

# CLAN CHATTER

VOL 14, ISSUE 1, Spring 2018

Published for the  
**MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.**  
Organized 1962 on Grandfather Mountain  
Incorporated 1968 and 2018 as Amended



Pictured is the stylized version of Murchadh MacDuffie's Grave Slab located on Oronsay in Scotland. The named carved on the slab is "MacDuffie" from the mid 1500's.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope that this newsletter finds everyone finally being relieved of winter weather. Indiana had a very weak winter snow season and it now seems like we have completely made up the shortage...all in April. The New England members have also had a challenge this year as well with Nor'easters. David McDuffie has kept me informed of his 70 degree weather in the South....

### **On To Summer**

We are making final plans for our 56<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the MacDuffee Clan Society, Inc. on Grandfather Mountain in Linville, North Carolina and hope that you have included the Games in your travel plans for this summer. Our Annual General Meeting, AGM, will be held on the Mountain, Saturday July 14, 2018. This will be an important session for our members. The Clan Society has updated and revised our legal documents regarding incorporation and the bylaws. Accordingly eligible Clan Society members will review and vote on certain matters at the AGM. Our Clan Society was organized in 1962, incorporated in 1968 and reincorporated in 2018 as amended. New Board Members have been named.

### **Visit the New Grandfather Memorial**

David McDuffie noted last fall that we were the second Clan Society of all Clans/Organizations on Grandfather to be fully subscribed for the new Games Memorial and we encouraged everyone to stop by our new Stone, in the first row, and look at the excellent carving which is stylized from the Chief Murchadh MacDuffie 1539 Grave Slab on Colonsay.

### **Scholarship Applications**

Clan Society Scholarships are due for submission by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Details are available at our website: [macduffeeclansociety.org](http://macduffeeclansociety.org). In addition to seeking scholarship applicants we have one opening for a student board member. Please contact the President if you have interest in serving on the Board.

### **Parliament Minutes Arrive**

The International Parliament was held in early September and the minutes were received this March. Our Clan Commander Iain McFie did not attend the gathering and continues to work on regaining his health at this time. Numerous issues remain unresolved and require work as we do not have current updates regarding: the addition of Clan Trustees, recovery of the lost Clan Standing Stone on Colonsay, unacceptable succession planning and in general the Clan vision. Unfortunately the Standing Stone was lost in 2013 due to unpaid fees and this fact was allegedly discovered in the summer of 2017 when a Society President asked for details. Hopefully we will have updates to share at the AGM in July.

### **Travels**

It is not often that I include personal travels in my message to the Clan Society; however, I must say a few words about our most recent travels to Scotland. If you are considering a trip we highly encourage the experience and you should obviously include Colonsay and Oronsay in your itinerary.

We went with a few friends and managed to visit 16 different distilleries in 10 days that covered the full range and variety of Scottish Whisky including the distillery near Kirkwall in the Orkneys, Highland Park.

A visit to the Glengoyne distillery allowed us to blend our own personal whisky under the tutelage of a Master Blender and a Keeper of the Quaich. Our trip included many other historical sites, castles and great food however the 97 different whisky tastings was purely educational as Jen and I arrived home with certification that we are now professional whisky tasters. We will be happy to share other tales and recommendations regarding our travel at the Games.

### **2018 Games**

Please include us in your Scottish family travels for 2018. The Society also plans to sponsor our fifth tent at the 2018 New Hampshire Highland Games held at Loon Mountain near Lincoln, NH, September 14, 15 and 16. Contact hotels early as the Games in these smaller communities make early reservation planning important. Their website is very helpful.

Your support of the MacDuffee Clan Society and attendance at the games is greatly appreciated. It is always amazing meeting new cousins each year and sharing in such a rich family of Scots. Hopefully we will see you in July or September.

Sincerely,

Thomas Patrick McDuffee FSA Scot  
President MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc

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## GENEALOGY

There is a web seminar on family research in Scotland that might be helpful to those interested at:

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/webinars.asp> about halfway down the page there is the link, it is under archived webinars: RESEARCHING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS. Scotland has a wealth of records available to assist you in researching your Scottish ancestry. Scottish statutory records of births, marriages and deaths began in 1855 and are available online together with census returns from 1841-1911. Other records include Old Parish Records of baptisms, marriages and burials, records from Catholic archives and Scottish wills and testaments.

