

As much as I like studying Scottish history, I found that it was also interesting to study history outside of Scotland *and* outside of our adopted year of 1562. It led me to quite a few new talking points that we can use and also some things we can't talk about.

But, first, let me say that I'm going to be presenting a lot of information and dates of events. I know we have a lot of people in this guild who like to study history and I am not trying to present the definitive list of historical events. So, if I give a date or event that differs from your understanding of that event, remember that the exact date isn't what's important. What's important is what and how we can use these events at fair.

I'm beginning with the belief that the nobles of Scotland (both male and female) were an educated, knowledge group. We know that, in our time, Scotland had a couple of Universities. We know that young Scots gentlemen often spent a couple of years exploring Europe and we know that Scottish women occasionally joined their husbands on trips to foreign countries and to visit property they owned in other countries. So, I'm assuming our characters had the opportunity to learn about many of the events that I'll mention.

I've tried to stick to a time period starting roughly at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and only extending until our year of 1562. It's plausible that our parents or ourselves were alive during many of the events that I'll mention. But, before getting into the things we might know about, I thought I'd mention a couple of things we shouldn't know about.

For example, we can't really talk about the use of the Gregorian calendar because it wasn't widely accepted until 1583. But, it's likely that we were aware of the problems with the Julian calendar that we did use. The Julian calendar didn't take into account for the approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  day gained each year. This caused a problem where religious holidays, planting seasons, etc. slipped later and later each year. For example, in the Julian calendar, Easter would eventually slip into summer. Then, about every ten years, the church would issue an edict saying that as of (say) March

22, we would have to change our calendar forward to March 31. This, of course, caused a lot of confusion and discord.

In St. Andrews, one of the “don’ts” that we tell our members is that they can’t bring paper plates and cups into court. One of the things I found in my studies was that bottled beer wasn’t available until 1568. Of course, unless we drink too much, most of us will be alive six years from now. But, for now, it is 1562. So, beer is OK, but the bottles don’t yet exist.

Of course, occasionally, we *do* play fast and loose with history. One of the things we *might* be able to get away with is the use of a pencil in court. It seems that a large deposit of graphite had been discovered in England in the late 1550’s. It only took until 1565 for the graphite pencil to be invented. The name “lead pencil” (that we still use today) actually goes back to this time. Back then, graphite was known as “Black Lead” and although graphite is not “lead”, the name has stuck through the centuries.

There are also events that lead us to some conclusions about life in our time. The first organized Post Office wasn’t created in England until 1581. But, only 20 years earlier, we can assume mail must have been a well-known and often used item.

One item that surprised me was to learn that both Shakespeare and Galileo were born in 1564. So, although we might want to talk about the latest book or play by William Shakespeare that we had heard about, we can not talk about history that has to do with either of these future famous men.

Now, on to the things I discovered that did happen prior to the end of 1562 and are appropriate for conversations with visitors to our court.

## History of the World -- Outside of Scotland

1500-1562 (plus a little more)

*Listen for events and topics that pertain to some of the conversations and questions we talk about in the guild.*

1477	First Watch invented at Nuremberg. It was about 3" in diameter and worn on a ribbon around the neck. A second hand wasn't added until 1577 - one hundred years later.
1492	Columbus discovers San Salvador( and then, in 1498, the main continent). But the "First Settlement" wasn't made until 1607 (after our time).
1492	Creation of the first world globe by Martin Behaim. It was determined to be very inaccurate even in the areas that Behaim had sailed.
1500	Wheellock musket invented
1500	Flush toilet is invented
1501	The world population is around 435 Million - about 1/14 of today's population
1502	Portugal claims control of India
1502	First reported slaves in the New World
1502	Coiled springs are invented
1503	Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola. This is considered to be the first battle in history won by gunpowder small arms.
1503	First Handkerchief is used in Europe
1504	Michelangelo completes the statue of David
1506	St. Peter's Cathedral construction begins in Rome
1506	Leonardo Da Vinci completes the painting of Lisa Gherardini. Later known as the Mona Lisa
1507	The first true whole-world map is printed by Martin Wadsemuller. This was the first map to use the name America for the New World.
1510	Pocket watch invented by Peter Henlein
1512	Michelangelo completes the painting of the Sistine Chapel
1513	Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Isthmus of Panama to arrive at the Pacific Ocean. He was the first European to do so.
1513	Henry VIII defeats the French at the Battle of the Spurs and the Scots at the Battle of Flodden Field.
1515	Coffee from Arabia appears in Europe
1516	In Italy, music is printed for the first time.
1517	the Protestant Reformation begins as Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses on the door of a church in Saxony
1518	"The Dancing Plague of 1518". Dancing mania occurs in Strasbourg, Alsace in July 1518. A mass hysteria cause around 400 people to dance for days without rest for one month. Some of those affected died of heart attack, stroke, or exhaustion.
1519	Death of Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)
1520	Rafael (Italian master painter) dies at age 37

