



# 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.

## More Information on the Rankins

I read the "Scottish Banner" every month, its just great. I was pleased to hear of Ron Dempsey meeting up with the Rankin sisters, I have CD's of the Rankin[e] family and they are magic and being a Rankine myself I would like to share the name and history of that name to all the Rankin[e]s around the world.

Many wouldn't have an idea, except what they get in clan books which are not always true. The Rankines have been going to North America since the 16th century.

I found the history of our name at Duart Castle, with the help of the wonderful staff there. I am proud to be a Rankine and of the same blood as the MacLean's of Duart. The Rankin's were also hereditary pipers to the Chief of the Macleans.

I have two sons who are pipers, Duncan who plays for the Western Australian Police Pipe Band. He has just returned from Russia along with other Aussie pipebands. And then Andrew, who plays for the Shadow Highlanders .

I wear the Rankine Tartan, and we also have a coat of arms which I have included in this e-mail. Most of my family came from Alloa to Perth, and being an ex-Cameron Highlander; we have lived in Perth, Western Australia for 36 years.

Keep up the good work Ron; I always enjoy your column and the 'Banner'.

Hope this sheds some light on the Rankine name.  
Walter S. Rankine,  
Western Australia

## Oldest Games in North America

In Reference to John A. Kennedy, CD., FSA Scot, Chieftain, The Kennedy Society of America.

Dear Mr. Kennedy.

My wife and I attended the Antigonish Highland Games in 2006, and the Clan MacInnes was the Honored Games Clan that year.

I am in possession of the Antigonish Highland Games brochure and it clearly states that the Antigonish Highland Society came into being in the year of 1863, not 1836 as mentioned in your letter to the "Scottish Banner." Also see their web-site @ [www.antigonishhighlandgames.com](http://www.antigonishhighlandgames.com) which also states 1863.

Ronald E. Brisson

Honorary member of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit  
Michigan, USA

## Gaelic Church Service in London

The enclosed newsletter (not shown) is for the information of your members. Should any of them stay in London over a weekend when we hold our Scottish Gaelic Service, they are very welcome to drop in to see us. These Scottish Gaelic Services are held in Crown Court Church of Scotland, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London, WC 2. The church is opposite the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. Services for 2008 are scheduled to take place on March 9<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Norman MacLeod

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London, N7 6JL UK

*Ed. note: Due to space restrictions we could not print the newsletter. However the information is here for those who wish to communicate with Mr. MacLeod.*



## Piper silenced by Glasgow store

December, Saturday mid-day, Sauchiehall Street shopping precinct. I and my fellow Scots were being entertained by three young men in kilts playing the pipes and drums. The police arrived and moved the boys on. I asked one of the boys what was wrong, he told me a nearby store had complained and they had to move. That store was The Carphone Warehouse. I had noticed the police enter the store after speaking to the boys. I also went into the store, being a Glaswegian, I got straight to the point. 'Did you get the boys moved on?' I was told it was none of my business, I pointed out it was my business when the traditions and culture of my country were being attacked. The women assistant next to the guy I was talking to said, in what I believe was an English accent, 'They are noisy and a security risk!'

I asked how could they possibly be a security risk. Her reply was, "Customers have to shout their card details out loudly". Nonsense. In the UK it is chip and pin we use nowadays. The old system merely required a signature.

The boys were not playing outside the store, they were across the road and further down the street.

I hope this can be of some use to you, I think any Scot, or those of Scots descent, looking for a mobile (cell) phone should give their business to Carphone Warehouse's competitor's.

Alex Seville

Glasgow,

Scotland

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## Memories of the Queen Mary

Now in my 80's, I have fond memories of that grand old ship, "Queen Mary". As a wee lassie sailing doon the Clyde on our family's annual fortnight's holiday we caught glimpses of her. We also went to



see her progress as she was being built. She was just then a number, 'Cunard 534', referred to as the Cunarder before she was launched and christened.

I still remember Queen Mary's voice on our radio saying "I now name this ship Queen Mary". Little did I realize that one day I would sail on her as a GI bride to make my home in America!!

In April 1985, I attended a wonderful GI bride's reunion on the Queen Mary at Long Beach, California. What a wonderful, exciting, sentimental feeling to be aboard that beautiful, grand old ship again. I was invited to be one of the hostesses for the three day event. I was contacted by Cunard several years ago for my story as a GI Bride who sailed on the Queen Mary in March 1946 which was included in the new Queen Mary 2 of passengers during and after World War II. I cherish the memories of my voyage on that grand old lady of the seas and my memorabilia of ships newspapers. Special memories of long ago.

Barbara Brisbin

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McMinnville, OR 97128 USA

*Ed. note: See advert on Page 5 for new update and events.*

## We're Looking for Weirs

My cousin Jeanine (Queensland, Australia) and I, have been working on our family tree. We hope to find some of the relatives that we have not been able to trace.

Our mutual Great Grandparents (x3) were Duncan Weir and Mary MacFarlane. They married Feb. 15, 1825. They were cottars at Rashfield Farm, Kilmun, Argyll. They had 10 children.

Hugh: Immigrated to Australia prior to 1862

John: Followed his brother around 1869. He married a much younger woman Sarah Ann. He was a butcher/shopkeeper at Eastern River (near Clermont).

Archibald: Married Mary Boyd and was a dairy farmer around Rhu. (Scotland) One of his daughters, Ann, was a housekeeper in Helensborough and was involved with a medical student Thomas Gilchrist. They had a son, also named Thomas - both parents were listed on the birth certificate. I checked with the Royal College of Physicians - found out that Thomas got his MB, Master of Surgery, then headed to Johannesburg, South Africa. He never did marry Ann. At some point young Thomas added Weir. According to a wedding certificate for his cousin; his address in 1924 was 251 Kenman Street, Glasgow. We don't know any more about this laddie but would like to.

Margaret: Was born in 1844 and married Neil Campbell at Sandbank in 1866. He was like his father, a master mason. They had nine children together and lived in and around Lochgoilhead, Argyll. The last known connection to this family is Duncan Campbell who was a plumber, and lived at Planetree Cottage, Lochgoilhead in 1962.

Janet: She married John Allison, owner of John Allison & Co. Ironmongers, 72a Waterloo St., Glasgow. They had 7 children. The youngest son, Alexander inherited his father's business. He married Jessie Wood Broomfield and died in 1931- his address at that time was 22 Kelvinside Ave., Glasgow.

The interesting thing about the Allison family is their connection to Lochgoilhead - perhaps a summer home or there was still family in the area (probably the Campbells). When John Allison died in 1904; his address was the long time family home at 144 Woodlands Rd., Glasgow, but he died at Lochgoilhead. When Janet died in 1910, her usual residence was listed as Glasgow but she died at Creaganiver, Lochgoilhead.

We hope someone out there is related to these folks - because if so; have we got a family tree for you!

Aye yours,

Donna - [dportree@cogeco.ca](mailto:dportree@cogeco.ca)  
Canada