

Famous People Owned by Scottish Terriers¹

By Dr. Vandra L. Huber©

All dogs are good; any terrier is better; a Scottie is the BEST...Nobody seems to fall madly in love with a Scottie at first sight, but nobody can live in the same house with him a week and not love him²

William Haynes

In the old days of the Scottish clans, utility rather than beauty was the requisite attribute of the Scottish Terrier. To hunt across the moors, Scottish mountaineers wanted dogs of action and adaptability first and companionship second. As one early writer wrote in 1834, “he is of great service to man on account of his great hostility to rats, mice, polecats and such animals. He shows wonderful power in killing rats...as many as 100 in seven minutes.” Because of the mountainous terrain of Scotland, the isolation and segregation of Scottish clans and the lack of transportation, the Scottish Terrier was little known outside of the confines of the Scottish highlands until the mid 1800s.

In the mid 1800s, several factors came together that helped to transport the Scottish Terrier from working terrier to companion of royalty, presidents, and authors as well as the working man. First, transportation improved significantly with trains and better highways transcribing the south and north of England and Scotland. This allowed the transport of these hardworking Scots of “sandy, black or brindle” color. Facing religious differences, thousands of Scotsman traveled to Ireland, taking along with them their national dog.



Queen Victoria and a Skye Terriers

More importantly, Queen Victoria became familiar with the dogs of Scottish lowlands during her frequent travels to her castle in Scotland with her beloved husband Prince Albert. A dog lover all her life, she fell in love with the dogs of the Scottish moors and added them to her expansive kennels in Scotland and England. Upon the death of Prince Albert in 1861, the Queen took to seclusion preferring to surround herself with canine companions. It was at this juncture, the Scottish Terrier like other notable canines of the period became companions of the court, rather than mere barnyard servants. She raised in her lifetime more than 15 different breeds of canine, notwithstanding Skye Terriers and Scottish Terriers. Her favorite Scot was named Laddie.

She was particularly fond of silver brindle Scottish Terriers, so much so that breeders would give her their silver Scots to remain in her good favor. Because she was not into the breeding the dogs, the color became more rare than it was at the time.³ It is said that she refused to recognize even the remote possibility that “her dogs might copulate and offend royal

sensibilities.” While no pictures could be found of the queen with any of her Scottish Terrier, she is shown here in a portraiture as a young woman with a Manchester terrier and in the second picture with some of Skye Terriers.

Another early aristocrat to be enamored with Scottish Terriers was George, fourth Earl of Dumbarton. George had a famous pack of Scottish Terriers so brave and intrepid they were called the diehard, hence the term we use today. They were the inspiration of the name of his regiment, The Royal Scots, Dumbarton’s “Diehards.”⁴ The Royal Scots, the oldest Infantry Regiment of the Line in the British Army, was formed in 1633 when Sir John Hepburn under a Royal Warrant granted by King Charles I, raised a body of men in Scotland for service in France. George’s battalion saw action in the late 1800s.

Like other terriers, the Scottish Terrier rose to prominence as a favored breed of the rich and powerful in the 1930s. One of the most notable families of the time were Charles and Anne Morrow Lindberghs. He was the handsome aviator and she was the famous author. On May 20, 1927, Charles Augustus Lindberg became a world hero. He was the first aviator to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in a solo flight. The Lindbergh's owned two Scottish Terriers and two West Highland White Terriers. Their Scotties were named Skean and Bogey and their Westies were named Peter and Pim.



