

# 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?

## Ode to Glencoe



We are blessed with a soft day to stand here admiring this rugged glen and the Three Sisters—a slow mist on my glasses, drops slowly gathering and drifting down my blue poncho as my thoughts go back several hundred years to a deep winter, food shared beside the fire,

and good whisky drunk toast and toast alike until the sudden betrayal and brutal deaths—slowly forgotten if at all in this land

where blood should not have to fear a brother's hand, where hearts and veins should throb and die in due course and time.

Here we can silently weep with the Sisters, feel the deep, quiet peace of the dead, and wish for them to rest undisturbed.

I do all that, and raise my hand in a slow salute to these sodden crags where now, after days of slow-falling rain,

cold waters gathers atop these ancient heights, find a channel nearby, and sluice downhill, scuttering their noisy way with unbecoming speed.

*David Black  
Louisa, Virginia  
USA*

## Kirking of the Tartan

The Scottish Heritage Centre organised a Kirking of The Tartan church service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July Sunday afternoon at the Scots' Church, Fremantle. The Clan banners were piped into the church by Viv Riley, and the acoustics in the church gave the pipes a beautiful tone which is very seldom heard.

Rev. Stuart McNair Bonnington conducted the service which was very special and traditional. It included bible readings in the Gaelic by Morag Lowe, and a reading by Geoffrey Robertson of an extract from the *Declaration of Arbroath*. Rev. Bonnington spoke on Celtic Christianity in these modern times, which was very thought-provoking.

Favourite hymns were sung, and after the service, everyone gathered in the church hall for afternoon tea and catching up with friends. It is planned to hold the next Kirking of The Tartan on the first Sunday in July 2019, again at Scots Church Fremantle.

Scottish Heritage Centre is seeking more members to enable it to organise more and different Scottish events. Contact Shirley Oliver on 9457 1945 or e-mail at [olivetree@westnet.com.au](mailto:olivetree@westnet.com.au), or Helen Cole on 0421 202 727 or e-mail on [hjcole@inet.net.au](mailto:hjcole@inet.net.au).

## Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

My name is George Sinclair and I am currently Secretary of the Clan Sinclair Association of Canada (CSAC). In my capacity as Secretary, I am responsible for conveying information to our members in Canada about any issue Scottish. We are Members of the Clans And Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) and disseminate information they provide on a quarterly basis and as well.

Recently, I became aware of your publication which I have perused in part. I found it quite enjoyable and informative. Particularly the story concerning Culloden... what a shame! I am writing to Malcolm Caithness, the 20<sup>th</sup> Sinclair Earl of Caithness and Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair who sits in the House of Lords, to apprise him of our concern about Culloden. Don't know if he is interested or what concern he may have!

However, I am interested in subscribing to your *Scottish Banner* in a digital format and will advise our members on a more or less, ad hoc basis. In this way, more Scots will find out about the Banner and the issues affecting their homeland. Who knows, some may even want to obtain their own subscription.

You can check us out for Canada at [www.clansinclair.ca](http://www.clansinclair.ca) and the USA at [clansinclairusa.org](http://clansinclairusa.org).

Cheers aye,  
*George D. Sinclair  
Honey Harbour, Ontario  
Canada*

**Ed note:** Thanks George for contacting us and we hope many Clan Sinclair members can also enjoy getting a copy of the *Scottish Banner*.

## Weans Bridge

I was interested in your interview with Ryan Wells in the May edition of the *Scottish Banner*. He spoke of the Weans Bridge in Edinburgh. My grandparents lived and brought up their family (my Dad included) in Edinburgh. Their surname and my maiden name is Weans. I've never heard of Weans Bridge, can anyone give me more details of it please? Where it is in Edinburgh and who put the money in. I came to South Australia from a village in Stirlingshire in 1966. My parents, sister and brother did too and we all settled in Adelaide.

