

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

Newsbulletin



Ancestral Home of
The Clan Macfie

No 46

Nov 86

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From Your President



Another year has almost gone by - goodness how time flies!

A lot has happened with our Clan and Clan Society during that time - and yet in many ways, much of it amounts to little change.

Ron MacPhee of Hawaii has taken over the reins of the Clan as a whole being the Chairman of the Armigers' Committee providing interim leadership for Clan Macfie pending the appointment of a new Clan Commander. To date little has come forward from Ron, but in Canada Sylvia McPhee is well advanced with planning for the Clan's Fourth Parliament at the International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia in August next year. Details are on the page opposite.

In Australia we are now moving towards a decision on arrangements for the Clan Society's Seventh Biennial General Meeting in Sydney in 1988. Vice-President Bill Tyrrell and his committee have proposed a special weekend in May for this as there are too many other attractions in Sydney on the Australia Day Weekend that year! More details next Newsbulletin.

November of 1988 will see the International Gathering of the Clans in Australia for the first time. They will be centred around Sydney's successful Scottish Week celebrations and will certainly be bigger and better than ever that year, while in New Zealand, the McPhee Clan will be holding their next reunion in Easter 1987.

This all amounts to a lot of activity for Clan members and calls for greater participation than has often been forthcoming in the past in Australia. The programme for Sydney's Scottish Week this year (reproduced briefly opposite) was notified to NSW and ACT members by letter earlier this month. What about joining us next year with a big Clan turnout in preparation for 1988?

With best wishes to all for an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year from both Helen and myself.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy McPhie". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alex McPhie
President

19 Nov. 86.

SYDNEY SCOTTISH WEEK 1986

SUN 23 NOV 1.00 pm Clans March from Domain
2.00 pm Open air concert above Domain carpark
5.00 pm High Tea at British Ex-Services Club, Kent St.

MON 24 NOV 11.30 am Programme commences in Martin Place for Official Opening
by Sydney's Lord Mayor at 12.30 p.m.

SUN 30 NOV 9.00 am - Onwards for Sydney's Scottish Games at Fairfield Showground.
2.30 pm Grand Kilted Parade at Fairfield Showground.

Details of other functions during Sydney's Scottish Week can be obtained from the Scottish Australian Heritage Society on 264 3858.

NOTE: The above details were mailed separately to NSW and ACT members in early November. Clan Society Vice-President Bill Tyrrell will lead the Clan Macfie contingent in the Clans March on 23rd November. Official representation for the Clan had not been arranged for the 24th or 30th at the time this was written.

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FOURTH CLAN MACFIE PARLIAMENT
INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS
NOVA SCOTIA - AUGUST 1987

The International Gathering of the Clans returns to Nova Scotia in 1987. The Opening Ceremonies are scheduled for Halifax on 27th June in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Tattoo which will run until 2nd July.

Clan Macfie will be holding its Fourth Parliament from Friday 31st July (Registration at the Holiday Inn, Sydney, Cape Breton, N.S.) with the three business days being Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 3rd, 4th and 5th. A Clan Reception will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Monday late afternoon/evening. The Parliament fits in with other International Gathering functions.

Further details on Clan Macfie arrangements and the International Gathering generally, can be obtained from Clan Society Secretary, Helen McPhie, in Toowoomba - but she does not handle travel or accommodation bookings. If you would like to receive direct mail on the Gathering, write to Nova Scotia Tourism P.O. Box 130, Halifax, N.S. B3L 2M7, Canada.

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ROBBIE BURNS' GRACE

"Some Hae Meat and Canna Eat
And Some Wad Eat That Want It.
But We Hae Meat and We Can Eat
Sae Let the Lord Be Thankit."



ROBERT BURNS
1759-1796

SYLVIA McPHEE AN HONORARY MEMBER

Miss Sylvia McPhee of Toronto, Canada has been granted Honorary Membership of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia. She is the fifth Clan Member to be so recognised.

Sylvia has been a leading personality in the Clan in Canada for many years. She received a grant of Arms in 1981 and was appointed Clan Macfie Commissioner in North America by Clan Commander Dr. Earle MacPhee. She held the Clan together internationally following Dr. MacPhee's death until the appointment of Ron MacPhee of Hawaii as Chairman of a Clan Armigers Committee providing interim leadership for Clan Macfie pending the appointment of a new Clan Commander.

Sylvia is the Canadian representative on the Clan Armigers Committee and has been responsible for organising and conducting the last two Clan Parliaments and is organising the next one in August 1987.

Her appointment as an Honorary Member of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia recognises her service to Clan Macfie as a whole and through it, the significant links she has established with our Clan Society.

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MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED
HONOURING DR EARLE DOUGLAS MCPHEE



MacPhee

The MacPhee Clan Societies of Alberta and British Columbia held a dedicatory service and unveiled a plaque honouring Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee on 8th August this year at the Earle D. MacPhee Executive Conference Centre in the Henry Angus Building of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Tributes were paid to Earle by the present Dean of Commerce at the University and a former Assistant Dean who served with Dr MacPhee for many years. The Dean outlined the great impact Earle's work had made on the development of the Commerce Department and the influence he had exerted on the University. He stressed the great debt of gratitude the University owed to Dr MacPhee.

Some 65 people attended the dedication service including Earle's widow, Jennie, and members of their family as well Officials and members of Clan Macfie in Canada.

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NEW ZEALAND GATHERING EASTER 1987

The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand's Gathering over Easter next year is at Masterton in North Island. A big roll up is expected over the four day programme.

Contacts are: Leith Brew, 311C Fitzherbert Ave., Palmerston North or Mrs Carolyn Wadsworth, 30 Nelson Crescent, Wainuiomata, Wellington.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Janet Silk (N81-494) of North Bondi, N.S.W., writes:

I have some news concerning a long-dead uncle of mine, an original Anzac, whose photograph has been accepted with interest by the Australian War Memorial at Canberra.

