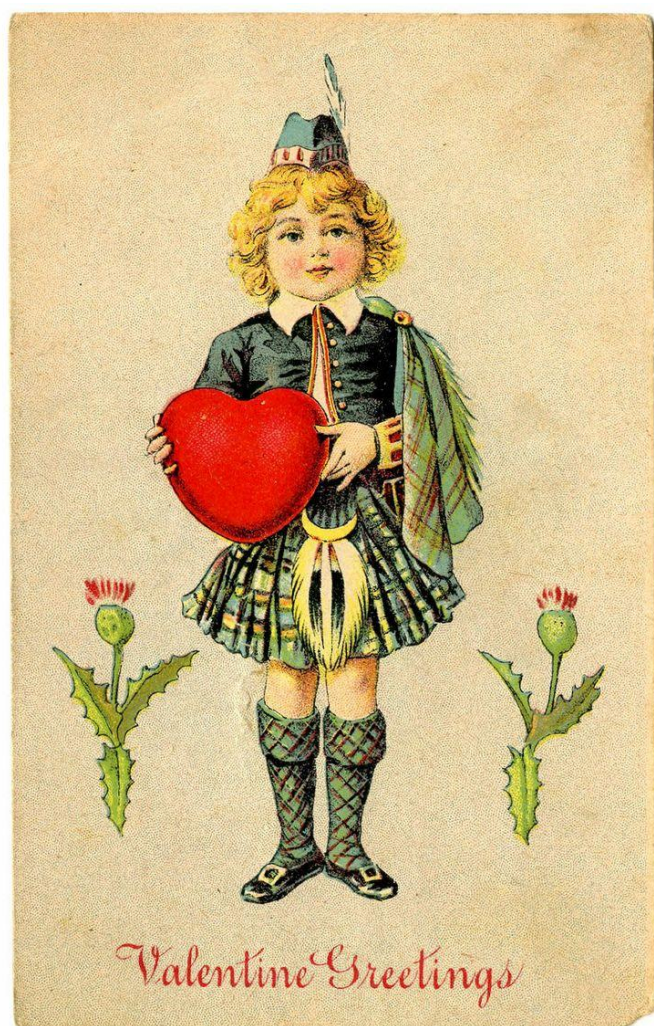


FORSYTH NOTES

February 1, 2015



Welcome to the three hundredth seventh issue of *Forsyth Notes*. *Forsyth Notes* is published monthly by Clan Forsyth Society of the USA, and is your e-link to your extended Forsyth family. [Click here](#) for back issues of *Forsyth Notes* in PDF format.



From Clan Forsyth Society

A Wee Bit of Scottish Humor

The Bagpiper

By Gary Martz

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.



As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop to ask for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and saw that the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept and we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently... I'm still lost!

What is Groundhog Day?

Origins of Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney Phil, and Other Famous Groundhogs

By [Albrecht Powell](#)

German tradition holds that if the sun comes out on [Candlemas](#), the precursor to Groundhog Day, the hedgehog (or badger) will see its shadow and six more weeks of winter will follow. When German settlers came to Pennsylvania they continued this tradition, using groundhogs instead of hedgehogs to predict the weather.



Groundhog Day

The first official Groundhog Day was celebrated on February 2, 1886 in

Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with a proclamation in *The Punxsutawney Spirit* by the newspaper's editor, Clymer Freas: "Today is groundhog day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The legendary first Groundhog Day trip to Gobbler's Knob was made the following year by a group of spirited groundhog hunters who dubbed themselves "The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club." Clymer, a member of the club, used his editorial clout to proclaim that Phil, the Punxsutawney Groundhog, was the one and only official weather prognosticating groundhog.



Phil's fame began to spread and newspapers from around the world began to report his predictions. Growing legions of fans started making the trek to Punxsutawney every February 2, and with the release of the 1993 movie [Groundhog Day](#), starring Bill Murray, the crowds began to number in the tens of thousands. Phil's yearly Groundhog Day predictions are actually even entered into the Congressional Record!

