

Scotland's Court of the Lord Lyon King Of Arms

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By Charles E. Swann

The average American might have at least a foggy understanding of "lords" in British circles, but would almost certainly draw a blank if asked to define a "king of arms." That is the name given to the senior officer with royal authority to grant or recognize armorial bearings in Scotland. Other monarchical countries, including those in the British Commonwealth, have equivalent officers.

Scotland has only one such officer, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, while England has three. At least five British heraldic orders (honors granted by the throne) have their own kings of



Sir Francis Grant, Lord Lyon King of Arms, leads a procession to the 1933 Armistice Service at Giles Cathedral, followed by The Duke of York and the Rev. Charles Warr, Dean of the Thistle.

arms. Known as heralds in some countries, there are today such officers in Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Sweden, New Zealand and Spain. The office has disappeared in countries such as Portugal, which no longer have monarchies.

Scotland's Lord Lyon is both a Great Officer of State in the U.K. and a judge in the Scottish judiciary. The Lyon Court is the oldest heraldic court in the world still in daily operation. It is, indeed, a court before which lawyers plead in wigs and gowns in true British fashion and protocol.

Although some historians question the date, some early writings suggest that the first Lord Lyon was appointed by King Robert the Bruce in 1318 or thereabouts. The title of

Lyon is seen in the historical record in 1377, but specific occupants of the office before 1388 are unknown. What is known definitively are the names of all 34 holders of the office from Henry Greve in 1388 through the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph Morrow, who was appointed to the office by the queen in January 2014.

The name "Lyon" was adopted because the royal coat of arms for Scotland principally depicted a lion rampant. The Lord Lyon is one of the few individuals in Scotland officially permit-

Lord Lyon, continued on page 4



John Muir Day 2015

By David Campbell

Saturday April 18th was a lovely Spring day to spend in Martinez, especially at the John Muir National Historic site—in celebration of his 177th birthday! The California Govern-

ment Code Section 6714 reads: "The Governor annually shall proclaim April 21st to be 'John Muir Day'." As such, the site located on his estate typically celebrates John Muir Day on the Saturday closest to April 21st.

As an naturalist and conservationist, it is most fitting that John Muir Day and Earth Day are

John Muir Day, continued on page 2

MAY 2015 ~ Vol. 152, NO. 4

| | |
|---|---|
| Court of the Lord Lyon | 1 |
| The oldest heradic court still in daily operation | |
| John Muir Day 2015 | 1 |
| A celebration of his 177th birthday | |
| President's Letter | 2 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Rosemary Mucklow | 2 |
| A generous book donation | |
| Author and Farmer Thomas Mitchell | 3 |
| Essays on the smiple life | |
| Upcoming Events | 8 |



President's Letter – May 2015

First I'd like to warmly welcome Susan Goodier who has kindly agreed to help us by taking the newly created roll of Executive Administrator.

I'm hoping that this part time position will be able to serve as a back-stop in our previously all volunteer organization, so that from time to time when we drop the ball our Executive Admin will be able to make sure we don't fumble too badly.

Also I'm hoping the role will provide continuity over the years as Officers come and go so that there will be a reservoir of knowledge and expertise to make sure things run smoothly

At our upcoming meeting in May I will be bringing forth another proposal for discussion only. Our Presidents are well recognized and appreciated. We receive a nice medal and we are recognized. The list of Past Presidents is on our website, however there are many people who serve our Society for many years who are not properly recognized. Without naming

names, just as an example, we have a former Secretary who served for decades in our group and because he never went on the Officer's line he was never recognized.

Therefore I will be proposing that we establish a St. Andrew's Society Service Medal to recognize outstanding contributions to our Society. I hope I will see you all at our upcoming meeting to discuss this idea more fully.

Yours Aye

Jaame I. Koyil

President



Rosemary Mucklow: Scottish Books Donation to St. Andrew's

By David Campbell

The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Rosemary Mucklow of Berkeley, who in April donated to the Society a significant portion of her brother-in-law Errol's library of Scottish books.

For a little background about Errol and his collection, Rosemary wrote the following: "Errol was from the border country, and clearly his father and his uncle loved books. Some are from a lady that used to visit my home in Edinburgh in the 30s and 40s—and her husband loved books. These include the Waverley novels, and history of Edinburgh in several volumes—all 19th century age!"

Also among this small treasure of 56 books include the subject matter of the "three Roberts": Robert The Bruce, Robert Burns, and Robert Louis Stevenson; also Mary Queen of Scots. Two titles in particular which I'm looking forward to reading are: *The Scottish Nation* and *Empire and Shield*.

You might also be interested to know that Rosemary hosts a community style Burns Supper in Berkeley each year...and in many ways helps to keep alive the flower and brightly shining the flame of Scotland!