The photograph was taken in Cairo or Alexandria (not sure which) before the landing. On a visit to Canberra recently I told the Curator of Photographs that in the photo with my uncle, was a Gurkha whom he described as a "mate". I was rather surprised when he was more interested in the Gurkha than in Pte. Allan McPhee. Their knowledge and records of the Gurkhas at Gallipoli were virtually nil, he said.

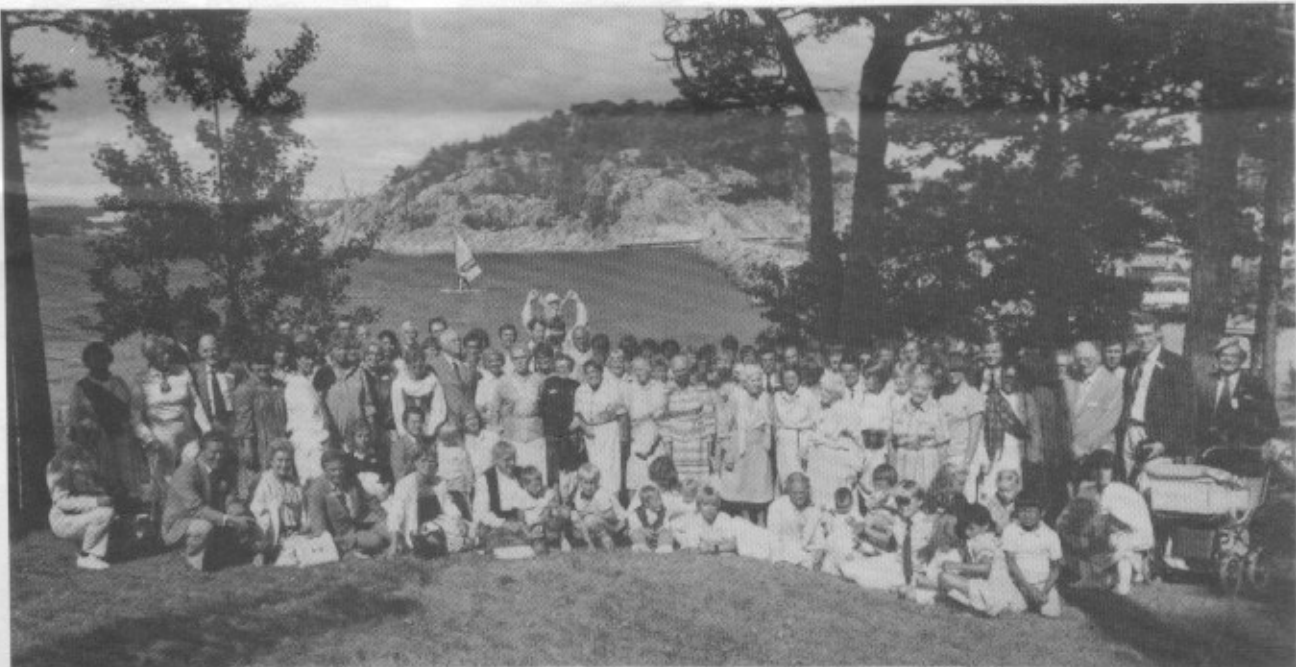
Uncle Allan lasted ten days after the landing, and was killed on Cape Helles. I did get some of the details from the Clan roll of honour published over the last couple of years. Also War Historian Clyde Smythe traced the history of his battalion through C.W. Bean's writings. The Clan roll said Pte. Allan McPhee's burial place was not known which was rather a shock since the family always said he was buried at Lone Pine - so God knows what his fate was, really. He was very young - probably well under 20.

I know nothing of the fate of the Gurkha, or what regiment he belonged to but the Canberra people seem to think they can find out from his uniform etc. I was really quite astonished at their interest in such a small object since my real main idea was simply to find a home for the photograph.

My uncle's full description was: Pte. Allan McPhee, 7th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Australian Imperial Force. He had a very low enlistment number, like 115, (I can't remember exactly).

I had to sign all sorts of consents as to the use of the photograph so I said yes to everything including use in publications and broadcasting etc. so one day perhaps it may be used on Anzac Day. Incidentally, Pte. Allan McPhee is (was) also the uncle of Neil McPhee, the Clan Society Trustee in Melbourne.

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The Thorburn-Macfie Family Society gathered for their meeting at Villa Lindesnas near Uddevalla, Sweden on Saturday 5th July 1986. Ulf Hagman is far right (with the pram!).

This article appeared in the Australian Women's Weekly of March 1983. Its information is as pertinent today as it was then, although the quoted number of genealogists per 10,000 of population for Australia has undoubtedly increased since then, as too will the membership numbers for the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Australians search for their past

Ancestors are coming out of the closet! Now it is fashionable to have them — the more colourful and wicked they are, the better

There is a certain status in being descended from a convict or bushranger and some people are prepared to pay for the privilege.

"We get offered blank cheques to produce a convict ancestor someone doesn't have," says Nick Vine Hall, the director of the Society of Australian Genealogists. "Naturally we don't accept. But people feel if they have an ancestor who was a convict or early pioneer, they are more Australian."

Bushrangers rate equally well. "One woman wrote to say her son had to trace his family tree for a school project," says Nick. "She asked if we would do it, and added that a bushranger would be nice."

This attitude reflects a growing interest in genealogy in Australia. The Society of Australian Genealogists has 7800 members and is second in size only to the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in Boston, US.

But with a growth rate of 200 new members each month, Nick is confident it will soon be the largest.

