



# Scottish Heritage USA

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

*As the lights say, 'Glasgow Christmas Market' is open*

ISSUE #12-2022

## VISIT GLASGOW'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Where can you buy almost anything this Christmas Season? Why, the Glasgow Christmas Market, of course! Glasgow is the perfect place to visit this Christmas -stylish shopping, superb eating and a jam-packed events program against a city center backdrop of glittering festive lights. Glasgow is a city full of charm and is known for being one of the best shopping destinations in the country. Shop for gifts and decorations in the fabulously festive "Style Mile", with plenty of big brands and local stores around to find your loved ones the best gifts! There is a vivid nightlife to get involved with featuring many pubs, bars and clubs. Refuel and rest those weary feet after a hard day's shopping. Warm up with an indulgent hot chocolate, sup a pint by a crackling fire in a cosy pub or live it up with a Christmas cocktail at one of Glasgow's stylish bars – you are really spoiled for choice with the city's eclectic dining scene. There's also tourist attractions to see in the area like Glasgow Cathedral, where you can catch midnight mass on Christmas eve, or drop in to see a pantomime while you are there and of course, check out the Christmas market.

The market opened 20 November and runs through 23 December. If you are in Scotland, it's worth your while to visit this market!



Glasgow Christmas Market

## CASTLE FOR SALE

Orchardton Castle has over 40 rooms in its 25,000 square feet. The surrounding 5 acres include lawns, stables garden wood and paddock plus fields behind the house leading to a secluded beach for walking, riding or sailing. With four floors plus turret rooms, it has 3 self-contained flats, and 17 single bedrooms.

Built by William Robinson in the 1880's it was constructed in 'Scottish Baronial' style and has seen life as a hotel, a school and a hospital for wounded soldiers.

Situated on the 'Scottish Riviera' Gulf stream weather allows for rare plants and trees, including a palm tree in the back garden!

Listed for less than £1.7 m Orchardton is close to Kirkcudbright, Kippford and Dumfries (voted the happiest town in Scotland to live), it is 90 miles south of Edinburgh and Glasgow and within an hour and a half of the ferry to Northern Ireland and less than 5 hours to London.

For more information, visit:

Fine & Country [www.OrchardtonCastle.co.uk](http://www.OrchardtonCastle.co.uk)



Orchardton Castle



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we come to end of another year, I am pleased to report that we have signed up a lot of new members this year. We were present at three Scottish Games this year: the Gallabrae Games in Greenville SC in May, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July and Stone Mountain Highland Games in October. We sponsored the hugely popular Scottish Cultural Village at GMHG where our guest from the National Trust for Scotland was one of the speakers – see below. This is the first year we sponsored at Stone Mountain. Unfortunately, the Scotland County Games was cancelled owing to Hurricane Ian. We intend to make our presence known at many more games over the next few years. If any members would like to volunteer, we would be glad to hear from you even if to hand out brochures. We particularly want to focus on Games in the West. Membership subscriptions help to defray our administrative expenses but most importantly to support our scholarship fund to supplement the proceeds from our annual raffle.

It is with regret we announce that Bobby Groves and Bob McWilliam stepped down as active board members but will be recognized as Directors Emeritus. Both these men have served for several decades on the board and their contribution has been invaluable. On behalf of SHUSA our sincere thanks to both.

One of the highlights of the year is having a guest from the National Trust for Scotland. This year our NTS guest was Catriona McIntosh who has been working as the estate manager at Culloden. She gave a wonderful, illustrated presentation at the Scottish Cultural Village on the challenges of maintaining the battlefield in the same condition that it was 276 years ago. Believe it or not Highland cows are put to work to extricate unwanted pine trees that have seeded from a nearby forest. SHUSA has adopted one the cows giving her the name Fiona Macrae. If you are going to Culloden, anytime be sure to give her a hug.

If you are wondering what to give your relatives or Scottish friend or somebody you know who has travelled or is travelling to Scotland, why not give them a gift of annual subscription? You can do this easily on-line. If you are a member of a St Andrew's Society, encourage fellow members to join Scottish Heritage USA. For travelers, membership will give them free admission to dozens of NTS properties as well as numerous properties owned by the National Trust in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our next board meeting is held in December. This is when we review requests for supporting projects at the National Trust for Scotland as well as support for Scottish related endeavors here in the US. We are very focused on providing scholarships for young persons and currently offer scholarships in piping, drumming and highland dance and plan to introduce fiddle next year.

The Board wish all our members Christmas and New Year. Welcome to all those who joined this year and thank you to all our faithful members for your continued support.



## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT NATIONAL TRUST

As Christmas gets closer why not visit NTS' [online shop](#) for gift buying inspiration. It's brimming with beautiful [Christmas gift ideas](#) and exclusive products inspired by Scotland's history and crafted by Scottish makers, such as this [Sgian Brew](#) made using a tree from Culloden battlefield. See the story of the makers of this and some of their other product ranges in the series of [Meet the Maker](#) stories. Don't forget those Christmas essentials such as [Christmas cards](#) and our [2022 calendar](#). And remember, by shopping with NTS, you're helping protect Scotland's heritage.

There are also some amazing deals in the [Month of Black Friday Deals](#), including 1/3 off selected Johnstons of Elgin scarves, adding even more value to your Christmas shopping.