Questions and Answers About [Groundhog Day](#) in Punxsutawney:

Where does the name Punxsutawney come from?

Punxsutawney was first settled by the Delaware Indians in 1723 and its name comes from the Indian name for the location "ponksad-uteney" which means the "town of the sandflies." The name *woodchuck* also has Indian origins, coming from the legend of "Wojak, the groundhog."

Where exactly is Punxsutawney?

[Punxsutawney](#) is located in [Western Pennsylvania](#), about 80 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

How did Phil get his name?

The groundhog's full name is actually "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." It was so proclaimed by the "Punxsutawney Groundhog Club" in 1887, the same year they declared Punxsutawney to be the weather capital of the world.

How do you know it is really Phil at Gobbler's Knob?

For most of the year, Phil lives in a climate-controlled home at the Punxsutawney Library. He is taken to Gobbler's Knob and placed in a heated burrow underneath a simulated tree stump on stage before being pulled out at 7:25 am on Groundhog Day, February 2, to make his prediction.

How old is Phil anyway?

Phil is reputed by townspeople to be more than 100 years old, surviving beyond a marmot's normal life span thanks to the strong constitution of his wife, Phyllis, and a steady diet of Groundhog Punch.

Was the 1993 film *Groundhog Day* really filmed in Punxsutawney?



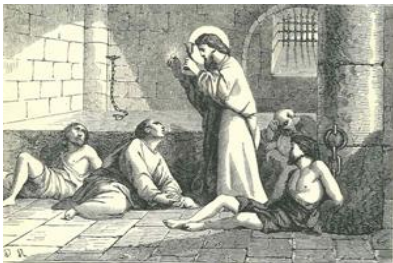
Unfortunately, the answer is no. Columbia Pictures decided to film the movie in a location more accessible to a major metropolitan center. Punxsutawney is located in a very rural area with few highways, so Woodstock, Illinois was chosen as the site for the movie. As a result adjustments had to be made for the production. The actual Gobbler's Knob is a wooded hill with a beautiful view; the Gobbler's Knob in the movie is moved to the town square though it is recreated to scale based on detailed notes and videos the crew made on its visit to Punxsutawney.

What can I expect at the Punxsutawney Groundhog Day celebration?

Plan to arrive in Punxsutawney no later than 6am in time to catch one of several shuttles providing transportation to Gobbler's Knob (there is no parking at the Knob). Or, arrive a day or two earlier for a weekend of action-packed events including a chili cook-off, ice carving exhibitions, trivia contests, a Prognosticators Ball, groundhog day weddings, [sleigh rides](#), woodchuck whittling, the Phil Phind Scavenger Hunt, music, food, fun and games. If you happen to be celebrating a birthday on February 2nd, then you are invited to join others who share the special day for Phil's Birthday Celebration and a free souvenir.

THE HISTORY OF SAINT VALENTINE

The Celtic Times



Legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young, unattached males. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages in secret for young lovers. When Valentine's defiance was discovered, Claudius ordered him put to death. Another story suggests that Valentine may have been martyred for trying to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. Yet another legend says the saint was the one who sent the very first Valentine. According to the story, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter while he was in prison and sent her a message of affection, signed "From Your Valentine."

While much of what is written about the saint is, at best, very murky and unreliable, these stories certainly illustrate his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, romantic figure. So, it's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France. But why is his day celebrated in mid-February? There are those that believe it's to commemorate the anniversary of his death which occurred around 270 AD. However, it's more likely that the Church

decided to make this day the feast of St. Valentine in an effort to Christianize Lupercalia, an ancient pagan festival.