Genealogy library & museum now can be reached by <http://www.masoncountymuseum.org/articles/home/asp>

## WEB SITES for RESEARCH

### Come join us on Facebook at - MacDuffee Clan Society of America

Beth Gay's new web site is <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/> Family Tree, a very good Publication covering Scottish Clan & the games.

[http://www.tartansauthority.com/web/site/tartan\\_resultsoc2.asp?surnameSearch=MacFie&surName\\_search=Go+fubd!&PageStatus=firstload](http://www.tartansauthority.com/web/site/tartan_resultsoc2.asp?surnameSearch=MacFie&surName_search=Go+fubd!&PageStatus=firstload)

The Scottish Parliament has finally decided to establish an official tartan register. It will be maintained by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland and kept at the National Archives in Edinburgh. The register will also be available on line at [www.tartanregister.gov.uk](http://www.tartanregister.gov.uk)

<http://www.ancestry.com/> This site has a plethora of information. It will let you search, but must join to retrieve data.

<http://www.recordslogin.com/members/?stid=4jvr8koklvvjs9smas4a8pkfh7>

<http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/>

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>

<http://www.search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

<http://www.ancestryquest.com/>

<http://govgenealogysearch.com/>

<http://mt-spurr.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/> This is the Allen County, Indiana Public Library, genealogy section. They have volunteers that, for about \$10, will research everything in the state for you.

<http://www.colonsay.org.uk/Housechart.htm>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680>

## CLAN SOCIETY ITEMS FOR SALE

**CLAN SOCIETY POLO-SHIRTS** are available. They are green with the MacDuffee Clan Society picture with the claymore behind it embroidered on the left breast. The cost is \$ 25.00. Anyone wishing to purchase items please contact David Nathan McDuffie, our VP and Treasurer.

**CLAN Society T-SHIRTS** are also available by contacting David Nathan McDuffee. They are \$18.00 for S-XL, and \$21.50 for 2X and larger. They are green with red lettering and a black and white logo.

**CLAN Society TOTE BAGS** are now available. It's a medium size tote bag in green or colors available, embroidered with the shield on one side, and the claymore on the other. The cost of each bag will be \$20.00. We also, have available an appliqué, that is only \$5.00. You can mail your order with payment that does include s/h to Julie MacDuffie Hall, Editor.

## MacDuffee Photo File

Stop by the Clan Society tent at either Grandfather or Loon Mountain for a photo. We would like to archive our members' photos for use on our website. This is purely voluntary and if you have a favorite Clan Tartan outfit that you plan to wear please make sure we collect your photo on that day.

## New Feature: MacDuffee Clan Society Family Stories

*Note: This is the first in what we hope to be a series. We encourage any member to submit a short story about your family ties to the Clan Society to the editor of Clan Chatter. Please include research facts such as key dates that you are sure are accurate and that you have documented. This story is from Julie MacDuffie Hall.*

"My first awareness of our Clan occurred when I was a child and my Grandmother – Mildred M. Stearman MacDuffie (wife of Alfred L. MacDuffie), would go back to Varick in Seneca County, NY to what was known as McDuffietown to take pictures of the cemeteries in the area. Grandma was one of the first of the clan members to search the cemeteries for the clan in Seneca County, NY.

The Town of Varick was formed by the New York State Legislature on Feb 6, 1830. It was named after Richard Varick and was the youngest town in Seneca County. It was formed from lots of the original Military Tract Township of Romulus and West Cayuga Reservation on the west side of Cayuga Lake. Richard Varick, a lawyer by profession, was appointed as Military Secretary to Major General Philip Schuyler, of the Northern Army. In Feb 1776, he was appointed by Congress as Deputy Commissary General with rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Later he was stationed at West Point with duties of Inspector General and Aid-de Camp and eventually joined General Washington's staff as his Recording Secretary until the end of the Revolutionary War.

All that I believe left of Varick is the four corners. Located between Routes 128 (Ernsberger Rd) and 129 (Varick Romulus Townline Rd). At one time this location had a McDuffee School (District #9), a Church and a cemetery.

The school was started in 1820 in East Varick in a log cabin on property owned by Loring G. King and in 1830 relocated to property owned by Joseph McDuffee. He (Joe McDuffee) was in Capt Irelands Co of Riflemen of the New York Militia (War of 1812) from Sept 21, 1812 to Oct 15, 1812 when he was listed as a "Deserter". The school remained there until around 1849-1850. A new school building was erected near today's Knapp Winery. Many of the students of the McDuffee School went on to become teachers.

