

Guamannan na h-Alba

[Scottish Games Calendar: Scotland](#)

[Scottish Highland Games Association](#)

[U.S. Scottish Games by State](#)

[Grandfather Mountain Highland Games](#)

[Celtic Festivals in Australia](#)

[Celtic Festivals in Canada](#)

[Celtic Festivals in New Zealand](#)

[Highland Games & Festivals, Canada](#)

[Highland Games & Festivals, Global](#)

See inside for:

- [Message from the President](#)
- [Representing Clan Hope](#)
- [Aberdeen Highland Games, NSW Australia](#)
- [Call for Expressions of Interest of Clan Committee Membership](#)
- [Historic Houses of the Borders: Ferniehirst Castle](#)
- [Recipe Corner: Cullen Skink](#)
- [Places Name HOPE: Hope River, NZ](#)
- [Notable Hopes: George W Hope](#)
- [Upcoming Highland & Celtic Events](#)
- [Scottish-English Dictionary](#)
- [New Members](#)
- [New Life Member](#)
- [Clan Committee Membership](#)

Message from the President

Stephen Hope, D Urr



Welcome to another edition of the Clan Hope of Craighall Society Newsletter.

I'd particularly like to welcome a returning member of the society today, without mentioning any specific names, because there is a cautionary tale that needs to be told here. It

revolves around email and mailing addresses.

Unfortunately the member had changed their email address and must have moved. So they were not receiving email reminders for membership renewal or a mailing campaign we had used to contact members whose email addresses were no longer valid and failing when we sent out newsletters and other email notices. Sadly, we decided in early 2024 to remove former members who had not renewed their annual membership or responded to our attempts to contact them.

The happy part of the story is that recently they realised they hadn't renewed their membership by their old joining anniversary date and filled in a membership renewal on the clan's website with all their new contact details.

So the salient lesson here is about keeping your details up to date with the clan's membership chair, Cynthia Hope Henderson, via her email address: membership@clanhope.org.

While I may seem to be preaching to the choir because, if you are reading this newsletter it means we have your correct email address and, hopefully, your correct mailing address as well, it's a timely reminder that if you move home, change jobs, change your internet service provider or just your email address, we may no longer be able to contact you.

This means you would no longer receive the newsletter or any emailed or mailed notifications for membership renewal. While Life Members may not have to renew their membership if we don't have your current contact details you'll stop receiving newsletters and other important communication from the clan society.

So if you are considering any changes in your contact details make sure you keep those details current and up to date with the clan as we don't want to lose contact with you.

Sláinte Mhath - Good Health to you and your families.

Representing Clan Hope



Aberdeen Highland Games July 2024

We first attended the Aberdeen Highland Games in the Upper Hunter region of NSW Australia, when Ourania and I were researching the things we needed, to be able to be the first Clan Hope of Craighall Society representatives outside of the USA.

As you may already know the society was reformed by Henry Martin Hope Snr 'Marty' and his wife Jennifer Hartman Hope in the early 2000s in the USA. Over the years it was built up to have multiple Commissioners there, representing the clan in different regions.

In early 2015 the then clan President, Richard R Hope, called for people to volunteer in other countries. We'd been members of the clan since 2010, bought a sash and some Hope tartan scarves from Alexis Malcolm in Florida via her website and had visited Scotland extremely briefly in 2011. We had also had the pleasure of meeting Marty and Jenny in Sydney in late 2014, so when Richard called for expressions of interest we decided we would take on the role of representing Clan Hope in Australia.

Our only problem was, although we knew of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals we had never actually attended any ourselves. You see I hadn't discovered my Scottish heritage until around 2009 when a distant cousin sent my sister a family tree she'd been working on for some years. It lead directly back to Scotland via my great great grandfather Andrew James Hope and back to a George Hope born in Ancrum, Roxburghshire in 1711. Before that, all I knew was my great grandfather, George Samuel Hope, had arrived in Sydney on a sailing ship that had left from London in 1870.

So researching what we had volunteered to do was something that was going to be very important if we were going to be successful and, hopefully, grow the clan membership here in the Antipodes.

Our first foray into Celtic culture was as visitors attending the small, but colourful, Berry Celtic Festival on the south coast about 120km from where we live in Sydney. It was an easy day trip and we inspected the small number of clan stalls/tents, talked to the clan representatives about what they did and looked at how they had set up and furnished their standard 3 x 3 metre marquees. Happily some of the vendors at the festival were selling clan badges and kilt pins so we were able to buy our first Clan Hope items.



