



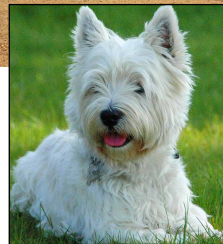
clan STRACHAN

Clachnaben!

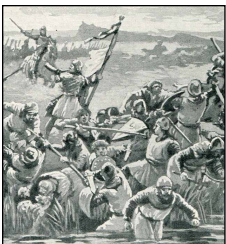
The Palace of Holyrood House / 20



Alexander Strachan / 3



West Highland Whites / 14



Part 2 of the clan's history / 10



Gaelic pupils / 15



clan STRACHAN

Clachnaben!

**Newsletter for the
Clan Strachan
Scottish Heritage
Society, Inc.**

**30730 San Pascual Road
Temecula, CA 92591
United States of America**

Phone: 951-760-8575

Email:

jim@clanstrachan.org

We're on the web!

www.clanstrachan.org

Incorporated in 2008, the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc. was organized for exclusively charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as except organizations under said Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Specifically, the Corporation will promote the history, tradition, and heritage of the Gaelic-Scottish culture; encourage education, the collection and preservation of records, traditions and historical material related to the history of Gaelic-Scottish culture wherever located; provide instruction on Genealogical research techniques; perform such charitable work as is compatible with the aims and objectives of Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.; to invest in any property worldwide that has relevance to the needs and objectives of the Society; and, to engage in any other lawful activities permitted under the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Law. The recital of these purposes as contained in this paragraph is intended to be exclusive of any and all other purposes, this Corporation being formed for those public and charitable purposes only.

Convenor's address

Hello the Clan,

I hope all went well at the Gathering! Excited to hear some of the stories.

On behalf of Jim and the Clan Strachan Society THANK YOU!

talk soon, d

Gu Deoch Gu Cairdean Gu Spors

Connecting with your clan

The Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society has a Facebook Group for Society and non-society members to meet and stay in touch, and to assist you with researching your family's roots.

Look us up by typing 'Clan Strachan' in the search toolbar.

Clan Strachan newsletter staff

Co-editor

Judy Strawn

judy@clanstrachan.org



- story acquisition
- writing
- editing

Co-editor

Susie Strachan

susie@clanstrachan.org



- design
- layout
- proof-reading



Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, Baronet of Nova Scotia

By Jim Strachan, Clan Strachan Sennachie

Robert Strachan was eldest son and heir of Alexander Strachan of Thornton.

Alexander (Robert's father) married Anne Mercer relict (aka widow) of James Learmonth of Balcomie and had three sons and three daughters. After the death of his first wife, Alexander married Lady Isobel Keith (d. 1595) daughter of William, 4th Earl Marischal (d. 1581).

Robert Strachan was no doubt influenced by his step-mother, Lady Isobel Keith, whose mother was Lady Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of John Douglas, 2nd Earl of Morton. Robert Strachan allied himself to one of the most powerful families in the land by his marriage in 1586 to Sarah Douglas (contract dated 4 and 5 April 1586), whose father was Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie, 9th Earl of Angus.

A year after Robert and Sarah's marriage, young Alexander Strachan, was born in 1587; the same year as his father's death, Robert Strachan. Lady Sarah appears to have re-married to George Auchinleck of Balmanno this same year (1587).

According to Colin Thornton-Kemsley in his book, *Bonnet Lairds*, Lady Sarah would visit Dunnottar and would often talk of their young hostess (Margaret Ogilvy), not yet out of her teens, who had arrived from Airlie to marry the much older 5th Earl Marischal, some 30 years her senior.

In 1601, Alexander's grandfather, Alexander Strachan of Thornton; and step-mother (Lady Sarah) died, and young Alexander simultaneously entered the age of majority and became the Laird of the barony of Thornton.

During the reign of King James VI of Scotland and I of England, young Alexander was a staunch Royalist and an educated young man in the accomplishments of a gentleman and the arts of a courtier. Alexander spent two years in English Court, and his high spirits made him a favourite



Margaret Ogilvy and son John Keith of Benholm.

with his contemporaries. During this period, Alexander appears to have gained the attention and admiration of King James and his son, Charles.

Upon Alexander's return [from England] to Scotland in 1605, he found his uncles John and George had become fugitives from justice for their part in a battle in the streets of Edinburgh which had created a considerable stir.

"On a June evening, Alexander Lindsay and his friends and neighbours with John and George Strachan of Thornton, with their sons and servants; encountered Sir John



clan STRACHAN



Benholm Castle.

Wishart's son with his retinue and members of the Pitarrow household. Words were exchanged between the two parties, and a quarrel broke out between the younger members of the family closely united by marriage... Alexander Lindsay's elder brother David having married Margaret Wishart, one of Sir John Wishart daughters. Swords were drawn in the narrow streets of the auld toon [Edinburgh], and one of Pitarrow's servants William Guthrie was killed and others wounded.

"The Strachan brothers (John & George) were amongst those who evaded capture, and sentence of imprisonment

in Dumbarton and Blackness was passed upon them in absentia."

Charges were eventually dropped when the Council learned with satisfaction that there had now been:

"Perfyte friendship and reconciliacione knit up betwixt the saidis pairties – lyke as thai have choppit hand togidder."

The friendship between the Lindsays and the Strachans had been cemented, if not already so, with the marriage of Alexander Strachan of Thornton, to Margaret Lindsay of Balcarres, a cousin of the Lindsays of Edzell and daughter of John, Lord Menmuir (m. 19 January 1605).¹



clan STRACHAN

Margaret and Alexander Strachan of Thornton had three sons: John, Alexander and George; and two daughters: Margaret and Elizabeth.

September 1613, Alexander Strachan of Thornton (age 26), quarrelled with his neighbours the Wisharts, which was taken to the Council by Captain Alexander Wishart of Phesdo. The story, though trivial, is not without humour.

It appears that in the previous month the Captain had dined with Alexander Strachan of Thornton and the conversation turned to the tack, or lease, of tithes arising from Pitarrow and other Wishart lands. Captain Wishart's story was that he was invited to return to Thornton in two days' time, when the tack would be duly delivered to him "upon such reasonable conditions as might content him."

When the Captain, with three servants, approached Thornton on the appointed day, and while still on his own land, he found himself surrounded by eighteen men "armed with hagbuts and pistols" who "trouplit about him and maid him to licht from his horse." Amongst the eighteen Wishart claimed to have recognized the laird of Thornton with his uncles John and George, Dr. Robert Strachan, Adam Strachan son of the laird of Glenkindie, Alexander Strachan of the Mill of Bogindollo, Alexander Strachan and servitors to the laird of Thornton.

Having "detached" the Captain's servants, the laird of Thornton with his uncles and the doctor, in a "verie presumptuous and boisting maner" demanded to see a letter of discharge and renunciation which they said had passed between the Captain (Wishart) and Margaret Strachan, the laird's sister. When the Captain refused, the laird and his companions, "all in one voice, with many horrible aithis" threatened to take his life.

The Captain having retorted that he could not hand over the letter because it was in his chest at Balfour. Four of the Strachans carried him to produce the renunciation. They then conveyed him to Thornton, where the laird dismissed him "with many scornfull, moking and reprothfull spetcheis."

Not surprisingly the Council dismissed the charges due to Wishart's skulduggery.

Again, some years later it is recorded that the Lords of the Council:

"Understood that there is a quarrel between Sir Robert Arbuthnot of that Ilk and Strachan of Thornton anent the tiends of some lands, and that the King's peace will be broken, orders these parties to find caution in 10,000 merks

to keep the peace."

This kind of obligation was commonly imposed in days when the Privy Council, anxious to prevent disturbances caused by family feuds, would bind the parties to keep the peace under considerable financial penalties.

March 1617, Sir Alexander represented Kincardineshire in the Convention of Estates held at Edinburgh. In the same year, Sir Alexander, like most of his forbearers a Protestant, was named a reserve member of the Commission 'anent the Plantation of Kirks," a Commission appointed by Parliament to supply and provide for the Ministry of the Church.

On or before 1618, it appears Lady Sarah Strachan died, for Sir Alexander received a permit to travel abroad for three years, and it seems likely that after the death of his first wife he attached himself to a military expedition to the Continent of Europe.

In 1621, Alexander returned to Thornton, and appears to have continued his relationship with his young kinsman² James Keith at Benholm, (Benholm is a castle near the coast of Inverbervie some 13 miles south of Dunnottar).³ It was here he found himself attracted to James' mother, the Earl Marischal's second wife (Margaret Ogilvy) who was 30 years younger than the Earl. She in fact was ready for a diversion to relieve the tedium of her life with a sick old man 30 years her senior from whom she had become increasingly estranged by the "fyre of divisioun" occasioned by the friction between her son and her husband.

Also, upon his return to Scotland, Alexander appears to have returned to a life at Court with King James, for he was on the Privy Council.