In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February - February 15 - was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests sacrificed a goat for fertility, and then, young boys sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goat-hide strips. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

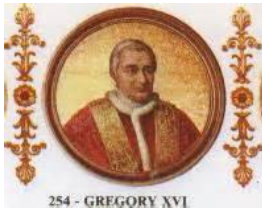


Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Much, much later, during the middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14th was when birds began to mate which added to the idea that the middle of February - Valentine's Day - should be a day for romance.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions at a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Here in the United States, we probably began exchanging hand-made Valentines in the early 1700s and then, in the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced Valentines in America.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion Valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. Christmas is the first.

While there's no definitive written account of St. Valentine and his life in the third century, his Irish connection is more recent - and documented. In the year 1836, Pope Gregory XVI sent a gift to the Carmelite Church on Whitefriar Street, Dublin, in



recognition of the work of the church's former prior, Father John Spratt, who was widely recognized as a very holy man. The gift was a relic of a Christian martyr: a small gold-bound casket containing the earthly remains of St. Valentine. The relic had been exhumed from the cemetery of St. Hyppolytus on the Tiburtine Way in Rome, placed in a golden casket, and brought to Dublin, where it was enshrined in the little church with great ceremony. This year, on February 14th, as it has in every year since, the casket containing the Saint's mortal remains will be carried in solemn procession to the high altar of the Carmelite Church for a special Mass dedicated to young people and those in love. If you're lucky enough to be there, this little known Dublin church also sells Valentine's Day cards. Truly, it can be said - these are the genuine article!

For those wishing to visit St. Valentine's Shrine in Dublin, the church is located between Aungier Street and Wexford Street, just a few minutes' walk west of St Stephen's Green. Besides the cards, one can also purchase various souvenirs bearing the saint's image.

Valentine's Day Quotations For Your Sweetheart

At this romantic season, here are several Quotations for your Valentine:

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine! ~Thomas Hood

Many are the stars I see, but in my eye no star like thee.
~English saying used on poesy rings

For you see, each day I love you more
Today more than yesterday and less than tomorrow.
~Rosemonde Gerard

Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end. ~Author Unknown

Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart.
~Author Unknown

A hundred hearts would be too few
To carry all my love for you.
~Author Unknown



We're all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness — and call it love — true love. ~Robert Fulghum, *True Love*

Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs. ~William Shakespeare

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular? ~Author Unknown

In melody divine,
My heart it beats to rapturous love,
I long to call you mine.
~Author Unknown

Grow old with me! The best is yet to be. ~Robert Browning

The hours I spend with you I look upon as sort of a perfumed garden, a dim twilight, and a fountain singing to it. You and you alone make me feel that I am alive. Other men it is said have seen angels, but I have seen thee and thou art enough. ~George Moore

We loved with a love that was more than love. ~Edgar Allan Poe

A bell is no bell 'til you ring it,
A song is no song 'til you sing it,
And love in your heart
Wasn't put there to stay -
Love isn't love
'Til you give it away.
~Oscar Hammerstein, *Sound of Music*, "You Are Sixteen (Reprise)"



I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach. ~Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Take away love and our earth is a tomb. ~Robert Browning

Valentine hearts beat more passionately than everyday hearts. ~Anonymous, winner of February 2011 @quotegarden Twitter create your own quote contest

I love thee — I love thee,
'Tis all that I can say
It is my vision in the night,
My dreaming in the day.
~Thomas Hood

At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet. ~Plato

True love stories never have endings. ~Richard Bach

Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold. ~Zelda Fitzgerald

Ah me! love cannot be cured by herbs. ~Ovid

Soul meets soul on lovers' lips. ~Percy Bysshe Shelley



Sometimes we make love with our eyes. Sometimes we make love with our hands. Sometimes we make love with our bodies. Always we make love with our hearts. ~Author Unknown

Love puts the fun in together, the sad in apart, and the joy in a heart. ~Author Unknown

