This year the first full moon of the spring (the paschal full moon, as Christians call it) comes on Saturday 16 April pushing Easter to the 17<sup>th</sup>. It’s the first Easter on that date since 1960 and the latest since 2019 when it fell on 21 April.

According to the US Census Bureau website, Easters falling on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the latest possible, are exceedingly rare, occurring only 1% of the time in the last 400 years. The previous one was in 1943, and the next won’t arrive until 2038. So, Easter this year falls uncommonly late on Sunday 17 April, the latest in 62 years.

Passover, on the other hand, falls on the same day of the Hebrew calendar each year, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan. But the Jewish calendar is based on lunar cycles, so it does not stay in sync with the 365-day secular calendar based on the Earth’s path around the sun. In order to keep the Jewish year aligned with the seasons of the solar calendar, leap years that include an extra month, are added. This year is one of those years. So, Passover begins on Friday evening, 15 April. I bet that’s clear!

Well, since that’s clear, let’s move over to the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Further complicating matters, the Eastern Orthodox church follows the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar adopted by the Roman Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. So Orthodox (also known as Greek or Pascha) Easter, falls on 24 April this year.

This year’s Easter holiday season may be confusing, but merchants enjoy the extended time. Happy Easter, Passover and Holiday Season to you all!



## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



George Patterson (Pat) Apperson III is currently a part-time lecturer in agribusiness in the United States and Australia. His commercial background is in domestic and international agricultural commodity finance.

Pat has been involved with Scottish culture from an early age when he learned to play the pipes at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming. He is a founding member of the Piedmont Highlanders (now the City of Greenville Pipes and Drums), the 1986 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Post-Graduate Scholarship recipient, and a long-time member and officer of the Saint Andrews Society of Upper South Carolina. He has been a member of Clan MacAlister and Clan Donald USA.

Pat holds a PhD and MS from Clemson University, an MBA from the University of Edinburgh, and a BA from the University of the South. He and his wife Elaine live in Greenville, South Carolina.

We welcome Pat as the newest member of our Board of Directors.

Most of our board members will be attending the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July, so if you would like to meet them, come on up, enjoy the games and visit with us at our tent on the field. We will be happy to introduce you and tell you all about what we do. AND don’t forget to visit the Cultural Village while you are there – the guest speakers will acquaint you with the many little known and interesting facts about Scotland and its people. Hope to see you there!

# RECIPE CORNER

This month, instead of a specific recipe, we are going to treat you to an 18<sup>th</sup> century Easter Dinner that would have been served in a well-to-do home. We'll start off with a dram or two (you may need it before the prep is through)!

**FIRST COURSE:** **Friar's Chicken** or **Old Scots Brown Soup** the chicken part involves making a broth with veal and adding eggs just before serving. Sir Walter Scott, in 'The Fortunes of Nigel' –says this dish was a favorite of King James VI. the soup is a meat-based long-simmered concoction with slivers of rump-steak added towards the end.

Starters would also include:



Gannet

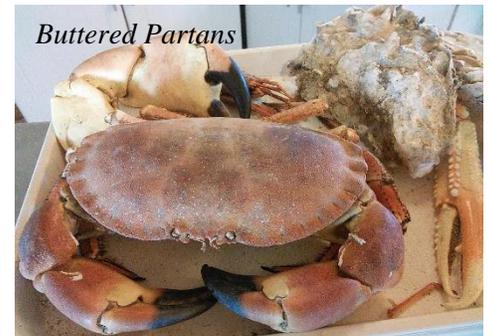
Picture courtesy Andreas Trepte

**Brown Fricassee of Duck, Minced Collops, Potted Game**, and of course you must include **Haggis**. (*Minced Collops are an early version of today's Scottish 'mince' minced bacon – still an everyday element in traditional Scottish cooking*). Then we have **Salt Cod with Egg Sauce, Crimped Skate, Sheep's Head Broth** called powsowdie, **Haunch of Venison with Wine Sauce** and **Currant Jelly, Smoked Tongue in white Fricassee, Salt Caithness Goose or Solan Goose** (Gannet) the northern gannet, (*Nobody eats gannets now in Scotland, except for the men of Ness, at the tip of the Outer Hebrides in the west, who have special permission to take a certain number every season from the little rocky island of Sula Sgeir*). This is traditional Scottish food for extremists!

**SECOND COURSE:** Oh, my, I thought we were done! **Roast Fowls with 'Drappit' Egg** (drappit is dropped, thus poached), **Buttered Partans** (crabs), **Small Pastry** and **Stewed Onions**.

**THIRD COURSE:** Thank goodness – almost there. **Calves Foot Jelly, Posset** (a drink similar to eggnog or Blancmange) in a China Punch Bowl, **Apple Puddings in Skins, Small Pastry, Plum-Damas Pie**. And last but not least a **Black Cock** or **Three Ptarmigin!** Strange to our modern taste putting game birds at the end of the meal, but they had hearty appetites back then. Blackcock or black grouse are not that common in Scotland these days, they may be hard to find and Ptarmigin are high altitude grouse.

Well, that's it – you should be full by now, but if you aren't, try a piece of simnel cake from last year's Easter Recipe. I guarantee you will like it. Happy Easter All!



