

# 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?

## 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders



Some of your readers might be interested in these pictures of the New York 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders field uniform, dress uniform, trows, battle flag of the regiment, replica of flag, civil war era American flag, they can be found on Facebook, Two soldiers of the regiment, another soldier, the New York 79<sup>th</sup> Highlanders wore both during the early part of the civil war, Colonel James Cameron killed early in the war, my great- great uncle General Sherman commanding general of the regiment, I'm wearing a replica of the uniform, another Cameron American Civil War regiment and for your Canadian readers 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders of Canada.



Jon Evans  
USA

When I was a wee girl, many years ago, the family often went “doon the watter” at the Glasgow fair—which we always enjoyed, and I remember peaking at the adults downstairs (in the bar) singing away. Visiting my niece Alison in 2015 from Helensburgh she took us on the trip. It was great. I remember docking at Millport and the welcome we got there from a few pipers and a drummer standing-drenched- in the pouring rain. Stoic!! Later on, we retreated to the lounge and enjoyed the music of ‘Bob the Box’ —a great accordion player. The other passengers thinned out somewhat, even Peter my husband was on the other side off the room like he was disowning us. I don't know why, unless it was because Alison and I were singing our wee hearts out loudly—ah well can't please them all.

I had never been on *Maid of the Loch* until 1982 when my friend Maura (Irish) and I went over to Scotland to visit my rellies. We sailed up the loch from Balloch and stopped further up and disembarked. We had a lovely meal there in a grand

house -with a few wee wines. On the way back to Balloch it was raining so we adjourned downstairs and were having a good old ‘chinwag’ when a loud voice yelled down the stairs “Are yous getting aff or whit?” Apparently, we had been docked in Balloch for some time. Oops!! Great day.

In 2003 on our trip round New Zealand's South Island, Peter and I spent a few days in Queenstown –lovely. Of course, we went on the *SS Earnshaw* across Lake Wakatipu and that was a great experience too—so good.

It is such a terrible pity that the *Waverley* and the *Maid* are in such dire straits and like Vince, I sincerely hope they can be restored—such treasures.

Anne Koomen

**Ed note: Thank you Anne for your note and memories. An appeal to Save the Waverley has been running to raise the £2.3 million required to return Waverley to service in 2020. This appeal has now raised £2.2 million, anyone who wants to help get over the finish line please see: [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/supporting\\_waverley/donate](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/supporting_waverley/donate)**

### Scottishness today

I refer to Malcolm Leslie's comments relating to problems maintaining Scottish heritage and culture (*Scot Pourri*, November 2019) together with the Editor's invitation to hear how people are responding to keeping Scottish interests alive.

For the past 3 years a research program has been looking at the evolution and nature of ‘Scottishness’ in South Australia. Amongst the many findings is that acknowledgement of Scottish ancestry remains significant, but most people do not connect to Scottish organisations. This in a State that probably still has the highest pro rata percentage of Scots descendants in the country. Many reasons were identified with a major component resting with these bodies themselves.

South Australia has well over 100 Scottish organisations but most of these are small and struggling. The State no longer holds a Highland Games and within the Adelaide region (population 1.3m) there is only one functioning Caledonian Society. Considerable undermining of activities (mainly unintentional) was also evident and this includes Clan groups competing with the more traditional bodies.

The whole situation appears quite complex but ways around the problems are clear. Organisations need to strive to understand them and competently work on their resolution, including with strong visions as to a desired future. In view of the recent past and where things are going in our communities, this is not going to be easy, but things need to get on better ground sooner rather than later.

Ron Layton  
Crafers  
South Australia

### Last name Dow

Is the last name Dow a from Scottish or Irish descent, or both?

Thank you,  
Doug Dow  
USA  
E-mail: [dougdown@comcast.net](mailto:dougdown@comcast.net)

### Dunce

My son, who now lives in Brisbane has just responded to my last email in which I told him that I had been putting pen to paper and writing about what school was like for me in the late 40's and early 50's. I was doing this in the hope that my Grandchildren in years to come might be interested in what school was like in their old Gramp's days.

He told me about your publication and when I looked it up noticed that you had described where the word ‘dunce’ originated from (*Scottish Banner, The Banner Says*, November 2019 Vol'43 Number 05). I found this so coincidental, as I for the first time since I can remember, I used this word in my reminiscing.

Stuart McKay  
Scotland

### Paddle Steamer Waverley



It's been a while since my last communication but I'm still enjoying my *Scottish Banner* every month, of course. However, today's contribution is a about a letter in October's edition re *SS Waverley* from Vince Flynn in New Zealand.

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



### Balmoral Classic



Pipe Major Ian Duncan, a native of Perthshire, teaches his workshop on piobaireachd at Pittsburgh's Balmoral Classic this past Sunday!

Balmoral School  
Pittsburgh, PA  
USA

### Queensferry Crossing



The Queensferry Crossing sticking above the early morning mist.

Robert Gibb  
Scotland

### Floors Castle



Floors Castle looking great under a moody sky. I've never been inside the castle or the grounds...yet.

A View From My Camera  
Scotland

### Tigh Mor Trossachs



Tigh Mor Trossachs at Loch Achray beautiful autumn colours.

GN Photography  
Scotland