On 14th March, 1622, the Alexander conveyed the estate of Phesdo to his Uncle John Strachan and his wife Isobel Rait, the contract being confirmed by the King in Edinburgh.

Regarding Sir Alexander's extramarital relationship with the Countess, hearing only one side of the story, Sir Alexander readily believed the Earl had behaved badly toward his son James Keith⁴, who was his boyhood companion in many foolish escapades. Moreover, his growing affection for the Earl Marischal's wife led him to regard her husband as his "mortal enemy," which Strachan himself used in later extenuation of his conduct in the presence of King Charles I at Whitehall.

Colin Thornton-Kemsley, in his book "Bonnet Lairds" explains how in Alexander's youth he had heard of Margaret Ogilvy...



clan STRACHAN

“This young, headstrong and beautiful girl whom the aging Earl Marischal had brought to Dunnottar as his 2nd wife was destined to bring both a scandal and a fortune to one of the most colorful of Thornton’s lairds.

“When Margaret was little more than a girl her family arranged for her a marriage with George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal, then Lieutenant of the North and one of the most powerful and cultured men of his day. Unfortunately for Margaret, he was some 30 years her senior, and a widower with two adult children.

“The young Margaret Ogilvy, his second wife, bore the Earl a son whom they named James after her father. James was a quarrelsome and undisciplined young man, and his conduct caused a rift in the Dunnottar household becoming a cause of friction between his parents. His mother taking the side of her son, and his aging father becoming increasingly intolerant of the boy’s youthful escapades.”

The situation early on became stressed when on 27th October, 1622 the aged Earl Marischal filed a complaint brought forth to the Privy Council. It was said that on the 16th of that month that James Keith with zzzz“Strauchane of Thornetoun” and others, all armed, came about “the glowmeing” to the Earl’s lands and mains of Fetteresso⁵, where the ploughs were going, and threatened his servants with death if they were found tilling the lands. They then loosed the ploughs and broke them in pieces, and took away 37 oxen to Benholm (the residence of James Keith).

But this was not all.

The following year, early 1623, while the Earl Marischal, then age 70, was away from his castle of Dunnottar, his Countess, her son James and Sir Alexander Strachan – in secret and cover of darkness – carried the whole furnishings and valuables from Benholm Castle and Dunnottar to Thornton, where the Countess went to live with the laird while the Earl Marischal was still alive.

The Earl Marischal returned to Dunnottar, where he never recovered from his shock at this deception. On his death bed, he sent a letter to his kin, the Earl of Mar saying that he was “dishonored in the heist degrie, his bed defiled and his houssis robbed.”

Again, Alexander, Margaret and James not only absconded with the contents of Dunnottar, but that of Benholm, and the contents of the Earl’s house in Fetteresso (which had previously been moved to Belholm) -- a virtual treasure

trove of property!

It is highly unlikely they expected to simply get away with this pillage, and it is probable they together hoped to disgrace and dishonour the Earl Marischal for what they judged to be wicked behaviour.

The Earl Marischal died 2nd April, 1623. In March the following year, charges filed against the Countess by her step-son William, then 6th Earl Marischal. The charge claimed Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, his kinsman Dr. Robert Strachan (a Doctor of Physics), and James Keith of Benholm as accomplices. The case created widespread interest throughout Scotland.

In 1624, Alexander married Margaret Dowager Countess Marischal, daughter of James 6th Lord Ogilvy.⁶

A counter claim was filed by Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton and his new wife against the new Earl Marischal, William Keith.

After some legal banter back and forth, a settlement was agreed upon by the parties. The Countess Marischal, now married to Strachan, had to yield up the heirlooms but she was permitted to retain her share of the jewellery and a large proportion of the plenishings. The lands and barony of Benholm were conveyed by James Keith to his stepfather Sir Alexander Strachan who then surrendered them to the new Earl Marischal.

Though a cleverly contrived settlement out of Court enabled Sir Alexander and his Countess to avoid public censure, it did not stop the continuing and justifiable condemnation of a notorious scandal.

King James died 27 March 1625, and upon his death the Crown was inherited by his son, Charles I.

Alexander remained a favourite of the Crown, and a member of the Privy Council.

According to the “Report on the Manuscripts of the Earl of Mar and Kellie,” King Charles began instituting changes, with some being radical and far-reaching.

One of the first was an order for the appointment of a Commission of Exchequer or Treasury by which the powers of the Lord High Treasurer were much abridged. Another was the entire separation of the Privy Council from the Court of Session. Until now some of the members of Council had been also Lords of Session, but the King had made up his mind that no nobleman should have a seat upon the judicial bench. The appointment of the Commis-



clan STRACHAN

sion of Exchequer was taken by Mar as an act of censure upon himself, and his conduct in his office, and it drew from him a personal remonstrance to the King.

According to Mar, several members of the Scottish Privy Council practically rebelled, and the principal members of it were called up to Court, Mar being among them. As the Earl of Mar so bitterly states, "The Proposed changes were largely due to the suggestions of certain busy-bodies who had been at work beforehand with the King. Among these were the Earl of Nithsdale, Lord Ochiltree, the Bishop of Ross, Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, and some other body whom the King said he knew by sight but could not name, scarcely one of whom had had any experience in administration work."

Before the end of 1625, some historians say the favour Sir Alexander had obtained with King Charles I definitely swayed, as Sir Alexander Strachan was removed from the Privy Council following this event. Although removed from the Privy Council, as will be discussed shortly, this was likely due to political motivations and his controversial relationship with some on the Privy Council, including the Earl of Mar. But no doubt, Sir Alexander Strachan remained in close affiliation with King Charles.

According to statements made by the Earl of Mar, he (the Earl) appears to have continued his adversarial relationship with Sir Alexander Strachan, although Alexander seemed to have retained at least some favour with the king, as well as office in government. According to the Manuscripts, the Earl of Mar states: "Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, had lately been the object of the Council's attention in another aspect, having been placed on trial before them and dealt with by them on charges of theft and more heinous crimes.

"When, therefore, the King, in sending down his new Commission of Council, included his name, the whole Council received it with horror, and one and all remonstrated at so infamous a man coming in among them. The King brought up his case in conference, somewhat unfortunately for Strachan, as it gave occasion to him to try to justify himself by accusing his accusers, and made them reveal his misdeeds to the King, though the recital does not appear to have affected the estimation in which he was held by Charles."

Sir Alexander was not without supporters; however, the Earl of Mar seems to have trivialized and condemned his

adversary's associates. In this case, he states, "Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet (whom the Earl had previously referred to as "a busy-body"), had an ambition well known to his fellow-councillors, which he ever hoped but ever failed to satisfy. He tried it in many ways, and the course he now took of endeavouring to ingratiate himself with the King at the expense of his fellow-councillors provoked their indignation, to which they freely gave expression."

"The earlier escapades with the Earl Marischal of Keith's wife did not dampen King Charles' favour of Thornton. Despite strongly worded remonstrances both from the Convention of Estates and leading members of the Council, the young King adhered tenaciously to the prior proposals influenced by Strachan. Like his father before him, King Charles I (1600-1649) seems to have been greatly taken with the then Baron of Thornton, Sir Alexander Strachan.

Baronet of Nova Scotia

The Baronetage, which forms a distinct estate of Nobility in the British empire, a hereditary title intermediate between Peerage and Knighthood, was first erected by His Majesty King James I, by Charter under the Great Seal, on the 22nd of May 1611 in the form of Baronets of England.

The noble order of Baronet, or Lesser Baron, consists of five different branches, the first being the Baronets of England (1611), and a third branch which is the Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia, erected in 1625.

The Baronetage of Nova Scotia was devised in 18 October 1624 as a means of settling the plantation of New Scotland (Latin: Nova Scotia) in North America (Canada today).

King James I announced his intention of creating a hundred baronets, each of whom was to support six colonists, armed, apparelled, and victualled for two years (or pay 2000 merks in lieu thereof); and also pay 1000 merks to Sir William Alexander, to whom the province had been previously granted by charter on 10 September 1621.⁷ Sir William Alexander took seisen of Nova Scotia as Principle Secretary of the State of Scotland, and thereafter proceeded to found and establish a colony in it.⁸

James I died before this scheme could be implemented, but it was carried out by his son and heir, Charles I, who created the first Scottish baronet on the 28th of May 1625.

The premier baronet, Sir Robert Gordon, was created by Charles I, on 28th of May 1625, and received 16,000 acres of land in Nova Scotia.



clan STRACHAN



TOURISM, NOVA SCOTIA

Scenery in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia today.

The next individual to acquire the Baronetcy of Nova Scotia was none other than Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, who on 28th May 1625, acquired 16,000 acres in or near New Brunswick, and took seisen of the estate. Ironically, at the same time, William Keith, 6th Earl Marischal, also acquired a Baronetcy of Nova Scotia in 3rd position.

