



# THE NEWSBEAT



Volume XXVIII, Issue II, Summer 2012

Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of America

## Society Officers

### President:

Dr. Jim McAfee, FSA Scot  
420 Ash Dr.  
Baxter, TN 38544  
931-858-4790  
jgmcafee@charter.net

### Vice President

Ms. Amy Fee  
2667 W. Avenida Azahar  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
520-622-7630  
macfee62@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Vacant

### Treasurer

Ginger McAfee  
420 Ash Dr,  
Baxter, TN 38544  
jgmcafee@charter.net

### Membership

Diane Swenson  
299 Wattaquaddock Hill Rd.  
Bolton, MA 01740  
[dmswenson52@comcast.net](mailto:dmswenson52@comcast.net)

### Newsbeat Editor

Ginger McAfee  
420 Ash Dr.  
Baxter, TN 38544  
jgmcafee@charter.net

## District Coordinators

### District 1 Eastern Time Zone

Mr. Welbourne "Cliff" McDuffie  
6130 17th St.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
813 782 0877  
zgator@verizon.net

### District 2, Central Time Zone

Mr. Jarrod Fay  
6417 Ems Rd. W  
Ft. Worth, TX 76116  
817-536-4397  
Jarrod@glasslake.com

### District 3, Mountain Time Zone

Ms. Amy Fee  
2667 W. Avenida Azahar  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
520-622-7630  
macfee62@yahoo.com

### District 4, Pacific Time Zone

Mr. Jess McHaffie  
P.O. Box 164  
Powell Butte Oregon. 97753  
541-461-2755  
seawolf282@msn.com

**Macfie Society of America Web  
Site: [www.clanmacfieofamerica.com](http://www.clanmacfieofamerica.com)**

### Clan Commander-Ceann Cath

Iain McFie  
Coulintyre, Kinraig  
Kingussie PH21 1LX

### E-mail

[imcfie103@btinternet.com](mailto:imcfie103@btinternet.com)

International Clan Website:

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

## 2013 Macfie Calendars

Our 2012 Calendars were so popular we decided to do it again. They should be ready by October, so plan now to buy your family and friends a Calendar for Christmas. They will be \$15.00 each plus \$2.00 for postage. We are getting some great pictures, you do not want to miss it.

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.

**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](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  
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](mailto:jgmcafee@charter.net)

**Upcoming Scottish Games where you are likely to find a Macfie Clan Tent**

**September 1 & 2, The Caledonian Games**, Alameda County, CA Fair Grounds. <http://www.caledonian.org/games.html>

**Sept. 6-9 Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Festival** Estes Park Co. [http://www.scotfest.com/Scottish\\_Festival/Home.html](http://www.scotfest.com/Scottish_Festival/Home.html)

**September 15, 2012 1st Charleston Highland Games** Boone Hall Plantation, Mt. Pleasant, SC [www.charlestonscots.org](http://www.charlestonscots.org)

**October 19-21, 2012 Stone Mountain Highland Games**, Stone Mountain (GA [www.smhg.org](http://www.smhg.org)) (We will have our Annual Meeting at these games, about 3:00 at one of the meeting tents on the field.)

**Nov. 2-4. Tucson Celtic Festival**; Tucson AZ <http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

**Ceud Mile Failte (One hundred thousand welcomes)**

**To our newest Society members**

**Donnalee McFee Nelipowitz ; Averill Park, NY**

**Carl Ireland; Apple Valley, MN**

**Judith Yates, Brooksville, FL**

**HAVE YOU SEEN.....**

We are looking for information about the following members;



**Mr.. & Mrs. Harold McPhee**, their last known address was 9000 Las Vegas, Blvd. Las Vegas, NV

**Phyllis McFie**, of Benson, AZ

**James McAfee** of Portland OR

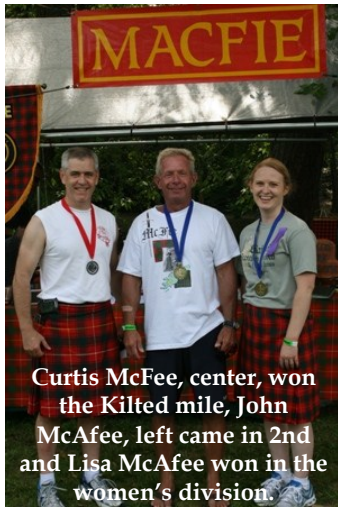
Please let us know if you have information about any of these members.