And here is the **BEST** part: They are happy to share a discount code with Scottish Heritage USA members; enter the code SHUSA10 at checkout in the online shop to save 10% on full price lines (excluding alcohol, hampers and clearance lines).



### Answers to December's Quiz

- 1) Castle, Gallowhill and St. Catherine's hill
- 2) Dáí Riata
- 3) Younger brother of Robert the Bruce and disputed King of Ireland
- 4) David I
- 5) Treaty of Perth, 1266
- 6) the Orkney and the Shetlands
- 7) The "Forty-Five"
- 8) James Macpherson
- 9) Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrew's, Kings and Marischal
- 10) a Gaelic harp

**Bonus:** Carol Ann Duffy 2009

# RECIPE CORNER

## SCOTTISH TOFFEE



Lizthechef writes that she and her mom used to make this every Christmas and after her mom passed away, Liz named the recipe “Scottish Toffee” in honor of her mother’s MacPherson roots. This is an edible gift that your family, friends and neighbors will all enjoy!

If you’re planning on giving this as a present, be warned: Once you’ve had one piece of this simple-to-make candy, you will have to have another. It’s chocolatey, nutty, and crunchy, and Liz’s story behind it is in the spirit of the holiday season.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup finely chopped almonds, divided in two
- 18 ounces (1 ½ packages) semisweet chocolate chips, divided in two
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar, generously packed
- 1 pinch kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon best-quality vanilla extract
- Good-quality sea salt, optional

### DIRECTIONS

1. Spread ½ the nuts and ½ the chocolate chips onto a cookie sheet
2. Using a candy thermometer to monitor, cook butter and brown sugar over medium-high heat in medium-sized pot until you reach the “hard crack” stage (300°F). Stir constantly. This will take about 15 minutes. (Using a copper pot allows you to cook at a higher temperature without burning the caramel.)
3. Remove the pot from heat and quickly add salt and vanilla
4. Carefully pour the caramel mixture over the mix of nuts and chocolate. Sprinkle remaining chocolate over hot mixture. When melted, smooth out with the back of a large spoon. Sprinkle remaining nuts and gently press into the toffee. If you like salted caramel, you may want to sprinkle some good-quality sea salt on top of the candy.
5. Freeze one hour before breaking into pieces for storage – or snacking.



*Recipe courtesy of Lizchef  
pictures courtesy of James Ransom*

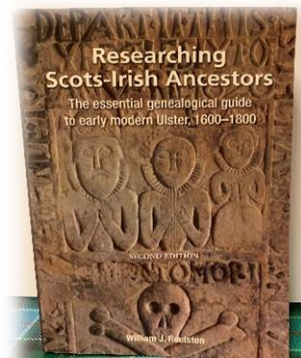


## DOING GENEALOGY RESEARCH?

If you are currently involved in family history, here is a new book that may help you Scotch-Irish researchers.

The first section of the book describes the sources for Scots-Irish ancestry, their significance, and where they may be found. The main categories covered here include church records, gravestone inscriptions, 17<sup>th</sup> century records, 18<sup>th</sup> century records landed estate records, the Registry of Deeds, inheritance records legal records, election records, military sources, newspapers and books, emigration records, education, charity and occupational records, business and occupational sources, society and club records and personal records (diaries, journals, memoirs, etc.). The second section of the volume consists of two large appendices. The first lists, in summary format, the sources available for each parish in Ulster, while the second provides information on over 350 estate collections with relevant material from the pre-1800 period.

Whether your Ulster ancestors are of English, Scottish or Gaelic Irish background whether their religious affiliation was Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic or other, whether they were farmers, merchants or laborers, this work will be of value to you in your quest to discover your roots.



Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors – William J. Roulston





# THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS



Scottish Heritage will be sponsoring The Pipes of Christmas again this year! Celebrating its 24<sup>th</sup> season with two performances in New York on Saturday, December 17 (2 and 7 pm) at the Presbyterian Church - 921 Madison Avenue at 73<sup>rd</sup>, then two more performances on 18 December (2 and 7 pm) at the Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St, Summit, NJ.

Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. Featuring such tunes as “Highland Cathedral,” “Joy to the World”, and “Amazing Grace”, all

performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, organ, brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but it inspires those of Celtic descent to reconnect to their ancestry. The music is accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

The performance in NYC marks the solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons, originally from Dublin, Ireland. In addition to Ms. Lyons, the featured performers include James Robinson from the film “Braveheart,” New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA. Concert proceeds support an extensive music scholarship program with gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow, Scotland), the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School. They also support the annual Tartan Day (Ellis Island), US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition (Scotland’s Royal National Mod) and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland’s Gaelic college on Skye.

For more information, visit <https://www.pipesofchristmas.com/>



## SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Name the three hills upon which Aberdeen was built.
2. What Gaelic kingdom was founded on the west coast of Scotland in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century?
3. Who was Edward Bruce?
4. What Scottish King introduced feudalism to Scotland?
5. What treaty ended the conflict between Mangus VI of Norway and Alexander III of Scotland over the Hebrides?
6. Margaret of Denmark brought what two island nations under Scottish territory upon her marriage to James III?
7. By what other name is the Jacobite rising known?
8. Who was known as the translator of the Ossian cycle of epic poems?
9. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were 5 universities in Scotland. Name them?
10. What is a ‘clarsach’?



**Bonus:** Who was the first Poet Laureate of Scotland and what year was the award given?

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Instagram too