

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?

Diana Gabaldon



Photo courtesy of Scottish Heritage USA.

What a delightful way to kick-off Spring by meeting *Outlander* author Diana Gabaldon at the Scottish Society of Wilmington's event. She is coming out with her 10th book in the series later this year, but found time to charm everyone she graciously visited with in Wilmington and at Moore's Creek - including our contingent from Scottish Heritage USA (L to R) Bill Caudill, SHUSA board, Susie Thomas, SHUSA Exec Director, Diana Gabaldon, Scottish Society President Catherine Fort, Mary Ann Masters on the SHUSA and Colonial Dames board, Steve Quillin, President of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Scottish Heritage USA

Combined Clans & Societies Group Otago



Attached is a photo from a Combined Clans & Societies Group Otago shared lunch. From left to right are: Joy Baker (Clan Elliot), Dene Mackenzie (Clan MacPherson), Sheila and Todd Gunn (Clan Gunn). The event was a shared lunch, or potluck lunch, organised by the Combined Clans & Societies Group Otago. *The Scottish Banner* is always sought after.

Many thanks,

Dene Mackenzie

Dunedin, New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you Dene and we are so glad to hear the Banner is being enjoyed in the 'Edinburgh of the South'!

Tribute to Tartan Day in Nova Scotia

Guest Speaker Jean (MacKaracher) Watson spoke at the Tribute to Tartan Day Dinner at St. Margaret of Scotland Church Hall on April 11th in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 40 years after Tartan Day was founded in Canada. Jean with the help of her husband Andy, in 1986, was the one person committee who for ten years worked to establish the great idea of Tartan Day in Canada of behalf of the Federation for

Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia. Jean contacted Scottish Societies across Canada to push the idea and contacted every serving Member of Parliament across Canada at that time.

In attendance as well were The Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson who she also founded in 1981. Her talk to the assembly covered topics about the tartan and of Gauls wearing checkered and striped clothing back when the Scribes noted the tribal habits outside the walls of Rome.

Also, of the great history of each Clan in Scotland and the stories behind them. The fairy flag, MacFarland's Lantern, the Curse of the MacDonalds on the Campbells and the curse of the Lamont widow on the Farquharson Chief. How Celts were considered very phisic and stories behind this even in local School social studies books.

Her closing remarks were: "Always remember... the Tartan thread... is the never-ending circle like the Celtic cross... it never breaks with our past. Like the call of the pipes, even in the distance you will stop and listen, some claim they get the chills. The pipes are calling our ancestors to us."

The tartan and the pipes, tell of the terrible times and happy times, of family and of love and battles and loss. But it is our strength, built on the shoulders of those who came before us."

Federation for Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia Nova Scotia, Canada

Ed note: We thank the 'Mother of Tartan Day' and Andy for all their inspiring work for the Scottish community.

Glasgow Central Station



Photo: Network Rail Scotland.

Just a wee note to thank for your April editorial on Glasgow Central railway station. As a Fly Fifer and leaving Scotland at a young age I had few reasons to visit Glasgow, so my memories are not as clear as yours. However, the obvious passion you have for the station and the great city of Glasgow came through in your words!

The cause of the fire was suspected to be the lithium-ion batteries used in vape and other products. They can self-combust and the resultant explosions, fire and toxic fumes are extremely difficult to extinguish! Unfortunately, a timely reminder of how we use and store these dangerous products!

You are doing the Scots of this world a great service with your publication!

Keep up the good work!

Baxter Henderson

Aspendale Gardens, Victoria Australia

Ed note: Thank you Baxter for your letter, this has been a tough time for a very resilient city.

The Frasers of Quebec

Many years ago, I read a Fraser story I'd like some authentication for or correction, if any of your readers know source detail?

During the time of the Battles for Quebec, about 1775, Lord Lovat, with the Frasers self-exiled to France (a natural selection, since originally they were from there - Frasier, and the fraises strawberry plant on some badges still), went to King George III and volunteered to raise a regiment of the Clan, if in return, after their service, he'd allow their return to their seized lands by Inverness. George, pressed by the costs of the 7 Years War and the French battles for Quebec, allowed this was a good deal, so agreed. Thus, Lovat raised a regiment. They were stationed in the fort at Stirling, awaiting a ship to take them to

the Canadian scene - the taking of Fort Louisbourg, and eventually Quebec itself.

Then the story becomes more hearsay! While in the fort at Stirling, the Frasers, no doubt living on 'hard tack,' heard there was quite a stache of cheese being held in locked storage above theirs in the fort.

So, a Fraser, name unknown, climbed up the OUTSIDE wall to the window of the storage, got in, got a supply of cheese, and returned to his waiting no doubt hungry friends. The Brits, of course, soon knew the cheese had been stolen, no doubt by some of the Frasers, but could prove nothing. Later, in the 1759 attack on Quebec, the Frasers were in some of the 1st boats that landed at the foot of the considerable bush and treed cliffs leading up to the later famous 'Plains of Abraham' on the outskirts of the walled city (still there in part too!). Much of that is true, I'm told, at least them being in Stirling awaiting passage and at the attack on fortress Quebec. The 78th. Then it becomes more imaginative. In the leading boat full of Highlanders, the officer in charge is SUPPOSED to have said "Alright, since one of you is such a great climber I'm told, you lead the way up that vague path onto the 'Plains of Abraham' above!" Thus, he does. At the summit, as he's breaking out of the underbrush, he's challenged by a Frech patrol, in French, no doubt "Qui va la?".

But having been exiled in France he's able to reply "De La Reine!" leaps out, silences the sentry. The squad behind debouch onto the plain without further challenges, and the taking of the fort and Quebec - and deaths of Wolfe & Montcalm - are true history. The question I have is any of this factual? I know the Frasers were in France in exile, and at the battle for Quebec (many of their Clan remained in Canada, not entirely trusting George III's word about returning their lands in Scotland quite rightly!).

I worked in Quebec in forestry and it was quite common to come across names like Pierre-Alphonse McGregor or Claude Adelard Fraser! There is still formed a 78th volunteer Regiment of historic 'Highlanders' that parades in Quebec.

Best regards,

Fraser (Murray) McKee

(Commander, RCNR (ret'd)

Toronto, 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):

Loch Etive



Beauty and calm at Loch Etive.

Fly - Caledonia

Dumfries and Galloway



The beauty of Scotland at Cairnpat Fell, Lochans.

Colfin Captures

The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh



Edinburgh lights rush past The Balmoral.

Brad Dickson Photography

Scottish Highlands



The beauty of the Scottish Highlands.

Mik Coia