



# 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.

## Mystery Medallion

I was recently reading an article on the Tartans and Kilts, in which it was mentioned on how such attire became more popular following the visit to



Scotland of the Royals in 1822. These particulars rang a bell and I looked up an old medallion that was from my Grandfathers belongings, who immigrated to Australia in the 1840s. Have often wondered if the medallion was directly related to the actual visit or for some reason produced at a later date. Can anyone help? In anticipation

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Inscription: Scotland hails with joy the visit of her sovereign— August 1822. George IV ascended the British throne Jan 29, 1820.

## Comunn Gaidhlig Ottawa

Comunn Gàidhlig Ottawa (CGO) exists to promote Gaelic language, music and culture, and will focus efforts on:

Providing "in-person" Gaelic learning groups at various levels based on AGA and other proven methodologies to help foster and grow Gaelic awareness and usage in central Canada.

Networking with other Celtic and Gaelic groups to provide high quality "easy-to-find" Gaelic language, music and cultural resources. Organizing and help to grow a Canadian National Capital Mòd in co-ordination with other Mòd organizations that fosters and promotes Gaelic language, singing, dancing and piping activities. Providing information, contacts and facilities for Gaelic choirs, musical learning and other Gaelic music related activities.

Lobbying the Federal and Municipal governments to recognize Gaelic as an important part of Canada's heritage and have it offered as an elective language in our schools here. This will involve networking with government in Nova Scotia to see how they have been able to make progress in this area. Participating at as many events as possible to raise awareness of the rising vitality and relevance of Gaelic in Canadian society and around the world.

The organization was launched to fill a gap in the National Capital area of Canada, and is already starting to link with many other Gaelic promoting organizations. For more information, please see our site at: [www.gaidhligottawa.ca](http://www.gaidhligottawa.ca)

Gil Waugh  
Comunn Gaidhlig Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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## British Weightlifting Champion Wull Beattie 1929

We visited Scotland last year trying to trace the Beattie family history, particularly that of Wull Beattie. Arriving in Glasgow we set out to visit family members but most of the old photos had been lost. We bought a copy of "Health and Strength" (Jan 1930) with my husband's father on the front page from a collector and now out to find more information.

Wull was involved in amateur weight lifting in the late 1920's to early 1930's. He married in 1932 and raised a family, after World War 2 he got involved with the circus in the UK and his test of strength were legendary, lifting 12 men seated on a plank (see photo above) and lifting a Clydesdale horse-many people told us they had seen this, it would be an absolute treasure to our family if anyone had a copy of this.



Wull Beattie, center, lifting twelve men

We hired a narrow boat on the Forth of Clyde Canal, went to the Falkirk Wheel (fantastic) and stayed at Twechar Farm where Wull Beattie lived and my husband was born (now a B&B to be recommended).

Wull Beattie (The Mighty Apollo, The Almada Trio, William Beattie) who also toured in Scotland with the Andy Stewart Show in the 1950's (possibly 55-56), we have no records of that at all and don't know where to start.

We ask for the help of the Scottish Banner readers for any information on Wull Beattie.

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## Maisie Eliza Annandale (June 2008 editorial)

I would love to see Maisies letters published. They would be of great interest to myself and my family. I am also interested in any publications or pictorials on Crawford Priory. My grandfather served under his uncle The Marquis of Tullabardine the then owner of Crawford Priory in the 2nd Scottish Lighthouse. The Marquis inherited the estate from his cousin Lady Mary Catherine Crawford. My grandfathers name was Glendinning Crawford. He was the son of Abraham Crawford and Margaret Glendinning Crawford of 81 South Road Brighton, Melbourne. Victoria Australia. My grandfather stayed at Crawford Priory as a guest of The Marquis during this time. My mother had photographs of him outside the Priory during his stay. We are not sure of the actual line of descendency and how The Marquis was his Uncle, my sister is currently researching the family tree and I am sure it will be uncovered eventually.

Jacqueline Mott  
Boulder, Western Australia.

## Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools Host Homecoming Ball

As our contribution to Scotland's Homecoming year the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools are planning a weekend of celebrations from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2009. All former pupils of Stewart's Melville College and The Mary Erskine School are invited to come back to Edinburgh in person for that weekend when they will be able to participate in one of three special events.

Further information and details about these events, which reflects our schools' commitment to their Scottish heritage as well as our wish to remain in touch with all our former pupils wherever they are, can be obtained by contacting:

Sally Stanton  
Ph: + 44 131 311 1111  
Email: [events@esmgc.com](mailto:events@esmgc.com)  
Edinburgh, Scotland

## Scottish Weddings (A Shetland Wedding)

This story (June 2009) brought back memories of a tradition in my hometown of Greenock, called "Bellmoney".

The bride to be on leaving her "Father/parents" house for the last time as an unmarried woman, she would throw a handful of coins to the waiting crowd (usually mostly youngsters).

This signified that she no longer needed her Fathers money. It was sometimes done outside the Kirk ,after the wedding service.

My most memorable "Bellmoney" windfall was when the local bookies daughter got married, she threw handfuls of two shilling pieces and half crowns to the small crowd.

My mates and I ended up with about 5 pound each.

Robert Bradshaw  
Melton West, Victoria, Australia

## Lesser Than Macbeth And Greater, Not So Happy Yet Much Happier'

The name is princely, but the James Stuart my cousins and I are coming home to Scotland for is our great-great-grandfather, who died a pauper in 1901.

The popularity of the royal name among Scots has confounded every attempt to pick up James' trail beyond these shores. The important facts are he was born somewhere in Scotland, and he died in the rich-soil state of Iowa, USA.

We returnees are but three of James' 22 great-great-grandchildren - all heirs to the privilege James contacted in his hopeful quest for the American Dream. Our story bears out our clan's motto, Virescit vulnere virtus: Courage grows strong at a wound.

Just like Homecoming Scotland, we New World Stuarts gratefully celebrate the bright horizon of possibility that is grounded in the richest of cultural legacies.

Scott Stuart  
Altoona, Iowa, USA

## Lost Relative

A number of years ago I submitted a letter indicating that I was trying to trace a half sister. Unfortunately I had no luck, whether this was because the lady in question has no desire for contact, or perhaps is unaware of her birth circumstances, or perhaps has departed this mortal coil, I can't say. Anyway, I would like to try again. My half sister Diane Patricia was born in Glasgow on the 12 Nov 1941. Her mother was Isabella Wyles, father, Rex McAllan. Diane was given up for adoption sometime in the mid to late 1940's. If anyone should know of her whereabouts or the whereabouts of any children it would be wonderful to make contact.

Incidentally, 3 years ago during my search for Diane, I stumbled across another half sister who lives in England, we had a wonderful reunion and still remain in contact. I guess our father was a bit of a nomad.

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