



# THE NEWSBEAT



Volume XXX1111 Spring/Summer 2017

Newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of America

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## Editor's Notes

Thanks so much to those who have renewed their membership recently. **YOU are the heart and soul of this Society, and your dues helps us to print and mail this Newsletter, convene at some of the larger Highland Games and participate in the International Clan.**

**LAST CALL for attending the International Gathering and Parliament Meeting in Scotland in September. More information on page 6**

The Newsbeat is published three time a year, Spring/Summer and Fall and 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  
216 Spring Street, Apt 1  
Newport, RI 02840

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**

**Long's Peak Scottish Irish Festival**, Estes Park, CO. September 7-9  
<http://www.scotfest.com/>

**Ligonier Highland Games** Saturday, September 23rd, 2017 Idlewild Park Route 30 Ligonier, PA  
[www.ligonierhighlandgames.org/](http://www.ligonierhighlandgames.org/)

**Scotland County Highland Games**, October 7th, North Carolina Rural Heritage Center Laurinburg, NC. <http://www.carolina-highlandgames.com/>

**Middle Tennessee Highland Games**, September 9, at The Hermitage Plantation in Nashville, Tennessee <http://www.midtenngames.com/>

**Upper East Tennessee Celtic Festival**, September 22-23, 2017 Johnson City, TN <http://www.uppereasttncelticsociety.org/index.php?template=festival>

**Stone Mountain Highland Games** October 20 - 22, 2017 Stone Mountain, GA <http://www.smhg.org/>

**Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Games**, November 3rd through the 5th, 2017, Tucson, AZ  
<http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

You can get a more complete list of Scottish Games at <https://www.asgf.org/games-by-state/locations>

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.

*Ceud Mile Failte*

(One hundred thousand welcomes)

Christy Hill & family- Atlanta, GA  
Sheila Crisman-Mesa. AZ

Janie Weeks- Newport News, VA  
Sarah Lally- Newport News, VA  
Sarah Smith-Newport News, VA  
Billy McDuffie-Newport News, VA  
William VanTassell-Phoenix, AZ  
Mureal Schaf-Los Angeles, CA

To our newest Society members, we hope that you will be able to attend some of the Highland Games where there is a Macfie Tent. You are especially invited to attend the Stone Mountain Games October 20 - 22, 2017 Our Annual Meeting will be held there on the field on Saturday, Oct 21, 2017, at the Clan Tent.

# Clan News



**Commander Iain:** We want to wish Commander Iain a very speedy recovery! The latest news that we have heard from him is that he continues to improve but will probably be in the rehab facility a few more months. He is very much looking forward the 2017 Clan Parliament meeting and Gathering (see page 6) and hopes many will get to go over to Colonsay after the Parliament meetings for more fun and festivities.

We recently received pictures of a Medallion, earned by W. Gardiner for "Putting the Stone".

The front of the medallion says "Order of the Scottish Clans"



The reverse says:  
Presented by  
W.Gardiner  
Chief  
Clan MacDuffy  
No. 16 O. S. C.  
Putting the Stone



In doing a little research on the web I found that the Order of Scottish Clans was fraternal organization that existed between 1878 and 1971. Each of their local branches (89 in the US, 7 in Canada) was named after a Scottish Clan. OSC No. 16 was called "Clan MacDuff", or "Clan MacDuffy" as on the medallion, and was one of several locals in the Chicago area. If you can shed any light

on this medallion or the Order of the Scottish Clans, contact Paul Hinson, email is [phinson@consolidated.net](mailto:phinson@consolidated.net) or phone is 217-346-2687.



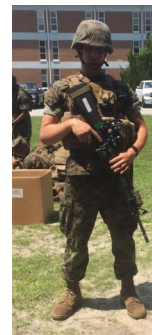
Congratulations to **Caitlyn McAfee**, and **Trevor Hieatt** upon their beautiful Celtic themed wedding on June 3. Caitlyn is the Daughter of society members, John and Lisa McAfee and Granddaughter of Jim and Ginger McAfee. They included the old Scottish tradition of "Hand Fasting" in their ceremony, using a strip of Macfie tartan. They honeymooned in St. Augustine, FL and stopped by the Blairsville GA games on their way home.



