



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.

Scottish Open Golf Tournament at Castle Stuart

For the record, please permit me a correction to *The Banner's* July events listing for Scotland:

After 15 years in Loch Lomond, the 'Scottish Open' this year moved to the new venue of Castle Stuart Golf Links near Inverness. First Minister Alex Salmond gave his support to the Highland location; the European Tour Chief Executive George O'Grady described the move as "visionary"; and American megastar Phil Mickelson hailed the newest venue on The European Tour as "one of the best golf courses anywhere in the world." Unfortunately no mere mortal was the equal of torrential rainfall that caused flooding and landslides, and shortened the event to 54 holes. Scottish weather!

While I cannot speak to the toughness of the links golf course, I can heartily endorse the luxury 5-star lodgings at Castle Stuart nearby in Petty Parish. Completed in 1625 by James Stuart, 3rd Earl of Moray, the restored tower house is once more home to a Stuart family, Canadians Charles and Elizabeth Stuart, and their daughter Caroline. We can report that we were unmolested on our 2009 stay by the resident ghost in the Three-Turret Haunted Bedroom at the top of the East Tower!

Incidentally, it strikes me that news from the 2011 Barclays Scottish Open posed a possible topic for *Banner* columnists Ron Dempsey and Matthew A. C. Newsome.

Day one co-leader Mark Tullo of Santiago, Chile, said his English dad claims his ancestors are Scottish...and the golfer reported he had been to Edinburgh in search of a Tullo tartan for a kilt!

Scott Stuart

Altoona, Iowa, U.S.A.

Eager to embrace Scots heritage

My husband is eager to embrace his heritage of Scotland, he was raised under a false name which is Petty one of his stepdad's name but his real surname is Kerr.

We are slowly getting information of his Scottish heritage. As for me I know quite a lot of mine my surname before marrying was Ferguson. But according to my genetic history many many years ago our name started out as Farquhar-son and somewhere in the line got shortened to Ferguson.

Any ideas, help you can give us is much appreciated. Also we are keen to learn of any Scottish events taking place in British Columbia, anyone with details we would be pleased to know.

Patricia Ferguson Petty

British Columbia, Canada

Email: pattypetty57@yahoo.ca

Ed. note: For events check our listing on page 24 and our website www.scottishbanner.com

Help Needed On Clan Anderson

I would like to know if anyone has any information on an Anderson Clan group in Australia? The only one I see in your paper is in America.

I enjoy reading your paper.

Kindest regards,

Phillip Anderson
13 Peninsula Road
Bridgetown,
Western Australia
6255

How I Found My Banner

This is my story of how I found *the Scottish Banner*. I married my pen pal in Forfar, Angus in 1969 and when we returned after our 25th anniversary celebration in Montrose, Angus, we discovered *the Scottish Banner* at a newsstand in a mall (which has since been demolished) in London, Ontario where I reside. In it I saw the pilings of the new bridge to Skye which we went past in the ferry boat in 1994, the last time (after 12 visits) we were in Scotland. My wife, now confined to a wheel chair felt it was too hard on her to go on an airplane any more.

My lovely wife has since passed away, in May of this year, but I will be going back home again.

Alvin Robb
London, Ontario
Canada

The Family of Mckno

Has anyone in Scotland any idea of where I should look for information on my Great-great-grandfather John Mckno? Family legend has it that he lived in Scotland, but I can find no information on the family. I would love to have some background knowledge of him.

Malcolm C. McKno
Bottrall, Australia

Email:
mallymac3@yahoo.com.au

The Name Clunes

I have been watching a British Show called "Doc Martin" with Martin Clunes.

My question is where does the name originate.

My name is Charles A. Gordon, my father's name was Charles Clunes Gordon. His father was named Charles Clunes Gordon, and way back for many generations, they were called Charles Clunes Gordon by the first son in the family.

Could you shed some light on where the name came from? I was not privy to any more information by my progenitors.

Charles A. Gordon
1450 N. Washington Blvd.
#180
Ogden, Utah 84404 USA

Thank You For The Joys And The Tears!

Congratulations on achieving your dream for so long and keeping it going. I wish you many more years. Thank you for all the joy and tears you have given me over the years with the *Banner*. It is as close to going home for a few hours when the *Banner* arrives.

Congratulations to you and the *Banner* staff. Keep up the good work.

Norma Merrill & Rob Roy MacGregor (alias Robbie).