I am very eager for a reply.  
*Isabella Brown (Weans)  
2/45 Kolapore Ave.  
Largs North, South Australia  
5015 Australia*

## Family history McDonalds in Pitlochry and Highlands of Scotland

I am trying to trace Hugh McDonald who was born in the Pitlochry area, about 1800 and the father of Annie McDonald (born in 1827 and married to Henry Anderson in Dunfermline, in 1849). Any information about Hugh McDonald and his ancestors would be appreciated. The Andersons were based in Dunfermline going back to around 1634.

I am descended through this line through my father's mother, who was

Annie McDonald Anderson married to my Grandfather Arthur Jamieson Rogers.

The Rogers ancestors arrived in Australia, from Newburgh, Scotland, in 1836 ( being Robert and his son David who followed in 1847.)

Our Anderson ancestor Hugh McDonald Anderson arrived in Australia in around 1874 and settled in a place called Elmore in central Victoria, Australia.

Kind Regards  
*Jonathan Rogers  
E-mail: jr4350@gmail.com*

## Who "were" the Scots ?

Here's a wee question for oor very own Ron Dempsey, we know the modern Scottish race is product of many differing racial blood lines, born out of varying historic settlements in Scotland. I personally am Scots/Irish on my father's side and Anglo/Welsh on my mother's side, though I see myself as 100% Scottish. Being keen on my Scottish genealogy I can almost tell straight away the origins of a name. The Banner as lately and most interestingly has highlighted our Scottish genetic origins, as you mentioned 10 % of Scottish men are originally descended from the Pictish race, but as we know it would be pretty difficult to define a Pictish surname for certain, but we know for example the families like the Bruce's, Stewart's and Jardine's were Scots of French/ Norman descent, surnames like Lawson and Clarke are Scottish of possible Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon descent, the McLeod's and Gunn's are Scots who can claim Nordic/Viking descent, the Campbell's, Wallace's and Galbraith's are Scots of Brythonic Briton descent, so many differing races there, but who were the race that were the "Scotti" that gave us our name "the Scots"? We know as much that these Scottish came through ancient Hibernia/Scotia Major bringing the Stone of Destiny to Dalriadan Argyle, but where from before that? The Declaration of Arbroath tantalises us with its historical Scottish annals, almost hinting the "Scots" are the lost tribe of Dan and states the "Scots" defeated the above races, the Picts, the Norman/ Anglo -Saxons, the Vikings, and the Britons, whose descendants within Scotland's borders are very recognisable proud Scots. So we know after millennia of inter marriage who the Scots "are", but the big question is who "were" the original Scots/Scots race, "Scots of Scottish origins" (if they ever really existed) and if so does modern DNA testing point the genetic finger to any particular part of the globe outside of the UK where the Scots race may have possibly originated?

*Andrew Heaney  
Brisbane, Queensland  
Australia*

## Kings, Castle and "Durty" Wee Rascals

Hello Jim, lovely article (*Dandelion & Burdock, Scottish Banner*, August, 2018) Just a correction on bus colours. Middlesbrough buses were blue and Stockton buses were green. When the Teeside Council was formed, in the 60's, buses from Stockton and

Middlesbrough were all repainted a turquoise colour. United Bus Service which routes around Teesside were red with gold lettering. These went, for us, to Redcar, Saltburn and down to Whitby though we usually took train.

The maroon and white buses were from West Hartlepool. All these buses would have been seen in Stockton's High Street.

As a Middlesbrough lad, I spent a lot of time at Redcar which in the 60's was well patronised and occasionally going further south to the posher Saltburn.

I remember the fishing boats pulling up on the beach to sell fresh cod and the amusement park.

Only went to Seaton Carew a few times, going across the Transporter bridge then catching United Bus.

Kind regards,  
*John Richards*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media

### The Vital Spark



Some colour on a moody day at Inveraray always stop off to photograph The Vital Spark.  
*GN Photography  
Clydebank, Scotland*

### Tantallon Castle



It's everything you could want from a Scottish castle! Tantallon Castle at North Berwick.  
*Lisa Stewart*

### Edradour Distillery



Taken at Edradour Distillery in Pitlochry, Perthshire.  
*Henning McNing  
Germany*