*Charles, Jr., at North Haven,
with Peter, Skean, Bogey, Pim, summer, 1931*

The Lindbergh’s attained further prominence when their 20 month old son, Charles Junior disappeared from his crib in 1932. Charles Junior is shown in the attached pictured with the family’s Scotties and Westies in 1931. After receipt of numerous ransom notes, \$50,000 in cash was handed over to a man in a Bronx cemetery known only as “John.” On May 12, 1932 the child's decomposed body, lying in a shallow grave only two miles (walking distance) from his home, was found by a truck driver. The baby had been dead since the night of his disappearance. Lindbergh, who lead the investigation from its inception, ordered an immediate cremation. No legitimate autopsy was ever performed.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

American’s also became infatuated with Scottish Terriers. The first American president to be owned by a Scottish Terrier was Franklin D. Roosevelt. Throughout his life, he and members of his family were owned by numerous Scottish terriers. The first one was Duffy which was bought by the Roosevelt’s on their honeymoon in Scotland. As with many of us, the couple fell in love with the breed. Upon winning the presidency, FDR moved into the White House where Meggie, the current Scottish lassie of the family began her reign. A stubborn as her owner, she purportedly once bite a senator. Despite a cover-up, the news came to light but Meggie was granted a “presidential pardon.”

His most famous Scottish Terrier was a male named Murray of Fala Hill (Fala). Given to him by his cousin, Margaret Suckley. Fala went everywhere with Roosevelt and provided great solace as he wrestled with his position of responsibility as president and continued his battle against the ravages of polio. Fala kept a constant watch over national and international affairs. Untrimmed, Fala was there for FDR's famous fireside chats that populated the radio during the 1930s.

One of the most trying times for Roosevelt was the beginning of World War II. Following the surprise attack on the United States by the Japanese on December 7, 1941, America was drawn fully into the war. During the weeks that followed, FDR met and conferred with numerous world leaders. In late December, Churchill and the Soviet Ambassador Litvinov met with Roosevelt in Washington to confirm the new alliance against the Axis powers.. On January 1, 1942, these representatives along with Soong of China signed the Declaration of the United Nations "to defend life, liberty, independence, and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands." More than three years later when the name of the new international organization was being discussed in San Francisco, the name "United Nations" was selected as a tribute to Roosevelt.

According to an account from Mrs. Charles Hamlin, one of Eleanor Roosevelt's close friends:

*As the invited guests gathered round, it was as quiet as a church in the study-not a whisper, the only sound came from Fala who was stretched out sleeping heavily-oblivious of the momentous happenings."*⁵



FDR and Fala in Oval Office

In 1944, Fala was with the President on a sea trip to the Aleutian Islands. Rumors were launched that Fala was accidentally left on one of the Islands and had to be rescued at taxpayer expense. In the heat of a presidential election coming up, the Republicans accused him of spending millions of taxpayers' dollars in sending a destroyer back for him. The President answered the attack in his famous Fala speech while talking to the Teamsters Union:

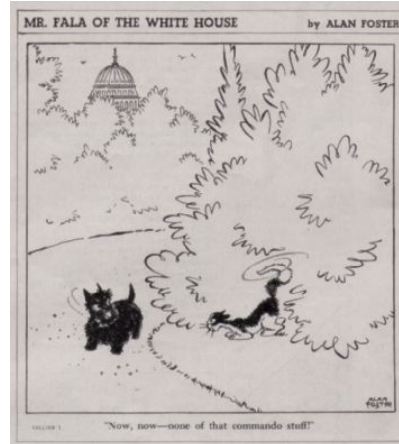
These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me, or my wife, or on my sons. No, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala. Well, of course, I don't resent attacks, and my family doesn't resent attacks, but Fala does resent them. You know, Fala is Scotch, and being a Scottie, as soon as he learned that the Republican fiction writers in Congress had concocted a story that I had left him behind on the Aleutian Islands and had sent a destroyer back to find him--at a cost to the taxpayers of two or three, or eight or twenty million dollars--his Scotch soul was furious.