Norma Merrill,
San Antonio,
Texas, U.S.A.

Editors Note: Thank you for your kind words Norma - and please thank you 'wee dug' Rob Roy also.

Keep Up The Wonderful Work

Congratulations on your 35th anniversary - the edition was done amazingly well!

I have been a subscriber of the *Scottish Banner* for quite some time now, and cannot imagine a month without reading up on all the news and wonderful articles therein.

Thank you so much for you time and please keep up the wonderful work that you all do in reaching out to so very many of us.

Dorothy Browne
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada

Flower Of Scotland

On looking thru' my old copies of *the Scottish Banner* I found a letter by a Mr Norman Mitchell of the USA looking for the wording of "The Flower of Scotland" (I hope you get it delivered now, Norman) and I would like to tell him that the "flower" referred to is Sir William Wallace and the wish alluded to is for Scotland to have someone like him again.

Does that answer your question as why the people sing such a song? You probably weren't in Scotland when it came out—I was, and it brought tears to my eyes!

Ian Moore-Morrans
Canada
Email:
gayleian@gmail.com

James MacKenzie

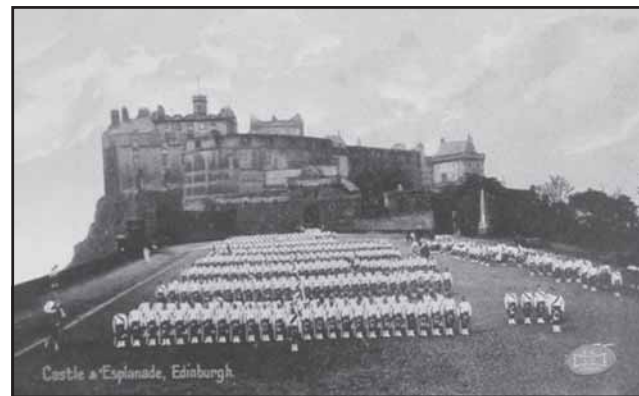
In the interests of historical accuracy and the good name of the New Zealand justice system, may I correct some points in the article by Mr Bill Montgomery in the Scotpourri column of July 2011. James MacKenzie was indeed arrested for sheep-stealing in March 1855 and in the Lyttelton Court was sentenced to five years in prison. He was certainly not hanged and after escaping and subsequent recapture he was given an unconditional pardon and spent only a few months in jail. Neither was his dog "Friday" hanged and the best available evidence is that she lived out her days on The Levels, the station from which the sheep were stolen.

The statue of the collie on the shores of Lake Tekapo represents not only Friday but all the working dogs which made possible the grazing of sheep on the wild high country of the South Island. Friday's monument is the brilliant statue of the clever dog and her master which enlivens the main street of Fairlie, the administrative centre of the MacKenzie District, which is, of course in Canterbury, not Otago.

The names of so many of the stations in the MacKenzie such as Braemar, Benmore, Balmoral, Glen Lyon and Ferintosh are permanent reminders of the hardy Highland shepherds, their families and their dogs who laid the foundations of New Zealand's pastoral industry.

Peter Bain
85 Belt Road
Ashburton
New Zealand 7700

Seaforth Highlanders At Edinburgh Castle



Whilst going through some old photo albums recently, I came across this rather interesting postcard, (above).. It was in a collection from my grandfather (Seaforth Highlanders).

It was addressed to Miss G. Sempler P.O. Springton, South Australia. Unfortunately there is no post mark on the reverse side, therefore I am unable to put a date on it's likely posting. How it became included in my grandfathers collection I don't know.

Could there be a reader from the *Banner* who could throw some light on it's age? The regimental numbers must surely be over 400?

Tony Tapper
Margaret River, Western Australia
Email: kotkafin.7@westnet.com.au

My Mother's Rhyme

Can any reader tell me when or where this little verse originated? My mum used to sing it to me:

*Last Saturday night as I went to catch a bus
that was going to a grand fitba match
A was just steppin own when a wee fellow cried;
"Hey Sandy your loast something and that's no a lie."
I riffled ma pockets a, a looked on the grun,
Never thinkin the wee chap was just makin fun
Said I "Ave loast nothing so don't mak a fus!"
He said' Away yer ifter losin yer bus, tra, la, lee, tra ,
la , la"*

How would ye, how would ye like to me like me.

James McGinlay
PO Box 674, Ulladulla, NSW, 2539, Australia