

GLOBAL NEWS



BUDAPEST TAXI DRIVER LAYS CLAIM TO SCOTTISH EARLDOM!

A Hungarian taxi driver, brought up in a Budapest hovel, claims to be the heir presumptive to a Scottish earldom! Huba Andras Campbell is claiming the earldom of Breadalbane and Holland, a title declared dormant after John Romer Boreland Campbell, the 10th earl and 14th baronet died in a nursing home in 1999. But genealogist Robert Noble, discovered Huba Campbell's claim after researching the Hungarian branch of the Campbell's of Breadalbane for eight years. He told Taxi Globe: "The family knew of the Scottish connection, but had no idea that they were now the most senior line."



A taxi rank in Budapest

The Campbell's Hungarian connection dates from the 1870s when John Breadalbane Campbell, Huba's great-grandfather, was one of many Scottish engineers employed to build bridges over the Danube. He married Katharine Gordon, a descendant of the Marquess of Huntly, in Budapest in 1873. Huba Campbell suffered greatly for his noble ancestry in communist Hungary. In the 1950s his family was sent away to a secret location for 're-education'. His parents worked as vegetable-pickers and he was denied a university education because of his origins. At 17 he became a mechanic and later a taxi driver. His home was a downtown slum.

Mr Noble continued: "In communist Hungary, it was bad enough to be a member of the nobility, but to be from the British nobility was unforgivable." The earldom was created in 1681 for Sir John Campbell, the 11th Earl of Glenorchy, to whom popular myth has attributed the massacre of the MacDonald clan in Glencoe. The last earl suffered a severe head wound as an officer with the Black Watch in the Second World War.

Unfortunately for the new Laird, the only reward will be the title. The huge estates have gone. At one time they were one of the largest landowners in Scotland and their lands exceeded those of the clan chief, the Duke of Argyll.

As recently as the beginning of the 20th century they were able to ride for 100 miles across Scotland without leaving the family land! However, overspending during the latter years of Queen Victoria's reign saw the money vanish leaving just the name.

"Money isn't everything," Huba Andras Campbell's commented, "after all, there's always cab driving."

6-YEAR-OLD RUSSIAN BOY TAKEN HOSTAGE IN TAXI

Police in the Russian province of Nizhny Novgorod have stormed a taxi in which a man who had taken a 6-year-old boy hostage, was trying to escape. The man was finally killed by gunshots through the cab window. The young boy was wounded in the incident, apparently by a knife the hostage-taker was wielding. The dead man was said to have been visiting relatives with whom he began to argue. He then seized the child, who is his brother's son and demanded 50,000 rubles (£1050) ransom for the boy. He also wanted the taxi in which the kidnap took place.

Unbeknown to him, the taxi driver was an undercover policeman. Live television pictures then showed the man waving a knife and entering the taxi with the semi-dressed child. The taxi driver then claimed that the cab had developed mechanical trouble. During the delay, police rushed to the cab and fired through the windows killing the hostage taker.

US CAB DRIVER SUES CITY OVER DRESS CODE

Cincinnati taxi driver Kelvin Davis is fighting for his right to wear a turtleneck sweater and he's taking officials - whom he calls "fashion-challenged" - to court. Davis, who has driven a cab for 30 years, recently filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court alleging the city and Cincinnati police have violated his civil rights with an arbitrary and vague dress code that it enforces for taxi drivers.

An officer from the police public vehicle squad, which oversees taxicab regulations, stopped Davis for wearing the turtleneck sweater while driving and said his attire violated the city's dress code. Under the code, taxi drivers must wear full-length trousers, a shirt with collar and sleeves and shoes. Mr Davis challenged the officer by claiming that this particular turtleneck - while not a traditional dress shirt - has a collar and met the requirements. Although the officer didn't give Davis a ticket or attempt to suspend his cab licence, Davis said the rules are unclear and officers use them to harass drivers.

In his lawsuit, Davis is seeking a temporary restraining order to allow him to continue wearing turtlenecks and is seeking an unspecified amount of damages.

"Had I worn my bright yellow ski shorts, I could have understood the fuss, but I looked good in the turtleneck so why should anyone complain," Kelvin told Taxi Globe.

Each to their own, Kelvin, each to their own...

Taxi Air Conditioning

All makes Serviced and Repaired

Mobile Service - We come to you

Tel: 020 8715 0079

Covering London & The Home Counties