

Scot Pourri



Looking for Laird

I have been unable to find any clan or tartan connected to the name "Laird". My mother was Margaret Laird born in Kilmacomb. Her father was George Laird, well known builder. My cousin Jimmie Laird was a football player.

I would appreciate any information regarding this family name. I love the "Banner" and have been getting it for 16 years. Also recommended it to many friends.

Jenny Elliott

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Canada

Searching for Craig and Miller

I am seeking information on both of my grand parents who arrived in Brisbane, Australia, January 1910 from Scotland.

Somewhere here in Australia I have relatives, who may be wondering about his or her lost cousins. This is the information I have.

Adam Miller born 27th March 1877 in Beith, and Maggie Craig born January 16th 1876, were married in Glasgow July 9th 1899. Four daughters Jessie Colquhoun Miller and Jean Canning Miller both born 28th October 1900, Maggie born 1902, Mary born 1906 and a son Andrew was born in Australia 1911.

I have information on all the cousins of this union at hand. My concern is that there may be more of our cousins out there who are wondering whether or not there more relatives out there, as I am.

May I also add my congratulations on your 30th Birthday, long may you reign!

Thoir Aire/Take Care.

Edward G. Ebb

59 Dickens St Norman Pk,
Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia.

Plez or Ples, What does it mean?

My grandfather, John Preston Stewart, was born in 1860, son of Plez or Ples Stewart, son of John Stewart, son of Plez/Ples, son of John. As far back as the elders of my family were aware every John Stewart had a son named Plez/Ples. One Aunt thought it might have been a nickname for "Pleasant". Any Scots out there recognize the name? Plez/Ples?

Ms. Betty Stewart

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USA

A Scot by descent and inclination

I found the "Scottish Banner" in Caringbah Railway Station at a news agency for the first time in February. Very interesting and informative. I am not a Scot by birth, just descent and inclination. Please find my subscription order enclosed and I look forward to more articles on the Borders.

W. Wood

Laurieton, NSW
Australia

The "Banner" Spans Time and Place

I want to say how much I love the "Banner" it is so great to go back in time with the great stories. My cousin John Hill, who lives in Australia took up the Banner after I told him about it. He is from Millfort, Isle of Cumbrae, which is to me the most beautiful part of Scotland. I remember it when I visited my family when I was young until I married a Canadian soldier and came here to the most beautiful part of Ontario, Prince Edward County.

Thank you for keeping us in touch with our past and the future of Scotland.

Mrs. Nancy Jones

Picton, ON, Canada

Caber Feidh

The words are "Caber Feidh". It is a three part account of a Scots officer in WWI on his way home telling of his Army career-memories. He signs himself *Caber Feidh*.

Blythe Gehering

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Ed: Can you help with what it means and why he would use it as a signature.

Searching for Mary MacGregor of Comar's Sister??

That is to say, my family folklore claims kinship to Rob Roy MacGregor through the above link. All cousins, it seems.

Following an excellent and much appreciated response to my letter you published in "Scot Pourri" in December 2005, I have now confirmed the parentage of great, great, great grandfather, James Stirling, shoemaker, born 1774, died 1856, founder of "The Scottish Temperance League" in Milngavie/Stirling. He was born to James Stirling, ploughman and Jean Drysdale, domestic servant.

"The Gloaming of Life," a memoir of James Stirling by Alexander Wallace, first published in 1857, takes his family history back yet another generation to c.1735, to the union of Sergeant Major Drysdale to a disinherited heiress; my great, great, great, great, great grandparents and hopefully, one generation from our MacGregor link. *What was his first name? Who was she?*

Amongst the replies, I received many such 'trees' and advice on where to locate extensive research already undertaken on Rob Roy's ancestry and descent, but failed to find an accurate link to any sister of Mary MacGregor. *Who was she?*

Are there any readers who can throw light on this puzzle or who claim descent from James Stirling and Jean Drysdale, married c.1760, and had 15 children, in the Shire of Stirling. Several of their daughters married, had children and "lived to be grandmothers" (according to the book), or from James' and Jean's son, James Stirling, born 1774, who married Janet Buchanan/MacGregor in 1800. They had 10 children.