In 1626, the following year the King made Sir Alexander a member of the Commission of Grievances, a member of the Commission of the Exchequer, and a member of the Privy Council.

In 1635-38, Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton joined the Freemasons, along with Anthony Alexander (the master of works), and his elder brother Lord Alexander. It is said that these men were a group of relatives and friends in court and official circles, probably initially interested in the lodge through the king's master mason, John Mylne, who had joined the lodge himself in 1631. (Origins of Freemasonry)

According to a detailed account provided in Bonnet

Lairds, Sir Alexander became apparently hopelessly financially involved, and began resignation of several offices for consideration of profit under the Crown. Sales of part of the Estate of Thornton had also not sufficed to cover the debt, and or of making some arrangements for its preservation pending the succession of his surviving son.

On 17 December 1638, Charles I had evidently accepted what was probably an enforced surrender of the estate, granted Estate of Thornton to John Kennedy of Ardgeit. Thornton-Kemsley, in his book *Bonnet Lairds*, suggests evidence supports that John Kennedy was one of several joint owners of Thornton, probably as Trustees, and that, as often happened in such cases, members of the family had arranged to keep the surrendered estate in the hands of the family by purchasing it through a nominee and holding it as curators for the next heir. This theory is supported by references in the Register of the Privy Council for 1643 and 1644 to John Strachan, a member of the Committee for War



clan STRACHAN

for the county, as Tutor (or guardian) of Thornton.

Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton and the Countess Marischal went to live in France, where he died in 1648.

On the Round Tower of Thornton Castle is the motto:

Constant et Fidel

“Constant and Faithful”

Sir Alexander Strachan

1st baronet of Nova Scotia.

This achievement was added to the older part of the castle by the first baronet laird, Sir Alexander Strachan between 1625-1638. The motto is inscribed, “Constant et Fidel” (Constant and Faithful).

Inscription of Sir Alexander STRACHAN of Thornton

Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton had the curious habit of adding an S to his initials to indicate his rank. He would invariably subscribe himself

“S. A. Strauchane” on official documents, of which there are many examples in the Records of the Privacy Council.

APPENDIX B.

The following list of the baronets of Nova Scotia is taken from a pamphlet published in September, 1842 :—

ROLL OF THE BARONETS OF SCOTLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA.

*** Since the erection of the Baronetage in 1625, forty-three of its Members have been raised to higher titles of honour. A very considerable proportion of the persons created Baronets were ancient FREE BARONS of the Realm of Scotland, and as such had hereditary right to seat and voice in the Scottish Parliament. The lands in Nova Scotia granted to the Baronets created by King Charles I. were all erected into FREE BARONIES and REGALITIES, and by the Constitution of the Order, its Members are entitled to have seat and voice in all the Legislative Assemblies of the Province of Nova Scotia.*

The first 111 Baronets received the stipulated territorial qualification of 16,000 acres each, and those marked † took seisin of their grants.

1625.			
May 28,	Gordon, of Gordon, <i>Premier Baronet</i>	.. ..	Nova Scotia.
	†Strachan, of Strachan .. .. .	.. ..	New Brunswick.
	Keith, <i>Earl Marischal</i> .. .. .	.. ..	New Brunswick.
May 29,	†Campbell, of Glenorchay Campbell, <i>Marquess of Breadalbane</i> .. .. .	.. ..	Anticosti.
	†Innes, of New Innes, <i>Duke of Roxburgh</i> .. ..	.. ..	Anticosti.
	†Wemyss, of New Wemyss, <i>Earl of Wemyss</i>		Anticosti.



Footnotes

1. *Scots Peerage, Vol. I, p. 518 (Lives of the Lindsays, ii. 1.)*

2. *Recalling that Sir Alexander's grandfather had married Lady Isobel Keith, a daughter of the fourth Earl Marischal.*

3. *Important to note, Benholm Castle is presently owned by Roderick and Fiona Strachan of Benholm. Who have painstakingly restored the Mansion adjacent to the Castle.*

4. *Remembering the previous chapter on Highland customs, such a person would be “considered a monster.”*

5. *As mentioned previously, Alexander had a history of bringing his kinsmen into situations like this, and it is quite possible other Strachans accompanied him. Moreover, the lands of Fettereso used to belong to the ‘de STRACHAN’ nobles prior to their “dispossession” which resulted from their support of Balliol's claim to the throne.*

6. *Bonnet Lairds, pp. 219*

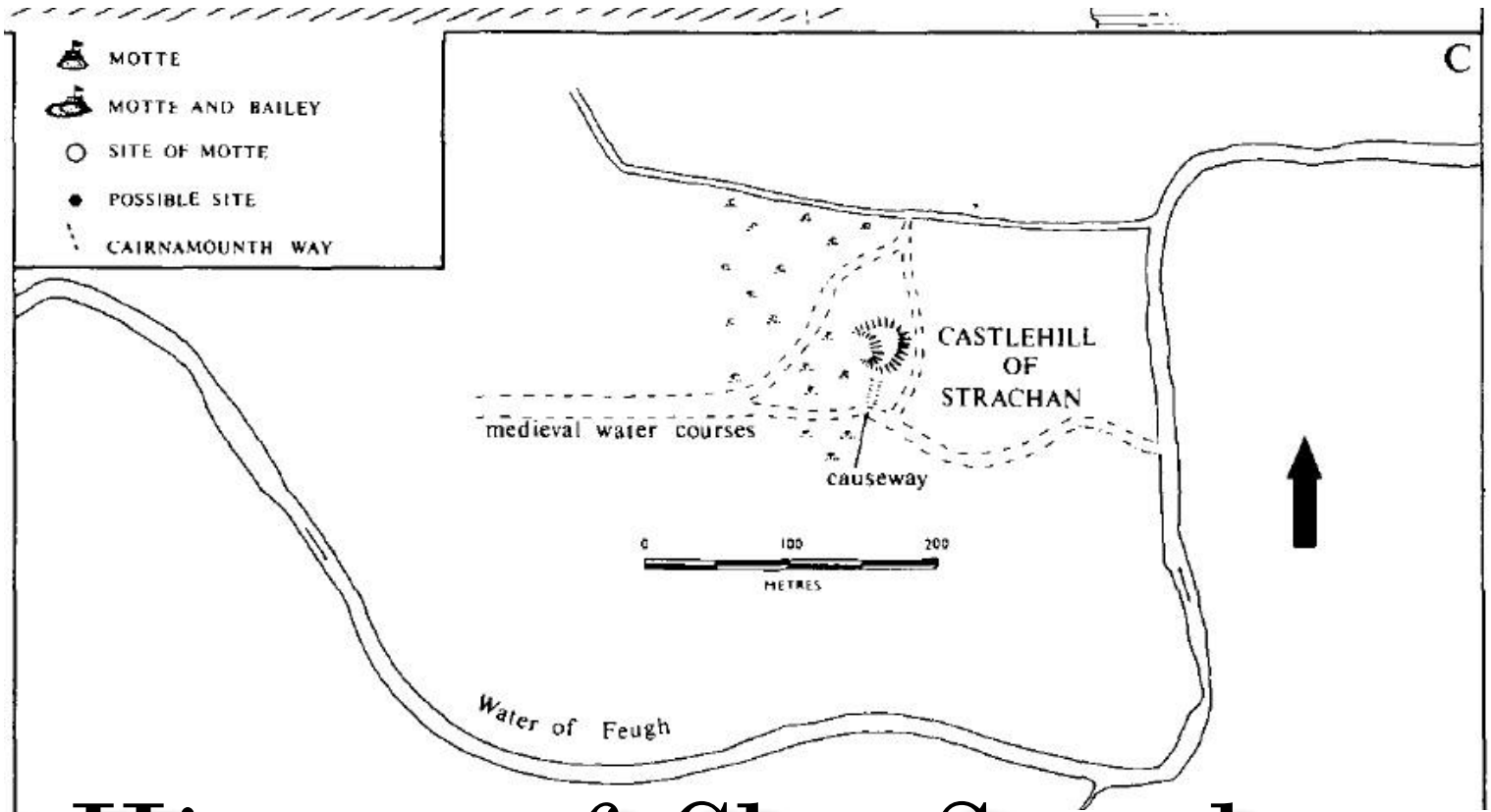
7. *Victualled. Past tense. To provide with food or other stores.*

8. *Seisen. denotes the legal possession of a feudal fiefdom or fee, that is to say an estate in land.*

9. *Bonnet Lairds, pp. 72*



clan STRACHAN



History of Clan Strachan

Part 2, by James Strachan

A charter by Waltheof de Strachan in c. 1230 to the Priory of St. Andrews gave the monks permission to hunt and cut wood in the barony of Strachan in order to build a church and a new hall within the parish. In 1242, the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Strachan was consecrated by the bishop of St. Andrews, David de Bernham (Cowan, *Parishes*, p. 189).

