

# 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?

## Where is Scotland?



Regarding your March issue asking the question do you know a special place outside Scotland with a distinct Scottish name or link. I am originally from Maryhill in Glasgow, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1973. I am now retired and my wife and I live in Simcoe near the small hamlet of Scotland Ontario. We are also lucky to live near the small towns of Selkirk and Caledonia which were both settled by Scots. I have long been a subscriber of the Banner and when I called to renewed this year I was fortunate to speak with Valerie. We

spoke about the early days of *the Banner* when it was on Queen St in Toronto. I told her that in those days I advertised my business in *the Banner*.

I would like to wish all of your readers well and all the best to you Sean in the future.

Yer doing a good job.  
Stuart Rusk  
Simcoe, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note:** Thank you Stuart for sharing your bit of 'Scotland' with us.

### At the Blair Athol Distillery

Please see my poem on Scotch, specifically on one distillery (Athol Blair), which I visited in July.

### At the Blair Athol Distillery

Here in this rocky land, the barley grows taller than the fences between the fields. From the Grampians comes the pure water. The Burn of the Otter flows from these high hills down steep heathered slopes to Pitlochry, where it mixes with barley malt, warmth, and time. Ian hands you a glass with half an inch, instructs you how to sniff, taste and inhale, warm the glass with your hands, and repeat. He moves around the old tasting table with a pipette of pure water, dribbling maybe three drops into each glass, watching your face as you take the next sip and taste the flowers on the tongue as the whisky blooms. You thank the kind spirits of the grain, of water, oak, and time. What chemistry this is, you don't know, nor if the bottle you buy here will taste the same back home, but your own well is deep and clean. The spirits guided your dowsing rod, and it hovered over the spot they chose. No Scottish burn there, but you'd like to believe your few drops of Scottish blood gave you the Power, the Sight, the Gift—led you to your own burn beneath that red clay, with water so fine, so blessed in essence by the ghosts of the earth, that three drops can make a miracle.

David Black

Louisa, VA

USA

Facebook page [www.facebook.com/davidblackwriter](http://www.facebook.com/davidblackwriter)

**Ed note:** Thank you David for sharing this with us for Whisky Month.

### The strings of Scotia

Dear wonderful *Scottish Banner*,

Many thanks for sending me the DVD of the *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*, and while I in the thanking mood may I say a big thank you for the Jimmy Barnes children's books which my daughter now reads to my great grandson, as we prepare to go back to Glasgow next year to say our final farewells to friends and family and the land of our birth, it is with sad hearts we do so, for some reason the older we become the strings of Scotia seem to pull harder, but thanks for *the Banner*, that will keep us up to date with news and scenes of the most beautiful country in the world. Nice to see Sean taking up successfully where mum left off.

Yours Aye,  
Bill McIntosh  
Serpentine, Western Australia

### Where do you think you are?

My significant other, Alexandra (Alex), and I always look forward to receiving the monthly issue of *the Scottish Banner*. Within minutes of its arrival we often thumb through it and begin reading what strikes our eyes. Your article on page 25 (*Scottish Banner*, March, 2018) was particularly relevant as we will be visiting Dunedin, New Zealand to spend time with my daughter, kiwi son-in-law and grandson at the end of this month. Initially it appeared that you had the wrong pipe band included in the photo as there is also a City of Dunedin Pipe Band in New Zealand as well. It would have been nice to capture an image of them as

well since the Dunedin Highland Games ad was earlier in the addition.

Just some wee thoughts.

Warm regards,  
Derek G. Davidson  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

### Tracing your Scottish ancestry

A lot of people hopefully send off their DNA sample to various companies to trace their ancestors. From personal experience you MUST get both female and male strands tested. Female Mitochondria gives the most complete picture and male may fill in the gaps. If your test results include, for example Great Britain as a percentage, that is more or less useless as Great Britain is NOT a clear destination as there are many races in Great Britain, and you want a definitive explanation of your ancestors.

For example one in ten Scottish males are of Pictish descent however that may not show up unless you get your DNA tested properly.

Robert Bradshaw

### A Cameron remembered



My name is David Bayne. I was born in Edinburgh and grew up in the Colinton Mains area. I served an apprenticeship as a chef at what was the North British Hotel. I emigrated to the USA in November of 1963. In June of 1965 I was conscripted into the US Army and served with the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Det of the XVIII Airborne Corps on Fort Bragg NC. Not surprisingly I was called "Scotty". In March's edition *The Banner* said "Where is Scotland"? One of thousands of places in this world where you will find a "wee" bit of Scotland is Fort Bragg N.C. USA.

On November the 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:00 (Veterans day in the USA). A ceremony was held to remember 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gerard G. Cameron. Lt. Cameron was killed in action on March the 24<sup>th</sup> 1945 in operation Varsity the last Airborne operation in the European theater of WWII.

Lt. Cameron was a member of the 218<sup>th</sup> CIC. (Counter Intelligence Company) . Chief Warrant Officer John Gerlosky of the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Det. XVII Airborne Corps did the research to ensure Lt. Cameron's name would be inscribed on our successor unit the 525 MI Brigade's War Memorial. Sadly CWO Gerlosky died in July of last year before he could complete his last mission. I was aware of CWO Gerlosky's effort and contacted former members of the 218<sup>th</sup> MI Det. to raise the necessary funds to have Lt. Cameron's inscription added to the 525<sup>th</sup> Memorial.

It was CWO Gerlosky with the support of Major Heather Hall (525<sup>th</sup> MI. Brigade) and the former members of my unit the 218<sup>th</sup> MI Det. XVIII Airborne Corps that accomplished WO3 Gerlosky's mission to "Remember a Cameron" Lt. Cameron's name is inscribed on one end of the memorial. The attach photograph is of the Memorial. The wreath had two ribbons on it. One with Lt. Cameron's name and the other with CWO Gerlosky's.

Those in the photo L-R are Col. Tony Lackey (Ret) former CO of the 218<sup>th</sup> MI Det. Mrs. Dana Grelosky. David Bayne (Scotty) and Major Heather Hall.

Yes there is a "wee" bit of Scotland on Fort Bragg.

For many years I always look forward to receiving my monthly "Wee bit of Scotland".

David Bayne  
Conway, South Carolina  
USA

**Ed note:** Thank you David for your letter and service, it is wonderful to see Lt Cameron honoured.

### St Andrew's First Aid at Scots Day Out



Please see one of our first aiders on duty at The Scots Day Out in Bendigo, Victoria. He is our Corps Sergeant Major Peter Barker, a 40+ year first aider with SAFAA.

David  
St. Andrew's First Aid  
Australian Headquarters

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

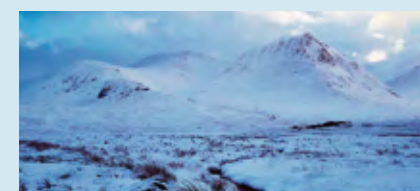
Send your photos or letters via social media

### Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band



On Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band from Scotland's Outer Hebrides travelled to Ellis Island as part of their trip to New York at Statue Of Liberty And Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Such great memories and performances.  
Clan Currie  
USA

### All seasons of Scotland



Doune Castle (Castle Leoch) for *Outlander* fans, bit further up the road to Glen Etive, both on Tuesday, that's Scotland for you.  
Carolynn Wilson  
Scotland