



THE NEWSBEAT



Volume XXVII, Issue I, Winter 2011

Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of America

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What's New?

We need your e-mail address. If your address has changed, or if you have not received any messages from us in the past few weeks, please send your e-mail to jgmcafee@charter.net. We send out notices from time to time, and we want to keep everyone up to date on information about the International Gathering at the Charleston, SC Games, September 17, 2011.

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.

International Gathering News

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
Bolton, MA 01740

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

**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

jgmcafee@charter.net

We are in the process of putting things together for the International Gathering to be held in conjunction with the Charleston SC Scottish Games, on September 17, 2011. We will also be the Honored Clan at that event. The Holiday Inn in Mt. Pleasant, SC will be our host hotel. They have blocked off a number of rooms for us, but have not yet given us the room rate. However, it will be the same rate as the Charleston Games gets. We will also be talking to them about catering the Commander's Reception and our Clan Dinner to be held after the Games on Saturday night. We are planning a trip down there in a few months and should have all the details worked out at that time.

Upcoming Games and Events where you are likely to find a Macfie Clan Tent

February 27-28 [Arizona Highland Games](#) Scottsdale, AZ 85261-5853

March 6-7, [Zephyrhills Celtic Festival and Highland Games](#)
8551 Handcart Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33544

May 1. [Triad Highland Games](#)
307 Gregg Street Archdale NC 27263

May 20-21 Smokey Mountain, TN Games
Maryville, TN <http://www.gsfg.org/>

May 29-30, [Alma Highland Festival and Games](#)
Alma, MI 48801

June 3-6 [Glasgow Highland Games](#)
Glasgow, KY 42141-2835

June 12-13 [Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games](#)
Blairsville, GA 30514

July 8-11 [Grandfather Mountain Highland Games](#)
Linville, NC 28646

September 17-18, Charleston, SC Scottish Games and Highland Gathering, <http://charlestonscots.org/>

For a Complete list of Scottish Highland Games go to
<http://www.asgf.org/>

We were greatly saddened to recently learn of the passing of founder and long time president of the Macfie Clan Society of America, H.R. Scott McPhee, on December 29, 2010. His obituary follows:

Hugh Robert McPhee, aka Scott McPhee , passed away December 29th, 2010 at the age of 83. Born in NYC, he was educated in the Catholic school system . Scott enlisted in the US Navy during WWII serving as an aviation ordnance man and aerial gunner on a torpedo bomber, carrier based in the Pacific Theater. After discharge Scott settled in S. Florida when he helped his first wife Jean raise three children - Hugh Robert (Bob), Bruce Scott and Barbara Jean.

Working in the commercial construction field as a carpenter, he advanced rapidly to supervisory and project manager positions. After his association with large commercial construction projects in Florida and other states. he started his own companies, Highlander and Tartan construction with his main office in Hollywood florida, where he married his second and present wife Marvene in 1965. Maintaining residences in Hallandale Florida and the Bahamas , they pursued their love of boating, fishing and scuba diving. As a member of OPBRA (off shore power boat racing) Scott was very involved in races held in conjunction with Bacardi Enterprises.

In 1982 , always proud of his Scottish heritage, Scott became the founder and President of the MacFie Clan Society of NA. His passion for travel and his Scottish heritage led to participation at numerous annual highland games held annually throughout the US. His two favorite set of games was Stone Mountain, GA site of the Clan's annual meeting and Grandfather Mountain, NC. He and Marvene were so pleased to participate in the 25th annual meeting held in 2008. Scott also proudly represented Clan MacFie at International Gatherings held in Scotland as well as Australia and New Zealand.

As a very active member of his community membership participation proudly included: Charter Life member of SAMS(Scottish American Military Society; member of Mahi Shrine Temple, Miami, FL; life member Hollywood Elks Lodge ; member of Lake Placid Moose Lodge; Life member and past Post and District Commander of the VFW.(Hollywood, FL); member VFW Lake Placid, FL; Director and Vice President of Hallandale Chamber of Commerce; Life member of N.R.A (National Rifle Ass.) Scott held a private pilot's license and was an avid motorcycle rider purchasing his first motorcycle in 1947 and continued to ride until the age of 82.