Fire assisted by high winds in December 1936 starting from an overheated furnace destroyed the McDuffietown Methodist Episcopal Church. This was located on McDuffietown Rd 11 miles south of Seneca Falls, NY and 4 miles southeast of Fayette, NY. The church was first erected in 1830 and then enlarged in 1857 and again in 1883.

I remember that the cemeteries were very overgrown and neglected, with most of the plots sinking into themselves, as the pine boxes were decaying, which caused us to walk on the high solid ground. Some of the cemeteries that my Grandmother visited were Oak Hill Cemetery, located at the intersection of Route 128, McDuffietown Rd, and Kings Corners Rd. A large number of the early McDuffie's were buried there from Robert (b 9/18/1777 d 4/5/1845), William grandson of Martha b 1734, James (b 7/1/1785 d 3/9/1860), Joseph (b 6/6/1788 d 12/29/1859) to just mention a few. Most of their families were also buried there and several are marked as dying during the Civil War. This would be a great location for genealogy research.

Another cemetery was Canoga (also known as Red Jacket) Cemetery, located between Route 89 and Cemetery Rd in Seneca Falls, NY. This cemetery was named after the Native American Chief Red Jacket. He was born Sagoyewatha in Geneva, NY and was Chief of the Seneca Wolf Clan. He fought with the British during the American Revolution, and was given his name from his wearing of the Red British coats. Buried there was Andrew (b 2/18/1820 d 2/14/1905) and several family members."

Julie MacDuffie Hall

We hope these stories provide additional insight and new sources of research for other Clan Society members.

# Scottish History

## Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey

On Christmas Day 1950, four Scottish students from the University of Glasgow (Ian Hamilton, Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson and Alan Stuart) removed the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey in London and took the stone back to Scotland. The students were members of the Scottish Covenant Association, a group that supported home rule for Scotland. In 2008 the incident was made into a film called Stone of Destiny.

In December 1950, a few days before Christmas, the four students from Glasgow drove to London in two Ford Anglias, a journey which took them eighteen hours. On arrival in London they had a brief meeting at Lyons Corner House and decided to make an immediate attempt at removing the Stone from the Abbey. Later that day Ian Hamilton hid under a trolley in the Abbey, but was caught by a night watchman after the Abbey doors had been closed, briefly questioned, and then let go.

The following day Vernon and Stuart returned to Westminster Abbey and learned some information on the watchmen's shifts. In the middle of the night, the three men entered a works yard and gained entrance into Poet's Corner. Reaching the Chapel containing the tomb of Edward I and King Edward's Chair, they pulled down the barrier. On removing the Stone from under the Chair, it crashed to the floor and broke into two pieces. The three men, using Hamilton's coat, dragged the larger piece down the high alter steps, and then Hamilton took the smaller piece to one of the cars waiting outside.

Ian Hamilton placed the small piece of Stone in the boot of the car and got into the passenger seat. As he did this, Kay Matheson noticed a policeman in the gaslight; Hamilton and Matheson immediately fell into a lover's clinch. The policeman stopped and the three proceeded to have a conversation even though it was 5AM. Having shared some jokes and a cigarette Matheson and Hamilton drove off to Victoria, Hamilton getting out on the way to walk back to the Abbey.

On his arrival there was no sign of Vernon and Stuart, so he proceeded to drag the large piece of stone to the car himself. As he was driving away he saw Vernon and Stuart walking towards him.

The stone was so heavy that the springs on the car were sagging, so Vernon fearing the alarm had been raised, made his way to Rugby, Warwickshire. Hamilton and Stuart drove to Kent, hid the large piece of stone in a field and made their way back to Scotland. Matheson left her car, containing the small piece of the Stone, with a friend in the Midlands, and like Vernon made her way back to Scotland by train. On discovering that the Stone was missing, the authorities closed the border between Scotland and England for the first time in four hundred years.

A fortnight later Hamilton and some friends – including John Josselyn, whose 21<sup>st</sup> great grandfather was, ironically, Edward I recovered the two pieces of stone and brought them to Glasgow. They hired a stonemason, Baillie Robert Gray, to mend the Stone. Gray placed a brass rod inside the Stone containing a piece of paper. To this day, nobody knows what was written on the piece of paper.

In April 1951 the police received a tip-off and the Stone was found on the site of the High Alter at Arbroath Abbey where in 1320 the assertion of Scottish nationhood was made in the Declaration of Arbroath. The Stone was returned to Westminster Abbey in February 1952.

