



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.

Scottish Customs

Hi and from what I am reading, I see that you have a great Scot Pourri page!

I have a question that I have been trying to find an answer on all over the net.

I am not Scottish but my husband is. What is the correct type of traditional Scots clothing I should wear to a formal dinner? I don't want to wear something that may be for Scots only and embarrass my husband - nor insult the guests of honour.

I would also like to know where I can find a protocol terminology.

For example the use of the words Scot, Scottish and others. I would appreciate any help!

Thank you and hope to hear from any readers soon.

Mrs. Elva Magdaleno

Buchanan

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Tracing Grandfather

My maternal grandfather, Thomas Cochrane Mitchell, was born in Scotland. I know the Mitchell name is a sept of the Innes clan, but I would like help in how to trace birth place in Scotland. I am not very adept at genealogy but any help will be appreciated.

Thank you.

Howard Davis Hull

USA

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February 2009 Scotpourri Correction

The Scottish Banner incorrectly placed a photo of Captain of Clanranald on our Scotpourri page (The Homecoming Scotland 2009, Feb 09), instead of the correct author Ranald Alasdair MacDonald Chief of the Honourable Clan Ranald of Lochaber Mac Mhic Raonuill.

We apologise for this error and any confusion caused. We thank those who advised us of this.

Stone of Destiny

I was confused when I read the article on the Stone of Destiny (August 2008) I enjoyed it, however became quite indignant when Scone Palace was named as its finding place, I knew this was wrong.

In 1951 I was 10 years old and living in the Quarrier Homes Orphanage, but I clearly remember being told the "stone" had been found in Arbroath Abbey, my hometown, where I returned two years later.

I was determined to confirm that, what I had believed for 57 years, was indeed true.

Through Wikipedia I was also proved correct, the "stone" was found on the altar of Arbroath Abbey.

The stone was indeed broken in two, each piece being transported separately. It was then apparently passed to a senior Glasgow politician who arranged for it to be professionally repaired by Glasgow stonemason Robert Gray.

As to whether the actual stone returned to Westminster (and now in Edinburgh) is authentic is debateable, like the Loch Ness Monster is another great Scottish mystery.

Jean Enion

South Caulfield, Victoria Australia

Canny Scots?

Please convey to the editor with her interesting editorial on the Clearances (October 2008) with our appreciation.

However the grim reality worrying dinkum Scots is how the Scottish reputation for canniness, shrewdness and sagacity has been devastated by Sassenachs who became managers and directors of Scottish Banks, i.e. Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Losing substantial funds in the subprime market, but losing millions in the Royal Bank of Scotland scam is beyond the pale.

Alex Salmond should be told in no uncertain terms how true Scots feel. Entrepreneurs like

Donald Trump and others can redeem Scotland and hope the collateral damage does not cast a shadow over the 2009 Homecoming celebrations.

John O

The Tweed

Australia

Bigriggen?

I am wondering if you can assist me? My Irish ancestors settled at a place here in Queensland, Australia called 'Bigriggen'. My cousins think this was named after a place in Ireland. There is no record here of who or why this was named. I think they are incorrect. From my research of Irish place names. I think it is in fact, Scottish meaning something like 'Main ridge'.

Can anyone shed any light on the meaning? With thanks in advance.

Cheers,

Catherine O'Connor

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Looking for Peattie Relatives

My father was Scottish born in Ketty, outside of Edinburgh in 1900. He was a miner and migrated to Canada in the 1930's. I think he married a Canadian and then migrated to Australia in 1947. I was born in 1951 and my father died in 1972.

My sister and I have lost touch with our Scottish relatives. My father's name was William Herron Johnston Peattie and my mother Lydia Peattie died in 1984.

I am hoping someone can help me find our Scottish relatives or let me know how I can begin my search.

Please also find enclosed a money order for a one year subscription to the "Scottish Banner".

Yours sincerely,

Alan Peattie

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Lismore, NSW

2480, Australia

A Wee Hug In The Mail!

My husband and I both enjoy reading the "Scottish Banner".

Three years ago I went on a teaching exchange to Scotland where I met and fell in love with my future husband. I also fell in love with everything about Scotland.