*He has not been the same dog since. I am accustomed to hearing malicious falsehoods about myself--such as that old, worm-eaten chestnut that I have represented myself as indispensable. But I think I have a right to resent, to object to libelous statements about my dog."*⁶

--Sept. 23, 1944, address to the Teamsters Union

There was another incident on a sea trip aboard the ship Tuscalosa in the West Indies. It was a hot day. The sailors were trying to cool off. They were lying on the deck stretched out in a row. Their bare feet were lined up. Fala caused quite a commotion by moving quickly along the row licking and tickling their feet.⁷

Despite Roosevelt's protectionist attitude towards Fala, the little dog still gained notoriety such that to this day he is one of the most famous dogs in history. Books have been written about the little dog. He even had his own editorial cartoon series entitled "Mr. Fala of the White House."



Fala outlived his master. In April of 1945, President Roosevelt died in Warm Springs, Georgia. Fala attended the funeral and went to live with Mrs. Roosevelt at Val-Kill. Fala lived seven more years but was never quite the same. Worried about him, Eleanor brought his grandson, Tamas McFala to live at Val-Kill, too, and be Fala's playmate. At 12 years of age, Fala crossing the rainbow bridge on April 5, 1952. The little Scot was buried in the Rose Garden next to the sun dial and near his beloved master



Eva Braun

Eva Braun, mistress of Adolph Hitler from 1932 and his wife in the last few hours of his life, was owned by two Scottish Terriers. Born in Munich, the daughter of a school teacher. Eva met Hitler in the studio of his photographer friend, Heinrich Hoffmann (q.v.), in 1929. Fresh out of convent school, she described him to her sister, Ilse, as "a gentleman of a certain age with a funny moustache and carrying a big felt hat." Despite this blasé first impression, she became his mistress two years later. During this period, she spent most of her time in isolation attending to exercising, brooding, reading cheap novelettes, watching romantic films or concerning herself with her own appearance. Hitler was much too busy attending to his political affairs to spend much time with the beautiful young woman. She wrote in her diary on February 6, 1935 about her loneliness and her birthday...

"The truth is that I have rather large ideas about the importance to be attached to this day: If I had a dog I would not feel so lonely, but I suppose that is asking for too much."



Eva on left and her sister Gretel

Shortly thereafter she got two Scottish Terriers named Negus and Stasi (in her photo albums, the dogs are labeled Negus and Katuschka - perhaps "Stasi" was a nickname, or there were, in fact, three dogs (although no more than two are ever seen together).⁸ It is not clear if Hitler gave her the dogs as a birthday present or she bought them herself as she was in the habit of buying most gifts herself "as a gift from her beloved Hitler."

An avid photographer, Eva and her two sisters took numerous pictures including some which include one but not usually both of her dogs. There is also some limited evidence to suggest that she reciprocated and bought Hitler a Scottish Terrier to keep company with his German Shepherds.

Mascot in WWII

Across time, superstition has played an important role in keeping the spirits of soldiers high during times of war. World War II was no exception – particularly for one team of flyboys. lead by 24-year-old Captain James Morgan, the B-17 Flying Fortress "MEMPHIS BELLE" was the first heavy bomber in Hitler's European war theatre to complete 25 combat missions and keep her entire crew alive. The mascot of this daredevil group of American flyers was of course, a



Scottish terrier by the name of Stuka. Upon returning from each mission the wee dog was there waiting for the brave team to return.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Another American president to be owned by a series of Scottish Terriers was Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower's devotion to the breed predates his presidency and traces back to his loneliness during World War II. The demands of being commander in chief were sometimes overbearing. Attempting to gain a little peace and quiet as well as time to think, Ike moved out of central London to picturesque Telegraph Cottage, a forty-minute drive from Grosvenor Square. Telegraph Cottage was set back from the main road at the end of a long driveway, had a large garden at the front and ten acres of woodland at the back. Best of all, perhaps, it was adjacent to a golf course. It was the perfect retreat.



There was only one thing missing, Ike decided. Ike told his chief aide that he wanted a dog – preferably a Scottie. After finding there was no regulation to prevent it, he had the ETO Service of Supply out looking for one, preferably a Scottie. When explaining his desire for a canine companion, Ike wrote in a letter to Mimi:

"You can't talk war to a dog, and I'd like to have someone or something to talk to, occasionally, that doesn't know what the word means! A dog is my only hope."

