



# 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.

## Dempsey Tartan?

I would be interested to know if there is a tartan for Dempsey?

I was born in Kirkcaldy in 1953 and my parents were both from the Lochore/Glen Craig area in Fife.

My wife and I will be in Scotland in late August this year.

Thanks for your publication and the information about Bonnie Scotland.

Thanks

Ian Dempsey

Kerang, Victoria, Australia

Email:

[dempsey@bigpond.com.au](mailto:dempsey@bigpond.com.au)

## In Seach of Rennies



Abandoned Rennie Hotel in Rennie, New South Wales, Australia

G'day Again

I sent you a letter a year or so back regarding tracing the surname Rennie. I've had some good responses from your readers mostly from Rennie's in Australia and Canada and their knowledge of their ancestors move to their current country. Unfortunately I could not reply to many of those who e-mailed as it seems my New Zealand internet service provider is incorrectly labeled a "Spam" source by many overseas internet e-mail providers and has blocked my return correspondence -but if you could thank those who e-mailed me their efforts for me that would be great.

The nearest thing to confirmation of the story was this from Ian Rennie in Australia: According to some sources, Rennie is reputedly a distortion/variant of Renoir, supposedly implying a Norman link. The story of James 'settling' the dispute by lopping heads on all sides would be right in character. Certainly he treated the Clan chiefs with equal contempt (50 of them were 'arrested' at Inverness in 1427 and MacArthur definitely wasn't the only one killed), so I wouldn't be greatly surprised if the hand fell heavier further down the line. All in the name of discipline, of course. And Clan Donald (under Alexander, Lord of the Isles, who successfully escaped the Inverness capture) were certainly the most troublesome of the Highland clans to James' rule so their/our massacre would suit him.

Ian also provided a photo showing where the last Chief of the Clan the Rennie's were a sept of was mortally wounded..

The best news though was that there is a town called Rennie in New South Wales, Australia, and they have an abandoned Rennie Hotel which I believe us Rennies should lay claim to as soon as possible.

Paul Rennie

New Zealand

Email: [rennienz@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rennienz@paradise.net.nz)

## Calling all New Zealand and Australian Campbells

Are there any members of these illustrious Scottish families in New Zealand and Australia contemp-lating attending the Gathering of the Clan in Edinburgh in July 2009? Has anyone already, or is anyone going to organise an Australian group booking?

Those wishing to travel independently should refer to "The Gathering 2009" on Google on the Internet...

Tom L Campbell Rogerson.: email [tom.rogerson@clear.net.nz](mailto:tom.rogerson@clear.net.nz)

## Best Legs Gets The "Banner"

Please find enclosed a cheque for a year's subscription to the "Scottish Banner". It is for my dad Graham Palmer, who is a very fit 88 years and who served in the Victorian Scottish Regiment (post war) and is a long time member of the Melbourne Scots.

I might add he has the best legs for wearing the kilt!

Heather Webster

Victoria,

Australia

Gracing our front cover: Friends of the Scottish Banner and newlyweds

Mr. & Mrs. J. Macintyre of Sydney, Australia

## Searching for Craigmiles

Dear Lady MacGregor, My mother, Jean Craigmile Duncan LeBlanc (a subscriber) recently told me that she met you and your grandmother (Elizabeth Menzies Craigmile Armstrong) in 1982 when she was visiting her aunt (Christina Craigmile Robinson). Your grandmother and my great-aunt were first cousins. My great-grandfather (Francis Craigmile) and your great-grandfather (William Craigmile) were brothers. I have been working on the Craigmile family tree for a number of years. I would be very interested in having details of your grandmother's family. I know that your grandmother had a brother named Harry but can't find out anything else (I also don't know if there were other siblings).

Regards,

Suzanne LeBlanc Canada  
[lmsbjk@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmsbjk@sympatico.ca)

## The Search for a Douglas Chief

Dear Lady MacGregor,

Thank you for the many informative articles you write for "The Scottish Banner." You -and the "Banner" - are much appreciated. The Borders are really beautiful and of course, they are very important to my Clan - The Douglases.

In your article you mentioned that neither the Armstrongs or the Douglases have a Clan Chief, but you thought that the Douglases were "a bit further in their quest than the Armstrongs in finding a main man. The last time I heard they had three notables in the running..."

Can you please elaborate a little bit more. I understand there are something like 200 Scottish Clans who don't have an established chief. We've always felt it would be nice if we could have one.

Bob Douglass

Clan Douglas Society

Lilburn, GA, USA

Email:

[bdouglfore@bellsouth.net](mailto:bdouglfore@bellsouth.net)

## Tartan Register

Just to let your readers know, if you didn't already, that the Scottish Parliament is setting up a Register of Tartans, please see: [www.scottishparliament.uk/s3/bills/08-TartanBill/index.htm](http://www.scottishparliament.uk/s3/bills/08-TartanBill/index.htm)

Also for events, we have a programme of activities that includes open events for non-Fellows as well as Fellows, viewable on our website:

[www.socantscot.org](http://www.socantscot.org)

Dr Simon Gilmour

Director

The Society of

Antiquaries of

Scotland

Edinburgh, Scotland

## Tassie Tartan

As a confirmed tartan-a-holic, I am thrilled about the exposure the "Banner" has given to Betty Johnstone's Australian National Tartan. This is a beautiful tartan and I am looking forward to having a kilt made from it soon.

Having said that, are you very familiar with the Tasmanian Tartan? I recently had a kilt made in this tartan, it is also very lovely and reflects the colours of the Tasmanian wattle tree.

Mike and Dot Evans of Bothwell, who manage the tartan are holding a ceilidh next month to help promote the Scottish heritage of their Tasmanian town.

Slainte

Graham Hodge

PO Box 232, Somerset,

7322

Tasmania, Australia

W: <http://web.mac.com/tassiecelt/>

## Happy Birthday!

Please find a cheque for a one year subscription to your paper for Miss Cathie Smart. Miss Smart was 100 years old on March 14th and is in grand health-all due she says to her good Scottish blood.

Yours Sincerely,

Wendy Waylett

Victoria, BC

Canada

## Looking For My Dream

I have had very vivid reoccurring dreams of meeting a young (24-30) Scottish woman named Charlotte.

Blue eyed and blonde. She is in nursing/health care and fitness. A little odd I know... but anyone out there like that?

Aaron

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