

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, 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.

Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn

We received our copy of *the Scottish Banner* this week and were very pleased to see our article about Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn (*Scottish Banner*, February, 2017). Thank you very much for accepting our article and the great way you presented it. I am absolutely thrilled to see an article about the Clan Gunn in *the Scottish Banner*! I knew it had been accepted since earlier in the week, I received a message of congratulations from our CGSNA member and *Banner* subscriber Lawrence Main who lives in Burk's Falls in Northern Ontario.

I have scanned a copy of your presentation of the article and will be sending a copy to Chief Iain, members of his family and many of the leading Clan Gunn members in different countries of the world to whom we regularly send copies of our Branch newsletters - about three times per year. None of our Gunn contact people knew that we prepared an article about the Chief, so it will be interesting to get the reactions.

Thanks again and best wishes,

Yours aye!

Edward (Ted) Gunn

*Co-Commissioner, Eastern Canada Branch
Clan Gunn Society of North America (CGSNA)
Quebec, Canada*

A story of my Scottish forbearers

It was suggested readers share a story of our forebears (*The Banner Says... Looking into the past this Christmas, Scottish Banner*, December 2016) and how they began a new life abroad. My paternal grandfather, John Donald Michie, emigrated alone, from Badenyon, Glenbuchat, Aberdeenshire to Australia a month before his 23rd birthday. Of his 8 siblings a couple remained in Scotland, the remainder eventually moved to Ontario, Canada. Grandfather was the only one to choose Australia. For generations his kin had been tenant crofters and although he placed a very high value on education and self-betterment, he never the less, was only used to farm work. When my Grandfather left Scotland on his life changing trip in December, 1887 he never saw his kinsfolk or native Scotland again. He came to Australia on a ship called *Jumna* on a voyage which took nine weeks at sea before reaching Brisbane in Queensland. What a shock for a young man to leave

behind the snow of Scotland's north-east winter to be faced with the searing heat of sub-tropical Queensland in late summer.

Possibly in search of cooler climes my Grandfather relocated to Melbourne and worked on the Victorian railways. Grandfather Michie was also an accomplished artist, had an interest in astronomy and married a girl of Scots descent. He always wanted to return to Scotland but sadly did not but always spoke of his beloved homeland until his death in the 1980's.

I have always been passionately interested in all things Scottish, since a wee girl. Although I love Australia, the country of my birth, I am just as proud of my Scottish blood.

Thank you for producing my most favourite read, *the Scottish Banner*.

*Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia*

Ed Note: Thank you Margaret for sharing your family story and your Grandfather's amazing adventure.

A Scotsman's Prayer

I was doing a bit of spring cleaning earlier this year and among the old papers and books I was getting rid of, an old faded newspaper clipping entitled *A Scotsman's Prayer* fell out, unfortunately undated and source unknown. I did search extensively on the web but have been unable to find any reference to who the minister might be.

I hope your readers will enjoy it as well.

A Scotsman's Prayer

The following prayer is said to have been delivered some years ago by a Scots Minister at Caledon, Ontario:

"O' Lord, we approach Thee this mornin' in the attitude o' prayer, an' likewise o' complaint. When we cam tae the lan' o' Canaday we expected tae fin' a lan' flowin' wi' milk an' honey, but instead we found a lan' peopled by the ungodly Irish."

"O Lord, in Thy great mercy, mak' them hewers o' wid an' drawers o' water; gie them nae emoluments, gie them nae place o' abode, ne'er mak' them magistrates or rulers amang Thy people; but if ye hae ony favour tae bestow, or any guid lan' tae gie away, gie it tae. Thine ain."

"Thy peculiar people, the Scots, mak' them members o' parliament an' Magistrates an' rulers amang thy people. But as for the ungodly Irish, tak' them by the heels an' shake them o'er the mouth o' Hell, but dinna let them fa' in, an' a' the glory shall be thine. Amen."

