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Special Day Created to Remember Forgotten Figure

March 26th saw the very first World Bannock Day being celebrated, an event to recognize a little known, but important Scottish writer: Florence Marian McNeill. Organizers chose the bannock as a perfect way to create this new annual event because of her book "*The Scots Kitchen*," released in 1929, which chronicled the differing variations of this flatbread all across Scotland. Made with flour, oatmeal, salt, milk or buttermilk, before being cooked using a frying pan or griddle, bannocks were a staple in the homes of Scotland until the end of the 20th century.



Although seen as a perfect way to remember her, there was much more to Floss, as she was called, than her impressive list of cook books, which she wrote throughout her life. This Orkney born woman came into the world in 1885, and left an unexpected mark in the world. After graduating from the University of Glasgow, she then taught English in France and Germany. Returning to the UK in 1913, she became a figure in the women's suffragette movement, before providing research for the creation of the first ever Scottish National Dictionary. From there, she then went on to co-found the Scottish National Party in 1934, who's aim back then, as today, is for national independence.

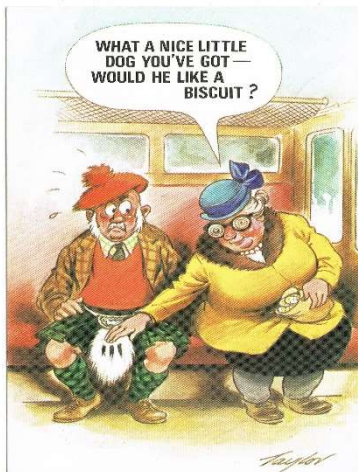


The Bannock

In addition to these achievements, Florence McNeill also published a four-volume body of work, '*The Silver Bough*', which delved into Scottish folklore as well as highlight national festivals. Unfortunately, the publisher suffered financial difficulties, and she never saw a penny for this work. She also wrote her only novel, '*The Road Home*', which was loosely based on her time in Glasgow and London.

In recognition of her work, Florence McNeill received an MBE in 1962, before passing eleven years later. In recent years, '*The Silver Bough*' has been adapted for the stage, ensuring her legacy will live on.

Comedy Corner



MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are welcome to bring along any snacks, finger foods, desserts, etc. Soft drinks are provided at all meetings, although you can bring your own if you prefer. If you can't bring a snack, bring a friend, although we'd like both!

Please note that a miscommunication issue with East Bank Regional Library means that our Tartan Day Exhibition will no longer be taking place. There will also be no April meeting.

Sunday, May 18, 025

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-at rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Annual General Meeting, with additional educational program (TBC)

Information – TBC

June, 2025 (Date TBC)

Venue – TBC

Time – TBC

Program- End of Year Party

Information – TBC

Member and Society News

If you have any member news to include in the newsletter, please contact me by email at shawfield27@gmail.com. No information is too small. We're happy to hear of our members' exploits.

Long time Society member **Wayne Gordon**, passed away on February 4th. Once an active member, he was proud of his Scottish roots, as well as his own heritage. Unfortunately, declining health led him to leave New Orleans and spend his last few years with his daughter in Vernon Hills, IL. You can read more about him at <https://everloved.com/life-of/wayne-gordon/obituary/>.

Festivals & Games

Miller Quarters Park, in Minden, is the location for this year's **Scottish Tartan Festival**. Events begin at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday April 12th, which include live music, a haggis eating contest, as well as Highland Games. There are also child-friendly stations, offering something for all the family. More information can be found by going to <https://www.scottishtartanfestival.com/>

The **Dunedin Highland Games & Festival** takes place on April 5-6th, at Dunedin, FL. This two-day event begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 8:00 p.m. Saturday. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance, with children under 12 free with an accompanying adult. VIP ticket options are also available. Please check out their website for details. <https://www.dunedinsafoundation.com/highland-games/>

