

# 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 online Scotpourri form at [www.scottishbanner.com](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. 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.

## Gretna Green



I was very interested in February's article on Gretna Green (*Gretna Green-Scotland's home of love, Scottish Banner*, February, 2016). My partner, Peter, and I were together for 6 years when there was a program about Gretna Green on TV and jokingly I suggested we 'elope' there as coming from Glasgow in 1966 I knew the history, of course. Peter came from a family of 11 and I had 4 children from a previous marriage so the thought of getting hitched here was just too daunting. He said if I could organise it he was game. My eldest daughter had gone back to Scotland a few years previously for a working holiday and had never come back. So I enlisted her help and suggested she also 'tie the knot' there. Between us it was organised and on 3rd August 1995 it all happened. Peter and I wed just before lunch and Anne and John just after. Our guest list was another daughter and her partner and my Dad (who still lived in Scotland). We went over to the Smithy and when my Dad explained how happy he was to be at the weddings of both his daughter and granddaughter on the same day we had another 'ceremony' at the anvil. A very memorable day for us all. We all stayed two nights at Lover's Leap Motel and had a great time. Three years ago Peter and I travelled through Gretna and being nostalgic we stopped to have a look around. We would not have recognised the place and walked up and down the road looking for the motel -to no avail. I finally found out that it had been demolished years ago. What a pity, but glad to report that the marriage is lasting a lot longer than the motel. Thanks for *the Scottish Banner*, I so look forward to it each month. Well done.  
Anne Koomen  
The Patch, Victoria  
Australia

## Looking to find family connections

Ms. Violet Milne McIntyre of Niagara Falls, NY, 92 years young. Wrote with a request concerning a member of her family. Her father James Milne of Montrose who served in the 10th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry had a nephew Capt. Edward R. Milne late of Montrose, Angus shire who was in the 10th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry in the first world war. His untimely death came about when the ship he was aboard named the R.M.S. Leinster was torpedoed in the Irish Sea. The death was made more tragic in that it happened just one month before the 1918 armistice. He had received the D.C.M. or distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action. Ms. McIntyre is looking for Canadian relatives to pass some records of this gentleman. Here is a biography from what information Ms. McIntyre sent and what Ron Dempsey was able to find on line. Edward Ramsay Milne born Feb 6, 1888 at Montrose, Angus. In the 1891 census, the family was still in Montrose and his father William M. Milne was a Salmon fisher. He was found on the 1901 census in Galway at Nun's Island with siblings and parents. The family moved to Cashel, Galway some later where Edward became secretary of the board of Conservators of Fisheries. He married Ida McCullagh in the last quarter of 1917 in Dublin. E. R. Milne is one of three brothers, Robert and Arthur who also served in the Canadian Army during the first world war. They were the children of William Milne and May Nicol of Montrose. Edward was in the Mounted Rifles, while Robert was in the Canadian Dragoons and lastly, Arthur was in the Field Artillery. Edward and his wife Ida McCullagh had a son named Ned who with his wife the former Peggy Curley were known to have lived on Vaughan Rd. in Toronto as late as 1964.

If anyone is related to these people or know of relatives please write to:

Ms. Violet Milne McIntyre  
7210 Williams Rd.  
Niagara Falls, New York  
14301, USA

## Always learning about Scotland

Thank you *Scottish Banner* for a great wee paper each month! I am always amazed just how much I learn from each issue and every time I finish reading my copy I become just a bit more proud to be a Scot. There is so much I learn from these pages it really is quite incredible and has become such a great resource about Scotland and what is happening all over the world. I have no doubt a great deal of work and love goes into this publication and I for one thank you all for it. I also follow you on Facebook and absolutely love the many great posts and images you share with us, *the Scottish Banner* is always welcome in our home.

Karen McLean  
Auckland, New Zealand  
**Ed note: Thank you Karen for your kind note and also for following us on Facebook. We invite all readers to like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for more of Scotland direct to your computer, tablet or phone each week.**

## Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals

I enjoy Jim Stoddart's articles as I come from "Doon the Watter" at Port Glasgow. I went to Glasgow University in 1950, just in time for the 500 years celebrations and always dressed up for student charity days, going by train to Glasgow. I totally identified with Jim's piece about old customs, including having clean underwear in case of an accident, wear green wear black was a thing of my mother's and I didn't own anything green until after she died! I lived in a house looking over the Clyde and just above Ferguson Marine who are still building boast-hooray. My father spent all his life in Lithgow's yard and all those famous yards worked day and night during the war, alas no more.

