



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.

Scottish Radicals 1820

Where are the families of the 21 Scottish Radicals of 1820 who were tried for High Treason in the Oyer and Terminer Court, Stirling in July/August 1820?

The two weavers, Andrew Hardie of Glasgow and John Baird of Condorrat were hanged and beheaded at Stirling on Friday 8 September 1820 as leaders of the "Scottish Radicals War of 1820". The uprising had started in Glasgow on 2 April and on 4 April some 23 or 24 men, armed with pikes, were engaged in a skirmish by the 10th Hussars and Kilsyth Yeomanry at Bonnymuir where they were captured, some were badly wounded, and taken to Stirling Castle.

The nineteen other radicals who were captured at the same time had their sentences commuted to transportation to NSW. They were: John Anderson, John Barr, William Clackson or Clarkson, James Clelland, Andrew Dawson, Robert Gray, Alexander Hart, Alexander Johnston, Alexander Latimer, Thomas McCulloch, Thomas Macfarlane, John McMillan, Benjamin Moir, Allan Murchie, Thomas Pike or Pink, Williams Smith, David Thompson, Andrew White and James Wright.

After spending time on the prison hulks Bellerophon and Retribution, the 19 left Sheerness on the 'Speke' on 22 December 1820 and arrived in Port Jackson on Friday 18 May 1821.

Nea MacCulloch
(descendant of Thomas McCulloch)
Sydney,
Australia

The Future Of Drumming



What a pleasure to see the bright and pretty girl on the front cover of the May issue. The future of drumming indeed! It is great to see so many young people keeping involved with Scottish culture, whether it be drumming, piping, highland dancing or even heavy events. I attend as many highland games as I can and it is great to see a wide range of ages taking in all Scotland has to offer.

I bought the May issue and had not even opened it, yet already had a smile when looking at the lovely bairn on the cover. She not only must do her band and family proud - but the rest of us Scots.

Jane McKay
Adelaide,
South Australia

Regarding Elizabeth Christie

I came to Australia from Glasgow in 1956, and was a police officer in the South Australian Police Force for 40 years. When I retired in '97 I became involved in community radio. One of the programs I present is a Scottish program and have covered articles from the Scottish Banner on my show. In the past 12 months I've also been interviewing Scottish artists on my program.

I would love to make contact with old school friends if they are still alive. I went to Queens Park School in Glasgow and have found, so far, that a lot of my old pals have died. However, if there is anyone out there who remembers me I'd love to hear from them.

What prompted this letter was the letter from Elizabeth Christie in the May edition of the Scottish Banner. I used to go with a girl called Elizabeth Riddoch who moved to Canada after getting married about the same time as this Elizabeth, and I wonder if there is a connection?

Yours aye,
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5215
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Volunteer Bagpipers Needed for Military Funerals

The Scottish-American Military Society has been approached, on a national level, to act as a centralized point of contact to identify bagpipers willing to play at soldier's and veteran's funerals. The need is immediate and urgent. We are in the process of forming a committee to establish and maintain a database of volunteer pipers.

Would you put out the call for us to your band mates and piping friends? If we can build a large enough database the demands on any single piper would not be overwhelming.

Soldiers may be interred in either a national veterans cemetery, like Tahoma, or in the soldier's hometown, family cemetery. The exact location of each funeral won't be known until the piper, the committee, or how-ever it ends up being organized, is contacted by a Casualty Assistance Officer, Secretary for the General Staff, Public Relations Officer, other official, or the family.

Thanks for your help.
Timothy S. Cooke,
USAR (ret)
National Commander
Scottish-American Military Society
Tel: 253-350-0038, USA

Rudolf Hess What An Enjoyable Read!

What a enjoyable read by Hugh Black (Rudolf Hess May 2011) and an amazing piece of history for us all to recall. Many today may forget what happened all that time ago and I think to get this personal family account is quite rare and special. Though this event took place before I was born, I do remember learning about this growing up and to read its 70 years since the event is mindboggling!

Thank you Mr Black for sharing your story with us, this is an important part of both Scottish and world history.

Also well done *Scottish Banner* for making sure this story gets the recognition it deserves-a surprise read and so enjoyed.

John McLaughlin
Auckland
New Zealand.

Ed. note: We too were glad to receive this from Mr. Black.

Scottish Links

I have really enjoyed reading 'Scottish Banner' over the last few months. Several issues in particular caught my eye, as well as enhancing my knowledge and reminding me of my own recent experiences in Scotland during August 2010.

•Piping Live 2010 and the World Piping Championships in Glasgow - due to insufficient time I was unable to attend but everyone was talking about it. I saw so many kilted men and women in an array of tartans in the streets.

•Robbie Burns connections - firstly, the return of his original documents to Alloway reminded me of the lovely morning visiting his home and the local church, churchyard and Brig'a'doonand secondly the discovery of his 'Farewell Letter. I have not been idle' which I saw on display at West Register House, Edinburgh (which I found by accident!)

•The Borders Reivers - our guide at Carlisle Castle explained this all so well and I can now understand the many changes in allegiances that took place.

•Sir Walter Scott - I visited Abbotsford and enjoyed a most interesting and informative tour of his house then later visited the gardens too. What a lovely setting! Then when in Edinburgh I viewed his monument on Princes Street - much larger than I had imagined!

•Edinburgh Tattoo - 60th Anniversary - a dream come true (see my report in Scottish Banner November 2010 issue). Unforgettable ...I have since seen it again on television!

•Cowal Highland Gathering - I had been recommended it by the tourist information office in Inveraray. To experience the swirl and colour of the pipe bands especially the Inveraray & District Pipe Band (see 'The Scots Magazine August 2010 for their history) was just wonderful, let alone the dancing, the ceilidh, the food and other events. What a wonderful experience...even meeting fellow Aussies!!

•John o' Groats is to have a makeover - To me it was a quiet and peaceful place, with some interesting shops to visit prior to our ferry trip to the Orkney Islands. It will be interesting to see what will change and its affect on the people and environment.

In each case it was great to read the article and be able to say that I had been there! I have since cut out these articles and added them to my travel scrapbook.

I will certainly be purchasing the 'Scottish Banner' from my local newsagent this year too. Thank you to all at Scottish Banner for such informative and interesting articles.

Elizabeth Kraus
Grovedale, Victoria
Australia

Ed. note: You certainly moved around a lot during your visit to Scotland - which is a dream many people have. Lucky you! And thank you for telling us about it.

What is Worn Under the Kilt?

I would like to add another letter as to what is worn under the kilt? My father was an Argyll and Southern Highlander in WW1 and of course wore a kilt. When we children asked what was worn under the kilt, all he would say, was, do you ever see a "Kiltie" (as they were sometimes referred to) go upstairs on a double deckered bus? That seemed to be enough to satisfy our curiosity.

Rebecca Stevens
USA