



# THE NEWSBEAT



Volume XXVI, Issue II, Spring 2009      Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of America

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The Newsbeat is published Quarterly, January, April, July and October. If you have any news, pictures, stories, poems, Games reports, or genealogy queries, please send them to Ginger (at the address to the left, preferably e-mail) for inclusion in the next issue. We love to hear from you and the membership wants to know what is happening with other members.

## Games and Events

### Dues Schedules

Dues are due each June.

Family	\$25.00
Individual	\$15.00
Individual (over 65)	\$7.00
Associate	\$10.00
One time:	
Sponsorship	\$500.00
Life Membership (over 65)	\$200.00

Send Dues to

Diane Swenson  
299 Wattaquodock Hill Rd  
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Annual dues will be due again on June 1, (unless you have joined within the past 6 months or so, in that case your dues will become due until June of 2010). Please check your membership card to see when you need to renew. Thanks to all those who renew their membership, your dues helps us to print and mail out this newsletter, it also helps us to maintain a presence at many of the larger games in the county and be a presence to meet and get to know other Macfies around the country. We encourage you to attend as many Scottish Games as possible, and if you would like to convene, the society will pay half of the games fee. We will also provide a banner, and some items for the table, just contact Ginger at [jgmcafee@charter.net](mailto:jgmcafee@charter.net)

**The Macfie Society of America is a Member of The Council of Scottish Clans Association Inc.**

### Macfie Merchandise for Sale

Kilt Pin-\$15.00  
25th anniversary pins-\$15.00  
Badges \$12.00  
Pro Rege T-shirts green-\$12.00  
Buff Macfie Warrior T-Shirts \$16.00  
(Only a few Warrior T-shirts left)

Minimal postage will be added to each order. Send order and payment to:

Ginger McAfee  
420 Ash Dr.  
Baxter, TN 38544

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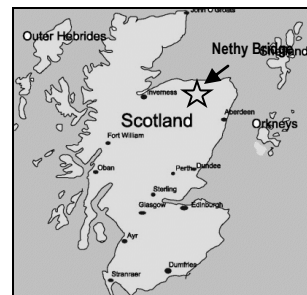
Cliff McDuffie Reports that the Zephyrhills, FL Games, March 6-8, were a great success, the weather was nice and there were 8 Macfies signed up at the table. Cliff and Joyce could use some help with these games, if you are interested in helping next year contact

Cliff, his information is on the front page.

- **The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Blairsville, GA Scottish Festival & Highland Games** will take place on June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Meeks Park in Blairsville, GA. The Ceilidh and Kilted Golf Tournament (kilts optional) will be held on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to stop by and visit the Clan Macfie tent during the festival. For more information, check out their web site [www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org/](http://www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org/) or contact the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce at 866-745-5789. Clan Macfie will be defending their title in the annual Tug-of-War event so we invite all your brawny Macfie lads and lassies to come out and 'pull' for the Macfies.
- Clan Macfie will be represented at the 54<sup>th</sup> **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games** held July 9-12, 2009 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC, get more information at <http://www.gmhg.org/>. This is one of the nation's "must attend" games. If you have never attended, you must attend at least one time. Hope to see you there this year.
- Any Fee reports that the weather was great at the **Phoenix, AZ Games** in February with temps in the 80's. Visitors came by with a slow flow, but the word is getting out gradually that the Macfies are out here in the west. The next games are in November with warm weather out here. Contact Amy (address on front) for more information about the games in AZ
- ❖ For a complete listing of Scottish Highland Games in the US go to: <http://www.asgf.org/4.html>
- ❖ For up to date news from the home island of Colonsay go to <http://www.colonsay.org.uk/corncrake/cornframe.html>

## Come one, come all, to The 17th International Gathering of Clan Macfie and the 10th Clan Parliament

To be held at the Nethybridge Hotel in the north of Scotland from Wednesday September 2, 2009 to Sunday September 6th. A visit to Colonsay has been tentatively scheduled from Sunday, September 6th to Wednesday, September 9th, but ferry times and accommodation on the Island have yet to be confirmed.



