



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.

Happy Birthday Scottish Banner

I have been getting the Scottish Banner for about five years now, I really enjoyed your July issue and wanted to pass on my congratulations for reaching 33 years of publication, here in New Zealand we have had some publications disappear from the newsstands and it's great to see the Scottish Banner go from strength to strength. I really enjoyed the Homecoming 2009 lift out as if it were not for the Scottish Banner I would not hear of any Homecoming news or stories from Scotland as the year is not being reported in the main stream media.

We have just had our first baby and cannot make the big trip over with a wee bairn. We will go in a few years when he can appreciate it!

Thanks again for all the wonderful stories from my ancestral homeland and again congratulations on such longevity and keeping us Scots in touch with Scotland.

Mike Fraser

Auckland, New Zealand

Memories of Montrose

I would just like to say I love getting my Scottish Banner and reading from the front to the last page. I was also happy to read on page 10 in the July edition my home town of Montrose was in the news, being awarded the Blue Flag for its beach and its surroundings.

I was born and bred in Montrose and as a young laddie I remember when I used to get a tool (in other words a towel) and off to the beach for a dook (a swim). We used to walk over the Southesk Golf Links and the sand hills to get to the beach, I remember the horse drawn cabins, mostly for the visitors, as we could not afford them. It was a lovely long beach from the Southesk River to the Northesk River, silver sands all the way. In the summer months there was plenty of entertainment and dancing in the Pavilion.

I came to Sydney with The Royal Navy on the HMS Rodney, during my Sydney stretch I was married and we have been together for sixty-four years, as they say in Scotland "Nae Bather Ata."

Norman Poustie Famer

Arncliffe, NSW Australia

Scottish Death Mystery

While visiting my sister Sadie at Sunset Beach, North Carolina, USA after the loss of my brother Hugh in Florida. We got talking and I discovered that I had a younger sister Margaret who died at child birth at nine months of age between 1946-1950. I'm in the process of trying to get a Death Certificate but how could we find out what happened to the body as to where she could be buried or what was done in those times? Maybe a reader could throw some light on this for us and get her laid to rest with the rest of the family.

Jim McGinlay

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Searching For McLeods

I have a request for MacLeod/McLeod's in eastern Ontario, Canada. I am trying to find information about my Great, Great Grandfather, John MacLeod. He arrived in Lochiel Twp, Glengarry Co. Ontario in 1794 at the age of five. He became a farmer and may have moved to the Kingston area. He married Margaret Morrison and had eight children; Catherine, William, Allan, Alexander, Christy, Norman, Janet, and Mary. William is my Great Grandfather who moved to Michigan as a young man. I would appreciate any help you can give me.

Gordon McLeod

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Lockerbie Bomber

My name is Rebecca Stevens. I came to the United States in 1952 from Scotland and have always been very proud of my heritage, so when all this hullabaloo about Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, the Lockerbie bomber, came up in the news last week my Scottish blood almost boiled over.

Back in 1988 my sister came to the United States from Dumbarton, Scotland for a visit. Thankfully, she was not on board the December 23rd flight. However, as we watched the plane crash unfold on TV, she paled as she realized her plane would have come over on that same route. You can only imagine what a sigh of relief we felt at that time that she had avoided such a tragedy.

I want to tell all who read the Banner, that the people in Scotland are not just angry over this; they are livid, especially when they hear that the Americans are being told "Don't go to Scotland". I feel that the Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill should be fired for letting this man go back to Libya because he is dying of prostate cancer and Mr. MacAskill is feeling compassion for him. Obviously he didn't have anyone close to him lose their lives on that plane.

One of the stipulations for freeing this man was that the Libyans would not make a hero out of this man. However, upon his arrival back to Libya, they were waving the Scottish flag. How compassionate is this to the families who lost their loved ones in the plane crash?

I talked with my sister, Mrs. Ella Wilson, today and she told me the anger really hit home when they saw the "Saltire" Scotland's Flag being waved at the airport.

This flag is named in honor of our Patron Saint, St. Andrew. She also told me this flag was made in Libya, as no Scot in his right mind would have agreed to send a Scottish flag to Libya. I would hope and pray that the Scottish people will not suffer for this terrible injustice.

Thank you,

Rebecca Stevens

USA

Scottish Plain Bread

Can any reader please tell me if there is a baker in the Melbourne area that bakes Scottish plain loafs, if there is you would make a lot of expats very happy.

Thanks,

Christine McDevitt

Melbourne, Victoria Australia

email: christy1942@hotmail.com

Lockerbie

I like many around the world was shocked to see the release of Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, the Lockerbie bomber. This heinous crime should be shown no compassion due to his failing health.

I am however concerned about the US campaign to boycott Scotland and Scottish business. I have family in Scotland who are also furious with this decision and let's not forget Scottish lives were both lost and impacted and the town itself will always be linked with this tragedy. People looking to boycott products and travel to Scotland (especially during the year of Homecoming 2009!) are only hurting Scottish industry and jobs. The "compassionate" move by one political party (SNP) does not represent the nation. I wonder if the US Scottish businesses will be affected?

Some could say George W Bush was also a murderer but people were not out to boycott the USA and its products during his years in power. I am sure many Scottish Banner readers have opinions on this subject but let's not take out our feelings on the many good Scottish businesses who have nothing to do with this and are, I would think, just as shocked and distressed as we are.

Dr. Bruce Grant

Wellington, New Zealand

Rory Malcolm McLeod

We are researching our Family Tree and looking for info on Rory Malcolm McLeod, born around 1756 Isle of Skye Scotland and married 1780 and then emigrated to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania, Australia) are there any decendants of Rory still living? Also anyone with the name Brysland, Bryceland?

Kate C

Queensland, Australia

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"The Gathering"

Just a quick reminder regarding The Gathering. The Canadian Massed bands had the honour of being the first band invited to The Gathering, leading the parade of clans up the Royal Mile and performing on the Esplanade. They also had the opportunity to perform on the Esplanade one evening prior to a



Canadian Massed Band at "The Gathering 2009"

Photo: Chris Watt

performance of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. There were musicians from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Thought you might like to know.

John Ohara

Canada

Ed note: Thank you for your note John, the massed bands certainly did Canada proud.

Release Of Lockerbie Convict According To Human Rights

I have learnt with great appreciation of the release by the Scottish government, of the Libyan Lockerbie convict, Mr. Megrahi, on humanitarian grounds. According to medical reports, Mr. Megrahi is terminally ill.

His release is not only according to the Scottish Law, it is an internationally acknowledged humanitarian principle, to release seriously ill or dying prisoners, to spent their last days in their own environment. Recently the Dutch Queen Beatrix has pardoned a terminally ill prisoner, who had committed a double murder.

Therefore I was shocked by the American indignity about the release, as well from President Obama, as the Foreign Secretary, Mrs. Clinton, followed by FBI Chief, Mr. Mueller

It is evident, that the Lockerbie bombing in 1988, by which 270 civilians died, is a heinous crime and had to be punished strictly.

But since Mr. Megrahi has served his punishment in jail and is dying, his release is a matter of common humanity and civilisation

According to human rights values, all seriously ill prisoners should be released, regardless the committed crime.

Therefore the decision of the Scottish government sets a great example in common humanity and civilisation

Astrid Essed

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