Congratulations to **Cathy Guffey** of Innman, SC who has won "Female Vocalist of the Year" for the second year in a row, from Georgia Foothills Gospel Association. Cathy also has some CD's available, you can e-mail her at : [Johncathy1@charter.net](mailto:Johncathy1@charter.net)



Congratulations to Austin Conner McAfee, who graduated from Marine boot camp at Paris Island, SC on June 2, 2017. Austin is the son of Keith and Holly McAfee, and the grandson of Jim and Ginger McAfee. After graduation, Austin attended several weeks of training and is now assigned to Ft. Sill, OK.



**Remembering Patricia Sullivan McFee and Martin Joseph McFee  
Pat passed away on November 4, 2016 and Mac on October 17, 2004  
by Vicki McFee**



**"Pat and Mac" McFee**

They were a remarkable couple. Patricia Sullivan and Martin (Mac) McFee were born and raised in St. Maries, Idaho (U.S. Pacific Northwest). They were friends from early childhood...going to the same school, swimming in the St. Joe River together, spending time with mutual friends. When World War II broke out they were in high school, and after graduation in 1943 Mac joined the Army. He was 18 and Pat was 15 and they were in love. In time of war, one doesn't put off major decisions so two weeks after her 16th birthday Pat boarded a bus in Spokane, Washington, with a permission note from her Mother and her wedding dress in a small suitcase. She crossed the continent en route to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, where Mac was in Paratrooper training, and they were married. Thus began an adventure that saw them through 60 years of marriage.

After the war, they settled in Spokane (in the Pacific Northwest of the United States), where their two daughters, Vicki and Linda, were born. But they were always open to a new adventure, so when the girls were grown and graduated from high school, they upped stakes and moved with all their belongings to San Jose, California. They enjoyed the California scene, the warm weather, and being so close (50 miles) to San Francisco with its variety of entertainment and beautiful sights. Mac joined Hewlett Packard where he had a successful engineering career and was honoured for developing and installing the first solar panels at a Silicon Valley site. He also installed solar panels at their home and had one of the earliest residential solar panel installations in California. He was honoured and received awards state-wide, and also spoke at the California Legislature on the importance of solar heating/cooling. Pat worked as a cosmetologist and went to college, proudly receiving her Associate Arts degree.

They enjoyed scuba diving, and this led to a scuba diving vacation with their daughters and sons-in-law where they stayed at a quaint resort on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands...Cottages by the Sea. They decided this was just the kind of place they had dreamed of...situated on a white sand beach with 6 modest cottages. They were told it wasn't for sale, but when you have a dream you don't let minor issues get in the way. They stayed in touch with the owners, found out the resort was for sale the following year, and within the year they had sold their home, furniture, cars and other belongings and were on to their next adventure.

Mac was just 55 years old. Over the next twenty years, while making life-long friendships, they bought more land, built a home, and tripled the number of cottages...all while weathering four major hurricanes! Mac was very proud of his Scots' heritage and always insisted we pronounce our last name "Mac"Fee, no "MucFee" for him! He wanted us to accentuate our Scottish heritage. While convalescing in England from injuries sustained in the Battle of the Bulge, he took a train to Scotland to see what he could learn about the McFees. All he found was a record of a Macfie who was hanged as a horse thief, and that's the tale he shared with his girls as they were growing up. Years later, in 2003, Linda found out about a Macfie Clan Gathering in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Linda, her husband, Jim Gilcrest, and Vicki got together there, met the Clan Commander, Sandy McPhie, who took them under his wing, and they were hooked.

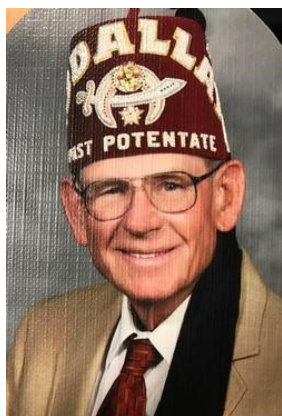
Pat and Mac sold their resort and moved back to the Bay Area in 2000 to be close to family again. Mac passed away in 2004, and when Pat, plus the three who had gone to Gatlinburg, attended the Gathering in Scotland in 2005, Pat brought Mac's ashes. She was bringing him home, and the family left a part of him on Colonsay in Kiloran Bay. In a poignant moment, Vicki took a photo of Pat standing on a butte above the Bay with her arms akimbo and looking out to sea. When asked what she was thinking, Pat responded, "I was claiming the island for Ireland." She was as proud of her Irish heritage as Mac was of being a Scot.



