

Somerled And The Emergence Of Gaelic Scotland

A journal of Scottish history.

The history of the so-called Canmore kings in Scotland, from the reign of Malcolm III (1058-93) down to that of Alexander III (1249-86), is marked by an array of insurrections led by discontented dynasts and native warlords with grievances against these kings. Although none of the challenges ultimately proved successful, they nevertheless form a much-neglected theme across a formative era of Scottish history, which they in part define. This book demonstrates that the Canmore kings maintained their grip on power in large measure through crushing rivals and quashing numerous insurrections; their claim to be the founders of the medieval kingdom is valid, but the roles of violence and military confrontations in the consolidation of their power and the formation of the medieval kingdom are given new emphasis here.

This Palgrave Pivot explores the representation of sea kings, sinners, and saints in the mid-thirteenth century Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles, the single most important text for the history of the kingdoms of Man and the Isles, c.1066-1300. The focus of the Chronicles on the power struggles, plots and intrigues within the ruling dynasties of Man and the Isles offers an impressive array of heroes and villains. The depiction of the activities of heroic sea kings like Godred Crovan, tyrannical usurpers like Harald son of Godred Don, and their concubines and wives, as well as local heroes like Saint Maughold, raises important questions concerning the dynamic interactions of power, gender and historical writing in the medieval Kingdoms of Man and the Isles, and provide new insights into the significance of the text that is our most important source of information on these 'Forgotten Kingdoms' of the medieval British Isles.

How the Scots Invented the Modern World

A History of Clan Donald

Realities, Myths, Ballads

Insular Responses to Medieval European Change

American Scandinavian

Whisky Island

The 'other royal family' of the sub-title is first noticed in the seventh century as the Cenel Loairn, one of the principal dynastic kindreds of Dalriada, the embryonic kingdom of the Scots in Argyll. By the end of that century they had displaced the Cenel nGabrain, a kindred descended from the traditional founding dynast Fergus Mor, from over-kingship of Dalriada and clung on to power until the Pictish onslaught of the 730s. While the Cenel Gabrain extended eastward into Pictland as the MacAlpin kings of Alba, the Cenel Loairn moved up the Great Glen to reappear as hereditary

mormaers of Moray, effectively kings in the north who achieved their pinnacle of ascendancy when Macbeth seized the high-kingship of Scots in 1040. His death, and that of his kinsman and successor Lulach, at the hands of Malcolm Canmore signalled the resurgence of the Cenel nGabrain and launched the Cenel Loairn into terminal decline. Yet the house of Lulach still pursued its claim on kingship through a sequence of rebellions against Canmore kings which continued into the second quarter of the thirteenth century. "Kings, Mormaers, Rebels" traces the story of the Cenel Loairn and its descendent kindreds through more than six hundred years to throw an unfamiliar side-light on the emergence of the medieval kingdom of the Scots.

An exciting account of the origins of the modern world Who formed the first literate society? Who invented our modern ideas of democracy and free market capitalism? The Scots. As historian and author Arthur Herman reveals, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Scotland made crucial contributions to science, philosophy, literature, education, medicine, commerce, and politics—contributions that have formed and nurtured the modern West ever since. Herman has charted a fascinating journey across the centuries of Scottish history. Here is the untold story of how John Knox and the Church of Scotland laid the foundation for our modern idea of democracy; how the Scottish Enlightenment helped to inspire both the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution; and how thousands of Scottish immigrants left their homes to create the American frontier, the Australian outback, and the British Empire in India and Hong Kong. How the Scots Invented the Modern World reveals how Scottish genius for creating the basic ideas and institutions of modern life stamped the lives of a series of remarkable historical figures, from James Watt and Adam Smith to Andrew Carnegie and Arthur Conan Doyle, and how Scottish heroes continue to inspire our contemporary culture, from William "Braveheart" Wallace to James Bond. And no one who takes this incredible historical trek will ever view the Scots—or the modern West—in the same way again.

The brief mention of the galloglas in Shakespeare's Macbeth typifies the attention that this warrior-class has recieved from historians and playwrights alike. This class of mercenary warrior originated in the Hebrides and western isles of Scotland but went on to play an important role in Irish history from the late 13th to 15th century.

