

# 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?

## Susan Boyle *Living the Dream*

What a great surprise to get my December issue of *the Scottish Banner* and see the one and only Susan Boyle on the cover! I am a huge fan of Susan's and had wondered what she was up to. To see her looking and sounding so well is fantastic. Susan's voice is one of those ones you cannot forget about. I have several of her albums and she certainly does Scotland proud. *The Banner* just seems to get better and better-thank you.  
*Maureen Sutherland*  
Chicago, IL  
USA

Thank you for such a nice article. I so love and admire Susan's guts and grit that catapulted her into the orbit that lets all of us hear her incredible voice that she has so very humbly shared with the world! The fact that she can step out of that world and back into her home on YT speaks to us all!!! We, her fans, are anxiously awaiting for her to begin to tour and perform again. Covid has stopped us all in our tracks but here's hoping that changes going into the new year!!!  
*My best,*  
*Jacki Nedry*



I LOVE hearing Susan sing – and this write-up was lovely. I'm so happy for her and her love for sharing this amazing talent with the world! I am Scottish too – and am very proud of my heritage. I absolutely loved the two trips that I've taken to Scotland, and the friendly Scottish people, who told me amazing stories about a wonderful Scottish hero, who's name I am proud to have inherited through my Father's line.  
*Thank you again,*  
*Dianne*

Thanks Neil for this great article (*Living the Dream, the Scottish Banner*, December, 2021). As for the 'exciting things', as Susan always says — watch this space!!!  
*Laura Jerabek*

### I grew up with the Banner

Thanks so much for printing Heather Patterson's letter and poem *A Tribute* as it brought a tear to my eye. I recently lost my father and to hear Heather was using her mother's voice as a guide to understand the poem was very touching. My parents came from the Glasgow area to Canada back in the 1970's, when so many did the same thing. I am sure my father would have been one of your very first subscribers and to have *the Banner* kicking around the house was part of childhood, and quite simply put I grew up with *the Banner*. My father passed away two years and I am now the subscriber as in an odd way it keeps me connected to him. I have read countless articles and also use his voice as my guide and while that was a bit sad at first now there is a sense of pride and tradition. I love *the Scottish Banner* and all the great features included throughout the year and the Scottish community is lucky to have it.

Wishing all the staff and fellow readers and very happy and safe 2022.

*Fiona Gallagher*  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note: Thanks Fiona for your note and we are so honoured to be part of your family's Scottish connection.**

### Kilted Culture for Year of Stories #YS2022

As you are likely aware, VisitScotland has deemed 2022 as the Year of Stories. We can't think of a more fitting theme for family historians.

Christine Woodcock (Canada) and Clare Wilson (Scotland) have partnered together to bring you a full year of events. Clare runs a Facebook group called Kilted Ancestors. Kilted Ancestors "is a place where anyone with Scottish Ancestry can share everything from Photographs, Stories, details of Artefacts, Letters & Information on where your Ancestors came from or anything else relating to your Scottish Roots. Social History is a big part of Genealogy. It is what brings our Ancestors to life. It is important to keep these stories alive!"

We feel that this group is the best place for us to focus on the theme for the year. We have four major themes for 2022 and we will be breaking these down to monthly prompts associated with the themes. The four themes are:

1. Immigration/Emigration
2. Police and Crime
3. Industry
4. Brands

Each month, Christine and Clare will be popping on with a Facebook Live event to motivate, encourage and share. All of these are free. We will be giving ideas, inviting guests, talking about some of the stories members of the page have shared and answering questions you may have as you work to build the stories of your ancestors.

Please consider joining the group and take part in some of the fun activities we have planned. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/569876660361269>

In addition to the Facebook group, Christine and Clare have planned four conference style events, each based on the four themes above. Each of these events will have guest speakers who will talk about the theme for that quarter. We will share more about these as we get closer, and the speakers have all been confirmed.

We have confirmed the dates and themes, however, so please save them in your diary!

- March 19th - Immigration/Emigration
- June 18 - Police and Crime
- Sept 10 - Industry
- Dec 10 - Brands (think whisky, biscuits and all things Scottish)

The days will start at 2 pm and run for about 3 hours. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the speaker fees.

We look forward to sharing the details as they are confirmed! In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could share this information with your members and ask those who are interested in taking part to join the Kilted Ancestor's Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KiltedAncestors>, or email me for answers to any questions that they may have.

*Christine Woodcock*  
Ontario, Canada  
Email: [genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com](mailto:genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com)

### On a Mission



The River Tay. Photo: VisitScotland.

I would like to submit my poem for inclusion in your *Scot Pourri* page. The River Tay wends its way through beautiful Perthshire. It passes Kinnoull Hill and tower on its journey to Dundee.

### On a Mission

Slowly and surely it wends its way this river so proud is a great place to play, an angler's delight with spoils to gain as from this sport you just cannot refrain.

Eyes on the hill look on with delight it knows not to give the heart outright, for once this is done life is never the same if you succumb then yourself to blame.

A valley to envy with riches galore round every bend makes you only want more, with the sun shining down on Perthshire so green the river wends through a rapturous scene.

Go walk in the sun, there are pleasures to find the river and valley are both intertwined, give your heart to the river you will not regret for this is a place that is hard to forget.

*Lorraine Gilmour*  
*Lorraine's poems*

**Ed note: Thank you Lorraine for sending this lovely poem to us.**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

### Wee beastie



*Mik Coia*

### Vital Spark



The Vital Spark at Inveraray, but no sign of Para Handy.  
*Neil Lea*

### Stirling



Stirling Castle & The National Wallace Monument.  
*The Kilted Photographer*  
*Scotland*

### Iona



Idyllic Iona, Inner Hebrides.  
*Debbie Neilson*