"Between 60 and 70 percent of our members are women," says Nick. "I think there are two reasons for this. First, women who don't work have more time to spend researching, and secondly, women seem to take a greater interest in people and what is around them. There is something about the nature of interest in family history that attracts women, rather than men."

Australia has 11.33 genealogists per 10,000 of population, lagging behind the United States with 22.71 but well ahead of New Zealand with 7.19 and Britain with 6.67. The entertainer Helen Reddy is a member of the society, which attracts everyone from judges to school children.

Nick attributes the growing interest to two key factors. "The first is the international aspect," he says. "There is increasing insecurity as we live in a more and more unstable world. People look back on their past and find something to cling to. The past seems more secure than the future."

"The second aspect is that Australians have an identity crisis. We haven't yet formed a clear national identity. A Scotsman knows he's a Scotsman and a Frenchman a Frenchman but the

Aussie isn't too sure. He wants a national identity and to be proud of it, so he's looking back over his shoulder to find out about his past. He wants to understand what an Aussie is, and how he compares."

Nick believes a person's need to know his past is an inner hunger shared by everyone. "Australians just have a particularly severe case of it," he says. "They want to be proud of and feel a part of their country. Our interest in sport is a manifestation of this."

Many of the people who approach the society come to establish the truth about a family legend. "One of the most common is that an ancestor came out with the First Fleet," he says. "Another is that a convict is buried under the tennis court. A third is that an ancestor had a fortune in chancery and they want to get their hands on it. A fourth common legend is that an ancestor was the first free child born in Bathurst or some other country town."

With the wide range of resources available, most people easily find the information they need. During the 50 years since it was formed, the society has established an extensive library with 23 tonnes of index cards and millions of names on microfiche (film). "The managing director of Debretts said he thought our library was the most comprehensive he had seen outside England," says Nick proudly.

The library in Sydney is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for research and most days more than 100 people make use of the facilities. The microfiche readers are often booked up to one month in advance. Approximately 180 million people are listed on the microfiche records — from countries as diverse as Germany and Afghanistan and with a special file for people born at sea.

With these facilities available, Nick points out that tracing your family history is not

The family legend that turned out to be true!

Nick Vine Hall grew up with the family legend that he was related to Captain Cook. In 1970, he decided to prove the story one way or another.

Nick joined the Society of Australian Genealogists and began the track back through time. The results were surprising and pleasing. He found that he is an eighth cousin by marriage.

To Nick, what was of more interest was the discovery that he is the great-great-grandson of Thomas Edmund Blacket. Blacket was appointed colonial architect in 1849 and designed many of Sydney's well-known buildings and churches, including the Great Hall at Sydney University and St Andrew's Cathedral.

It spurred an interest in genealogy that has become a passion.



Nick Vine Hall — related to Cook.

Today, Nick is director of the society, a position he accepted in 1978. "I'd been on the council for five years when the position became vacant," he says. "At the time I was working for CSR but I didn't find sugar very inspiring. I was offered the challenge of director and I took it."



an expensive affair. "You don't need to send \$90 to some college in England and hope they'll do the research for you," he says. "There are so many finding aids now in Australia. Our annual subscription fee is \$18 and members may use the library as often as they want. Non-members may use the facilities for \$6 a day."

The society is manned by 350 volunteers who are rostered to help people use the library facilities. They also work together on different projects.

A current one is the transcription of tombstones in Sydney's Rookwood cemetery. Armed with clip boards, chalk, sandwiches and vacuum flasks, members of the society have worked their way through 40,000 of Rookwood's million graves. The most historic inscriptions will be published in a book which will be released in 1988, the First Fleet bi-centennial.

Members of the society petitioned the NSW Government to release the pre-1900 indexes to births, deaths and marriages. "In Tasmania, access was granted to both the indexes and full information," says Nick. "In South Australia, access to the pre-1900 indexes was recently given and in Queensland the indexes for marriages and deaths

The letter that led to a long-lost family link

"My ancestors were very ordinary — just farmers, blacksmiths and butchers — but I suppose most people's were," says Jill Weaver, of Neutral Bay, Sydney.

Jill migrated to Australia four years ago and most of her ancestors are English, many from Sussex. "I did a course in genealogy and heraldry while living in New Zealand but it wasn't until last Christmas when I went back to England for a six-week holiday that I started tracing my family tree," she says.

Jill has traced one line back as far as 1694. Another she found by chance. "I had come to a dead-end when I read about a John Douch in Sussex who was doing some research. I wrote to him about my ancestor Kitty Douch and found that, although it wasn't the same



Jill Weaver traces her family tree.

family, he was able to give me some information about her. Genealogy can be a bit frustrating. When you come to dead-ends you need a different angle of attack."

Jill is looking forward to a visit to the Sussex County Office where parish registers are kept. "I'll have a field day," she says. "I'm now saving up to go back."

were released, but not for births. This information is still not available in Western Australia or Victoria."

Nick Vine Hall is a self-confessed crusader for access to such public re-

ords. "It's a unique thing about Australia with our convict foundations," he says. "We have an obsession for covering things up."

On the personal front, Nick has been kept busy organizing a reunion of the descendants of Edmund Blacket. Twelve hundred and fifty known living descendants of Blacket attended a two-day reunion in February, on the 100th anniversary of his death. People came from all over Australia and overseas.

Though not everyone will find he has famous ancestors or will go on to launch reunions for hundreds of people, most find

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



Australians search for their past

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

pleasure in compiling a family history. "Before you start, one point to remember is not to be concerned if you find one of your ancestors was not all you'd like him to be," says Nick.

— SANDRA MOORE

Step-by-step guide to tracing your family tree

When tracing your family history, work from the known to the unknown, i.e. from yourself backwards. The following eight points will help.