We had applied to hold a stall at a highland games close to Sydney in the August of 2015 but still hadn't tied down all the items we needed to find, so made the decision to travel about 300km to Aberdeen NSW for the Aberdeen Highland Games as general public visitors. It was such a good choice for us. Not only is AHG one of the most inclusive Scottish Events, it also attracts many more clans and vendors. So we were able to see how a Highland Games really worked and how the clans participated.



By sheer chance we also met with one of Ourania's former school students from the 1970s who was living in the area and he happened to mention that an Andrew Hope was the mayor of the nearby town of Quirindi. We contacted Andrew and his wife Kris when we returned to Sydney and to our joint amazement discovered we were descended from that same George Samuel Hope who

was my great grandfather. The serendipity of this connection flowed on to help us further with setting up our stall, as Andrew and Kris ran a printing business and were able to print the 3 metre banner for our stall.



Fast forward 9 years and Aberdeen is still our favourite highland gathering. We attend every year and this last year has seen more of our extended Hope family members come to support us.

In addition to Hope family we met a number of other Hopes who aren't directly related. One in particular was there as part of the Australian Federation Guard Drum Band, supporting the Guard as they performed at the AHG.



So if you ever feel that representing Clan Hope of Craighall Society might be something you'd like to consider please know it is a rewarding experience where you'll meet friendly people who share a common heritage even if their ancestry doesn't happen to be Hope.

Historic Houses of the Borders

Ferniehirst Castle

Built in the 15th century and steeped in a dramatic history, the Ferniehirst Castle is surrounded by forest and overlooks the river Jed in the ancient Jed Valley.



This seat of the Clan Kerr, lies two miles south of Jedburgh in the picturesque Scottish Borders. The castle's Grand Hall is the perfect venue for dinners and other functions. Its large stone fireplaces, iron candelabras and family portraits set the tone for a unique dining experience.

Affectionately known as 'Scotland's frontier fortress', it's possibly the best-preserved of a distinctive group of highly-prestigious mansions erected by wealthy Border lairds during the closing decades of the 16th century.



When the first Kerrs settled in the valley of the Jed Water in the late 13th century, the land surrounding Jedburgh was thickly wooded with great oak trees. Over the next three centuries the Kerrs played a strategic game and from the 14th century to the present day Ferniehirst Castle has remained in the possession of the family.

The Castle has "quite the history" which is documented on their website. However, I have extracted a few dates which may be of interest to our readers:

- In 1357 John Kerr of Selkirk Forest was granted lands near Morebattle. Sir Andrew Kerr's third son Thomas of Smailholm marries his cousin Margaret Kerr of Kersheugh. He receives a grant of land in





created from one of the 15th century undercrofts and a display of Kerr memorabilia in another.

Jedworth Forest and builds a tower at Ferniehirst below Lintalee in Glen Douglas among the great oak trees above Jed Water.

- In 1471 Thomas of Smailholm, now 1st Baron of Ferniehirst has a son and heir, Andrew. Known as Dand, this left handed swordsman proved himself a formidable opponent at an early age and established the Ferniehirst Kerrs as a 'Grayne' (a Scottish Border word to describe a family), distinct from his powerful forbears the Cessford Kerr. He was recognised as the Chieftain of over 2000 'Men of Jedhart' (the old name for Jedburgh). The English were afraid of Dand and believed the Devil rode at his side in battle.
- In 1513 at the Battle of Flodden, both the Kerrs of Cessford and Ferniehirst stand together with the Huntlys and the Humes against the might of the English armies. Dand Kerr of Ferniehirst takes Kelso Abbey and installs his younger Brother Thomas as Commendator, (later Thomas becomes Abbott).
- The Castle was repaired and rebuilt in 1598 to what we see today. At that time in Scottish history there was still a danger of further trouble and uprisings on the Border. Doors were designed to open outwards and gun holes placed strategically around the building for defence.
- Throughout the 1600s various descendants die without heirs and the castle is passed to next of kins until 1767 when the castle was eventually used both as an estate house and let to a number of tenants.
- During the period 1880-1900 extensive alterations were carried out to convert the now ruined building into a hunting lodge.
- Between 1935-1985, Ferniehirst was one of the most popular Youth Hostels in Scotland. It was leased to the Scottish Youth Hostel Association by Phillip Kerr, 11th Marquis of Lothian in 1935.
- 1985-1987 - A complete transformation was made. The hall furnished with care and designed by Peter Kerr, 12th Marquis of Lothian and his wife Antonella, the library relined in sweet cedar wood and the upstairs rooms restored to the beautiful apartments we find today at Ferniehirst. A tiny chapel was

Ferniehirst Castle for Hire

And today, Ferniehirst Castle, which is still in the hands of the Kerr family, is available for hire. The interior of the house was extensively restored in the 1980s. It is dominated by the Great Hall and sleeps 18 in nine bedrooms.



