

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?

Hayland Gathering

I attended the inaugural Hayland Gathering at Hay March 11th 2023. A good 2-hour drive across the plains on a beautiful day. A large crowd had gathered for this first event of what will be an annual event. The stirring sounds of the bagpipes of the attending bands as they marched in to the sportsground stirred the cockles of the heart. A large group of youngsters contested the Highland Dancing, viewed by a very appreciative crowd.

Guest dancer was National and Australian champion dancer Morven Johnston from Western Australia. Morven arrived in Australia aged 4 years from the weaving village of Kilbarchan in west Scotland. Spectators also enjoyed the Highland Muscle group and their skills at heavy lifting, this included ladies as well! A few Clans had stalls, and this will increase for next year I would think. Good to note that many attendees wore their Clan tartan either over the shoulder or on their hat.



The Kilted Dash was hugely popular with the youngsters, all trying to find a kilt to borrow for the Dash. With prize money of \$100 they were dead keen. All day music, including the local Sing Australia group and Sydney based Auld Alliance, performed beautifully. I was disappointed not to meet up with any of "my" Clan the Matheson's!! Judging by the popularity of this first event, Hay organisers will be keen to repeat the event for many years to come. Congratulations to the Hay committee.
*Jan Evans
Binya, NSW
Australia*

The Declaration of Arbroath

The 1320 Declaration 2023.

Ancestral Voices from out the depths of time, waiting...

Rise resolute, resonant, reassuringly wise, watching...

Beckoning, affirming every freeheart & mind... welcoming

Royal Sons & Daughters of Sovereign Scotland All, to

One Spirit's Crowning, Saltires -Liberations Diamond Call

Alba's Bright New Day sensing seizing sharing Loves Way

The Throne of Scone Connecting Independence Resurrecting

Happy NOW Our Land, Och Noo & for Aye!

*Charles Mugleston
Felixstowe, Suffolk
England*

Scotland's link to the Panama Canal



This was such a wonderful story (*Scotland's link to the Panama Canal, the Scottish Banner* August, 2022). I read it twice and forwarded it on to many "Zonians" (Americans who grew up in the American Canal Zone) at the Panama Canal. I drove by *Corozal* weekly over a period of 30 years and would also work and shop at the U.S. Military Exchange (PX). I often wondered where the name *Corozal* came from, as it was such a unique yet odd name. I am so grateful for this wonderful article and journey of the amazing men who helped build the greatest waterway.

I could only imagine how incredible it would have been to have lived during this time.

Very respectfully,

Erik Petroni, USA

(*Son of Captain Gerard Petroni, Panama Canal Ships Pilot*)

Ed note: Thank you for your letter Erik and so glad this article found you.

Scottish Gin



The Banner itself is wonderful and speaks to a life enjoyed. Being a gin gal, I particularly appreciated its mention (*The Isle of Cumbrae Distillers, the Scottish Banner*, February, 2023), considering Hendricks was born there. I have never been to Scotland, but I feel it has to be on my bucket list. Our good friends Grace and Gerry Dwyer have been many times and are in love with Scotland. We need to find out about it and look forward to going sooner than later. My Dad was a MacDonald, and being a true Scot, thought my husband should change his name. Perhaps so, but I am fortunate enough to have both Scottish and Irish heritage. I love them both.

Joy (and Mike) Dean (alias Deighan)

Recent monetary increase in scholarship awards

The Wabash Valley Scottish Society (Terre Haute, IN, USA) has very recently increased by \$500, its two scholarships: Academic, for Scottish, British and/or Celtic studies at the college level, and Cultural, for piping, dancing, drumming, and more, for those persons 12 years or older. The former is for \$1500, the latter for \$1000.

*Donna Taube
Indiana, USA*

Scottish wedding customs

I love to read my *Scottish Banner*. You always have such interesting news from 'home'. I really liked the mention of the Gretna Green marriages in the February issue. I grew up in a small village

in Stirlingshire in the 50s & 60s. One of the customs of the village was when a girl was getting married, the week before the wedding her friends came to her home. She was sat in a wheel barrow with a potty (commode) full of Epsom salts on her lap.

It also had a doll and a jar of Vaseline. Neighbours placed a penny for luck into the potty. The wheelbarrow was also decorated with balloons and streamers and one girl pushed the barrow and the others sang as we walked around the village: "Hard up kick the can (your name), now has got a man!" That always drew a lot of attention and the kids joined in the singing. We went to the house of the bride to be and had a show of presents and then tea. All the neighbours gave a small present, usually a tea caddy and tea, clothes rope and pegs and things like that.

Bedding was one of the more expensive presents. I still have some of those presents. Another was the day of wedding the father of the bride threw out money from the bridal car to all the kids waiting and watching. That was almost 66 years ago, I wonder if they still have some of the old customs taking place in Scotland? Keep up the good work, we Scots love it!

*Isabella Brown
South Australia*

Ed note: Thanks Isabella for your letter and memories. Does any reader know of any old Scottish wedding customs still taking place today? Please share it with us.

The Frank Watson Book Prize 2023



We are pleased to announce that the Centre for Scottish Studies is currently accepting submissions for the Frank Watson Book Prize 2023 for the best original work on Scottish History published in 2021 or 2022.

We welcome all submissions of monographs, edited collections, and/or book-length original works on Scottish History published between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022. The prize consists of a cash award, an invitation to present a plenary lecture, and permission to advertise success in the competition.

Authors, publishers, or other sponsors should submit ebooks or PDFs of nominations (limit of three) with covering letter to the Centre for Scottish Studies, scottish@uoguelph.ca. Deadline for submissions: 31 May 2023. Details and past winners: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish/frank-watson-book-prize>
*Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies
Guelph, Ontario
Canada*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Eilean Donan Castle



All roads lead to Eilean Donan
Derek A Grist

Brave Scots-Some Gave All



This was my Grandfather's troop, he Archie Virtue, would be the only one to survive in the battle of the Somme.
annewolf882

The Kelpies



Reflections at the Kelpies.
Charles McGuigan

Holyrood Palace



The late Queen's official residence in Scotland, now that of Charles.
*Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh.
The Kilted Photographer*