Part of his legacy was his love of animals. He served on the board of directors for the Humane Society of Highlands County and was responsible for numerous constructions projects over many years to benefit the animals at this "no Kill" shelter.

Scott is survived by Marvene , his wife of 46 years , Three children, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Per his request there will be no memorial service



Clan Macfie Gathering

As spring is becoming a distinct possibility, after a horrendously cold and snowy winter for Tennessee, and other places in the US, our thoughts turn to Scottish Games and especially our Clan Gathering and honored Clan Status at the Charleston, SC Games on September 15-18. We are still in the planning stages but would like to share what we know, and those who want to get in their early reservations for lodging may do so. September will be here before we know it.

The festivities will begin on Thursday evening, September 15, with a Commander's Reception to be held at our host hotel, The Holiday Inn, 250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC. The cost for this will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15.00 per person. There will be Hors d' Oeuvres and possibly a Ceilidh to follow.

On Friday evening, the Charleston Society will host their Dinner, also at the Holiday Inn, we will pass on information about that once we have it. Iain will be obligated to attend this event, so we will not have an alternate event that evening to allow him and Fiona to attend this event.

On Saturday evening after the games, we will have our Clan Banquet, this will be a Buffet, and the cost will be somewhere around \$30.00 per person, we will have the menu by the next Newsbeat, and you can then begin to make your reservations for the Reception and the Banquet. Once plans are in place, we will request deposits for the reception and banquet by July 1st and total payment by September 1.

On Sunday morning, we will attend a Kirking of Tartans hosted by the Charleston Scottish Society.

The Holiday Inn is our host hotel and they are holding a block of rooms for us at the rate of \$104.00, plus tax so when you call to make reservations, please let them know you are with the Clan Macfie for this special rate. The phone number at the Holiday Inn is 843-884-6000.

There are a number of other hotels very close to the Holiday Inn, that may be a little cheaper, but we do not have rooms blocked at any of them, but they are in close proximity to the Holiday Inn and close to all the events.

Days Inn-843-881-1800

Quality Inn-884-856-8817

Master's Inn-843-884-2814 (We have stayed at this hotel and it is very nice)

Sleep Inn-843-856-5000

Hampton Inn-843-881-3300

We are not going to have any other structured activities or tours, there is so much to see and do in the Charleston area, that it is impossible to narrow it down to one or two. We will try to have information and help with transportation to folks that are flying in and won't have access to a car, so you can make your own plans and see the sites that interest you. Some of the local attractions are:

Fort Sumter, the site of the first civil war battle

Horse drawn carriage tours through the old city.

Old Southern Plantations to tour

Charlestown Landing, the site of the first English Settlement in SC (1670)

Tour the Citadel

You can tour the USS Yorktown, aircraft carrier at the harbor

There are beautiful beaches

And of course FOOD galore

Plus much., much more, check out some of Charleston's attractions on line, www.charlestoncvb.com and request a visitor's package be sent to you.

We will get more information up on our website as plans change, so check back frequently at www.clanmacfieofamerica.com

So grab your swimsuit, and kilt and come on to Charleston in September. It is usually very hot so bring lots of water to the games.

Society News and Tidbits

Max Mahaffee writes: The Scottish Society of Charleston, Inc., now in its 41st year, held its Burns Dinner on January 22, 2011 with president Max G. Mahaffee (of Clan Macfie) presiding. Of note was the Toast to the Military given by Major General James Everett Livingston, USMC (Retired), who lives in Charleston, SC now and who is Medal of Honor winner. See his bio at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._Livingston. The speaker for the evening was Matt Newsome, the director of the Tartans Museum in Franklin, NC. A TV interview on June 12, 2008 of Matt, with some interesting views of older style kilts is posted online here: <http://www.scottishtartans.org/NCW.htm>

The Scottish Society is a supporter of the Pipe-Major Sandy Jones Invitational Bagpipe Competition which will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 7:30 PM on the campus of The Citadel (171 Moultrie St., Charleston, SC29409 in the Commander's Riverview Room of Coward Halls Riverview Room, Coward Hall.

The Scottish Society will be the Honored Group at Tartan Fest 2011 which will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the S.C. State Museum in Columbia, SC.

Finally, do not forget that the Scottish Society of Charleston will be holding its 40th Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at which Clan Macfie will hold its International Clan Gathering.