Daughters Linda McFee Gilcrest and Vicki McFee

Pat passed away this last November with her daughters, grand children, and great grand children at her side, and when the threesome of Linda, Jim and Vicki return to Colonsay this coming September, they'll bring her ashes to join Mac's in Kiloran Bay. Pat and Mac will be proud and happy to see their family share in joy and gratitude for their loving, indomitable spirit.

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Billy Joe McAfee was born October, 1, 1928 in Byars, OK, the first of seven children to bless the lives of Violet Florence Rakestraw McAfee and Clarence Mayburn McAfee. LTC (Ret) Bill McAfee passed away on March 14, 2017 in Easton, KS.

He was a US Army veteran of World War II, Korea, atomic testing-Nevada and Viet Nam, receiving numerous medals; the first of his family to graduate from college-St. Benedict's, Atchison, KS; Loan Officer and Vice President, First National Bank-Leavenworth; Master of Fox Hounds-Ft. Leavenworth Hunt 1969-70 & 1973-74 and Lion's Club President 1981-82, Leavenworth, KS.

He was also Past Master, Hiram Masonic Lodge #68, Leavenworth, KS; Past Master, Hancock Lodge #311, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Potentate of the Abdallah Shrine Temple-Overland Park KS 1989; Royal Order of Jesters, Court 93-Overland Park, KS; 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason; National Sojourners, Chapter 154, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Order of Eastern Star, Byington Chapter 177, Leavenworth, KS.

Bill is survived by his wife of 47 years Maryann Stucker McAfee; who he married on Valentine's Day 1970 after they both retired from military service. He is also survived by his children Patricia McAfee, Lee Loden (Mark) and Michael McAfee; brothers Glen McAfee (Charlotte), Jerry McAfee (Carolyn), Bobby McAfee (Laren); granddaughters Erin Behunin (Aaron), Nikki Burns (Chris), Ruby Loden; great-granddaughters Natalie, Shelby and Blake Raines and their father David; numerous nephews, nieces and cousins in a large and loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Donald (Dobber) McAfee and sisters Virginia (Ginger) McAfee Burnham and Katherine (Sue) McAfee Reddick Robertson.

# International Clan Gathering 2017

Come One, Come All to the 20th International Clan Gathering and 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie!! September 6th through September 10th, 2017 in Stirling, Scotland. Make your plans now to join your fellow Clansmen in the fascinating and historical area of Stirling

Parliament will be held at the Stirling Court Hotel on the Stirling University campus. The accommodations are of good quality. Some rooms are twins, but the majority are fitted with a five foot bed. All rooms have a shower room and other facilities. There are two floors in the hotel with a limited number of rooms on the ground floor. We will have our own dining room, which is on the ground floor as are the meeting rooms.

There are other accommodations available in Stirling including,

The Stirling Hotel : <http://www.thestirlinghotel.com/>

There is also a Holiday Inn Express

The Stirling Highland Hotel

And many others can be located on the Internet

For further information regarding accommodation, availability, pricing e-mail: [gathering2017@clanmacfie.co.uk](mailto:gathering2017@clanmacfie.co.uk)

**The preliminary program for Stirling is:**

**Wednesday 6th September:** Arrival of delegates. Commander's Reception

**Thursday 7th September:**

Opening of 12th Parliament; Clan Session, half day outing (this will probably be to the smallest whisky distillery in Scotland) or time on your own.

**Friday 8th September:**

Day tour or your own plans. Clan Dinner.

**Saturday 9th September:**

Clan Society Session. Half day tour on your own.

**Sunday 10th September:**

Depart for Colonsay. Probably return on Sunday

**For accommodations on Colonsay see <http://www.colonsayholidays.co.uk/cottages/>**

We have word from the **Macfie Society of Canada** that their President, Gary MacPhie, who has been living in China for several years, is returning to Canada soon and has plans to reinvigorate the Canadian Society. We wish them well and extend a hand of friendship and cooperation to them. Let us know if there is anyone we can do.

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## Smile Awhile

A Scotsman, an Englishman and an Australian were in a bar and had just started on a new round of drinks when a fly landed in each glass of beer. The Englishman took his out on the blade of his Swiss Army knife. The Australian blew his away in a cloud of froth. The Scotsman lifted his one up carefully by the wings and held it above his glass. "Go on, spit it oot, ye wee devil" he growled.

