

# CLAN CHATTER

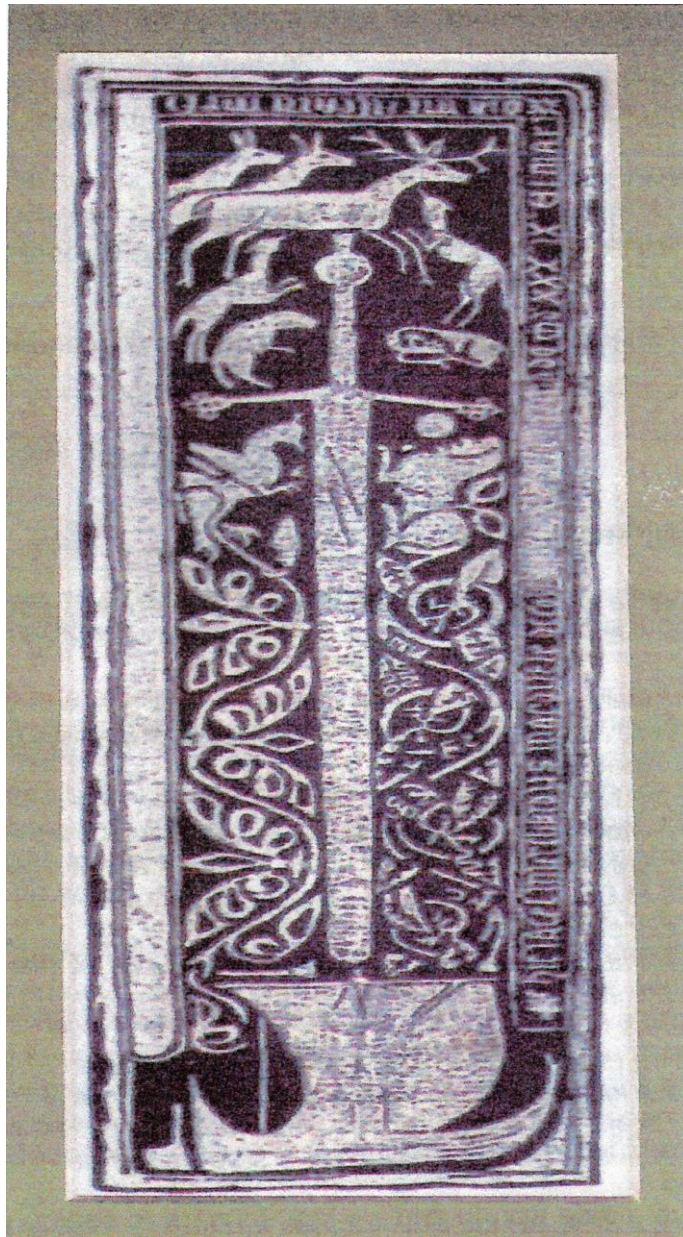
VOL. 19, ISSUE 1, SPRING 2023

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 the sixteenth century carved grave-slab of Murdock MacDuffie in Oronsay Priory, and the actual picture of the slab.

## Message from the President

Spring has finally arrived, and we hope that you did not have to experience the severe weather that arrived at the same time. I'm sure that we will all take the warmer weather and now prepare for the 2023 Highland Games.

2022 was a successful year as we were back at full strength at both of the major Highland Games sponsoring tents and welcoming new visitors and members. A stronger financial position has allowed us to follow through over the winter and secure additional tent display materials that allow us greater flexibility for attending regional games as well. There are two articles about our new parade banner and a new team attending regional games, with a schedule, in New England. We would like to do the same in the southeast as well. These activities are all volunteer dependent.

This issue of the Clan Chatter provides details for the International Macfie Gathering planned for September 2023 in Scotland. This date has been selected because the year is 400 years from the date of the death of our last Clan Chief, Malcolm MacDuffie in 1623. It is also a perfect time to also plan a visit to our home Islands of Colonsay and Oronsay, Scotland.

