



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 150 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 <http://www.scottishbanner.com/pg/pourri.php>, 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.

Burns Night in Kansas?

Hi. I am trying to find a Rabbe Burns night celebration near Kansas City. My husband is a Scotsman who attends Burns Night annually in the UK.

He will be in the US this year during this time and I was hoping to find a Burns Night celebration near Kansas City we can attend.

Thanks,
Loni Scott, UK

Email:
loniscott@hotmail.com

Searching for My Cousin

I have been trying to find my second cousin. We were pen pals when we were young but lost touch when I moved out house. Her name is Lesley Ryder (maiden name). Last known address in 1963 was 18 Argonne Street, Homebush, NSW, Australia. We never ever met but her grandmother, Helen Lochhead (my grandfather's sister) emigrated to New Zealand around 1909, she met Arthur Ryder out there, they married and had 3 sons, one of whom was Norman (Lesley's dad). He moved to NSW. Lesley also had an older brother Leigh. Lesley would be in her late 50's by now. We haven't been in touch since 1963. My husband & I hopefully plan to visit Australia within the next couple of years, it would make it all worth while to meet up with my long lost cousin...any help on this would be very much appreciated.

Thanks
Avril Saunders (M/S Lochhead) 'Balmaha'
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Addlestone, Surrey KT15
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Photo Correction

On page 12 of the November Scottish Banner we listed Sol Solomon as a proud father to a baby boy. The father and photographer is in fact Chris Bruce.

We apologise for the photo caption error.

Looking for Wests who came from MacDuff

My name is Stanley West, I come from the town of Macduff in the northeast of Scotland. I am trying to trace some West relatives that I have lost contact with. The last I heard they lived in the Homestead area of Fort Lauderdale. And before that in Fort Lauderdale. I have traced back the West family tree in Macduff to circa 1670 and am sure my American relations would be interested if you could tell me what it would cost I would like to publish the following names in the Scottish Banner in the hope that some of them will read this and contact me.

My uncle Stanley emigrated to Detroit in 1926. He married Ella. Both are now deceased. My cousin Stanley died in his early 50s a few years ago and his wife Leanor (lea) may still be alive and in her late 60s or early 70s. Their children are Elizabeth who married an Eric Bush and they stayed in Leisure City. Bobby, Mike Stanley Junior is married to Jayne and lived up the Tallahassee area but were thinking of moving back down to Homestead. This info was gathered about 10 or 12 years ago so these children would probably be in their late 30s or early 40s. I really hope I can trace them through your paper.

Stanley West
14A Garden Street
Macduff, Aberdeenshire
scotland AB44 1NB, UK
e. mail address is.
stanley@west1738.freeserve.co.uk

Glasgow Memories

Please find enclose my money order for two of "Glasgow by the way but", "Celebrating a City" by Dr. John Cairney.

I am looking forward to reading it. I was born at 28th Grace Street and lived at 92B Bishop Street and I understand they are no longer there.

Thanks again
Ellen P. Murphy
7-27 York Crescent
Sarnia, ON N7S 6H9
Canada

Banner in Scotland?

May I congratulate you on a very interesting and enjoyable newspaper. My sister who left Ayre, Scotland for the U.S.A. 50 years ago, "The family Pioneer" sends me your paper to the U.K. monthly "unobtainable in the U.K. might I add" under a subscription Xmas Gift" Two further sisters and a brother followed her and they are all doing well.

I look forward to the paper dropping on the doormat and reading it from cover to cover.

Why can't the U.K. especially Scotland produce a similar broadsheet, they have all the news and events at their fingertips.

Long may you continue to excel your wonderful paper.

George Hamilton
(Not the renowned one)
24 Fairgreen Rd.
Bedfordshire LVI 4JG
England

My Banner Family

Dear Banner Staff,
Thank you for getting my dear Scottish Banner to me. I love it. I am writing you this time to point out that you did not put my apartment number on my address label.

The local Post Office informed me that they would not deliver if it did not have the full address. They would send it back to you. Now I don't want this nor do you. Sorry for being a nuisance, I need my Banner.

Thanking you "My Banner Family"
Elizabeth Galbraith
4650 S.W. Mueller Dr. Apt.
D201, Beaverton, OR
97007, USA

Passing the Banner

I enjoy the Banner so much and have bought it for years and send it to my cousin in Scotland. From there it gets passed around even more.

Keep up the good work and best wishes for the New Year.

Mrs Isobel Stirrat
Bright, Victoria
Australia

Blind Harry

Could you please include some insight or knowledge of the Scottish poet Blind Harry.