The Feuds of the Clans

The Historical Origins of the MacDougalls and MacDonalds, 1100-1500 : an Historical Account of the Career of Somerled, the Norse Slayer, who Claimed the Title of King of Argyll and King of the Isles, and of the First Ten Generations of His Descendants, Including Their Involvement in the Creation of the Country of Scotland

The Heirs of Somerled

With Genealogies of the Principal Families of the Name

A History of Shetland, Orkney, the Hebrides, Isle of Man, Anglesey, Scilly, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands
Somerled

By the power of his sword arm, his dragon fleet and his sheer personality, Somerled Norse Slayer carved an enduring name for himself in Scottish legend. Inheriting his father's shattered thanedom in Argyll in the twelfth century, he enlarged it by courage, initiative, military shrewdness and diplomacy. For decades his navy held the balance of power in the northern seas, and it was he who cleared the Vikings out of the Hebrides. Set against the romantically celebrated West Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland, the story of the conquests and courage of this hero king is a living tribute to a renowned legend. A thrilling story of the Scottish Isles in the 12th century by Nigel Tranter, master of Scottish historical fiction. By the power of his sword arm, his dragon fleet and his sheer personality, Somerled Norse Slayer carved an enduring name for himself in Scottish legend. Inheriting his father's shattered thanedom in Argyll in the twelfth century, he enlarged it by courage, initiative, military shrewdness and diplomacy. For decades his navy held the balance of power in the northern seas, and it was he who cleared the Vikings out of the Hebrides. Set against the romantically celebrated West Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland, the story of the conquests and courage of this hero king is a living tribute to a renowned legend. A thrilling story of the Scottish Isles in the 12th century by Nigel Tranter, master of Scottish historical fiction.

A chronological narrative account of the development of the Scottish legal system from early times, with reference to original sources. This volume traces the development of Scots law up to 1286. It covers the sources and literature, the procedure and principles.

Their names bespeak a rich past. From the Norse Hjalmland comes the modern Shetland: islands nominally Scottish, steeped in Nordic culture, closer to the Arctic Circle than to London. Important Neolithic sites are at Skara Brae and Maes Howe in the Orkneys. Holy Iona, island center of Celtic Christianity, the Isle of Man, former seat of rule over the Irish Sea, and Anglesey and Islay, homes of medieval courts at Aberffraw and Loch Finlaggan, are just a few of the more than 6,000 islands that form the archipelago known as the British Isles. The offshore isles are home to half a million people. Focusing on the eight islands or chains that have long supported substantial populations, this history tells the stories of Shetland, Orkney, the Hebrides, Anglesey, the Channel Islands, the Scilly Isles, and the Isles of Man and Wight, from their Neolithic settlement, to Roman, Norse and Norman occupation, to the struggle to maintain their uniqueness in today's world. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

Outlaws of Medieval Scotland

23 wild walks in the Southern Hebrides

In Three Parts: I. Their Origin and History, to the Beginning of the Ninth Century. Ii. from the Beginning of the Ninth Century to the End of the Thirteenth. Iii. the Hebrides Under the Government of Norway.--Somerled.--C

History of the Clan Donald, the Families of MacDonald, McDonald and McDonnell
Bludie Harlaw

An Archaeology of the Emergence of Modern Life in the Southern Scottish Highlands

Throughout most of 800 years, Somerled of Argyll has been variously denounced as an intractable rebel against his rightful king and esteemed as the honoured ancestor of the later medieval Lords of the Isles, but he can be recognized as a much more complex figure of major prominence in 12th-century Scotland and of truly landmark significance in the long history of the Gael.

