



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 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.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

Glasgow Transport Museum

Thank you for your piece on in the June issue on the Glasgow Transport Museum, I visited Glasgow some years ago and decided to walk around the West End, I was actually going to the university and stumbled upon the Transport Museum-what a



Picture courtesy of Glasgow Magazine

stumble. I thought it was one of the best and I feel least known museums of its kind in the world. The plans for the new museum look breathtaking and will no doubt take the museum to a whole new level and all part of the great modernisation that is now taking place along the banks of the Clyde. I hope to get back over to Scotland in the next couple of years and will certainly make this a stop on my trip and also intend to donate to the appeal as I think the museum tells such an important part of Scotland's story.

Greg Wilson

San Francisco, California, U.S.A

Archibald Reivers

I really enjoy reading the Scottish banner and am researching the family name Archibald which I believe is of Norman origin dating back to 1144 in Scotland (from the name Archibaldus who were a Reiver family). What I am interested in is the land areas they occupied around the Border region. I am also interested in Reiver stories regarding Archibald's or stories of the family through the Borders of Scotland and Edinburgh (where my grandfather James Archibald was born).

Ron Powell

20 Kittyhawk St.

Bongaree, Bribie Island

Queensland, 4507 Australia

Volcanic Dust

I recently travelled "home" to Scotland to enjoy the Scottish spring time-I actually got a longer dose of it than planned as I was affected by the Icelandic volcanic ash as so many were. Luckily I had family to look after me as it was a very unexpected event which hit Scotland particularly hard.

I was intrigued to also come home and read about Catherine Smith's book *Stars of Robert Burns* and that Burns too had ash to deal with (in a different way) but probably with more impact then, than we have had recently. What a timely article at such a unique time for world travellers. At the airport I saw many irate people but really what could anyone do? I know I got to smell the heather for a wee bit longer and there can't be anything wrong with that!

Mike Smith

Vancouver, British Columbia

Canada

Canadian Migrant Ships

I was interested to read about the Canadian Migrant Ships (Empress Line).

The usual one was left out, being the Empress of Japan, these were also used as troop carriers, my cousin Campbell Buchanan from New Zealand (U.S Navy Cross- posthumously), he arrived in the UK on the Aquatania, which he boarded in Sydney.

Robert Bradshaw

Victoria, Australia

Younger Generation! Will They Carry On Traditions?

We, as all the Clans, often ponder the future of our traditions.

Will the next generation be there to carry it on? Do they care enough?

Well, good news! I am only 34 years old, and have been immersed in Scottish history since my early 20's.

My wife and I have been members of our Clan Society for just over eight years now, 26 & 22 respectively, when we joined (fairly young). But from that first night, meeting members of the Society here in Queensland, at the Bannockburn Dinner 2002, we were captivated.

The sights, sounds, whisky, music and dance was an introduction to capture the imagination! That's the element needed right there! That's the key to keeping the traditions alive with the next generation, the "WOW" factor! I honestly believe the future is in good hands. We are very fortunate to have a younger Chief, Scorrybreac (age 60) who lives in Australia, and is very accessible. A younger Lieutenant (also 60ish) and myself, just a pup at 34.

This all adds up to a unique vision for our Clan, and a healthy, vibrant view of progressing forward.

The future is really quite a simple formula: We just need to keep providing what people want; a link to their forebears and history, and a good dose of enjoyment and entertainment (a dram or three does wonders to relax anyone!)

If we provide it, they will come...

Keep up the excellent work.

Yours faithfully

Scott Nicholson

President, Clan MacNicol Australia

Queensland, Australia

A Grand Auld Woman

Thank you for the informative article in the June edition of *the Scottish Banner* (A Grand Auld Woman) on Catherine Helen Spence. The amount of times I have had a five dollar note in my hand and never knew "that" lady was Scottish is amazing!

There must be so many early settler Scots that had such an impact not only on our country but also others like Canada, New Zealand and the USA. It would be great to read in the Banner more of these amazing Scots that helped shape so many of the world's developed nations.

Now when I pay for my milk at the store and hand over my fiver, I can smile to myself, and if asked is that everything I can surely say "aye" and look at Catherine!

The Banner is my favourite paper, and I always get a copy at the newsagents in my area.

Thanks for being such a great link to Scotland!

Craig Johnstone

Melbourne,

Victoria, Australia

Thinking of War Brides

I would like to get in touch with the writer of the above named letter printed in the June issue.

I too was born in the town of Ayr, Scotland. This is the first time I have noticed someone from there writing in.

I always visit Robbie Burns museum and walk around the lovely gardens when I am there.

May Richmond,

43 Laurie Crt.,

Kanata, Ontario

Canada. K2L 1S2

Searching For Renfrews

The Scottish Ancestry Society tells me that my family name was originally Renfrew. I have tried, unsuccessfully, to find any history of early Renfrew immigrants in USA. Can anyone out there help?

William Renfroe

USA

Email: mensa@comcast.net

Memories Of Kenneth KcKellar

I had the pleasure of working with Kenneth back in Dundee Scotland in 1971. It was in the Whitehall Theatre Dundee when Kenneth and a full variety company staged there for a week.

Unfortunately this was around the time when blackouts were occurring in all the cities in Scotland, due to lack of coal used in the generation of electricity. I was in charge of the lighting and sound for the theatre so I discussed what would happen in the event of a power failure, we would not have any lighting except emergency lights and no microphones.

The Fire curtain would automatically come down across the front of the stage. Like the true trooper that he was, said if it happens when I am on stage I will step forward clear of the curtain, and don't worry about microphones." What can we do about some lighting", I said leave that to me. Lo and behold did the power not go off after Kenneth's first song, he stepped forward and was hit by 30 flashlights.

Kenneth gave one of his best performances that night, he had a powerful voice. The lighting came from using 30 school children to switch on their flashlights if and when the power went off. We used this backup system all week the children had a ball. I also looked after wee Kenneth in the lighting booth during the show.

Philip K Brannen

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Canada

Ed note: Phillip thanks you for sharing this insight about a Scottish performing legend who will be sorely missed.

Patriotic Scot Tattoo!!

I always buy The Scottish Banner, and I noticed in the May 2010 issue that you were asking for submissions of various kinds... I have an "Arm of Scotland" tattoo that I would like to submit for



publication!!

My name is Mike Cameron, and I hail from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. I am proud of my Scottish heritage and I display my ink with fidelity and pride.

Keep up the great publishing!!!

Sincerely,

Mike Cameron

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Ed note: Thanks for sending the photo Mike and if any other readers are "inked" with Scottish pride, do let us know