



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.

Family (Scottish?) Birthday Tradition

We have a tradition in our family. On someone's birthday we butter that person's nose. This has been in our family for many generations, we have proof of 5 generations through letters and have every reason to believe the author of the oldest account had also known this tradition all of his life.

We don't know of anyone who has even heard of the tradition. I can tell you, it is great fun with the person attempting to avoid the greasing and all others in cahoots in trying to trick the person (yes, everyone ALWAYS gets greased) We all confess to buttering our own noses if circumstances cause us to be alone on our birthdays. I read that it is from the Maritimes in Canada and thought to be of Scottish origin. Can anyone tell me if that is true? My 82 year old Mother asked me to research this. I would love to answer her question about its origin.

Thank you,
Julia Neilsen
USA
Email: jneilsen2002@yahoo.com

Searching For Reid And Fawcett

I have two genealogy searches for the Scottish Banner.

First one searching for descendants of Tom Reid or his sister Rebecca Fawcett who emigrated to Santa Barbara from Tullyroan, Co Armagh about 1912.

Tom Reid is known to have had two daughters, possibly other children.

Second one searching for descendants of Kathleen Huck [married name not known] or her brother Terence Huck.

Kathleen and Terence were the children of William and Mary [nee Donnelly] Huck.

Mary had emigrated to U.S. about 1915 from Finnely, Co Tyrone, in Ireland.

They lived in Atlanta and then moved to Florida [possibly Pinellas].

Tom McKenzie
NSW, Australia
Email: gtmckenzie@bigpond.com.au

Happy Birthday Scottish Banner!

What a great achievement that 34 years of publication is and I am so glad the Banner is part of my regular monthly read. Regardless of internet and technologies I still enjoy to sit down and catch up with news from Scotland with the Banner. My sister introduced me to the publication and I began going to but it at my newsagents to get a copy each month, who often sold out, so I enjoy the subscription service I now have. I love the pipes and history of Scotland and feel as connected to the country from a far as I did when we were living there. Being Scottish is a lucky thing, so many people love our culture, accent and kilts! I often enjoy telling people about Scotland and our history, story and humour and they sometimes get what I am on about, but when I read the pages of the Scottish Banner I know I am reading along with "my ain folk" and we together really do get what being Scottish is all about.

Thanks again and congratulations on 34 great years of publishing, a milestone for any publication indeed and so truly deserved.

Peter Macleod
Lake Taupo
New Zealand

Scotspeak

Thank you for your Scotspeak article each month, it's amazing how so few words can tell a story. I really enjoy reading these quotes from around Scotland which really do tell us what is making news at home. Pat on the back to your compiler of these snippets of information as they are a great wee read to an already great wee paper!

Keep up the great work at the Scottish Banner, I would never miss an issue!

Alice McKenzie
Wellington,
New Zealand

White puddings

I am getting old and travelling becomes harder, I would like to eat my favourite meal which is the white pudding before I kick the bucket.

I have tried to make them but the taste is not quite there; I use leftover porridge a bit of suet, black pepper, wrap it up in cling film and boil it to melt the suet in. It is a good attempt but not quite there. Can anyone tell me what I do to get the right taste?

Yours Sincerely
John Smith
Australia
Email: bootneck@aapt.net.au

T-Shirt - Great!

The Black Watch T-shirt I ordered from Scottish Banner arrived today!

It's pure dead brilliant, so it is!
Many thanks
Donna Portree
Ontario,
Canada.

Family Origins

I would like to find information about my grandfather William Speirs who came to Australia with his wife Mabel probably in the late 1800 or early 1900s. I think they lived in southern NSW and then moved to Dungog. My mother was their daughter Agnes Lindsay Speirs.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Randal Cox
Australia
Email: wrcox6@bigpond.com

Little Bit Of Scotland Overseas



Wee Rob Roy

I just wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful hours of enjoyment you have given me over the past 23 years during the time I have been reading the "Scottish Banner."

I just want to let you all know that it has been much appreciated.

While doing so, I thought you might like to see a photo of my little bit of Scotland here in America!

Norma Merrill,
San Antonio,
Texas., USA

Scottish Flat Rental

We are visiting Scotland from Nevada, US in May 2011 for 15 nights and would like information on flat rentals.

Jan Aslin
Nevada, USA
Email: whiteinch@sbcglobal.net

Lockerbie Lament

The composer credited with the Lament is Angus Fitchet of Dundee. More information by NAAFC maintains that not only the electrifying melody was done in a couple of days, but it was set to words with the intent of a hymn which could be sung. His music appears in print, but there are no words that anyone knows about. Tom Alexander's latest CD has the Lament, but he too was unaware that it was written as a hymn. Who knows?

Bill Cadzow
Canada
E: wlcadzow@rogers.com

Emigrant Ships

Reading the July edition of the Scottish Banner's Scotpourri, which I like reading, a piece caught my eye on the Canadian Migrant Ship- The Empress Line.

My little story is that after serving two and half years on HMS Rodney battleship and after D Day a group of us were unloaded at Plymouth and returned to our navel depot HMS Drake where we were given a short leave and on return to the Drake we were being sent to Sydney, Australia to be relief for the British naval ships serving in the Pacific region. We were taken by train to Liverpool where we joined a troopship and were told its name was Empress of Scotland and upon boarding were told its original name was Empress of Japan, being changed because of the war. We arrived in Sydney and were billeted at Warwick Farm Race Course under canvas tents and were told by American troops, this was out home for a few months and then transferred to Woolloomooloo Wharf. I have never regretted being drafted out here as I met my wife and been together sixty-four years.

Keep up the good work on "Bonnie Scotland".
Norm Farmer
Arncliffe, NSW
Australia

World Pipe Band Championships

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the 2010 World Pipe Band Championships (August 2010). I have attended this spectacular event in the past and enjoyed the sights and sounds of so many great bands from around the world. I am so glad the event has stayed in Glasgow as to me it really is the best city to host such a world class event. One could forget that regions such as the Middle East and South America have a piping scene but of course we Scots know the pipes are a global world instrument.

I look forward to this year's results and for attending this great event one year soon.

Best wishes to all piping (and drumming!) fans across the world.

John Sinclair
Melbourne,
Australia

Ed note:
Thanks for your letter John, please find this year's results in the issue.

My Favourite Dram

Over the years I have tasted many a good Scotch Whisky, none I would like to say comes near to the Dalwhinnie Single Scotch Whisky.

I believe that the water is drawn from the highest source of any used in any single malt and for that reason we get to experience the lovely peat flavour with a surprisingly soft Smoky finish. When I shop for a good single malt Whisky, Dalwhinnie will always get my preference.

Des Johnstone D Urr
Chief Commissioner
Clan Johnston/e
Australia

Ed note: Des was the lucky winner of the August edition reader competition of a double pass to Whisky Live Sydney, congratulation Des and we hope you had a dram of a time!

**Keep those letters coming! We
enjoy them - and so do other
readers!**