Born c1113 in Morvern, Argyll, Somerled was half-Norse through his mother. His father's lineage was reputedly of royal blood. Forced into exile in Ireland his family convinced the Colla clan to help them reclaim their Argyll lands, but his father was killed in the attempt. Growing up and living as a warrior hermit, Somerled led the inhabitants of Morvern against the Norse and regained his family's lands thus becoming master of large tracts of northern Argyll. Soon after he took control of the south of Argyll and pronounced himself Thane of Argyll. At the same time King David I was waging war against the Norwegians and Somerled's stature and currency rose with the king accordingly. Somerled wooed King Olaf the Red by marrying his daughter c1140. For 14 years they lived in relative peace until Olaf was murdered by his nephews who siezed control of the Norse lands in the Hebrides. Olaf's son Godfrey, a tyrant, reclaimed these lands but the inhabitants revolted and appealed to Somerled who then led a successful resistance and took Argyll in its entirety. Somerled's invention of the moveable stern rudder gave his sailors an advantage over the Norse war galleys and when Godfrey and Somerled clashed again two years later the Norse galleys were routed. Somerled became King of the Isles around 1156 but was able to treaty with King Malcolm IV who was concerned at Somerled's increasing power. However, after being insulted by Malcolm once too often, Somerled invaded the Clyde in 1163 with 164 galleys and 15,000 men and marched on Renfrew. What happened next is unclear but Somerled died in 1164 and his army dispersed back to the isles. His legacy was in fathering the Clan Donald, the creation of the finest galleys ever seen in Scottish waters and the enduring power base of the Lordship of the Isles.

This guidebook presents a selection of 23 walking routes on the wild and beautiful southern islands of Scotland's Inner Hebrides, with nine walks on Jura, one on neighbouring Scarba, seven on Islay and five on Colonsay, plus a spectacular 5-day trek along Jura's dramatic west coast. The wildest of the southern Hebrides, the walking on Jura is frequently rugged, with many routes crossing remote and often pathless terrain that calls for fitness, self-reliance and navigational competence. The routes on the other islands are somewhat easier, but should still not be underestimated. In addition to clear route description illustrated with 1:50,000 OS mapping, the guide offers practical advice on the various options for getting to the islands, accommodation and amenities. There are suggestions for linking walks and notes on the islands' bothies and wild-camping recommendations, making it easy to devise longer day walks or multi-day itineraries. Also included are fascinating overviews of the islands' rich history, geology, plants and wildlife. Beautiful colour photography completes the package. The routes showcase the islands' magnificent scenery, which is as diverse as it is beautiful, ranging from wild moorland to flower-strewn machair and small pockets of native woodland.

The coastline is arguably the jewel in the crown, with geological wonders aplenty: sea-cliffs, caves, stacks and arches, sand and shingle bays and the characteristic Hebridean raised beaches. Abundant wildlife and birdlife is a further highlight. These carefully chosen walks will inspire you to get out and discover the magic of these captivating islands.

The Highlanders of Scotland

Kings, Usurpers, and Concubines in the 'Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles'

Clan Donald Roll of Honour, 1914-1918. With Short History of the Clan from the Time of Somerled Until the Extinction of the Clan System After the Rising of 1745

The Innes Review

British Consciousness and Identity

And the Emergence of Gaelic Scotland

There is a growing interest in the history of relations between the English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish as the United Kingdom and Ireland begin to construct new political arrangements and to become more fully integrated into Europe. This book brings together work on how these relations developed between 900 and 1300, a period crucial for the formation of national identities. The conquest of England by the Normans and the subsequent growth in English power required the inhabitants of Britain and Ireland to reassess their dealings with each other. Old ties were broken and new ones formed. Economic change, the influence of chivalry, the transmission of literary motifs, and questions of aristocratic identity are among the topics tackled here by leading scholars from Britain, Ireland and North America. Little has been published hitherto on this subject, and the book marks a major contribution to a topic of lasting interest.

Kathleen MacPhee provides an in-depth historical insight into the 12th century King of Argyll who laid the ground for the expulsion of the Norse from Scotland's west coast and Hebrides.

This is a reissue edition of the previously published title Peat Smoke and Spirit (9780747245780), published in 2005. 'This is not simply an appreciation of whisky, but a voyage into the history and geography of a tiny Scottish island' Daily Mail Those who discover malt whisky quickly learn that the malts made on the Isle of Islay are some of the wildest and most characterful in the malt-whisky spectrum. In Whisky Island, Islay's fascinating story is uncovered: from its history and stories of the many shipwrecks which litter its shores, to the beautiful wildlife, landscape and topography of the island revealed through intimate descriptions of the austere beautiful and remote countryside. Interleaved through these different narrative strands comes the story of the whiskies themselves, traced from a distant past of bothies and illegal stills to present-day legality and prosperity. The flavour of each spirit is analysed and the differences between them teased out, as are the stories of the notable men and women who have played such an integral part in their creation.

