

VIEWPOINTS

Scotch heritage: more than kilts and Highland games

A new book argues that the Scots are responsible for the modern world's way of thinking and getting things done.

The book's title says it all: *How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World & Everything in It*. Its author, Arthur Herman, explains how it happened.

Herman argues that the Scots created the basic idea of modernity that transformed their culture and society in the 18th century, and they carried it with them wherever they went.

This transformation of Scotland from a poor and backward country into a full-blown cultural and economic powerhouse in the 1700s came about, Herman says, as a result of some special circumstances.

We think of the Scottish Highlands as a romantic home of heroes. But until the beginning of the 1700s, it was a land of poverty, feudalism, illiteracy, and clan warfare unlike the tribal areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan of today.

Ironically, Scotland's transformation began in 1559 when John Knox led a reformation that overthrew the established church and replaced it with a strict brand of Calvinism. Knox taught that the people must read the Bible and come to know God personally through their own thoughtful study and prayer. And they, not a distant king or church official, were to be responsible for the orderly governance of their churches.

The enthusiastic Scottish converts tore down the stained glass windows, statues, and buildings of the old churches. They destroyed centuries of precious art and heritage all in the course of removing idolatry.

If any government authorities, including kings and queens, got in their way of worshipping God, the Scots stood up to them. They developed a healthy tradition of rebellion against unjust authority.

How did all this disruption lead to the invention of the modern world?

Because Knox believed that every person should come to know God personally through reading the Bible, the new church tried to teach every child in Scotland to read.

Having been taught to read, many Scots began to read lots of books and not just the Bible. Once this habit of reading independently took root, no one, not even John Knox and his successors, could control what they read, and what they learned, and what they thought.

Having been taught the responsibility to develop their own relationship with God, they developed a self-confident pride in their ability to solve every kind of problem and find ways to improve the world in which they lived.

By the end of the 1600s, Scotland was the most literate nation on earth.

In the 1700s, it became the center of philosophic and economic think-



One on One
D. G. Martin

ing, led by such familiar names as Adam Smith and David Hume, and a host of others. Its universities were the envy of every country in Europe.

It became the center of invention and business, with James Watt's 1781 steam engine becoming the workhorse of the Industrial Revolution, in which technology and modern capitalism became life-driving forces.

What does this have to do with North Carolina today?

The transformation of Scotland was in full bloom as waves of Scots and Scotch-Irish immigrants were landing in America and settling here. They were bringing with them these new Scottish ideas.

They were deeply religious, willing to stand up to unjust government, hard-working, entrepreneurial, and passionate about the benefits of education and inquiring minds. Those who supported the Revolution, including most of the Scotch-Irish, became its workhorses.

Today, North Carolinians seem to have a love affair with things Scottish. Some of them celebrate their heritage by dressing up in kilts and tartans for dinners in honor of poet Robert Burns, for special religious services, and for Highland games and festivals at Grandfather Mountain, Loch Norman, Red Springs, and all over the state.

Some people argue that this Scottish mania is based on our identification with the lost causes of Southern and Scottish independence. Both causes have been highly romanticized and shamelessly celebrated.

Based on Herman's book, it is clear that we have something better to celebrate. It is these core Scottish values that arose from Knox's reformation and came here with the Scots and Scotch-Irish immigrants.

These Scottish values especially the commitment to educational excellence and the freedom of the human mind to inquire in all directions — are a solid rock on which our states best traditions are built.

They are something for which we should be grateful to Scotland. And if these values are part of our heritage, our Scottish connection really is something to celebrate — with pride.

D.G. Martin is Carolina's Director of the Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization that preserves land for people. UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch, hosted by Martin, airs on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. This week's (September 1) guest is Dr. Mel Levine, author of the New York Times best seller A Mind at a Time.

Money: You can't miss what you never had

There are some things in this world us elders (that is a better term than old folks) don't understand. It is sorta like the term recession. In my day it was called a depression; now that is a weather term. Regardless I lived through the great depression, although we didn't know it was a depression — no one told us. We didn't have any money; we never had any money. The first dollar bill I ever saw was the first service payday I had. It was \$14. I thought that was all the money in the world. You could buy cigarettes for a nickel a pack; since I didn't smoke I saved my nickel. I did meet my first Yankee in service. He was an ol' boy from New York. He walked around with me all day just to hear me talk. He asked what I did before I came in service? I couldn't tell him I plowed a mule, he didn't know what a mule looked like.