There is a block of rooms available until July for attendees to take advantage of for scheduling. Contact names for the Scotland Gathering details are in the article.

One of the primary objectives for this Gathering was the possibility for the introduction of a new Commander. The process for this action is underway and governed by Guidelines promulgated by the Lord Lyon of Scotland which unfortunately have been hampered by illness to key members of the Secretariat and greater detailed processes in place to assure compliance with the regulations for selection. Contact names for the Scotland Gathering details are in the article.

Please remember that MacDuffee Clan Society Scholarship Applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Scholarships range from \$250 to 500. Details for an application may be found on our website: [macduffeeclansociety.com](http://macduffeeclansociety.com) by clicking on Scholarship. Early or on time applications are always better.

Check out the "growing" update for Duffee our Official Highland Coo and her North Carolina friend.

The Society has set our 2023 Annual General Meeting for Grandfather Mountain on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend. The meeting will be convened in the Chief's Tent. Meeting times will be posted in the Clan Society tent. The Games run from July 6<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>.

We will also convene a tent at the Loon Mountain Games in Lincoln, New Hampshire September 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Now is a good time to make reservations as these two Highland Games are well attended. In fact, Loon Mountain had to limit ticket sales last year due to the increased interest.

We look forward to seeing our extended MacDuffee family at the Highland Games of 2023.

Warmest Regards,

Thomas Patrick McDuffee FSAScot  
President MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc

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### MACFIE CLAN COMMANDER

Iain McFie (Pending replacement following announced  
Retirement)

## HISTORY

### The Pine Tree Riot

By Rev. Andy Akers, New Hampshire Society SAR

#### Background

In the town of Somersworth, N.H., a white pine tree stands 128 feet tall, as high as an eight-story building! The trunk of the white pine is 6½ feet across at the base. It is the tallest white pine in New Hampshire and one of the few white pines left in our state that would have been considered significant enough to be used as a mast for one of the wooden sailing ships built for the Royal Navy of King George III in the 1700s. Colonial Economy

#### The King's Property

In the early 1700s, more and more people were leaving England and Europe, immigrating to the American Colonies. The towns along the coast of New Hampshire were developing into trading centers for the supplies that the Colonists needed to buy from England. The Colonists also had materials to sell to ships sailing back to England. Among our most abundant resources were trees. Dating back to the late 1600s, England had few forests that could provide suitable trees for the giant masts, support timbers and lumber for its growing Royal Navy and merchant ships. Tall, straight white pines were needed for "single stick" masts. A singlestick mast was hewn from one tree rather than fastening two or more trees together with wooden pegs. A single-stick mast was by far the superior mast for use. It could hold the full sail in the strongest gales. The Colonists soon started moving away from farms and towns along the coast. In the mid-1700s, Gov. Benning Wentworth granted large parcels of land to many of his friends and charters for incorporation to newly developing towns springing up west of the Merrimack River. Families made the arduous trip from the coastal towns to the forests. They then cleared the land for farms and built roads for travel.

No matter who owned or cleared the land, the white pines on the land belonged to the King of England. In 1772, the British Parliament and King George III made a law protecting "any white pine tree growth of twelve inches in diameter." At the time, there was already a law in place to protect the larger white pine trees. The royal laws meant that the settlers couldn't cut any white pines unless they had the deputy surveyor mark the trees with the broad arrow, saving them for masts. Then, the settlers had to pay a tidy sum of money to get a royal license to cut the rest of the white pines from their land.

The governor appointed deputy surveyors of the King's Woods. The deputy surveyor and his hired crew had the authority to mark all suitable white pines with the broad arrow mark of the king. The deputy surveyor also had the power to inspect the sawmills run by the settlers. He could mark each piece with a broad arrow if he found any white pine logs or lumber cut without a royal license. The county sheriff could then seize the logs and lumber, and the owner of the offending sawmill had to pay a hefty fine or go to jail. Governors Weigh In

Benning's nephew, John Wentworth, became governor in 1766. While Benning Wentworth was royal governor of New Hampshire, he did little to enforce the pine tree laws. He rarely sent the deputy surveyor to the newly founded towns such as Dunbarton, Weare and Henniker, which were far away from Portsmouth. He saw little reason to deny the settlers their trees, as long as enough masts were hauled to Portsmouth for the Royal Navy. However, Gov. Wentworth soon saw how much money was being lost by enforcing the license fees and fines for the pine tree laws in the new towns, so he instructed the deputy surveyors to attend to their duties.