I have heard much

about his writings, particularly regarding William Wallace, but I know nothing of him as a person. Was he in fact blind or was it a nickname?

When did he live? Any information on this intriguing man would be most appreciated.

George Robertson Dryden
120 Church St.
Glen Innes, NSW 2370
Australia

Searching for McIvor Family

Looking for family of James Glen McIvor and Margaret Anne Crook McIvor and their son James McIvor. They are my grandparents and father. I would like to meet relatives.

James was a lorry driver and lived at 98 Main St., Murkirk when James was born on Jan 11 1954. Margaret and James Glen married on 31 July 1953 at Lanark. They immigrated from Irvine, Scotland to Australia in about 1966. Margaret McIvor died on 4 March 1969 and James Glen died late 1996/early 1997. Some relatives came to Australia for his funeral. They lived in Benalla, Victoria where both Margaret and James Glen are buried. James McIvor also has a son Nicholas Dean McIvor born March 29, 1981.

If anyone has any information please contact me.

Cerah (Sarah) Margaret
McIvor Bailey
PO Box 244, Ocean Grove,
Victoria, 3226, Australia
Email:
cerahmcb@yahoo.com.au

Greyfriars Bobby

After reading about Greyfriars Bobby (Vol 30., Number 5) I must say I enjoyed learning about this famous dog. I would like to know if this is how the word bobby came about to be known as another word for police officer?

I have also enjoyed past issues about the history of the kilt and read the Scottish Banner from cover to cover.

Ian Macrae
10-2 Grenfell St.
Parkes, NSW 2870
Australia

Queen Mary 70th Anniversary

A few months ago I read in a local paper that the Queen Mary was celebrating it's 70th anniversary of it's first sailing and there was to be a "tea" on board. I called to find out about the tickets and I happened to mention that I had sailed on it when I came to this country in 1965. When I called the next day to book the tickets and I was told that I was going to be the "guest of honour" I could hardly believe it but it turned out to be true. It was quite an experience as I was placed at the table with some film stars. It was exciting.

On another note I would like to know what other Scots reaction would be to what happened at our church on St. Andrews Day. Although it was being held early to accommodate the piper, I was really annoyed at the minister as he chose to extend the celebration to include all the ethnic groups. He posted it on the bulletin board and even invited them to bring their garb along to be blessed along with the tartan (which is the tradition) and to bring their own food to be beside the Scottish meat pies and shortbread. He said that he did not know about the procedure but I said he should have left well enough alone and not had the gall to change it. This is a Scottish Presbyterian church. Shame on him!!!!

Rena Trapnell (formerly of Coatbridge)
N. Inglewood, CA USA
E-Mail: Caledonia99@gmail.com

Scottish Political Scene

I enclose a short account of the present political situation in Scotland which I hope you will print. It is chiefly for the benefit of Scottish exiles and others of Scottish descent who may not realise the upheaval taking place on the Scottish political scene. You will not hear it from the normal media sources reporting within Scotland.

I read the "Banner" avidly whenever I am in the U.S.A., mainly in the Washington, DC., and Alexandria, W.V., areas.

Keep up the good work, and keep Scots throughout the world in touch with the 'home country'.

Yours Aye,
R.L. Hamilton
Bishopton, Renfrewshire,
SCOTLAND

Ed. note: Thank you for this interesting piece. We intend publishing this in a future issue.

Response to "Banner" Letter

Having just received a batch of Scottish Banners, I read in a previous issue about the Author Sir R.H. Bruce Lockhart.

I know of Sir Robert, (who was just mister at that time). The year was 1939 just before the war began. I was a little "Tweenie", a maid between house and dining-room. My employers were Professor Edwin Bramwell, and Mrs. Bramwell, Drumsheuch Gardens, Edinburgh.

The occasion was a 21st Birthday party for the Bramwell twin sons, and Mr Bruce Lockhart and his sons were present. I remember them all discussing a book... "Guns or Butter", which he had written. He had brought a copy with him. This is just to say... I knew of him, and realized he was an author.

As well, Mrs Bramwell had a brother in the Royal Navy... Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham. There is a little story about this...when he came to visit, it was my job to open the front door. Sir Andrew would say... "Half -a crown, Jessie,?"... I would say "Yes, Sir".... This was a running bet that he could throw his hat from the door of a very large front hall, and it would land on a peg. Of course..it never did,... and I was many half crowns richer.

Not having known Mr Bruce Lockhart, but knowing of him, I find it interesting, that a little 15 year old girl could meet these two very important people by chance.

This ia simply a tale of ships that pass.... "in the night"?

Jesse Pope,
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