1. Write down any family stories, keep old letters or newspaper cuttings.
2. Collect photographs of your family and their houses or towns.

The convict who became a pillar of the church!

Lesley Luckie, of Mosman, NSW, began tracing her family tree after she found her great-grandmother's hand-written wedding certificate from Tasmania.

"I don't think anyone in the family would have known my great-great-grandfather was a convict. It was so covered up. His name was Isaiah Morris and he came out in 1819 on the *Hibernia*. He was transported for robbing a house in Epsom, Surrey, with three others. The captain's report said he was well-behaved and maintained his innocence."

Isaiah Morris served a 13-year sentence and Lesley has a copy of his pardon granted in 1832, which records only two offences in that time. One was breaking the sabbath in 1825, the other being drunk in 1828 when he was fined five shillings. "He married and had six daughters and two sons," says Lesley. "He became a pillar of the church, started a form of Rechabites and there are records of the many things he did for the community."

Tracing her father's ancestors gave Lesley a little more trouble. "I came across an adoption, a change of name and a disappearance," she explains. "My great-grandfather was John Marshall Brown and he arrived in Australia with his brother David Ogilvy

3. Locate burial plots and note inscriptions on tombstones. Note any nearby stones with a similar surname.

4. The spelling of a name may vary in different records. Copy variations in spelling carefully.

5. You may also find conflicting statements of age. Allow for a difference of several years until the correct date can be established.

6. Check all information, particularly any supplied on registration of birth, marriage and death. Marriage certificates are usually reliable as the information was supplied by the parties concerned, but death certificates can be misleading.

7. Accuracy is essential. Copy dates,



Lesley Luckie's ancestors include a convict and a "mystery man".

Brown. I think he was possibly banished from Scotland by his family. I can't find any record of his leaving the country or his death.

"I think he may have changed his name to Silas Allen at some time. Perhaps he had a wife back in Scotland — I don't know yet."

Lesley is still trying to solve the mystery surrounding his life. "I'm not a typical genealogist," she admits. "I like the odd and eccentric. Most people go straight down their blood line, but I get sidetracked by interesting people along the way."

page references to books exactly.

8. Your family history begins with you. Never assume a connection with some particular family and try to fit yourself into one of its branches.

STEP ONE:

This is an oral step often referred to as "grilling granny". Talk to your parents, grandparents or other elderly members of the family and write down everything they know.

STEP TWO:

Obtain a full copy of your own birth certificate. This will give you: your father's full name, age, birthplace and occupation at time of your birth; your mother's maiden name, age and birthplace; the date and place of your parents' marriage. You can now start your family tree. Begin with your direct line. You may add all the children of each marriage later.

STEP THREE:

Obtain a full copy of your parents' marriage certificate. You will know the date and place of marriage from information on your birth certificate. This will give you the full name of both your parents, their ages and birthplaces; the names of your two grandfathers and their occupations at the time of the marriage and the maiden names of your two grandmothers. Check ages and birthplaces against those on your birth certificate, note names and witnesses to the marriage and add the next generation to your tree.

STEP FOUR:

Obtain full copies of your parents' birth certificates. Your father's birth certificate should show his father's full name, age and birthplace, and his occupation at the time of your father's birth; his mother's maiden name, age and birthplace and the date and place of your grandparents' marriage. Your mother's certificate will give similar information about her parents. Check your grandparents' names and compare them with names on your parents' marriage certificate. Note the occupations and places of residence of your grandfathers, add information to your tree.

STEP FIVE:

Obtain your grandparents' marriage certificates. These should tell you the full name of your four great-grandfathers and their occupations, and the maiden names of your four great-grandmothers. Check the birthplaces and ages of your grandparents against the information in your parents' birth certificates. Note witnesses to the marriage and add to your family tree.

STEP SIX:

Obtain your grandparents' birth certificates if they were born in Australia.

You will then be able to add their precise dates of birth. If they were born after the date of compulsory registration, the dates of their parents' marriages will be shown.

STEP SEVEN:

Your great-grandparents' marriage certificates might not contain all the information you want but sometimes the names of brothers, sisters or parents appear in this record. You should now pursue your Australian-born great-grandparents until you reach your earliest arrival before searching overseas. Tracing your family tree in Australia has one advantage in that you can begin it with the arrival of your ancestors here.

STEP EIGHT:

The death certificate of the first arrival in each line of Australian descent can be obtained if he died after 1856 in NSW or Queensland, and after 1854 in Victoria. The certificate might give information of the name and occupation of father, the maiden name of the mother and birthplace of the deceased. It will also give the number of years' residence in the colony so you know the approximate year of arrival. If this information is given, and you have exhausted all Australian records, you may now start an overseas search.

If your ancestor died before 1856, a search for the arrival year may be prolonged. The death certificates of any children born overseas will help establish an approximate year of arrival. Failing this, the date of marriage in Australia or date of the first-born child will give a starting point for searches among shipping records. Shipping records are held in State Archives or in the Archives Departments of Public Libraries.

When the approximate year of arrival is known from the death certificate or other sources, you can search shipping records for the name of the vessel on which your ancestor arrived, the port of embarkation, other relatives who arrived at the same time and the type of passage, i.e. convict or settler.

Copies of birth, marriage and death certificates are available from the central registration office in the capital city of each State in Australia. The earliest records are simply copies of church registrars and these may record the event but give few details. Not all church registers have been made available to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages so it may be necessary to approach church officials for copies of certain early entries.

Civil registration became compulsory in different years for each State. Unlike England, we have no central records. Civil registration records began on the following dates: NSW - 1856; Victoria - 1853; Queensland - 1856; South Australia - 1842; Western Australia - 1841; Tasmania - 1838; Australian Capital Territory - 1930; Northern Territory - 1870.