Galloglas

Somerled and the Emergence of Gaelic Scotland

A Legal History of Scotland: The beginnings to A.D. 1286

Kings, Mormaers, Rebels

A Portrait of Islay and its whiskies

Celtic Culture: A-Celti

This is the first modern account of one of the epic stories of Scottish history, the rise and fall of Clan Donald.

Tracing its origins back to the great Somerled, this book charts the steady ascent of Clan Donald. Essays on the early modern period that make a special contribution to the development of the 'new British history'.

Galloglas were mercenary warriors from the Hebrides and West Highlands who settled in Ireland in the later 13th century and achieved an extraordinary prominence on Irish battlefields throughout the three hundred years following. Fighting as heavy infantry - highly-disciplined, mail-armoured and wielding their characteristic weapon of the long-staved war-axe - they were the decisive military component in the Gaelic Irish resurgence of the 14th century and represented the cutting-edge of resistance to Tudor reconquest two hundred years later. Found first in the service of native Irish lords in Ulster and Connacht, they were later brought into Munster and Leinster by the gaelicised Anglo-Irish earls. By the 15th century they were established as Ireland's first professional warrior class and, like other professional classes in the Gaelic world, they were organized on the basis of kin-group. The names of hereditary commanders of galloglas entered in the Irish annals identify these mercenary warrior kindreds as the MacCabes, MacDonnells, MacDowells, MacRorys, MacSheehys and MacSweeneys, all of them families descended from the Gaelic-Norse aristocracy of Argyll and the Isles - and yet their story has been called "a forgotten chapter of West Highland history". This account of the galloglas is written from a decidedly Scottish perspective, tracing the origins of six kindreds and investigating the circumstances which brought about their relocation to Ireland. It goes on to examine the galloglas as warriors, pointing to their distinctly Norse character and proposing their battle-fury as "the last unmistakable echo of the Scandinavian impact on the Celtic west".

Challenges to the Canmore Kings, 1058-1266

Lord of the Isles

Hebridean and West Highland Mercenary Warrior Kindreds in Medieval Ireland

The North Remembers

**The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Ever ything in It
Clan Donald**

The most comprehensive history of Clan Donald, originally published in three volumes between 1896 and 1904. Somerled founded Clan Donald over 800 years ago. This largest of clans consolidated its power in the north of Scotland and its western isles until the fall of the Lordship in 1493, still retaining power through several divisions until the clan system was smashed in 1745. After the Battle of Culloden in 1746, many members of Clan Donald were driven from their homelands and scattered all over the world, becoming influential in all areas of society. This book describes the lives and times of the Lords of the Isles and tells the stories of the branches that rose to prominence after 1745.

A wall in the distant north cuts the world in two. Ruthless sea-born warriors raid the coasts from their war galleys, yearning to regain lost glories. A young nobleman and his kin are slaughtered under a banner of truce within a mighty castle. A warrior king becomes a legend when he smites his foe with one swing of his axe during a nation-forging battle. Yet this isn't Westeros – it's Scotland. Game of Thrones is history re-imagined as fantasy; *The History Behind Game of Thrones: The North Remembers* turns the tables, using George R. R. Martin's extraordinary fictional

universe as a way to understand the driving forces and defining moments from Scotland's story. Why were castles so important? Was there a limit to the powers a medieval king could use – or abuse? What was the reality of being under siege? Was there really anything that can compare to the destructive force of dragons? By joining forces, Westeros and Scotland hold the answers. Writer and presenter David C. Weinczok draws on a vast array of characters, events, places, and themes from Scottish history that echo Game of Thrones at every dramatic turn. Visit the castle where the real Red Wedding transpired, encounter the fearsome historical tribes beyond Rome's great wall, learn how a blood-red heart became the most feared sigil in Scotland, and much more. By journey's end, the cogs in the wheels of Martin's world and Scottish history will be laid bare, as well as the stories of those who tried to shape – and sometimes even break – them.