In 1980 and 1981, archeological excavations suggest that Castle Hill of Strachan was built “mid-thirteenth century”, which coincides with the date the monks of St. Andrews Priory were to have completed the hall. The excavations of the building suggest an Anglo-Norman design and a two-storey structure or hall. The ground floor would have contained the dining room, as well as space for stores and provisions, and could have provided shelter for a small

number of servants and soldiers. Following the example of some medieval halls, the first floor, including the roof space, may have contained the solar or private quarters of the knight or officer in residence. In this case, it is likely where John de Strachan called home.

Castlehill was fortified with palisades and a wall-walk, and was occupied continuously from c. 1250 until it was burned out and dismantled in the early 1300s.

Yeoman states, “It is entirely possible that this destruction was executed by King Robert’s troops in early summer 1308 during the Wars of Independence, in the period immediately following the defeat of the earl of Buchan (Battle of Inverurie aka Battle of Barra). After this battle, Bruce probably captured Aboyne Castle 11 miles west of Strachan, which had been garrisoned by the English, and then travelled to take Aberdeen in May or June 1308 (Barrow 1976, 250). Whichever route was taken, the army would



clan STRACHAN

have passed close to Strachan, and the archaeological evidence of destruction would suggest that the castle had been held by supporters of the English king or at least by those loyal to the Balliol or Comyn causes.”

As discussed in Part 1, Ranulf de Strachan was closely allied to the earls of Buchan (Bruce's competitor to the throne of Scotland), and the chartulary suggests with a high probability that Ranulf was related to Elizabeth de Quincy, the mother of John Comyn, earl of Buchan. Strachan of that Ilk were no doubt supporters of the Balliol and Comyn causes, which fits Yeoman's thesis.

Robert de Bruce had a notorious reputation of burning out fortifications held by the English or those loyal to Comyn. He would slaughter the garrison, including those who surrendered. Bruce would have also burned the crops and any animals, leaving the barony of Strachan in a devastated condition. For this reason, Clan Strachan considers Castlehill of Strachan sacred ground given the many clansmen's lives that were lost at this site. To be sure, Robert de Bruce executed a near-genocide on the race of Strachan.

Not wanting to leave a potential enemy in the rear, Robert de Bruce and his forces harried the earldom of Buchan, burning all farms, slaughtering all livestock, and harassing its inhabitants. No part of Buchan was left untouched. As a result, the Bruce destroyed all support for the Comyn family in the Northeast.

John de Strachan

There seems to be little doubt that John de Strachan fought earlier at the Battle of Inverurie (1308) taking the field on the side of John Comyn, earl of Buchan.

Robert de Bruce and his forces routed John Comyn and his supporters, driving Comyn into exile in England, and scattering the rest.

About a year later, on 9 August 1309, John de Strachan



Castlehill of Strachan today.

granted a charter of donation to Sir Alexander Seton at an English encampment in Perth (Laing, ii, no. 927). The blazon reads, “A stag courtant to sinister between three foils.” A drawing of the seal is made in Hutton's Sigilla. The image is copyrighted, and presented herein with permission only to the Clan Strachan Society by the National Records of Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Five years later, 24 June 1314, was the Battle of Bannockburn. Most medieval

battles lasted only a few hours. The Battle of Bannockburn is unique in that it last two days. After the first day of battle, Sir Alexander Seton defected to the Scottish side informing Robert de Bruce of the poor English morale and encouraging the Bruce to continue the attack. It is unlikely Seton alone defected, but likely took his followers including Strachan of that Ilk. King Robert I heeded Seton's advice, and won the battle, driving the English out of Scotland, thus defeating the last of his opponents and secured his place on the Scottish throne.

After Bannockburn, 6 November 1314, an Act of Parliament at Cambuskenneth, Robert de Bruce disinherited all lands and titles from noblemen who died outside the faith and peace of King Robert in the war, or otherwise, those who had not come to his peace and faith. King Robert I would next grant the lands of the disinherited to his faithful followers and supporters.

After the destruction of the barony of Strachan and Castlehill of Strachan, one of Robert de Bruce's first acts of legislation was to disinherit the Strachans from their lands and titles, and in 1316 he granted the barony of Strachan to Sir Alexander Fraser (Robertsons Index, 1-15). Fraser was a faithful follower of the Bruce, a close friend, who would eventually marry King Robert's sister, and would later become Chamberlain of Scotland.

Charter evidence seems to confirm the thesis that the Strachan family fought at Bannockburn, were followers of



clan STRACHAN

Alexander Seton, and did not flee to England with the rest of the Comyn's allies.

At Parliament 26 April, 1315, in Ayr, it would seem that many of the seals belonging to those who had previously disputed the Bruce cause are affixed to charter (RPS, 1315/1). At least 43 noblemen affixed their seals including Ranulphi de Straquhane from Aberdeenshire whose seal is affixed only two positions behind Seton. We believe that Ranulf Strachan was the young heir apparent of John de Strachan at this date. It is likely that Ranulf de Strachan accompanied Seton at Bannockburn, and that John de Strachan (his father) had previously died. This would explain why King Robert disinherited the family from the barony of Strachan. We know that Alexander Seton accompanied Edward de Bruce (Robert's brother) after the parliamentary meeting on an ill fated campaign to conquer Ireland from the English. If our thesis is correct, Ranulf de Strachan would have certainly accompanied Seton to Ireland. Unfortunately, this is the first and last we hear of Ranulf de Strachan, and it is subsequently believed Ranulf died in Ireland in the service of Edward de Bruce.

20 July 1315, Agnes, the daughter and heiress of John de Montfort, had a charter concerning the sale of part of her property of Slains, at the coastal parish of Kinneff in the Mearns. The witnesses to the Montfort charter included many local landowners and notably, three members of the Strachan family: John de Strathechyn (second son and namesake of John de Strachan), Duncan his brother (thought to be Strachan of Monboddo), and two witnesses later, Adam Strathechyn (RRS, volume vi, No 377; and confirmed: RMS, i, no.268, app.2, no. 1564).

A seal matrix was discovered in 2001 by a metal detector-

ist in Foulden, Berwickshire, in a field next to the Foulden parish church and tithe barn.

The legend is in a Lombardic font and reads, S JOHIS DE STRATHEINE. Other spellings have also been suggested include "Stratagine"

Regarding the Foulden Matrix, a simple heraldic blazon (or description) would be, "A stag courant to sinister with two cinquefoils (rose with five petals) to the fore of the stag's legs, and two sexfoils (rose with six petals) below the stag's stomach. The pointed-oval or vesica-shape of the seal suggests the owner (John de Strachan) was a cleric. This was not an uncommon fate for second sons during the medieval period.

John (the younger) of Strachan's son and heir, Alexander de Strachan seems to have restored prominence to the family on or before 1325, the year following the Pope's reconciliation with King Robert I. Alexander Strachan had an arranged marriage and a return to prominence: Henry of Maule, lord of Panmure, gave, granted and by this his present charter established to Alexander son and heir of John Young[er] of Strachan, and Christina, his daughter, and their heirs procreated between them in free marriage, all his land of Carmyllie, his whole land of Drumnadych, his whole land of Hacwrandrom, half his land of Lochlair, the mill, the grain, Strathyis Copresille (ANG) ... with all their just pertinents, correct bounds, etc. They are to provide the forinsec service of their lord the king, as much as pertains to the land by right, and they are to render to Henry and his heirs one penny as a blanch-ferme. The land is to be held in feu and inheritance, and Henry promises warrandice (Panmure Reg., ii, 158-9).



West Highland White Terriers

Nobles, landed gentry, and poor farmers of the long-ago Scottish Highlands all faced the same problem: infestations of rodents that pillaged grain stores and carried disease. The solution was the development of a vast array of terriers called earthdogs, who were adept at finding and dispatching rats.

Smart, confident, and always entertaining at play, the adorable West Highland White Terrier (Westie, for short) has charmed owners for over 300 years. This is a diminutive, but sturdy, earthdog who is among the most popular of the small terriers bred to hunt rats and other underground rodents.

It is generally thought that the terriers of Scotland—including the Westie, Cairn, Skye, Scottish, and Dandie Dinmont terriers—are all branches of the same family tree. The exact beginnings of the breed are lost in the poetic words of one historian, “cloaked within the mists of the Scottish hills.”

The breed we know today as the West Highland White Terrier comes into focus in the 1700s, when Clan Malcolm began breeding the little white terriers on their estate,

called Paltaloch, where Westies were bred and maintained for more than 100 years prior to their appearance at dog shows. It is probable that the lineage of the Malcolm dogs goes back to the time of King James I, who asked for some “earth-doggies” out of Argyleshire. The breed was sometimes known as the Paltaloch Terrier; an alternate name was the Roseneath Terrier, named for another Scottish estate where early breedings were done.