I plan on interviewing Rosemary in the near future with the prospect of a longer biography for our newsletter. Also, I think Rosemary would be a fascinating speaker at our monthly meeting (which suggestion I'll make to 2nd VP Francesca McCrossan). Submitted with gratitude to Rosemary by David Campbell.

From Front Cover

John Muir Day

celebrated on successive days (Earth Day follows on April 22nd).

Coordinating closely with John Muir Association Event Coordinator George Turnbull, the day was well organized and came off very smoothly. The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco was welcomed back—we staffed a table to represent our Society and to reach out to the community.

We were represented well by the following members: Kitty Lenhart, Kristian Mullins, Roger Weed, and David Campbell. Special thanks to Kristian who arrived early and stayed late to help with both set up and take down.

Also, thanks to Kitty who came mid-day and stayed for much of the afternoon. Special mention also of Roger who doubled on the day as bagpiper with the Piedmont Highlanders. Finally, through our tabling efforts we were able to attract the attention of more than a dozen "prospective members" who expressed interest in our St. Andrew's Society, and signed up to find out more. Thank you to all...well done!

*Note: John Muir was born April 21, 1838 in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland; died December 24, 1914 (at the age of 76) in Los Angeles, California.





Thomas Mitchell: A Simple Scottish Farmer

By Sheila Harrison

I am contacting you in the hope that you and your members may be interested in a book entitled *Essays on Life* written between 1910 and 1914 by, Thomas Mitchell, a simple Scottish farmer and my grandfather. The book has received several positive reviews in Scottish publications and we think that it would appeal to American readers, your 19th century American writer Elihu Burritt being referred to frequently as a kindred spirit with whom Thomas Mitchell identified closely. James Garfield and social reformer Gerrit Smith are also held up as examples to follow.

Recently published by Vagabond Voices, the book is a fundraising project with all proceeds going to Crathie Opportunity Holidays, a charity based in Aberdeenshire, Scotland providing holiday accommodation specially equipped for disabled people, many of whom have never before been able to enjoy a holiday with their families and carers. (www.crathieholidays.org.uk)

Crathie Opportunity Holidays was started by, is associated with and sits in the grounds of Crathie Kirk, which is the church attended by the HM The Queen and her family whilst they are in residence at their summer retreat Balmoral Castle which sits across the river from the holiday cottages. The Duchess of Rothesay is the current patron and she and Prince Charles are keen supporters of the project.

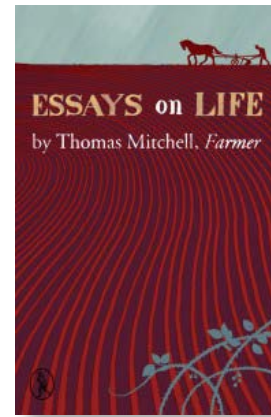
If you wish to purchase the book visit www.vagabondvoices.co.uk. Further details on the author can be found at www.thomas-mitchellfarmer.wordpress.com.

A short summary of *Essays on Life*

The book comprises six essays—The Art of Living, The Secret of Success, The Value of Work, Thrift, Education and Its Value and finally Friendship. A brief outline of the content is as follows...

1. The Art Of Living

“How or in what way is a man to make the most of his life, not only for his own comfort, happiness and wellbeing, and that of those who may be dependent upon him but also for the good, the prosperity and welfare of the community in which he live?”



He goes on to give four elements—Usefulness Happiness, Character and Self Respect—as being the requisites.

2. The Secret of Success

“How is it that one man succeeds and why is it that another fails?”

Six elements of success discussed are: Tact. (“Talent is power. Tact is skill. Talent knows what to do. Tact knows how to do it.”) Decision and Energy, Perseverance, Industry, The Economic Use of Time and Money and Character

3. The Value of Work

“It is a matter of fact that to thoroughly enjoy life, we must have plenty of work to occupy our time... Work is the best of all educators, for it forces men into contact with others and with things as they really are.”

4. Thrift

“The accumulation of money seems to be the passion of the age - more so than in any ages that are past—men are too eager to become rich... We study political economy and let social economy shift for itself...”

5. Education and its Value

“The best teachers have been the readiest to recognise the importance of self-culture, by stimulating the student to acquire knowledge by the active exercise of his own faculties, to rely more upon training than telling, to make pupils themselves active parties to the work in which they are engaged”

6. Friendship

“Friendship has been regarded, in all ages, as one of the most important relationships of life. Cicero says that it is the only thing on the importance of which mankind is agreed.”

“In conclusion, I would say that to live without friends, suspicious of others and careful of our own interests only, is to dishonour and hurt our own nature”

ted to fly the Lion Rampant flag, the royal standard of Scotland, commonly called today “the Queen’s Flag.” The Scottish and English kings of arms are the only officers to have distinctive, full-fledged crowns of office—as opposed to members of the five ranks of British nobility, who may wear only coronets.

