



# THE NEWSBEAT



Volume IX Summer 2015

Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of America

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**It is time to pay  
the Piper, annu-  
al dues were due  
June 1, 2015**

### Clan Commander-Ceann Cath

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## Membership Renewal

Membership dues are due each June 1, please check your membership card to see if you are paid up, we count on your dues to help us convene Clan tents and have a presence at many of the Scottish Games around the county. We want to keep our heritage alive, but it takes money to do that. Please renew your membership and if you can make a donation it will help us remain a viable clan Society. Thank you.

The Newsbeat is published three times a year, Spring-Summer and Fall/Winter. 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 Wattaquaddock 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 the year following. Please check your membership card to see when you need to renew. Thanks to all those who faithfully renew their membership each year, your dues helps us to print and mail out this newsletter, it also helps us to maintain our web site and have 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

Black T-shirts-\$17.00

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)

**Some upcoming Games where you are likely to find a Macfie Clan Tent**

September 10-13, Long's Peak CO Scottish/Irish Festival

September 18-20, New Hampshire Games and Festival, Loon Mountain NH, [www.nhscot.ort](http://www.nhscot.ort)

September 26 Ligonier Highland Games, Idlewild Park, Ligonier, PA

October 16-18 The Stone Mountain Highland Games, [www.smhg.org](http://www.smhg.org)

Nov. 6-8 Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Games [www.tucsoncelticfestival.org](http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org)

March 19-20, 2016 Arizona Scottish Games Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Road in Phoenix <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

If YOU would like to convene a tent at a Scottish Highland Games in your area, please contact Ginger at [jgmcafee@charter.net](mailto:jgmcafee@charter.net) for information.



*Annual Meeting*

The annual meeting of the Macfie Clan Society of America will be on Saturday, October 17, 2015, at the clan tent at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mt, GA. 3:00 PM.

*Flowers of the Forest*

We send our sympathies to the family of Fritz McDuffie who recently passed away. Fritz was one of the founding members of the MacDuffee Society of America. His brother, Bruce passed away last September.

*Ceud Mile Failte*

(One hundred thousand welcomes)

To our newest Society members

Scott & Mila Senn, Cumming, GA

Eva Wade, Sayre, PA

Anthony & Janice Ramsey, Moore, SC





**Terry Schoolcraft** convened the West Virginia Games last May. Terry said they had a great day. It was sunny with highs in the 70's. There were 18 clans and 2 societies representative. It was a moderate crowd this year. Next year the WV Games will be on May 7th.  
<http://www.northcentralwestvirginiascottishfestival.com/>



Terry at the Macfie tent



Terry with friends at the Celtic Heritage Tent

The

**Blairsville GA Scottish Games** in June were extraordinary. The weather could not have been better. We had a very large turnout at the clan tent, and many visitors came by to get information about Clan Macfie and our Society.



Scottish Entertainer Extraordinaire, Colin Grant Adams, visits with Jim McAfee at the Macfie Tent



These four gentleman crooners stopped by the Macfie tent to serenade the Macfie ladies.



It was a clean sweep for the Macfies who entered the Kilted

Mile, Lisa McAfee, John McAfee, Ian McAfee and Jake McAfee all won in their respective age classes. Congratulations for a job well done.



## My Trip to Scotland

by Stephanie Billon-Wolfe

Last September I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Scotland. Herewith is a bit of travel information that I thought you might find interesting and useful.

Having been to Scotland once before, in August 1985, I was prepared for cold weather. It was as though Scotland was trying to “seduce” me into returning, for the temperature was very pleasant (in the 60s & low 70s) and there was almost NO rain! Fabulous! (That was probably because I was *completely* prepared, with galoshes, rain pants, coat & hat.)

During my first week, in Edinburgh, a friend joined me and we stayed in a flat in the Grassmarket District, with a view of the Edinburgh Castle! Catherine recommended using Airbnb, and I’m so glad we did. It was wonderful to have an apartment with a kitchen, living room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The best part was the flexibility to go anywhere we wanted, with no schedule. For those “adventuresome” folks, I highly recommend going to Scotland “unescorted”. There are so many wonderful, historical sites in Edinburgh. We WALKED everywhere! Walking is so much fun, as the town is built on 7 extinct volcanoes. We left about 9am, and walked back into our flat after dinner. With all that exercise, there was no reason not to indulge at the local pastry shops! Our favorite place to eat was “The Fiddler’s Arm’s” in the Grassmarket, just a few hundred feet from our flat. They have excellent Haggis, and I highly recommend it (photo). Stay away from the Deacon Brodie Tavern on the main street. The Haggis there is very unappetizing, and we left without eating (and went back to the Fiddler’s Arms).

