

CLAN CHATTER

VOL. 21, ISSUE 1, Spring 2025

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 (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.

Message from the President

Dear MacDuffee Clan Society,

Well again we are slightly behind schedule for our publication as we wanted to have the most current information regarding the process for settling our Clan name. This data was discussed last week by the Council of Presidents representing all Clan related Societies world wide. For the technical background that is the basis for making this decision please refer to your Fall 2024 copy of the *Clan Chatter*. The Clan name, motto and crest have been used in error. We currently have no Clan name.

The Council of Presidents has unanimously decided to recommend the Gaelic name of **Clan MacDubhsith** for the clan members to either accept or reject in a Round 2 process. This is the only name option. All eligible Clan members will have the opportunity to either say YES we support the recommendation or NO we do not. If there is an overwhelming consensus of YES preferences then MacDubhsith will be our Clan name going forward and we can move to the next important Clan action, selecting a new Clan Commander. Please note that if MacDubhsith is successful each Society may continue with their current Society name or change if preferred. Thus, we would/could be MacDuffee Clan Society of America or Clan MacDubhsith.

If the recommendation is not supported and the Lord Lyon King of Arms determines at his sole discretion that we are not acting with consensus then there will be no future action. We will have had two chances and failed both times. The Lord Lyon will impose a time penalty before we may again approach the Court of the Lord Lyon for a Clan name which will likely be from 5-10 years. If a time penalty is imposed, we will have no settled Clan name, no opportunity to select a Commander and will then operate as separate Societies.

At this time the action plan is for Clan members worldwide to be notified that a recommendation has been made and that their input must be received by 30 June 2025. You will receive instructions regarding how your input, either YES or NO, is to be submitted in early May. During Round 1 our Society, and others, did a great job of responding. It is hoped that we again respond in the same fashion. This is an immense Historical action that will affect our Clan for decades and beyond.

Once the input is collected it will be presented to our Court appointed Supervisory officer in early July who will pass along the results to the Lord Lyon. It is important to note that only the Clan itself determines or settles the actual name. The Lord Lyon is looking for an overwhelming consensus, transparency, inclusion of all the eligible Clan members worldwide and open communication of the process. The Lord Lyon does not select the name.

Again, instructions for the process will be sent in early May. You will have nearly two months to respond. An announcement will be made as soon as the Lord Lyon decides, hopefully in early August.

Your support of this process is greatly appreciated.

2025 Highland Games

Please be reminded that our Clan Society will be gathering on Grandfather Mountain July 10-13 2025. We will convene our Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 12th. Please take the time to attend this important session to be held at the **Chieftain's Tent (same as last year) from 1:30 to 2:30pm.**

We are also registered to attend the **50Th New Hampshire Highland Games** on Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire. The Games are scheduled for September 19th to 21st. The Loon Games are equal in size to Grandfather with significant entertainment options. Also, the Games site is nearly 100% paved making getting around quite easy. The weather is cool in the mornings and typically in the mid to high 60's during the day. The date is just on the edge of the fall leaves turning in New England.

Grandfather's location is close to many members of the southern Clan family lines of the early Carolinas and Loon is close to those Clan family lines that immigrated to the New England region. We would love to see our Clan Society well represented on both Mountains.

Sincerely,
Tom

Thomas P. McDuffee FSAScot
President MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

REPORTS

Hurricane

The Hurricane last Fall caused devastation in the area around Grandfather Mountain. The officers of our Society agreed unanimously to make donations to the Community and to the Grandfather Games to assist with restoration needs. We received a very heartfelt thank you message from the President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Steve Quillin, for the way our MacDuffee Clan Society stood tall in a time of need. Many of the workers and volunteers at grandfather were impacted by the storm and the aftermath.

New Highland Coo

As noted last fall the McKinney (McDuffee) Farm in North Carolina provided a welcome update that DUFFEE, the Highland Coo, had delivered a calf (son) who would probably grow to about 1800-2000 pounds but he needed a name. Django McKinney who works hard on his parents Scottish Farm asked if the Society would provide a name.

The following names were suggested by children of the Society:

1. **Colin**
2. **Pipsqueak** (not for long and odd for an 1800 pound animal, but funny)
3. **Mullffee** (combination of his father's and mother's names, Mull and DUFFEE)
4. **Fionn** (as a formal name it is pronounced fee-own, as a creamy color like his birth coat it is pronounced fee-on...both are Gaelic pronunciations)

5. **Dubh** (the Council of Presidents for the Clan have proposed MacDubhsith as the Clan name which is yet to be decided) **Dubh** is pronounced **Dew** or just go anglicized with **Duff**.
6. **Finn McCool** (as in the legendary giant in Celtic stories (in Gaelic it would be Fionn MacCumhail)
7. **Rory**



The name selected by Django is **Finn McCool** which should be perfect for an 1800 pound Highland Coo. Thank you to everyone who submitted one of these great ideas. The name selected was from Audrey McDuffee.

