The Macfie Clan Society of Australia (Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

Newsbulletin



ORANSAY Ancestral Home of The Clan Macfie

No 45

AUG 86

Society Secretary:

Mrs Helen McPhie, 8 Panorama Crescent, Toowoomba, Q., 4350.

Telephone:

076 32-3469



From your President



Clan members worldwide will be thrilled to learn that Ron MacPhee of Hawaii has been appointed Clan leader pending the promulgation of a new Clan Commander or Clan Chief.

Ron has been involved with Clan Macfie's resurgence from the early days with our late Clan Commander Earle MacPhee of Vancouver and others. He has been a regular participant at Clan Parliaments in Scotland and Canada and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Clan and things Scottish.

Further details of Ron's appointment appear opposite. He has our congratulations, good wishes and support as he commences this term of office. Its importance cannot be overstressed as this is a critical time in Clan Macfie affairs. We must move strongly ahead continuing Dr. MacPhee's work if we are to see a new Chief appointed one day. Ron is certain to ensure there is no loss of impetus in this regard.

With this in mind, I hope all members who are considering an overseas trip in mid-1987, or who are able to make such a trip, will give serious consideration to attending the International Gathering of the Clans and Clan Macfie Parliament in Nova Scotia at the beginning of August. Strong representation from Australia is definitely required. Secretary Helen has details.

Queensland is becoming more popular with Clan members from the south if the number of visitors we see is any indication. Recent visitors included Victoria Vice-President Bruce and Betty McPhie of Forest Hill, V., and ex-Treasurer Ross and Betty McPhee of Mornington, V., while we also had lunch in Surfers Paradise with Trustee Neil and Sylvia McPhee of Mornington in late July - all in good form enjoying our sunshine I might mention.

Where are all those new members we were expecting from our "Get a New Member" campaign? We welcome some in this Newsbulletin, but no where near enough. What about it? And for a few who have been behind with subscriptions, what about helping by continuing as financial members? Letters are enclosed for those who are more than twelve months behind with their subs.

I am delighted to report that our Executive has invited Miss Sylvia McPhee of Toronto, Canada, to become an Honorary Member of our Clan Society. Sylvia was a tower of strength to Dr. Earle MacPhee in his latter years and held the Clan together internationally since then until Ron's recent appointment. She will be continuing her involvement with Clan affairs I am pleased to note.

Sandy Hell.e.

Alex McPhie President.

CLAN MACFIE LEADERSHIP

APPOINTMENT OF RON MacPHEE, HAWAII

Ron MacPhee of Hawaii has been appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee of Clan Macfie Armigers which was established to provide Clan leader-ship pending the appointment of a Clan Chief or Clan Commander.

Miss Syliva McPhee of Toronto is Ron's deputy with other members of the Committee being Rev. James Duffy (Scotland), Alf Hagman (Sweden), Graham Cathie (New Zealand), and Sandy McPhie (Australia).

Ron is a consulting engineer and though an American citizen, has close ties with Prince Edward Island, Canada and a great love for things Scottish. He and his wife Mert are members of our Clan Society (Z78-405 and 406) and have been regular visitors to Clan Gatherings in Scotland and North America.

A Clan Armiger since 1983, Ron is Chairman of the Clan Heraldry Committee. Ron founded The MacPhee Clan Society of the USA in 1983 and was the driving force in forming in 1985 the Federation of Clan MacDhubhshith Societies of the United States by bringing The Cathey Family Association of USA, The MacDuffee Clan of America Inc., and The MacPhee Clan Society of the USA together.

The ad hoc derbhfine of Clan armigers has therefore completed its task in relation to Clan leadership for the time being. It has however, adjourned its deliberations rather than disbanding as a body and thus can quickly resume session to again consider selection of a nominee for Clan Commander immediately circumstances warrant it.

He's Queensland's top insurance man

Veteran Toowoomba agent Mr Nevell McPhee is Queensland's top insurance man.

Mr McPhee, a man with 34 years in the industry, yesterday was named Agent of the Year for 1985, defeating 12 other contenders for the award.

His win was announced at a superannuation seminar organised by the Darling Downs branch of the Life Underwriters' Association.