The second part of my trip consisted of a three-day guided bus trip to the Highlands and the isle of Skye. The most exciting part of that trip was the gale-force winds we encountered on Skye. I had never been out in 50-mile-per-hour winds! The sky got black while we were at dinner, but we got back to our B&B before the rain hit. It was SO dramatic! And quite lovely!

The last part of my trip was a weeklong excursion with the Daughters of the American Revolution to various sites around Scotland that have a connection to the American Revolution. One of the nicest things was staying on the top floor of the Balmoral Hotel & having a view of the park and the Edinburgh Castle. The hotel has two elevators, and a beautiful marble & carpet staircase w stained glass windows. If stairs in the US were like those, I think more people would be inclined to walk! With the guided



Stephanie between the Salisbury Craigs

tour, there was little opportunity to get any exercise (and lots of good food), so I made it a point to walk up to my room, at least twice a day.

Scotland is such a lovely place to walk. Going walking, from town to town, around the entire country (it is only 60 miles from east to west) is on my bucket list. Actually, I would

take a bus or train from town to town, and then just walk the hills around the town. Apparently, there are no “no trespassing” laws in Scotland, so you are free to walk any pasture you want. Although, it is recommended to check with the farmer to make sure there are no bulls out!

There are 365 steps up to the William Wallace monument; I’m in training for my next visit as I hope to go there! (continued next page)



Stephanie with Greyfriars Bobby

## Anyone up to walking a month-long trip around Scotland, by Stephanie Billon-Wolfe

There are a few things you might like to know:

1. The "second floor" is really 3 flights up.
2. They often don't have elevators, so check into this if it might be a problem. Ask if there is someone to help with luggage. In some cases, there isn't (came across one place where there was a narrow spiral staircase up to the rooms, and the host was perplexed that Americans expected an elevator). That wouldn't be the place for someone like me, with a large suitcase! In my case, the host was waiting when we arrived and carried my suitcase up the 3 flights of stairs. It was good Catherine was there to help me get it *down* the stairs...
3. If you rent, check to make sure the clothes washer is also a dryer. The landlord *thought* so, but it turned out I had to (*literally*) run to the other end of the district with an arm load of wet clothes because they had to be packed & stored while I was in the highlands, and the laundry mat was closing in an hour!
4. The people in Scotland speak Scottish, but they will often speak English for you. You can usually understand the Scottish, *if* they speak slowly!
5. The cheapest place to buy an electrical converter may be at a local grocery store. The one I brought from the US didn't work in every outlet (not sure why).
6. Travel by bus or train is VERY easy. It is a great way to get around the countryside.
7. They don't have rum in Scotland. No hot rum toddy's. Might brush up on Scottish mixed drinks, so you will know what to order. Mostly things with their world-famous whisky. They do have very good Indian Pale Ales.
8. They have a unique soda called "Irn-bru" (as one construction worker demonstrated for me, it is pronounced "iron brew", as in "ironing"). Apparently it was "invented" to keep the workers from drinking so much whisky. It is absolutely delicious (says a person who doesn't like "soda")! It is orange in color, but does not taste anything like our "orange soda". I think it has a more "flowery" taste. We first encountered it in the form of ice cream at Portobello Beach, and I spent the rest of the trip looking for more of the ice cream, but never found it.
9. Some restaurants have half-priced dinners before 4pm, so if you have been out all day & have worked up an appetite, going early is a great way to save money.
10. Make sure there is a dryer in any rental unit, or ask about the hours and cost of a laundry mat, if you think you will be needing one. They have "drop & go" laundry mats.

*We would LOVE to hear your news, please send it along with any pictures for inclusion in the next Newsbeat.*



On the morning of July 2nd, flowers were placed at the memorial at Leum a' Bhriair on behalf of all Colonsay residents and in remembrance of over 800 souls whose lives were cut short by the tragic loss of that ship. It was a moment of solidarity with friends throughout UK, Germany and Italy, particularly with the good folk of Borgo val di Taro, who so kindly granted honorary citizenship to all residents of Colonsay to cement our

relationship.

**SS Arandora Star** was a British passenger ship of the Blue Star Line. She was built in 1927 as an ocean liner and refrigerated cargo ship, converted in 1929 into a cruise ship and requisitioned as a troop ship in the Second World War. At the end of June 1940 she was assigned the task of transporting German and Italian internees and prisoners of war to Canada. On 2 July 1940 she was sunk in controversial circumstances by a German U-boat with a large loss of life.