The Blairville Scottish Festival has outgrown its old location and is now the **Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival & Highland Games**, relocating to Hiawassee, GA. Running on June 6-7th, ticket prices vary per day, but you can purchase a two-day pass at a reduced price if you plan on being there both days. There is a wide range of events being offered to attendees. Check out their website for more information. <https://blairsvillescottishfestival.com/>

Events

The Society is taking part in **Genfest 2025**, which is being held at Dillard University, on April 5th. Doors are open from 10:30-3:30pm. Entrance is free, and there will be several speakers at this event in addition to various genealogy organizations. Find out more about the event by going to <https://nolacityarchives.org/lagniappe/programs/genfest-2025/#gsc.tab=0>. If you wish to help out at the CSoNO table, even for an hour or two, please contact Wendy Grubb at 504-957-0251, or email at wgrubb52@gmail.com.

The **Caledonian Society of New Orleans** will be having a Pub Night on May 24th. Starting at 2pm, members, and anyone interested, will be getting together at Finn McCool's, 3701 Banks St, New

Orleans, to partake in a few beverages, maybe some fish-n-chips, and have some good old-fashioned fun! While you don't need to wear kilts or tartan, we thought it might be a great idea if we all wore something Scottish, this way attendees should be able to find our group, and regular patrons might become interested in our Society. CSoNO member, Scott Bond, has created various t-shirt designs which can be purchased at his website. Here is a link to one example.

<https://deke-3.creator-spring.com/listing/get-mad-wae-it?product=2&variation=6046>

In addition to this, the Society is also looking into hosting a **Whisky Tasting** event. The main proposal is for September, but may change based on venue options and availability. If you wish to assist in coordinating either or both events, then please call Bob Grubb on 504-957-0248.

Scottish Country Dancing classes, hosted by Wendy Grubb, take place at Carrollton United Methodist Church. This is a great way to exercise your brain and your body. Classes run every Friday, unless otherwise stated, beginning at 7pm. Entrance is via Freret St. For more information call Wendy on 504-957-0251, or email at wgrubb52@gmail.com.

Have you ever considered learning to play the bagpipes? If so, now is your chance. Pipe band, **Kilts of Many Colours**, offers bagpipe lessons running every Monday, from 6-9 p.m., at Chafunkta Brewing Company at 69069 Sky Brook Rd., Mandeville. Lessons are free. Learn more at, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1325294228348193/1325294718348144/>

Interested in learning how to use the traditional Scottish broadsword? Sam Irving, a certified fencing instructor, runs the **Caledonian Broadsword Academy** here in New Orleans. In addition to the broadsword, you will also practice with Singlestick, Rapier, Saber, Longsword, and, ultimately, the steel Broadsword. At present, this is only open to people aged 18 and up. Walk-ins are not allowed so, please complete the application form on the following website before attending any classes. <https://broadswordno.com/>

Yearly Dues

Members can now pay their dues online! Just go to our website and click on the membership tab. You'll see the section in the bottom righthand corner. The Society relies on dues and donations to continue to operate. Non-payment will result in a cancellation of membership, meaning you miss out on all advance notice for invitations and ticketed events, such as whisky tastings, Burns Supper, etc.

Anyone wishing to confirm their status can also email Bob Grubb at rgrubb6@gmail.com. Don't miss out, make sure you're up to date with your dues. If you are currently receiving our newsletter on our courtesy list, why not consider upgrading to become a member. As you can see, the fees are low and you will receive news of all events and invitations, and receive advance booking opportunities.

Newsletter

CSoNO members receive this newsletter by e-mail or post. A complimentary e-mail newsletter is also sent to non-members who have expressed an interest, so if you know of someone who would like to be on this list, please send their information for inclusion in the courtesy e-mail group. All mass e-mails are sent to recipients' "bcc" for privacy.

Social Media

The Society has a website with many links and gallery pictures for everything Scottish! In case you haven't seen the site yet, all you need to do is go to <http://www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com/>.



