



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.

Can You Help My Search?

I am researching my family history for my mother who is 80 and has several health problems. Our grandmother came from Scotland and for decades we never knew or asked much about her. We had an Aunt here that we called Gram. We never got the chance to meet our Scottish grandmother, she had passed away when my mother was only 20.

Treasure Trove

Recently our mother let us know about a box that was put into a cubby hole in our little home. What a treasure trove of photo postcards, letters and other postcards, some that date back to 1914. Getting to go through it was like Christmas, we now have pictures of our Great Uncles, three of who served in WWI, one with the Black Watch, and one on the HMS Kangaroo. It took several months of research to put the names to the faces, with the exception of two uncles, we believe we know who is who. But there are still several photos of people we have no idea who they may be.

Searching for a living relative in Scotland

I am writing because I recently discovered that we have a living relative in Scotland. As I was browsing a heritage website I came across a young man researching his family and his tree went back to our great-grandparents. Their names were James Muirhead Rhind Taylor and his wife Elizabeth Moir (Laird) Taylor. His great grandfather appears to be our great Uncle Robert Muirhead Rhind Taylor born 30 June 1893. The family lived in Falkirk at the turn of the 20th century, Main Street to be exact. There were at least nine children during this time. We believe that at least one of these children passed away before the 1901 census. All I have is a name, nothing more and no way of contacting this man, I am writing in hopes that you may be able to help.

I am looking for this living relative, believing that he may still live in the Falkirk area. I would really like to make contact with him, for my mother. She never got a chance to see any of her Scottish relatives and only communicated with a cousin or two. Agnes Taylor who is/was about the same age as our mother and her cousin James, who served in WWII and was killed in action.

Giving Mom back part of her past

After our grandmother passed away, my mother lost touch with Agnes and the box was tucked away for 50 years. I would like to give my mother part of her past back for the holidays and in finding that living relative would do just that.

I would also like to share the postcards and letters with him and to understand what compelled our grandmother to come to America. To learn about our relatives lives and who else may be out there that we may discover. I have been corresponding with a wonderful man, who just happens to have the same last name as a soldier that my grandmother wrote to in the Great War. He has helped me tremendously and suggested that I contact you.

Please, if there is anything you can do, I would be forever grateful. I would reveal his name but I'm not sure if there are laws against it in your country. I am hoping in giving you the names of our ancestors that he or another relative will recognize them and hopefully want to contact me. I appreciate the time you've taken to read this and would be very happy if you published it.

Thank you,

Stephanie Robbins
601 Olive Branch Rd
Smyrna, TN 37167
USA

Unanswered Questions

The Scottish Banner has been a great insight into my heritage.

My grandparents came from "The Gorbals" to Montreal, Canada in 1910-1911. They had passed away prior to my birth. My father was the only one born in Canada in 1913.

Since 1981, I have been looking into my roots. All my aunts and uncles have passed on and left many unanswered questions. I have the 1881 census from 106 Thistle Street where they had lived. They were a family of ten (10). The family name is George Wood son of George Wood and Janet Houston. My grandfather was married to Ellen Brown Wason daughter of James Wason and Margaret Meikle.

I would appreciate any or all information relating to my family, ancestors, friends or acquaintances who would have known of them or the times.

Brian L Wood

Email: brian_wood@sympatico.ca
389 Dubord St
Eustache Quebec J7P 2B8
Canada.

Front Page Question

Further research tells me that the pipers with the 2 tassels on their sporrans are from the Royal Scots Borderers while the 3 tassels are Royal Highland Fusiliers. The 3 Bn RRS Black Watch pipers have Royal Stewart kilts but have 5 tassels on the sporran, 2 up 3 down. The pipers of 4 Bn RRS Highlanders (amalgamation of Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders and Gordon Highlanders) wear Cameron of Erracht tartan kilts with a Gordon sporran and Seaforth McKenzie patch behind the hat badge. Drummers wear a different mix of these tartans and the remainder of the unit wear a different mix again. They change it all again when the wear trews. The 5 Bn RRS Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders wear Government tartan. Their sporran is the swing six (3 small tassels above another 3 tassels) although the Drum Major wears a 2 tassel sporran similar to the RSB.