Buttered Partans

Picture and Recipe courtesy of "Must See Scotland" and Sue Lawrence

## DORIC: A RESURGANCE?

Scots is one of the main languages of Scotland but even Scots has many dialects, one of which is Doric. Doric is spoken widely from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire to Nairn in the Highlands, where one in two people speak it, according to the University of Aberdeen. Yet since it was banned in schools, many Scots don't even know the language exists. The dialect, maligned for so long, is undergoing a revival. There is a new online TV station, a new undergraduate university degree course, a North-East Scots language board and even an interactive cultural map (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/map/>) to help visitors discover Doric's living oral, cultural and social history.

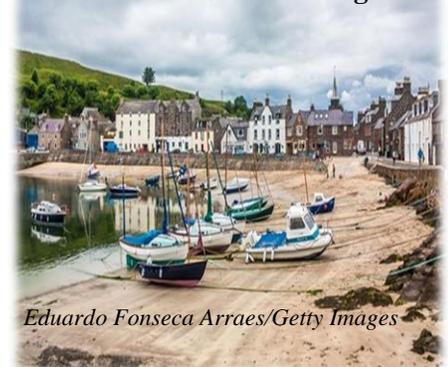
In 2006, the Carmelite Hotel in Aberdeen decided to use a Doric voice for their lift. Phrases said by the lift include "Gyaun Up" (gig:n ʌp)-*going up*, "Gyaun Doun" (gig:n dun)-*going down*, "atween fleers een an fower" (ə'twini fli:rz in ən 'flʌr)-*between floors one and four*. The hotel also launched a contest to find the most appealing Doric accent for the lift's voice. A local businessman, Steve Taylor beat out the competition and is now the "Voice".

If you would like to hear what Doric sounds like, watch the film "Brave", where one of Princess Merida's suitors, MacGuffin, speaks it.



Carmelite  
Hotel  
Aberdeen

### North-east Scotland Village



Eduardo Fonseca Arraes/Getty Images

# NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

We celebrate National Tartan Day on 6 April as designated by House Resolution #41 by the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States of America! The date of 6 April was chosen because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on that date in 1320 (the American Declaration of Independence was modeled in part on that inspirational document). According to the wording of the bill, almost ½ of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the 13 original states were of Scottish ancestry and Scottish-Americans successfully helped shape the Nation in its formative years.



U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre from the 7<sup>th</sup> District of North Carolina was the bill's original sponsor and he worked tirelessly with his constituents to get the bill approved on 29 March 2005.

The Declaration of Arbroath (*now called Arbroath Declaration – I don't know why it sounds more impressive the original way*) was written in Latin and sealed by eight Earls and about forty Barons. The Declaration was probably drawn up by Bernard, Abbott of Arbroath, hence the name of the document, and was addressed to Pope John. It was authenticated by seals as documents were not signed at that time. Only 19 of the original 50 or so seals remain, many in poor condition.

The document in the National Records of Scotland is THE “file copy” of the Declaration: the only version to survive in its original form. It was kept with the rest of the national records in Edinburgh Castle until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. When work was being done on the castle, the Declaration was taken for safekeeping to Tynninghame, the home of the official

in charge of the records. While there it suffered damage through damp and it returned to the custody of the Deputy Clerk Register (*the predecessor of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland*) in 1829. Conservation staff at the NRS now monitor the Declaration to ensure it survives for many centuries. Luckily an engraving existed with the full text of the original document so the wording has been preserved.

You can find the entire translated text on page 4 of the article at:

[https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/research/NRS\\_DoA\\_English\\_booklet\\_700\\_Spreads\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/research/NRS_DoA_English_booklet_700_Spreads_WEB.pdf)

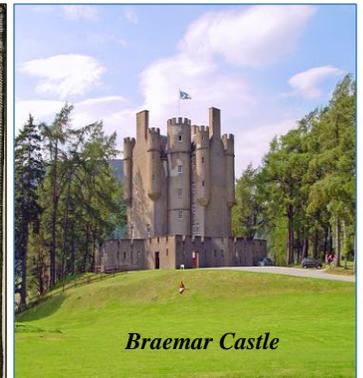
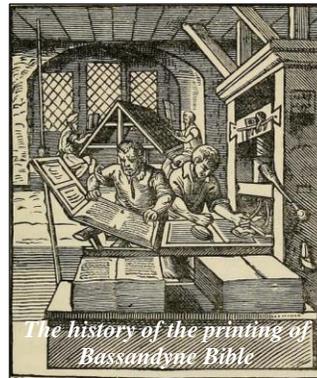


Picture and Article courtesy of the National Records of Scotland

## SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Who was Alexander Selkirk (1676-1721)?
2. Who printed the first Bible in Scotland?”?
3. What was the profession of David Octavius Hill ?
4. Where is the world's deepest nuclear explosion?
5. Which Scottish doctor assisted Jenner in creating the smallpox vaccine ?
6. What “Glaikit” mean?
7. Who was Thomas the Rhymer?
8. Who was Robert the Bruce's mother?
9. For what is John James Rickard MacLeod famous?
10. What is the “Falls of Lora”?

**Bonus:** Who built Braemar Castle, why and when?



1. The model for Robinson Crusoe (castaway 1704-09)
2. Thomas Bassandyne
3. Photographer & Artist
4. Dounreay, Caithness
5. John Hunter
6. foolish, thoughtless
7. Scottish Laird often cited as the author of the English “Tristrem and Yseult”
8. Marjorie, countess of Carrick
9. 1923 Nobel Prize for Medicine for discovery of Insulin
10. A tidal rapid northeast of Oban.

**BONUS:** John Erskine, Earl of Mar in 1628 as a hunting lodge



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