The Clan Gathering Co-coordinators, Iain and Fiona McFie, will notify details regarding functions, transport, accommodation and payment of deposits etc., for both Nethybridge and Colonsay in due course. In the meantime please let them know if you are interested in attending at [member@coulintyre.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:member@coulintyre.fsnet.co.uk) or by mail at Coulintyre, Kin-craig, Kingussie PH21 1LX, Scotland, or phone in Scotland 1540 651 391.

Parliament will be held Wednesday-Friday in the mornings with clan tours and other activities held in the afternoon and evenings. On Saturday we will all go to the Braemar Highland Games; the on Sunday we will leave for Oban to catch the Cal Mac Ferry to Colonsay. There will be clan activities on Colonsay and Oransay on Monday and Tuesday, then catch the ferry back to Oban on Wednesday.

### A message from Clan Commander, Iain McFie

Plans for the Gathering are proceeding apace, however while approximately fifty people have booked into the Hotel very few have confirmed with Fiona or myself that they are attending. As on previous Gatherings we, Fiona and I, must know how many are attending. We also need to know if you will be at the Commanders reception, which tours you would like to be part of, etc

If you visit the Clan website, [www.clanmacfie.co.uk](http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk) you will find registration and other forms, which it is essential you complete and return to the co-ordinators. All of our planning depends on the information you supply. If you do not and your name is not on the passenger or other lists then we cannot be responsible if you miss out.

So please, if you are attending the Gathering and have not booked the Hotel do so as soon as possible and also complete the registration and other forms.

Not sure about attending; do not worry you will be amongst family and friends and will be made most welcome. Fiona and I are looking forward to meeting up with many old friends and to make many new ones.

Iain

Ceann Cath

**More information and Registration can be found at**

**[http: www.clanmacfie.co.uk](http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk)**

## Society News and Tidbits

- We were saddened to learn from Lois Samuelson of the passing of Frances A. Sheedy Butler, born April 24, 1918 and died March 7, 2009, at her home in Irvine, CA. A service was held at the Episcopal Church in Newport Beach, CA. She had been actively involved with the Macfie Clan for many years.
- Clan Commander, Iain McFie, appointed Linda McFee Gilcrest Deputy Commissioner for the West Coast of America in February of this year. Linda has been a member of the Clan since 2003. During that time she has attended the national Games in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> Clan Parliament in Scotland in 2005. She has been actively working on her family genealogy for several years and has traced her family back to 1820 when her great great grandfather was born in Scotland. She is also a member of Group 1 in the McDuffie DNA Surname Project. Linda and her husband Jim, mother Pat McFee, and sister Vicki McFee will all be attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Clan Macfie Parliament in Nethy Bridge, Scotland, and on the Isle of Colonsay this coming September. Linda will be assisting Iain and Fiona with coordination for the Parliament in the United States, as well as assisting in whatever other duties Iain requests of her. Clan Commander Iain's letter read in part, "I know you will fill the office with intelligence, commitment and style which will benefit the Clan, and you will be a sound advisor to me." Linda is honored to serve Iain and the Clan in this capacity.



- **Tartan Day in Texas** (By Janell Macafee Hamor) Tartan Day in Texas at the San Jacinto Monument was a fabulous affair! There were 84 in attendance, including 12 Clan Representatives. The festivities began outside the San Jacinto Monument where we were entertained by the Home school Highlanders Pipes and Drums from San Antonio. Mary Radspinner, a Celtic harpist was in the foyer also providing entertainment as people gathered. We were there to honor the soldiers of Scottish descent who fought at San Jacinto. The most famous being of course, Sam Houston, one time governor of Tennessee. His descendant Sam Houston IV was in attendance. There were a number of great speakers who spoke about such topics as...National Tartan Day, Sam Houston and the Scots Irish, The Masonic Bond, and one descendant of a veteran of the battle spoke of his ancestor; his presentation was entertaining. His name was Sam Caldwell; he is an artist. He'd painted a portrait of Robert Burns and it was displayed in the foyer. We were also entertained by singer/songwriter Jed Marum and piper E.J. Jones. After the ceremonies were over we were treated to a "Scottish Tasting"; haggis, sausage rolls, shortbread...all very tasty! At the end of the day we were invited to a private showing of "Texas Forever" a film about the Battle of San Jacinto, after that we took a trip 500 feet up to the observation deck of the monument. (I'm afraid of heights...but I did it!). What a view! It was a great day for all in attendance. Everyone had such a good time and if I didn't mention the lady who brought it all together I'd be a disgrace. Her name is Sia Beaton and she, in the midst of chemo treatments brought together all of these great Scots and gave us a lovely day to remember. I was proud to be there to represent Clan Macfie! ( just a side note...in the picture I am sending...the bouquet is of heather and yellow roses along with a scarf of the Bluebonnet Tartan, the official tartan of the State of Texas).