By 1896, when the breed was first shown at Scottish dog shows, it was known as the West Highland White Terrier, referring to the northwest part of Scotland where Westies earned their fame. Westies were first appeared in American Kennel Club shows in 1906. Amusing, spunky, and portable, the Westie soon became, and has been, a popular companion dog in America and Canada for well over a hundred years. Juicy Couture and Black & White Scotch whisky are two of the brands that have used the Westie’s delightful image to attract customers.

The West Highland White Terrier is a





clan STRACHAN

loving dog who is good with older children, but may snap if annoyed. However, if properly supervised, the Westie can do well with children of all ages. A West Highland White Terrier is good with other dogs and is well suited for multidog homes.

Standing 10 to 11 inches at the shoulder, with dark piercing eyes, compact body, and a carrot-shaped tail wagging, the Westie's looks are irresistible, though beneath the plush-toy exterior, is a true working terrier of gameness and courage, and possessed with no small amount of self-esteem.

Westies are surprisingly strong and tough. Their all-white double coat is hard to the touch, not soft and fluffy.

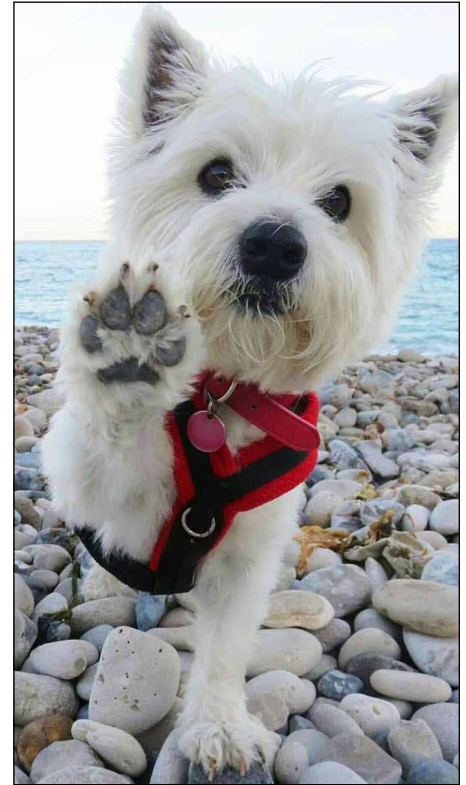
It is about two inches long with plenty of soft undercoat.

Traditionally, dogs such as terriers and Dachshunds tracked game above and below ground. Once they cornered their prey, they would bark to alert the hunter to their find. But most of these dogs are no longer used to hunt. More often, you'll see them in the home as a beloved pet. Life with one of the 'little white dogs' is never dull and can be a challenge to the unsuspecting first-time owner.

Potential owners should be aware that the original hunting instinct is still strong. Westies still like to bark and dig in the yard or garden, still exhibiting traits of a plucky and self-reliant ratting terrier: They require no pampering, they will chase after anything that moves, and their independence can make training a challenge. You can't train this instinct out of them, but, thanks to their faithfulness and keen intelligence, Westies generally do train nicely with time and patience.

Westies love to romp and play, and they enjoy a nice walk. Since by nature they will run after anything that moves, the breed does best in a fenced area or on a leash. With their intelligence, energy, and can-do attitude, Westies excel in a variety of canine sports and activities, including obedience, rally, and agility. True to the breed's original purpose, they have the instinct to go to ground and are superstars at earthdog events.

Earthdog (which can be located for further information on the American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club's



websites) offers a multitude of benefits for small hunting dogs. It's a great way for these little dogs to get rid

of their excess energy and lets them use their instincts in a way that benefits the dogs and their owners. The training is a bonding experience for a dog and his owner, establishing a clear leadership role in the relationship.

Back at home, the West Highland White Terrier should do well on a high-quality dog food appropriate to the dog's age (puppy, adult, or senior). Some Westies are prone to being overweight, so watch your dog's calorie consumption and weight level. Clean, fresh water should be available at all times. Check with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's weight or diet.

To keep the Westie looking his best, regular grooming is a must. Stripping (or plucking) the old, dead hair is the traditional way of taking care of the terrier coat, and it is the grooming method that must be used if you're interested in showing your dog. Pet owners often have their dogs' coats clipped for neatness. Most people find a professional groomer who will help keep that beautiful Westie look. Usually a visit to the groomer every 4 to 6 weeks will work just fine. Daily brushing and combing are important. Because the Westie has a hard coat, bathing too often can do more harm than good.



The Press and Journal

News notes adapted from the Aberdeen Press and Journal:

➤ HIGHLAND GAELIC PUPILS GET CHANCE TO EXPLORE HISTORY

Highland Council’s Gaelic team is leading an initiative being offered to both primary and secondary pupils across the Highlands called Many Places, Many Stories. Operated by writer Iain Finlay Macleod, the workshop offers a chance for Gaelic pupils to flex their creative muscles in the form of a creative writing scheme which will primarily explore what “image” means for the participants, including: which images or pictures do pupils like; which images have affected them; and which images are precious, that are kept in their memory.

“From this exploration will come fiction, poetry or drama which explores what matters to the young people who are participating,” a Council spokeswoman said.

The Highland Council’s commitment is to give equal respect for Gaelic and English, as Gaelic is an essential part of Highland life. “We recognize the educational, artistic, cultural, social and economic importance of Gaelic in underpinning our place in the modern world,” the Council’s website states.



Macleod said, “I’ve seen a lot of great writing work come out of the Gaelic schools, creative and with a unique perspective, and I’m sure this work will add to that.”

Councillor Alister Mackinnon of Highland Council’s Gaelic strategy and implementation group said, “It’s important for young people to be assisted to think creatively especially when using their Gaelic language skills.”

➤ WINDFARM DEVELOPER UNCERTAIN AFTER UK GOVERNMENT FUND SCRAPPED

Mountwest 838 Limited was granted permission to build three turbines on land at Mains of Cainbrogie, Oldmeldrum, in 2016. However the developer says that just before Aberdeenshire Council approved the project, a “sudden” and “unexpected” decision was taken to scrap a UK Government funding stream.

The UK’s Feed-In Tariff program was designed to support small-scale onshore renewable projects, but was recently scrapped. Mountwest has now applied to the Aberdeenshire Council to extend the duration of their planning permission in an effort to find alternate funding.

The commercial viability of projects at that time was dependent on the ability of developers to secure anticipated Feed-in Tariffs. Scottish Renewables said the scrapping of

the UK Government funding stream has led to “enormous uncertainty” for smaller firms.

The Feed-In Tariff program has been important in supporting small-scale renewables, community-owned energy and the smarter, cleaner energy systems which help fight climate change. Small-scale renewables enable homeowners and communities to take control of their energy supply, reducing their bills and carbon emissions, as well as providing additional opportunities for rural businesses to invest and grow.

The closure of the program means, at best, a period of enormous uncertainty for the companies that install these projects and for the people who work for them, as well as for the customers they serve.



clan STRACHAN

➔ MOUNTAINTOPS LIT UP TO CELEBRATE FUNDING FOR ROUTE REFURBISHMENT



Scotland's mountains were illuminated recently after more than 150 hikers lit torches for the National Trust for Scotland's Torchlight Challenge for walkers to reach the summit of both Ben Lomond and Ben Lawers in the Highlands and Arran's Goatfell.

The climb coincided with NTS announcing a £1.9 million five-year programme of investment to repair and upgrade 273 miles of upland walking routes across Scotland, including routes at Ben Lomond, Ben Lawers, Glencoe, Kintail, West Affric in the Highlands, the Mar Lodge estate in Aberdeenshire, Goatfell and St Abb's Head in Berwickshire, which will all be revamped in the coming months.

To celebrate the news, walkers reached their respective mountains' summits around 9:00 p.m. and their lit torches combined at each site to create a beacon that could be seen across the peaks.

Bob Brown, Upland Path Manager for NTS, said, "As a charity wholly funded by our members and supporters, we rely on campaigns such as the Torchlight Challenge and the Footpath Fund to help maintain and preserve our sensitive mountain environment.

"Paths not only make the mountains accessible but they protect the wider area too. When paths get into a bad state of repair, people avoid the damaged sections," he continued. "This leads to 'path creep' as people walk on the vegetation on either side, widening the path and damaging the surrounding area. Mountain path work is expensive and, as a charity, we rely on the Footpath Fund to allow us to maintain and restore the paths which hillwalkers love about Scotland."

Work is due to start at Goatfell.

Mark Bishop, Director of Customer and Cause at NTS, said, "Our new footpath programme is our most ambitious yet and, with the help of our loyal supporters, we will be able to implement crucial repairs and maintenance to guarantee the future of Scotland's most stunning and significant landscapes.

"The Torchlight Challenge teams have got us off to a flying start with their fund-raising efforts, all of which will play a vital role in protecting and preserving Scotland's treasured sights and landscapes in the future."



clan STRACHAN

➔ FINANCIAL FUTURE WILL BE GLOBAL

A Scot who leads the banking division of professional services giant Accenture told entrepreneurs to look east for export opportunities at a conference to be held at Gleneagles.