# BLAIRSVILLE GA SCOTTISH GAMES

June 9-10



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Curtis McFee, center, won the Kilted mile, John McAfee, left came in 2nd and Lisa McAfee won in the women's division.



The youngest MacFie attending 2012 BSFHG, Abigail Elizabeth Willingham, daughter of Alison McAfee Willingham,; grand-daughter of A. Lewis McAfee. Abigail was born March 17, 2012

The Blairsville Games were great fun, and there were over 50 Macfies attending. They came from as far away as New York and Florida, as well as Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and of course Scotland. We were thrilled to have Iain and Fiona there, where Iain was the guest of honor, opening and closing the ceremonies and officiating at many of the games events. The Macfies were well represented and did us all proud at the athletic events. **David Summer** won the heavy athletics for his division and set a field record by turning the caber three times at the 12:00 position. **Curtis McFee** won the men's kilted mile, **John McAfee**, came in second, and **Lisa McAfee** won for the ladies Kilted Mile. The weather was beautiful on Saturday, but Sunday dawned overcast with the threat of severe weather later in the day, so most of the activities were cancelled, but several die hard Scots stayed on for the duration. Then to top off a wonderful weekend, Clan Macfie won the **Best Clan Tent Award**.





## The Grandfather Mountain Scottish Games

Thanks to Steven and Emily (Coffee) Anthony and Nick & Ashley Mahaffey for convening the Grandfather Mountain Games this year. Nick represented Clan Macfie in the Torch Light Ceremony on Thursday night. However, the weather did not cooperate with activities of the weekend, and apparently kept lots of folks away from the games.

**This story was written in 1992 and published in the Summer Galley in 2002, then republished Summer 2012.**

### ANDREW OG.....An Island Tale.

It wasn't a big island. Not too many people lived on it and their ways were known to each other. Young Andrew's ways soon became well known and the telling of them brought a brightness to the lives of the islanders which had been missing for a long time. When they heard later on that he was for the University in Glasgow there was no happiness in the news.

God knows there were enough permanent absences in the townships. The '45 was still within living memory. The years since had bled away too many young men and another one going was always a sad thing but the few years they had Andrew Og between infancy and youth will always be remembered.

News of events on the mainland and beyond was always slow to reach the island but there was a freshness around at that time and the folk had a sense of the world giving itself a stretch and reaching out to new things over the horizon.

The word of these new things came to them through their man of the church and right enough they were indeed blessed by his presence. He had many years behind him and had been to Rome and Dublin. His books were wonders in themselves and there was some talk that it was the dominie and his books which had fashioned young Andrew.

The truth was that the old man had recognised a kindred spirit in the lad and had seized upon the gift which every teacher yearns for, a young enquiring mind.

Certainly Andrew was never short of questions. They started as soon as he could articulate and I daresay they never stopped.

He and the dominie between them fashioned the answers to his questions as best they could. They laid them out in logical style and took them apart. They flayed them to their very bones to get as near to the truth as they could and even then they picked them over to shred away any doubts they had.

It was the time of the fairy rings that first brought young Andrew to the islander's notice. When the circles of small stones first appeared the people began to bar their doors and young children were never left alone. When the wind blew in the course grass some of the old ones heard echoes of the past and old fears began to reawaken.

When the murmurings reached the church it was the dominie who started the laugh. A laugh that roared its way round the island. He soon realised that it was young Andrew at his mathematics just making sure that the ratio of diameter to circumference never varied whatever the size of the circle.

Round potato patches began to appear as the crofters practised their new found knowledge and the fun of the new fashion swept across the island. There was even more fun when they heard that on the large island to the North they had adopted the new shape just in case they were missing something.

When Andrew was a bit older there was also the case of the peat flavoured pibroch. He was very generous in his nature and he felt keenly for old John the piper when his wind went. Young Andrew modified his pipes using a bellows his mother had for the fire and right enough John soon learned to use it to help his lungs. He was very pleased with the sound but he let it be known that he needed a good dram to take away the taste.