A baby is born with a need to be loved — and never outgrows it. ~Frank A. Clark

love you like crazy, baby
'Cuz I'd go crazy without you.
~Pixie Foudre

It is astonishing how little one feels alone when one loves. ~John Bulwer

Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired. ~Robert Frost

For twas not into my ear you whispered
But into my heart
Twas not my lips you kissed
But my soul
~Judy Garland

As soon go kindle fire with snow, as seek to quench the fire of love with words.
~William Shakespeare

My heart to you is given:
Oh, do give yours to me;
We'll lock them up together,
And throw away the key.
~Frederick Saunders

Love is a canvas furnished by Nature and embroidered by imagination. ~Voltaire

Like I've always said, love wouldn't be blind if the braille weren't so damned much fun. ~Armistead Maupin, *Maybe the Moon*

If I had a single flower for every time I think of you, I could walk forever in my garden.
~Claudia Adrienne Grandi

Presidents' Day - What Does it Mean?

By [Lauren Himiak](#)



Stefano Salvetti/Digital Vision/Getty Images

To some, the observance of Presidents' Day in the United States goes very much unnoticed. Local newspapers splash ads of "President's Day Sales!" and many get the day off from work. But have you ever stopped to think about this important day of recognition?

History

Presidents' Day is intended (for some) to honor all the American presidents, but most significantly [George Washington](#) and [Abraham Lincoln](#). According to the [Gregorian](#) or "New Style" calendar that is most commonly used today, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. But according to the [Julian](#) or "Old Style" calendar that was used in England until 1752, his birth date was February 11th. Back in the 1790s, Americans were split - some celebrated his birthday on February 11th and some on February 22nd.

When Abraham Lincoln became president and helped reshape our country, it was believed he, too, should have a special day of recognition. Tricky thing was that Lincoln's birthday fell on February 12th. Prior to 1968, having two presidential birthdays so close together didn't seem to bother anyone. February 22nd was observed [as a federal public holiday](#) to honor the birthday of George Washington and February 12th was observed as a public holiday to honor Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

In 1968, things changed when the 90th Congress was determined to create a uniform system of federal Monday holidays. They voted to shift three existing holidays (including Washington's Birthday) to Mondays. The law took effect in 1971, and as a result, [Washington's Birthday holiday](#) was changed to the third Monday in February. But not all Americans were happy with the new law. There was some concern that Washington's identity would be lost since the third Monday in February would never fall on his actual birthday. There was also an attempt to rename the public holiday "Presidents' Day", but the idea didn't go anywhere since some believed not all presidents deserved a special recognition.



Even though Congress had created a uniform federal holiday law, there was not a uniform holiday title agreement among the individual states. Some states, like California, Idaho, Tennessee and Texas chose not to retain the federal holiday title and renamed their state holiday "President's Day." From that point forward, the term

"Presidents' Day" became a marketing phenomenon, as advertisers sought to capitalize on the opportunity for three-day or week-long sales.

In 1999, bills were introduced in both the U.S. House (HR-1363) and Senate (S-978) to specify that the legal public holiday once referred to as Washington's Birthday be "officially" called by that name once again. Both bills died in committees.

Today, President's Day is well accepted and celebrated. Some communities still observe the original holidays of Washington and Lincoln, and [many parks](#) actually stage reenactments and pageants in their honor. The National Park Service also features a number of historic sites and memorials to honor the [lives of these two presidents](#), as well as other important leaders.



Where to Visit

The [George Washington Birthplace National Monument](#) in VA, holds an [annual birthday celebration on President's Day](#) and on his actual birthday. Visitors can enjoy special colonial activities held throughout the day. [Mount Vernon](#) (now part of the [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)) also honors George Washington with a birthday celebration weekend and an annual fee-free day (the third Monday of February).

Annual activities to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday include: a February 12th wreath laying ceremony at [Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site](#) in KY; [Lincoln Day](#), held each year on the Sunday closest to February 12th at [Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial](#) in IN; and special birthday programs at the [Lincoln Home National Historic Site](#) in IL. Each year, other special events are added, so be sure to check park calendars before you travel.