The award, for superior performance in all fields of life, was inaugurated last year and will be contested annually.

It was presented yesterday by Life Underwriters Queensland State president Mr Darryl Seccombe.

He said the Darling Downs branch of the L.U.A. had always been "one of our most successful branches" and was a guiding light for other branches in Queensland.

The State has 10 branches.

Mr McPhee has been a member of the L.U.A. since it came to Queensland about 1962.

Senior agent with National Mutual in Toowoomba, he has been with that company for 27 years.

He is widely respected in insurance circles and in community groups and organisations.



MR McPHEE

This is all about Queensland Vice-President Nevell McPhee (Q74-084) of Toowoomba.

MACFIE TARTAN AVAILABLE FROM NEW ZEALAND

Leith Brew, the President of the McPhee Family Clan Society of New Zealand has advised that they have arranged for Macfie Tartan cloth to be made in New Zealand. It's the ancient hue, but a lighter weight material than most having a nylon content to reduce creasing.

They sell it in 20 metre bolts at N.Z.\$30.00 per metre plus postage. Our sample looks very good. Further details from Secretary Helen if you are interested.

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

SYDNEY SCOTTISH WEEK 1986

- Sat 22 Nov Chiefs and Chieftains arrive. Special Guests are:
 The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lauderdale, Chief of the Maitlands and
 The Rt. Hon. the Lord MacLean of Duart and Morven, Chief of the
 MacLeans.
- Sun 23 Nov Kirking of the Tartan, Clan Picnic in the Domain, March of the Clans, Open Air Concert, High Tea at British Ex-Services Club for Clansmen to meet their Chiefs and Chieftains.
- Mon 24 Nov Official Opening in Martin Place at noon. Evening Ceilidh in Western Suburbs.
- Tue 25 Nov Scottish activities in Martin Place. Scottish Golf Day at Cromer. Ashfield Reception
- Wed 26 Nov Scottish activities in Martin Place. Scottish Race Day.
- Thu 27 Nov Scottish activities in Martin Place. Sailing, Ceilidh at Manly.
- Fri 28 Nov Final Scottish activities in Martin Place.
 Grand Scottish Ball at University of N.S.W..
- Sat 29 Nov Clan activities.
- Sun 30 Nov Sydney Scottish Games and Grand Kilted Parade.

For Further Information contact:

The Secretary,
The Scottish Australian Heritage Council,
G.P.O. Box 421, Sydney 2001
or 1st Floor, 541 Kent Street, Sydney 2000.
Telephone 02 264 3858

INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS OF THE CLAN

1986* - Austin, Texas, U.S.A., 1 - 16 November. 1987 - Nova Scotia, Canada. 1 - 16 August. 1988 - Sydney, Australia. 27 Nov - 4 Dec.

1989 - Scotland.

1990 - U.S.A.

* The Wyndham Hotel, 4140 Governor's Row, Southpark is offering special accommodation. Secretary Helen has details for any starters.

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A FRIEND of mine, Sarah Fee, made the cards heralding the birth of her first child. "Because of the high cost of loving," the announcement began, "there is an additional Fee."

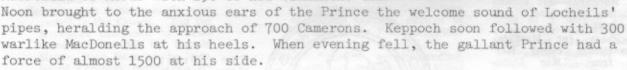


GLENFINNAN MONUMENT

Glenfinnan is situated on Loch Shiel, west of Fort William and is one of many sites in Scotland forever linked to its history.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" landed there on 19th August, 1745 and launched his campaign to restore the Stuarts to the throne of Britain. There the proud red and white silk banner of the Stuarts was raised aloft by the Marquis of Tullibardine and blessed by Bishop Hugh MacDonald. King James VIII was solemnly proclaimed King of Great Britain and Ireland and Charles was appointed Regent. Declarations were made promising redress of grievances and restoration of lost rights and privileges.

From a handful of local Highlanders, Prince Charles' support grew rapidly that day. First to rally to the Prince's side was MacDonald of Morar with 150 of his Clansmen.



We know this heroic beginning had its final tragic chapter written in Highlanders' blood on Culloden Moor near Inverness some eight months later where many Clan Macfie men fell, fighting with the Camerons beside the other Clans.