His aides tried to persuade the general to get a more exotic breed, but Eisenhower's mind was made up. "I like the independent attitude of a strutting Scottie." A week later, he had his dog, a black bundle of fur that he named Telek. It sounded like a cable address for Telegraph Cottage, but it amused him to tell curious journalists that the dog's strange name was "a military secret." Telek accompanied him throughout World War II

Supreme Commander General Eisenhower brought home two puppies out of Telek on a trip home to renew his spirits. As a surprise he gave Harry Butcher's (his long time friend) daughter a bitch and his brother Milton's children puppies out of Telek. Ruth and Milton named their puppy Telek II⁹ While Eisenhower had other breeds during his presidency, he and his family had a long-standing infatuation and persistence loyalty to Scottish Terriers. In regards to dogs generally and Scotties particularly, Eisenhower is noted to have said:



"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis



While there is no evidence of a Scottie in the White House in the Kennedy era. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis grew up around dogs and horses. According to the biography "America Queen by Sarah Bradford, the Bouviers' family life revolved around animals including Hootchie, the Scottish Terrier, Sister, a white bull terrier; Tally-Ho, a Dalmatian; Caprice, a Bouvier des Flandres; and a Great Dane King Phar-and, above all, horses. As described in the book, the family would spend the summers in East Hampton where they rented a picturesque cottage, Rowdy Hall, on Egypt Lane.

According to author, Jackie made the social columns at the tender age of two when she showed her Scottish Dog "Hootchie" at the East Hampton Show. By the age of five, showing the Scottish terrier was replaced with riding horses¹⁰

Modern Day Politicians Owned by Scotties

Laura and George Bush



No discussion of famous Scottish terriers and their owners would be complete without mentioning Barney, the first Dog of the United States and his younger girl friend, Miss Beazley. Born September 30, 2000, Barney was given to the George and Laura Bush by Christine Whitman, director of the Environmental Protection Agency. Whitman -- who had three Scotties of her own -- Julie, Brie and Coors -- gave the first family the wee Scotsman when she was governor of New Jersey. Barney was a birthday present to Laura Bush. According to some reports Barney was originally named Bradley after a dear friend. However, staff at the Texas ranch started

calling him Barney and the name stuck. In another account, he was named for the purple dinosaur Barney. However, in an interview with Larry King, Laura Bush said the first dog was merely named by the Bush's daughters.^{11 [16]} Miss Beazley Miss Beazley joined the First Family in January of 2005. Barney and Miss Beazley have starred in several adorable White House videos that are accessible online. At the end of the year, Barney and Miss Beazley take visitors on a tour of the White House via the [Barney Cam](#). In addition to his holiday videos, Barney has also made a Valentine video and taken viewers on a dog's tour of the gardens at the White House.

Barney is all Scottish diehard. As a young pup, Barney almost brought the President to his knees. As the two were debarking from Airforce One, Barney -- in typically Scottie fashion -- went one way when the President went the other. Bush on another occasion accidentally dropped Barney in front of some young softball players. In full press view, Barney has also wiggled out of the First Lady's arms. Barney has since been kept on a much tighter lead by the president and his wife Laura. Whitehouse staffers are less fond of Barney and Miss Beazley than the Bush family. Some feel he's too entitled and somewhat of a snob. Others have disdain for his aloof Scottish mannerisms.

Like FDR, Bush has also referred to his Scottish terrier in his political statements. When talking about the Iraq war, U.S. President Bush was quoted in Bob Woodward's book *State of Denial: Bush at War, Part III* as telling key Republicans that:

"I will not withdraw even if Laura and Barney are the only ones supporting me.' Barney is his dog,"¹²

It seems that when it comes to politics President Bush is as much a diehard as he wee Scot Barney (political statement intended).