In the summer of 1411, the ageing Donald of Isla, Lord of the Isles, invaded mainland Scotland with a huge, battle-hardened army, only to be fought to a bloody standstill on the plateau of Harlaw, fifteen miles from Aberdeen, a town he had threatened to sack. One of the greatest battles in Scottish history, described by hardened mediaeval chroniclers as 'atrocious', 'Reid Harlaw' left some 3,000 dead and wounded. Dismissed by Scott as a 'Celt v. Saxon' power struggle, it has faded from historical memory, other than in the north-east of Scotland. Written records in Latin, Scots, Gaelic and English are presented in their original form, and with transcriptions and translations. Two major ballads are analysed, one contemporary, and one fabricated over 350 years later - which is still sung. Lowland views dominate, because of the loss and destruction of Highland records, notably those of the Lords of the Isles themselves. The histories themselves fall into two groups - those written at or around the time, and those composed some 300 years later. These later accounts form the basis of most modern descriptions of the battle, but they tend to be romantic and highly imaginative, creating noble order where chaos once existed.

Hammer of the Norse

The History of the Ancient Scots

The Highland Clans

Walking on Jura, Islay and Colonsay

Britain and Ireland, 900–1300

The History of Argyll Up to the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century

My interest in the archaeology of the Scottish Highlands began long before I had any formal training in the subject. Growing up on the eastern fringes of the southern Highlands, close to Loch Lomond, it was not hard to stumble across ruined buildings, old field boundaries, and other traces of everyday life in the past. This is especially true if you spend much time, as I have done, climbing the nearby mountains and walking and driving through the various glens that give access into the Highlands. At the time, I had no real understanding of these remains, simply accepting them as being built and old. After studying archaeology for a few years at the University of Glasgow, itself only a short commute from the area where I grew up, I became acutely aware that I still had no real understanding of these – familiar, yet enigmatic, buildings and fields. This and a

growing interest in Scotland's historical archaeology drove me to take several courses on the subject of rural settlement studies. These courses allowed me to place what I now knew to be houses, barns, mills, shieling (transhumance) settlements, rig-and-furrow cultivation, and other related remains in history. Overwhelmingly, they seemed to date from the period of the last 300 years. I also began to understand how they all worked together as component parts of daily rural life in the past.

A compelling and beautifully illustrated history of Scottish clans and their leaders. Depicting a man who was both denounced as an intractable rebel against his rightful king and esteemed as the honored ancestor of the Lord of the Isles, this investigation recounts the life and times of Somerled. Illustrating how he can now be recognized as a complex figure of major prominence in 12th-century Scotland, this overview charts his emergence in the forefront of the Gaelic-Norse aristocracy. All major events are recounted, from his war on the Manx King of the Isles to his extraordinary invasion of the Clyde?cut short by his violent death at Renfrew in 1164. From Scottish chroniclers and Irish annalists to Gaelic tradition bearers, this recollection brilliantly assembles, evaluates, and interprets the full spectrum of historical evidence. Through exhaustive research and painstaking detail, this in-depth study brings Somerled to life as the complex and incredibly influential figure that he was.

The History Behind Game of Thrones

History of the Macdonalds and Lords of the Isles

The Age of the Clans

In Three Parts: I. Their Origin and History, to the Beginning of the Ninth Century. II. From the Beginning of the Ninth Century to the End of the Thirteenth. III. The Hebrides Under the Government of Norway.--Somerled.--Chiefs Descended from Somerled

The Highlands from Somerled to the Clearances

Clan Donald Roll of Honour, 1914-1918

This is the first overview of Highland society ever to be written which covers the period from the rise of Somerled to the first clearances. The period has been chosen as one of considerable continuity and the book deals with four main themes - the changing political relationships and tensions within the region, the clans, their composition,

alliances, strongholds and patterns of display the changes in settlement over time, and the economy of the Highlands and Islands. Most books on the Highlands concentrate either on crofting or on high politics, but without a full understanding of the dynamics of society, much of Highland history is difficult to comprehend. This book is not a dry economic narrative, but a lavishly illustrated story of a society in many ways unique in Europe, a story of feasting in great halls such as Dunvegan, of the galley fleets of the great lords, of strange pagan survivals in ritual and belief, and of a magnificent oral tradition. This is both a new and exciting view of a society too often dismissed either as a backward relic of the past or combed through for similarities with Scotland south of the Highland line.

The Other British Isles

Rural Society in the Age of Reason

American Scandinavian Magazine

Early Scotland's Other Royal Family

The Lords of the Isles

With Short History of the Clan from the Time of Somerled Until the Extinction of the Clan System After the Rising of 1745