Alan McIntyre, the firm's New York-based senior managing director for banking, gave a talk entitled "The West Isnae Best" at the Entrepreneurial Scotland annual conference.

Mr. McIntyre, who has operated in the banking industry in America for more than 20 years, said there was huge growth potential for Scottish entrepreneurs in countries like China and India.

He said countries in Southeast Asia had "skipped a generation" in their payments systems.

"The conference emphasises the importance of having a global mindset and I'll be looking at this through the lens of financial services and why it's so important to look east.

"I think most Scottish entrepreneurs think England first, then Europe, then North America as their markets.

"They don't think China, Malaysia, India but yet if you think about what's happening in banking and financial services some of the most interesting developments are happening in those geographies.

"China has gone from not having any digital payments 10

years ago to three-quarters of the world's digital payments happening there."

He also urged Scottish companies to accept payments systems such as WeChat and Alipay to attract Chinese customers.

He said Finland had increased the number of Chinese tourists from 500,000 a year to five million in the space of five years after embracing Alipay digital transactions.

Citing the example of Go-Jek, which started in Indonesia in 2015 and was valued at \$10 billion just four years later, he said the speed that Southeast Asian firms can develop can be staggering.

"In the space of four years it's gone from bike rides to car hailing to food delivery to grocery delivery to insurance and lending.

"The clock speed has now changed. In the banking world if you have an idea and you've got funding you are immediately looking at going international.

"It's about being global in mindset, about learning what's happening elsewhere in the world but also about being global pretty quickly."

Through Scottish Enterprise, McIntyre has advised many firms on how to approach the market in the USA.

➔ POLICE OFFICERS COULD APPLY FOR STALKING PROTECTION ORDERS

A rise in stalking offences since 2012 has led to calls for greater protection to be given to victims. Police could be handed the power to apply for a stalking protection order on behalf of victims under proposed new legislation.

A survey by the Scottish Government in 2017-18 found 27% of women aged between 16 and 24 had experienced at least one incident of stalking in the previous year. Further analysis indicated 11% of adults had experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment over the same period.

A Bill has been submitted by SNP MSP Rona Mackay that would aim to give greater protection to victims by allowing police to make the application directly to court for them.

Recently, the Stalking Protection (Scotland) Bill was put out for public consultation and will be open for three months. It would require officers making the application to show evidence of stalking behaviour and that they believe

the victim is at risk.

Under current law, individuals who are being stalked are able to apply to the court to have a non-harassment order (NHO) taken out against a stalker which means the victim has to take legal action themselves, which can be costly and stressful, leading to low numbers of victims applying for NHOs.

Prosecutors can apply for an NHO once a stalker has been convicted, however, criminal cases take time to investigate and prosecute, leaving the victim to navigate a civil action at a particularly vulnerable time. In addition, if they do not qualify for legal aid, the cost is prohibitive.

Mackay said, "This proposal goes further than recently introduced legislation in England and ensures that no matter the relationship between the victim and stalker, that an SPO could be granted."



clan STRACHAN



More than half of planned windfarms in Scotland are in the highlands, including Clan Strachan lands

Grampian and Highlands politicians have hit out at the Scottish Government after it was revealed more than half of the country's windfarm applications are on their patch.

Of the 27 onshore wind applications currently sitting with the Scottish Government, 14 are in the north and north-east council areas of Scotland.

But the figures, released in response to a parliamentary question by the Conservative MSP Jamie Halcro Johnston, were welcomed by renewable energy trade body Scottish Renewables who claimed projects can bring "enormous economic opportunities" to the region.

Johnston said, "The Highlands and Islands have taken on a large share of Scotland's onshore wind projects. These figures suggest that most of Scotland's major new projects coming down the pipeline will be within this one region.

"While wind has a place as part of a positive energy mix, onshore wind also presents challenges for local communities," Johnson said, "and should be brought forward on the basis of engagement and local support.

"So it is unfortunate that the Scottish Government was unable to answer a straightforward question about its assessment of community benefit related to windfarms. It would seem that community engagement is not top of their

priorities."

The Scottish Government's Energy Consents team are responsible for wind development applications exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).

Of the 14 in the north and north-east, six sit within the Highland region alone, with two in Moray, four in Argyll and Bute, the Viking project on Shetland and the controversial Glendye Windfarm in Aberdeenshire (See James Strachan's article about this in our Winter 2019 Newsletter.).

In October 2018, opponents of a proposed Glendye project said the plans ignored local guidelines on large-scale energy developments.

The Banchory-based Glendye Windfarm Opposition Group, which has 40 members, said the development ignores key recommendations from the council's local development plan.

Aberdeenshire Greens co-convenor Guy Ingerson, a critic of the Glendye development, said, "You need to ensure you have local people on board with what is being proposed. The applications that have run into the most problems are the ones that haven't done enough consultation.

"Sometimes with the big windfarm companies the money aspect is overriding the ecological local democracy aspect of these applications," Ingerson said. "Communities should



be consulted before applications are even made.”

The John Muir Trust, who only object to a small number of the proposed windfarms said it was “eagerly awaiting” the decision of the Scottish Government on projects it believes “will have a detrimental impact on the landscape.”

Alternately, Fabrice Leveque, senior policy manager at Scottish Renewables, said, “Much of our wind resource is located in the Highlands and Islands: an area which makes up more than half of Scotland and which contains some of our most deprived communities.

“Onshore wind projects are already delivering a huge

range of benefits in these areas: skilled, well-paid jobs; better roads; improved broadband speeds. Onshore wind has improved the viability of rural businesses, providing income from low-grade land and enabling investment and growth.

“Increased investment, in the form of new onshore wind projects, will ensure these transformative improvements continue to benefit the people of the Highlands and Islands into the future, and help Scotland meet its future energy needs from climate friendly sources.”

Pros and Cons of Wind Energy

Pros(Advantages)

- Wind energy is free and the power it generates has been harnessed for years.
- It's a completely renewable source of energy, occurs naturally and can be harnessed once the means are there.
- Has no destructive effects, energy produced doesn't cause any greenhouse gases or pollutants.
- Generation and maintenance costs have decreased in recent years.

Cons(Disadvantages)

- Noise pollution and view disruption is an issue for communities nearby.
- Endangered birds can be killed when they fly too close to the wind turbines.
- Weather, Wind energy is highly subjective, not only to location but also to climate, time of the year, currents and weather patterns.
- Energy transmission, getting the energy from point A to B has proven difficult over the years.



The Palace of Holyrood House

The Palace of Holyroodhouse is the official (government-owned) residence of the Monarch of the United Kingdom in Scotland. Originally founded as an Augustinian monastery by David I, King of Scots in 1126, it has served as the principal residence of the Kings and Queens of Scots since the 15th century. The Palace stands at the bottom of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, at the opposite end of the Mile from Edinburgh Castle.

Annually, Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh entertain around 8,000 guests from all walks of Scottish life when they spend one week in residence at Holyroodhouse at the end of June for the Queen's Official Birthday.

Additionally, while in residence at Holyroodhouse, the Queen hosts garden parties and official ceremonies, and an Investiture, held in the Great Gallery for Scottish residents whose achievements have been recognized in the Honours List. She then continues on to Balmoral Castle (which she independently owns) for her annual two-month summer holiday.

The name Holyroodhouse is an anglicization of the Scots Haly Ruid (Holy Cross). The Holyroodhouse or Holy Rood is a Christian relic alleged to be part of the True Cross on which Jesus died. The word derives from the Old English rood, meaning a pole and the cross. According to legend, King David I was saved from an infuriated stag by the miraculous interception of a cross. Therefore, in the Abbey was preserved in a golden reliquary, the fragment of the True Cross brought by King David's mother, St. Margaret, from Waltham Abbey, and known thereafter as the Black Rood of Scotland. At the battle of Neville's Cross, in 1346, this precious relic fell into the

hands of the English, and was placed in Durham Cathedral, from whence it disappeared during the English Reformation.

In the fifteenth century a guesthouse stood on the site of the present north range of the Palace, west of the Abbey and its cloister. Many of Scotland's medieval Kings stayed here before the Palace's construction, preferring to live at Holyroodhouse Abbey, surrounded by parkland, rather than in the bleak Edinburgh Castle, high on a rock overlooking the town and exposed to the elements. Thus, by the late 15th century, Holyroodhouse was a royal residence in all but name; not only was James II born at Holyroodhouse in 1430, it was in Holyroodhouse that he was crowned, married and laid to rest.

Between 1498 and 1501, James IV cleared the ground close to the Abbey, constructing a new Palace for himself and his bride, Margaret Tudor – the sister of Henry VIII. Holyroodhouse become a Palace in the true sense of the word.