For a few months I worked in Belk's, therefore I felt that would be acceptable to tell him about my experience in the department store business. Being nosy, he wanted to know what I made a day. When I told him \$1.75 for a 10-hour day, he thought it was so funny that he told the whole company about my money making. Right then I knew Lee made a mistake when he surrendered. If we had won the war, the capitol could have been in the South then we could have enjoyed the problems Washington has experienced.

Come to think about it, I am glad we lost.

My love-hate relationship with computers is well known at my house. No machine should be invented that is as contrary as a computer. I have written this column once, only to get it lost in the computer before I could print it. The unfortunate thing is I

Weekend reunion for class of '72

The Hoke County High class of '72 will celebrate its 30th class reunion on Saturday evening, August 31 at 6 at the Raeford Civic Center. A reception for classmates will be held on Friday evening, August 30 at 7 at Dr. Mark Thompson's office building.

On Saturday afternoon, beginning at noon, at Upchurch gym, class of '72 will sponsor a basketball game. All male classmates are expected to participate, says a spokesperson. "Let's come together and dine, meet and greet and share our past and present. Don't let this golden opportunity pass you by." Also, don't forget about the Bahama cruise November 24, 2002. For more information, call Irene Dockery at 875-6921; or write her at PO Box 634, Raeford, NC 28376.

can't remember what I had written. Like the man who said he looked across the room and saw a person he knew and remembered his first name, by the time he got over there he had forgotten it.

I do remember I was talking about peaches, which shouldn't be a new topic to those who read this column. We have a couple more weeks in the field before we close up for the year. It has been an unusual year. The weather hasn't cooperated. We have picked some varieties before they were ripe. This doesn't make for good customer relations. If you got peaches that would not ripen, come to see me and I will replace them. All pickers blame it on the other when green peaches show up in the baskets. My grandson says he doesn't pick green peaches. Therefore that leaves Corbett or me; I blame it on Corbett, he blames it on me. I tell him to blame it on the goats; they can't talk back. Regardless we have good customers and we don't want to lose them. Therefore if you are dissatisfied with some peaches you got, we will make them right. Now if you show up and I haven't seen you before, I might give you some green ones. Just kidding.

A lot of people get down on themselves because they think being imperfect is such a great sin. Do you think you are imperfect? If so, you are in good company. Moses stuttered.

David's armor didn't fit. John Mark was rejected by Paul. Timothy had ulcers. Hosea's wife was a prostitute. Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning. Jacob was a liar. David had an affair. Solomon was too rich. Jesus was too poor. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Peter was afraid of death. Lazarus was dead. John was self-righteous. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Gideon and Thomas both doubted. Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Elijah was burned out. John the Baptist was a loudmouth. Martha was a worrywart. Mary was lazy. Samson had long hair. Noah got drunk. Moses had a short fuse, so did Peter and Paul.

Aren't we thankful the Lord loves us regardless?

My parting thought — A man told the doctor he had severe neck pains, throbbing headaches and dizzy spells. After a thorough examination the doctor said there was no mistake about it



A View from the Country
Raz Autry

— he had only two months to live.

The doomed man decided to spend all his money and enjoy his remaining life. First, he'd get something he always longed for — a dozen tailor-made silk shirts. While measuring him, the tailor said, "That's a size 17 neck."

"Hold on," said the man. "I wear a 15."

The tailor re-measured him. "You are definitely size 17."

The man insisted. "I'm a size 15. I always wear a 15, and that's what I want."

"Okay," said the tailor. "But if you wear a 15 you'll have severe neck pains, throbbing headaches and dizzy spells."

Military Briefs

Two take Navy training

Two Hoke County High School students completed a two-week training course for the Naval Sea cadets at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Completing the course in August are Damien Revels, son of Earnest Revels and Linda Revels, and Tony and Marie Lowery of Raeford.

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Missing Medicine Costs

People who don't take their medicine properly cost the nation billions a year in medical bills and lost productivity, according to a drug industry study.

Half the time, Americans skip doses, abandon their medicine early or don't get prescriptions filled—that keep them sick and have caused a surge in drug-resistant diseases. Missing medicine also causes at least 10 percent of hospital admissions, lost productivity, more nursing home admissions, and even premature death.

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