When applying for a certificate by letter, include a stamp for return postage and give a reason for the request - such as for family records. The cost of certificates varies from State to State - starting at about \$5 through to \$8. The following are the addresses of the central registration offices of births, deaths and marriages.

NSW: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 3rd floor, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney, 2000.

Victoria: The Government Statist, 295 Queen Street, Melbourne, 3000.

Queensland: Registrar-General, Old Treasury Buildings, Brisbane, 4000.

South Australia: The Principal Registrar, GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, 5001.

Western Australia: The Registrar-General, Oakleigh Building, 22 St George's Terrace, Perth, 6000.

Tasmania: The Registrar-General, GPO Box 875J, Hobart, 7001.

Northern Territory: The Registrar-General, PO Box 3021, Darwin, 5794.

Australian Capital Territory: The Registrar, Birth, Death and Marriage Registry, PO Box 788, Canberra, 2601.

There may be some special problems in tracing your particular family. In some cases early settlers changed their

names. More common, however, are variations in spelling and pronunciation. If no record of birth can be found, remember that marriage did not always come before a birth. The child may not have been registered or may have been adopted. A check of the baptismal register of the appropriate parish may help.

If you can't find a record of a death it may be that the death occurred near a State border and was recorded in another State. If the death happened in another State or country the death will be recorded there.

If the date of death is unknown an inscription on a headstone in family burial plots might give a lead. Similarly, the date of death was recorded when a will was sworn for probate and an examination of the indexes of wills may be helpful.

If the information on the birth or marriage certificate is incomplete, check the church at which the ceremony was performed. It may still have the original register.

There are several other sources of information besides birth, marriage and death certificates, such as the death, funeral and obituary notices in newspapers, which will give you other family names to add to your records.

A comprehensive guide to compiling your family history is available from the Society of Australian Genealogists. Send \$3.50, postage included, to: The Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Observatory Hill, Sydney 2000.

NOTE: This article was written in 1983. Prices quoted for certificates etc. will have increased and addresses for the State Registration Offices may have changed since then. But the address for The Society of Australian Genealogists is correct and Nick Vine Hall is still there.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some members have so far failed to pay their 1986 subscriptions. Accounts are attached for those concerned. Prompt payment is requested please.

1987 Membership subscriptions will remain the same as for 1986 - \$5 per member or \$10 per family resident at the one address. Members under 18 years or over 75 years are excused from payment on notification to the Secretary. Payments in advance are most acceptable.

Historic Piobaireachd Presented To The National Trust for Scotland

MORE ABOUT GLENFINNAN

(Courtesy Australasian
Highlander Mar 86).

A framed and specially hand-written copy of a piobaireachd said to have been composed in 1745 at the start of the last Jacobite rising was presented by the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society to the National Trust for Scotland for display at the expanded Glenfinnan visitor centre.

Entitled "My king has landed in Moirdart", the piobaireachd is attributed to John MacIntyre, piper to Menzies of Menzies, who composed it about the time Prince Charles Edward Stuart's standard was raised at Glenfinnan at the head of Loch Shiel.

As a piper played the historic piobaireachd, the framed copy of the music was ceremoniously presented, on 27th November, 1982, at Glenfinnan to Major John Stewart of Ardvorlich, the longest-serving member of the Glenfinnan Committee, by Iain MacLaren, chairman of the centenary committee of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, for which 1982 was its hundredth anniversary.

The Glenfinnan Monument at the loch's edge marking the spot where the Prince's standard was raised in 1745 was erected in 1815 by Alexander MacDonald of Glenaladale, a cadet of the MacDonalds of Clanranald. It was placed on the site of a rough commemorative cairn. A MacDonald was the model for the sculptor's figure of a kilted Highlander, honouring the men who followed the Prince.

In 1938, Sir Walter Blount, as proprietor and on behalf of the trustees of the Glenaladale estate and the Roman Catholic diocese of Argyll and the Isles, handed the monument into the care of the trust. A conservation agreement protecting 28 acres surrounding the monument was made by the late Archibald MacKellaig.

THE NATIONAL TRUST ATLAS

(Revised Edition)

A colourful and all-inclusive guide to the properties of the National Trust for Scotland and the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). The atlas is divided into three sections: *Houses, Gardens and Parks; Castles, Abbeys and Other Buildings;* and *Archaeological and Industrial Sites.* The section describing Scotland includes major battlefields as well as other historic properties.

Sites are referenced to 65 full pages of easy-to-read maps of the British Isles. With a foreword by Nigel Nicolson, the text includes descriptive essays by regional experts and 170 full-colour illustrations of the interiors, exteriors and collections of the most notable properties.

All enquiries to:
The Royal Oak Foundation,
41 East 72nd Street,
New York, NY 10021.



"MY KING HAS LANDED IN MOIDART", 1745 piobaireachd composed to salute the raising of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's standard launching the Jacobite Rebellion, was played by a piper as the music was presented to the National Trust for Scotland at Glenfinnan by the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society.



Victoria Vice-President
Bruce McPhie (V75-096)
of Forest Hill, convener
of this year's Freedom
From Hunger Doorknock
at Nunawading.

In the above photograph Bruce is receiving a cheque for the appeal from
Nunawading Councillor Robyn McCann (Gazette 10 Sep 86).

We are indebted to the Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) for these items from their Journal "Shoulder to Shoulder."

GLEANINGS FROM HERE AND THERE

PLEASANT POISON

An observation made by Samuel Johnson when writing of his journey to the Western Islands of Scotland:—

The spirit drunk in the North is drawn from barley. I never tasted it, except once for experiment at the inn in Invararay, when I thought it preferable to any English malt brandy. It was strong, but not pungent, and was free from any taste or smell of decaying vegetable matter. What was the process, I had no opportunity of inquiring, nor do I wish to improve the art of making poison pleasant.