## Reclaiming the Logs

During the winter of 1771-72, John Sherburn, a deputy surveyor of the King's Woods, visited the sawmills in the towns of the Piscataquog Valley. Sherburn found what he had hoped to discover: white pine logs that measured 15 to 36 inches in diameter at six different mills throughout Goffstown and Weare.

He claimed them as "The King's

White Pine Trees" and chopped the broad arrow mark in every log. The owners of the mills were warned not to touch the logs and to appear before the Court of Vice

Admiralty in Portsmouth on Feb. 7, 1772, to pay their fines. The sawmill owners hired,

Samuel Blodget, Esq., an attorney from Goffstown, to represent them at the court in Portsmouth.

Unfortunately, Blodget did not represent them well. He forgot his loyalty to them when Gov. John Wentworth offered him a job as a surveyor of the King's Woods.

However, Blodget arranged for the sawmill owners (his clients) to pay their fines and to get their logs back. All of the Goffstown mill owners paid their fines once and had their logs returned. But the sawmill owners from Weare did not. They decided to be "obstinate and notorious," even though Blodget had sent them letters warning them against such actions. Warrant Issued

On April 13, Benjamin Whiting, the sheriff of Hillsborough County, and his deputy, John Quigley, rode to South Weare. They arrived with a warrant for the arrest of Ebenezer Mudgett, who owned a sawmill in town. Mudgett was the appointed leader of the mill owners in Weare. The sheriff thought that if he arrested Mudgett, the other mill owners would back down and pay their fines. It was nearly nightfall when Sheriff Whiting and Deputy Quigley found Mudgett, who agreed to meet them at Aaron Quimby's inn the following morning and pay his fine. News of the sheriff's arrival spread quickly throughout the town. That night, scores of men gathered at Mudgett's house to work out a plan to pay the sheriff in a way he would not soon forget. Riot!

Mudgett rode to Quimby's Inn at dawn, bursting in on the sheriff, who was still in bed. More than 20 townsmen, their faces blackened in disguise, rushed into the sheriff's room and beat him with tree branch switches. Sheriff Whiting attempted to grab his guns so he could defend himself, but he was severely outnumbered. Men grabbed him from his arms and legs and hoisted him up, facing the floor, while others continued to beat him mercilessly. Whiting later testified that he thought the men would surely kill him.

Deputy Quigley was also removed from his room, receiving the same treatment from another group of townsmen. The sheriff's and deputy's horses were then brought to the inn's front door, where the townspeople cropped off the horses' ears and sheared their manes and tails, ruining the animals' value. The two lawmen were forced to mount and were shouted and slapped down the road toward Goffstown.

At this point, Sheriff Whiting was not ready to admit defeat. He traveled to Colonels John Goffe and Edward Goldstone Lutwyche, arranging for them to bring a posse of soldiers to Weare to arrest Mudgett and the other rioters. By the time that posse arrived, the rioters had long since gone. They had vanished into the woods without a trace.

## Sheriff in Pursuit

The sheriff did not give up on the matter. Later in the spring, he was able to capture one of the rioters, so the rest of the men agreed to pay the bail money and appear in court to accept their punishment. In September, eight men from Weare were brought before His Majesty's Superior Court. The men were identified as Timothy Worthley, Jonathan Worthley, Caleb Atwood, William Dustin, Abraham Johnson, Jotham Tuttle, William Quimby and Ebenezer Mudgett. They were charged as rioters and disturbers of the peace and with "assaulting the body of Benjamin Whiting, Esq., Sheriff, and that they beat, wounded, and evilly treated him with other injuries did so that his life was despaired of." They were also charged with going "against the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity."