The site also has a very useful resources page, where you will find almost everything you could think of needing. Have you checked out our other social media pages? If not, then you're in the minority. We're now on Instagram and TikTok! You can find us by looking for "Caledonian Society of New Orleans," and hit the like or follow button.

March 15th saw our most popular post of the month, stating a wish to be in Scotland YESTERDAY! Our runner was a list of some Scottish words that no doubt needed translating.

Why not let us know what type of posts you would like to see on our page. We want to engage with everyone, so please like, comment, and share our posts whenever you see them, that way we can reach more people.

Time For Gaelic

*Halò mo chàirdean!
Nach eil sibh a' tuigsinn
fhathast? A bheil sibh ag
ionnsachadh? Chan eil i
furasta ach tha i
sporsail. Cha bhi sibh
duilich.*

Have you plucked up the courage to say a few words yet? I'm sure you already know some, but haven't thought about it. Have you ever raised a glass and said 'Slàinte'? How about talking about a "ceilidh"? Someone may have even told you to shut your 'gob'. Now that you know these, why not ease yourself and start learning some of the basics? You may be surprised at how you understand words that you never even realized were Gaelic, especially if you're travelling through Scotland.

Don't forget to check out these learning apps.



Bluebird | Duolingo | Mango | uTalk

In addition to these apps, you can also find useful resources on the following sites,

<https://www.learnghaelic.net/>

<https://www.fluentin3months.com/scottish-gaelic/>

<https://go-gaelic.scot/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GaelicwithJason>

Castles Of Scotland

Name: Eilean Donan
Location: Dornie, Ross-shire
Year Built: Early 13th Century
Clan Affiliation: Mackenzie



Built under Alexander II's rule, Eilean Donan, was named after a 6th century Celtic saint, Donnàn, martyred in 617. Designed to help repel the Norse, his son, Alexander III, granted the lands to Colin Fitzgerald, son of an Irish Earl, who had helped defeat King Haakon at the Battle of Largs, in 1263. Fitzgerald changed his name, and the Mackenzie clan was born.

It is claimed that Robert the Bruce once stayed here in 1306, but, whether he hid or not, the Mackenzies were able to avoid participation in the Wars of Scottish Independence. In 1331, Thomas Randolph, serving as King's Regent, sent notice that he would be coming to visit, possibly to confirm fealty. On his arrival, Randolph saw the heads of 50 criminals lining the walls of the castle.

An ongoing feud with the Ross clan saw the Mackenzies lose their grip on the land, but the return from exile of David II, strengthened their power. The feud continued into the 15th century, and, despite royal attempts at quelling the region, Eilean Donan was still seen as a major prize. A major victory occurred in 1539, when Donald Gorm led the MacDonalds in a surprise attack. With most Mackenzies away in battle, it was left to only two men to defend themselves. Despite overwhelming odds, the castle warden launched an arrow that killed Gorm, thereby initiating a retreat from his stunned men.

By the time of the Jacobite uprisings, Eilean Donan had slowly been deteriorating, and, come 1715, the castle was now without a roof. Four years later, Spanish soldiers, in an alliance with Jacobites, took up residence here, waiting for the next rebellion. An uprising didn't appear, but the English king had sent a frigate to subdue this threat. Successful, the king's men used numerous barrels of gunpowder to demolish the castle, and prevent its use for any military purposes.

John Macrae-Gilstrap, whose family had once been the constables of Eilean Donan and had close ties with the Mackenzies, bought the castle in 1912, but had no intention of rebuilding. Following his return from combat after WWI, he found the stonemason, a fellow Macrae, had not only cleaned up the site, but was preparing to fully rebuild. The man claimed he had a dream where he saw "exactly the way the castle originally looked". A successful restoration led to the famous landmark we see today, being featured now in several movies and TV shows. To this day the descendants of Macrae-Gilstrap still reside at Eilean Donan, despite it being open to the public.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: Glenfiddich
Location: Dufftown, Moray
Whisky Region: Speyside
Whisky Type: Single Malt, Blends
Website: <https://www.glenfiddich.com/>



Built in 1886, Glenfiddich's name comes from the Gaelic *Gleann Fhiodhaich*, which translates as "Deer of the Valley". This also explains the stag logo found on the bottle labels. William Grant, a manager at the Mortlach distillery, left his position and built his new business, along with his nine children, literally by hand. It took a year for the work to be completed,

with the stills going into production on Christmas Day 1887.