Oozing charm, steeped in history, grand yet homely, Ferniehirst Castle is a veritable gem. If you are looking for something a little bit different, you may just have stumbled upon it. For more information go to their website:

<https://www.ferniehirst.com/>



Recipe Corner

Traditional Scottish Cullen Skink

Prep: 10 mins
 Cook: 15 mins
 Infuse Time: 5 mins
 Total: 30 mins
 Servings: 4 servings
 Yield: 5 to 6 cups

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup parsley sprigs, leaves and stalks separated, more leaves for garnish
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 pound smoked haddock fillet, preferably not dyed (450g)
- 2 ounces (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter (55g)
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 8 ounces store-bought or homemade mashed potato, about 1 to 1 1/2 cups (250g)
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Crusty bread, for serving, optional



Steps to Make It

- Gather the ingredients.
- Put the milk, parsley stalks, bay leaf, and the whole piece of haddock into a large saucepan.
- Finely chop the parsley leaves. Set aside.
- Bring the milk to a gentle boil over medium heat. Lower the heat to low simmer, about 3 minutes.
- Remove the pan from the heat. Set aside for 5 minutes so the herbs and haddock infuse their flavors into the milk.
- Remove the haddock from the milk with a slotted spatula. Set aside.



- Strain the liquid through a fine mesh strainer. Discard the herbs.
- In another large saucepan over medium-low heat, add the butter and the onion. Cook gently until the butter melts and the onions become translucent, about 5 minutes. Be careful not to burn the onion.
- Add the infused milk and the potato to the onion-butter mixture. Stir until the potatoes dissolve and the soup thickens slightly.
- Flake the smoked haddock into bite-size chunks, discarding any bones. Add to the soup.
- Lower the heat to a gentle simmer. Add the chopped parsley and cook until the haddock is warmed through, about 5 minutes. Don't overstir, because the fish chunks might disintegrate.
- Season to taste with salt and pepper. Be careful with the salt, as the fish will impart quite a salty flavor all on its own.
- Garnish the soup with the reserved parsley leaves and more freshly ground black pepper.
- Serve with crusty bread, if desired.

Sometimes Cullen skink is served with additional ingredients to make a more filling dish:

- Top with a poached egg to add creaminess and fat.
- A few lightly poached quail's eggs dropped into the soup before serving adds a touch of sophistication.

Recipe Variations

- For a richer, creamier Cullen skink, replace 1/2 to 3/4 cup of the milk with light or heavy cream.
- The mashed potatoes thicken the soup, but you may also add 1 or 2 cups of diced cooked potatoes for texture if you wish.
- Replace the onion with 1 medium leek, white and light green parts only, finely chopped.
- For more fish flavour, add a cube of fish bouillon.
- A can of sweet corn added to the soup gives texture and provides a sweet flavor.

How to Properly Store and Reheat Cullen Skink

As with all fish and dairy-based dishes, proper storage is key to maintaining food safety

- If you have leftovers and are planning to eat them shortly, store the soup in an airtight container and keep in the fridge for up to two days. Warm up on the stove over low heat. Do not save any leftovers from this serving.
- For longer-term storage, place it in freezer bags and freeze the soup for up to two months. Thaw overnight in the fridge before heating up on the stove.
- When reheating, do not boil the soup. With sudden changes in temperature, the fish's texture can be altered and go from flaky to rubbery in minutes.
- If the reheated soup seems too thick, add milk and adjust the seasonings to taste



Source: The Spruce Eats



Former Railway Bridge over Hope River near Kawatiri, now adapted to use as part of a short walking track.

Just to be different, there are 3 Hope Rivers in New Zealand and all 3 are in the South Island and they all form part of the one river system and yet retain their own identities.

Hope River #1:

The Hope River, in Canterbury, New Zealand, is a tributary of the Waiau Uwha River. It is one of three rivers by that name in the South Island. The Hope River rises at the Hope Pass in the Southern Alps, which is the main divide for the South Island.

Hope River #2:

The Hope River is a river in the southern part of the West Coast region of New Zealand, being the southernmost of three rivers named Hope in the South Island. It flows west for 15 kilometres, reaching the Tasman Sea 25 kilometres north of Big Bay.

Hope River #3:

The Hope River is in the Tasman District of the South Island of New Zealand. It is the northernmost of three Hope Rivers in the South Island.