We are now working hard to get Gordon, my husband, permanent resident status so we can be together permanently.

It is such a joy to receive the "Scottish Banner". It is like getting a wee hug in the mail!

Carol McLaren

Humboldt,

Sask. Canada.

More Memories of Three Bishop Terrace Brae

I have just read your February edition of "the Scottish Banner" which is sent to me monthly by a friend. I enjoy it so much and it is passed on to others when I have read it.

This month I was especially delighted to read the article Memories of Three Bishop Terrace Brae by Kay Lucas. I still am fortunate enough to live on the lovely Isle of Bute and can well remember Jan Boyd (Kay's friend) and Mr. Campbell who had the rowing boats.

The article brought back happy memories of The Prom Tearoom just a few yards from Bishop Terrace Brae. I worked there during school holidays until I left school in 1959. What a happy place it was to work. Always busy, quite often having theatrical persons who were on Bute to entertain for the summer season.

I also remember arriving at work to find the whole shop packed with sailors of all nationalities (the NATO fleet had come into the bay!) and the sailors were tucking into bacon, eggs and scones and being explained the intricacies of British money.

The Isle of Bute is still "The Jewel of the Clyde". There is a beauty here and a feeling of peace that I haven't found anywhere else (maybe I'm biased).

Thank you for bringing back some happy nostalgia.

Mrs. Jacqueline Williamson

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Bute

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Scotland

Mary Queen of Scots

I feel that the Scottish Parliament should make every effort to have the remains of Mary Queen of Scots returned to Scotland for burial. As she was Queen of Scotland. Not England. If the Scottish Parliament is successful in their efforts. I would hope she could be buried either at St. Andrew's Cathedral alongside Robert the Bruce, otherwise the Isle of Iona, one of the Abbeys, or St. Giles in order of preference. Maybe you could have a poll among "Scottish Banner" readers to see which of these would make a good final resting place.

Again my choices would be 1. St. Andrew's Cathedral 2. Isle of Iona, Jedburgh, Melrose -? I've forgotten the name of the 3rd one, St. Giles in order of preference .

Jon C. Evans

Columbus, Nebraska

USA

Glasgow by the way, but

From the January issue of the "Scottish Banner", I ordered "Glasgow by the way, but" by John Cairney.

It is a great read and brought back many memories of my life in Glasgow (Bridgeton) from November, 1938 (aged 10) until evacuation on September 1st, 1939, then returning to Glasgow in the summer of 1943 (now 15 yrs) where we settled in Partick.

I left Glasgow on July 1st, 1948 and have lived in Canada ever since. I returned home many times over the years, however, in this time of difficult travel, I'm afraid I won't return again.

So reading Mr. Cairney's book was a great joy to me.

Catherine Rainer

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

Remains of Mary, Queen of Scots

G'day-Mary is still controversial, even after 400 plus years! I wonder what other Scottish born monarchs (like her son and his children) who are interred in England will 'need' to be brought back up north.

She should probably be brought back to Scotland. Although her reign there was uneasy, short and fraught with difficulty, some of which was of her own making. The other Stuarts who followed her were monarchs of more than just Scotland - and likely are better off staying in Westminster. She should be brought 'home' to Scotland.

Where to put the remains? I would suggest in St. Michaels next to Linlithgow Castle. She was born and baptised there and is likely the best place for her.

Joel LaMarre

USA

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Rose Clan Tartan

Perhaps the "Scottish Banner" can help me. I was born into the Rose Family Clan in Brown Hill/Baldwin, Ontario in 08/1949. Shortly after due to World circumstances, I was deprived of my father. Fast forward to 1951/52 my mother took another husband and subsequently my last name was changed by adoption to Surminski, my questions are; 1) am I allowed to (as far as the Scottish community is concerned), call myself a Scot, and to wear the Rose Clan Tartan? This subject has come up and eyebrows have been raised by my wearing the Tartan with my present last name. 2) I would also like to know if there are any readers of the "Scottish Banner" who would weigh into this for an answer once and for all, and if there are any members of this family group still around.

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