

CLAN CHATTER

SPECIAL ISSUE

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MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

Organized 1962 on Grandfather Mountain

Incorporated 1968 and 2018 as Amended



Pictured is the stylized version of the sixteenth century (1539) carved grave-slab of Murchardus MacDufie of Colonsay located in the Oronsay Priory as presented on our new Parade Banner for the Highland Games. It is displayed on the Ancient Colors of our Tartan.

IMPORTANT CLAN NEWS

Hello MacDuffee Clan Society Members,

This is a follow up to our discussions during our 2024 AGM on Grandfather Mountain and encouragement to take an active role in this process. Please see the attached important Newsletter from the Council of Presidents. This newsletter details the Settling of the Clan Name process, the Search for a Commander candidate, and has initial details regarding the Family Convention currently scheduled for May 2025. It is strongly recommended that you take a moment to read the material on the Council website and to read the Letter: *Crests and their Uses* located on our MacDuffee Clan Society website at macduffeeclansociety.org. The material collected by the Council is well done and in combination with the Crest Letter clarifies, educates and answers many long-standing questions.

The official list of surnames eligible to participate in the settling of the Clan name and the selection of a candidate for commander is detailed in the document titled: *The Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames*. The Council has approved this list based on recent onomastic research and the Court of the Lord Lyon has assigned an Officer of the Court to monitor the process. To participate you must currently be of-the-name or if married your maiden name must be of-the-name. Married couples are allowed only one input document, and you must be at least age 18 to participate. Please post questions re eligibility to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com.

All the information in the Council Newsletter is also available on the Council website: clannameandcommandersearch.com and has been posted worldwide for all Clan members. A Society is not the Clan. The Clan is all members of-the-name as listed.

You may go to the Council website, click on **Settling the Clan Name**. There will be a word document appear that you may then **click on edit** in order to input your data and your preference for the Clan Name. Save this document as, for example, Clan Name Submission, and attach to an email to be sent to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com. You will receive a confirmation of your input. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact the Council of Presidents at clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com. This is an historic moment for the Clan and an amazing opportunity to participate in impacting our Clan's Scottish Culture. Please note that participation in this process only requires an eligible surname. Membership in any Society or Family is not required.


I'll thank you in advance for showing your support of the Clan by submitting your eligible preference. Please note that all future communications for this process will likely be digital. Please include your email address on your input document.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas P. McDuffee FSAScot

President MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.



Settling the Name and the Commander Search for Our Clan

Hello all. Thank you for your patience in waiting for this next issue of Clan news – we have been hard at work on the initiatives detailed within.

In Spring of 2023, The Council of Presidents for our Clan Societies was formed to lead the process for finding a new Commander. The Council includes Vanessa Duffy (UK), Christer Hemberg (SWE), Gary MacPhie (CA), Kris Marsh (NZ), James McAfee (USA), Thomas McDuffee (USA), Barbara McPhee (AUS) and Treasurer Finlay McFee (UK).

The Council of Presidents has been working diligently with a consultant (Dr. Bruce Durie) and Carrick Pursuivant Ordinary, Professor Gillian Black of the Court of Lord Lyon, to ensure that our processes follow correct procedures and considers all required actions to settle our name and choose a Commander.

And now, the search is on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership, forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief. The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention to be held 17-MAY-2025 at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible individuals of the whole Clan.

In this issue you will find our global announcement, details on Settling the Clan Name, the Commander Search, and the Family Convention, and important dates and contact information.

All information and the forms mentioned within this newsletter can be found on our website: www.clannameandcommandersearch.com.

Regards,
Council of Presidents

Below, see the official announcement regarding Settling the Name and the Search for a Commander. This announcement has been posted worldwide.

**THE SEARCH FOR A CLAN COMMANDER (CEANN-CATH)
& SETTLING THE NAME OF THE CLAN**

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacAfee, MacDubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee, and certain other cognates* is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (*Ceann-Cath*). The worldwide search is on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership, forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief. The Clan is also in the process of settling the name of the Clan.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention to be held May 17, 2025 at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible individuals of the entire Clan.

Prior to this date the Clan will also settle on a Clan name.

The Clan requires a candidate with the right skill-set and knowledge and who is also well acquainted with the history of the Clan and Scotland's history and heritage generally. That person must also have the time, energy, ability, resources and enthusiasm to attend Scottish Games and Gatherings and to promote the Clan at these and other public events. The Commander is a crucial leader and ambassador for the Clan as it plans its future. Any Commander must be able to work closely with the various Clan Societies and Associations worldwide.

To this end, the Clan is seeking applications from suitable qualified persons bearing one of the Clan surnames. There is more information, guidance regarding participation and the necessary documentation at the following: at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com

Contact: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com

* For the avoidance of doubt, the original Warrant from the Lord Lyon included the line:
"...the Family comprising the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates..."

Settling the Clan Name

The Lord Lyon has decreed that we settle the name of our Clan. There are no official records at the Court regarding a prior process of determining our name.

Settling of a Clan name will occur in late Autumn of 2024 and must be decided by overwhelming consensus before a Commander candidate is presented to the Lord Lyon.

Date of your submission to determination eligibility to participate is 15-SEP-2024.

Why Settle the Name?

The Lord Lyon has determined that the Clan select, by overwhelming consensus, a single name. The process of choosing a Commander is a step toward finding a Chief. Therefore, there must be a single Clan name.

