

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.

The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band in Europe



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa, Canada decided to make a trip to France this April to help mark the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, as well as many other sites. They visited Dieppe, Juno Beach and various cemeteries in between – laid over 12 000 poppies at each and every headstone at every cemetery they visited – and participated in the very moving 'Last Post' service at Menin Gate, in Ypres Belgium, which has taken place every night at 8 pm since 1928. They played over Pegasus Bridge and piped in bunkers on the beach – and along with guest World Champion Drum Major Brian Wilson from Ireland and dancers of the Sherry Sharpe School of Dance and their friends and family, had a magnificent time in France. It was an honour to be there, and it was a journey they will never forget.

Bethany Bisailion
P/M Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Congratulations to the band for marking this special trip and representing Canada at this important anniversary.

Coming to America

Our family arrived in New York on May 14th, 1949. We lived in Alexandria near Balloch Castle and Loch Lomond which we walked to many times. My father died in 1946 of T.B so my mother, older sister and brother boarded the train from Glasgow to Liverpool on May 5th which is my birthday. My mother never saw her mother again. We set sail the next day on the *Britannic* which was her maiden voyage as a passenger ship from a troop transport in World War 2. We met our sponsors with hundreds of people on the

dock. They were holding photos of us-it was very exciting for an eleven year old coming to America. We lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and are still living in the area. I am presently living in New Jersey with my wife and two grown married sons.

I have learned so much about Scottish history from *the Scottish Banner*, keep up the good work, we love it. Congratulations on 40 great years.

W. Alex Dunlop
Mt Laurel, New Jersey
USA

Ed note: Thanks very much for sharing your story with us Mr Dunlop.

Clan Donnachaidh

Thank you Ron for your expanded article concerning Clan Donnachaidh in the April issue *What's in a Name*, and the provision for people to make further inquiries. However, I would like to point out that we advise visitors at Scottish gatherings that we are "the children of Duncan" not "children of the Duncans" as you wrote in the article. Duncan was the last of the Celtic Earls of Atholl and is considered the first Chief of Clan Donnachaidh, and it was from this Duncan that the Clan took its name.

I hasten to make this correction as I may be besieged by Clan Donnachaidh members correcting my recorded misstatement.

You will also find in the first paragraph of James Irvine Robertson's article where he says that "The Gaelic for Duncan is Donnachadh, in the genitive case Donnachaidh, so the name of the Clan literally translates to 'Children of Duncan'."

I do enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* and always look for *What's in a Name* among the first items I read.

Gordon Robertson
Bonnells Bay, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Gordon for the note and clarification and we are delighted to hear that you along with many enjoy Ron's column each month.

Carstairs Mental Hospital

I am writing to ask if Carstairs Mental Hospital in Carstairs village, South Lanarkshire is still open for the criminally insane or has it closed its doors?

Also what happened to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh?

Thank you,
Rose Aitkenhead
8-93 Ruahime St
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Tartan Day



Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington, Indiana celebrated Tartan Day on April 8th at College Mall Kroger. The Society was there to help educate the public concerning Scotland. Scottish Country

Dancers of Greater Bloomington performed and encourage all to participate in Ceilidh dancing. There were some pipers from Southern Indiana Pipes and Drums playing outside.

Polly Bruce Tilford
Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington
Bloomington, Indiana
USA

I look forward to receiving my copy each month

Thank you for the reminder regarding my subscription. I certainly don't want to miss out-I look forward to receiving my copy each month and then pass onto my daughter. A few years ago we both visited Scotland and it is wonderful to recognise places that we had been to and read more of Scottish history.

Thank you again,
Ron Douglas
Ballarat, Victoria
Australia

Waverly celebrates 70 years in preservation



My first trip on the *Waverley Paddle Steamer* was in Scotland in 1965. My uncle, Joseph Cassidy, who lived in Glasgow treated me to a sail on the *Waverley* from Broomielaw (where my father sailed to Canada in 1910) down the Clyde Rover and through the Kyles of Bute to Tinabruuech and return on a lovely day. Uncle Joe had been an electrician working on submarines in Gourock in the First World War and he loved ships of all kinds that he saw on the Clyde.

When we travelled down the Clyde they were still building ships then that we could see from the *Waverley*. I remember the US Navy had a dry dock in the water and it was busy, it was a day and a sail to remember.

The second sail I remember on the *Waverley* I was sailing with my wife and children on the same sail to the Kyles of Bute in 1985. We had boarded in Largs and my son told me he saw a man wearing a St Francis Xavier University sweater which is in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. I graduated from Xavier in 1958 and I went to see who it was. It was my professor of British philosophy Ed Carty who was from Glasgow and visiting family. What a surprise for both of us.

The third I remember was just a few years ago. We were visiting Scotland with our married daughter and her children. We just boarded in Largs and were crossing to Dunoon and had just sat down when my grandson Theodore who was four picked up a broom and started to sweep the floor. We had a laugh he would put a sailor out of a job.

I have sailed other times too but I remember these three the best. On our first sail there were three musicians, they were blind and played Scottish music and moved

about the ship after collecting money readily given. Perhaps others remember this too? We are looking forward to this summer.

John D Rooney
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: John thanks for taking us down the Clyde with you and your great memories of the mighty Waverley.

Tenterfield St Andrew's Day

Each year, for the last 6 years the Tenterfield Presbyterian Church, in the beautiful New England area of New South Wales, Australia has held a St Andrew's Day service on the nearest Sunday to November 30th. We have pipes and drums playing in the grounds before the service. When the congregation are seated the minister leads the band into the 130 year old church while they play *Amazing Grace*, then march out and the service begins. After the service the congregation is invited to a traditional Scottish luncheon with haggis piped in and an "Address to the Haggis". This year we also had Scotch eggs and Aberdeen sausage and the hall was decorated with Scottish memorabilia and some people wore their Clan tartans.

This is an invitation to *the Scottish Banner* readers to join us for our St Andrew's Day service this year on December 3rd at 10am at Tenterfield Presbyterian Church, 117 Logan St.

C Bruce
Jennings, NSW
Australia

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

The Museum of Honor Guards



The Museum of Honor Guards is dedicated to preserving and displaying the artefacts and history of Honor guards and Bagpipes & Drums.
The Museum of Honor Guards
Florida, USA

Eilean Donan Castle in spring



This week's crystal blue skies have brought out our bluebells! #Scotland
Eilean Donan Castle
Scotland