



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.

Tatties

Yes it's me again-I previously was curious about the Scottish thistle, this time it's the to do with the humble potato or the 'tattie'.

I have been wondering why they are sometimes left in the ground over winter so they will "keep" as the saying is. If we leave our tatties in the ground when they should be harvested they rot, or just disappear and grow again. If we have potatoes in a bag to use, they start sprouting again and you have to rub the shoots off before you can peel and them. So the question is why do tatties "keep" when either harvested and kept in a pit of earth or something? If this is not right, how is it done?

Looking forward some answers.

Bessie Kelso

2 Elloit St

Parkdale, Victoria

3195

Australia

**Joyce Milne
D'Auria re:
Garrowhill School**

Hello my name is Tommy Wilson and I went

to Garrowhill School. I now live in New Zealand. I went to the Garrowhill School reunion in 1989.

I am not sure if I am actually in the photo in your August 2009 edition, but I certainly recognize many faces. I have some photos and information from that visit and perhaps you would be interested?

Perhaps she was there and perhaps you would pass this on?

Tommy Wilson

New Zealand

Email: tamm@actrix.co.nz

Plain Bread

I live in Perth, Western Australia, and the one thing I really miss about Scotland is the plain bread. I always bring some back when I visit Scotland, but that doesn't last too long.

I have searched the internet but am unable to find a recipe.

Is anyone able to provide me with one or alternatively put me on to someone who may be able to help?

John Boyd

Perth, Western Australia

Email:

jeboyd47@bigpond.com

Was Dunedin Really Little Paisley?

I've been reading the 'Banner' for a couple of years now and really enjoy it, but recently *This Month in Scottish History* was just a little dry. Not the same as it has been in the past. If you have changed the person who writes it - then maybe you should think again.

Also 'Dunedin', as far as I know, means low Edinburgh. I have always understood, that when founded it was originally called Little Paisley, and when it was first settled it was by a few families from Paisley, (five families I thought).

I also believed they used to bury their dead inside the perimeter of the settlement, and it grew and grew, eventually becoming the cemetery.

The name became known as Dunedin, the original site of Little Paisley, which (as far as I thought), is now the main cemetery in Dunedin. If I have this correct it is a bit of a shame. Most of the things I seem to learn about Scotland are from the 'Banner'.

Also, giving the vote to women over thirty in Scotland, seems to me to be well before New Zealand gave women the right to vote here.

Yet I have always heard it said that New Zealand was the first to give women the vote. I hope I'm wrong about all this as I would rather be corrected and keep getting all this great information from the 'Banner' as my source of Scottish knowledge.

Yes, I'm Scottish from Paisley, but have been in New Zealand for eighteen years. It was not until I had been away from Scotland for some time before taking more interest in the history of Scotland. Stuart

New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks for your comments Stuart, we can't really make history any more exciting month to month, we think Scottish history is never dull! Perhaps some of our Dunedin readers can help Stuart with his queries as this is the first we have heard of Dunedin originally called Little Paisley.

Open Letter To Matthew Newsome

I have just read a recent column of yours regarding Highland Attire in the 'Scottish Banner', and wished to make a comment as I, for one, consider the kilt to be a very versatile garment. I feel this piece of attire can be adapted to many circumstances. I wear my kilt in various ways.

When I assembled my 'starter Highland dress', consisting of a kilt, jacket, and sporran, I also wore the 'less expensive' kilt hose.

When I finally had it all together, I wore the Highland dress to an awards dinner from my Scottish Terrier Kennel Club.

I was unaware that another function at the hotel we were staying was having a Costume Ball.

It was also close to Halloween.

As my wife and I proceeded through the hotel, a woman approached us and said, "That cannot be a

costume. It looks too authentic". I assured her it certainly was authentic.

After this initial event I wore my kilt attire in Ohio to a Heritage dinner, my company's Christmas party, (to the great delight of the ladies attending). Also to a Burns Supper in January.

I enjoyed wearing my kilt. Along the way I made several changes to the original pieces. First I upgraded my hose to a more expensive type than originally ordered, which was more comfortable.

I lived in Ohio, and attended the Ohio Highland Games. Yet there are many other smaller social/Scottish affairs.

At these events, I didn't feel right with a standard shirt, yet often the heat precluded wearing a jacket. Due to my size I couldn't find a 'neo-Jacobite' shirt. So I opted for a 'Missouri Boatman' shirt pattern. I

'Sellars' Family Identity

The 'Sellars' family, into which I was born October 7, 1946 in Snoqualmie Falls Washington, still has some rather serious identity problems. The English actor Peter, or Richard, Sellars certainly made the name known in his films all over the world. I think his branch came down from the Aberdeen-Inverness area of the Scottish highlands about 1400. The earliest Sellar- Sellars- Sellers I could find while doing library and Scottish shop research here in the San Francisco Bay area, said they landed in Aberdeen in 1200 at the height of the crusade battles taking place far south in the Mediterranean.

I have started discussing this with the new Lord Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh, Scotland, William David Hamilton Sellar.

Joseph-Donald Sellars (Sacelier)

San Francisco, California USA

Email contact:

jdmsellars@gmail.com

Red Hackle Tartan WOW!

The New Red Hackle Tartan looks a lot like the Morrison Tartan! I read the article in the February 'Scottish Banner'.

After I took my eyes off the young lassie in the photo, I read about the Tartan and the history behind it.

Don Morrison

Charlton,

Massachusetts USA

Best Paper In The World?

Enclosed is my cheque for a mail order I wish to place with you. Trust all is correct.

Good day to you folks at the 'Banner'.

It is the *best paper* in the world today.

Thank you for your attention.

Lewis Sheddon,

Ontario,

Canada.

Ed. Note: You make it so hard to be humble. Thank you so much for your kind words!

Thank You To The 'Banner'

Here at the Scottish Society of the Twin Tiers, we would like to Thank the 'Banner' for your most generous donation of the issue of your Fine Scottish Paper, which you made available to our Scottish Society of the Twin Tiers display table. We were able to hand these out to visitors who attended our local Broome County Ethnic Festival.

Eugene Robinson

Twin Tiers Scottish Society,

USA

Avid 'Banner' Reader

I read the 'Banner' avidly whenever I am in the U.S.A. When I visit, it is mainly to the Washington, D.C. and Alexandria area.

Keep up the good work and keep the Scots throughout the world in touch with their home country.

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Keep those letters coming! We enjoy them - and so do other readers!