Barney has also made it into presidential poetry. After a five day trip to Moscow and France where Laura Bush got two kisses on the hand by French President Jacques Chirac, the First Lady found a presidential piece of humorous prose waiting for her. Penned by President Bush, it read:

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
Oh, my lump in the bed (his nickname for his wife)
How I missed you
Roses are redder
Bluer am I
Seeing you kissed by that charming French guy.
The dogs and the cat, they missed you too,
Barney's still mad you dropped him, so he ate your shoe.
The distance, my dear, has been such a barrier.
Next time you want an adventure, just land on a carrier ^[17]*

Barney also has been photographed playing poker with members of the White House staff. Barney has been the star of two television specials (Barney Cam II ad II) in which he has investigated the Christmas decorating at the White House – from his low stature view – and gotten into a bit of holiday mischief. Barney Cams are the most popular videos on the White House website. Barney, like Fala, has his own webpage and receives thousands of pieces of fan mail. During the Christmas holidays this past December, Barney took up horseshoes at the Texas ranch. President Bush -- who has described Barney as his son -- tossed out horseshoes and Barney fetched. Then again, maybe it was Barney who kept the President on the run. ^[18] Most recently, Barney and Miss Beazley are featured in a documentary about the Queen of England. They are featured getting ready to meet the royal monarch. I wonder if they bowed or sat up nice/y? ¹³

President of Poland Lech Kaczynski

Poland is known for many things but not usually it's Scottish Terriers. Still the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski is owned by a Scottish Terrier, named Titus. As shown here, the Polish leader greets her American visitors President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush with her Scottish Terrier in tow. Rather than discussing world peace, the U.S. President focused on shared interests, namely Scotty dogs. "Great dogs aren't they," he said, noting that Titus was about as [stubborn as Barney](#). Titus in the shot below looks more like a Skye terrier than a Scottie. Given Titus' hair do, he resembles Fala more than Barney and Miss Beazley who are trimmed in a nice neat American style. But one thing is for sure, he walks as reluctantly and stubbornly as Barney, his U.S. counterpart.



Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY)

In the U.S. Kentucky Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) got in some hot water or dog gone trouble when he took time away from Congressional meetings to walk his Scottish Terrier Bosley and his Parson Russell Terrier, Nigel. It seems the Congressman was dog-sitting while his wife was out of town. The fury over this focused on wasting taxpayer dollars on dog walking and whether a Scottish Terrier was dog-enough to represent the great state of Kentucky on the Congressional Hill.



Footnotes

¹ An earlier version of this article was published in The Bagpiper which is published by the Scottish Terrier Club of America. Requests for reprinting should be made to the STCA's Bagpiper editor as well as to Vandra L. Huber at McVanscotties.verzion.net.

² William Haynes in "Scottish and Irish Terriers". As cited in Fayette C. Ewing. 1936. The book of the Scottish Terrier. New York: Orange Judd Publishing Company.

³ Oral history of Queen Victoria, recorded and reported by Darle Heck.

⁴ Ewing, p 35.

⁵ Doris Kearns Goodwin. 1995. No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II. New York: Simon and Schuster.

⁶ Campaign Dinner Address of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, September 23, 1944. Washington, DC International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America.

⁷ Excerpted from the Franklin D. Roosevelt website. Fala page.

⁸ Geoff Walden. Third Reich in Ruins. <http://thirdreichruins.com/berghofvisitors.htm>

⁹ Alden Hatch. 1952. General Ike: A Biography of Dwight D. Eisenhower. New York: Holt.

¹⁰ Sarah Bradford. 2000. America's Queen. Viking Press. Excerpted on December 3, 2007 from <http://archives.cnn.com/2000/books/beginnings/10/25/excerpt.queen.jackie/index.html>

¹² Interview with Laura Bush joined by Barney and Spot on CNN's Larry King Live, April 18, 2001.

¹³ Excerpted from Scottish Terrier and Dog News. <http://scottishterrierdogs.blogspot.com/2007/11/barney-bush-working-dog.html> on December 4, 2007.