Later on when Andrew was in Glasgow he fashioned a splendid new instrument, using the bellows only, but when old John got them he couldn't settle to the sound. He reckoned the reeds didn't like the cold air and he gave the instrument to his nephew when he went for a soldier to Northumberland. It was a lively time on the island when Andrew was growing up. He had no brothers or sisters but the life in him was enough for a whole brood and his mother was content. Old Andrew, his father, was a quiet determined man and like many fathers before him had the wish to be remembered through his son.

He felt no shame in seeking the patronage which opened up the road to university for the lad and sturdily breasted the hurting waves of neighbourhood gossip which the human race generates in these circumstances. In any event it was the neighbours who were to feel the shame the way things turned out.

It was the back end of the summer, just before the autumn winds, when word came from Glasgow that Andrew should go there to the University. His mother prepared the things he would need to keep him clean, warm and fed and his father made a fine leather satchel to carry them. On the shore that day when he went no tears were shed. It was not their way.

The touch of hands and the few words said were potent enough to the emotion that flowed to him from his parents and friends. His mentor, the dominie, knew that for himself it could be a final parting. He was content to pass on his hope for a wee place in history to Andrew. He knew that the seed which he had inherited had found a fertile habitation in the mind of Andrew Og and his smile was serene when he touched his hands and watched him sail away.

Big ships on the open sea were to Andrew like the restoration of sight to a blind man. He studied every bit of gear on the vessel that took him across to the mainland. Question after question he fired toward the near demented crew. Blocks and tackle, keel and topmast, wind and tide, they all came under the barrage. How? When? Where? Why?

When he reached the mainland the rapidly spoken English he found there slowed him down which, as it turned out, helped to ease him into the company of his peers when he got to Glasgow. It would have gone hard for him if he had arrived there with his brisk barrage of questions. He quickly recognised this when he met his fellow students.

Many of them, high born though they were, knew very little but they were skilled in disguising it and their station in society placed no great obligation on them to learn. Their arrogance snuffed out the aspirations of several younger and gifted students but not Andrew Og. The old dominie had forged into him a controlled curiosity which was not to be denied.

He missed the island that was certain. There was no natural quietness in the High Street in Glasgow and the bustle, the smells and getting used to thinking in English were a great trial to him in the beginning.

It was a great wonder to him that the University had been there for over three hundred years and yet so little was known of it in the community which he had just left. He had marvelled at the tales from the outside world which had drifted to the island but here in Glasgow he could see it all for himself virtually as it happened.

There was change in the air. Old ways were being challenged. Wheels were beginning to turn. It was a natural climate for a mind like Andrew's and he responded to it.

Where debate took place it was no time at all before he was in demand. The word went out for him and when the time came for recording what had been said his thoughts were there, written down for all to see. This was a fine thing for him but there was a sadness too because of the dominie not having a place in it.

Many subjects came his way. His efforts to rationalise the wealth, and the poverty, of nations were discussed and recorded.

The possibility that the world's resources were finite and that population was a factor in their preservation also generated new thinking for him and his words on the subject were much discussed. As time went by it was evident that as his knowledge expanded specialisation would creep in, and indeed this was the case.

He had a great friend who made instruments at the university and with him he began to examine the properties of steam and its use as a source of power but as it turned out that was as far as he got. Word came to him that his father had died and Andrew as the only son was needed on the croft. It was the way of things and he had to go.

He left his notes and drawings for an improved steam engine with his friend whose home was in Greenock and he sailed from there back to the island.

Glasgow soon forgot him but there was a feeling among his own people that he should have been given more time there. They believed that he could have found the wee place in history that the dominie had wanted.

They were happy to have him back and before long they were wondering what he was about weaving away at the tweed on the new loom he had contrived.

*Author's note:* I've heard it said that innovation is rarely, if ever, the work of one person. This tale certainly bears it out. Generations of islanders have told and retold the story of Andrew Og. If it's true then Northumbrian pipes, Adam Smith, Dr Malthus and James Watt got off to a flying start.

P.S. Modesty forbids any mention of Andrew's surname but we all know what it was.