1520	Sulyman II (the Magnificent) begins his rule of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey). It was a golden era for the region.
1520	Sweden is freed from the rule of Danish kings
1520	Martin Luther excommunicated by Pope Leo X
1521	Magellan discovers the Phillipines. He was killed in a battle in the central Phillipines later in that same year.
1521	Cloves brought back to Europe from the Maluku Islands (in Indonesia). Within China and Europe, these islands were the "original" Spice Islands but many other islands were later known by that name.
1523	The cocoa bean is introduced to Europe
1524	Giovannis da Verrazzano explores the Atlantic coast from (what will someday become) South Carolina to Newfoundland.
1526	The printing press is invented in Stockholm, Sweden
1527	Castiglione publishes "The Courtier"
1529	The hymn "Away in the Manger" is published
1530	First Protestant Creed developed in Augsberg in Bavaria
1530	The first sawmill was built in Norway. But, these were strongly opposed in England. Early sawmills were destroyed and the first successful sawmill (in England) wasn't until 1770.
1530	Carpenters use a vise to hold wood steady
1530	Spinning Wheel invented
1530	Charles V gives Malta to the Knights of St. John at an annual rental of one falcon.
1533	Ivan the Terrible crowned Czar of All Russia. He promotes Commerce but is very cruel
1533	Elizabeth Tudor is born
1534	French explorer Jacques Cartier charts the Gulf of St. Lawrence and explores up the river as far as present day Montreal
1536	Establishment of the Inquisition in Portugal
1536	Wales is merged within the English kingdom as a principality.
1536	Paracelsus publishes "The Great Surgery Book"
1540	The map (called Geographica) is printed by Sebastian Munster in Basel (now Switzerland). This becomes the new global standard for maps of the world. As a reference point, the Mercatur map was not created until 1569
1540	The potato is bought to Europe from South America
1541	The Amazon River is discovered and explored
1541	Spanish Conquistadors arrive in New Mexico
1542	War resumes between Francis I of France and Emperor Charles V (Holy Roman Empire). This is important to us because this time Henry VIII is allied with the Emperor while James V of Scotland and Sultan Suleiman I are allied with the French.
1543	In Poland, Copernicus writes his "Commentariolus" and proclaims his heliocentric theory of the universe where the sun is the center of the solar system.

1545	The Council of Trent begins and goes until 1563. Known as the "Counter-reformation", It led to a common Catholic Catechism and, eventually, the Tridentine Mass which remained the Church's primary form of the Mass for the next 400 years.
1545	Ambroise Par'e, the greatest surgeon of his day, publishes an account of how to treat gunshot wounds.
1547	The first book describing the game of draughts, or checkers, is published in Spain.
1548	First theater with a roof opens in Paris
1550	Nostradamus publishes "Centuries", his series of books of predictions.
1550	Mongols invade China and besiege Beijing.
1550	People of Spain debate human rights concerning the Indigenous people of the Americas (the Indians).
1550	Berreta family of Italy begins making guns
1550	The tinderbox provides a new way of making fire - with just flint, steel and tinder.
1551	In Geneva, Robert Stephanus prints the Bible divided into standard numbered verses, as it is today.
1555	The Muscovy Company becomes the first stock major trading company. The English and Dutch East India companies won't exist until around 1600.
1556	Charles I of Spain retires to a monastery. Philip II crowned King of Spain and the Netherlands. Ferdinand is given the title of Holy Roman Emperor.
1558	Elizabeth Tudor becomes Queen Elizabeth I at age 25.
1558	England loses Calais to the French
1559	Pope Pius IV elected Pope.
1559	An Italian invents ice cream.
1560	First instruction manual for chess is published
1561	UFO battle supposedly occurred over Nuremberg. The April 4 event was depicted on a famous woodcut of the period.
1562	French Wars of Religion begin between Catholics and Huguenots.
1562	The horse-drawn coach from Holland is first used in England. (This is the one item that I question)

Although I find it hard to believe that the last item is true, I include it to illustrate that we must take everything we learn with some doubt until you can verify it in (at least) one other place.