Brian Beatson

*Port Hope, Ontario
Canada*

Robert the Bruce



Congratulations on *the Scottish Banner's* 40 years of publication. The anniversary issue with the article about Bannockburn (*Bannockburn's Big Dig, Scottish Banner*, July, 2016) has a special significance for me, as Robert the Bruce is my 17th great grandfather. This has all been verified by the famous Scottish genealogist, Hugh Peskett.

When the Prime Minister, Malcolm

Turnbull, was campaigning prior to the last election, he called at the Double Bay park whilst some young boys, including my 8 year old grandson, Jamie, were playing soccer. Jamie bowled up to the Prime Minister and said, "Mr. Turnbull, your ancestor turned away a charging bull to save my Nana's ancestor, that's why you're called Turnbull". The Prime Minister replied, "I know now who your Nana is". The Prime Minister had previously asked me for documentation showing my descent from Robert the Bruce. Dr. Wade King told me that when he asked if there were any descendants in Australia of Robert the Bruce, I was the only person who could produce the documentation, the others based their evidence on hearsay. The photo attached shows Jamie standing in front of the Prime Minister's right arm, a boy with a green top is standing next to Jamie. Jamie is the son of my son.

Rosemary Samios

*Double Bay, NSW
Australia*

Ed note: Thank you Rosemary for sending this and glad the Prime Minister knows the great lineage of his constituents.

Burns Night in Queensland



Great night with haggis, whisky, poems, music and singing was had at the Burns Supper at Southport Masonic Hall on Saturday 28th January.

*Peter McMurtrie
Goondiwindi, Queensland
Australia*

Australian AIF Pipe Band



I have a WWI pic - see below - of an Australian AIF Pipe Band given to me by a friend as my Pa is in it. The family have never seen this before and of course doesn't have any information as it is a photo copy.

Private William Donald McDonald, # 3403, 15th Battalion AIF [aka: Pa - Dinny McDonald] from Warrnambool, Victoria. I believe that a few of the band came from Warrnambool &/or Victoria. He is in the 2nd row, seated with head & pipes turned to the R. I thought it may have been taken at The Codford Camp in the UK, but it's since been realised that he was in Belgium/France in 1917, so it could be there too. Wherever it was it was cold.

I am transcribing Pa's WW1 dairy & very sadly he says on 30 Sept - Oct 7 1917 that: 'Word came through that Pipe Band was knocked out. Only 2 reporting for duty next morning. McKenzie was killed. Have not heard any further particulars yet'.

I'm wondering if this can be published

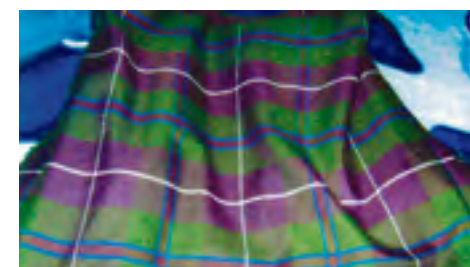
to see if any information can come to light throughout your readers?

Thanking you,
*Maryanne McDonald
Ettalong Beach, NSW
Australia*

Email: skyemezz@gmail.com

Ed note: Maryanne we hope this helps you find the missing link needed.

Name that tartan



I hope that you can help me. I was in Scotland in January this year. It was a sad visit this time as my Dad had passed away on the 10th of that month. While I was there I purchased a kilt in a Highland Hospice charity shop for one of my grandsons. I do not know what the tartan is and did not think to ask them at the shop. If someone could kindly please identify it for me I would be very grateful. I have been a *Banner* subscriber for many years and look forward to my wee bit of Scotland every month. I hope the paper can continue to publish for many more years to come.

Thank you in advance from a loyal reader.

*Morag Jones (nee Mackay)
5316 McRae Highway
Chauncey, Georgia
31011
USA*

Tel 229-868-7011

Ed note: If you can identify the tartan, please let Morag know as we are sure a reader can help.

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

Anstruther at dusk.



*Posted by Bob Legg
Anstruther, Fife
Scotland*

Late evening on an almost deserted Royal Mile, Edinburgh.



*Posted by Tom Barnes
Glenrothes, Scotland*