The [National Park Service](#) also maintains a number of sites that commemorate other past presidents, including [John Adams](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), [John Quincy Adams](#), [Martin Van Buren](#), [Andrew Johnson](#), [Ulysses Grant](#), [James Garfield](#), [Teddy Roosevelt](#), [William Taft](#), [Herbert Hoover](#), [Franklin Roosevelt](#), [Harry Truman](#), [Dwight Eisenhower](#), [John F. Kennedy](#), [Lyndon Johnson](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), and [Bill Clinton](#). You may also want to visit inspiring places like [Mount Rushmore](#) or [military parks](#) such as Gettysburg for a fun-filled visit.

Loony Dookers Get 2015 Off To A Splash



Picture: HeMedia

A THOUSAND revellers braved pouring rain and the freezing waters of the Firth of Forth for the annual Loony Dook event.

Scotland's biggest New Year's Day dip saw a colourful fancy dress parade and samba band wind its way through South Queensferry before the participants - led by Edinburgh's Lord Provost Donald Wilson - dashed into the water against the backdrop of the Forth Bridge.

Thousands of locals lined the streets and the walls of the town's harbour to enjoy the spectacle, which predates the capital's Hogmanay festival having first been held in 1987.

Dookers from all over the world shrugged off the downpours to don skimpy mankinis costumes, colourful bikinis and themed fancy dress outfits.

Kilted Australian James Scrimgeour, 20, from Perth, said: "I only heard about this event when the tour I was on arrived in Edinburgh and someone else wasn't able to use their ticket.

"I thought it just sounded like one of those things you had to experience.

"It felt like a bit of unity think, with people from all over the world coming together to express gratitude for the great time we've had in Edinburgh over the last few days.



"It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or what you do, you get to experience it together."

New Yorker Hammad N'Cho said: "It was a completely crazy event, it was really kind of cold in there, but everybody was having a hell of a lot of fun.

"I'm here as part of my first ever trip to Europe. They certainly don't have events like this at home."

Laura Aird, a veterinary nurse from the Isle of Harris, one of four friends taking a dip together, said: "We decided we wanted to do something really Scottish together to start the new year.

Five Of Scotland's Most Haunted Places

The Scotsman.com



The exterior of Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire pictured in 1960. Picture: TSPL

COULD Scotland be one of the world's most haunted nations? It's certainly had a history bloody and savage enough to be a contender. Murder, war, disease and

cruelty underpin sightings, real or imagined, of ghosts in some of the country's most famous castles, thoroughfares and tourist attractions. Here are five of Scotland's most notoriously ghoulish spots

The Royal Mile, Edinburgh

One of Scotland's most reputedly [haunted places](#), Edinburgh's Royal Mile nevertheless pulls in so many tourists each year - many of whom come to see the street's numerous ghost tours and attractions - that you start to wonder who's more scared of who. Mary King's Close is one of the city's most famously haunted areas, which was shut off after plague overcame the street and its residents.

The most common ghost story relating to the Mile itself concerns the Death Coach, an apparently driverless carriage drawn by flaming headless horses seen on the eve of some sort of disaster. Similar tales of Death Coach sightings exist in Irish folklore, where sightings of the carriage are a sure sign of someone's impending death. To return to Scots folklore, the coach on the Mile is said to have been linked to Major [Thomas Weir](#), a one-time respected military officer who revealed himself to be partial to incest, bestiality and witchcraft. After his execution, the coach became, in the eyes of some, his de facto public transport.

Culloden Moor, Inverness-shire

The Battle of Culloden was the last pitched battle fought in Scotland, and it was also one of the bloodiest. The conflict ended the Jacobite rebellion, extinguished the Stuart claim to the British throne, and sent Bonnie Prince Charlie, who led the Jacobites to battle, into eventual exile in France. Up to 2,000 Jacobites died on the moor with the odds stacked against them, as well as the wind and the rain.

