

Paleontology

The modern academic discipline known as Paleontology had strong roots in Scotland. From the late Middle Age, observers reported finding enormous fossil bones buried in rocks, and reported also large deposits of seashells high on mountains. The Jura mountains of France & Switzerland were especially rich in such fossils. Before modern study of such things, people assumed that the earth was (as the Bible indicates) about 6000 years old. So how does one explain the fossils?

One strategy was to assume that Noah's Flood involved a world-wide catastrophe, as a result of which the bones of animals and shells of sea creatures were washed even to the tops of mountains. Led in part by Scots thinkers, a modern view developed which were termed Uniformitarians, among them Prof. James Hutton of Edinburgh. They argued that Earth was very old, so that the entire landscape was formed by the continuous action over several billion years of the same forces we experience every day. Because of its rich fossils, the Jura mountains of Switzerland were intensely studied, and the fossil assembly known as Jurassic.

Much more recently, scientists have realized that much Jurassic era bedrock is exposed in the Hebrides. Recently researchers from Edinburgh University have mapped a wide range of rocky beach in Skye's Trotternish Peninsula where thousands of dinosaur footprints are exposed. The prints range in size from nearly 20" across to some very small bird-like prints in a limy mudstone. It is possible to walk many yards following a particular animal's track. Fossils of that particular portion of the Jurassic Era are rare world wide, meaning that the site in Skye is disproportionately important. Read more at: <<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/more-heritage/giant-jurassic-footprints-found-on-isle-of-skye-1-3963767#ixzz3tOuY5AbD>>

Easdale Island Slate Quarries

Heritage Scotland, in an innovative effort, has declared the slate quarries on Easdale Island in Argyll to be a national heritage site. Quarry operation and International Stone Skimming contest will continue.

Our National Poets: William Thompson

Not a poet in modern usage. The ancient Scots word for Poet was an exact translation of the Greek original, being Makar. William Thompson was a maker of the very first order. Thompson, [1814-1907] a highly creative physicist and engineer, was for 52 years professor at Glasgow University. During that time, he published nearly 350 scientific papers in the fields of physics, science, and engineering. A shy person, he nevertheless stood very firm in controversy. His work with heat led him to propose the measurement of heat still known as the Kelvin. His work with conduction of electricity and devices for detecting flows of electricity made possible long distance telegraphy and the development of under sea telegraph cables to connect many far-flung places. For his electrical work, he was named (from his residence at Largs, near Glasgow) Baron Kelvin. Even in retirement, he continued to explore the wave theory of light in papers which the young Albert Einstein found very helpful.

Scots Names: Clark/ Clerk

Not unique to Scotland, this family name derives from the Latin title Clericus, a person whose education was sufficient both to read and to write documents. A Roger Clericus signed Edinburgh documents in 1147. The spelling Clerk (sounded "clark" in the older Scots tongue) is more common in Scotland. A prominent bearer of the name was the family of John Clark of Gateside, Paisley, which organized the world famous Coates & Clark manufacturers and distributors of threads. A Gaelic variant is Mac a chleiriche, now often found as MacCleary, and Englished as Clarkson.

The Old Scots Tongue

- hark (v) to beat
 - yarn or yerne (adv) earnestly, diligently.
 - yarp (v) to whine, fret, or carp or (n) the act of whining.
 - yarpha (n) peat or turf full of fiber, roots, or wood.
 - yarr (n) spurrey, a sprawling weed in the Pink family.
 - yarring (adj) snarling, troublesome, snarky.
 - yarrow (v) to improve by industry and hard work.
 - yaul (v) to yell.
 - yauld (a) alert, paying attention
 - yaumer (v) to murmur, or mutter.
 - yaup (v) to yelp or cry out.
 - yavil (a) flat, level.
 - yaxe (n) an axe
 - yearling (adv) perhaps.
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GML Editor Bruce Shields (802) 888-5165 -- <bshields@pwshift.com> St. Andrews Society of VT website use <www.SASVT.org> or <www.standrewssocietyofvermont.org>

Historic Scotland: Dryburgh Abbey

The graceful ruins of Dryburgh Abbey nestle in wooded seclusion beside the River Tweed. On entering, the visitor immediately understands why the contemplative life of a medieval monk was attractive. The abbey was established in 1150 by white-clad Premonstratensian canons. They were invited to this idyllic spot from Alnwick Priory, Northumberland, by Hugh de Moreville. The Constable of Scotland and Lord of Lauderdale, he was himself an incomer from England. Dryburgh became the premier house in Scotland of the Premonstratensian order, which had been established at



Prémontré, north-east France, in 1121, by St Norbert of Xanten. There were six Scottish houses in total, including Whithorn Priory, in Galloway.

