

# Sky-High Attraction Proposed

The Forth Rail Bridge, which runs across the Forth estuary between Edinburgh and Fife, is an icon of Victorian engineering, and Network Rail wants tourists to see it at close range. Last autumn, the organization requested permission to develop a new tourist attraction that would allow visitors to climb to

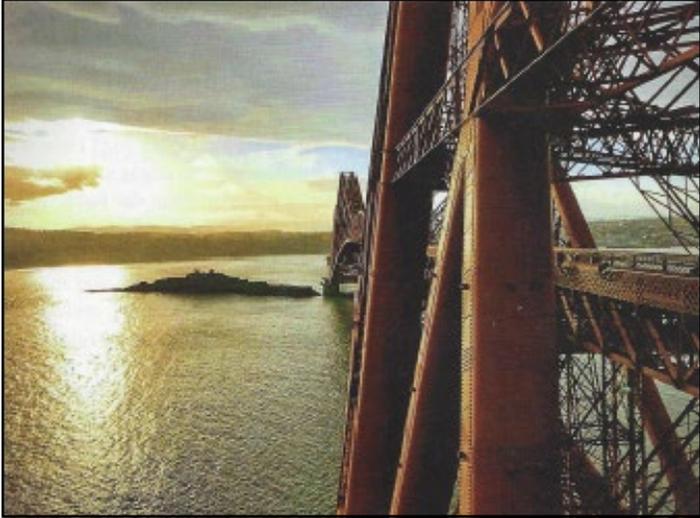


Photo © Nation Rail

**Intrepid visitors will be treated to spectacular long-distance views.**

the top of the south tower (wearing safety harnesses), and then proceed to a new viewing platform 367 feet above the Forth. “The bridge walk experience will offer a unique and memorable visit to one of Scotland’s most loved structures,” said Alan Ross, Network Rail Scotland’s director of engineering. Plans call for the Forth Bridge Experience to open in 2022 and attract 85,000 visitors a year.

*This article first appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of Scottish Life magazine.*



# Scots’ DNA Links Back To Dark Ages

Scotland’s first genetic map reveals the DNA of today’s Scots still contains links to Dark Age kingdoms from 476 AD to 1000 AD. The research, carried out by the University of Edinburgh, shows Scotland is divided into six main clusters of genetically similar individuals—the Borders, the southwest, the northeast, the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland—suggesting that many people still live in the same areas as their direct ancestors. The study also discovered that some of the founders of Iceland may have originated from northwest Scotland and Ireland, and that the Isle of Man is predominantly Scottish in its genetic ancestry. Orkney and Shetland had the highest levels of Norwegian ancestry outside Scandinavia and many islands within the archipelagos had their own unique genetic identity.



Photo © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

**Viking influences are obvious in Shetlands annual Up Helly Aa festival.**

*This article first appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of Scottish Life magazine.*

## Public Water Taps Rolled Out

Scottish Water has announced that it will create a network of free public water taps across Scotland to encourage people to carry refillable bottles. The announcement follows a successful trial that included ten “top-up-taps” across Scotland, including one outside of Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The company will install 70 additional taps over the next 18 months in an effort to reduce the use of throwaway plastic bottles.

*This article first appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of Scottish Life magazine.*

FEBRUARY 2020 ~ Vol. 157, NO. 2	
<b>Forth Rail Bridge Experience</b> .....	1
<b>Dark Ages DNA</b> .....	1
<b>Early American Slavery</b> .....	2
<b>Burns Supper 2020 Photos</b> .....	3
<b>Burns Night: The Best Laid Schemes</b> .....	4
<b>Calendar of Events</b> .....	7



From The Bard – Jek Cunningham

## Slavery in the Early American Colonies

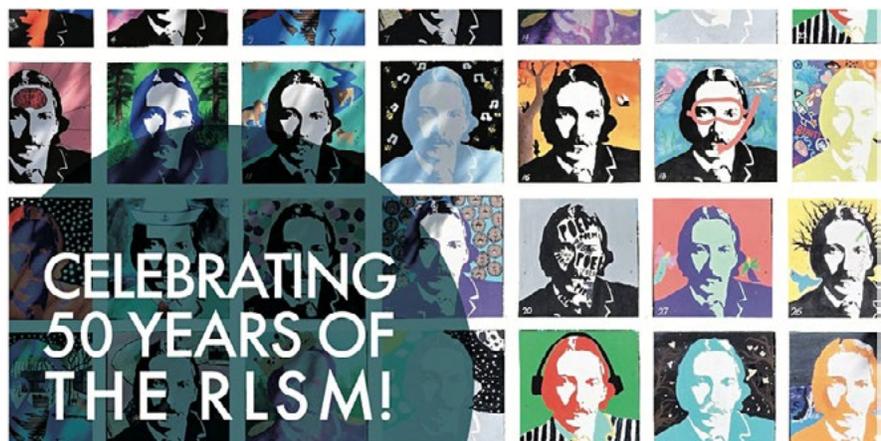
Did you know the first slaves in North America were white? Many of them were Scots. Thousands were sent to the colonies as convicts. According to the law of 1652, "It may be lawful for two or more justices of the peace within any county, city or town, corporate belonging to the commonwealth to, from tyme to tyme, by warrant, cause to be apprehended, seized on and detained all and every persons that be found begging and vagrant in any towne, parish or place to be conveyed into the Port of London or unto any other port from where such person or persons may be shipped into a forraign collonie or plantation." The officials were determined to send the scum of their prisons to the colonies. Some were hardened criminals, but hundreds of young girls were dragged from the streets.