With Culloden's bloody history, there are bound to be a few scare stories that do the rounds: birds are said not to sing near the graves of the fallen on the field; 'anniversary ghosts' are said to arrive on the site of the battle on April 16 to reenact the clashes; broadswords can apparently be heard swinging against each other. Most frightening of all is the Great Scree of Culloden, a spectral black bird apparently sighted by a Jacobite commander on the eve of battle (it turned out, of course, to be a pretty bad omen). It makes the occasional cameo on the moor, and it gives bad luck to any poor sod who comes across it.

Glamis Castle, Angus

Glamis Castle is a storied fortress with an ensemble cast of spirits with scary names and ailments: Lord Beardie, the Grey Lady, and a woman without a tongue, among others. Situated on lands that have belonged to the Bowes-Lyons family since the 14th century (they were given the land by one Robert the Bruce - you might have heard of him), Glamis Castle is the birthplace of Princess Margaret, and was written about by Shakespeare in MacBeth.

The most famous story of Glamis Castle is about Earl Beardie, otherwise known as Alexander, Earl Crawford, who, by all accounts, was a pretty horrible guy. The story



goes that he ended up screaming the castle down in a drunken rage as he searched out a partner to play cards with. A man knocked on the door and asked the Earl if he was still searching for an opponent, and the two men sat down to play. Some time later, the Earl left the room reprimanded a peeping servant, who lost an eye after peeping through the keyhole. After returning, the Earl found the man he'd been playing with was missing - and had taken his soul with him. Apparently he'd wagered it, and had unknowingly invoked the Devil by earlier vowing that he'd play the Devil himself for the sake of a game.

A secret room is also widely suspected to be somewhere within the castle walls. Chillingly, the 13th Earl of Strathmore, Claude Bowes-Lyon, once said: "If you could even guess the nature of this castle's secret you would get down on your knees and thank God it was not yours." It was speculated that the secret room contained a prisoner. A collage of stories paint a picture of a disfigured person who may or may not have been the son of the 11th Earl of Strathmore, or the offspring of his son Lord Glamis.

Edinburgh Vaults

The vaults deep beneath Edinburgh's picturesque, cobbled exterior are, because of their location, inherently uninviting. A deep, dark and damp warren of stone tunnels built in the late 18th century to house tradesmen and pubs, the vaults were poorly built and soon became slum dwellings for the city's poorest once businesses packed up and left their leaking premises. When you take regular sightings of spirits into account, then the vaults may really be one of the scariest places in the country. It was also, seemingly, tailor-made to be haunted.



By the turn of the 19th century the vaults were just a few years away from being completely abandoned; in one of the many nadirs of the vaults' history, Burke and Hare reportedly prowled these makeshift slums for potential victims. Another story has it that the first person to cross South Bridge, a part of the greater structure of the vaults, ended up in a coffin a few days later. Quite apart from misfortune or bad omens, many others would have died from living in the abysmally unsanitary conditions in the vaults. This is perhaps why no specific, famous [ghost stories](#) have emerged from the vaults. Various television crews of the Living.TV variety have visited the vaults for low-hanging spectral fruit, which there seems to be [plenty of](#).

Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire



Fyvie Castle has passed through various families since it was built in 1211, but has belonged to the National Trust for the last 30 years. Fyvie Castle's ghost problems have been public record quite recently - Robert Lovie, a caretaker for the historic building said as recently as two years ago that "strange and unexplainable things happen here regularly... objects move and

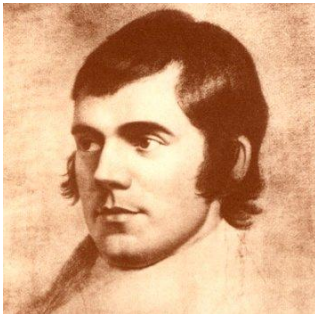
sometimes disappear altogether." The majority of spiritual sightings stem from two long-dead women, Lady Meldrum and Dame Lillias Drummond, known as the Grey Lady and the Green Lady respectively.