**McAnon**  
**Winter, 1992**



**Stone Mountain Highland Games  
and Macfie Clan Society of America Annual General Meeting**

**The annual meeting of the Macfie Clan Society of America will be during the Stone Mountain Games, on Saturday, October 20, 2012; 3:00 PM, on the Games field. We will be assigned a Meeting Tent at the Games, so if you are there, stop by the Clan Tent and we will tell you which Meeting Tent we will meet in.**

## Society News 'n Views

We (Jim and Ginger) had a wonderful visit from **Iain and Fiona** in June. They came to the US in order to attend the MacDuffie's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Glasgow, KY and the Blairsville, GA games where Macfies were the honored clan. Between the two events and for a few days after Blairsville, we had the privilege of having them in our home. We took some side trips to Nashville, where we ate at The Wild horse Saloon, and saw some other Nashville sites. We also visited the Tartan Museum in Franklin, NC and the Sequoyah Indian Museum in Vonore, TN where we met up with Museum Curator and former society member Charlie Rhodarmer. Iain and Fiona had met Charlie when he attended the Parliament Meeting in 1993 on Colonsay. We are hoping that Iain and Fiona will get to come back to the states in October to attend the Stone Mountain Games.

Society member, **David Summers**, has been doing great at heavy athletics in several of the games this spring. In addition to winning his division at Blairsville, GA, he placed 1st at the Panama City games in March. He placed 3rd in the Orlando, FL games in January and 4th at chieftains Celtic fest in Rome, GA. Also at Blairsville, he set a field record by turning the caber three times at the 12:00 position



**Ray McFee** of Columbus, OH wrote: We (SAMS Post 1813) received the Governor's Proclamation in honor of Tartan Day at the Statehouse in Columbus OH. Jeanne and my granddaughters, Ailis and Ella Rees, raised the St. Andrew's flag on the Statehouse grounds (picture attached). If you look real closely on the left, you'll see Old Ray saluting. We had one of pipers play for us as we marched from the steps of the Statehouse to the flagpole. After the ceremony, we repaired to Mac's, a Scottish Pub, for lunch



**Terry Schoolcraft** wrote: had 19 clans & societies set up at the West Virginia Games May 5. It rained from 7:00 - 1:00. Then it got steamy. We had a light but steady crowd all day.

**Ilah Coffee Merriman** wrote: We just had our 76th Annual Coffee Reunion with 57 in attendance. We may have 6-8 who plan to attend the Parliament in 2013. It looks good. One of the cousins visited Iain and Fiona in Scotland and really fell in love with them and with Scotland. For more information about the Coffee/Coffey connections, contact Ilah at [ICMerriman@aol.co](mailto:ICMerriman@aol.co)

**Janell Macafee Kean** wrote to tell us that her son and daughter, Caleb and Cadell Erickson were recently visiting Colonsay. Janell and husband, Richard are going to Scotland in August. Richard is a member of the St. Thomas Alumni Pipe Band and they are competing in the World's Pipe Band Competition in Glasgow. Caleb is going to drive over to Glasgow to meet them and then they are going to spend a couple of days on Colonsay. After the piping competition they are heading to Edinburgh to visit Richard's family



### Flowers of the Forest Our condolences to these families

We were saddened to learn that Society member, **Jerry McAfee's** wife, **Sue** was killed in a car accident on the 4th of July. Jerry lives in Monette AR and attended Parliament and has visited Colonsay several times.

We were also very sad to hear that **Jeri Chester** passed away on December 27th, 2011

## Macfie Day Celebrations

From Barbara MacPhee: We did celebrate Clan Macfie on Macfie Day. I was with my daughter, Robin Brown, to celebrate their son's wedding and enjoy the heat of Arizona. Robin had her entire family members living there for a great dinner and then asked me to tell them the story of their Grandpa John as they call my husband. We are planning a John and Barbara MacPhee Reunion July 19-21 at Bear Lake, near Yellowstone Park where we expect about 75 of our possible 120 posterity. This includes spouses. We have had this gathering every four years since 1979. Of course the numbers have increased over the years. Robin and I spent many hours reviewing our MacPhee etc. family history records, as she has assumed the responsibility of family historian since I have grown older, 85 now. I laughingly refer to myself as her consultant. I appreciate you younger members carrying on the Clan traditions and history.

