



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.

A Kiwi Perspective

Several items to comment on in the March 2010 *Scottish Banner*.

Firstly there is also a statue of Peter Pan in the Oamanu Gardens which is north of Dunedin. This was not mentioned in the article on J.M Barrie and the Peter Pan statues around the world.

And 'No' I have never heard of Dunedin as Little Paisley (Scotpourri reader letter March). In response to Stuart's letter, yes, New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the right to vote. At the instigation of Kate Shepherd, Sir John Hall put through this remission 1893. Christchurch has a statue to Kate Shepherd, and there is a retirement village named after her. Her home has been restored with a wonderful garden which is sometimes opened for charity to the public.

I was amused to see the Chief of Clan Gunn in the July issue of your excellent paper last year. We pass the "Banner" around to our friends, and so it is well read.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely
Helen Gunn
Christchurch,
New Zealand

Albion Motor Works

From two of last year's issues, I found a story about "Albion Motor Works" in Glasgow. So I sent my Dad's friend (who has just retired from working there) copies. I am waiting to hear back whether or not he took the stories to his old work mates.

There are some very interesting stories in the "Banner", and I will continue to buy it from Chapters.

Robert Kerr
Message sent via Facebook

Sorry I'm Late!

Sorry to be sending my subscription in a bit late this time. I have had some health problems. Yet I do love the "Banner" and never want to lose it. I save all my copies. Thanks for all the good reading.

Maureen Taranto
Toronto, Canada

With Sadness

It is with great sadness I announce the passing of my Father who was a tremendous fan of yours. My Father was a loyal subscriber to the "Scottish Banner" for years and then, as a gift, you presented him with a complimentary subscription for 2009.

I am a piper in the Highland Creek Pipes and Drums and my Dad had the honour of meeting Valerie at the Highland Games of Durham in Uxbridge Ontario, 2008. He always spoke highly of her and thought the world of "The Banner". My weekly visit to my Dad would never end without him making sure I had his copy of the "Banner" under my arm heading out the door. Thank you for everything you and the "Banner" brought to my Father in his final years. Please forward all future issues to my address and I look forward to enjoying the "Banner" for years to come.

As my Dad would sign his letters.....

Yours aye,
Ken Russell
Ajax, ON
Canada, LIZ-1X5

Ed. note: It was our very great pleasure to bring some extra happiness to your father in his last years.

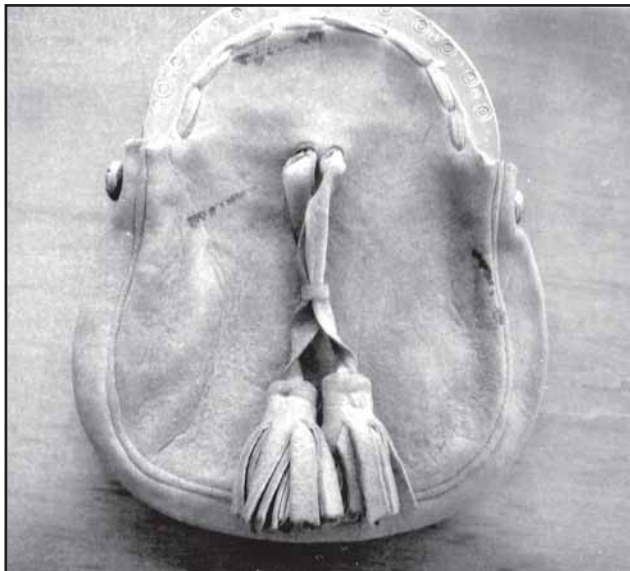
Craigievar Castle

I was so pleased to see my beloved Craigievar Castle on the front page of the March issue of the "Scottish Banner". I know that area so well, as my cousin Jimmie Lawie and his wife Eppie farmed at Middle Muir of Craigievar, I spent many happy holidays around that beautiful part of Scotland.

Thank you and the "Banner" for the joy it has brought me.

Robert Baillie
Prospect, Tasmania
Australia

Lord Lovat's Sporan



The Brigadier the Right Hon. Lord Lovat D.S.O.M.C.

After seeing your (Matt Newsome's) article on what and why we wear certain articles with our kilts, I thought you might enjoy this picture of a sporan I purchased at a local bazaar. Odd that it should have been owned by Lord Lovat head of the Fraser Clan.

