



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 <http://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.

Dundee Park Place Primary School 1940s

Hello out there, looking for classmates 1940/46 **Brian Donadson, David Gibson, Elizabeth Freedman, Dora Wishart** were some. Teachers **Miss Davidson, Miss Sutherland** and **Mr. Bell** was headmaster. If you're out there love to hear from you. I am looking for class photos. Come on time is a wasting!
Shirley Hurt, Canada
E-mail: nhurt@cogeco.ca

Emigration to the Colonies

My question is, how hard is it to emigrate nowadays from Scotland to the colonies; Canada, America, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand?

When I emigrated from Scotland in 1956 to Canada. I just called the Canadian Government and they indicated that if you were British they wanted you. In 1959 I emigrated to the US. You needed a sponsor and \$300. I did not have \$300. So my two pals who also wanted to emigrate to the US. All put up \$100, so I got a statement from the bank that we had \$300 and over we came.

So what are all the rules, regulations and quotas today? These will be the future customers of the **Banner**.

Stanley J. Dalton
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Rabbie Burns Memorabilia

Can you help? I would appreciate anyone's help in locating where I can possibly acquire memorabilia of "The Bard."

Yours,
Bill Totten, Australia
E-mail: liamt@pt.id.au

Is It True?

I am sure many readers are well aware that this is the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth and throughout the world events are being held to commemorate his legacy to Scotland and the world. The "Banner" is doing its bit and has had regular items about many of the events during Scotland's Homecoming. I would like to draw attention to one item that requires comment. In the Poet's Corner of the February edition the poem by Jeremy Bell from Boston called "Burns and the (tin of) Haggis", was a humorous tale about the trials of having a Burns Supper without a proper Haggis. For many this situation is a reality as more and more jurisdictions are limiting the ingredients allowed in the making of a Haggis. There are a couple of lines in the poem, however, which stick out as a jolt to the senses. It is claimed as a "fact" that Robert Burns had contracted gonorrhoea. This claim cannot go unchallenged. There is no evidence what-so-ever to support such a claim and it is quite unfair to the heritage and reputation of Robert Burns to make such a claim. Whether these lines were inserted as poetic license or filler or as a joke, is not known. I have been unable to contact Mr. Bell to have him divulge his sources for his claim.

Robert Burns has had his share of detractors during his life and since his death. His works and heritage have survived intact, however, and will continue to do so. Even in jest, such claims must be refuted.

If Mr. Bell reads this I would be delighted if he would get in touch with me and produce his sources. I and others would be most interested to know what they are!

Scott Reid
President of the Robert Burns Society of Kilmarnock, Canada and a Canadian Director of the Robert Burns Association of North America.
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Kilbarchan in the News

I was delighted to read "Tartan Blanket Being Handwoven for Rabbie Burns' Birthplace" in the October North American edition. The story centered on the Weaver's Cottage in Kilbarchan, where the 'birthplace' blanket and three rag rugs to be placed in the Burns Museum in Alloway had been woven.

Seeing Kilbarchan in the news was a personal thrill for me. This tiny town in Renfrewshire, which is omitted from many Scotland maps, was where my paternal grandmother was born in 1885. I don't see it mentioned in print too often. My grandmother, **Mary Grainger Vance**, and her mother emigrated to America in 1893 when Mary was eight, following the death of Mary's father, himself a weaver.

I visited Kilbarchan once, many years ago. I had the pleasure of seeing not only the Weaver's Cottage but my grandmother's birth and baptismal records in a local church. Although she died when I was 11, I retain fond memories of her and am proud of my direct connection to Scotland in general and Kilbarchan in particular.

From my perspective, the Burns Museum is getting very high-quality material from a terrific source! Long live the weavers of Kilbarchan!!

Richard Hull, Kennebunk, Maine, USA

Aberdeen Highland Games 2009

I don't know whether you can help through the **Banner**, but a FUJIFILM USB 2.0 memory stick and a 256 MB camera card were handed in following the games this year. They are beautiful photos taken in Scotland mainly at Tobermorie on Mull. Some person has obviously dropped same and may well be looking for them. I was not able to recognise any of the faces.