Lady Meldrum's remains were, as per her request, locked in a secret room. This room was disturbed in 1920 by workmen renovating the castle, who found her remains. Lady Meldrum had reputedly placed a curse on anyone who entered the room, and hauntings connected to her have been reported ever since.

Dame Lillias Drummond was reportedly starved to death by her husband Sir Alexander Seton, who wanted to marry her cousin. Her name is scratched upside-down from outside on the window sill of where Seton and his new wife slept. It is said that Seton and his new wife heard scratches and deep moanings in their room, and found the carving the next morning. The Green Lady has been seen by visitors and guests of the castle for over 250 years, and she is often said to leave a floral smell behind her.

The Bard's Corner

Robert Burns worked for the final ten years of his life on projects to preserve traditional Scottish songs for the future. In all, Burns had a hand in preserving over 300 songs for posterity, the most famous being "[Auld Lang Syne](#)". He worked on this project for [James Johnson's](#) the [Scots Musical Museum](#) (1787-1803) and for [George Thomson's](#) five-volume *A Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice*. Burns had intended the work to be published as part of Thomson's selection. However, he wrote to a friend that Thomson and he disagreed on the merits of that type of song. "What to me appears to be the simple and the wild, to him, and I suspect to you likewise, will be looked on as the ludicrous and the absurd."



Instead, Burns gave the song to Scots singer [Pietro Urbani](#) who published it in his *Scots Songs*. In his book, Urbani claimed *the words of The Red Red Rose were obligingly given to him by a celebrated Scots poet, who was so struck by them when sung by a country girl that he wrote them down and, not being pleased with the air, begged the author to set them to music in the style of a Scots tune, which he has done accordingly*. In other correspondence, Burns referred to it as a "simple old Scots song which I had picked up in the country."

The lyrics of the song are simple but effective. "My luve's like a red, red rose/That's newly sprung in June" describe a love that is both fresh and long lasting. [David Daiches](#) in his work describes Burns as "the greatest songwriter Britain has produced" for his work in refurbishing and improving traditional Scots songs including "Red, Red Rose" which he described as a "combination of tenderness and swagger."

O my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.



As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I:
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee well, my only Luve
And fare thee well, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.



"My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose",
-- by Robert Burns, 1794.

Childhood Memories

How about some pictures from old Scotland? If you remember all of them, you are "older than the hills". Admittedly, many of us are.

 <p>Scottish Soldiers</p>	 <p>Young Shepherders in Old Scotland</p>	 <p>Scottish Golfers</p>
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Words of Wisdom

We will all miss J. D. Forsythe's marvelous Nuggets of Wisdom. J.D.'s Nuggets are irreplaceable. However, we would like to carry on the tradition started by "Ole Jim". In an effort to carry on, we are planning to look to some of the great, and not so great, thinkers of history for their words of wisdom. Here goes:

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month" - Theodore Roosevelt

"If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner." - Tallulah Bankhead

"You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think." - Milton Berle

"If at first you don't succeed, blame your parents." - Marcelene Cox

Devotional

Devotional from Scotland

Posted by [Keith Worship](#)

Greetings from Scotland — a land of ancestry for many of us, including our religious heritage. Having friends all over the world, I wanted to share this devotional with all of you. I've always been intrigued by the way music can join us together; transcending distance and time.

As spectacular as the universe is, we worship not the universe, but the God of the universe. No matter where man goes, whether returning to the moon or journeying to planets beyond, God is already present. Psalm 139 says, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide



me...”

If I look down to examine the molecules of sand below my feet, I see God’s handiwork. If I gaze upon the stars and galaxies, He is certainly there.