At the end of the century, a huge crash in the industry saw many distilleries close. Glenfiddich, at this time, chose to blend their own whiskies, rather than produce for someone else. This proved to be a huge success, and quickly saw their brand, "Standfast", bring massive worldwide acclaim. At one point, they had 63 international agencies promoting their products.

In an unusual stance, Glenfiddich increased their production as the US introduced its prohibition laws. Forward thinking saw them become one of only six distilleries capable of supplying the US after the laws were repealed.

1961, saw the now famous three-sided bottle be introduced for the first time. This led to Glenfiddich literally standing out from all other scotches on the market, giving it both name and visual recognition. At the same time, they began marketing their single malt in the US and overseas, thereby creating the now standard Single Malt category.

Another marketing success came when the company realized the importance of the little noticed duty-free market. Presenting their bottles in tubes and gift boxes, they quickly took hold of the market, making Glenfiddich the number one single malt seller in the world. Today, it is sold in 180 countries, while they retain 35% of the market share of single malts.

Just For Fun

Are our Scottish trivia questions making y'all more knowledgeable? I certainly hope so! How did you do with last month's teasers?

1. Which Scottish driver was a Formula 1 world champion 3 times between 1969 and 1973?

Jackie Stewart

2. Which Scottish snooker player won the World Championship 7 times in the 1990s?

Stephen Hendry

3. Who reigned as WBC Lightweight Champion from 1979-81?

Jim Watt

4. Which soccer player scored 30 goals in just 55 appearances for the Scotland national team?

Denis Law

5. Which Scottish rugby union player held the record for points scored for the British Lions with 69?

Gavin Hastings

How will you fare with these questions?

1. On which island in the Inner Hebrides is former Labour Party leader John Smith buried?
2. Who plays the character Begbie in the film 'Trainspotting'?
3. What grain is used to make Scotch Broth soup?
4. Which Princess was born at Glamis Castle?
5. The shortest air route in the world is between which two Scottish islands

I'm Fixin' To

When you live in Louisiana you know that a favorite topic here is either eating, talking about eating, or talking about eating while eating, and not necessarily talking about what you're eating!

Oatmeal Cakes



Once a Scottish staple, oatmeal has been used in many dishes. This recipe will produce something more similar looking to a US cookie, rather than a cake.

Ingredients:

Teacup of medium oatmeal

Teacup of plain flour

Half teacup of milk

Tablespoon of soft brown sugar

3 oz butter or margarine

Level teaspoon salt

Level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda (baking soda)

Method:

Sieve the flour, salt and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl, add the oatmeal and mix. Cut the butter or margarine into small portions and rub into the mixture with your fingers. Add the sugar and mix well. Pour in the milk and mix until you have a stiff but workable dough.

Shake some flour on a worktop, turn the dough onto it and shake a little flour on the top. Roll out thinly (about half an inch thick) and prick over with a fork. Cut into rounds with a cookie cutter and place on an oiled baking tray. Bake in a pre-heated oven for 15/20 minutes at 350F. Use a palette knife to lift the cakes onto a wire rack. Store in an airtight tin.

We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter. Our aim is to educate and entertain, as well as keep our members informed and up-to-date on all things Scottish. If you have any news or items you would like included in the newsletter, then you can contact me at shawfield27@gmail.com. . It can be anything at all, but should have a Scottish element, or be related to a member. If there are other items you would like to see in the newsletter, then please let me know.

Tioraidh an-dràsta!

(Chee-ree an draa-sta)

(Bye just now)