The police conducted an investigation with specific focus on Scotland. All four of the group were interviewed and all later confessed to their involvement with the exception of Ian Hamilton. The authorities decided not to prosecute as the potential for the event to become politicized was far too great. Sir Hartley Shawcross addressing Parliament on the matter, said "The clandestine removal of the Stone from Westminster Abbey, and the manifest disregard for the sanctity of the abbey, were vulgar acts of vandalism which have caused great distress and offence both in England and Scotland. I do not think, however, that the public interest required criminal proceedings to be taken."



# “Medieval Sculpture on the Isle of Oronsay”

The following information is a short reference, with a few excerpts, regarding significant research on Oronsay Island the ancestral home of the MacDuffee Clan Society. The MacDuffee Clan Society has received permission from the Editor and the lead researcher to distribute limited complete hard copies of the article at the Games on Grandfather to our members which we will do in July. They were pleased that a significant connection exists between our Clan Society and their research.

This research was published in the periodical *History Scotland*, Vol 15 No.5 September/October 2015. Their website address: <http://www.historyscotland.com> is an excellent site for Scottish history, research and culture and is highly recommended. We do not have permission to reprint the article including online distribution for any other use without remuneration.

## Who Did the Work?

“A team consisting of an archaeologist, David Caldwell, a scientist, Susy Kirk, and two geologists, Simon Howard and Nigel Ruckley, report on a project re-examining the medieval stone carvings at Oronsay Priory.” Our Clan Society has been in contact with David Caldwell.

## Excerpts from the Article regarding their Work

“Oronsay is famous as a bird sanctuary and for the shell middens left by our Mesolithic ancestors. It is perhaps less well known for the ruins of a medieval priory with a collection of sculpture including a superb commemorative cross (‘The Oronsay Cross’), still in situ beside the church, and the remains of three or four others, as well as 30 grave-slabs and effigies.....”

Oronsay is a small tidal island in the Inner Hebrides approached from the neighboring island of Colonsay. The priory was a house of Augustinian canons, said to have been founded by John MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The architecture is certainly consistent with a date about then, with later work of the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Colonsay was occupied by a family known (in various spellings) as the MacDuffies or MacFies who are said to have had a role as hereditary record keepers of the Lordship of the Isles. It is also known that they contributed canons and at least one prior to Oronsay. Two of the canons, a father and son, Gilbride and Patrick respectively, are commemorated by a slab (no27/25) which probably dates to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the death of Prior Donald MacDuffie in the year 1554 is recorded on another (no24/16)....Most of the monuments at Oronsay are not inscribed, but of those that are, two record leaders of the MacDuffies. Gille-Coluim had the Oronsay Cross set up, probably in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and Murchad MacDuffie of Colonsay, died 1539, is named on a slab (no17/21) provided by his wife. Another wife of a MacDuffie chief in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Mariota, sister of John MacIain of Ardnamurchan, had a slab inscribed for herself (no30/28). These, and all other inscriptions in Medieval West Highland sculpture are in Latin....

Pennant (Thomas Pennant was an author that wrote about the two islands in 1772) specifically mentions in the church the two surviving large and impressive warrior effigies (nos 21/13,22/14). The faces and upper details of both show the effects of casual vandalism and handling by generations of visitors, but not excessive wear associated with exposure and dereliction. Two of the slabs which remain in very good condition he indicates were in the MacDuffie Aisle, added to the church about the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. One, with the effigy of Prior Donald MacDuffie (no23/17), was housed in an arched tomb recess. The other (no17/21) includes in its design a sword, a galley and a hunting scene and commemorates Murchad MacDuffie of Colonsay, died 1539”

The Murchad MacDuffie slab design is the one we have used for decades as the emblem or seal for our Clan Society and it is included on all Membership Documents. The balance of the research in the article includes information on who actually carved the MacDuffie slabs and crosses, where the stone material came from, its composition and the relationship with the Iona Priory.

Two other published references that are important: *Late Medieval Monumental Sculpture in the West Highlands* by Kenneth Steer and John Bannerman published by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and *Argyll Volume 5. Islay, Jura, Colonsay & Oronsay* (1984) also by the Royal Commission. These are excellent resources for the history of the Priory and the MacDuffie canons and chiefs.

## WELCOME NEW CLAN SOCIETY MEMBERS

New Life Member: **Richard Alexander Chase**: Descendant of John and Martha McDuffee, Richard was born in 1957 and currently lives in Princeton, MA with his wife and two children. He graduated with a BSEE, holds a US patent, completed graduate work in computer science, and is employed by Chase Systems LLC as a renewable energy consultant. Best of all Richard is learning to play the Bagpipes and has done a great job of tracing his family history. We look forward to meeting Richard and his family.