The earliest Lyons held their office for life. As they could not retire or resign, some stayed in office even after they were unfit to perform their duties. This arrangement was untenable, however, and from 1567, they were permitted to resign their office. They could also thereafter be removed from office at the king’s discretion. An early example was Sir William Stewart who, after only six months of service, was stripped of his title in 1568 for “necromancy and conspiracy to kill the regent.”

Some, but not all, the duties of the Lord Lyon have changed markedly over the centuries. In the earliest days, a principal function of the office was to identify and confirm the correct heir to the Scottish throne. It was Lyon’s duty to certify that the genealogy of the claimant was “honorable and accurate.”

Also in early days, a major function of the office holder was to serve as the king’s diplomat. Other duties included organizing royal ceremonies, such as coronations, royal weddings and funerals, christenings and tournaments. At tournaments, Lyon, with other heralds, kept score sheets, judged blows, inspected arms and crests, and verified the heredity of participants. (Tournament participants had to be of the gentry, not commoners.) He also was charged with recording the granting and the taking away of armorial bearings, i.e., coats of arms.

The king of arms was ritually crowned and vested with his tabard and baton of office. This established a ceremonial bond between the king and Lyon, his principal herald. The ceremony also served to reinforce Lyon’s quasi-royal status, which was

very important in carrying out some of his duties, both domestically and internationally. But the Lord Lyon was never a second or junior king of the realm.

A commonly performed duty of any herald, including Lyon, was the transmission of royal communications. Lyon went on these errands only when the person of the king’s officer of arms would



New Register House in Edinburgh, which houses the offices of the Lyon Court, is open to the public.



Robin Blair, wearing the robes of office, was Lord Lyon from 2001-2008.

add sufficient gravity to the delivery. According to historian Katie Stevens, from the late 14th century, Lyon was regularly sent by the king to England, Flanders, Bruges, Zeeland, Denmark, Norway, Rome, France and Portugal.

Lyon carried letters to kings under his own king’s Great Seal, renewed treaties at the king’s direction and negotiated royal family marriages, as royals could marry only other royals. Lyon was described in 1478 as “an ambassador, an orator and a commissioner for the King of Scots.” Indeed, it is clear that Lyon, not the magnates and prelates found in the diplomatic corps, was charged with acting as the king’s spokesman.

Frequent travel on diplomatic missions meant that some command of languages was required, not only for conversing in foreign countries, but also for translating communications from foreign lands. There is evidence that the Lyons did research in royal and various other libraries to learn more about the countries they were to visit.

Lyon’s duties were not restricted to the ceremonial or diplomatic functions, however. According to historian Charles Barnett, it was during the reign of James IV (1488–1513) that Lyon became involved with the legal administration of Scotland and began acting as a procurator and advocate for the king. His domestic duties were rather more mundane. They included tax

collection, probably only from the mere handful of the titled gentry who owned all the land in Scotland, delivering the king's letters, and issuing summonses to the lords of council. Lyon was often chosen to represent the king and meet important visitors to Scotland. An instance of this, cited by Dr. Stevenson, is Lyon's meeting and escorting to Edinburgh the Englishmen who were carrying an installment of Princess Cecelia's dowry in 1477.

Although in many cases Lyon's domestic duties were similar to that of other heralds, the control of armorial bearings was the one in which he came to dominate. This purview has lasted through the centuries to become what is perhaps the most important and well-known function of the Lyon court today. Historical records make it clear that there was an official book of arms or armorial register by 1567. The Lord Lyon still maintains that register, as the Scottish official with the responsibility for regulating heraldry in the country and issuing new grants of arms to persons or organizations. Lyon also acts to confirm or deny claims to existing arms and pedigrees, including those leading to the chiefships of Scottish clans.

The maintenance of records of Scottish armorial bearings, or "arms," may have occurred as early as the 15th century, but it is clear that by 1567, an official register of arms existed. From 1672, what is now the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland has been maintained by the Court of the Lord Lyon.

The Lord Lyon no longer carries the king's messages. He is

So-called coats of arms are always the property of a single individual, never of a family or a clan. No one other than the grantee may use or display such arms. The property right in arms is taken quite seriously in Scotland. Misuse is a criminal offense that is likely to be prosecuted by the Court of the Lord Lyon, which maintains an official prosecutor for that purpose. In recent years, Marks and Spencer department stores, Mo-

hammed Al Fayed (owner of Harrod's department store) and Donald Trump have been subject to discipline by the court for misuse of arms.