It was reported that Finn already has a sibling on the way and his Aunt Jura (another Highland Coo in background above) has provided a cousin...this is how genealogy trees get their start.

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Correction

The picture of the two boys in the last issue were listed wrong. The correction should be Gunner is the younger and Mason is the older.

HISTORY**Short Account of the Emigration from the Highlands of Scotland to North America**

And the establishment of the Catholic Diocese of Upper Canada (1939)

Continued

The Island of Trinidad had just been ceded by Spain to the British Crown, and a Board of Commissioners was appointed to establish a government agreeably to the Constitution of Great Britain, of which Board Colonel Fulleton was a principal. Mr. Addington offered the strongest inducements to Mr. Macdonell, to lead a Colony of his countrymen to that island; promising to grant eighty acres of land in the healthiest situations to every head of a family, together with as much money as would suffice to place four slaves upon

every farm; to send a Physician and Schoolmaster to the new Colony, and to provide the Colonists, for a period of three years, with as much Wine as Mr. Macdonell and the Doctor should consider necessary for the preservation of their health. And further to bestow upon Mr. Macdonell, and also upon a few of his friends, such salaries as would make them independent in their circumstances. All these advantages Mr. Macdonell declined; assuring Mr. Addington, that having devoted his whole life to the good of his fellow creatures, he could not think of inducing them to emigrate to an unhealthy tropical climate; and renewed his solicitation to the Premier, to bestow grants of lands upon his adherents in Upper Canada. The only objection which Mr. Addington opposed to Mr. Macdonell's request was, that the British Government had so slender a hold of the Province of Upper Canada, that he could not think himself just in giving encouragement to the King's loyal subjects to emigrate to that Colony. To this Mr. Macdonell replied by assuring Mr. Addington, that the Emigration to Upper Canada by Highlanders would form the strongest tie and connection between that Colony and the Parent State.— He suggested to Mr. Addington the advantages that must accrue to Great Britain by organizing the disbanded fencibles into a Military Emigration to the British Provinces in North America, and after a limited period of service to grant them lands in those Colonies; always keeping embodied a certain force, by fresh emigration from the mother country and the children of former Emigrants. This suggestion of peopling the American Colonies with a loyal and hardy population, and maintaining therein an armed body of men, had it been attended to, might possibly have prevented the last American War, and probably the late rebellion in both provinces of Canada; and thereby have saved to Great Britain the many millions it has expended in protecting her American Colonies. Sir Archibald Campbell, the late Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, then on the staff of Sir William Pulteney, Colonel Stewart, 42nd regiment, and several other officers of distinction offered to take command in this Military Emigration, should the plan be approved of by Government.

On Mr. Addington's resignation, the plan of this Military Emigration was disapproved of by his successor; but in March 1803, Mr. Macdonell obtained the Sign Manual for a grant of land for every Officer and Soldier belonging to the late Glengarry Regiment, whom he should introduce into Upper Canada. No sooner was this gracious act of Majesty generally known, than the Highland Proprietors took the alarm, and endeavored by various means to prevent the Highlanders from Emigrating. The regulations of the Emigration Act were rigidly enforced, and many of the poor Highlanders, after selling their effects, and repairing with their families to the ports of embarkation were prevented from emigration. The Highland Lairds induced their friends who were connected with the Highlands, to represent to Mr. Macdonell the imprudence and even folly of his undertaking; to wit, the Earl of Moira, Sir John McPherson, late Governor of India, Sir Archibald Macdonell, Baron of the Exchequer, and uncle to Lord Macdonell, and Mr. Charles Grant, father of the present Lord Glenelg, then Chairman of the East India Company. Application was even made to Sir Thomas Twiss, agent for the Prince of Wales, to offer to the intended Emigrants, lands in the Duchy of Cornwall, to be under

the care and control of His Royal Highness, with a pension to Mr. Macdonell. So far did the fears or reproaches of the Highland Lairds act upon the then Ministry, that even Lord Hobart, the Colonial Secretary of State, endeavored to prevail upon Mr. Macdonell to conduct his Emigrants to Upper Canada through the United States, in order that the odium of directly assisting the emigration from the Highlands might be removed; there existing at that time, a Provincial Law in Upper Canada, which granted two hundred acres of land to every loyal subject who entered that province from the United States, with the intention to settle. This proposal Mr. Macdonell peremptorily declined, and for two reasons. 1st. Because the circuitous route to Upper Canada through the State of New York {'there being no Erie Canal in those days] was much more expensive. And 2ndly. Because he was well convinced, that the intercourse of his followers with the people through the United States would inoculate them with radical principles, and ever afterwards affect their loyalty; and this would be done the more readily? as the minds of the Emigrants were irritated against their late landlords, and soured against the Government by the severe restrictions of the Emigration Act. Consequently, and in the midst of all this opposition, Mr. Macdonell and his followers found their way to Upper Canada in the best way they could, in the years 1803 and 1804; nay, he may be said, almost literally, to have smuggled his friends away, so many and so vexatious were the restrictions against their going.