Four judges—Theodore Atkinson, Meshech Weare, Leverett Hubbard and William Parker—heard the case in the Superior Court at Amherst. The rioters were humble and submitted themselves to the grace of the court and the king. They were lucky. The court fined each of the men 20 shillings, ordering them to pay the cost of the hearing. It was indeed a light punishment for the crimes they had committed. The small fine ordered by the judges demonstrated that they understood why the men from Weare attacked the sheriff and his deputy. Like many other New Hampshire citizens, the judges thought the pine tree laws were oppressive and unfair. The pine tree laws were yet another way of making the Colonists pay taxes to the British king.

The Pine Tree Riot, the 1774 raid on Fort William and Mary in Newcastle, the threats to the Tax Stamp Master in Portsmouth, and many other acts of rebellion grew from the anger and frustration that the citizens of New Hampshire felt over these laws. They all contributed to bringing New Hampshire into the Revolutionary War against Great Britain.

## Clan Society Topics

### Duffee our Official Highland Coo Update from North Carolina



Duffee and her friend Jura are snacking on their farm in North Carolina this spring. They managed to eat 6,000 pounds of Winter Hay. Duffee was very appreciative of all the MacDuffee Donors who helped with her food costs. Above is her Christmas photo with a Tartan Gift Bale.

Eric & Erin, Duffee's owners, report Duffee and her pasture pal Jura are happy, and sassy, they are now reveling in the arrival of spring and reviewing applications for a herd sire (read: boyfriend), with whom they will help grow the fold and cause untold mischief over the summer months."

## Your family Tree Story

**As a reminder** we have added a section to include short stories about your family history. Send our Editor Julie MacDuffie Hall your best short story about your history, significant family achievements that are of interest to the Clan Society or special events in history that you or your family experienced. Thanks!

## WEB SITES for RESEARCH

Come view our photos 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.

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 online.

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://govgenealogyseach.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>

[Scottish Heritage Center | American Revolution Tour of N.C.](http://www.scottish-heritage-center.com)

[amrevnc.com/scottish-heritage-center](http://www.amrevnc.com/scottish-heritage-center)

Genealogy library & museum now can be reached by

<http://www.masoncountymuseum.org/articles/home/asp>

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.

## New Supply of Clan Society Shirts

**Clan Society Polo-Shirts** are available (right picture). They are green with *MacDuffee Clan Society* and the Claymore embroidered on the left breast. The cost is \$ 25.00 for S-XL



**Clan Society T-Shirts** are also available (two left pictures) They are \$20.00 for S-XL.

The new shirts were a big hit at Grandfather & Loon Mountains this year selling over 25. T-Shirt front is same as Polo, but the back has our 1539 Grave slab. Our Clan members look very sharp at the Games, and they would also be great Christmas presents. Contact David McDuffie, dnmcduffie@gmail.com, our Treasurer to place your order. We request a \$4 shipping fee for any size order. Thank you.

## New MacDuffee Parade Banner



The Clan Society decided to honor Murchadh (Murdoch) MacDuffie of Colonsay who died in 1539 by placing his grave slab in the center of the new banner in high relief silver embroidery. The text on the slab is perfectly readable as it is on the actual Grave Slab in the Priory on Oronsay. We will now have two parade banners to display at the Games in celebration of our Clan Society. The work was commissioned by our Society to the “Tartan Lady” of Georgia who has produced many outstanding works for the Clans on Grandfather.

The new banner is slightly over 2x3 feet in size and the tartan is our Ancient Colors.

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Darrell Cantwell, passed on Nov 14.2022

### BIRTHS

#### MacDuffee Bairn

Life Members Fred and Cathey McDuffee of Raleigh, North Carolina are pleased to announce the newest member of their immediate clan: Grace Ellen Garra, daughter of John (Fred's brother) & April McDuffee and husband Kyle welcomed their daughter Quinn Taylor Garra into the world on September 30, 2022. Miss Quinn, the entire MacDuffee Clan welcomes you and looks forward someday to meeting you on Grandfather.