A Deoch an Dorius

When the landlord of an inn presented his guests with a "deoch an dorus", that is, the drink at the door, or the stirrup-cup, it was regarded as a hospitable gesture, and the draught was not charged in the reckoning. This point was given earnest consideration by a learned bailiff of the town of Forfar when pronouncing a very sound judgment.

An ale-wife in Forfar had brewed a "peck o' malt" and set the liquor out-of-doors to cool. A neighbour's cow chanced to come by, and seeing the good beverage was tempted to taste it, and then to drink all of it. When the ale-wife came out to take in the liquor, she found the tub to be empty and by the cow's staggering and staring she realised immediately what had happened to her brew, and at once took vengeance on the cow's ribs with a stick. The cow objected loudly to such treatment and when her master appeared to investigate the cause of the commotion, the ale-wife demanded payment for the ale which the cow had drunk. Payment was refused and the matter was brought before the court bailiff who asked the ale-wife if the cow was sitting down, or just standing at the door when it drank the ale. It had to be admitted, of course, that the cow must have been standing; where upon the bailiff gave a solemn judgment that in that case it was obviously a "deoch an dorus" for which no charge could be made without violating the ancient hospitality of Scotland.

— This little story was told by Sir Walter Scott.

THE ORIGIN OF GOLF

The following interesting picture is gleaned from a passage in a reputable book written, if you please, in 1770.

"Hard by, in the fields called Links, the citizens of Edinburgh divert themselves at a game called Golf, in which they use a curious kind of bat, tipped with horn, and small elastic balls of leather, stuffed with feathers, rather less than tennis-balls, but of much harder consistence; this they strike with such force and dexterity from one hole to another, that they fly to an incredible distance. Of this diversion the Scots are so fond, that, when the weather will permit, you may see a multitude of all ranks, from the senator of justice to the lowest tradesman, mingled together in their shirts, and following the balls with the utmost eagerness. Among others, I was shown one particular set of golfers, the youngest of whom was turned fourscore years; they were all gentlemen of independent fortunes, who had amused themselves with this pastime for the best part of a century, without ever having felt the least alarm from sickness or disgust; and they never went to bed without having each the best part of a gallon of claret in his belly."

AUSTRALIAN
26 AUG 86



Ms McPhee

Miss Jo-Anna McPhee has been named sales manager for Wellspring Publishers which is responsible for the advertising and distribution sales of Australian Wellbeing magazine.

Miss McPhee joined the company at its inception in November 1983 as production co-ordinator and now will be accountable for commercial development of present business and new publications in the planning stage.

SNAKE TALES



No ski-ing for Skye, declares Australian clan chief

By PETER WHITE,
Ethnic Affairs Reporter

The real estate speculators threatening one of the Scottish island of Skye's most beautiful and unspoilt stretches could not have foreseen such a determined defence of Highland honour coming from far-off Australia.

But the Australian arm of the proud Clan MacNicol is preparing to ward off plans by an English developer to set up a tourist resort and water ski-ing centre on Skye.

The proposed site just happens to be at the heart of the clan's ancient ancestral lands.

And by some strange twists of fate and history, the clan now has its headquarters in Australia.

Its hereditary chief, Mr Ian MacNicol of Scurrybreac, is a retired sheep farmer from the NSW town of Ballina.

Mr MacNicol, officially known as "Scurrybreac", presides over a larger number of followers than most of his fellow chiefs back home in Scotland — estimated at 25,000 worldwide — and in Australia boasts such benefits as his own pipers, sword and tartan bearers, chaplains, a bard, a clan pipe band and a clan country dancing group.

A Clan MacNicol radio program broadcasts to outback Australia.

Scurrybreac and his fighting Aussie MacNicolis have already

made a name for themselves in Scotland for defending clan honour.

Earlier this year, Scottish newspapers gave wide coverage to legal moves by Mr MacNicol to stop a London solicitor of lowland descent, who reportedly "has never worn the kilt", from laying hereditary claim to the MacNicol tartan.

While the latest assault on Highland honour has a 1980s ring, its roots go back centuries into the mists of Scottish history.

According to Scurrybreac, his ancestors were originally robbed of the ownership of their lands on Skye by the more powerful MacDonald and Macleod clans in the 16th century.

Reduced to the level of virtual local managers for the MacDonalds, subsequent MacNicol chiefs and their clansmen were finally forced to abandon Skye and set sail for Australia, New Zealand and the US in the early 19th century.

Scurrybreac's ancestor arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a member of the British military, married a local girl and ended up settling in NSW.

Now Scurrybreac and his fellow clansmen and women are attempting to raise the estimated \$50,000 necessary to buy the 56 hectares on the outskirts of Portree which has recently come on to the market.

If they are successful they will

not only thwart the Liverpool developer, but regain the ancestral lands they lost centuries before.

"It's a very emotional issue for us," Scurrybreac said.

"The clan is scattered around the world and having our ancestral lands on Skye will provide a real focus for us, bringing us together."

According to the clan's secretary, Mrs Rosemary Samios, the clan will set up a trust to administer the site and will erect some small "bothies" (small farm cottages) in keeping with the surroundings to provide accommodation for clan members from around the world.

"We'll be redressing the wrongs of history," she said.

Sydney Morning Herald 19 Sep 86

Protest to Aust.



JAMES McPHEE protesting outside Australia House, in London, on Tuesday over the Australian Government's refusal to allow him to return to the country. Mr McPhee migrated with his family in 1961 and returned to the United Kingdom in 1971 with his parents and younger brother. His elder brother and sister stayed in Australia and he has since been refused permission to return. (A.P. Wirephoto)



Toowoomba Chronicle 14 Aug 86

ALEXANDER McPHEE AND UNA CAMERON

(The following article about her great grandparents and their children was submitted by Bonnie Bush (N74-007) of 141 Napoleon Street, Sans Souci, NSW 2219.)