**This Macfie Day Greeting came from Commander Iain McFie**

### *A Macfie Clan Greeting*

*I am sure, you are aware that Clan (n) in Gaelic means Family – offspring - children. We are a family spread across the world sometimes due to circumstances not of our own choosing, but we are connected to Clan and Scotland by our proud name.*

*The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights describes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society. It follows that any choice and decision with regard to the size of the family (and its aims) must rest with the family itself and cannot be made by anyone else. As I said at the last Clan Parliament **in the distant past the Chief was only the first amongst equals** and I hold to that position today.*

*Our family decisions are made at the Clan Parliament and here is a commercial The Clan Parliament is to be held in Dumfries, Scotland early September 2013. Details will be on the Clan Website soon.*

*F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "Family quarrels are bitter things. They do not go according to any rules ---." Like most families we have our squabbles, but we are a small family and cannot afford to have internal feuds. There is enough trouble in the World; we do not need to add our petty squabbles into the mix. So where there is animosity I ask for unanimity.*

*Call it a Clan, call it a family, call it a tribe, call it a network, What ever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. (Jane Howard)*

*We are a Clan, a family, a proud and ancient one, we have a long history and heritage and it is our duty to preserve it and to celebrate it. So on our very special day I send my greetings and best wishes to all of you. and ask you to send greetings to all the other Macfie Societies and Family associations.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Iain M McFie.*

Greetings/ Kia Ora from a very stormy Wellington

Here's wishing that all McPhees – whatever the spelling..., were able to take time out for remembering our extended Clan family/whanau on this day. We also remember those who have passed away, but left us with wonderful memories of special times together.

Carolyn (nee Brew/McPhee) & Eric Wadsworth  
Wellington, NZ



## More Macfie Day Greetings

**Greetings one and all. From New Zealand, the 1<sup>st</sup> to see the light,**

We wish you all a very **HAPPY MACFIE DAY** and hope that you will be celebrating your name or connection to it and the Clan in some way today.

**James McPhee**  
**Clan Commissioner to NZ**

**Mary McPhee**  
**NZ Clan Society Sec/Treasurer**

The Scottish Government in the USA has a great Facebook page which is full of information on Scottish news, events and culture with a focus on the United States. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/ScottishAffairsOfficeintheUSA>.

**International Clan Gathering and Parliament meeting, September, 4th - 7th, 2013 in Dumfries, Scotland**  
**Begin now to make your plans to attend**

Folks are busy making plans and preparations for the next International Gathering and Parliament meeting in Scotland next year. Definite plans are not yet available but the Commander's Reception will be on Wednesday the 4th. Parliament will probably be in the mornings of the 5th and 7th with an all day trip on Friday and other short trips or events on Thursday and Saturday and a trip over to Colonsay on Sunday the 8th of September, returning probably on the next Wednesday. Some of the things in the planning stages are side trips to The Lake District, Hadrian's Wall, Burn's Dumfries, John Paul Jones' birthplace and other places.

### 2012 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

**(Taken from The Galley (Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of Scotland))**

Many readers will have improved their Geography as they follow the progress of the Olympic flame around the country and, as this journal goes to press, the torch will still be travelling. Particular interest, of course, lies with local areas and the stories behind those carrying the torch close to our homes. You will be pleased to learn that a MacPhee had been chosen to bear the torch in Grantown-on-Spey.

#### **SAM MACPHEE**

Sam, (aged 44) from Burghead in Morayshire, works with people with learning disabilities making a great difference to their daily lives. It is obvious to those who know Sam that he loves the job and the people he helps. In his own time he has raised cash for the British Heart Foundation and the Heart, Chest and Stroke Foundation, by taking on many miles in charity bike rides. (190 miles round the Outer Hebrides and 85km round Moray Hospitals.) Sam has lost many family members to the illness and disease these charities can help. He also, on a regular basis, runs 5/10km to raise money for local charities.





### IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PIPER

**DON'T FORGET, it is time for annual dues. If you have already remitted your dues, THANK YOU!!**

**If not please send your dues to Diane Swenson, 299 Wattaquadock Hill Rd. Bolton, MA 01740 as soon as possible.**

**The only way the society can continue to function and maintain a presence at many of the Highland Games and help to carry on Macfie heritage in the US is by your financial support. We are here for you but we can't exist without YOU!**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CLAN**

**SOCIETY IN AMERICA**

**We also would appreciate your thoughts and ideas for the Newsbeat. Send them to Ginger at**

**[jgmcafee@charter.net](mailto:jgmcafee@charter.net)**



**The Macfie Clan Society of America  
Dr. Jim McAfee, President  
420 Ash Dr.  
Baxter, TN 38544**

