



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.

Minnie Dean

Have just read the article on Minnie Dean page 5 of June 2011 edition of *the Scottish Banner*.

Phil Garland, a well known New Zealand folk singer/songwriter, specialising in New Zealand history and folklore wrote and recorded a song on that subject.

He is well known in Australia and has done many folk club circuit tours promoting New Zealand history and many of his songs deal with Scottish settlers and their descendants. I used a lot of material on my Scottish programme in Brisbane, and the Illawarra Folk Club has a two hour programme every Saturday where his material is often aired.

Another subject which he deals with in song is MacKenzie the Scottish sheep stealer in the Otago area. Not only did they hang him, but along with him, his faithful collie dog.

There is an area in the Otago area called "MacKenzie Country" named after him.

It is good to read your many articles on the not so well known issues, keep it up.

Bill Montgomery
Australian Branch
Clan Montgomery
International.

Rudolf Hess

I have just read about the 70th Anniversary of Rudolf Hess's arrival in Scotland (May 2011 Scottish Banner).

I remember it well as a teenager at the time, also because my late husband's Uncle Robert Aitchison was the arresting police officer as reported at the time in the daily newspapers, the report will probably be in the paper archives.

We had the cutting out of the paper for many years and the photo of Robert Aitchison and Hess and it was very good. Robert was able to converse with Hess when he captured him, they could have gone for tea at David McLean's while awaiting transport.

I eagerly await my *Scottish Banner* every month, keep up the good work.

Ellen Aitchison
Ex Paisley, Renfrewshire
Rotorua
New Zealand

Ex-pats Are Still Scots

Having just moved back here from an enforced exile on a small lump of sand, somewhat distant from these shores, I am confused at the new political landscape that has met me.

I made sure that my 'Man Friday' sent my ballot paper in that bottle at every Scottish election.

My vote always used to swing the balance. Officials now tell me that they received my votes (usually washed up on the banks of Dysart beach) but that The Scotland Act 1998 disenfranchises ex pat Jocks like me.

Why? I paid all my taxes etc for many years before my ship went down. Why wasn't I allowed to exercise a democratic right? Universal suffrage? Suffering outrage more like. I wrote to that new tribal leader of yours, Mr Salmond. He has a terrible habit of blaming Westminster if he gets a difficult question but of accepting full praise if the question flatters.

Scots' people have always been far sighted and adventurous types. That's a good thing. Don't punish your explorers, travellers, ambassadors. Don't penalise your countrymen who have also paid their dues for a say in the future of their homeland.

Me and Friday were at each others throats when I was first washed up on my desert island but we soon realised that our survival depended upon a Union of co operation and singular effort.

This SNP group are making our nation insular, restrictive and "sour faced" with "parochialism". I had time to read many books on my island. One of those books was, 'Mein Kampf'. That boy used the same tactics to set a noose around his country's neck.

Mr Salmond either has to shout louder about the rights of his ex pat Jocks or accept the allegation that he is party to promoting conditions within our country which leads to a Nazi state.

Stop moving the deck chairs about on this Scottish Titanic. Ask for action on The 'unfair' Scotland Act 1998.

Michael Parker
Australia

Thank You 'Scottish Banner'

In December 2010 *the Scottish Banner* kindly published my letter seeking anyone of the Michie surname, or bloodline, to contact me as I have always been passionately interested in the Michie name I proudly bore, prior to marriage.

As a result of my letter being published, two Michie's from Canada and a lady from the US (whose grandmother had carried the name) contacted me and to my great delight we are now regularly corresponding.

I have *the Scottish Banner* to thank for this-which was instrumental in bringing us together. Thank you again and for the wonderful interesting newspaper which every month I look forward to reading from cover to cover.

Mrs Margaret Michie
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Tumbarumba Pipe Band 50th Anniversary

About 12 months ago I discovered the *Scottish Banner*, what an interesting paper! In July 2010 I was surprised to read an article that Allan Chatto from Sydney had submitted. In 1960 the Tumbarumba Pipe Band was formed, of which I was a piper until 1966. In 1963 the band held its first Highland Gathering and Allan Chatto travelled to Tumbarumba to judge the side drumming sections of competing bands. Following this event, Allan gave valuable tuition to Tumba's side drummers.

The band today is small and still performs at local events. ANZAC Day 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of its first public appearance. A reunion to celebrate 50 years is planned for November 12th, 2011 in Tumbarumba and I am hoping band members since 1960 will read this and want to take part in our historic event.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact myself.
Carmel (Albert) Peden
PO Box 115
Hope Valley, 5090, South Australia
P: 08 8263 5280.