James I (he of the bible translation) ordered 100 rowdy youths to be shipped to Virginia. These young folk were sold to the planters in Virginia. After the various risings, the Scottish prisoners of war were transported to New England, where they were treated as chattel, and the laws treated non English slaves, "Scotsman, Negroes and Indians" as a group. Ships loaded with tobacco to Glasgow were loaded with "rogues and vagabonds and others not fit to stay in the country," where they were sold to the plantation owners. During the voyage these slaves were confined below decks for the entire journey; men, women and children with no sanitation. The death rate was appalling.

When the colonists turned to Africa for their slaves, they had a system already in place.



King James I of England



### An Evening to Treasure: Celebrating 50 Years of the RLS Museum

Duckhorn Vineyards  
1000 Lodi Lane  
St. Helena, CA 94574

Saturday  
**April 4, 2020**  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM PDT

[Click here  
for more  
Information!](#)

St. Andrew's Society's 2020

# ✧ Burns Supper ✧

Marines Memorial Club  
San Francisco





## BURNS NIGHT: THE BEST LAID SCHEMES

By Stewart Gibson of Brodies LLP

To mark Burns night, I have taken a look at three of the more obscure lessons we can learn from the life and legacy of the 'National Bard.'

### 1) Make sure you have a will

When Robert Burns died aged 37 in 1796, he did not have a will. That meant that his widow had to apply to the local court in Dumfries to be appointed as executor dative.

The law has moved on in many ways in 260 years but, if you die without a will, your family still have to petition the court to be appointed executor. If you appoint them in a will, then this process is not required.

We can only speculate about why Burns did not have a will, but he may have fallen foul of these common misconceptions.

"I don't need a will, I'm only 37!"

This argument may admittedly have (only slightly) more credibility in 2020 than it would have in the eighteenth century but you are never too young to put a will in place, particularly if you have young children and want to control who will look after them if anything happens to you.

"I don't need a will – I don't have any assets!"

Even if you do not have substantial savings or investments, you may own your home, have a pension, or have death benefits payable by your employer. You might even be a poet and have copyright in your work. All of these things are assets. The only way to control what happens to them when you die is to make sure you have an up to date will and, if relevant, death benefit nomination forms.

### 2) Consider legal rights

Burns is said to have had twelve children in total, to four different mothers. Whether he died with or without will, all of his surviving children would have had a claim on his estate. That is because Scotland has forced heirship rules which guarantee children a minimum share of their parent's estates on death.

These rules apply irrespective of what the parent's will says and irrespective of the nature of their relationship with their child. They also extend to anyone who dies domiciled in Scotland, regardless of where they live – so they can have an unexpected impact for international families.

### 3) Investigate your domicile

At one stage, Burns is believed to have been planning to emigrate to the Caribbean. I blogged this time last year about the importance of considering the international aspects of your affairs. As I explained then, even if you have said "Farewell to the Highlands, Farewell to the North", if your heart is still "in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer" then you should take advice on how Scottish law applies to the succession of your estate.

### 4) The lessons

If you think any of these issues are relevant to you, then please get in touch so that we can help you make sure that, unlike the best laid schemes o' mice an' men, your estate planning does not gang aft a-gley.

***Brodies LLP** is a Top 50 UK law firm headquartered in Scotland. Brodies is a supporter of the SASSF's charitable programs and is proud to offer services to our members for their personal legal requirements in Scotland, such as property, estate matters or family law. Please see their firm details at the end of the Newsletter.*





# Tartan Day Scottish Fair

Presented by: The East Bay Scottish Association

Ardenwood Historic Farm - Fremont, CA



## **Tartan Day Scottish Fair 2020**

April 04, 2020

Ardenwood Historic Farm · 34600 Ardenwood Blvd. Fremont, CA 94555

Throw on your kilt and celebrate Tartan Day with music, Scottish dancing, bagpipes, handmade crafts, historical re-enactments, and Highland athletics. Local Scottish clans and societies will share their rich culture and colorful heritage. Children can find magic and fantasy in the Children's Glen and might just see a fairy or dragon. Enjoy a meat pie or other Scottish treat. All activities are included with admission.

For Information call: (510) 544-2797 Free parking. Fees: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors (62+), \$6/children (4-17 yrs.), 3 yrs. & under free. Advance tickets are available online/reservations. Please call 1-888-327-2757, option 2. Advance tickets will be mailed within 2 business days of purchase and the same day entrance fees are the same as the advance tickets prices. Please note: Special cancellation policy - Pre-Sale Tickets are non-refundable. Tickets are also available for purchase at Ardenwood Historic Farm. Registration Required.

