



Mini-dictionary of Terms

Students learned these historical terms with the readings each week to better understand what the scholarship and primary sources were saying.



Vocabulary

Corn = the main crop e.g. oats or barley, cereal crop

Bread = may mean wheaten bread, but not in Highlands and Islands (usually oat or barley/bere)

Factor = land manager

Scallag = farm servant in the Highlands

Skirret = like a carrot or parsnip

FOODWAYS

- all of the traditional activities, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors associated with the food in your daily life.
- Include[s] customs of food production, preservation, preparation, presentation, gathering, marketing (both buying and selling), uses of food products other than for eating and food folklore.

Julia Darnton, Michigan State University



Vocabulary

The Kirk = Presbyterian church; the church

Pudding = dessert

Countries = counties or county equivalent, like an area or a parish

Tack = lease (for land)

Tacksman = a person who holds a tack of land and leases/rents it out to others


Estate = a large piece of land typically owned by one person or family

Vocabulary


Wattle = rods or stakes of wood intertwined and woven together



Waulking = part of the practice of textile processing where the material is softened by beating with hands or feet; urine was used.



Settle = a wooden bench with arms and a high back; might have storage under seat

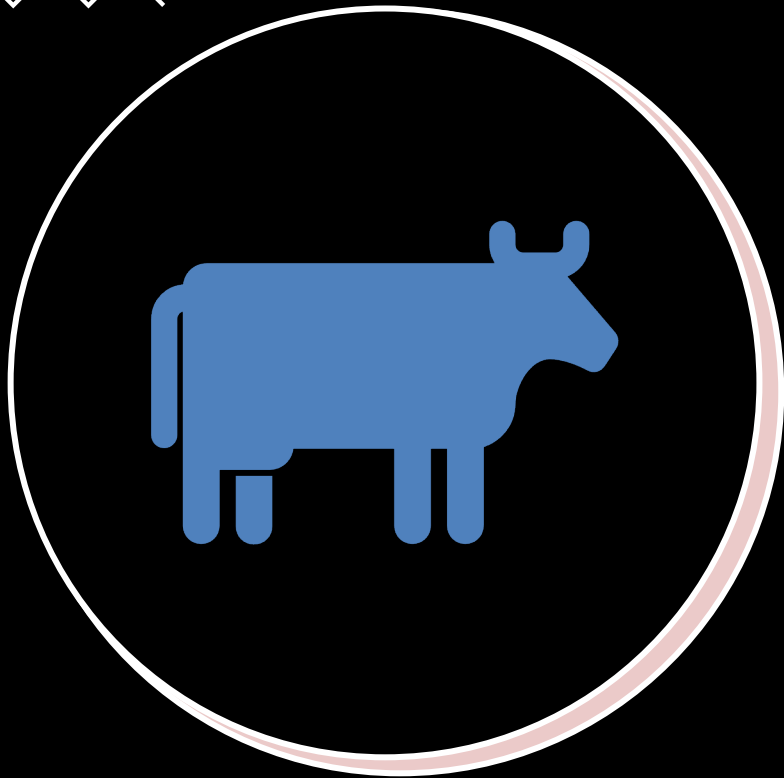


Mead = fermented drink of honey and water



Brae/Braes = steep bank or hillside

Vocabulary



- **Corbel** = arch-like construction method for roofs
- **Heath** = open land with rough grasses or **heather**
- **Moor/Moorland** = uncultivated or non-arable land
- **Subsistence farming** = nearly everything used for family consumption
- **Bere** = an older type of barley that is faster to ripen and has a lower yield
- **Wintertown** = main settlement



Vocabulary

- **Kist** = a trunk or chest (e.g. Kist o' Riches)
- **Burn** = river or stream
- **Tattie** = potatoes
- **Neeps** = turnips (rutabagas)
- **Hob** = stove or cooktop
- **Smoothing** = smother or subdue (the fire)

Vocabulary



Soum/e, sowme, sum = a unit of measurement equal to the number and type of animals that can graze on a certain size of common grazing land. This determines the amount of rent paid for grazing land.



For example, 1 soum might be equal to:

1 cow or 10 sheep

1 cow and 4 sheep

1 full grown cow (3 yrs +) or 2 cows at 2-3 yrs old

1 horse or 2 cows or 8 sheep

Vocabulary

- **Croft** = farm of 2-4 acres; often unsustainable and requires income from other sources. Not a house.
- **Gaelic crofting society**: subsistence farming + fishing + religion
- **Four legal “quarters”** in Scotland when people were hired/let go, rents were due, markets took place, etc.

Pre-1886 / Post-1886

- **Candlemas**: 2 February / 28 February
- **Whitsunday**: 15 May / 28 May
- **Lammas**: 1 August / 28 August
- **Martinmas**: 11 November / 28 November

VOCABULARY

Scat(t)ald, Skattall, Skattell = pasture, common lands of a township

Brae = a steep bank or hillside

Hook = sickle. A hook (a sickle) is used to “shear” (harvest) corn.

Vocabulary

- **Tenement** = apartments (flats) in an apartment building
- **Flatted** = turned into apartments (flats) or smaller dwellings
- **But and Ben** = two-roomed cottage; “but” usually the kitchen
- **Let(s)** = lease(s), rent; e.g. “To Let” = For Rent
- **Council-built** = local government-developed social housing with lower rents; superintendents; medical officers; some rent-to-own
- **Scheme** = program, project (something with rules and guidelines)
- **Wireless** = radio
- **New towns** = often council-directed or landlord-led designs for a new, “improved” settlement: away from the “old town”, sometimes the result of Clearances. Good example: Edinburgh old town vs new town.