Hail To MacCrimmon

In any general discussion of Scottish music the special importance of the bagpipes is sure to be mentioned. Indeed, can we imagine Scotland without the stirring and enchanting music of the pipes?

What a tremendous debt we owe to our pipers, those who, down the centuries, have done so much to revive, strengthen and maintain the ties that bind Scots and those of Scottish descent throughout the world.

As a tribute to all pipers and the glorious art of piping, may I remind you of one of the acknowledged greats-Donald Ban MacCrimmon.

Famous son of a great piping family that flourished from 1500 to 1795, Donald Ban MacCrimmon brought to the study and development of the art of piping skill and dedication that remain an inspiration to the present day. Such was the MacCrimmon's flair, that their piping supremacy was said to be a gift of the fairies.

Be that as it may, the MacCrimmon's not only were hereditary pipers to the Macleod's of Skye, they were sought after as tutors in piping and were welcomed into homes wherever they went-no matter what Clan territory it happened to be.

Donald Ban MacCrimmon has long since passed on. Some say he was killed in battle. Wiser folks tell me he was at last summoned by the fairy world and disappeared into a cave, pipes skirling, never to be seen again.

But those magical sounds we still hear today, are they not the echoes of the MacCrimmon's piping? Och now, I am sure o' it!

John Dillon
Blackheath, NSW
Australia

Save Our Ancestor's Memories

Diaspora of Mac Laomain mor Chomhail uile
"The exile of the Great MacLamont of all Cowal"

On June 6 1646, 465 years ago, Clan Lamont suffered one of its darkest days. The violence of that day was the result of centuries of conflict on both sides and should remain in the past. My own family, like many, changed our names and fled from Alba. A positive consequence of this day was that many Lamont's left a very troubled political environment to ultimately find better lives in foreign lands. Our small scattered clan, that was almost decimated that June day, has not only survived but thrived. Yet, we all still long for our Scottish roots.

I am appealing to you for help to save our ancestors' memories. If you are not already a member of a Lamont Society, I strongly urge you to join today. We need your help! Growing our membership allows us to continue the preservation of the few remaining Clan Lamont relics. All of the Lamont societies work diligently together to preserve and promote the customs, traditions, and heritage of our ancient Clan. For local Clan information see:

Clan Lamont Society UK - www.clanlamontsociety.co.uk
Clan Lamont Society of Australia - www.clanlamont.org
Clan Lamont Society of Canada www.clanlamont.ca
Clan Lamont Society of North America www.clsna.us
Yours Aye
George Young
Senior VP Clan Lamont Society of North America
USA
Email: george@www.clsna.us

Caledonian Society of Restigouche

Caledonian Society of Restigouche is working on erecting a monument to the 400 settlers from the Clearances from the Isle of Arran.

Anyone interested in information or donating please contact:

Caledonian Society of Restigouche Arran Memorial Fund
37 Andrew St
Campbellton, New Brunswick
E3N 2B3, Canada
James Thompson
New Brunswick, Canada

Finding the 'Banner'

This is my story of how I found *the Scottish Banner*. I married my pen pal in Forfar, Angus in 1969 and when we returned after our 25th anniversary celebration in Montrose, Angus, we discovered *the Scottish Banner* at a newsstand in a mall (that has since been demolished) in London, Ont. where I reside. In it I saw the pilings of the new bridge to Skye when we went past them in the ferry boat in 1994 which was the last time (after 12 times) we were in Scotland because my wife was confined to a wheel chair and she felt that it was too hard on her to go by airplane.

My lovely wife has since passed away in May of this year but I will be going back hame again.

Alvin Robb
London, Ontario
Canada

Rudolf Hess and the Pitchfork

I was very interested in reading the article about Hess in the May issue of the "Banner". I lived about four miles from where Hess landed and my brother, Grahame Hawthorn, was on Home Guard duty that night and he recognised Rudolf Hess from the newspaper when he was brought into Head-quarters. The following day his Commanding Officer congratulated him on recognising Hess.

The enclosed photo (see page 9) was sent to me by a friend in Scotland many years ago.

It may be of interest to Canadians and Scots who did not know the story of the pitchfork.

Linda Secord,
Thamesville, Ontario,
Canada.

Ed. note: Thank you Linda for this fascinating piece.

Miserable

Thanks for the reminder notice that my subscription was about to expire. I'd be very miserable if I didn't receive it every month. It's such a great paper
Brenda Oke
Scarborough, Ontario,
Canada.