But at Glenfinnan, did you know that a Macfie was one of the two pipers to pipe Prince Charles ashore when he first landed? Or that the 65 foot monument there was commissioned in 1815 by the Macdonalds of Glenaladale? A Lanarkshire sculptor named Greenshields was engaged to do the statue of the Prince for the top. But he didn't know what Charles looked like and used a large painting in a local castle as a basis for his sketches. Unfortunately there were two paintings in the room - the other being of the owner of the castle, and yes, you've guessed it - the story goes that he copied the wrong painting and that's not Bonnie Prince Charlie atop the monument at all!

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1986 QUEENSLAND PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS TOOWOOMBA HIGHLAND GATHERING 25/26 OCT.

Saturday 25th Solo Piping & Drumming, Dancing School, Street March,

Mini Bands, Ceilidh.

Sunday 26th Highland Dancing, Pipe Band Championships, Drum Major's Flourish, Massed Bands.

Further Information Bill Hills, P.O. Box 1125, Toowoomba, 4350. (Telephone 076 35 1088)

Their chief was saved by witchcraft

by ALLAN DOUGLAS

THEIR dead lie in ancient tombs, immortalised as warriors and churchmen by the mysterious beauty of Celtic art found on Oronsay, their burial isle. This was the land of the MacPhees, who were lords of neighbouring Colonsay—island chiefs and priors at a time when a Gaelic world of poetry, religion and music flourished with the Lords of the Isles.

Later, much later, their dead were to lie on Culloden Moor without so much as a whin bush as a memorial.

No stone was laid to mark the spot where they fell in their gallant charge which nearly crushed the might of Cumberland's line.

This was the rise and the fall of the MacPhees-left broken and landless to become a race of wanderers.

he MacPhees (or MacFies) were anciently called Mac-Duffie from "Mac Dubh-shithe" — literally, "son of the black witchcraft." Curiously, The MacPhees black-always sinister among Gaels-is a colour which often appears in their history. (There is even a black and white set of the MacPhee tartan). Like a prophesy of their gloomy future, the colour haunts their folklore.

The "Black Dog of Murroch MacPhee" is a Gaelic folk-tale with many variations, but all versions seem to agree that a black dog was gifted to a MacPhee chief by a witch, who promised: "The black dog's day will come."

TO THE RESCUE

several hunting On Murroch tried every appeal to get the dog to accompany him; but the animal refused — until one day it willingly joined its master and his companions on an excursion to Islay. While camping in a cave, the party was attacked by a supernatural being so terrible it is described simply as "The Thing."

After this grotesque spirit had slain all the chief's companions it turned to attack the chief, but the black dog sprang to the rescue. "Every dog has his laggan, Islay. day" goes our English equiva- There is a tradition that a lent, for the black dog's day to save the chief's life had finally come!



shown (left) is that of MacFie of Dreghorn. The motto " For means "For the King." The badge is pine.

The name Dubhsith appears early in Irish literature; and in 717 A.D. it is on record that one Duff Dakrich M'Duffie slain at the battle of Kyndealgen, believed to have been in Dalriada. MacDuffies or Mac-Phees were in Colonsay as contemporaries with Somerled's grandson, Donald, who died in

By the time the Clan Donald had established their Gaelic king-dom, the MacPhees occupied their island lands as vassals of the Lords of the Isles.

were hereditary keepers of the Records of the Isles and held court at Garvard, Colonsay. A prisoner appearing before the MacPhee judge would have the right of appeal to the Council of the Isles at the great manor house at Fin-

MacPhee chief was at Bannockburn and there fought and overcame St Giles de Argentine.

CLAN SEPTS

CATHIE, DUFFIE, DUFFY, COOISH, MACCUISH, MACGUFFIE, MAC-HAFFIE, MACVEE, MAC-



The walls of the ruined priory on Oronsay. At the side is the small building in which the MacPhee chiefs are buried.



Sir Walter Scott commemorated this event in "The Lord of the Isles," identifying the island chief as "MacDuffith, Lord of Colonsay."