# Games and Things

## Blairsville GA Scottish Games



The Weather at the Blairsville Scottish Games, was absolutely wonderful. Not a cloud in the sky and the temperatures were in the low 80's. A perfect time to celebrate our Scottish Heritage in beautiful Meek's Park in Blairsville, GA. John and Lisa McAfee and Cliff and Joyce McDuffie manned the Macfie Clan tent this year. The crowds were large and many Macfies came by the tent to say hello. If you were not there this year, we look forward to



seeing you there next year, the second weekend in June.

The highlight of the weekend was when Grace McAfee, 16 won the Haggis Toss. There was some friendly competition between the Macfie Clan and the Cameron Clan. Shannon Cameron had won the toss for the past 6 years or so, and we were challenged to try to beat her this year. Grace stepped up to the challenge tossed the winning pitch. (She said that playing Softball for several years got her arm in shape to hurl that haggis..) Congratulations Grace.

Clan Macfie would like to say THANK YOU to **Jim and Linda McAfee**, who was instrumental in beginning these games. However, Jim and Linda retired after last year, for some well deserved rest.



Grace McAfee tossing the haggis



Caitlyn McAfee Hiatt, Grace McAfee and Shannon Cameron

# The Grandfather Mountain, NC Scottish Games

by John and Cathy Guffey

The 2017 Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain was a huge success! The opening on Thursday night with the lighting of the torch had a good turnout, but Saturday was phenomenal! Shoulder to shoulder people! The games were exceptional, with a world record being set in one of the events by Brent Miller. The weather cooperated beautifully. Saturday night ended with the traditional "Marshmallow War". There was something for everyone - from the marathon running to the strong man events to the sheep dog demonstrations to the children's events. Never a dull moment!



Many old friends stopped by the Macfie Tent to say hello, as well as several newcomers to the games. In addition, we would like to extend a hearty Macfie welcome to Kitty Holtzclaw who submitted her application for membership. Several people asked for applications, and we are hoping for good results from these.



We had a surprise visit from Bob McPhee from Scotland. He is a student in Arkansas, and he was attending the games as a participant in one of the piping bands. It was great to meet a cousin from "across the pond."

The Honored clan this year was Clan Gordon, with Granville Charles Gomer Gordon, Marquis of Huntley, the Clan Chief, as the honored guest. They had an impressive turnout!

The Parade of Tartans on Sunday morning was represented by more clans than ever before, and it was very moving. By Sunday afternoon, everything was dwindling down, tents were being packed away, and slowly everyone was leaving, with well wishes til the next games.



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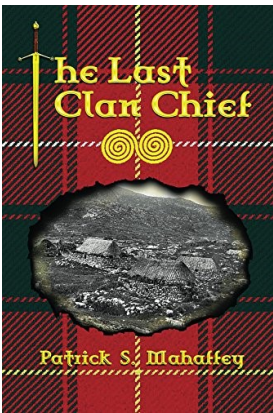


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# Books and other Interesting tidbits

Author Susan McDuffie has a new book coming out "THE DEATH OF A FALCON", A Muirteach MacPhee Mystery, which takes him to the Edinburgh court of Robert II in the company of Prince Henry Sinclair. . Other books in the series are "A Mass for the Dead, "The Faerie Hills" and "The Study of Murder" Susan McDuffie writes historical mystery novels set in medieval Scotland. Fascination with the past and her own Scottish clan history led Susan to create the Muirteach MacPhee medieval mysteries, set during the 14th century Lordship of the Isles.