Alexander McPhee was born at Corpach, Argylshire, the son of farmer Alexander and Catherine (nee McMillan) McPhee. He was a ploughman aged 26 and his wife Una, a house servant aged 23 when they migrated. They had no children. Una's father was one Alexander Cameron, a farmer - her name is recorded as "Oney" in the shipping records at the Mitchell Library. They belonged to the Church of Scotland.

They sailed from Cromarty on 31st August 1838 aboard the "Boyne" (619 tons), arriving in Sydney on 2nd January the following year. Alexander was given work on arrival by a Mr. Barry of George Street, Sydney at 25 pounds and rations for one year.

Alexander and Una had six children:

CATH the first child was born at Shoalhaven, Illawarra on 17 March 1839. Cath was later to marry JOHN GILLIES son of Angus and Marion (nee McAskill) Gillies from the Isle of Skye. They sailed on the "Ontario" a sad voyage as many died of Typhus and Typhoid including Angus, John's father. Leaving Marion with a daughter Ann 18 and six sons Donald 17, John 15, Kenneth 12, Alex 8, Donald (2) 6 and William 4. They arrived in Sydney 26 December 1852 and were quarantined at Spring Cove Station. Another son Angus was born to Marion after arriving in Australia. Cath Gillies died Tyndale age 59 children Sarah 27, Alexander 24, Isabella 22, Ellen 20, Mary 19, John 17. Deceased one male, one female.

ELLEN born Shoalhaven Illawarra 1841, married HUGH LIVINGSTONE son of Malcolm and Catherine (nee McDonald) Livingstone of Clarenza and Codrington. They had arrived on the "Blonde" 613 tonnage on 27 December 1849. Malcolm died at Maitland on 24 January 1850 leaving Catherine with ten children - Mary 18, Ann 18, Flora 17, Hugh 16, John 13, Ann 12, Angus 10, Donald 8, Alexander 6 and Allan 4. Catherine died at the home of her son Allan Livingstone, Clarenza, Clarence River on 17 June 1885 age 83.

ALEXANDER (Bonnie's Grandfather) was born Hinton, Williams River in 1843 and married JANET BEATSON on 5 November 1874 at South Grafton. Janet was born at Westons Meadows, Albion Park on 8 May 1856, the daughter of John and Mary (nee Greenlees) Beatson later of "The Cottage" South Grafton.

DONALD born Rose Bank, Hinton, Williams River on 1 September 1845. He married AGNUS SINCLAIR second daughter of James Sinclair of South Arm, Clarence River on 16 May 1879.

JOHN born Woodville, Hinton, Williams River on 20 October 1847.

WINIFRED BEATSON born Hinton, Williams River in 1849 and married to JAMES BEATSON fourth son of John and Mary (nee Greenlees) Beatson, "The Cottage", South Grafton on 14 March 1877. Winifred died Ulmarra 7 January 1891 age 41, children Florence 12, Ernest 11, James 9, Winifred 7, Alexander 5, Gordon 3. Mary Greenlees infant daughter of Winifred and James Age 4 months 11 days died 29 November 1880.

(Three of the children of John and Mary Beatson played a big part in the public life of Grafton. Duncan as Mayor of Grafton in 1882, 1893 and 1899; Christina who married William Hawthorne the Mayor of South Grafton in 1888 and 1899; and Jane (Jenny) who married Thomas Roberts who was Mayor of South Grafton in 1921.)

After working in the Illawarra following their arrival in Australia, Alexander and Una moved with their family to the Williams River area near Maitland.

After the great flood of 1857 they went to the Clarence River taking up crown land plot 31 in the parish of Clarenza in 1858 calling the property "AHALTON". They farmed at Clarenza leading a life of hard work and worship belonging to the Free Church. Alexander died on 7 May 1890 at Clarenza and is buried in Grafton cemetery. Una died at her residence in Breimba St., Grafton on 1 May 1897 where she had moved after her husband died, leaving her two sons, Alexander and Donald to farm at Clarenza, Clarence River.

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ARCH McPHEE'S LONELY DEATH

John McPhee (V77-308) of Whittlesea, Vic., recently forwarded details of his uncle's lonely death beside the Lakefield Road on Cape York Peninsula in November 1948. The uncle, Archibald McPhee was a son of one Norman McPhee who came to Australia in 1848/1851 from South Uist aged about 7. Norman was a cousin of Sir John McPhee of Tasmania.

Arch McPhee had been working in the Peninsula area for years, mainly as a fencing contractor. He was 61 years old at the time of his death and left a widow and daughter, Lorna. On the morning of 10th November 1948 he set out from Violetvale Station south of Coen to drive to Lakefield to commence a new fencing contract. Some 20 miles out his blitz buggy broke down and unable to make repairs, Arch set out to walk to Lakefield.

The weather at that time was extremely hot and the countryside dry and this along with his age, evidently proved too much for Arch McPhee as he perished beside the road some 18 miles short of Lakefield. The Laura/Coen packhorse mailman, Matt Gostelow, actually came across Arch's abandoned blitz and recognising it, followed Arch's tracks until turning off to deliver mail. He notified the Laura Police who found Arch's body on the Wednesday.

Arch had a companion, a cattle dog, who stayed with him until the end. Unable to arouse his master, the dog eventually walked off arriving at Musgrave Station some 40 miles away on the day Arch's body was found.

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ORONSAY RESTORATION

Mr. Ike Colburn bought Oronsay about 3 years ago; he intends to renovate all buildings, field-walls etc. To date he has restored two cottages and very much improved them, with all facilities, slate roofs etc. He has restored the wall garden which is now fully productive for the first time in a century. He has drilled for a water supply, has buried ALL the telephone cable on Oronsay and those electric spans visible at the Priory.