Amy Fee writes: Come one come all to warmer weather. On February 27-28, the Arizona Scottish games will be held in Phoenix. I will have my clan tent up. Come by and visit me. We usually have temperatures of high 70's and 80's. Not bad for February.

Edward Guffey relates this story: I have a story that has been in the family for years. when we get together someone tells it. my grandfather James Harrison Guffee moved his family from Sevierville to Blount county. His son Lawson would go Raccoon hunting at night on the mountain behind the house. There was an old church up there. Grandpa told him he might see a ghost around the old grave yard he said I hunt up there all the time I have never seen one. that night grandpa took a sheet went up and wrapped the sheet around him and crawled under the church. when Lawson came down he rolled out moaning. Lawson screamed ran to the house. He knocked the screen door down, ran through the house, fell on his bed. grandma said his heart was beating so hard it was shaking the bed.



Colonsay, Isle of the Prairies, which is located in (No not Scotland) but the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. We recently learned about the Canadian Colonsay, which is located on Highway 16 running east-west in central Saskatchewan. Colonsay derived its name from our own Colonsay Scotland. The population as of 2001 is 425. I could not find out how it got its name or who named it, but I'll bet it was a former resident of Colonsay. There is a Jura street and of course a Golf Course. You can find out more about this town at <http://www.townofcolonsay.ca/> I contacted them and they sent me a 6 page history of the town, if any one is interested, please e-mail me (Ginger) at www.jgmcafee@charter.net and I will forward that to you, or I can copy and send it by US mail.

CIAD MILE FAILTE (100,000 Welcomes) to our newest members:

Michael McAfee, Windermere, FL

Making Spurtles and Winning Most Improved Sailor.

By Ken McAfee



I am the Thistle Fleet Captain at the Indianapolis Sailing Club. We give out prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and wanted to provide something unique. I am making Spurtles with a carved Thistle top for the crews. Spurtles are the traditional Scottish oatmeal stirring sticks which are very good oatmeal tools. A little work on the lathe, some carving and I have unique awards.

At the club's Christmas Party I won the "Most Improved Sailor Award". Three years ago I rammed into the shore in my first heavy wind racing attempt - this year my wife and I are winning some races and having a lot of fun. To promote Thistle sailing my wife and I wore kilts to the party. We were told we really look good. Hopefully we may get some new people to sail thistles.

Attached is a picture of the Spurtles I am making, some Thistle tea, oatmeal, and a picture of me and friend John Spencer sailing a Thistle in a club race. It is fun being a sailing Scot.

Beth Gay-Freeman encourages you to visit <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft> for her FREE Beth's New-fangled Family Tree



Macfies Online

The home island of Colonsay now has it's own Facebook page. The friends of Colonsay. For those who have visited the home isle, you can see the ferry dock and other happens around Port Scalasaig, two hours of filming condensed into two minutes.

The Official Clan Macfie Facebook page can be located at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680> You have to first join Facebook in order to participate.

Be sure to check out the Macfie Society of America web site: www.clanmacfieofamerica.com We are now able to read and archive the Newsbeat on the web page.

And don't forget Colonsay's monthly online newsletter **The Corncrake** which can be read at <http://www.colonsay.org.uk/corncrake/cornframe.html>

Former Commander Sandy McPhie and wife, Helen reassure us that they are doing fine and are high and dry in spite of the recent flooding in their area of Australia. Sandy also tells us that they have a new address:

Sandy & Helen McPhie
2 Sandalwood Drive,
Glenvale. Q. 4350 Australia

More Clan News

We offer our sympathy to society member, Scott McPhie, and his family, on the passing of his father, Donald McCleod McPhie Jr. , who passed away at 84, on December 28th, 2010. He was born in Montreal Canada and moved to Nashua New Hampshire in 1955.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Stephen Billon**, husband of Nowata Jean Cathey Billon, passed away on 30 December 2010 at the age of 93 years, 4 months. Steve was born in New Jersey and enlisted in the Army Air Corps on July 4th 1942. He was accepted into pilot training and became a C-46 and C-47 pilot, eventually flying "The Hump" in Indo-China. He and Jean were married in Shanghai, China in 1948, and lived overseas until the late 1950s. After their daughter, Stephanie, was born in Williamsburg, VA, they spent 5 years living in Bangkok, Thailand, before returning to the US. They lived in Rockville, Maryland for 10 years before Steve retired from the CIA and they moved to Las Vegas, NV. Steve had resided in Las Vegas for 33 years at the time of his death. He was a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force reserves and will be buried with Chapel Service and Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery in March. He is survived by his daughter, **Society member, Stephanie Billon-Wolfe**, her husband Mark Wolfe, and granddaughter, Alexandra Cathey Billon Wolfe.