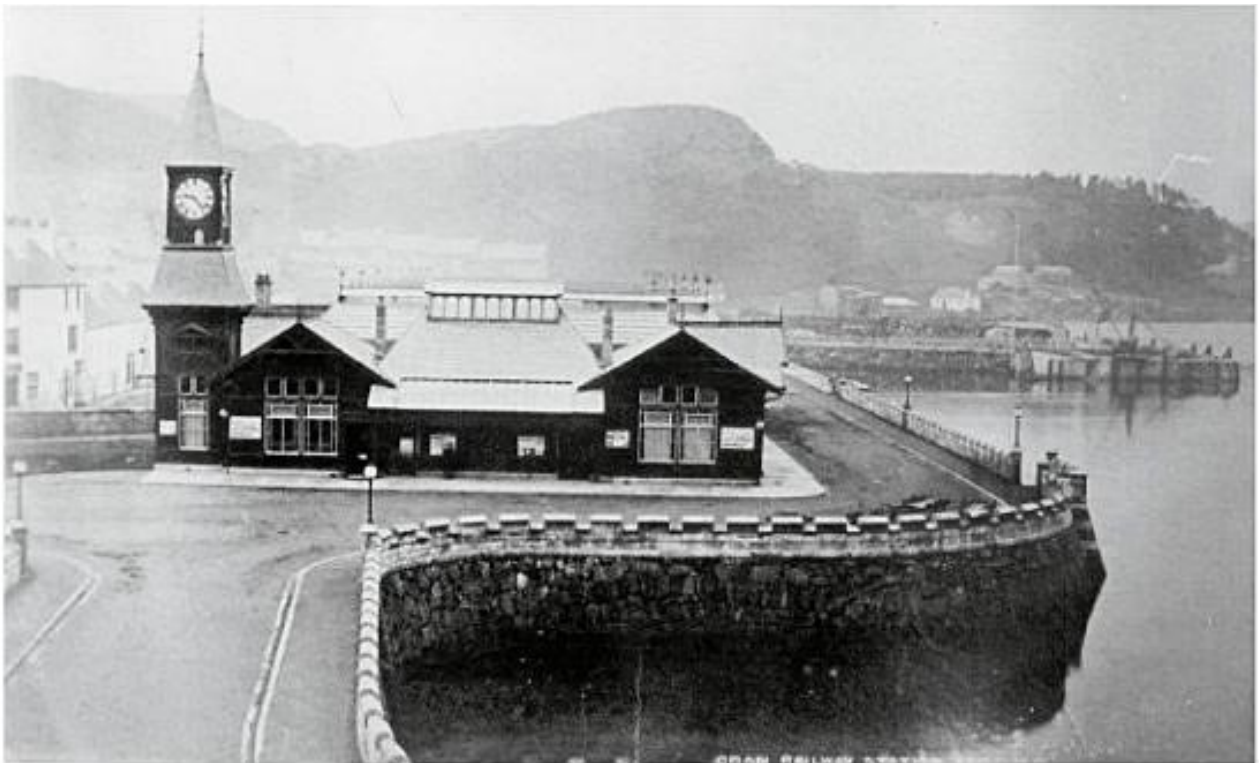
I recently discovered a new book by Author Patrick MaHaffey, "The Last Clan Chief" is a historical fiction based on the traditions and myths of Clan Macfie and the life and times of its final clan chief, Malcolm Macfie. It is set in a turbulent time where history and Scottish folklore mingle. Throughout the tale, Malcolm struggles against internal and external elements to keep his clan together while fighting for their very survival. "The Last Clan Chief" embodies the raucous turmoil of the late 16th and early 17th centuries replete with religious upheaval, political intrigue and gripping mythology. Even though based in the old stories and myths I found this to be a great book, worthy of your time.

If you have not heard it yet, there is a beautiful song about our clan and Colonsay, Macdubhsithe Diaspora. It was written by a James and Robin McFee in 2003. Unfortunately James passed away in 2007, but you can still hear this beautiful song at [http://www.mcfee.co.uk/MacDubhsithe\\_Diaspora.mp3](http://www.mcfee.co.uk/MacDubhsithe_Diaspora.mp3)

June 6th, 2017 was the 73rd anniversary of the commencement of Operation Overlord and the Normandy landings in Europe. As American's we remember the 125,847 casualties and the bravery at Omaha and Utah beaches.

However on Sword beach, another event of interest was occurring. Private Bill Millin was ordered by his commander to pipe their unit onto the beach. When Private Millin demurred, citing the regulations, he recalled later, Lord Lovat replied: "Ah, but that's the English War Office. You and I are both Scottish, and that doesn't apply." He played "Hielan' Laddie" and "The Road to the Isles" as his comrades fell around him on Sword Beach. Millin states that he later talked to captured German snipers who claimed they did not shoot him because they thought he was crazy.





# Robert McFie of Airds

By Mhalri Livingstone

**T**he Heritage Hunters group was set up as part of the Rockfield Centre Project to gather, archive and preserve memories, photos, documents and artefacts of Oban. Eventually, these will be displayed in our new, user-friendly heritage centre within the restored building, giving a fascinating and comprehensive insight into the development of our town.

If you find yourself standing beside the sea wall in Oban, it only takes a little imagination to visualise it as it originally was. Built to coincide with the arrival of the railway in 1880, Sir Robert McFie of Airds demonstrated his vi-

sion, generosity and public-spiritedness by building this crenellated, sandstone 'brist' wall.