While I was in Edinburgh for the 2005 Festival and attended the Tattoo, home is Australia and my 36 years of soldiering (21 Regular & 15 Reserve) were in the Australian Army. My career included being Drum Major / Pl Comd of the Pipes and Drums of 42 Bn Royal Queensland Regiment who are affiliated with the Black Watch. I am currently Drum Major of the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums who wear the kilts of the 65 Queensland Cameron Highlanders. With these roles and my Scottish heritage I have taken a great interest in the uniforms of these regiments and the history behind many of the accoutrements worn by them.

Mal Edmiston, Drum Major's Shop
1 Aramac Street, Keperra Qld 4054
Australia, P 61 7 3355 6481,
E.m.j.edmiston@bigpond.com

Answers to Scotword on Page 21

Across: 1-Stramash; 4-Broch; 8-Partan; 9-Leerie; 11-Kyles; 12-Tron; 13-Nips; 15-Fries; 17-Hippin; 19-Garred; 20-Loons; 22-Ower; 23-Kist; 25-Minch; 28-Sonsie; 29-Bridie; 30-Alane; 31-Tenement.

Down: 1-Stirk; 2-Merks; 3-Scart; 5-Reek; 6-Corbie; 7-Messages; 8-Pulpit; 10-Louped; 14-DirI; 15-Fantoosh; 21-Vennel; 24-Targe; 25-Midge; 26-Hirst; 27-Girn.

Thank You For The Complimentary Copy

This is to acknowledge, with thanks, the Complimentary October issue of the Scottish Banner that you so thoughtfully sent me. It made me realize just how much I have missed not receiving the "Banner" these past three years. I am so pleased to have the 8-page pullout supplement that it contained. It will afford me some excellent ideas for Christmas gifts and for other occasions also.

Keep up your excellent work as Editor of the "Scottish Banner." You bring Scotland beyond one's doorstep. Being a Wallace, the Highlands are dear to me.

Long May Your Lum Reek, Aye,

Marie V. Gibbs

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada

Oldest Games in North America

In your October issue on the "Scot Pourri" page, Ed and Joyce Sproul have stated that the Detroit games had just celebrated their 158th Highland Games.

The Antigonish Highland Games had their beginning in 1836 and have run continuously since that time for 171 years. They are run by the Antigonish Highland Society.

They are certainly the longest running games in Canada and from the dates reported in "Oldest Games" in the Banner, the oldest in North America.

Thank you,

John A. Kennedy CD, FSA Scot

Chieftain, The Kennedy Society of America

National Tartan Day

I took Ms. Cairney's statement in the April 2007 issue about promoting National Tartan Day and tried to run with it. I sent a letter to a calendar company suggesting that this be added to their calendars for April 6. I sent an e-mail to the local television station and newspaper to try to get their attention and got no response. I sent an e-mail to QVC while the company was having all the sales and promotions for St. Patrick's Day. The customer service person who replied had not even heard of National Tartan Day. I am not writing to brag on myself, but just to illustrate that there is a long way to go and lots to do to get April 6 into the public mind. It seems like there is a national day, or week, or month for absolutely everything and anything. Please keep working at it

Randy I. McLain
USA

Recipe for Balmoral Bread

A fellow member over at thefreshloaf.com asked about Balmoral Bread. I have looked up some old Scottish cookbooks I have with no luck, and also searched online but can only find references, not a recipe. I even asked my mother but she has not heard of it, not surprising considering she was a bairn when she came out to Australia.

So, I am wondering if anyone has a recipe for Balmoral Bread at all?

Many Thanks,

Warwick Bone. (Woz)

Email: me@woz.biz, Australia

In response to the change in the US/ Can. exchange rates, we have adjusted the cover price and the subscription rates more at par. GST is included in Canadian Subscriptions. See page 2 for new rates.

Also note our Shop At Home prices have also changed