Within the Priory he has repaired the Prior's House roof, providing protection once again to the gravestones. He has also killed off vegetation growth that was endangering masonry, has banned all livestock from the Priory and has taken to having the grass mown on a regular basis. All nettles are banished and certain boundary walls to the West have been razed and are being rebuilt on alignments that will give much improved access and ambience, particularly to the High Cross.

At present Mr Colburn is in the middle of an huge rebuilding phase for a major section of the farm buildings. These are being reroofed in slate, stonework repaired and the interiors used to create dwelling units. I have no idea of his purpose... we are told that he likes the idea of putting everything back in shape. The Priory is of course a Monument and can only be touched after very searching inquiry and any work has to be carried out to official guidelines etc. (From a recent letter from Kevin Byrne at the Colonsay Hotel.)

GENERAL NOTES

- * Society President Sandy McPhie (Q74-001) of Toowoomba was re-elected for a second term in the Queensland Parliament at the State election on 1st November, with an increased majority.

- * The Scottish Australian Heritage Council which established Sydney's Scottish Week celebrations at the end of November each year as Australia's premier Scottish function, has endorsed the Scottish Travellers Centre in Sydney as their official travel service. The Centre's address is 3rd Floor, Wingello House, Angel Place, Sydney 2000. (Parallel to Martin Place, between George and Pitt Streets). Telephone 02 27 2782, Telex AA 24997.

- * Bonnie Bush (N74-007) of Sans Souci, NSW, has contributed regularly to our Newsbulletins and helped our Historians with details of "McPhees" on the North Coast of New South Wales. She believes all the Clarence River "McPhees" are related - but somewhere in that Northern Rivers area Society President Sandy McPhie feels there are relatives of his as one or two "McPhie" girls from the Maitland area married in the mid to latter part of the last century and at least some of their descendants evidently lived on the North Coast as late as forty years or so ago. Are there any McPhie girls in your family tree from a generation or two back? Let Sandy know if there are.

- * The following Clan Societies have formed in Australia in the last year or so:
 - MacLaren - The Secretary, Clan MacLaren Society of Australia,
3 Thistle Way, Prospect NSW 2149.
 - Davidson - Mr. Frank Davidson, 23 Elizabeth Street
Paddington, NSW 2021.
 - Graham - Mr. Keith Graham, 43 Oxford Falls Road
Beacon Hill, NSW, 2100 (02 451 3481)
 - Ferguson - G. Bennie, P.O. Box 1402, North Sydney NSW 2060.

- * The staff of the Australian National University in Canberra is compiling a Bicentennial Encyclopaedia which will include a section describing Scottish migration to Australia since 1945. If you haven't already contributed, a questionnaire is available at no cost from:

Freepost 235
Encyclopaedia of the Australian People
R.S.S.S. Aust National University
G.P.O. Box 4
Canberra. ACT. 2601.

- * Merle Kortlang (Q80-473) and husband of Benowa, Q., were visitors to Toowoomba for the Queensland Pipe Band Championships in October as too, was Bob McPhee (Q77-353) of Auchenflower, Q. Bob competed here as a Piper and band member but had to leave early for a wedding.

- * New South Wales Members had an enjoyable meeting at Vice-President Bill Tyrrell's home in Sylvania on 19th October with eighteen attenders. Bill and Dorothy have set aside Sunday 15th March for the next function at 18 Yeran Street - that's the third Sunday - with all members welcome. Further details in the next Newsbulletin or from Bill on 522 6420.

* The International Gathering of the Clans scheduled for Austin, Texas earlier this year was cancelled at short notice. Evidently due to sponsorship difficulties at the last moment. Next International Gatherings are Nova Scotia (1987), Sydney, Australia (1988), Scotland (1989) and USA again in 1990.

* Some shops for Things Scottish are:

- White Heather Shop, Shop 20 Hilltop Plaza, Charlestown, NSW 2290
Telephone 049 43 2364
- The Theatre Shop, 505 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
Telephone 02 211 0742)
- Highland House, 102 Lower Cairns Tce, Red Hill, Qld. 4059
Telephone 07 369 4014
- Scottish Flair, 3/168 Crawford Centre, Crawford St., Queanbeyan NSW
Telephone 062 97 7878 2620
- Brigadier, P.O. Box 131, Koorringal, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Telephone 069 25 4863
- Scotscraft, 6 Sulman Road, Cabramatta, NSW 2166.
Telephone 02 728 6235
- House of Scotland, 115 White Horse Road, Balwyn, Deepdene Vic 3103
Telephone 03 817 5151

* Lorraine Silk (right) is the daughter of Harry and Janet Silk (N81-494) of Bondi, NSW. Lorraine is an accomplished classical guitarist and jazz and ballad singer. She won an Open Classical Guitar Solo at the Sydney Eisteddfod when only 14. Lorraine is well known to many today for her TV and concert appearances. The Lorraine Silk Trio released a number of records in the past year or so.



* Clan Member Jean Davies (Q77-329) arrived safely in Cameroun, West Africa with husband Colin and sons Glenn and Alastair and have settled in well in their new country. Warm weather, tropical vegetation, an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables and meat - mainly poultry and caterpillars!

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members since the last Newsbulletin:

- Q86-565 Goodwin George Macfie Pook, 46 McIntyre St., Woolloowin, Q. 4030.
- N86-566 Mrs Jean Weeks (deceased) of 2 Greaves St., Grafton, NSW. 2460.
- V86-567 Ian Weeks, 65 Larnook Cres., Aspendale, Vic. 3195.
- Z86-568 Dr. Jocelyn McPhie, UTA Box 19049, