



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.

Scots Descendants Cannot Live In Homeland

Scots Descendants are not welcome to return home unhindered to live unless they are born of someone born in the UK per current UK immigration laws. Check out the UK Border Agency site and see for yourselves.

It is virtually impossible for Scots descendants to return home to live by those UK laws. In fact even all Brits living overseas should be careful about losing rights from residence per the same laws.

Scots descendants returning "home" to visit are a major source of Scotland and UK tourist business incomes. Many tourist based businesses rely on those Scots descendants visits to survive.

Scots descendants spend tourist and investment cash in Scotland because they believe it to be their "homeland" and have an emotional attachment to that. There is an unstated belief that even though they are nationals elsewhere, they are actually Scots and could if they wanted to return "home".

The common belief is that they are "welcome home" as Scots, not just as a tourist cash opportunity.

The inflow of Scots descendants Tourism Income would reverse dramatically if were to become well known that they are not actually welcome home per UK immigration laws and in fact can be treated by some sectors of the country as "plastic Scots" welcome only temporarily for tourist cash and then not welcome at all.

Discussing "returns to Scotland" with Scots descendants for years afforded an opportunity to talk in depth to thousands of Scots descendants and gauge the underlying feelings they have about their connections with Scotland.

Those who were bitter about how their ancestors were pushed out of Scotland and knew that they are not welcome to return "home" to settle would not spend a coin back in Scotland for tourism or anything at all.

Those who still believed that they could in fact return home even if they did not want to return to settle were not bitter and would happily spend any reasonable amount on multiple visits to Scotland and even invest in the Scots economy in preference to other similar opportunities.

The common theme between both broad groupings was the sense of Scotland being "home".

The vast majority have complex lives and relationships where they live now and would never either want to or be able to return to Scotland for a variety of reasons.

But they all have that sense of "home" and desire to be welcome back if they wanted a legitimate right of return.

It was amazing how quickly the desire to visit extensively would turn off on learning that they are not actually welcome to return to live and not actually considered "real Scots" by some sectors of Scotland and UK. It was replaced with a poignant hurt indignation and a seriously determined intent to definitely not invest time, attention or income actually in Scotland.

Scots residents really need to examine the history of the treatment dished out to their ancestors, the descendants of those ancestors and the current situation of resident and non resident Scots and figure out a way of redressing those injustices and inequities. Drawing a line under our history and going forward does not cater for Scots descendants who by cultural right also have a place in Scotland's present and future.

Scots around the world watch with keen interest and see other lucrative places to spend their tourist and investment dollars if they are treated poorly and made to feel like Scotland is not home to them.

A lot of current resident Scots forget the political and financial power of the more numerous Scots outside Scotland who also consider Scotland home but are not allowed to live here or visit too long by UK laws that Scotland defers to.

Perhaps if we truly value the Scots Tourist industry, Investment attractiveness of Scotland, International support for the Scots economy and the statistical need for a larger ratio of employed workers to retired Scots in the very near future, resident Scots should care very much more about how they allow all those Scots outside Scotland to be treated by UK drafted immigration laws.

Lastly and possibly most importantly, Scots descendants around the world are one of the most obvious and possibly the easiest to access resource of Investment, Intellectual property, Productivity and Consumption that will grow the Scots economy to secure the future of current resident Scots and those of the future as well.

And those Scots descendants who would want right of return, all love Scotland, know its history, its culture and are deeply committed to Scotland, so would fit in well.

Ben Power

benpower@gmail.com

War Bride

As I was signing to renew my subscription to the *Scottish Banner*, my mind wandered back to my introduction to the paper.

It was August 1976, my husband and I were at the Elliot Clan Society tent at the Fergus Highland Games. It was there we received a copy of the "*Scottish Banner*", and I have been reading and enjoying it ever since.

I very much enjoyed the letters from the War Brides. I too am a War Bride. I sailed on the Queen Mary in August 1946, arriving in Halifax on August 31st, where I boarded a train which stopped at various destinations.

I was travelling to Belleville, Ontario, where I was met by my husband, who had been demobbed a week before my arrival.