The Abbey has since been the site of many marriage ceremonies, burials, and royal coronations, such as those of Margaret Tudor in 1504, Mary of Guise in 1540, Anne of Denmark in 1590, and Charles I in 1633. The Abbey's Chapel Royal, still standing, contains the remains of David II, James II, James V, Lord Darnley, and others.

James V added a massive Tower between 1528 and 1532,





clan STRACHAN

and a new west front south of the Tower between 1535 and 1536. In this tower is the famous suite of rooms once occupied by Mary, Queen of Scots.

The wooden ceilings of the main rooms are from Mary's time and the monograms MR (Maria Regina) and IR (Jacobus Rex) refer to Mary and her son, James VI. Shields commemorating Mary's marriage to Francis II of France are believed to have been carved in 1559 but put in their present position in 1617. The suite contains an audience chamber and the Queen's bedroom, leading from which are two turret rooms. It was in the northern turret room, on March 9 1565, that the infamous murder of David Rizzio took place in Mary's presence. In later centuries, tourists were often convinced that they could see his blood stains on the floor.

The Abbey was adapted as a Chapel for the Order of the Thistle by King James VII (and II of England).

The Palace was built around a quadrangle, situated west of the Abbey cloister. It contained a chapel, gallery, royal apartments, and a great hall. The chapel occupied the present north range of the Great Quad-

rangle, with the Queen's apartments occupying part of the south range. A third range to the west contained the King's lodgings and the entrance to the Palace.

From 1603, when King James VI of Scotland inherited the throne of England and moved to London, until the reign of King George IV (1820 - 1830), the Palace remained an unused royal residence. In 1650, either by accident or design, the Palace was fired during the visit of Oliver Cromwell and his soldiers. Cromwell had the Palace rebuilt, but his rebuilding was later pulled down. Then, in 1688, following the Glorious Revolution, an Edinburgh mob broke into the Abbey, destroyed the Chapel Royal and desecrated the

royal tombs.

Charles II had the Palace re-constructed in its present form in the 1670s and the palace was transformed by the Scottish architect, Sir William Bruce. A tower was added to the right, to form a symmetrical façade, and new Royal Apartments were created in a sequence of richly decorated rooms, with sumptuous plasterwork ceilings, arranged around a classical-style quadrangle. James VII and II lived at Holyroodhouse between 1679 and 1682 while still Duke of York, in the aftermath of the Exclusion crisis.

In 1691, the then-new Kirk of the Canongate replaced the Abbey as the local parish church, where today the Queen attends services when in residence at the Palace. The roof of the Abbey collapsed in the 18th century, leaving it as it currently stands, a ruin.

After 1707, the Palace was used during the elections of Scottish representative peers. Bonnie Prince Charlie held court at Holyroodhouse for five weeks during the 1745 Jacobite Rising, and following the French Revolution, George III allowed Louis XVI's youngest brother, the Comte

d'Artois to live at Holyroodhouse. After their second exile, the French royals lived at Holyroodhouse again from 1830 until 1832 when they moved to Austria.

In the twentieth century, King George V and Queen Mary continued restoration and renovation work on the Palace, which they regarded as a family home. They were instrumental in bringing Holyroodhouse into the twentieth century, installing bathrooms, electricity and lifts. They also began the tradition of Garden Parties being held at the Palace.

In modern times, monarchs have spent at least one week every year formally holding Court in the Palace of Holy-





clan STRACHAN

roodhouse in Edinburgh. The present Queen still uses it when she is in Scotland for State occasions (on non-State occasions, she stays at Balmoral Castle in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, near the village of Crathie).

Use of The Palace of Holyroodhouse has increased substantially since the setting up of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, with various members of the Royal Family, notably Prince Charles and Princess Anne, often staying there. At one time it was thought that a member of the Royal Family, widely expected to be the Princess Royal (who has strong Scottish connections), may well become a full-time Royal resident in the Palace, representing the Queen; however, this has not come to fruition.

At the Palace, the Queen meets and appoints the First Minister of Scotland. During the British Presidency of the European Union, a meeting of the European Council took place at Holyroodhouse.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse was one of three Royal sites excavated over four days by the Time Team of archaeologists led by Tony Robinson, on August 25-28, 2006. For the first time, the Queen had given permission for trenches to be dug in the Garden of Buckingham Palace, as well as in Windsor Castle, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, giving archeologists an unprecedented opportunity to probe the geophysics and history of three royal residences over a four-day period, with teams working concurrently in all three locations.

Part of the cloister of Holyroodhouse Abbey, running in line with the existing ruined Augustinian Abbey was un-

earthed. Also, the square tower of the lost Palace of James IV was discovered. Unfortunately, they did not locate the tennis court of his granddaughter, Mary, Queen of Scots.

Notably, they did locate an area of reddened earth where Henry VIII had ordered the Palace to be burned when chagrined at the Scots' refusal to marry the infant Mary Stuart (later Mary Queen of Scots) to his son Edward (later Edward VI).

Also, among the objects found at Holyroodhouse were a seal matrix used to stamp the wax seal on correspondence or documents, and a 1634 double tournois coin.

A measure of the importance of Holyroodhouse is the status of its Keeper, who was appointed to oversee the Palace in the absence of the Court. There were various grants of the office of Keeper of Holyroodhouse until 1646, when King Charles I conferred it heritably on the 1st Duke of Hamilton, whose descendants have retained the post ever since. This post is one of the Great Offices in the Royal Household in Scotland, and indeed the private Ducal apartments cover a larger area of the Palace than the State apartments cover.

The Keeper still appoints his own Deputy and the Bailie of Holyroodhouse, who is responsible for law and order within the Holyroodhouse Abbey Sanctuary. Additionally, the High Constables of Holyroodhouse are responsible to the Keeper.

Year-round, when no members of the Royal Family are in residence, The Palace of Holyroodhouse is open to the public.

Ticket prices are:

Adult	£14.00
Over 60 / Student	£12.70
Under 17 / Disabled	£8.10
Under 5	Free
Family (2 adults and 3 under 17s)	£36.10

Ticket prices for a combined visit to the Royal Collection and The Palace of Holyroodhouse are:

Adult	£19.10
Over 60 / Student	£17.90
Under 17 / Disabled	£10.80
Under 5	Free
Family (2 adults and 3 under 17s)	£49.00

Because opening/closing times are subject to change, visitors should check the Royal Collection Trust website to ensure that Holyroodhouse will be open. At this time, the Palace is scheduled to be open to the public on:

November 1 to March 31

Open: 09:30 Closed: 16:30

April 1 to October 31

Open: 09:30 Closed: 18:00

As The Palace of Holyroodhouse is a working royal palace, closures can happen at short notice.



clan STRACHAN

New Society Commissioner

Sarah Franklin Strain Triton, newly appointed Society Regional Commissioner for Florida and Georgia, is a resident of Eustis, Florida, but grew up in Dalton, Georgia. She is a proven descendant of Andrew Strain, Sr. of North Carolina, and many male descendants of the R-M222 haplogroup, which is shared with many of the surname Strachan.

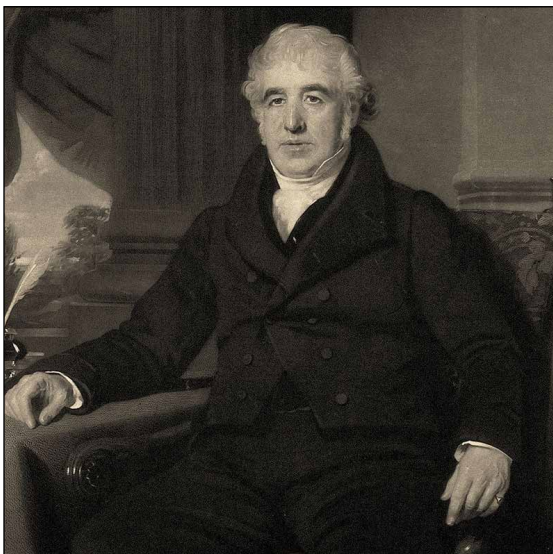
On her maternal side, she descends from Griscom (Wales) and Stewart, under whose tartan she has attended Highland Games for over 30 years. Upon learning of her paternal Strachan connection and it's need for more Clan representation in the Southern USA, she expressed interest in advancing the cause of Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.

Sarah (known in Georgia as Sally) is married to Mark, a snare drummer with the City of Mt. Dora (Florida) Pipe Band, and has two single adult children, Meghan, 29 and Jake, 25. Sarah is a multi-media fashion accessories artist and a part-time realtor.



