



Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at www.scottishbanner.com, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

New South Wales Scottish Regiment

It was back in 1950, and the New South Wales Scottish Regiment, of which I was a member, was on a weekend training bivouac at Sydney's Long Bay Rifle Range. The range was an isolated and extensive area of mainly heathland, it adjoined Long Bay Gaol-home to many a hardened and notorious criminal.

"Lights out" had been piped, so we all turned in for the night-out in the open, I might add, and with our rifles and kilts tucked under our groundsheets as some protection from the decidedly inclement weather. Sleep came fitfully for most of us, but even that was interrupted sometime in the wee hours. With strident urgency came the order to dress and stand to, with rifles in hand. We were formed into a line, and ordered to fix bayonets.

It was announced that two dangerous criminals, Darcy Dugan and William Mears, had escaped from the nearby gaol. They were thought to be armed and that their first refuge might be the seclusion of the rifle range. We, the Scottish, were going to search for them!

On the order, and with some apprehension, we dutifully strode forward through the misty gloom, prodding gamely with our fixed bayonets at the numberless suspicions looking clumps of heath.

Luckily for them, might I say, Dugan and Mears, it transpired, had sought shelter elsewhere and were recaptured in short order by the police in Sydney suburbia.

Some of the lads, however, claimed to have roughly roused an inebriated "derro" sleeping it off under a rude shelter. Suddenly confronted in the dead of night by a phalanx of kilted apparitions wielding fixed bayonets, it was claimed that our derro sobered up in record time.

Well, I'd believe it! Wouldn't you?

John Campbell Dillon
Blackheath, NSW
Australia

Media Offside?

Soccer, also known as International Football, Association Football, or, in most of the world, just as Football, is the most popular sport in the world, and in most countries of the world.

Soccer is arguably the fastest growing of the football codes in Australia. Each wave of migration brings its own special gifts to the game here. It is not hard to believe that within a few decades soccer will be the most popular sport in this country too.

July saw the draw for the beginning of the World Cup qualifiers for 2014, with Australia well placed to be there in Brazil.

Apparently, my local newspaper doesn't know any of these things.

Soccer will continue to grow. Why don't the media in Australia get behind it instead of pretending not to be able to see it? Do we need generational change among sports editors so that we can catch up with what's actually happening in the country?

Sean Burke
South Fremantle,
Western Australia

Clan Mcintosh

I am very interested in finding out any information from anyone that can help on the Mcintosh Clan. About when the Mcintosh Clan left Scotland for Ireland and is there any clubs in Queensland?

Thank you,
Trevor Mcintosh
Queensland, Australia
Email: shirleyknight1954@hotmail.com

A Query for Ron Dempsey

I've learned so much over the many years from your research and especially the background stories you provide.

Many more years of the same will please us all, thank you.

My question is this; the Cameron name I believe means "bent nose". If so, when, where, why, and to whom might it first been applied; and from which clan were they originated or allied with? My thinking has been that they are originated from the MacDonalads.

It seems that my 4th great, Alexander, left Loch Broom in 1773 and came to Pictou, Nova Scotia with first settlers. I'm trying to understand his link to old "bent nose" and get some sense as to how such an unflattering name came to stick to his descendants. You would think someone would have chosen to revert back to the family's original name.

Your thoughts will be much appreciated.

John Duane
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Ed. note: We have passed this request on to Ron. Thank you for your query.

A War Story

I see from a previous issue that the 'Banner' is seeking war stores.

My experience began in 1943 when I arrived at Inverness.

After a briefing we moved to Wick where we assembled a work party then travelled along the coast to Dunnet Head where a Radar Station had been constructed on the high cliffs in order to keep an eye on the entrance to the Skapa Flow Naval Base in case another U Boat tried to enter. An earlier incident had sunk the Royal Navy Cruiser, HMS Royal Oak.