I was delighted to sail on the Queen Mary, as I had watched her receive her name before sliding gracefully into the beautiful River Clyde.

I have had a wonderful life in Canada, and was fortunate to have a gem of a mother-in-law and a loving husband, together we travelled a lot, both in Canada and other countries also.

Mary C. Elliott,

Wooler, Ont. Canada

formerly Mary Gaudie Paisley, Scotland

Pease Browze

Regarding the request for Pease Browze in the October 2011 issue. Peas meal is required to make this and can be obtained in a grocery store or deli. As a youngster growing up in Paisley, Scotland our family had porridge in the morning and browse at night, here's a little ditty my mother taught us:

Pease Browze again Maw

Pease browse Again

You feed me like a blackbird

And me your only wain

Some other readers may know other verses, we only sang this one over and over again, another was:

Pease pudding hot

Pease pudding cold

Pease pudding in a pot nine days old

We all loved our Pease Browze! This reader brought it all back to me, I now have it on my shopping list and hope I can get it here in New Zealand.

Keep up the good work with *the Scottish Banner*. I love it and all the news we get. I pass on to all our other Scots friends.

Our Aye,

Ellen J S Aitchison (nee Renfrew)

Late of Paisley, Scotland

Rotorua, New Zealand

Ed. note:

Some like it hot!

Some like it cold!

We like it in a pot

Nine days old!.....and thank you for your kind words!

Pipers for Heroes

From whence they came, there they stand, the leading edge of a still incomplete clan of clans and societies who are blessed with a keen interest in the not to be lost memory of their fallen fellows. During February, two thousand eleven, among command discussions of the Scottish American Military Society, the impetus was gained to create a program entitled "Pipers For Heroes". This program would be a continuation of an already continuing practice of providing pipers to requests for their presence at various events of the several military branches. In addition to the individuals who had already volunteered to participate, seven clans and societies to date have volunteered to assist in the accumulation of a force of qualified pipers who would make themselves available to any request for their performance at the funeral or other specified event when requested.

That assistance would be comprised of notices in their respective periodicals, newsletters or such which would describe the program to all of their members and advise them of how to contact SAMS to volunteer their services. While the program is nationwide, the East coast is especially in need of reinforcement. All subsequent individuals are coded to their personal geographic home base and notified only of those events that are within an acceptable previously designated travel distance. Acceptance of any single assignment is optional. Command is convinced that the endeavours of all involved will produce results that will be of the utmost success and reflect the honour and gratitude rightfully due to the designated recipient. If your clan would like to stand, contact below. The present order of clans in their sequence of stand are; Clan Farquharson USA, Clan Turnbull, Clan Mackintosh of N.A., International Association of Clan MacInnis, Clan MacPherson, Scots Charitable Society of Boston, Clan MacLachlan of North America.

H.J.Farquharson

USA

Email: newkent@comcast.net

Memories Of Dumfries High Street

Reading my *Scottish Banner* this month was made more enjoyable because of the picture of Dumfries High Street.

On September 01, 1939, I was evacuated to Dumfries from Glasgow, along with my Mother and two Brothers. We all spent time walking (few buses then) to school and to the High Street shopping area. One building held the Pub frequented by Robert Burns which we passed every day.

Many years later on a visit home, my children and I walked into the pub, to have a look!!!

We went back to Glasgow in the summer of 1943, but I retained my connection to Dumfries through dear friends until 2006, when my dear girlfriend passed away.

Belated congratulations on the Banners 35th Anniversary.

Catherine Rainer,

One Oak Street,

Dartmouth,

Nova Scotia,

Canada

Ed. note: Thank you for sharing this with us Catherine. Thank you also for your note of congratulations. There have been many good times over the 35 years!

Susan Boyle In Australia

I was pleased to read in the November *Scottish Banner* that a musical is being adapted on the life story of Susan Boyle. I just watched her on TV while she was here in Australia and she is truly a star, what a down to earth lady and what a voice. Well done SuBo we Scots are all behind you 100%!

Margaret Johnston

Adelaide

South Australia

Ed note: Thank you for your note Margaret please see more on Susan Boyle in this issue.