The river rises on the eastern slopes of the Hope Range at heights of around 1,200 metres (3,900 ft). It flows east then south before joining the Buller River near Kawatiri Railway Station. A tributary called the Little Hope River rises near the Hope Saddle and flows southwest, joining the Hope River at Glenhope. State Highway 6 follows the valley of the Hope and then the Little Hope as it climbs towards the Hope Saddle en route to Nelson.

Overall, the Hope River is a tributary of the Buller River, and was named after G W Hope*, parliamentary secretary to Edward, Lord Stanley, the 14th Earl of Derby who later became Prime Minister of Great Britain.

* (see Notable Hopes, elsewhere, for more information about G W Hope).

Sources: wikipedia, nz national library,

Places Named HOPE

Hope River, New Zealand



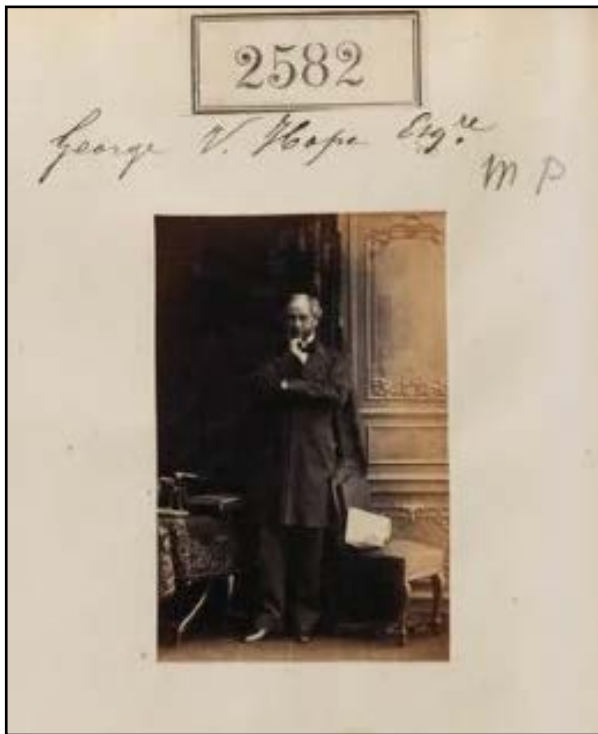
Notable Hopes

George William Hope 1806-1863

George William Hope (1808-1863)

George William Hope was the son to the honourable Sir Alexander Hope, who was the fourth son of John Hope, 2nd Earl of Hopetoun. His mother was Georginana Alicia Brown, daughter of George Brown.

G W Hope was born 4 July 1808 and died 18 October 1863 and was educated at Harrow.



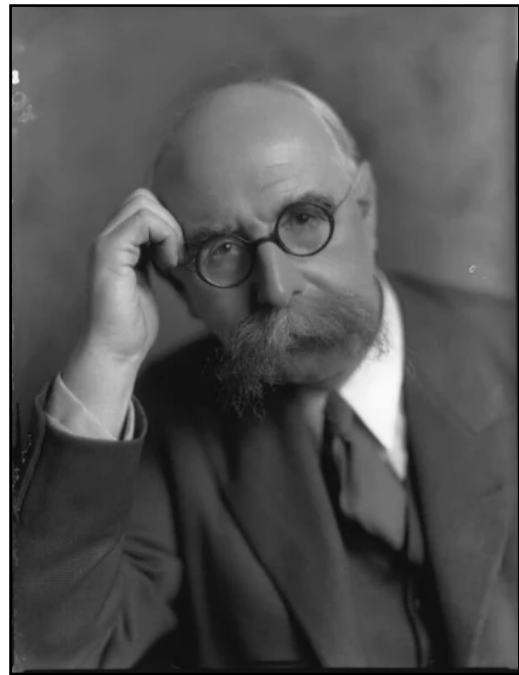
He was a British Tory politician and served as Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies under Sir Robert Peel from 1841 to 1848. His 'out of Parliament' occupation was Barrister.

George Hope was returned to Parliament for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis in 1837. When the Tories came to power under Sir Robert Peel in 1841, Hope was appointed Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, a post he held until the fall of the government in 1846. In 1842 he was returned for Southampton, a seat he lost in 1847. He remained out of Parliament until 1859, when he was returned for Windsor, a seat he represented until his death four years later.

And as per the previous article, George William Hope had a set of 3 rivers named after him, collectively known as Hope River.