Regards,
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Great Visit to Scotland

It was great to see the *Scottish Banner* in Scotland at *The Gathering* in Edinburgh. I will never forget walking the Royal Mile with thousands of Clan folk.

Many thanks also for your *Meet the Chief* interview with our Chief of Clan Campbell, His Grace, The Duke of Argyll. I feel very proud to receive a lifetime membership to Clan Campbell due to my services to the Clan.

Six of us travelled all over Scotland and also visited the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Alva Academy as I read of their recording The Haggis CD in the Banner some months back. I also met in Glasgow **Colin Hunter McQueen** who has the biggest collection of Robert Burns in Britain, which was amazing being in the Dunedin Burns Club.

Keep up the good work with the Banner.
Margaret Campbell
Dunedin, New Zealand

Burns Statue in Dunedin

Your September edition relates to the number of statues of **Robert Burns** there are in the world, but excludes the one in Dumfries, his place of rest.

Some 80 years ago when I was 10 my father who was a tailor in Dumfries took me to the statue and explained the life of Robert Burns, adding there was a slight flaw on the statue itself. The flaps on the jacket pockets were not the same.

Recently I had my cousin in Dumfries verify that one flap was plain and the other had a pattern.

Joe Maxwell
Ingleside, NSW, Australia

Meet The Chief

I enjoy your column "Meet the Chief" and was wondering if it were possible to tell your readers about the McIntosh chief? My great-grandfather was a MacIntosh and as far back as I search and money could take me, there was a McIntosh. I'd like to know more about Chief.

Blythe Gehring
Lakewood, Ohio, USA

Stone of Destiny

Regarding Mrs Helen Moore's question (September 2009 Scotpourri) about the film *The Stone of Destiny*, the DVD is available on Amazon.com. In Canada it is available for rent at our video stores.

Roberta Luciani
Canada

Thanks, Ron!

Thank you for all the wonderful stories in the Banner. I was happy to read Ron Dempsey's *What's In a Name* on the Dykes family. My mother's sister married a Hugh Dykes, they lived in Tillycultry, Clackmananshire. Hugh's family had the Burnside Dairy in Airdrie, Kilmarnock.

One of their sons has brass plates of milk cans in Tillycultry.

Tommy Bone
Warrandyte, Victoria, Australia

21st Century Highland Clearances

To all freedom loving patriots. A US Billionaire is trying to re-introduce The Highland Clearances. His name I am sure you will all know is **Donald Trump** from America. Donald Trump through his bullying and threats has managed to persuade the Councillors of Aberdeenshire Council, Scotland to grant planning permission for a rich man's golf course and executive housing in Aberdeenshire.

Not content with bullying to build the course he also gained permission to build it on a Site Of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which until now was a site of special beauty and a habitat for rare birds, wildlife and flora.

Initially he thought he had permission for enough land to build on, but he suddenly realised he didn't.

So what does he do? he tries to force Scottish home owners to sell! When they refuse to sell their houses which are surrounded by natural beauty he applies for compulsory purchase. The home owners have refused to sell at any price thus the compulsory purchase orders.

He wants to throw them off the land and bulldoze their homes to settle his gigantic ego.

The Tripping Up Trump Campaign was started to try and prevent this modern highland clearance but the big money and threats is making the homes owners and Scottish people into underdogs by calling their homes hovels and slums, anyway they need to be cleared to let him build his resort Donald Trump retaliates with!

I have nothing against golfers, but I think everyone will agree Scotland has sufficient top class golf courses.

So to all you true freedom loving people H-E-L-P!!! This is the Scottish Homecoming year nobody will have homes to live in.

The web site www.Trippinguptrump.com will give you contact details for signing a petition and newsletters etc. I thank you most sincerely for your help in this matter, please pass this on to other freedom lovers.

Thank You,
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