During David II's reign (1329-1370), the Colonsay clansmenarmed only with thorn staves-fought the King's troops over some fiscal measure, getting the worst of the battle. They were buried where they fell, there on the strand; and until recent years superstitious island fishermen would refuse to dig bait at this spot for fear of evoking a curse from the dead.

comprehensive genealogy of the MacPhees back through Cormac to a Celtic figure named Feredach is given in a 1450 manuscript; and 13 years later it is on record that Donald MacDuffie (MacPhee) accompanied John, 4th Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross, to Dingwall to witness a charter.

WEAKENED

When the Lordship was forfeited in 1493, James IV made several expeditions to the west to enforce his royal authority over the old MacDonald vassals. He offered the chiefs Crown charters then revoked them, entrusting Argyll in the south and Huntly in the north with administrative powers. Later the granting of the same lands to rival chiefs led to clan feuds which further weakened the island clans and led to their eventual decline.

Colonsay and Oronsay lands were vested in the Crown. But the MacPhees continued to reside there, for in 1549 Sir Donald Munro, High Dean of the Isles, found Colonsay possessed "by one gentle captain called

MacDuffie."

This was Murroch - probably the Murroch of the "Rlack the Murroch of the "Black Dog" episode.

In Oronsay at this time the prior was Sir Donald MacDuffie. Last Roman Catholic prior of this holy isle was appointed by Queen Mary in 1555, for in five

years came the Reformation. Shortly before the Union of the Crowns, a MacPhee was pre-sented to the parsonage at Oronsay. This was Donald, who met with other chiefs and Bishop Knox at Iona to sign the "Statutes of Icolmkill," which insured the discipline of the Reformed Kirk and commanded every man having as many as six cattle to send his eldest child to the Lowlands to learn English. Bards and other "idlers of that class" were threatened with banishment.



CUIMHNICH BAS AILPEIN! Remember the death of Alpin



Crofts at Lower Kilchattan, Colonsay.

Clan feuds during the sixteenth century often found MacPhees involved with the invading MacLeans from Mull, who on one occasion-brought along a small cannon which made a noise like an exaggerated "coo-what." The Colonsay men called it the "cuat" or cuckoo and made a crude Gaelic joke of anyone unlucky enough to be injured by "the droppings of the cuckoo."

The "cuat" notwithstanding, MacPhees outfought and killed all the invaders save the MacLean chief, who fled in such panic he tried to reach his offshore galleys by swimming to meet them. But he was drowned. What became of the cannon, no one knows.

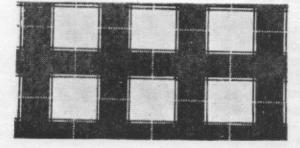
When Argyll took possession of Colonsay in 1610 and appointed his own factor, it was the beginning of the end. The MacPhee chief became little more than a gillie to the Campbells. His successor, Malcolm MacPhee, joined in the 1615 rebellion of Sir James MacDonald and was delivered to Argy!l by Colla Ciotach ("Lefthanded Coll"), known as Colkitto to the Lowlanders.

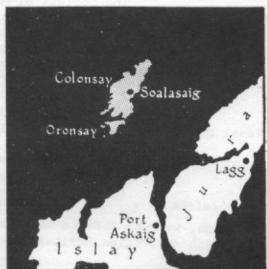
When Malcolm tried to escape he hid in shallow water, covering himself in seaweed; but the cries of a seagull gave him away. He was dragged to a cross and cruelly murdered. Afterwards, many of the clan -now dispossessed and deprived of all but dignity-fled their island homes.

Some settled in Galloway under the names MacGuffie and Mac-Haffie while others took refuge in Lochaber, joining the Camerons.

They were fighting alongside the Camerons at Culloden-the day they fell.

Colours of the tartan are red, green, white and yellow. On the right is a map showing clan territory.







This article was published in the Weekly Scotsman of 15th November, 1962, when the paper was running a series on the "Story of the Clans". It was drawn on by our late Clan Commander, Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee in writing the Clan history.

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On a regular basis we forward copies of our Newsbulletin to:

Clan Campbell Society of Australia

Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

Clan MacLean Association, Australia

Clan Forsyth. Clan Donald

Clan Henderson Clan MacLennan

The Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney

The Australasian Highlander, Belmont, N.S.W.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council, Sydney

The Lord Lyon King of Arms, Edinburgh

as well as to the national bodies of Clan Macfie overseas.

