



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.

"Hail To The Chief"

James K. Polk was born in North Carolina in 1795 a descendant of Robert Polk of Ulster.

He was to become the 11th. President of The United States 1845-1849. [At 49 yrs. The youngest President to date] During his Presidency his wife believed that he was not shown the respect to which he was entitled, and quite often when he entered the room, he was not even noticed.

She decided that each time the President entered a room "Hail To The Chief" would be played, thus ensuring those

present would acknowledge his presence. Since then virtually all Presidents have used this tune to alert others of their presence.

However I wonder if anyone realized that the tune was set to the epic poem "Lady of the Lake", by Sir Walter Scott?, describing the death of a Scottish Chieftain who had been betrayed, and put to death by arch enemy King George. There are many versions of The Lady of the Lake which most likely had its origins in Arthurian Legend.

David Keith.

Bendigo, Victoria
Australia

Family History

I read Joyce Milne D'Auria's article "sad and Happy Birthdays" on page 11 of the February 07 issue.

I was wondering if you could pass on an enquiry to her for me:

My grandmother, whose father emigrated from Scotland in approximately 1858, was Janet Milne Grieg (maiden name) and I always wondered about the significance of the "Milne" as her second name. It wasn't her mothers maiden name as she was Jane Connors.

Maybe Joyce has some family history of the name she could e-mail me?

sandalwalsh@bigpond.com

Many thanks
Sandra Walsh
Australia.

Stone of Destiny

In regard to Mr. Emery's interesting letter in the March issue: Relax, friend, and stop worrying about the Stone of Destiny — the Sassenachs never had it and never will!

The good Abbot of Scone knew weeks in advance that Edward's men were on their way; do you suppose he let them have that sacred stone? Do you remember a few years ago, that a small but brave band of patriotic Scottish students "liberated" the stone from under the Coronation Chair and held it for a short time? And a small bit was broken off and analyzed and proved to be plain old Perthshire sandstone!

The true Stone of Destiny was known, and documented, to be of basalt, said to have come from the Holy Land.

Tradition in the vicinity of Scone is that one local family was entrusted with

Saltire in the Sky - Thailand

While reading she story in the Scottish Banner dated March 7, 2007, about the St. Andrews Cross, my brain went flying down memory land to Nong Pladuk - a Prisoner of War, (so-called), hospital Camp, 32 miles south of Bangkok.

There in late 1944, a St Andrews Cross, mysteriously appeared in Thailand's sultry azure sky. We Prisoners of War stood rooted to th spot enthralled, while

watching the two lower arms commence to slowly disappear, leaving an unequal V, then suddenly vanish, and all that remained was Thailand's. azure sky.

T'was sure an astonishing occurrence! Afterwards a few Scots remarked "That's Andy telling us we will soob e bree. That is what I thought too. Others commented is's just another spectacular fluke

in the sky.

No matter what the sky display signified, we were all ecstatic.

Of course we all know that St. Andrew is Scotland's Patron Saint.

A few months after this we were freed when the Japanese capitulated in August 1945. Freedom at last after over three years in hell.

Ex. P.O.W.

William Strachan,
Surrey, B.C.
Canada.

Looking for Scottish Musical Records

Dear Mrs. Cairney

I have just read a most interesting article about you and the newspaper, The Scottish Banner in the Glasgow Sunday Post., and this has prompted me to write to you.

I am compiling a "Scottish Vernacular Discography, 1888-1960", which will list full information on all 78-rpm records 45-rpm singles and phonograph cylinders of scot interest that were recorded in he United Kingdom.

This research is being sponsored by the National Library of

Scotland in Edinburgh. I am most anxious to discover what Scots records, made in Britain, were issued overseas. Could any of your readers provide details of Scots records they have bought on non-British label, Please?

It is also my intention to document the many records of Scottish interest that were recorded overseas, particularly in Canada, and I would appreciate any information your readers can give me. Record labels brands that may have issued

such material include: Victor, Bluebird, Brunswick, Decca, Columbia, Gennett, Apex, Starr, and HMV.

However, of particular interest are Celtic Records, which were produced by Bernie MacIsaac of accoridion music. I would very much like to hear from anyone who has of these records,

Yours sincerely,
Bill Dean-Myatt, Phil,
40 Westminster Road,
Rushall,
Walsall. WS4 1NJ,
England. Tel:01922-629019

Thank you for The British Show

Dear Valerie,

This is a thank-you letter to you to say how much I really enjoyed the British Show when you arranged for it to come to Hamilton. It was such a pleasure to meet Mike Baldwin (Johnny Briggs), the star of Coronation Street. You did it so well by arranging the star, and the Rovers Return Inn, booth. Plenty of food and the "Pub" and so interesting to watch the lassies showing us how the kilts are made. So much material and all those pleats! And so beautifully made. The British style sweet booths taking us back home to England with the Cadburys' and other and cans of mush peas. Oh, what a treat!

Please do bring the British Showback to Hamilton.

Joyce Falconer also was a very talented lady and we so enjoyed her performances.

The Highland

Dancers under the guidance of Sandra Bald-Jones, the Scottish Pipers, i go to watch them at Dundurn Castle whenever they are there. I pick up my chair and find a spot to relax and just listen to the sounds of the Pipes and Drums.

Thank you also for bringing us the Scottish Banner each month. It is such a pleasure to receive this as it brings home so much closer to all of us.

Please bring the British Show back to Hamilton. It was a wonderful Show!

Mrs Joan Boello
Hamilton,
Ontario
Canada

Ed. Note:

We will be back. Too many people have asked for the return of the Show. Keep watching the "Banner".

Where Is Clan Watson?

The question of the Watsons' being a clan has always nagged me.

In the Scottish Banner listing of Clans a while ago, I read of the Clan Watson in Canada. I wrote, but there was no reply. Lately the Clan Watson has not been listed in the Banner at all.

In a New Hampshire catalogue establishment there were Clan Watson bonnets and head scarves which I purchased.

I wonder if there is a Clan Watson, and if so, where was their territory in Scotland?

Blythe Watson Gehring,
14300 Detroit Ave.,
104,
Lakewood,
Ohio. 44107-4441
USA

Editors Note: We have not heard from this Clan for a long time. Can they contact the "Banner" and let us know where they are today?

knowledge of the Abbot's hiding place, and are obligated, when the time is right, to produce it for the investiture of a rightful ruler. Who knows, Scotland's first democratically elected President may sit on it —not in a chair over it— for his or her inauguration!

Any comments? -

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