Isaac Watts penned these words:

“I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food.
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There’s not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.”

No matter what part of this globe you inhabit, would you join in worship with me?

Let’s worship the God who made the mountains rise.
Let’s praise the God who ordained the sun to rule the day;
Whose glory can be seen in every flower;
Whose power directs every weather pattern.
Let’s sing the goodness and the wisdom of the one from whom all life originates.

Worship with me in tears, as we hear the human voice, the instrument God created, so eloquently sing the mighty power of God.

Click here to hear the song: [I Sing The Mighty Power of God](#)

Clan Forsyth Society of the USA



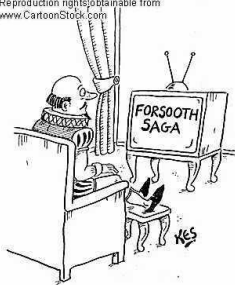
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Clan Forsyth makes a great gift for your child or grandchild. Acquaint your family with their illustrious Forsyth heritage. The cost is small – the rewards are great.

We welcome our Forsyth cousins to Clan Forsyth Society of the USA. Be sure to visit our official Clan Forsyth Society of the USA web site at <http://alt.xmission.com/~forsyth> for the latest information on Clan Forsyth Society of the USA activities. You can visit Clan Forsyth – Rocky Mountain Region web site at <http://www.clanforsyth.org>, where you will find Clan Forsyth updates, and back issues of Forsyth Notes. If you have a Clan Forsyth or Scottish oriented web site, send your URL to jim@clanforsyth.org, and we will share your site with other Forsyths.

What's In A Name

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There are many variations of the Forsyth Name. Some of the following may be alternate spellings of the Forsyth name: de Forsyth; de Fronsac; Farcet; Faresyth; Farsieth; Farsyth; Fawsyde; Fearsithe; Fersight; Fersite; Fersith; Fersy; Fersyth; Foirside; Forcet; Forcett; Forcitt; Forcyth; Foresaith; Foreside; Foresight; Foresith; Foresyde; Foresyth; Foresythe; Forsaith; Forsate; Forsath; Forsayeth; Forsayth; Forsaythe; Forscythe; Forseith; Forseth; Forsett; Forsey; Forseyth; Forside; Forsit; Forsite; Forsith; Forsithe; Forsitht; Forsitt; Forsiyth; Forsize; Forsycht; Forsyeth; Forsyth; Forsythe; Forsythes; Forsyths; Forsytht; Fronsac; Fursett; MacForsyth; and Sytes.

Contact your local Clan Forsyth Representative or President Dale Forsyth Sandusky to determine if you qualify for membership in Clan Forsyth Society.

If you know anyone who bears the Forsyth name, or any one of the many variations, or who is married to a Forsyth, or who is descended from a Forsyth, please encourage him or her to contact their local Clan Forsyth Representative or President Dale Forsyth Sandusky for additional information and a Clan Forsyth Society Membership Application.

We welcome our Forsyth/Forsythe cousins from around the world.

Clan Forsyth Apparel & More



Cherylene Rosenvall
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Celticsewing@hotmail.com

Please check with Cherylene for current prices, other items available and discounted items she has in stock.

Cherylene has 11 years of experience as a kiltmaker and specializes in Traditional Scottish attire for Highland dance and events.

A Puzzle for You



This is a wonderful 3D illusion of a serpent in water which resembles the Loch Ness monster from the Scottish Highlands, possibly one of the world's best known cryptids. This very creative piece of artwork was drawn using different colored chalks by street artists Joe Hill and Max Lowry who decorate streets around the world. As you can see from looking at this image they are true masters of anamorphic drawings.

Closing



Many people add greetings or blessings at the end of their e-mails (and snail mail). Here is an old Celtic blessing for you:

May your days be many and your troubles be few. May all God's blessings descend upon you. May peace be within you may your heart be strong. May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

Yours aye,

James H. "Jim" Forsythe
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