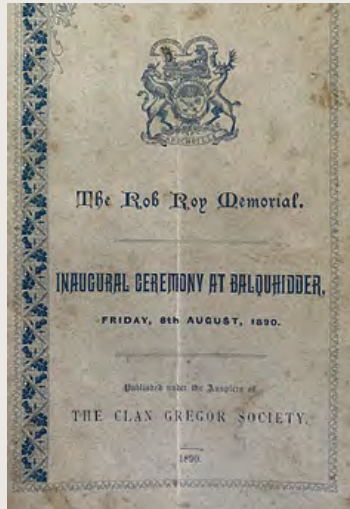


# SCOT POURRI

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?

## Remembering the ceremony at Rob Roys Grave



It was on 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1890 that the Clan Gregor Society held an Inaugural Ceremony at the Balquhidder Churchyard for the unveiling of the new bronze railing for Rob Roy MacGregors gravesite. It was a large gathering of MacGregor alumni including Lady Helen MacGregor of MacGregor and Clan historian Miss Amelia Murray MacGregor. The bronze railing was generously donated and paid for by London shipowner Mr James M'Gregor.

Rob Roy was one of the most famous people in Scotland, even as late as 1890 so it was surprising that for over a century and a half, his grave remained undistinguished from the neighbouring mounds in the Kirk yard, save for a narrow stone marked with a broadsword where the red MacGregor and his wife and sons lay. The grave of the MacGregors at the time, laid under the shadow of the ivy-grown ruin of the old Parish Church in the centre of the little burying ground. The ceremony took place at 1pm. Many of the ladies who turned up for the ceremony were brilliantly dressed with many adorning

the clan tartan and The men sporting a Scots pine sprig, the official plant of Clan Gregor. The memorial itself was covered with MacGregor tartan before the unveiling.

Other notable people there included the Provost (Mayor) of Crieff who was a MacGregor and the Reverend of Balquhidder Parish at the time was Rev David Cameron. Later that evening, there was a celebration dinner held at the Dreadnought Hotel in Callander. In the late 1960's, the bronze surround was hack sword and stolen by thieves but thankfully, it was generously replaced with a new railing by Lady MacGregor of MacGregor. The headstone that displays "MacGREGOR - DESPITE THEM" was a later addition placed there in 1981 by John MacGregor Blain, a local builder living in Balquhidder.

Today, the gravesite is still a very much sought out destination for Scots and tourists around the world.

Frank McGregor

**Ed note:** Thank you Frank for sharing this fascinating piece of history with us.

## My hame

I went to the newsagent a quite a few times to get my *Scottish Banner* and when I saw the sad look on his face, I knew it was bad news. Finally, one day I went, and he had a smile on his face—yes-- I have missed my paper—not anybody's fault I know. I especially enjoy Jim Stoddart's stories as we were brought in the same era although I lived in Garrowhill, which is east of Glasgow. I love hearing words like "shut your geggie and get lost ye big Jessie"—good memories. I was planning to go to Scotland in May next year with 2 of my daughters (in style) -- my shout.

That's not going to happen now—so who knows when or if, and I am not getting any younger. My grandson, Leigh, sadly passed away in January 2016. Although he was Australian born and bred, he loved everything Scottish—history, culture and music. When he came up to my place, we had so many conversations about it all. His favourite was Loch Lomond and I promised to take him there for a holiday when he was available but

often he was sadly not around-enough said. Unfortunately, that didn't eventuate. However I decided to have a little gathering there with my girls including my eldest daughter who has lived in the Highlands for over 30 years now—it was supposed to be a 'working holiday', and also my niece Alison from Helensburgh, and scatter some of his ashes. He would love that and sing his heart out -'up there'. However maybe one day it might happen but meanwhile I devour everything I see and hear about 'my hame', nothing like it.

Anne Koomen  
The Patch, Victoria  
Australia

**Ed note:** Thanks Anne for your letter and we hope you can get Leigh to Scotland soon so he can be part of the land he loved. We are very sorry for your family's loss.

## Connecting me to my ancestors

Thank you *Scottish Banner* for putting out each issue and connecting me to my ancestors. We are all having a very strange and difficult year and as I can no longer attend Highland Games or visit Scotland,

I have realised just how important *the Scottish Banner* is to not just me, but so many of us who are 'across the miles'. I have no doubt *the Banner* is facing its own unique challenges and I wish everyone involved all the best at this time and join other readers in rallying others to subscribe and get friends and family members to join them. As with anything we won't know what we have lost, until it is gone.

I eagerly await each issue and love also all the great content you have on your Facebook page and wish all the team a very happy 44<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Carol Johnstone  
Cape Coral, Florida  
USA

## Clan Mackenzie



Hope you are all well and staying Covid free.

Thought you might like to see my husband David's face mask that he commissioned me to make today.

Trudi Mackenzie  
Victoria, Australia

## Langton Road

The Langton Road article (*Scottish Banner*, July, 2020) from Jim Stoddart brought back many memories as I lived almost opposite in Neilsland Oval. I remember the prisoner war camp at the corner of Langton and Braidcraft Rd which held Italian POW's.

Thanks for the memories,  
Charlie Milligan

## Celebrating the sound of Scotland

How lovely to read about all the great initiatives taking place across the globe with the pipe band community. We are all so aware of Highland Games not happening in 2020 but can forget the pipe band movement is such an important year-round community. They really are there at community events and in moments of celebration and reflection and reach such varied age levels. It was so interesting to read that regardless of where in the world these organisations are, they are all doing some great things to keep the piping community together.

I adore pipe band music and cannot wait until I can hear bands, especially massed bands again live.

I wish all bands around the world the very best and thank you *Scottish Banner* for such a thoughtful editorial.

Until then may we all have some Amazing Grace!  
Bill "Jock" McGraw  
Toronto, Canada

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



### The Hector



In 1773 the "HECTOR" arrives in Pictou Harbour on Nova Scotia carrying 189 Highlanders, most loaded two months earlier in Ullapool.  
*The Society of John De Graeme Scotland*

### Gosford Estate



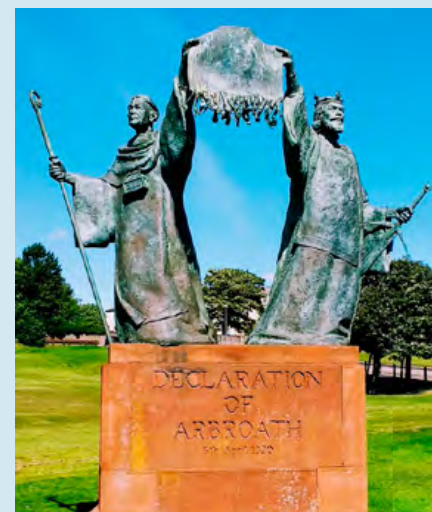
A wander round Gosford Estate.  
ShutterBugShots @ShotsBug  
Scotland

### Loch Linnhe



Loch Linnhe on a superb day.  
Robert Gibb

### The Declaration of Arbroath statue



The Declaration of Arbroath statue  
I took a couple of years ago.  
Martin