



Thanksgiving Feast

Scottish Heritage USA

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

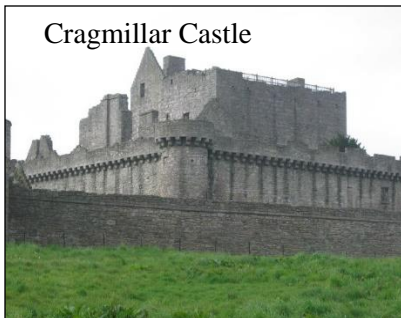
Thanksgiving is traditionally an American holiday but Scotland celebrates its version during the period when the autumn season is in full swing. This is the time lush green landscapes turn into a mesmerizing blend of fiery reds, warm oranges, and golden yellows. It is during this harvest time, when Scotland embraces its unique tradition of gratitude and celebration. In Scotland, the occasion similar to Thanksgiving takes place when the leaves fall gracefully from the trees, creating an artist's scene across the country. This celebration when nature offers its bountiful harvest and people come together to express their appreciation for the abundance. The precise timing of this Scottish Thanksgiving or Harvest Home may vary but it usually occurs during the autumn equinox. The days and nights are in perfect balance symbolizing the harmony between humans and nature. This year, it happens to coincide with our American Thanksgiving on 23 November 2023!



Ready for Harvest Home
Celebration

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

Cragmillar Castle



Pictures courtesy wikipedia

Dotti Schaller, a long time Scottish Heritage member recently crossed the pond to Scotland with her son Kurt and his wife and wrote to tell us how glad they were to for their memberships. They saved a bundle visiting Cragmillar, Direlton Castle, the Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum, Essie Churchyard, Tantallon Castle, Tolquhon Castle and Elgin Castle in Moray to name a few.

All courtesy of their membership in Scottish
Heritage!

Tolquhon Castle



If you would like to visit any of these properties FREE OF CHARGE, just join Scottish Heritage USA and you will be welcomed to any National Trust for Scotland Property.

Follow Dotti's advice and scan the QR code here to join Scottish Heritage USA for GREAT benefits!



LAST CHANCE TO WIN BIG ! RAFFLE ENDS THIS MONTH !

DRAWING THE END OF NOVEMBER! HURRY!

We are moving our annual scholarship raffle **ONLINE!**
So, instead of sending all our members paper tickets, you can purchase your chances to win on our website. Just go to scottishHeritageusa.org and click on events – OR just scan the QR code



Princess Diana Scarf



Tommy Hord painting

THE DUNROSSIL DIARIES

Autumn is finally upon us, bringing hope, and at the same time, a sense of loss. First the hope. The temperatures are still in the 90's here in Texas, but that's better than a couple of weeks ago and I've already brought my tweeds back from storage in the (probably vain) hope that I'll find an occasion to wear them in the months ahead. Thankfully, Barbour makes some lightweight jackets that I can actually wear here, but as for the tweed, let's just say that this is not exactly the Outer Hebrides in south Texas.

There's more to look forward to as well. I love going to the Stone Mountain Highland Games outside Atlanta it's always a fantastic show, highlighted by the massed bands with 500 pipers and drummers under the expert guidance of Kevin Comfort. Then, ten days later (Nov. 3rd), I'll be in New York for



the annual dinner of the American Scottish Foundation, which will be presenting its Wallace Award for Philanthropy to Garreth Wood and its Young Scot Award to Jamie Douglas-Hamilton.

But autumn is also a time for sad reflection. "The hills are bare now and the autumn leaves lie thick and still."

At the end of November, on St. Andrew's Day, I shall be back in London for a memorial service to commemorate the late and much-lamented Donald MacLaren chief of Clan Labhran since he was just 11, British Ambassador to the country of Georgia, and more recently, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. I had the honour of serving as his Vice Convenor, but more than that, he was a wonderful companion and great personal friend. As another member of the SCSC board put it, "Donald was my best friend on the Council, but I expect that was true of many others and am under no illusion that I was his best friend." What a loss. If you can't be there in person, I hope you will join me in raising a glass of the best "cranberry juice" to his memory.

Andrew Dunrossil



Answers to This Month's Quiz

- #1. Blanket
- #2 Prince Albert (*Queen Victoria's husband*)
- #3. Only members of the Royal Family and the Queen/King's Piper with her/his permission
- #4 Harris Tweed
- #5. Irn Bru
- #6. July 1st to mark the anniversary of the repeal of the proscription act of 1746
- #7. Oor Wullie
- #8 Gordon Cavell-Islay Mill & Charles Knodes - studio wardrobe dept.
- #9. Gordon Kirkbright
- #10. A signpost

Bonus: Nunavut

RECIPE CORNER

GLASGOW HOT TODDY

Believed to be invented in Scotland in the 1700's, a hot toddy is a warm alcoholic drink using liquor (whisky, rum, or brandy usually), honey, spices, and hot water (or tea). It is often sipped for a cold or cough believing it relaxes the body. When taken at night before bed, helps relieve congestion and eases a sore throat.

A Glasgow Hot Toddy warms any chilly day with Scotch whisky, honey, heated with boiling water infused with a clove-studded lemon slice.

Normally this would be made 'to suit' allowing flexibility in measurements of the ingredients. This recipe is a great combination and one to be enjoyed fireside or whenever the mood strikes. It's not bad for a sore throat either!

