

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Images:

Culloden - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/5654mD>

John Lorne Campbell & Margaret Fay Shaw at Canna House

- <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/ee1FG2>

15 April 2020

Trust shares rare Gaelic songs for Culloden commemoration

- *Conservation charity marks 274th anniversary online*
- *Rare recordings from Canna House collection shared in video - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/yq6DE5>*

The public can hear rare snippets of haunting Gaelic songs inspired by the Jacobite cause today, as conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland prepares to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden on Thursday 16 April.

For centuries, this historical event has been marked by a series of events onsite, but due to the coronavirus public health emergency, the charity has moved its memorial online, with a series of videos and articles on www.nts.org.uk.

In the video Highland Songs of the Forty Five the charity shares the original audio recordings of a series of Gaelic songs collected by archivist John Lorne Campbell from Canna. John and his wife Margaret Faye Shaw were noted scholars of Gaelic culture and life. Published in 1933, the book brought together songs inspired by the events leading up to the Battle of Culloden, and beyond – many of which had never been written down before. They also collected recordings of the songs from Ruairidh Iain Bain and Annie Johnston of Barra.

The film was created by the Trust's Canna House archivist Fiona MacKenzie who had been due to give a talk on the book at the battlefield as part of the 2020 anniversary programme.

Raoul Machin-Curtis, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager at Culloden said: "The anniversary of the Battle of Culloden is a significant date for so many and while we can't be onsite today, we know that people will want to pause, reflect and remember.

"These beautiful songs reflect the haunting beauty of battlefield, one of Scotland's most special places, so powerfully. We feel it is fitting to share them on this poignant day."

Thursday 16 April is the 274th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, one of the most pivotal moments in Scotland's history, where the 1745 Jacobite Rising came to a tragic and brutal end. The site of the last pitched battle fought in Britain, Culloden attracts more than 300,000 visitors every year and the impact of the battle and its aftermath resonates across Scotland, and the wider world.

Find out more about the battle at www.nts.org.uk.

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Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.
- From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