Newsbulletins are received from the following groups in addition to national bodies and several provincial clan societies of Clan Macfie overseas:

> Clan Cameron Australia Inc. Clan MacLean Association Clan Campbell Society of Australia

In addition, we subscribe to The Australasian Highlander and are members of The Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

LODER'S "COLONSAY & ORONSAY"

In the last Newsbulletin we reported an Aberdeen University Press move to have John de vere Loder's "Colonsay and Oronsay In the Isles of Argyll" reprinted and asked Clan members for an indication if interested in purchasing a copy.

We have noted those who have responded and can add to the list at any time. But there have been developments -

Latest information is that Lord Strathcona intends to arrange a reprinting himself. As yet we have no further information. However, over 400 people worldwide have indicated an interest in the proposed reprint and it is hoped that the project will go ahead quickly as this should be a viable number.

More info in future Newsbulletins as it comes to hand.

THE TARTAN

Here's to it!

The fighting sheen of it, The yellow, the green of it, The white, the blue of it, The swing, the hue of it, The dark, the red of it, Every thread of it!

The fair have sighed for it,
The brave have died for it,
Foe men sought for it,
Heroes fought for it,
Honour the name of it,
Drink to the fame of it -

The Tartan.

Murdoch Maclean

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

As always, accounts are attached for those members who haven't paid their 1986 membership subscriptions yet.

Worse, pay up or else letters are enclosed for those members who have somehow still overlooked paying their 1985 subscriptions as well as the 1986 ones.

Please pay up. We need your money and your membership!

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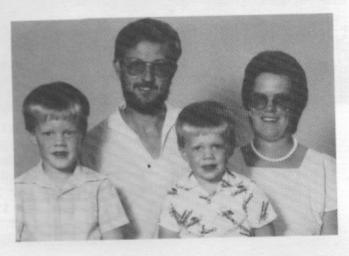
Items from the Minutes of the <u>Sixth Biennial General Meeting</u> in Adelaide earlier this year have been ratified by our membership as a whole.

Right. The new (1985) annexe at the rear of the Colonsay Hotel. Excellent accommodation, superb hospitality.





Left. Craig McPhee (N77-240) of Leeton, NSW, but now with 3 RAR at Holsworthy. At the time of the photo Craig was the C.O's driver - but he has hopes of returning to the Pipe Band. He was 20 on 23rd July.



Above. Col and Jean (Q77-329) Davies and sons Glenn and Alastair are off to Ghana. Jean is the daughter of Ted and Dorothy McPhee (Q77-326 and 327) of Bell, Qld. They'll be working in Accra with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Best wishes Jean.



Left. Proud Mum Robyn Phillips (N83-518) of Revesby, NSW, with our newest member Sarah Louise Phillips (N86-563) aged 12 months.