New occupants of the office of the Lord Lyon are, these days, recommended to the queen by Scotland's first minister. This arrangement is stipulated under the Lyon Kings of Arms (Scotland) Act of 1867. When David Sellar, the 37th Lyon,



The Crown of Lord Lyon King of Arms.

announced that he would step down at the end of 2013, it was decided, for the first time in history, to advertise the position to attract qualified applicants. The post is nowadays part-time—three days a week—with a salary range of £56,000 to £78,500 (about \$87,500–\$123,000) "pro rata."

Effective in January 2014, the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph Morrow, chancellor of the diocese of Brechin, honorary canon of St. Paul's Cathedral in Dundee and chaplain of Glamis Castle was appointed by Queen Elizabeth (who followed the advice of the first minister's search committee) to this ancient and venerable office. Dr. Morrow has degrees in theology and law, and has been a student of heraldry for more than 30 years. He has held a number of official and charitable service posts over the years.



The current Lord Lyon, Dr. Joseph J. Morrow, took office in January 2014.

thought of today usually only in terms of granting new arms to persons or organizations and confirming pedigrees and claims to existing arms. But he is still responsible for overseeing state ceremonials in Scotland, such as the opening and closing of the Scottish Parliament. A relatively recent duty undertaken by the court is the recording of clan tartans - but only at the request of the clan chief. To date, only 28 such tartans are defined in the register.

Upcoming Events

Asilomar Weekend Asilomar Conference Grounds Pacific Grove, California

13th–15th November 2015

The San Francisco RSCDS Branch is now accepting applications for the 50th Branch Anniversary 2015 Asilomar Weekend this Autumn.

Join us for a magical weekend of Scottish Country Dancing celebrating on the spectacular Monterey Peninsula with world class teachers and outstanding musicians.

Workshops and Ball with teachers Jimmie Hill, Ruth Jappy, Elaine Brunken, Jeff Corrigan, Alan Twigg

Music provided by Fiddlesticks & Ivory and Judi Nicolson & Andy Imbrie

The Asilomar Conference Grounds and State Beach are renowned as the Monterey Peninsula's 'Refuge by the Sea'. If you are travelling from afar or nearby, there is no better time to start planning a memorable and unique autumn trip & come enjoy the magic that is Asilomar!

For more details, application and registration information visit www.sfasilomardance.wix.com/asilomarweekend2015.

Additional questions can be answered by contacting the Asilomar Weekend Chairperson Patti Cobb at pkcobb23@gmail.com. The Registrar Julee Montes can be reached at julm-hcs@pacbell.net.



Kildavie Excavation Kildavie, Scotland

August 30 to September 12th 2015

The Field School will consist of 2 weeks excavation at the abandoned settlement of Kildavie, possibly dating back to the Early Medieval period. The settlement was inhabited until the 18th Century before being abandoned, with many villagers leaving Scotland for North America. There are 18 places available for this Field School.

Additional information can be found at [Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice \(HARP\)](http://Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice (HARP)).



The Team Excavating one of the Test Pits

Save the Dates



Summer Ceilidh
July 11th, 2015
Encinal Yacht Club
Alameda, CA



Scottish Highland Games
Pleasanton, CA
September 5 and 6, 2015



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco
Banquet & Ball
November 28th, 2015



Meeting & Events Schedule

| Date | Event / Topic | Location / Notes |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 2015 | | |
| Mon. May 18 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Mon. June 15 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Sat. July 11 | Summer Ceilidh | Encinal Yacht Club |
| Mon. July 20 | Summer Break – no meeting | |
| Mon. Aug. 17 | Summer Break – no meeting | |
| Sept. 5–6 | 150th Highland Games & Gathering | Pleasanton, CA |
| Mon. Sept. 21 | Member's Dinner | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Mon. Oct. 19 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Sun. Nov. 8 | Remembrance Day Service..... | Grace Cathedral, SF |
| Mon. Nov. 16 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Sat. Nov. 28 | 153rd Annual Banquet & Ball | Marine's Memorial |
| Mon. Dec. 21 | No Meeting due to Hogmanay Potluck on 12/31 | |
| Thur. Dec. 31 | Hogmanay Potluck..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| 2016 | | |
| Mon. Jan. 18 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| | <i>Inauguration of 2016 Office Bearers</i> | |
| Sat. Jan. 23 | Burns Supper (The Family) | 545 Powell St., SF |
| Mon. Feb. 15 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Mon. Mar. 21 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |
| Sat. April 16 | 19th Annual Tartan Day Scottish Faire | Ardenwood, Fremont |
| Sat. April 16 | John Muir Association / Earth Day celebration | Martinez |
| Mon. April 18 | Member Meeting..... | 1088 Green St., SF |

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light supper served before the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

Officers of the Society

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David Campbell, First VP
Francesca McCrossan,
Second VP
Ian Baird, Treasurer
Jean Allen, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Marilyn Van Story ,
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