Reverend Elnora Geogina Park Cathey, age 82, went to heaven at 5:40 pm, Monday, January 17, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Winston O. Cathey and son Bryan Cass Cathey. She was born in Tulsa, OK in 1928. Nora lived in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas prior to moving to Albuquerque, NM, where she resided for the last 30 years. She leaves behind 4 children; Ronald Stephen Cathey, **Society member, Karen Lea Cathey Singh**, Regan Eloit Cathey and Justin Kent Cathey, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

We also send our condolences to **Joyce McDuffie's** upon the passing of her mother, Thelma Burton, on January 4th, 2011.

While looking at some old newspaper articles in the Cookeville, Tennessee (Putnam County) Herald Citizen I ran across these articles, about a man with a Macfie name. I don't know this family but this, nearly 100 year old, article was interesting:

February 6, 1913: MCAFFREY, J. W.: J. W. McAffrey Murdered Skull: Fractured and Body Thrown in City Reservoir:

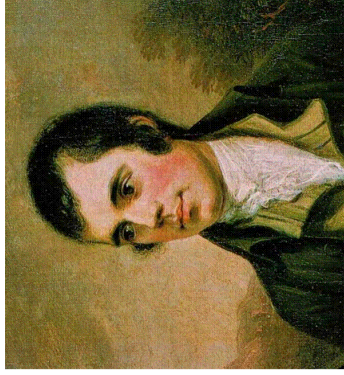
Last Friday morning about 10 o'clock the body of J. W. McAffrey was found in the city reservoir. Laying by the all (sic) was his hat, pipe, knife, match [b]ox and sack of tobacco. Coroner J. R. Douglas impaneled a jury of inquest, which reported that McAffrey came to his death at the hands [of] unknown persons and his body thrown in the water. There was a large gash in the back of [h]is head, a cut over one eye and bruise on his jaw. Mr. McAffrey was a quiet and inoffensive man and had resided in Cookeville for many years. He left his home after supper and was last seen about 8 o'clock Thursday night, so far as has been learned. No motive is known to the officers, and there is no clue to the identity of [the] guilty person or persons. The funeral services were conducted [at] the family home on Saturday by Rev. W. W. Baxter, and interment made at the city cemetery. Mr. McAffrey left several children, two of them small. Date: 2/6/1913, Vol. XI, No. 6, Page 3, Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

A later article written, Nov. 9, 1933: A 40yearold Electrician, Jim McAffrey, was convicted by a jury of the first degree murder of his wife, Dora, this week and it sparked talk of the death of his father, "Daddy" McAffrey, in 1912 here. His murder was never solved.

In an article on that killing, the newspaper talked with one of its former publishers, E.L. Wirt, who said he was working late the night that McAffrey was struck in the head with a blunt object by an unknown assailant and dumped into the city reservoir.

Wirt said that the town's night patrolman, Bood Choate, had stopped by and the two were talking out on the sidewalk. It was a cold, foggy night, he said. Suddenly, dogs "all over town let out unearthly and bloodcurdling howls ."Wirt said he later calculated that it occurred at the time of the killing. He says it was a night he'll never forget.

Happy Birthday Robert Burns



Born into a poor family on 25th January, 1759, in Alloway, Ayr, Scotland. Burns started his career by working on the family farm. Robert's father recognized the importance of education and together with other friends, a local teacher was hired to educate Burns. Even from an early age Burns began to show signs of his writing talent. He later rose to fame, in 1786 when his first works "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" were published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, and so began his flourishing career in writing.

Much of the influence for Burns' songs and poetry were gathered from his surroundings, the places he traveled to, the culture and politics of the day and of course the people he loved

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