Dryburgh Abbey never quite aspired to the heights of wealth and influence achieved by its neighbours at Kelso, Jedburgh and Melrose, and on the whole the monastic life was lived out quietly. The sound of war occasionally visited the secluded spot, most famously in 1322, when Edward II's retreating army, on hearing the abbey's bells ringing in the distance, turned aside and set fire to the place. The Protestant Reformation effectively ended Dryburgh Abbey's days, and by 1584 just two brethren remained alive.

It was preserved by the interest of David Erskine, Earl of Buchan who stabilized the ruins starting in the 1770's. He is buried in the grounds, near his friend Sir Walter Scott.

**The St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
Announces its 2015 Academic Scholarships and Cultural Grants
Academic Scholarships**

Eligibility: Any resident of Vermont for an academic program at an accredited degree-granting institution. For the full set of rules, application process and our deadlines, connect to our website as noted below. The grants are for \$1000. We anticipate making four grants in 2016.

Cultural Grants

Eligibility: Vermont residents or St. Andrew's Society of Vermont members and their families, regardless of residency, who will enroll or who are enrolled in studying Scottish history, language, arts, literature, dance and/or music. The guideline is \$500 maximum per year, with limited repeats. We hope to use the cultural grants to help enrich both the recipients and the wider audience of Scots in Vermont with a deeper set of skills or understanding of our Scottish heritage. We anticipate disbursing \$1500 in 2016. See our URL below for full details, rules, and application process.

Note: The St. Andrews web site now has a short URL, <www.SASVT.org> which still takes you to the same website you are familiar with.

37th Annual ROBBIE BURNS DINNER & CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016
 At the Barre Elks Club
 Corner of Elm & Jefferson Streets
 in Downtown Barre



5:00 Social Gathering (Cash Bar)
 5:30 Seating of members and guests
 5:45 Celtic Harp music by Carolyn, Fiona & Shannon Adams
 6:00 Haggis Ceremony
 6:30 Family style roast beef, chicken breast, or veggie stirfry.
 7:45 Highland Dancers, then Pipes & Drums of St. Andrews.

9:00 Dance to the music of the Highland Weavers.
 10:00 Drawing for the Wee Raffle.
 11:00 Traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne.
 Evening filled with music for listening, dancing and singing with musicians from Adams Family, and The Highland Weavers, Vermont's own Celtic Heritage band. Appearances also by The Pipes and Drums of St. Andrew's, The St. Andrew's Highland Dancers of Vermont, and our famous Wee Raffle. [Contact Donald Murray to add items to the raffle]

Adult Meal Choices: \$35.00
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast
 • *Roast Beef Dinner*
 • *Veggie Stir Fry [gluten free]*
Chicken Tenders w/ fries
Children: (12 & under) \$12.00

Price \$35.00 per person \$12 for ages 12 and under. (note menu choice on reservation)

RESERVATION DEADLINE, Sunday, January 10, 2016

Please send your check (payable to the St. Andrew's Society of Vermont) and reservation form to:

Tom Johnston
 533 Staples Rd.
 Danby, VT 05739

For more information, please call Tom at (802)-770-2234 or email t4jovt@vermontel.net

RESERVATION FORM;

]The following persons will be attending the Burns Night Celebration:

Name	on	Ticket	Dinner Choice w/Price	Clan Affiliation (if any)

Contact for the party is: _____ Phone # _____
 A total of _____ will be attending. Enclosed is a check for \$_____.

Seating will be by assigned tables. Indicate preference of whom you would like to sit with below.

2015 Contacts for St Andrews Society:

President - Thomas Johnston IV 802-293-5386
Vice Pres -Allison M. Norton (603)863-0907
Secretary - Margaret Shields 802 584-4755
Treasurer - Cedric H. Farrow 802-985-3832
Historian - Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
Chaplain - Theodore Faris 802-592-3908
Newsletter Editor -Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
Archivist Pro Tem - Bruce Shields
Webmaster - David Campbell 802-878-8663
<<campbell@together.net>>
Others [managers and representatives]
Kirsten K. Gretkowski Jonathan Park
Karen Fay (SAS Pipe)
Cass Wright Nancy Chase
Iain McHarg (Catamount)
Kirsten Gretkowski, Dancers
Richard Downer, Foundation Chair
Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker
Meg Shields's Address: 223 Crown Dr.
Groton, VT 05046 (802)584-4755

Correct your address promptly to Tom
<<t4jovt@vermontel.net>>

SCHEDULE OF 2015 EVENTS

- 16 Jan, 2016 Burns Night Celebration, Barre
 - April, 2016 Annual General Meeting [TBA]
 - 17 July, 2016 Kirking of Tartan, Barnet.
 - 20 Aug, 2016 Quechee
 - Oct 29 Tartan Ball [tentative]
- Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.*

In This Issue:

- P. 1 Notes & News
- P. 2 castle & grant report
- P. 3 Burns Nicht reservation form
- p. 4 Masthead

*Thomas Johnston, President
St Andrews Society of Vermont
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