After three months of operations, I went to Thurso. From there I was shipped across the Pentland Firth to Orkney, where I worked at two Radar Stations. My leisure time was taken up visiting Croft's to by eggs. My mother in Birmingham almost had a heart attack when she received a box of 24 eggs. She had forgotten what they looked like!

I was discharged from the RAF in 1947 at Dundee after closing many of the Radar Stations I had helped to operated.

Ed Goodall,
Milton, Ontario, Canada.

Ed. note: thank you for this interesting piece. We enjoyed reading it - as will our readers.

Congratulations Scottish Banner

Congratulations on your 35th Anniversary! I came to Australia when I was two, but still wear kilts and play the pipes. *The Banner* is a great connection between me and my forbearers.

Keep going-Banner, Banner-Banner! Oi!Oi!Oi!
Bill Kennedy
Townsville, Queensland
Australia

Looking For A Connection

I recently watched "Doc Martin" on TV with Martin Clunes. The name Clunes' has been the middle name of my father Charles Clunes Gordon and his father before him and on. The first born son had the middle name of 'Clunes' for many generations. It was stopped when my name became Charles Anthony Gordon.

Could anyone possibly help me find where the name came from, and what connection it has with the 'Gordon' Clan?

Charles A. Gordon
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Ogden Utah 84404 USA

Annie Laurie's Kirk

This is in response to your article regarding Scottish weddings and my opinion on the subject. I had heard of Annie Laurie's kirk in Los Angeles which is supposed to be identical to the original which is near Dumfries in Scotland. We had paid a visit to that one, but were very disappointed in the state of disrepair it had been allowed to fall into. The one in Los Angeles is in Forest Lawn, Glendale. It was replicated in 1928 and looks exactly like the original, complete with the stained glass windows and doors. It looks 100% Scottish. We loved it so much that my future husband and I decided to get married there, which incidentally, so did Ronald Reagan. I feel we made the right choice for a wedding with a Scottish background. Instead of an anvil we had a pulpit, and we also had a lot of men in kilts!

Rena Trapnell,
Inglewood,
CA, U.S.A.

Ed. note: Thank you for this interesting piece of information - and Congratulations on your marriage.

A Day In The Life Of A Milkman

I am submitting my story about tenements and hope it may amuse some of your elderly readers.

I'm in my seventies now, but when I was a boy I did the early morning milk rounds before going to school. Many of my customers were auld age pensioners, and war widows were not uncommon.

As many people know, many of these lived on a pittance. I want to tell you about a particular auld lady who lived in a single end on the ground floor of the tenement. Her only window was about a foot or two above the pavement.

Now she had a little budgie that was always placed at her window, chirping away in its cage. Every morning when I delivered her milk, I could hear her chatting away to her budgie.- probably the only friend she had in her world. There was the odd occasion when she was not on my list which meant that she hadn't paid her bill. Since I always had extra milk, I would leave a bottle at her door anyway. Every morning her empty bottle was always washed, sparkling clean, and was left out to be picked up as usual.

For a while I wondered why she never thanked me. It was sometime later that it dawned on my little mind, that it was not ingratitude, but just her pride.

I often wonder what it must have been like for the auld folks then.

When I was a young man I indulged quite a bit in the muses.

John King,
Kingston,
Ontario, Canada.

35 Years And A Question

Congratulations, on your tremendous success, on the *Scottish Banner's* 35th anniversary! I have been a subscriber for 19 years and enjoy every issue. I read the *Banner* from cover-to-cover every month. I am a proud son of a Scottish Mother & Father, and only have been to Scotland once, 30 years ago. But, it was enough to know, that my wife and I will be retiring to Scotland.

I am interested in finding the E-Mail address for the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh the Right Hon. George Grubb. I would like to communicate with him, regarding the possibility of our being related, as I believe he is from Dundee which is where my father's family lived.

Thank you for your assistance,
Aye,

Donald Campbell Grubb, USA
e-mail sandi15@zoominternet.net