Another child of James, born 1774 and Janet Buchanan, was Archibald Buchanan Stirling, born 1811, died 1881, a well known conservator at the Anatomy Museum of the Edinburgh University. His history has been well documented.

Yours truly,

W.A. Ross

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Searching for Descendants

My great, great, great, grandfather, William McAfee Sr., born 1777, Scotland (probably on Jura or Islay) died 1858 East Union Twp., Wayne Co, Ohio, USA. His surname appears on land records as McDuffee in Unluce Parish, Co. Antrim, Ireland.

William married Margaret "Martha" Taggart (or Ray) in 1802 in Antrim. William left Scotland as a young man with a friend, John McQuigg, for Carragh Parish, Co. Antrim, Ireland about 1794. He was a farmer and a Presbyterian. It is said in one account that he descends from Scots Covenantors.

His children include Samuel McAfee born 1804 who married Grace Stinson & Susan Gorrell; James McAfee born 1809 who married Rachel Dinsmore and Elizabeth Cherry; John McAfee born 1814 who married Ellen Dunlap; Sarah McAfee born 1805 who married John McQuigg; William McAfee Jr. born 1821 who married Rebecca Swigart; Robert R. McAfee born 1822 Mathew McAfee born 1823 who married Margaret McElhinney (my great great grandparents); Martha Jane McAfee b. 1825 who married David Orr. The McAfees left Ireland via Liverpool,

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Getting Re-acquainted

Would anyone have information on a blonde lass from Edinburgh? Her name was Elizabeth Torrance and she worked as a nurse. I last saw her in 1964 when I set off to work as a soldier, seaman, and hard-rock miner in Australia, New Zealand, America and Asia. I would like to exchange life stories.

I am from Muirhouse, Edinburgh.

Thank you,

Iain McGregor Spinks

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Scarborough, Qld.

4020, Australia

Can We Talk?

Greetings. I am a single, 56-year-old South African male of Scots origin, and an empty nester. I would like to correspond with single women of Scots origin in the US who are of a similar age.

There is lots to talk about, I live in a very interesting country and have an interesting history!

Alan Robertson

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Royal Regiment of Scotland

Firstly, I'd like to thank Angela Barclay Arnold of Tullahoma, Tennessee, USA, for the information she supplied on The Deacon Brodie Tavern - page 3, April issue

Secondly, I am a bit confused by Steven Andrews article in the March issue titled "Scottish Regiments - Final days". He states that the tartan to be worn is that of The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders! OK! But then in the April issue, in Lady Fiona MacGregor's article "View from the Borderlands", she states that the weaving company, Robert Noble, helped to design the pattern for the new Regiment of Scotland... Query? Why design a pattern that already exists like that worn by the A&S.

Steven also says in his article that the red hackle of the Black Watch will not be worn, but according to the Royal Regiment of Scotland website at www.royalregimentofscotland.org.uk/ it states in a page on dress, that the Black Watch will continue to wear the red hackle, I'm confused, who is right?

Stewart Sudlow

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Ed. Note: See April 2006 Editorial

England aboard the ship "St. Andrew" which arrived in New York, NY USA on June 7, 1838. John McQuigg & Sarah McAfee came later via the same route aboard the ship "New York" arriving in New York City on July 17, 1843. From this line of McAfees descends Brigadier General US Army, John Ray McQuigg, Spanish American War and WW1 and 1925 National Commander of the American Legion. Also Abraham Lincoln Scholar, Paul McClelland Angle, and his brother, John E. Angle Jr. I am interested in learning the

parents of William McAfee (or McDuffee) Sr. in Scotland and also making contact with descendants of this family line in Ohio and the USA. Note: McAfee and McDuffee are interchangeable in both Ireland and Scotland. This clan is originally from Colonsay, Scotland in Co. Argyll.

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