### BIRTHDAYS

Joan Branson	May 7	Kathryn Brown	Oct 12
Sue Anna Buckner	July 7	Fredrika Calderoni	May 13
Michael Cathey	Oct 3	Richard Chase	May 17
Ann Fleck	May 13	Irma Glenn	July 7
John Glenn	Sept 8	Julie MacDuffie Hall	Aug 15
Allardyce Hamill	Sept 10	Sheri Horton	Aug 14
Mary Howell	Sept 21	Staci Ingram	Sept 13



Jane Ireland	Sept 29	Alexander Jessup	June 27
Austin Jessup	May 2	Bradford Jessup	Sept 22
Jasper Jessup Jr	Aug 3	Marc Jessup	Aug 25
Percy Jessup Jr	Sept 12	Ross Jessup	Jun 15
Ruth Johnston	July 3	Larry Jones	July 3

This is only a partial list, will continue in next issue.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Death of Malcolm MacDuffie our Last Chief and Preparing to Visit the Priory**

For those considering the trip to the Gathering in Scotland in September the following is offered as starter material that will add great significance for a visit to Colonsay and Oronsay. The beginning starts with archaeological work that recently (1988) has identified inhabitants living on the islands dating back to about 7000-7500 BC through dating of stone tools and remnants of ancient middens revealing parts of their diet.

The Priory on Oronsay, first mentioned in a papal communication in 1353, has carvings of grave slabs, effigies, crosses and some repairs to the Priory that are reflective of the Medieval Oronsay style of stone carving. After 1353 it was regarded as an Augustinian Monastery. One stone carver was Mael-Sechliann O' Cuinn who carved the Iona styled MacDuffie Cross and other pieces of work in the Priory about 1500. Colonsay has a MacDuffie Aisle on its south wall where MacDuffie Canons and Chiefs were buried in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century most of the grave slabs were moved to the then newly roofed Prior's House to protect them from the environment. Among many amazing examples stored there are three readable grave slabs that are carved as follows: first, *Here lies Murchardus MacDuffie of Colonsay who died in the year of Our Lord 1539, and Mariota MacLean caused me to be made, a second "Here lies Sir Donald MacDuffie, Conventual Prior of Colonsay, who died in the year 155-*" and a third grave slab from around 1550 that reads: *"Here lies Canon Bricius (Gilbride) MacDuffie, and Canon Patrick his father"*. "Another Malcolm MacDuffie was appointed Commendator (lay prior) of Oronsay in 1561."

In April 1538 Donald MacDuffie was appointed prior by papal authority. Donald died before 155-. The last number was left uncarved and was to have been completed presumably at death which about 1554 or 1555. Murdach MacDuffie became Chief in 1549. Other stone carvings in the Prior's House are "effigies of men in armour may well be other MacDuffie chiefs although there are no identifying inscriptions." There is also a 3.7 meter Oronsay Cross next to the Priory dedicated/carved as follows: *" This is the cross of Colinus (Malcolm, Gille-Coluim), son of Cristinus MacDuffie"*. The book notes that "Colinus MacDuffie was chief of his clan in the last quarter of the 15th century" and that the mason for the cross was the same one who rebuilt the cloister soon after 1500 as noted above.

The last alleged Chief was murdered in 1623 with a significant backstory of alleged piracy, land disputes and intrigue involving MacDonalds. There are also interventions by the King and the influence of changing religions. Too much material for the Chatter to cover and maybe enough for a movie. The books listed below give a range of historical facts and views regarding this incident which left us with no Chief or hereditary line. The following materials have been the top resources for information re Colonsay & Oronsay. The material also includes the use of the Macfie surname and when it appears in history.