## More Macfie News and Events

- We welcome the newest Macfie, born 1/30/09, **Emma Elizabeth Samuelson**, new daughter of Steven Boyd Samuelson and wife Kelly. Congratulations to Steven, Kelly and grandma Lois
- **Jim and Linda Gilcrest** share the news that their daughter, Brenda Gilcrest, is getting married on the beach in Half Moon Bay, California, on May 30th. She's marrying a fellow Scot, Thomas Brinly, whose mother is a Guthrie. We send our best wishes to the bride, groom and family.
- Get well wishes go out to **Glen Parker**, his wife, Ann shared that he has been in the hospital for two and a half weeks to have two back surgeries and has now been moved to a skilled nursing home for possibly three months.
- Get well wishes also go out to **Janet Macfie Elfers** in North Carolina, she has had a very sever COPD attack and is currently at home with hospice care and on a BiPAP Oxygen Sleep machine
- **Cliff McDuffie** reported that he opened the National Shuffleboard competition in Zephyrhills, on April 6 (Tartan Day) and proudly wore his Macfie Kilt in honor of the day.
- **Fred Fee** reports that he has worked up a short (10 page) but concentrated history of the ancient ancestors of the Scots with some references to the Macfie Clan that he thought would be of interest to those members interested in History. If you would like a copy you can contact Fred at his email address [fmfee3@wowway.com](mailto:fmfee3@wowway.com) or phone # 248-349-7234.
- Speaking of **Tartan Day**, **Sue-Ellen Welfonder** sent some picture of Arbroath Abbey which was founded by William the Lion in 1178 and dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, this Tironensian Monastery is where Scottish Nobles signed the "Declaration of Arbroath" in 1320 which asserted Scotland's independence from England.



- **Dave McFee** invites us to check out the “in” famous Macfies at <http://www.livermoregames.com/clans.html>, where Dave and friends are on the web page to advertise the Livermore CA Scottish Games , May 16 & 17th. If you are in that area, go out to see Dave and friends.



**Cliff McDuffie**, of Zephyrhills, FL is our clan poet , You can see some of his work at [www.authorsden.com](http://www.authorsden.com) (Cliff is also the mayor of Zephyrhills)

- **Bill Morris wrote:** Here is something you might find interesting. Although it relates to my wife's family. I had been looking for some information on her Great Grandmother. I have info on children born in Chicago, IL during the late 1880's and early 1890's. I tried for birth certificates for 4 of them with no result. A Genealogist in the Chicago area found a Return of Birth for one of the children by just searching the last name and birth-date. Seems that when the certificate was filled out the baby hadn't been named yet, but all the other information I needed was there. Thus the search for a birth certificate by baby's name turned up nothing. Something I hadn't thought of.

**Homecoming Scotland:** On the 25th and 26th July 2009 Edinburgh will witness one of the largest clan gatherings in history. Holyrood Park will host a magnificent [Highland Games](#) over the two days, then on the Saturday evening Clan members will [parade up the historic Royal Mile](#) and take their seats on the castle esplanade for a spectacular [Clan Pageant](#) .

The Gathering 2009 will be one of the signature events of Homecoming Scotland 2009. For further details on the full Homecoming Scotland 2009 program, visit the [Homecoming Scotland 2009 webpage](#) <http://www.clangathering.org/>

## MacSearching



If you are still looking for that illusive ancestor, write out a query exactly as you would like for it to appear in the Newsbeat and send it to Ginger McAfee, address on front.

