



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.

"The Best Tonic"

I think the article about Glasgow is fantastic. You people have the best tonic for the Scottish people over seas. One of my friends who has a limited time left, loves the paper. She now lives in British Columbia, Canada, but she is originally from Pollok-shields. She has been a subscriber to the "Banner for years.

I think of her often as I read your wonderful write ups.

Thank you

Nancy Jones,

Picton, Ontario, Canada.

P.S. Please say 'Hello' to Eileen Hicks,

Richmond Surrey,

British Columbia,

Canada

Let's hear it for "Banner" readers

In the October 2006 Scotpourri you published a letter from us, seeking information about the Scottish city of Stirling. We were delighted by the responses not only from other Adelaidians but also from interstate, such that we now possess a wealth of materials.

Thank you "Banner" for providing such an excellent forum for the interchange of information.

Other ethnic groups may have similar means of communication, but we doubt that they can match the Scottish Diaspora for the generous and warm hearted way in which it responds to requests for help and for its great bonds of fellowship.

Long may it continue to be so!

Colin and Margaret Schumacher

Linden Park, South Australia

Ed. Note: There's no readers like "Banner" readers!

The Banner-From Australia to Scotland

I enjoy the "Banner" so much and have bought it for years. When I have finished reading it, I 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

Erskine Veterans Tartan

I was wondering about the young man RAF Squadron Leader Colin McGregor who is launching the Erskine Veterans Tartan. If anyone wanted to buy the tartan, where would you buy it from?

Many years ago when I was 14 years old my mother took me to Erskine Veterans Hospital, I think it was in Ayrshire, to visit the men there because people used to hand books in to our house. Mum used to get the Erskine van to take the books to the war veterans at the hospital.

I am so glad they have their own tartan.

Rose May Aitkenhead

7-520 Church St.

Palmerston North

New Zealand

From Auchtermuchty to Cessnock

I read the Scottish Banner from cover to cover, and then pass it on to my Scottish friends in the village.

I emigrated from Auchtermuchty, Fife. Auchtermuchty was made famous when Dr. Finlay series was filmed there in 1992. The late Jimmy Shand also lived in Auchtermuchty and was granted the Freedom of the Kingdom of Fife for his services to the community.

Sarah Galloway

Cessnock (Blue Mountains), NSW

Australia

To: Matthew A.C. Newsome

Thank you ever so much for your column, it is most helpful, and instructive. I have intended to write for sometime, however the picture in the December issue gave me new incentive.

My attention was drawn to the insignia on the belt buckle, of model wearing the kilt. It reminded me, that I had exchanged letters with a fellow, who thought that Free Masons should not wear the kilt, because in his opinion, we did not support the Jacobite cause. I informed him that he was incorrect, and I would like to now inform you and the rest of the readers that indeed there are two Masonic tartans. One for Scotland, and one for Canadian Masons.

To view the Canadian version go to www.GrandLodgeofCanada.com, in the Province of Ontario, and locate GLProducts, and click on GL Tartan, and you will be able to view in colour the new tartan.

The unique name for the Grand Lodge, comes from the fact, that from 1841 to 1867, the Province of Ontario, was known as Upper Canada. Now a question. I'm a little confused on the difference, between the formal, and semi-dress sporrans, and which, and when they should be worn, with what attire.

Thank you again for your column

Yours truly,

John A.D. McLean,

Belleville, Ontario

Canada

New Book From Old Banner Articles

You might like to know that one of my articles, published in 'The Banner' (Vol.17 No. 9, March 1994) entitled 'A Close Community' has evolved into book form ~ same title and author ~ and published by West-Dunbartonshire Libraries, Scotland during October this year.

'The Banner' story in question, followed an earlier piece (Vol. 9 No.6 Dec. 1993) entitled 'The Argyll Street Gang' and both are now incorporated in the new book (A Close Community ~ Life in an Alexandria Tenement), which is autobiographical and covers my life between 1938 into the early 1960s in Argyll Street. You might also like to know that I have mentioned 'The Scottish Banner' in my Introduction page.

The book (ISBN 0-9537736-4-7) is on sale at West-Dunbartonshire Libraries.

Meanwhile, I am the current editor of 'MacFarlane's Lantern' the newsletter of The Clan MacFarlane Society Australia, Inc., which subscribes to 'The Scottish Banner'.

Wishing you and your staff Seasonal Greetings and prosperity in 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Lobban,

Australia

Want to Make Friends. Can you Help?

We have recently relocated from Glasgow and we are living in Belrose, NSW and would love to get in touch with people who have also relocated. We are in our early 30's and have a 4 year old and would dearly love to make some friends. Our address is below for anyone who would like to get in touch. We went to Hyde Park for the Sydney Scottish Week Festival and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Kerry Bradley

8 William Lord Place

Belrose, NSW 2085' Australia

Email: kerryannebradley@btinternet.com

Robert Louis Stevenson

Thank you for such an interesting read, so much information that is fact.

The picture of Robert Louis Stevenson's grave was of special interest as I have been telling relatives we, and our name, came from Samoa.

I was always told my great grandmother married a Frenchman, but on research he was from Apia (Samoa). I bet he had a sun tan.

JG Bennie had asked for help in the November "Banner" so I sent a little info and received a lovely thank you. I also did the same for Lois Kerslake from Alberta, Canada, but my post was returned undeliverable and their was no email address.

Mrs Barbara Curtain

PO Box 825

Fortitude Valley, QLD

4006, Australia

Ed Note: Lois Kerslake may want to contact Mrs Curtain direct.

Oops!

I enclose part of an article in the December 2006 issue in which the "Scottish Banner" states that Colonsay was first discovered by St. Columba over 6000 years ago."

This statement needs correction. The Inner Hebrides, of which Colonsay is one island, were inhabited by humans many hundreds of years before St. Columba traveled there. He lived in the 500s A.D. (A Christian missionary), not 4,000 B.C.

I should be interested in reading more about the pre-history and history of Colonsay.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Stewart

Rochester, N.Y., USA

Ed. The Banner apologizes for the error.

Looking Urquharts and Smiths

I am doing my family tree and would like to contact the descendants of Uncle Donald and Aunt Maggie Urquhart (nee Maggie Ann Smith), who were married in Vancouver in June 1912.

Maggie came from the Dufftown area of Banffshire and Donald is believed to be from Edinburgh. Per other members of the family he was the chauffeur at the Auchlunkart Estate, near Mulben in Banffshire before moving to Vancouver. However, their marriage certificate indicates that he was employed as a plumber.

They are believed to have had two children named Irene May and Rodney William. Any information is greatly appreciated.

John McPherson

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