

# 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.

## The Isle of May

The November issue of your great paper brought back many happy memories as usual, this issue more than ever with the Isle of May. I served on the supply ship the motor vessel *May* when I was in the Northern Lighthouse Service in the early 1950's. I'm now in my eighties, while on the island, I watched seals and also the puffins while we had a break. I used to wonder down to the shore and round the island, I even saw a huge basking shark pass by. Thank you *Scottish Banner* for all your great articles, from an old Scots laddie.  
*Name withheld*  
*Ringwood, Victoria*  
*Australia*

## Edinburgh's Georgian Shadows



With regard to your article *Edinburgh's Georgian Shadows* in the March edition, it brought back so many memories. As a teenager in the fifties I danced in the Assembly Rooms with my soon-to-be fiancé. In those days we dressed beautifully in flowing ball gowns, and I remember one of mine was ice blue shot taffeta. The silk shop in Frederick Street was a source of the beautiful material of which our dresses were made. We wore high heels and elbow length gloves, and our escort often presented us with a corsage which we pinned to the shoulder of our dress.

We danced the traditional ballroom dances, but then when the Scottish country dances were announced we whirled around to the strains of the Gay Gordons, Petronella, the Eightsome Reel and many others.

I well remember the chandeliers glistening and the reflections on the walls

of mirrors as we danced. Supper was in an ante room and I remember eating chicken and meringue chantilly with great gusto.

Ah! Those were the days my friend! I have subscribed to your paper almost since the time it was printed.

*Mrs. June Laws*  
*Little Mountain, Queensland*  
*Australia*

## International Bagpipe Day



Regarding the International Bagpipe Day on March 10<sup>th</sup> (*the Scottish Banner*, March, 2017). I started playing my Great Highland bagpipes in the early 1990's. My interest in playing this instrument was due to my Scottish heritage. I'm with a Scottish bagpipe band but my chief satisfaction from playing comes from funerals and other functions honoring Scottish Americans.

*Polly Bruce Tilford*  
*Bloomington, Indiana*  
*USA*

## Island Rose

Our mother, Violet Matilda Rose, lived for 90 years and alongside our father Hector Rose, he lies in an Australian war grave. Initially they lived at Kempton, then Mangalore and later Brighton-all townships in southern Tasmania. Our father built a house on the 5 acre paddocks in the 1950's. It still stands today. However Brighton later became a much larger town, rather than a smaller rural area which had only a few shops and some very productive farmland surrounding. The Jordan River meanders through Pontville from its source of Lake Tiberious in the northern midlands of "Tassie", used by locals and visitors from the mainland of Australia. We have many cruise ships visiting our island state particularly during spring and summer time and similar to New Zealand, tourism plays an important boost to the island economy.

I buy my *Scottish Banner* from our local newsagent here in Risdonvale, a suburb of Hobart.

Best wishes to all at *the Scottish Banner*.  
*Colin Hector Rose*  
*Risdonvale, Tasmania*  
*Australia*

## Help with recipe for Scottish tablet

Would any readers out there have a recipe for good old Scottish tablet just like mother made? It would be good to even see it in *the Banner*. Hope this meets with success, thank you.

*Andy Duff*  
*Australia*  
*Email: andyawduff@bigpond.com*

## The Battle of Roslin

David C Weinczok's article (*A History Mystery: The Battle of Roslin, the Scottish Banner*, February 2017) on the Battle of Roslin 1302, is surely correct in its scepticism about accounts stating 38,000 troops fought there. The English contingent - 30 000 - would have been larger than any army in the entire Wars of Independence.

At Bannockburn, Edward II led perhaps 20,000 troops accompanied by three earls. The *Scotichronicon* (written over a century later) the main source of the exaggerated account of Roslin, states that the 30,000 English were led by a baron. No king or earl in sight!

The battle's date of 24 February, is also problematic. A huge feudal army would not have opted to campaign when winter could play havoc with transport and supply. By contrast, Stirling Bridge was fought in September, Falkirk in July, Bannockburn in June; all within the medieval campaigning season.

Finally, the English chroniclers silence on such an alleged catastrophic defeat is noteworthy, particularly compared to their mention of the English defeats at Stirling and Bannockburn.

Roslin should be remembered, like other victories including Glentool and Loudon Hill. The smaller scale of these does not detract from their contribution to Scottish independence, nor from the sacrifice of those involved.

*Keith Mearns*  
*Hobart, Tasmania*  
*Australia*

## Cromarty



In the February 2017 edition of *the Scottish Banner*, I read with interest the article regarding Cromarty (*Cromarty's local heroes celebrated in 2017, the Scottish Banner*, February, 2017). My wife Lydia and I are familiar with the port town of Cromarty having visited it in July 2015 after attending the Clan Gunn International Gathering of that year. While spending a couple of days in Inverness, we took a local bus to the region known as The Black Isle and visited a special part of Cromarty. Since I had a distant connection to Cromarty,

we had specific targets-Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum, another house where he lived with his wife Lydia, as well as the Courthouse Museum.

My connection was on my mother Jean Taylor's side of the family and all of this was well researched by Louise. My maternal g-g-grandfather, James Taylor, was the sheriff clerk in Cromarty until his death in 1841. Lydia's mother was a friend of the Taylor family and possibly related to my maternal g-g-grandmother Flora Ross, wife of James. Attached is a photo taken in the Courthouse by Louise that reflects how it might have appeared in the early 1800s.

It really is intriguing how small the world becomes when we travel.

Also in the March Edition of *the Banner*, I was surprised and pleased to see in the *Scotpourri* section, an article and photo about the Pipe Band of our Quebec Garrison of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders.

Regards,  
*Ted Gunn*  
*Co-Commissioner Eastern Canada Branch,*  
*Clan Gunn Society North America*  
*& Captain Lieutenant Quebec Garrison*  
*78th Fraser Highlanders*  
*Quebec QC*  
*Canada*

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### Old Westbury Highland Games



Taken in 2015 at Old Westbury Highland Games in Long Island NY. Best picture of mine all day.  
*Posted via Scottish Banner Facebook by Eoghan Flynn, USA.*

### Highland Coo



Highland Coo in full bloom.  
*Posted via Scottish Banner Facebook by J Scott Patterson, USA.*