## Celebrating Robert Burns' Day on January 25, 2009 with fellow McFees

By Linda McFee Gilcrest

We received a surprise invitation via Barbara Russell to attend a celebration of Robert Burns' Day that was being hosted by Malcolm McAfee and his wife Marcella at their home in San Francisco. My husband Jim, my mother Pat McFee and I were excited about the opportunity to meet fellow local McFees and talk about the upcoming Gathering in Scotland in September. We hadn't met any of the people on the invitation list so it was doubly exciting. Malcolm and Marcella, their son Lapsley, and his fiancée greeted us warmly at the door, and we joined the rest of the group as we prepared the potluck. Others in attendance were Alan and Heidi McFee, their son Winston, Alan's father Archie (who was raised in Scotland), Steve Mattias and Barbara and Bob Russell. Although we had never met them before, we felt the same immediate warmth and kinship that we experienced at our first Clan Gatherings in Gatlinburg and Scotland. They are all part of a group that meets regularly to celebrate their heritage. Their next gathering will be to celebrate Macfie Day in May.

We enjoyed a lively discussion of the importance of being Macfies and our Scottish heritage, and then were treated to a poem, "A Parcel of Rogues in a Nation," read by Steve Mattias. Jim, my mother and I talked about our experience at the last Macfie Clan Gathering and Parliament in Scotland in 2005, and were surprised we were the only ones in the group who had been there or were planning on going this year. Everyone there had high hopes of visiting Colonsay one day and seemed to enjoy our stories of the wonders of the isle.

After dinner, we moved to the "music room," which contained an exquisite 7-foot tall golden harp that was made from several different types of wood. We found out that Marcella McAfee was a harpist with the San Francisco Philharmonic Orchestra, and she played like an angel! Marcella played several songs and we all joined in to many of them, including: "Comin' Through the Rye," "The Road to the Isles," "Blue Bells of Scotland," "Skye Boat Song," and "Auld Lang Syne." Then Alan McFee produced his bagpipes and played a medley of songs including "Amazing Grace," "Scotland the Brave" (of course!), "Green Hills" and "Highland Cathedral."

It was a lovely evening and we drove back to Santa Cruz in the rain with heightened anticipation of our upcoming trip back to our beloved Scotland this coming September!

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### SMILE AWHILE:

Brenda Macfie is home making dinner, as usual, when Tim MacNeil arrives at her door. 'Brenda, may I come in?' he asks, 'I've somethin' to tell ye'.

'Ach, of course you ken come in, yer always welcome, Tim. But where's me husband?'

'That's what I'm here to be telling ye, Brenda. There was a wee accident down at the Glenlevit Distillery.'

Ach mon' cries Brenda. 'Please tell me it ain't so.'

'I must, Brenda. Your husband Hamish, is deed and gone. I'm verra sorry, I am.'

Finally, she looked up at him. 'How was it that it happened, Tim?'

'Ach, it was terrible, Brenda.. He fell into a vat of Single Malt whisky, and drowned.'

'Oh my! Said Brenda, 'But you must be tellingly me true, Tim, did he at least go quickly?'

'Well, Brenda, no. In fact, it took quite awhile, it would have been quicker but he got out three times to pee.'



# May 27, Macfie Day

The Lord Lyon King of Arms recognized the Clan on May 27th, 1981 as being once again, an active clan. In 1993, Clan Macfie met in Parliament on the island of Colonsay for the first time in 370 years. About 120 Macfies representing Macfie societies around the world, met on the ancestral homeland. Some property was donated by the Lord Strathcona, present owner of the island, to erect the Standing Stone as a memorial to Malcolm Macfie the last clan chief. Sandy McPhie, of Australia, was appointed as Ceann-Cath (or commander) of Clan Macfie by the Lord Lyon King of Arms on September 7th, 1989. Thus, May 27th was chosen for Clan Macfie Day by the members attending the 10th International Gathering and 6th Parliament of Clan Macfie on Colonsay. About 120 Macfies representing Macfie societies around the world, met on the ancestral homeland. Some property was donated by the Lord Strathcona, present owner of the island, to erect the Standing Stone as a memorial to Malcolm Macfie the last clan chief. The late, Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver, BC, Canada, was very instrumental in the rallying of the world wide members of Clan Macfie and getting us recognized by the Lord Lyon.

**Please let us know how you celebrate  
Macfie Day, 2009!!**



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