Clan Name Options

There are three options for a Clan name and they are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Clan Dubhsith** (pronounced doo-hee). The progenitor of the Clan is considered to be Murchardus MacDubhsith or Macdufie of Colonsay, whose grave slab carved in 1539 was placed in the Oronsay Priory in Argyll. The Gaelic name is of ancient origin.
2. **Clan MacDuffie**. As Macdufie was the first non-Gaelic rendition of his name, a modernised version would be MacDuffie (and variants).
3. **Clan Macfie**. In 1981 members of certain Clan Societies chose Macfie as their overall Clan name.

What About Current Society Names?

It is not anticipated that any current Society or Family would change its name. There is no reason why an overall Clan name cannot encompass a variety of eligible surnames. Please note that membership in a Society is not required to participate. You must however have an eligible surname. Eligible surnames include Dubhsith, Duffee, Duffie, Duffey, Duffy, M(a)cAfee, M(a)cAfie, M(a)cCuish, M(a)cDuffee, M(a)cDuffie, M(a)cDuffey, M(a)cDuffy, M(a)cFee, M(a)cFie, M(a)cPhee, M(a)cPhie.

Please reference the "Settling the Name" page of our website for more details and the Settling the Name of the Clan Input Form.

Commander Search

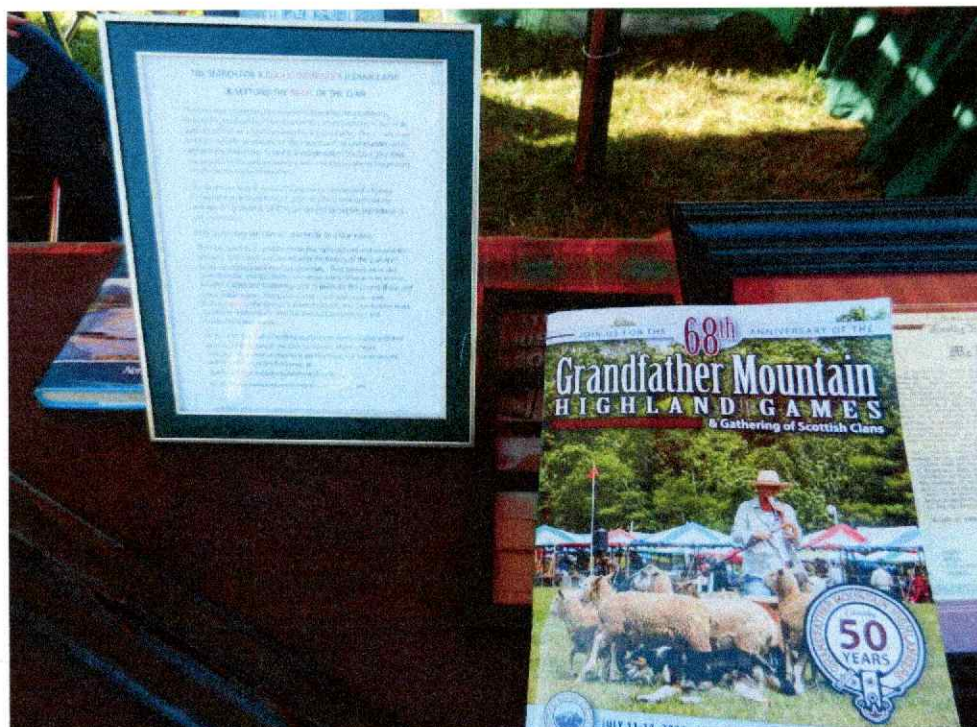
In 2025, the Clan will be nominating a new Commander, whose primary duty is to find a Chief for the Clan. You may learn about the Clan Commander search process on the Commander Search page of our website, including how to apply and eligibility requirements if you are interested in the position. The selection of a candidate for Commander must be by overwhelming consensus of eligible participants.

Why Choose a Commander?

The Council of Presidents of our Clan Societies was formed in the Spring of 2023 to lead the process for finding a new Commander. Our Previous Commander, Iain McFie, following many years of service stepped down in 2021.

Establishing a new Commander will be our first step towards finding a Chief. The primary duty of a Commander is to find a Chief either through a Court recognized hereditary line or the identification of a candidate for a new Court approved hereditary line.

Please reference the “Commander Search” page of our website to review the four documents associated with this process. These include Role of the Commander, Duties of the Commander, Lord Lyon Court Guidance, and the Notice of Intent to be Considered as a Candidate for Commander.



Announcement Posted at Clan Society Tent on Grandfather

Family Convention

The family convention will be held on 17-MAY-2025 in Glasgow, Scotland. Attendance can be in person or virtual.

If you plan to attend and have an eligible surname (see the Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames document on our website) please submit the Notice of Intent to Attend the Family Convention (posted on our website).



Important Dates

Input Form for Naming the Clan Due: 15-SEP-24

Notice of Intent to be Considered as a Candidate for Commander Due: 01-DEC-24

Notice of Intent to Attend Family Convention Due: 01-JAN-25

Family Convention: 17-MAY-25

Forms

All forms mentioned within this document can be found on our website.

Age for Input

The Council has decided that participation in the selection of a Clan Name and the identification of a candidate for Commander requires that participants be at least age 18. General attendance at the Family Convention, however, is open and we encourage all family members to experience this important and historical event for our Clan. We will still need your input document if you plan to attend in order to assure proper space both for those participating in the selection and accompanying family members.

Contact Information

Contact Us: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com

Website: www.clannameandcommandersearch.com