Upon Mr. Macdonell's arrival in Upper Canada, he presented his Credentials to Lt. General Hunter, at that time Lt. Governor of the province, and obtained the stipulated lands for his friends, agreeably to the order of the Sign Manual; and took up his residence in the county of Glengarry, where he had not long resided, before he found that very few of the Emigrants who had previously arrived in the country and had located themselves on lands allotted them, had obtained legal tenures for their present possessions; so that he was obliged to repair to the seat of Government, where after a great deal of trouble, he obtained Patent Deeds for 160,000 acres of lands for his new clients, and after some further delay, likewise obtained the Patents for the lands of his own immediate followers.

To be continued.

BOOKS

The Clans of the Highlands of Scotland Being an account of their Annals, Separately & Collectively with delineations of their Tartans, and Family Arms edited by Thomas Smibert, Esq. (1850) (pdf) You can read this book at: https://electricScotland.com/webclans/The_Clans_of_the_Highlands_of_Scotland.pdf

Ross, Sutherland and the Scottish Wars of Independence (1296-1357) A lecture by Iain A. MacInnes (pdf) You can read this at:

https://electricScotland.com/history/articles/Ross_Sutherland_and_the_Scottish_Wars_of.pdf

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

It's with great sadness that I must let the Clan know that my father Laurance MacDuffie (that I wrote the article about last spring) has passed on Dec 15, 2024 he was 98 yrs young. His burial will be May 3 at the Ellisburg Cemetery in Ellisburg, NY.

WEB SITES for RESEARCH

Come view our photos us on Facebook at - MacDuffee Clan Society of America

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.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=4jvr8k0klvvjs9smas4a8pkfh7>

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

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.

Clan Society Shirts

Clan Society Polo-Shirts are available. 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. They are \$20.00 for S-XL.

The new shirts were a big hit at Grandfather & Loon Mountains this year. 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.

MEETINGS, GAMES AND GATHERINGS

June 7 Garrett County Celtic Festival, Friendsville, MD www.gccelticfestival.com

July 10-13 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC www.gmhg.org

Sept 11-12 Flathead Celtic Festival, 563 McMannamy Draw, Kalispell, MT
www.flatheadcelticfestival.com

Sept 13-14 Niagra Celtic Heritage Festival, Niagra County Fairgrounds, Lockport, NY
<https://niagraceltic.com>

Sept 20-21 Colorado Scottish Festival, 6359 Airport Road, Sedalia, CO www.scottishgames.com

Oct 11 Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival, Marion County Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN
<http://indyscotgamesandfest.com/>

Nov 8-9 Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival, Harrison County Fairgrounds, Gulfport, MS
www.mshighlandislands.com

MacDuffee the Younger Scholarship

Following is a summary of our scholarship that is available for eligible students. Application cut off is May 15th. The MacDuffee Clan Society supports education and knowledge of our Scottish & family heritage. Winners will be announced at the Annual meeting in July each year.

Purpose: The MacDuffee Scholarship recognizes college bound high school seniors based on citizenship, contributions to Scottish Heritage, academics, and service to the MacDuffee Clan Society.

Criteria: The students eligible for consideration must be graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at either a two- or four-year college or university. Consideration will be given to accomplishments and activities such as: academics, community service, activities in their church and school, awareness of Scottish Heritage, knowledge of their family genealogy, and admission to a College or University. Successful applicants will be asked to write a half page paper regarding their family history. All eligible students will be the children, grandchildren, stepchildren or adopted children of active MacDuffee Clan Society members in good standing.

Guidelines: Scholarships will be awarded and disbursed each year at the Annual General meeting in July. All eligible candidates are to submit their Scholarship Application by May 1st of their senior year in High School.

Amount: Scholarships may range from \$250 to \$500 at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. One scholarship may be granted each year. The scholarship is for one year and is not renewable.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of a Scholarship Application is May 1st of each year. The post mark or media date on the submission will be strictly monitored.

Submission: Applications are to be submitted to the Clan Society Secretary via mail or electronically. Applications may be sent to: Clan Society Secretary Jen McDuffee, 9902 Woods Edge Drive, Fishers, IN 46037.

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 by May 15th.

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 15th 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.

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.

I have completed the scanning of all issues of our Society, from the handbook dated 1969 to current. If anyone is looking for a particular issue, please contact me and I can forward to you.

FROM THE EDITOR

Since our last issue things have been very different with the passing of my father. We did have more snow than we've had in the past several years and not as much of the cold temperatures.



From the family of Julie and the Clan Officers



