



TCFA Cuairt Litir (TCFA Newsletter)

Tucson Celtic Festival Association



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NEXT MEETING...

The next TCFA meeting will be held at 9am on October 5, 2019 at Holy Donuts, 351 N. Fourth Avenue.



FIRST WORLD CELTIC CONCERT Nov. 1, 2019

Again, we are holding our first World Celtic Concert on Friday, Nov. 1st. This will kick off our Masters World Championship Highland games weekend at the 33rd Tucson Celtic festival. Our headliner band will be The Tossers who are flying in from Chicago for the concert. Backing them up will be The Young Dubliners from California along with Celtica and Tucson's own Eldritch Dragons.

This marks a new chapter in our Celtic Festival. Instead of our typical Friday night activities, this will be a dedicated concert evening. Some food vendors will be opened but the festival field will be closed except for the Main Stage and the food court. Gates will open at 5:30 PM. Tickets are available for \$25 in advance at <http://bit.ly/TCFA19-Concert>, or \$30 at the door.

CELTIC HISTORY AND CULTURE

Part 7: More Contradiction

The following information is also available on the web under Celtic artifacts.

Milesians not Irish founder

We have been taught for a few generations that the Irish descend from the Celts. The

King of one wave of Celts was Milesius. It is thought that Milesius is the most famous Celt in legend. Some call him the founder of the Irish people - but it looks like it is mostly a fanciful story.

First Irish families

DNA studies are now telling us that Ireland was settled centuries earlier than thought. It was not first settled by the Celts of legend.

Ice Age survivors

It was actually those who survived the last ice age about 10,000 years ago, holding out in northwest Spain. As things warmed up, they found their way to Ireland. In fact, the closest DNA match with the Irish in all Europe is with the Basque. Take a look at the film "*Blood of the Irish*" and you'll become a believer.

How they got here

The current theory is that they came by boat to Ireland, which was settled much later than Britain, which was connected by land to the continent. They did not come from Scotland, but from Basque country. So, at least they came from around Spain like some of the Milesian legends speak of.

Our new ancestors

We still have to double check all the findings, but it seems pretty convincing. The Irish and the Basque are brothers, so to

speak. As far as we can see, our earliest ancestors were the Basque people. So, there is the point to start your genealogy in Ireland!

Books

If you want to see some of the legends that came from the story of the Celts and Milesius there is a book. It is entitled "*A Genealogical History of the Milesian Families of Ireland*" by B.W. DeCourcy.

If you want to see a real classic, take a look at the "Book of Invasions," one of our oldest written stories about who settled Ireland. This book gives that the Irish originally came from Spain. This is the ancient book that O'Donnell took to the court of Spain, trying to strengthen the ties between the two countries. Looks like there was some truth there ...

All of this should make doing current day research on your Irish family history seem a lot easier. Just remember, every day is a holiday.

**Next Issue: CELTIC HISTORY AND CULTURE
Part 8: Assorted Celtic Stories**



TEST YOUR SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE

Where was Sean Connery born?

- a. Dundee
- b. Edinburgh
- c. Glasgow
- d. London

Sir Sean Connery (knighted by the Queen at the Palace of Holyrood, Edinburgh in July 2000) was born in Fountainbridge area of Edinburgh on 25 August 1930.



WHY DO WE KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE?

By Evan Andrews

Kissing under sprigs of mistletoe is a well-known holiday tradition, but this little plant's history as a symbolic herb dates back thousands of years. Many ancient cultures prized mistletoe for its healing properties. The Greeks were known to use it as a cure for everything from menstrual cramps to spleen disorders, and the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder noted it could be used as a balm against epilepsy, ulcers and poisons. The plant's romantic overtones most likely started with the Celtic Druids of the 1st century A.D. Because mistletoe could blossom even during the frozen winter, the Druids came to view it as a sacred symbol of vivacity, and they administered it to humans and animals alike in the hope of restoring fertility.

Another famous chapter in mistletoe folklore comes from Norse mythology. As the story goes, when the god Odin's son Baldur was prophesied to die, his mother Frigg, the goddess of love, went to all the animals and plants of the natural world to secure an oath that they would not harm him. But Frigg neglected to consult with the unassuming mistletoe, so the scheming god Loki made an arrow from the plant and saw that it was used to kill the otherwise invincible Baldur. According to one sunnier

version of the myth, the gods were able to resurrect Baldur from the dead. Delighted, Frigg then declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss on all those who passed beneath it.

Mistletoe's associations with fertility and vitality continued through the Middle Ages, and by the 18th century it had become widely incorporated into Christmas celebrations. Just how it made the jump from sacred herb to holiday decoration remains up for debate, but the kissing tradition appears to have first caught on among servants in England before spreading to the middle classes. As part of the early custom, men were allowed to steal a kiss from any woman caught standing under the mistletoe, and refusing was viewed as bad luck. Yet another tradition instructed the merrymakers to pluck a single berry from the mistletoe with each kiss, and to stop smooching once they were all gone.

MEMBER CLAN CONNECTION

TCFA Board Member Erin Haugen

Clan Morrison

Motto: Teaghlach Phabbay (Family of Pabbay).

Crest: From the waves of the sea, a green mount and castellated wall, and issuing therefrom a cubit arm the hand grasping a dagger.

There is a tradition that the ancestor of this Clan was a Norse Prince called Gilmhoire or Gillemorrie, possibly a half-brother of Leod, ancestor of Clan Macleod, who was shipwrecked and came ashore on the Island of Lewis on a piece of driftwood. Another version has him as a member of the

O'Muirgheasains of Donegal, Keepers of the Holy Records of St Columba.

Clan Macleod

Motto: Hold Fast.

Crest: A bull's head between two flags.

Clan MacLeod is a Highland Scottish clan associated with the Isle of Skye. There are two main branches of the clan: the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan, whose chief is MacLeod of MacLeod, are known in Gaelic as Siol Tormoid; the Clan MacLeod of Lewis and Raasay, whose chief is Macleod of The Lewes, are known in Gaelic as Siol Torcaill. Both branches claim descent from Leòd, who lived in the 13th century.

Clan Campbell

Motto: Ne Obliviscaris (Forget Not).

Crest: A Boars Head.

Clan Campbell is a Highland Scottish clan. Historically one of the largest and most powerful of the Highland clans, their lands were in Argyll and the chief of the clan became the Earl and later Duke of Argyll.



YOUR CELTIC EXPERIENCE

May there always be work for your hands to do.

May your purse always hold a coin or two.

May the sun always shine on your windowpane.

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

An Irish Blessing