## Scots Converge on Grandfather Mountain, NC

By John Guffey



The Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain this year was truly a great success! Literally thousands of people were there, representing more clans than has been seen at a gathering in quite a while! From Clan Anderson to Clan Wardlaw, the variety of tartans was spectacular!

The obvious planning for the event paid off with something going on at all times. From the beginning with the lighting of the torch til the ending with the last tent that was taken down, everyone had something to do, see, hear or eat!

All of the games were not only well attended but also there was much participation. There was an air of camaraderie all around. People were milling about all the tents, searching for possibly a hint of which clan they might belong, if they didn't already know. And believe it or not, many had no clue! But there were also those who knew exactly which tartan ran in their blood! The Macfie tent certainly had a great number of visitors, and all had either many questions or stories they wanted to share about ancestors.

The honored clan this year was Napier. The Chief's name is Sir Francis Lord Napier. He was born in London, 1962. He now resides in a village near Cambridge. He has been clan chief for three years.

The weather was wonderful every day. The rain held until the end of the day on Sunday; and as much fun as everyone obviously had, it was time to pack up the kids and our gear and head back to the mundane world of work and reality. No more kilts. No more war paint. And, alas - no more bagpipes.



Hope to see you next year at Grandfather!



**Jim Mahaffey wrote:** On a trip to Scotland about 25 years ago, I got very interested in the heritage of the Mahaffey name. Our tour group got into composing poems, etc. I wrote this one which later won first prize at my school (a teachers competition). Thought you might be interested:

### The Piper Calls

Is it me, MacPhee, or  
Is it I, MacPhie?  
'Mid Campbells and Stuarts,  
where barley and rye grow  
intertwined in fields of  
God-sent heather.

O'er the glens of immortal  
Ben Nevis echoes an air  
to the pillars of Holyrood.  
And as deeply within me  
as Loch Lomonds's waters,  
the kilted piper calls.



\*\*\*\*\*

Plans are underway for the **2017 International Gathering and Parliament Meeting**. One venue considered is the island of Skye, however there are several things would need to be worked out to make that feasible, including the difficulty of getting from Skye to Colonsay. There was some discussion at the last Gathering in Dumfries it was suggested to change the dates to a time when school is out, allowing more families to attend. So this would put it into July or August. Which is a very busy and expensive time of year for travel. So if you plan to attend the Gathering in 2017, please let Commander know now, [commander@clanmacfie.co.uk](mailto:commander@clanmacfie.co.uk)

### Former Commander Sandy McPhie

We recently learned that Sandy became seriously ill towards the end of last year and was finally able to return home in early February to be cared for by his wife Helen. She provided the following news about his recovery and return home: "Sandy will come under the umbrella of the community transitional care programme which means that we will have the support that he may need in normal day to day activities that I can't provide. I think this support will be minimal as he has improved so much that we will be able to manage very well. He still has some effects from the "mini" stroke with his sight and, occasionally his speech. All in all, apart from being somewhat frail, he is the Sandy we all know and love." Sandy turned 86 in early February.

A recent e-mail from Helen states that Sandy continues to improve.



**Macfie t-shirts; black with white lettering. The shirts are \$17.00 each with \$3.00 postage (in the US). If you would like to order one, send a check made out to Macfie Clan Society of AM, to Jim McAfee, 420 Ash Dr. Baxter, TN 38544**



**Important Notice**

This time we are mailing a hard copy of our Newsletter to every member. At present we mail hard-copies to about 100 members who wish to receive it, and the remainder views it on our website. [www. Clannmacfieofamerica.com](http://www.Clannmacfieofamerica.com) where you can either read it online or download it and print it out in color. Our Newsletter is our best tool in keeping in contact with our members, and we want everyone to have access to it either one way or the other. However printing and mailing the Newsbeat is the most expensive single item we occur each year, so we are asking you to let us know if you are currently receiving a hard copy and if you would be willing to receive it through the website, please let me know. You can e-mail Ginger at [jgm-cafee@charter.net](mailto:jgm-cafee@charter.net) to let us know your preference.



A Big **THANK YOU**, to those who so faithfully support our Society with your dues and extra donations, without you, we

would not be able to function. We want to keep our Macfie heritage alive but the only way we can do that is through our members. Please check your membership card to see if your dues are now due, if so please send them into our Membership Chairperson Diane Swenson 299 Wattaquodock Hill Rd. Bolton, MA 01740

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