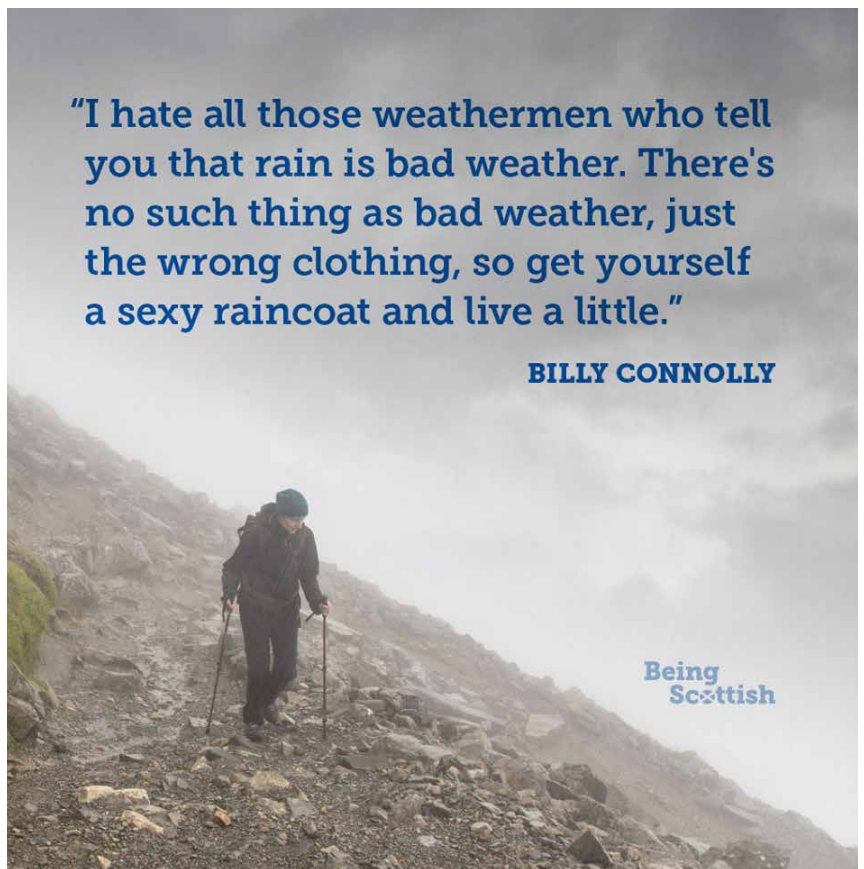
Did you know?

In 1823, Glasgow-born chemist and inventor Charles Macintosh patented his new invention, waterproof clothing, which he used to make his famous rain macs (waterproof jackets). Something that's dead handy if yer oot and aboot in Scotland this summer



"I hate all those weathermen who tell you that rain is bad weather. There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing, so get yourself a sexy raincoat and live a little."

BILLY CONNOLLY





clan STRACHAN

Membership Application

First name: _____
 Middle name: _____
 Surname: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 Spouse's name: _____
 Spouse's date of birth: _____
 Interests in Society: _____
 Genealogy: _____
 Clan affiliation or Scottish surname history: _____

History provided from Black's *Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History*

Membership application also available on the Internet at www.clanstrachan.org

Method of payment

- Cheque
- Bill me
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "The Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society Inc."

Clachnaben!

Newsletter for the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.
 30730 San Pascual Road Phone: 951-760-8575
 Temecula, California, 92591 Email: jim@clanstrachan.org
 United States of America

Member benefits

- Lifetime membership: you choose the level.
- Full transparency: access to the previous year's financial statements.
- Full voting rights: to elect Officers and Directors and the eligibility to hold office.
- Genealogy database services.
- Access to Genealogy record archival services.
- Free consultation in obtaining Armorial bearings.
- Access to the Scottish Heritage and Genealogy Library.
- Access to the Members' Only section of our website, which contains:
 - ⊗ Confidential member directory
 - ⊗ Past issues of our newsletter
 - ⊗ Additional information on heritage
 - ⊗ Genealogy links and information
 - ⊗ Custom address labels, music downloads, PC wallpaper, and much more!
 - ⊗ Full benefits disclosure is available in our Bylaws.

Select Lifetime Membership Level *

- Individual \$20 US
- Family \$40 US
- Platinum \$250 US

* Please see the "Types of Membership" page on our website at www.clanstrachan.org for membership levels and offerings.

Name on credit card: _____
 Billing address: _____
 Credit card number: _____
 Expiry date: _____
 Security code: _____

Member acknowledgement

Society bylaws and membership terms and conditions are available online at www.clanstrachan.org.
 If applicable, the Clan Strachan Heritage Society has my authorization to bill my credit card provided above.

Signature: _____



clan STRACHAN

Board of Directors and Officers

Dennis Strawhun
Co-Founder, Convenor, Director
 P.O. Box 871
 Carlsbad, CA 92018 (USA)
 dennis@clanstrachan.org



Dr. T. Martin Strahan
Clan Strachan Y-DNA Project
Administrator,
Subordinate Officer / Director *
 martin@clanstrachan.org



Michael Strahan
Vice President, Director
 Telephone: +317/715-8527
 mike@clanstrachan.org



Judy Carole Strawn
Newsletter Editor, Subordinate Officer / Director*
 Telephone: 323/375-9225
 judy@clanstrachan.org



James Andrew Strachan, FSA Scot
Co-Founder, Treasurer,
Immediate Past President
 P.O. Box 890955
 Temecula, CA 92589 (USA)
 Telephone: +951/760-8575
 jim@clanstrachan.org



Walter Strachan
Regional Commissioner, Maritimes Canada,
Subordinate Officer / Director *
 walter@clanstrachan.org



George Duncan Strachan
Corporate Secretary,
Director
 george@clanstrachan.org



Webmaster / Subordinate Officer / Director*
 This position is open.

OFFICERS

Paul McKeough
Genealogist USA / Canada, Subordinate
Officer/
Director*
 paul@clanstrachan.org



President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected positions every two years at the AGM. These officers receive an automatic position on the Board of Directors.

Garry Strachan
UK Genealogist & UK, Subordinate Of-
ficer / Director*
 Member of AGRA (now united with
 ASGRA), Associate Member of IHGS
 garry-uk@clanstrachan.org



** = A subordinate officer position is appointed by the Board of Directors with a two (2) year term. Must thereafter be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors every two years to remain in office. To be a Director, subordinate officers must be actively serving in their capacity as an Officer of the Corporation; must be nominated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, to serve as a Director; AND must be elected to serve a concurrent term as Director by a majority vote of the Society's membership at the Annual General Meeting.*



Regional Commissioners

CANADA

**Dr. Lloyd W. Strachan, PhD: Director
Regional Commissioner of Eastern Canada**
Lloyd@clanstrachan.org

**Ian Strachan: Director
Regional Commissioner for Western Canada**
Ian@clanstrachan.org

UNITED KINGDOM

**Fiona Strachan of Benholm, Director
Regional Commissioner for Scotland and
the United Kingdom**
Fiona@clanstrachan.org



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
**Michael Ray Strawhun: Director
Regional Commissioner, Western USA**
Mikes@clanstrachan.org



**Jack Schlaeger: Director
Regional Commissioner, Central USA**
Jack@clanstrachan.org



**Melanie Strachan-Zimmerman: Director
Regional Commissioner of Eastern USA**
Melanie@clanstrachan.org

**Sarah Strain Triton: Director Regional
Commissioner, Florida and Georgia, USA**
Sarah@clanstrachan.org



HONOURARY BOARD MEMBERS:

Rob Strachan, Sir Hew Strachan, Roddy Strachan of Benholm



Scottish sausage rolls

DIRECTIONS

MEAT FILLING:

In a large bowl, mix together the salt with all the spices and breadcrumbs. Add the ground beef, and about 1/2 cup of water. Using your hands, mix all the ingredients together until it has a meatloaf texture, adding additional water as needed. The sausage should hold together when squeezed, without being too wet.

PASTRY:

Next, place the puff pastry on a clean counter, mat or board and cut into rectangular(ish) pieces; they don't need to be exact, depending on the size of the rolls you want to make - from cocktail size to "man" size. Alternatively, you can make a long roll, and cut into the size desired.

ROLLS:

Shape some meat into logs, and place close to one end of the pastry, but don't put too much meat or they will burst open when baking.

With your finger, lightly dampen one of the edges with a little water, seal shut, then crimp with a fork.

Place on a lined (silicone sheet, aluminum foil or parchment paper) edged baking tray. Make three or four small cuts in the top of the pastry, and brush with a little beaten egg white.

BAKE:

Bake sausage rolls in heated 400° F oven for about 25 minutes or until golden brown. Makes about a dozen large, or 24 small sausage rolls.

INGREDIENTS

- One package Puff Pastry
- 1 Lb. Ground Beef; or, 1 Lb. Ground Pork Sausage
- 1/2 Cup Water
- 1 1/4 Tsp. Salt
- 3/4 Tsp. Black Pepper
- 3/4 Tsp. Coriander (dried, ground) do not use fresh cilantro
- 1/2 Tsp. Nutmeg
- 1 Cup plain Breadcrumbs (see my prior post on how to make your own- click here)
- 1 Slightly beaten Egg White, to brush pastry