INGREDIENTS

1 10–12-ounce heatproof Old-Fashioned glass or mug
1 ½ ounces Scotch Whisky
1 Tablespoon honey
6 ounces boiling water
1 slice lemon (1/4 inch thick) studded with whole cloves

DIRECTIONS

Add the whisky and honey to the glass/mug and pour in boiling water.
Add the clove-studded lemon slice and allow to infuse for 5 minutes before drinking.

Tip: To insert the cloves more easily into the lemon slice, insert the cloves before cutting the lemon slice, or; pierce the lemon slice with a sharp knife point before inserting the clove.

For a more flavorful drink, use tea in place of water and brandy instead of whisky.

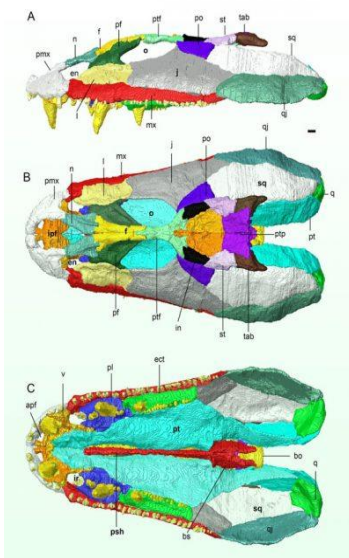
Whichever your taste, it's a soothing way to end the day.



Pictures and recipe courtesy of
Boulder Locavore



10 FT 'TADPOLE FROM HELL' THAT ONCE ROAMED SCOTLAND'S PREHISTORIC SWAMPS



Crassigyrinus scoticus was once one of the most fearsome predators on Earth and a new study has gone back more than 330 million years to reveal what it looked like for the first time.

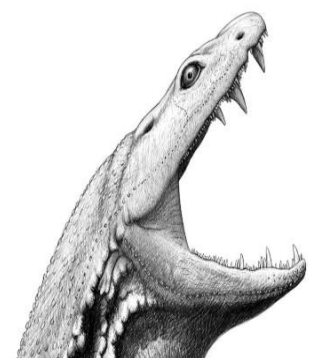
Although *Crassigyrinus scoticus* translates to "shallow wriggler" it was more terrifying than its name suggests. It was among the first wave of animals to adapt for life on land called tetrapods, however it opted to stay in the water so its transition to a fully-fledged land-dweller was never completed. It lived in a swampy landscape that would eventually develop into a modern-day Scotland and Canada.

A new study, published in the journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology, used modern technologies to reconstruct a skull similar to that of a crocodile. The shape, size, and teeth all suggest a powerful aquatic predator capable of hunting and subduing large prey. According to the Natural History Museum, this prehistoric predator would have had a slender body measuring up to 10 feet in length! **"It is a tadpole from hell."** Nothing today is closely related enough to clearly define how the snout would have looked like – a lot of tetrapods have midline gaps at the front of their snout, but the gap in this creature is much larger and features

smoothly sculpted edges. The nostrils are elsewhere so there is still speculation as to what this opening might have been.

Maybe when Nessie finally emerges from Loch Ness, we will find *Crassigyrinus*!

Article and pictures mostly courtesy of Scotland News – Paula Murray



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS FROM STONE MT. GAMES



“The Road Dance”

An epic Scottish WWI melodrama sensitively adapted from John MacKay’s hit 2002 novel. Set against the scenic Scottish countryside, this sweeping tale of adversity and resilience captures the attitudes of the time while offering a moving melodrama.

Started showing at select theaters 13 October 2023.

check your local theaters

<https://shows.acast.com/dansnowshistoryhit/episodes/scotland-clans>

For Scottish history buffs, check out these podcasts

Dan Snow's History Hit

Lord John M. Allen	The Hogg Family
The Atkins Family	Lindsey Jewell
Sharon & Doug Barrett	Sandra & Seth Kearney
Mary Beth Boyd	Fred & Marian Kilgroe
Rachael Brown	Alan Long
Robbie & Lonnie Burton	Rebecca & Robert McIntosh
Sarah Craighead	Adam Moffat
Robin Daniels	Ann Moffat
Levi Daryl	Jacob & Haleigh Nesmith
Anne & Maxie Davis	The Opstad Family
Phil DeSouza	David & Rebecca Pickens
Gale Douglas	Kristen Pittipaldi
Susan & John Dresher	Gregory Priest
The Eastdale Family	John Shireman
Paula Jo Frye	Beth & Robert Smith
Victoria Gay	The Tettamanti Family
The Geib Family	Lewis & Susan Tumlin
The Gorrie Family	Madison Turner
The Graeme Family	Lucas & Linda VanTassel
Amy & Troy Green	Pamela & Robert Williamson
Eugene & Laurie Guthrie	Eden Yancey
Nancy Hall	Larry Young

SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. The word plaid originates from the Scottish gaelic word plaide which means what?
2. Who designed the Balmoral Tartan?
3. Who can wear the Balmoral Tartan?
4. What is the only fabric in the world to be governed by its own Act of Parliament?
5. What popular soft drink has its own tartan
6. Australia and New Zealand celebrate Tartan Day on what date?
7. One of Scotland’s oldest comic strip characters has his own Tartan. Who is it?
8. Who designed the Braveheart movie tartan?
9. Who designed the Outlander Tartan? (there’s a hint in the picture)
10. The tourist destination of John o’ Groats is famous for what?

Bonus: What is the only Canadian province that does not have a Tartan?



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