GENERAL NOTES

- * John Phee (N74-043) of Clareville Beach, N.S.W. is planning some sailing in the Dunk Island area in September. Wonder why he didn't go in July and miss the winter altogether?
- * Our favourite Air Hostess, Suzie McPhee (N84-547) is now living at Karrinyup in Western Australia and proud as anything of new son Zachary Richard. Suzie expects to resume flying with Ansett W.A. in October.
- * Another new mother but not for the first time is Elizabeth Wilson (Q82-510) of Beaudesert who welcomed third son Thomas William earlier this year. Elizabeth, amongst other things, is the weather prophet on week-end ABC-TV in Brisbane.
- * Stuart McHaffie (S77-281) of Adelaide took the big step on 5th April when he and Nicole Jones were married in Adelaide. Stuart is the son of S.A. President Brian McHaffie. The newly weds will be renovating an old home in Cowandilla, Adelaide.
- * FLTLT Glen McPhee (N77-357) has been consigned to a fate worse than death with a posting to Air Force Office in Canberra after a tour of duty in Butterworth for two years or so. Welcome home Glen that white stuff on the ground when you arrived on 24th July, was snow. It might still be there too.
- * A few typographical errors to correct in the last Newsbulletin in the Genealogical Notes on page 4 line 7. "Tenango" should be "Terang and line 10, "Bacchforest" should be "Beechforest". Sorry Gwen I wonder who did (or didn't do) the proof reading?
- * Clan Macfie Piperin Queensland, Bob McPhee (Q77-353) of Auchenflower was at the Maclean Gathering at Easter competing with the Brisbane Thistle Pipe Band and in solo intermediate events - and with some success too. He'll be at the Toowoomba Gathering in October for sure.
- * What's in a name? Quite a lot evidently as one of our members has changed his surname by deed poll to take his paternal grandmother's name of McPhee.
- * Did anyone read the Feature Condensation in April's Readers Digest? Entitled "Shoo Shoo Baby", it told the story of a World War II B17 Flying Fortress which was still flying until quite recently. She had been flown on her first missions over Europe in 1944 by a Lieutenant Paul McDuffee. Paul had been born at Grand Rapids, Michigan, but crossed into Canada before Pearl Harbour to join the RCAF. He flew missions over the Ruhr in Wellingtons before transferring to the U.S. Air Corps in July 1943. He survived the war to make flying his career for many years and then retired to Florida from where he initiated a project in 1978 for the now abandoned B17 to be returned to the U.S. from Europe for restoration as a permanent monument in the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.... It's quite a story.
- * Congratulations to Clan Member Janet McAffee of Brisbane on winning her division of the Moreton Bay Marathon with a just under three hour run from Brisbane to Redcliffe in late May.
- * Where were all the starters for Melbourne's Barbeque on 4th May? Numbers were way down. Our thanks though to Bruce and Margaret for an enjoyable day in an enjoyable setting.
- * Many thanks to John and Linde McPhie (Q83-516 and 520) of Carina Heights, Brisbane, for donating a copy of Barbara and Betty MacPhee's "MacPhee Clan of Alberta 1888 - 1983" to the Clan Society Archives.

GENERAL NOTES (cont)

- * Congratulations and best wishes to Janet Mackay (nee MCCarthy) (N82-506) on her marriage late last year. Janet has moved from Lismore to Bracken Ridge in Brisbane.
- * Glen MCPhee (N77-357) who we report above as returning to Australia from RAAF duty at Butterworth, Malaysia, made a trip to Scotland last year with his wife and daughter. They saw the Edinburgh Tattoo, motored through the Highlands and stayed on Colonsay which left them with "memories to cherish for life".
- * In Newsbulletin 43 we printed a page from the Womens' Weekly featuring Pat McPhie (V86-564) of Warragul, V., with her promition of dairy products. Pat's success in this field has continued. She was directly responsible for bringing out the new richer "Farm House" milk which has proved such a good seller and has been as far north as Lismore in N.S.W. on promotion trips.
- * Sally MCPhee (Q77-045) of Brisbane's very active in nursing circles. She has left her tutor sister job at Brisbane's top hospital and is now with Repat. In her spare time Sally has organised a Research in Nursing Group in Queensland to provide a forum for things nursing.

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members since the last Newsbulletin:

V86-561 James McPhee, 8 Gemini Close, East Doncaster Vic 3109

Q86-562 Bruce Armstrong, Scots College, Warwick Qld 4370

N86-563 Miss Sarah Phillips, 91 Ely Street, Revesby, NSW 2212

V86-564 Mrs Pat McPhie, Nilma North, Warragul, Vic 3820

These Members were introduced by:

Bruce MCPhie (V75-096), Lyndsay Armstrong (N74-004), Robyn Phillips (N83-518) and Donald McPhie (V75-103) respectively. Many thanks for this.

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VALE

James Henry McDuffie III of North Carolina, U.S.A., passed away on 5th May last year. A former President of the MacDuffee Clan of America, Inc., Jamie was well known to a number of our Clan Society members who visited overseas and to those supporting the late Dr. Earle MacPhee in his Clan work. Jamie was an underwriter and special agent for Prudential Life. He saw service during World War II with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and landed in Normandy during the D-Day invasion.

Jamie is survived by his wife Mary and three sons. His passing is a loss to our Clan.