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Nancy J McDuffie of Summerville, NC, sister of Kathryn Brown of Lake City, SC and Celina Hinds of Florence, SC

## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

May 18-19	Smokey Mountain Scottish Festival, Tennessee at Maryville College, East Tennessee, contact Keith Austin <a href="mailto:kaustin@lamr.com">kaustin@lamr.com</a>
June 22-23	Ohio Scottish Games, Wellington, Ohio, contact Margaret McCullough <a href="mailto:margaretmccullough@gmail.com">margaretmccullough@gmail.com</a>
July 12-15	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games PO Box 1095, Linville, NC 28646, 828-733-1333 <a href="http://www.gmhg.org">www.gmhg.org</a>
Sept 14-16	Loon Mountain New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln NH <a href="http://www.nhscot.org">www.nhscot.org</a>
Sept 21	St Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival, Chesterfield, Missouri, (314)821-1286 <a href="mailto:macmail@stlouis-scottishgames.com">macmail@stlouis-scottishgames.com</a>
Oct 13	Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival, German Park, 8600 S, Meridan St, Indianapolis, IN <a href="http://www.indyscotgamesandfest.com">www.indyscotgamesandfest.com</a>

## CELEBRATE SCOTLAND

Don't forget to celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's Patron Saint on November 30<sup>th</sup>

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR, Julie MacDuffie Hall

Well, everyone it seems the old man winter just doesn't want to leave and let spring happen. Up here next to the Canadian border along the St. Lawrence River, in the month of Feb it seems we had three of the four seasons in just 3 weeks. The spring flowers are trying to come up only to get frozen off. I for one am ready for the warmer temps to arrive. I hope that everyone enjoys and participates in the new Family Stories section, I enjoyed doing this first article.

## CLAN CHATTER INFORMATION

The Clan Chatter is scheduled to be published in Spring and Fall of each year. Clan Society members with articles need to submit them by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March or September for consideration. We report Clan births, deaths, marriages, new Members and other achievements. Guest articles about your Scottish family history are welcomed as noted earlier. All information may be sent to the Editor at – 506 Stone St., Watertown, NY 13601 or emailed to: [juliehall522@yahoo.com](mailto:juliehall522@yahoo.com).

**IF YOU HAVE HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS, YOU NEED TO PASS THIS ALONG TO THE EDITOR. IF YOU CURRENTLY RECEIVE A PAPER COPY WE ENCOURGAE ALL MEMBERS TO SUBMIT THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS.**

**MacDuffee Clan Society Leadership Position: *Student Committee Member***

During the 2013 annual meeting the proposal to create a new Student Committee Member was unanimously approved. The objective for this new position was to provide an opportunity for a child or grandchild of a current MacDuffee Clan Society member to join the committee and experience the responsibilities and opportunities to contribute. Hopefully this participation will also yield future leaders for our Society later in life. It was also discussed that this provides leadership experience that will be beneficial for rounding out resumes for school and future organizations.

**Duties of the Student Committee Member include the following:**

- 1.) Responsible for sharing of Scottish information, assisting with coordination of the Clan Society Marches at the AGM at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and providing a Society interface with children in the MacDuffee Clan Society.
- 2.) Participates in the review of Clan Society Scholarship recommendations unless they are a candidate.
- 3.) Assures that Clan Tents are maintained.
- 4.) Student Board members do not have a vote in Clan Society affairs unless they are at least 18 years of age prior to the AGM.
- 5.) Student Board Members are to be at least 13 years of age by the first AGM in which they serve and may serve for 2 year terms unless reelected unopposed.
- 6.) Encourages other youth members of the Society to compete in the Highland Games competition.
- 7.) Attendance at AGMs is not mandatory but input is important.

Students interested in applying for consideration as the Student Committee Member should submit the following information to the President of MacDuffee Clan Society:

*Name , Date of Birth, Year in School, Organization(school, civic, service) membership(s), your Clan Society membership level or member name of parent and/or grandparent. (Note that all dues must be current.) Please submit a paragraph as to why you would like to serve the Clan Society. Submit your input to Thomas McDuffee, President, MacDuffee Clan Society at [tpmjim@aol.com](mailto:tpmjim@aol.com).*



**Enjoy the Summer  
From  
The Julie MacDuffie Family**