

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 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.

Valerie Cairney

Dear Mrs Cairney,
Congratulations on your retirement, but I hope that you will still have input in *the Banner*. How fortunate, as readers, that your son Sean is our new editor. The history page and the Scottish events are so concise, yet informative. The last two editions have included Wolfville, Nova Scotia, just 15 km from us - with Scotch on the Rocks dance week.

Our Scot Country Dance Group is the Annapolis Valley Scottish Dancer, of which I have belonged for 30 years. We'll have lot of pictures for our archives.

Back to *the Banner*, the first article I read is Lady Fiona's Scotland. Lady MacGregor and Sir Malcolm were so gracious at our clan reunion 3 years ago. No doubt they will be again in 2018. I love her quips regarding our Chief. An example of this is when she blamed his vanity for allowing him to ruin his best pair of suede shoes!

Do accept the enclosed cheque for the renewal of my subscription.

Mrs June MacGregor Jain
Coldbrooke, Nova Scotia
Canada

Job well done

Please convey to Valerie my congratulations on a job well done over there on these past 40 years. I hope she is enjoying her retirement.

Evelyn Murray
USA

Amazing legacy

Hi Sean,
After having just returned from Bonnie Scotland, and even some warm weather, I read in the August edition of *the Scottish Banner* that you are carrying on the truly amazing legacy that your mother created so well. What wonderful work Valerie did, in setting up the very successful "wee paper", linking Scots all over the world. Each edition has new and interesting articles about Scotland and its connections worldwide. You have proved your capabilities in editing the Australasian edition, so I am sure the paper will go from strength to strength under your leadership!

Congratulations and a big thank you on behalf of your thousands of readers.

Warm regards,
Sue MacLeod
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Sue for your lovely note and Valerie has certainly left some very big shoes to fill. We hope all our readers will continue to enjoy the legacy of her work.

Keeps me connected

Please find enclosed my cheque for a two year subscription. Many thanks for providing so much pleasure with your wonderful publication. It keeps me connected to my treasured Scottish roots.

Margaret Michie Benny
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Clan Skene



On August 17th 2017 at the National Museum of Scotland, Clan Skene installed its new Chief, Dugald Skene of Skene. Dugald was presented with his late father's bonnet, with its three feathers, by his mother Anne. Al McGilliard, President of the Clan Skene Association presented him with a replica of the dirk pictured in William Forbes Skene's book *Memorials of the Family Skene of Skene* (1887). After the investiture the Clan, some 50 strong, gathered at the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle to march into the Edinburgh Tattoo.
Ralph Comp, Secretary
Clan Skene Association Inc.

Ed note: Thank you for sending Ralph and what a important time for Clan Skene.

Spooky Scottish experiences

In response to your October edition editorial (*A spooky kiss*) I've already had this published in *the Scottish Banner* so will repeat it. In 2013 my daughter & I stayed in room 8 at Tulloch Castle. We felt an extreme heat on the first night which was supposed to be a sign of the ghost. The next night Karen set up her infrared camera on video, about 1am she woke to see the chandelier moving and it was recorded, I asked why she didn't wake me but she thought that I may be scared...so I missed the chance of a lifetime! We stayed in the same room in 2015 and this time it was my turn when I felt someone/thing pressing my shoulders, I just told it to go away and went back to sleep but it came back so it got the same treatment. When I woke in the morning my shoulders were tender where I'd felt the pressure. Late on the next day I was walking along the path at the rear of the castle as Karen wanted a photo of me walking into the sun. Suddenly there was a rustle, which stopped when I did then started again when I did. This happened several times so I turned and went back. Ghosts I can deal with but this could have been a mugger. If

anyone wants a spooky experience try room 8 at Tulloch Castle. The receptionist probably thought that we were a couple of crazy colonials when we were excited at being given that room, it was the only available one so we requested it on our second visit. There was a good ghost tour on our second visit.

The article on Graham McTavish was very interesting, I'm patiently waiting for the new *Outlander* book, I don't have pay TV so will buy the DVD's when they're available. Thanks for my monthly Scottish "fix", I wish that I'd discovered Scotland when I was younger as I'd have moved there. It's just a beautiful country with lovely people.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Ed note: Thanks Jocelyn for sharing your ghostly tale!

Scotland- Australian Cairn at Mosman



I received an Order of Australia medal in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours. I consider the Scotland-Australian Cairn at Mosman my premier achievement. I had to find a site, find \$40,000 to pay for it, organise the collection of a stone from each of the 1,750 parishes in Scotland (to represent the whole of Scotland), persuade a Cairn builder in Scotland to fly to Sydney (he had never been on a plane and was Gaelic speaker so all instructions had to be translated to Gaelic).

The final stone was carved from rock in Iona and pictured are myself and Duncan Matheson of Kyle, Scotland
Mrs Rosemary Samios OAM
Double Bay, NSW
Australia

Ed note: A much deserved recognition Rosemary and thank you for your incredible contribution to the Australian Scottish community.

What's In A Name

You never know where you'll find information about your ancestors, and mine is the strangest that I know of. It all started back in 1982 when I picked up a magazine titled *Military Modeler* as it had an article about the Highland Regiments at the Battle of Waterloo. The article mentioned a Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern who was a colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, and was killed three days before the actual battle. It wasn't until 1984 when I attended a Cameron family reunion that I found out he was an ancestor of mine, and have been searching for his military off and on since

then. It wasn't until about a month, or two that I was finally able to contact the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen. I had them send me his military records, it had cost me 40 pounds, but it was worth it.

When I visited the museum back in August to thank them for the information, just as I was leaving one of their genealogists stopped me and when I told him how this all started with a model magazine his mouth just dropped, I could see he couldn't imagine finding ancestral information in such place. I guess it proves information about your ancestor is out there, but sometimes you have to dig long, and hard to find it.

Jon Evans
USA

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

Eilean Donan Castle



We've already welcomed more November visitors than in any other previous year! Clearly winter visitors to #Scotland are on the up & up!
Eilean Donan Castle
Scotland

Glencoe ski centre



Decided to try out the chairlift at Glencoe ski centre for the first time on Sunday was lovely walking about in the snow with not too much effort involved.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Seafield Kirkcaldy



Seafield Kirkcaldy.
Kenny Bruce Photography
Scotland