



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.

Could This Be A Mistake?

I do hope that your article, January 2007, about the "Stone of Scone" (Destiny), is a misprint or a mistake!! Especially the portion which says, "...only to be moved again to Westminster Abby for future coronation ceremonies."

The Stone is for a majority of Scots, a symbol of our nations heritages, which was plundered and stolen by Edward 1 of England when he made war without just cause after getting invited to mediate a dispute between contending Scottish candidates for the Scottish Throne.

The Stone remained in Westminster abbey until it was removed by several patriotic Scottish Nationalists several years ago. As a result of Tony Blair's efforts it was sent again to Scotland after the Scottish Parliament Vote for self-government was overwhelming.

It is incredible that this symbol of Independence should ever be returned to England on a permanent basis which appears to us to justify its illegal theft by the king of all this, Edward 1. Not only that but to have our symbol of independence in Westminster Abby which, if I am correct is also the final resting place of Edward 1. is particularly distasteful.

All Scots should protest that the Queen of England should have jurisdiction in any way as to the disposition of this symbol.

Scotland is a Nation, a separate identity, a unique culture...it is not English for too long our people have struggled to be "Scots". We have fought many wars for the Empire in which the benefits have totally helped English aristocratic interests of whom Scots remain poor second cousins.

Please let us keep the Stone here in Scotland as Wallace and Bruce would have wanted if they were alive. It is bad that Edward, who killed all the Scots he could find in Berwick on the Tweed, has the satisfaction of having our Stone in his burial parlour. Keep the Stone in Scotland and future coronation ceremonies can come to Scotland for consummation!

Albert W. Emery,

Spring Hill, Florida

USA,

Ed.. Note. Well said.

A Footnote to an Old Song!

We so enjoy the Scottish Banner and also the letters page. I thought I would include a footnote to the song "Comin Thro the Rye".

Sister Mary bought a canary

From the butchers boy.

She hung it up within the dairy

Twass her pride and joy,

But it would never sing and whistle,

And she wondered why,

Until she saw the sparrows feathers

Comin thro the dye!

All the very best and wishing all Scottish Banner readers a very happy 2007.

Ann Douglas

Ferndale,

Western Australia

Wee Shop Memories!

Thank you so much for this great paper, we read it from end to end every month kudos to all the writers. Re the article about the wee shops, our son lives in Peterhead and we visit often.

Last Christmas and New Year was our first time since we emigrated to Canada in 1970.. I had occasion to shop at a little butcher's shop then, it was like a pantomime with all the patter going back and forth with the locals and staff,

I almost hated to be served, it sure made my day. I love to shop at the little bake shops my mouth waters and I wish I could eat everything I see.

Lots of nostalgia, I get a touch of home every month with the "Banner".

Thanks again and keep up the good work "Lang May Yer Lum Reek"

Margaret and Bob Donaldson

All the best from Canada

Remembering Passchendaele

2007 is the 90 anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele: hell on earth. I am the oldest living grandchild of the late Sergeant William John Portree (#435) 5th Artillery Brigade, Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

He came to Canada in 1905, soon became pals with a young iron moulder from Clydebank. Alexander Miller left his job at Singer's to seek adventure in the new world. They met in Ontario but soon headed west to Winnipeg.

In 1911, Alexander's sister Mary came to Canada & married Will. By 1915, they had 2 braw sons, Donald & James. On January 23, 1915, Will left his job at the City Dairy, his wife & 2 sons to march off to war.

The battle of Passchendaele raged from July to November in 1917. Of the 20,000 Canadians there, over 15,000 were either dead or wounded. My Grandfather was wounded Oct 29, 1917. He did not leave his post & was mentioned in dispatches.

He never spoke of the war. He was a horseman & when I think of him; I think of the great love he had for the horses. The ultimate tragedy of all the tragedies he endured was the order to shoot the horses. The War Office made the decision not to return these brave "soldiers" to the countries that had sent them to the war effort. Eric Bogle's haunting ballad "As if he knows" tells of a WW1 soldier Elijah Wood & his horse Banjo. Every Remembrance Day, I play that song & mind the brave men & noble horses who served.

I am mindful of the passage of time -when I & my cousins are gone so too will the "living" who knew veterans of The Great War. Our children will have memories and pictures but it will be "family history".

Here's tae my Grandpa, William John Portree (1888-1971)

Passchendaele

Dante had an Inferno
Imagination's decent into hell
Level by level down to the depths
Reality birthed Passchendaele

The horror of it muck oozing
The blood 'n' guts of it
Men by the thousands horses mules
There wounded dead in the theater of war
In the hell of Passchendaele

Ms Donna G. Portree

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Need information on how to Vote?

As a Scot and a long time reader of the "Scottish Banner", I am interested in the Scottish elections due to take place in May of this year.

From what I have heard on the radio in Scotland, it seems to be between the Labor Party and the Scottish Nationalists.

I wonder if it is possible for me to get a vote?

I would appreciate any information you may have that I might be able to place a vote - of course for the Scottish Nationalist Party.

Eric Morrison,

323-1425 Bertram St.

Kelowna, BC.

V1Y 8K4., Canada

Thanks For Inspiration And Recipes

My Mother shares her "Banner" with me. We so enjoy the recipes, stories and information.

Because of the "Banner" I was able to prepare Rumblethumps (July 2006) issue), and Pasties, (Bridies) to compliment heritage and pheasant fingers at Christmas dinner. The Pasties recipe was found in the "Dundee Homecraft book. cookery, laundry, housewifery, (copy of front cover and title page included below). My mother, Edith Macaulay, Sargent Cross, gave this little gem to me, given to her by Elland Gauls, d. 7/04/03, having lived at 9 Cambridge Street, Dundee, Scotland.

If there are any readers out there who knew her, we would love to hear from you.

I am guessing the cookbook was published in the 20's or 30's.

I would I also love to see/read Gaelic stories, poetry and useful phrases for those fluent in Gaelic, (my goal, if I live long enough). readers, as well as learners. And on that subject would it be possible to include books in Gaelic in the pull out home supplement?

We are curious to discover about any of Johanna MacPhees' (father John MacPhee, mother a MacInnis). relations that may have followed a Rev. MacPhee (?) to New Zealand from Nova Scotia circa mid 1800's. This would be my namesake and great great grandmother.

Thank you for providing the inspiration and recipe for a very successful Christmas meal. I assured our children's spouses/girlfriend that there were no "weird" ingredients involved.

And in addition thank you for the pleasure my mother receives reading the "Scottish Banner", a tangible link to present and past heritage.

Johanna E. Nolan 825 Shewville Rd.,

Ledyard, CT. 06339, USA.

Ed. Note: We are happy to bring the "Banner" to your mother and all of our many thousands of readers each and every month.

Keep your letters and comments flowing, it is all part of upholding Scotland in other parts of the world.

Clan Lamont-Can You Help Our Reader

As a reader of your paper I am asking you to help me find and join Clan Lamont, hope someone can help. I believe the chief of Clan Lamont lives in Australia ?

JOHN J LAMB

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