



The Red Tower Clan Galbraith Association

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UPCOMING SCOTTISH HOLIDAYS— PACK YOUR BAGS!

Lammas - 1st August

There was a Celtic feast of "Lugnasaid" and this may have been the origins of this festival. Others believe it was a corruption of "Loafmas" when a loaf was baked with the first grain from the harvest. It is now a Scottish legal "Quarter Day" when rents and contracts fall due.

Marymas - 15th August

A bannock (cake) was toasted on a fire in honour of the Virgin Mary.

Braemar Gathering - First Saturday in September

The origin of this major Highland Games is said to go back to the 11th century when King Malcolm III

"Canmore" gave a prize to the winner of a race to the top of Craig Choinnich. Queen Victoria ensured the success of the games into modern times by attending them in 1848 and the Royal family has been associated with them ever since.

Michaelmas Day - 29th September

St Michael was the patron saint of the sea and sailors and his saint's day was celebrated in the West of Scotland in particular. In the island of Barra, a bannock was baked from the first grain of the year and eaten on St Michael's day. Everyone was given a piece to eat.

St Luke's Day, 18th October

Known also as "Sour Cakes Day", there were particular celebrations in the Royal Burgh of Rutherglen, with the baking of cakes eaten with sour cream.

Halloween - 31 October

The evening of All Hallows (Saints) Day and the last day of the year in the old Celtic calendar. It was celebrated by the Druids as "Samhain" from "Sain" meaning summer and "fuin" meaning "ending". It was associated with witches and celebrated with bonfires and "guising" as children dressed up and went round neighbouring houses with "tattie bogles" or "neep lanterns" (candles inside turnips). The pumpkin serves the same purpose in the USA. There is a (long) poem by Robert Burns on [Hallowe'en](http://www.rampantscotland.com/features/festivals.htm) which gives a good description of the traditions which were followed in his day. <http://www.rampantscotland.com/features/festivals.htm>

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