I have just walked past the current *Queen Elizabeth* cruise liner at the Overseas Terminal in Sydney with two friends from Greenock and we remembered seeing the original going down the Clyde in battleship grey in 1940 on her way to being a troop ship, unlike her sister *Queen Mary* in 1936 in all the Cunard colours.

My husband Gordon is from Aberdeen and was a Gordon's College pupil and went inside Marischal College when it was part of the medical school. My five grandkids now have Scottish kilt beach towels and friends have the dialects bags from *the Scottish Banner*.

Lang mae yer lum reek.  
Anne Vaughan  
Wahronga, NSW  
Australia

## Sam Heughan



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for a fantastic April issue featuring *Outlander* and Sam Heughan. When I picked up my copy I nearly melted at the newsagent when I saw the cover-what a great issue and so great to have Sam take part in *the Scottish Banner*. All my friends were out hunting down copies to buy of this fantastic edition! I really enjoyed the other *Outlander* articles as I am a huge fan of both the show and the books. My teenage daughter also loves the show (and Sam!) and has laminated the cover and put it up on her bedroom wall. We loved the fact the Sam plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa this year in his kilt-photos please!

Keep up the great work of *the Scottish Banner*-always a pleasure to read, especially with Sam on the cover!  
Jill Scott  
Wellington, New Zealand

**Ed note: Thanks Jill for your letter and we have been amazed of the response to this issue and so glad you and your friends and family liked it so much.**

## The Clydebank Blitz



I read the March issue of *the Scottish Banner* on the Clydebank Blitz (*The 75th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz*). While it happened the year before I was born, and long before my daughter was born, I still have my memories of Clydebank. When my Great Grandma Mary Ann Weir married her husband Alexander Miller, they started to build their life together in Clydebank as Singers was opening a factory, and my Great Grandpa was an iron moulder. They had my Grandma Mary, born in Bonnybridge, and soon after - three sons -were all born in Clydebank. They lived at 72 Second Avenue in "The Holy City" as it was often called. When the boys grew up, they too worked as iron moulders in Singer's. John Allison Miller met his wife there, and they too set up their home at 3 Crown Ave. My Grandma met her first husband there, a cabinet maker. My Grandma's first husband died in an industrial accident at Singers. She then followed her brother Alexander to Canada where she later married my Grandpa. She had a young daughter, Mamie, and since there was no day care for weans in those days my Aunt Mamie was raised by her Grandparents and John's daughter Mary. I was later told by a second she was right spoiled. Her first job also was in the office at Singer's. When I took my daughter back to Scotland for the first time, we could still see the peaceful country side around Rashfield Farm in Kilmun, Argyll, where Mary Ann Weir grew up. Also, we can still see the house where she was in service in Glasgow (now offices). Mary walked around Clydebank with us and pointed out the few houses which predated the Blitz. I cannot see the homes that once stood at 27 Second or 3 Crown Avenues. Those memories of Clydebank that Mary once knew are now gone as the Germans on those nights in March 75 years ago aimed to destroy the shipyards. Unfortunately, they just about destroyed all of Clydebank in the process. Except Singer's clock. Like St Paul's Cathedral, it stood amid all the flames and destruction. Aunt Mamie who was aye proud to be known as a "Bankie" gave me two booklets she has from Tom McKendrick D.A. R.S.O, born in Clydebank. They contain photographs, and art work with a touching tribute to memories of those who lived through those nights of terror, destruction, and death. The Clydebank my daughter and I saw with Mary is still a nice place with good folk living their lives as we did. But it was not the town of March 12, 1941. That is gone except for people's memories, or managing to save in art and history. Bombing changed this town in so many ways. Not as big as London or Coventry, but certainly devastating on those dates, 75 years ago.

Donna G. Portree  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note: Thanks Donna for sharing your story about this dark time in Clydebank's history.**