George William Hope married the Honourable Caroline Georgiana Montagu-Scott, daughter of Henry Montagu-Scott, 2nd Baron Montagu of Boughton, in 1836. They had several children, including Sir Edward Stanley Hope, a Lunacy Commissioner, and Sir Herbert James Hope (1851-1930), Bankruptcy Registrar.

George Hope died at Luffness in October 1863, aged 55. Caroline Hope died in December 1891. She is buried in



Aberlady churchyard in East Lothian. Together they had 5 children, being:

- Lucy Georgiana Hope
- Henry Water Hope
- Montagu Hope
- Sir Edward Stanley Hope
- Sir Herbert James Hope

Sources: [wikipedia](#), [npg.org.uk](#), [wikidata.org](#), [natlig.govt.nz](#)

A Snapshot of Upcoming Highland & Celtic Events

Note: do check on Page 1 in the links (top left hand corner, under the heading: "Guamannan na h-Alba)" for additional events.

Scotland

- Braemar Highland Games - 7 September
- Blairstown & Rattray Highland Games - 8 September
- Pitlochry Highland Games - 14 September
- Bowhill Highland Games - 15 September
- The Saltire Gathering, Stirling - 20-21 Sep

Australia

- Brisbane Celtic Festival, Moorlands Park Qld - 13 Oct
- Clans on the Coast, Raymond Terrace NSW - 21 Sep
- Williamstown Highland Celtic Festival, Seaworks, Williamstown Vic - 26 Oct

Canada

Festival Celtique de Quebec, Quebec QC - 7-8 Sep
Celtic Colours International Festival, Cape Breton Is, NS
- 11-19 Oct

USA

Flathead Celtic Festival, Kalispell, MT - 13-14 Sep
Scotfest, Broken Arrow, OK - 13-15 Sep
Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games,
Lockport NY - 14-15 Sep
North Georgia Highland Games, Clayton GA - 28 Sep
Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, NC - 4-6
Oct
Rocket city Scottish Festival & Highland Games, New
Market AL - 5 Oct
Harpers Ferry Highland Games, Harpers Ferry WV - 5-6
Oct
CelticFest Mississippi Highland Games, Brandon MS -
11-13 Oct
Indianapolis Scottish Highland Gams and Festival,
Indianapolis IN - 12 Oct
Highland Festival & Games of Scotland, Brooklyn CT -
13 Oct
Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival,
Stone Mountain GA - 18-20 Oct
Moab Celtic Festival - Scots on the Rocks, Moab UT -
18-22 Oct

Sources: *The Scottish Banner, Scots Canada, Highland Games
and Festivals*

Scottish-English Dictionary

compiled by Moultrie R. Kelsall, MA., LB

The English language has been shared by Scotland and England for generations, and the majority of words in it are common to both countries. Nevertheless both English and Scottish speech have individually adopted many words from other tongues, and these are often peculiar to either Scottish or English. The following words are still in fairly common use in Scotland, yet are not immediately recognisable to those unfamiliar with Scottish speech.

This is the 6th in the series of 8 or 9:

mauna - must not
midden - manure heap, rubbish dump
mixter-maxter - higgledy-piggledy
muckle - much, big
neep - turnip
neuk - corner, nook
nocht - naught, nothing
ocht - aught, something

pawky - of a dry humour
peelie-wallie - pale and wan
pickle - small quantity
plunk - play truant
puddock - frog

Source: *The Guide to Scottish Tartans*

New Members

We welcome:

- Rachael and Greg Henderson, Aberglasslyn, NSW Australia
- Dustin J Raiguel, Mount Vernon, WA, USA
- Andrew and Juliet Hope, Waikato, NZ

New Life Member

We welcome:

- Joseph Raiguel, Mount Vernon, WA, USA

Call For Expressions of Interest for Clan Committee Membership

Clan Hope of Craighall Society would like to invite members to volunteer to become committee members by offering to represent the clan in their region.

We currently have vacant positions as Clan Commissioners in the USA, Canada, Australia, England, Wales and Ireland but would be happy to hear from members in other parts of the world where we currently have no representation at all.

What do we expect a Clan Commissioner to do is a common question we receive when people are considering taking on this role.

Well the simple answer is represent the clan at Scottish and Celtic events in your region. Often the best way to commence is to attend a highland gathering, Celtic festival as a member of the public and see what other clans are doing and talk to them and the organisers about what would be involved in representing Clan Hope of Craighall Society at the event in the future.

The clan can provide artwork for printing, information on clan history, templates for clan banners but it is up to each commissioner to provide the actual items required for a tent or stall at festivals unless the festival, as some do, provide these to participants.

If you feel you would be interested in doing this please email president@clanhope.org for more information.