It ran originally along George Street when built in 1879 but was extended 10 years later round the new station concourse and along the front of Shore Street. McFie lengthened the newly-built Albany Street and continued his road up the contours of Druim Mor – what we now call Pulpit Hill. This road provided access for those wishing to build family homes and fine villas on the side of the hill overlooking the bay. He also donated £1,000 to the construction of the new municipal buildings in Albany Street.

Who was Robert McFie

and how did he come to be a generous benefactor to Oban? He first came to Argyll around 1850 when he acquired, among other properties, the Airds Estate at Port Appin, which he purchased for £26,000. A member of the third generation of the wealthy McFie sugar-refining dynasty, he not only inherited a vast wealth from his father, but also married into another prosperous family – the Fairries – who had also made their money in sugar.

Airds House had been a Campbell property, having been built a little before 1745. The estate extended to nearly 4,000 acres and had a grand factor's house, many farms and cottages and superb

seascapes on three sides.

Once established at Airds, he continued to invest in property and on November 9, 1861, is recorded as having bought 'the lands of Oban and Glenshellach with the houses and buildings in Oban thereon—the ferryhouse, miller's croft and loch (and salmon fishings), the Mill of Glenshellach or Oban with the croft, grass and pasturage belonging to the mill [the mill had been working as recently as 1851], two portions of shore ground below high water mark (about 3 acres) situated at the back of Cawdor Place and Shore Street and about one third of an acre at the rear of Argyll Square'.

As well as that, he bought, also from Campbell of Sonachan, a large part of the lands of Glencruitten Estate and Ardconnel, stretching from Ardconnel Hill in Oban's north-east to Connel.

In the valuation roll of 1878-9, Robert had at least 158 tenants living in 'Glenmore, Glasdrum, Lochside, Drimvargie, South Pier, Cawdor Place, Shore Street, Back Shore Street, Argyll Square, Back and Front High Street and Lochside Place'.

There was a bakehouse, a boatyard, coalyard, stores, workshops and sheds. Among the population were masons, joiners, nurses, cooks, washers, merchants, waiters, quarriers, druggists, salmon fishers, labourers, carters, a drover of cattle, skin merchant, painter, weaver, ironmonger, hawker, coachman, post master, photographer, carpenter

— all named — and Donald MacMillan, the town crie!

Robert McFie and his family were staunch adherents of the Free Church and he contributed to the building of the Free Church Hall in Stevenson Street. All the while he was selling leases in High Street- Argyll Square, Queen's Park Place, the Royal Hotel and Station Hotel were built on his land.

The railway arrived in 1880 and, later, the railway pier was built on reclaimed land that McFie had bought. The South Pier was acquired by the burgh from McFie and, 'indeed, his name was on almost every deed for houses on Pulpit Hill and Gallanach Road.' When the pier was constructed around 1890, part of his beautiful seawall had to be demolished but what remained is still an attractive feature in Station Square and George Street.

His legacy to Oban is immense. Airds Crescent and Airds Place commemorate the man, the little known McFie Road bears his name and, every year, the McFie Gold Medal is still presented to the Dux of Oban High School.

When Robert and his wife celebrated their diamond wedding anni-

versary in 1898, there were great celebrations and tributes from tenants on the estate and from Oban Town Council.

'The rapid increase and prosperity of the burgh has been largely assisted by the innumerable concessions Mr McFie has made to the Corporation and also the liberal facilities he has afforded have provided outlets for enterprise and for the furtherance of the development and prosperity of the burgh.'

If the Stevenson brothers are seen as the 'founding fathers of Oban', Robert McFie deserves to be remembered as the man who 'let Oban flourish'.



Scots, Wha Hae  
By Robert Bruce

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,  
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led;  
Welcome to your gory bed,  
Or to victory!

Now's the day, and now's the hour;  
See the front o' battle lour;  
See approach proud Edward's power –  
Chains and slavery!

Wha will be a traitor knave?  
Wha can fill a coward's grave?  
Wha sae base as be a slave?  
Let him turn and flee!

Wha for Scotland's king and law  
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,  
Freeman stand, or freeman fa',  
Let him follow me!

By oppression's woes and pains!  
By your sons in servile chains!  
We will drain our dearest veins,  
But they shall be free!

Lay the proud usurpers low!  
Tyrants fall in every foe!  
Liberty's in every blow! –  
Let us do or die!



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