




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.



Correspondent Wanted

I have just been introduced to "The Scottish Banner" and am relishing your interesting and warming articles. Many thanks to your team.

I know well that curious sense of 'not quite belonging' to which 'Glasgow, by the way' author, John Cairney, refers. (December 2006 issue). For the past few years I've been especially haunted by it. How many others feel this way?

Although born and raised in Australia with almost no direct childhood experience or knowledge of the Scotland of my forbears, over recent years I've felt a pull very strongly towards all things Celtic, particularly towards the Highlands from where some of my people stemmed.

Years ago on visiting the islands of the Hebrides it was like being drawn by a powerful magnet, I loved the place instantly and with a passion. My hair stood on end! Difficult to turn my back and leave. Sensations that won't go away.

I know little of life in the Lowlands and the cities, from where others among my Scottish ancestors stemmed. Your very good paper helps to gain an understanding.

Scottish and Irish music and dance, literature, theatre, films, and friends gradually fill gaps in my knowledge and appreciation.

With friends in mind, are there any among your readers who would enjoy a correspondent in Australia? If so, I'd be happy to hear from them. Am an energetic 60ish, self-employed, and have wide interests. Among these are a great love and respect for Nature in all its forms, a fondness for growing things, for watery and wilderness places and their conservation, for art and handcrafts, writing, history and literature, farms, dogs and horses.

All the best wishes for the New Year.

Meg Wilson

Australia

Email:

megw2@bigpond.com

When is a Bobby (Greyfriars) not a Bobby?

In December's Scot Pourri a correspondent suggests that "Greyfriars Bobby" might have been the origin of British Policemen being nicknamed "Bobbies" The story of the wee doggie who watched over his master's grave is a local Edinburgh folk tale. . The police Bobbies are named for the Victorian statesman Sir Robert Peel who established the civilian unarmed police force. He was Prime Minister of Britain. from 1841 - 1846 The term is used throughout the Kingdom, and has no particular reference to Scotland.

All the Best to the Banner
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FSA (Scot)

I was reading the latest edition of the Scottish Banner I kept noticing that at the end of your name and other writers, as well as some references that I was looking at on wikipedia was a term of: FSA(SCOT).

Could you let me know what this reference means?

Douglas Bruce Rose
Canada

Ed Note : Thank you for your note. It means "Fellow of the Society Antiquaries of Scotland". Also, please see www.socantscot.org.

Rennie Ancestors?

I've been trying (unsuccessfully) to find information on our Scottish "Rennie" ancestors. By chance when talking to a lady at the "Clan Arthur" tent at a local Scottish Fair, I mentioned my surname and she exclaimed "Oh No! - we massacred your lot in 1427 during a blood feud

and your clan was scattered...you are the first one I've ever met." This seems to explain the low number of "Rennie" surnames around the place. Could anyone confirm this event and perhaps direct me to more information on the subject?

Thanks

Paul Rennie

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New Zealand

Scot by Descent and Inclination

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

W. Wood

Laurieton, NSW

Australia

A New Gaelic Heritage Centre Project

A' Charaid Choir:

I am writing to you with an invitation to be part of an exciting project that we are undertaking at the Gaelic College. Since 1938, the Gaelic College has been a mainstay of Scottish Gaelic language, culture and tradition. The only institution of its kind in North America, the Gaelic College began with a beautiful log building constructed by local craftsmen and an enthusiastic mandate to preserve and perpetuate the language and traditions of the Highland settlers to the area. The College has grown over the ensuing decades and our programs and facilities have developed to service a growing interest in Scottish heritage as it has developed in North America.

This summer, we've embarked on an ambitious project that will see to the establishment of a Gaelic Heritage Centre within our Hall of The Clans museum building. This

centre will be comprised of three parts: a Cultural Centre housing interactive interpretive stations depicting the linguistic, musical and dance culture of the Gaels of Nova Scotia. A Gaelic Learning And Resource Centre housing our library collection, computer research stations, as well as learning stations providing creative learning opportunities. Linking these centres is a hallway in which we will establish a Gallery of Gaels of North America.

Rationale for the Gallery:

Year after year we welcome students from every region of Canada and the United States who gather here at the Gaelic College to receive world-class instruction and to take part in informal ceilidhs and concerts celebrating our shared heritage. So many of our students will make reference to a parent, grand parent or great grand parent who was a Gaelic speaker or will make reference to their ancestral community in which Scottish Gaelic was a part of everyday life. We wish to create a Gallery here at the Gaelic College that will bring together images to honour those people who created the Scottish Gaelic presence in North America that we perpetuate today.

We wish to extend to you an invitation to submit a photograph or photographs of Gaelic speakers from your area for consideration for inclusion in the Gallery. These photographs may be of a single person or of a group.

Here are some guidelines:

Photographs must be accompanied by information on the people in the photograph. For individuals or groups of 2-4 people, this information should include the approximate year and locality that the picture was taken, the names of individuals in the photo as well as a brief biography if available, telling where they lived and their contribution to their community.

Group photos (more than four people) should reflect some aspect of community life a work crew associated with a local industry or a group engaged in an activity representative of the community. It is often difficult or impossible to name everyone in a group photo such as this but information accompanying the photo should include the approximate date of the photo, the locality where it was shot and some information on the nature of the enterprise that brings these people together.

Keep in mind that in all instances we are seeking photographs of Scottish Gaelic Speakers in North America.

We can accept original photographs, high-quality print reproductions, or high-quality digitized images. Electronic I digital photo files must be high resolution—at least 300 dpi—to be usable for print reproduction. An 8" x 12" full-page image is roughly 2500x3500 pixels, often running 25 megabytes or more. We have the capacity to handle large files, but you may find it easier to have an image copied to a disk and mail it to us.

If you wish take part in this project, or would like more information, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me at the address above by surface mail, email, fax, or phone. I look forward to talking to you.

Leis Gach Deagh
Dhurachd // With Kind

Regards

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Keeping Those Scots Terms

Having been in Australia for 25 years I had gone for some fish and chips and I gave my order, you can imagine my surprise when the owner came back and asked what a fish supper was? A few days later my neighbours and I were watching a lizard and he said "where did it go?" I said down the stank and I then wondered why he looked at me so funny??

If Willie Holmes of Govan who worked in Harland & Wolf reads this please get in touch.
Jim McGinlay
385 Princes Hwy.
Ulladulla, NSW, 2539

And the Winner Is!

In December I was surprised and delighted to win the "Best Dressed" lady award at the Grand Scottish Ball in Sydney, at the end of Scottish Week.

As well as a bottle of champagne, I won a subscription top the Scottish Banner. I was born in Glasgow 70 years ago, I am so looking forward to the Scottish Banner's arrival in my mail box each month.

Thank you so much.
Jane E Sheridan
Double Bay, NSW
Australia

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WITH
David Keith
5pm to 6-30pm-every Monday
on
The Fresh 895FM, Bendigo Victoria




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