**[Click here for more information.](#)**



## John Muir Birthday – Earth Day Celebration

April 18th, 2020

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### John Muir National Historic Site

John Muir inspired people all over the world to “keep close to nature’s heart.” In this spirit, we celebrate John Muir’s birthday at his former home, along with Earth Day, which brings us closer to knowing our planet and practical ways to help it thrive.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Trusted Partners

A list of St. Andrew’s Society’s partner organizations, businesses and retailers.



### The Caledonian Club of San Francisco

312 Maple Avenue  
S. San Francisco, CA 94080  
P: 415-885-6644

[info@caledonian.org](mailto:info@caledonian.org)  
[caledonian.org](http://caledonian.org)



### John Muir Association

P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553  
P: 925-229-3857

[johnmuirassociation.org](http://johnmuirassociation.org)



### British-American Business Council of Northern California

369 Pine Street, Suite 103  
San Francisco, CA 94104

[info@babcsf.org](mailto:info@babcsf.org)  
[babcsf.org](http://babcsf.org)



### Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

1490 Library Lane  
P.O. Box 23  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
P: 707-963-3757

[info@stevensonmuseum.org](mailto:info@stevensonmuseum.org)  
[stevensonmuseum.org](http://stevensonmuseum.org)



### AmeriCeltic

[americeltic@gmail.com](mailto:americeltic@gmail.com)  
[americeltic.net](http://americeltic.net)



### The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

[shauna0829@hotmail.com](mailto:shauna0829@hotmail.com)  
[thefiddlers.com](http://thefiddlers.com)



### The University of Edinburgh

Old College  
South Bridge  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9YL  
Scotland  
P: +44 (0)131 650 1000

[www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)



### Brodies LLP Solicitors

Susanne Batchelor, Partner  
P: +44 (0) 131 6560218

[susanne.batchelor@brodies.com](mailto:susanne.batchelor@brodies.com)  
[brodies.com](http://brodies.com)



### The Erskine Home

Bishopton  
Renfrewshire  
PA7 5PU  
Scotland  
P: +44 (0)141 814 4569

[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)



### Grace Cathedral

1100 California St.  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
P: 415-749-6300

[gracecathedral.org](http://gracecathedral.org)



### University of Glasgow

Glasgow  
G12 8QQ  
Scotland  
P: +44 (0)141 330 2000

[www.gla.ac.uk](http://www.gla.ac.uk)

## Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
<b>2020</b>		
Mon. Feb. 17	Member Meeting (Whisky Tasting hosted by Roger Weed)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 4	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood	Fremont, CA
Sat. April 18	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration	NPS - Martinez, CA
Mon. April 20	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. July 20	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
<b>Sat. July 18</b>	<b>Summer Ceilidh at Encinal Yacht Club</b>	<b>Alameda, CA</b>
Mon. Aug. 17	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
<b>Sept. 5-6</b>	<b>Caledonian Club's 155th Highland Games &amp; Gathering</b>	<b>Pleasanton, CA</b>
Mon. Sept. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting (Candlelight Dinner)	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Service	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
<b>Sat. Dec. 5</b>	<b>157th Annual St. Andrew's Banquet &amp; Ball</b>	<b>Marines Memorial Club, SF</b>
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
<b>Thur. Dec. 31</b>	<b>Hogmanay Celebration</b>	<b>1088 Green St., SF</b>
<b>2021</b>		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
<b>Sat. Feb. 6</b>	<b>Annual Robert Burns Supper</b>	<b>Marines Memorial Club, SF</b>

## About Us

### The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94133-3604  
415-885-6644

[www.saintandrewsociety.org](http://www.saintandrewsociety.org)

Gary Ketchen,  
Newsletter Editor

### 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

Francesca McCrossan,  
President  
Irené Waldman Costello,  
Second VP  
Ian Baird, Treasurer  
Jek Cunningham, Bard  
Susan Goodier, Secretary  
(*acting*)  
Susan Goodier,  
Executive Administrator  
Roger Weed, Librarian  
Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain  
Brian Cooper, Piper  
Bill Jagers, Herald  
Fred Rutledge,  
Foundation Chair

### Trustees

David McCrossan,  
Chairperson  
Jaeame Koyil  
David Campbell  
Jean Allen  
Brian Costello  
Fred Rutledge

### Board of Relief

Laurien Fiddes,  
Chairperson  
Marilyn Van Story  
Biz Obley  
Robert Blair, Jr.

### Board of Student Assistance

Kitty Lenhart,  
Chairperson  
Kristen Ferguson  
Marilyn Van Story  
J. Robert Logan  
William Cummings, Sr.  
William Cummings, Jr.  
Jean Allen

### Envoys

Brian Costello, BABC  
Roger Weed, Caledonian Club of SF  
Roger Weed, John Muir Association  
David Walker, University of Edinburgh



**The Saint Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco**  
1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133-3604

Recipient

---

---

---