1. **Colonsay and Oronsay in the Isles of Argyll**, By John de Vere Loder 1995 edition ISBN 0952450909, First publish in 1935.
2. **Colonsay and Oronsay**, by Norman S. Newton 1990 ISBN 0715392395

3. **Late Medieval Monumental Sculpture in the West Highlands**, by K. S. Steer and J. W. M. Bannerman, published in 1977 by The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, ISBN 0114913838
4. Colonsay & Oronsay by the Historic Environment Scotland as requested by the Colonsay Community Council in 1994.

These books will be available for review at the 2023 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games from the library of the President.

## MEETINGS, GAMES AND GATHERINGS

Reminder: May 27 International Macfie Clan Day

### Expansion to New England Area Games

Donna McDuffee Infantino, Northern Line Clan Assistant Vice President has been researching smaller Highland Games in New England for our Clan Society to attend. The goal is sharing our Scottish Heritage and expanding our opportunities for new members. Donna has put together a team of volunteers and we have appointed a new position to assist Donna with potential new Society members and other duties at the games. Going forward we will be considering similar activity for other Games in the South, most likely in the Carolinas for a start. Each Game will be assessed for results.

The new position is **Northern Line Clan Society Associate Convener**.

We are pleased to announce that **Diane McDuffee of Dover, New Hampshire** has been offered and accepted this new role. Donna along with Diane will be assessing the success of this project to determine if further resources make sense and report back to the Clan Society.

Donna has identified the following Games for the team to attend:

- 1.) June 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Old Orchard Beach**, Southern Maine – Highland Games and Scottish Festival
- 2.) August 19<sup>th</sup> – **Maine Highland Games & Scottish Festival**, Saint Andrews Society of Maine, midway up in Maine, Brunswick, ME
- 3.) August 26<sup>th</sup> – **Quechee Scottish Highland Games**, Hartford, VT

Donna will also join us for the Loon Mountain Highland Games in Lincoln, New Hampshire the third weekend in September. If you know potential members or have relatives near these locations, please invite them to attend. The team will have applications, genealogy information, Clan Society shirts and other items for individuals to consider.

May 6 – Savannah, Georgia

May 20 – Springfield Area Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, ILL

May 20 -21 – Smokey Mountain Highland Games, Maryville, TN

June 3 – Garrett County Celtic Festival, Friendsville Community Park, Friendsville, Maryland

June 23-24 – Ohio Scottish Games, Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea, OH

July 6-9 – Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC

Aug 12 – CNY Scottish Games & Festival, Long Branch Park, Liverpool, NY

Sept 2-3 – Caledonian Club of San Francisco, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA  
Sept 8-9 – Flathead Celtic Festival, West Kalispell, Montana  
Sept 15-17 – New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln, NH  
Oct 7-8 – McMinnville Scottish Festival, McMinnville, OR

## Future Student Board Members

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) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kayla Ingram currently serves as our Student Representative.

### Duties of the Student Board Member include the following:

- 1.) Responsible for sharing of the Scottish information, assisting with the coordination of the Clan Society Marches at the AGM at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and providing Society interface with the 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 16 years of age by the first AGM in which they serve and may serve for 2-year terms unless reelected unopposed until graduation.
- 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.

## 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. These can include births, marriages, deaths, achievements and, etc. **Please advise the Editor of any changes in address or email address.** They can be submitted by forwarding to Julie MacDuffie Hall (Editor) at 506 Stone St., Watertown, NY 13601 or [juliehall522@yahoo.com](mailto:juliehall522@yahoo.com).

**The mailing rate for each newsletter that is mailed with USPS has been raised yet again. THAT MEANS IT WILL COST US OVER \$.84 TO MAIL EACH NEWSLETTER. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE EVERYONE THAT HAS INTERNET ACCESS TO FORWARD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY). WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP COSTS DOWN.**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Our latest Great grandson is growing like a weed, and we are expecting Great grandchild #9 in late May early June and this one is another girl.

We had mostly an uneventful winter with most of our storms coming around all the holidays and getting for the season over this usual amount.

Getting ready for our camping season that begins at the end of this month.

A small, square image showing the name "Julie" written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light-colored background.

**From the family of Julie and the Clan Officers**