John M. Frayser Sr.
Richmond, VA 23238, USA

Thinking Of War Brides

I thoroughly enjoy reading the "Banner" every month.

My Mother was born in Scotland. I too was born in Ayr, Scotland

In the North American November 2009 edition, you printed a beautiful poem. It was called 'Looking Back', and was dedicated to those War Brides who came, who saw, and who conquered. It was great!

My mother was a War Bride (WW2), and came over here in 1945 with many other war brides by boat. When I remember how she described her journey, it sounded just like the poem in the "Banner".

I was so pleased with this poem, and just wished my Mother could have read it. Unfortunately she is in a nursing home, now, and at nearly 90 years of age, suffers from Dementia.

I have kept your copy and would like to get a couple more so that I could send them to one of her friends and family back home.

When in Scotland we visited Robbie Burns museum several times in Alloway, Ayr.

Keep up the good work you do.

Phyllis Kelloway,
Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

Ed. note: Glad to hear you enjoyed the poem. War brides were special people at a special time!

What About Gaelic?

I read the "Banner" every month and enjoy it very much. I live in Prince Edward Island on Canada's east coast. I am one of many whose ancestors emigrated from Scotland several generations ago.

Needless to say, there are no Gaelic speakers left here, but there are some, like me, who would like to learn it. Would you consider having a small Gaelic column in the "Banner" every issue?

Maybe a song or some common sayings with a pronunciation guide.

Keep up the great work in keeping us connected to the land of our forefathers.

Kindest regards,
Wilfred L. Nicholson
Montague, PEI COA 1R0,
Canada

A Massive Accomplishment

The "Banner" is a massive accomplishment, and I admire how you are able to attractively balance its' formula of "serious" information, nostalgia, and the business interests of Scots and the Scottish diaspora without becoming too treacly.

I look forward to reading future issues of the "Banner".

Thanks for all the good reading.
Dorna Caskie,
Groveland, MA.,
U.S.A.

Clarification Needed - Blessed Mary McKillop

Your article about the Blessed Mary McKillop talks about her being the daughter of Flora MacDonald. Now there's only one Flora MacDonald of note in Scots history, she who protected the Bonnie Prince as he escaped to Skye. If this is not that Flora MacDonald, it would have been helpful for the article to have said so. If it is the same lady, your dates must be wrong. You said Flora emigrated to Australia in 1840, 94 years after Culloden. For her to then marry and have a child in 1842 would be remarkable, to say the least.

John Morman
celtictides@embarqmail.com
USA

Editors note: Thanks John for your query. We posed this to the Scottish based author who confirmed what we thought - As Flora MacDonald was an extremely common name in the Highlands, it never occurred to the author that her identity needed to be clarified further. She located her in time and place, neither being have been consistent with THE Flora MacDonald who was born in the early 1720s in South Uist.

Blessed

Mary McKillop

Thank you Clare Donaldson and 'Scottish Banner' for your article on Blessed Mary McKillop (April 2010).

We here in South Australia are very proud of this amazing woman - and the fact she has Scots blood is even better!

As Australia's first Saint this is a big deal for our country and the article is so timely. I really enjoyed reading about her Scottish ancestry and connections.

Who would have thought after all these years she would surface again for such a joyous event.

Well done Mary and "Scottish Banner"!

Susan Baird
Adelaide,
South Australia

I Still Have My Memories

I have been a "Banner" subscriber for some years and enjoy reading the 'ScotPourri' page with tales of the good old days, because I too lived through them.

Born in Glasgow in 1923, I was raised on Baltic Street and went to Springfield Road School and later to Riverside. I had a good childhood with lots of happy times playing with peevers, peeries. I also remember the old Queen Mary coming to christen and launch the "#534" - later to be called the Queen Mary.

My first job in the work force at age 14, was in John Lyles Carpet Factory. I then came through the war years working in munitions, then at 'Singers'. Then a year in the Land Army and eventually at Rolls Royce in Hillington. I emigrated to the U.S. in 1951, and later met my future husband, a U.S. Air Force man, who I married in 1955.

I've been back to Glasgow many times visiting a brother and family who still live there. The old neighbourhood is gone, but I still have my memories.

Betty McKay (nee Gallegos)
Ontario, Canada

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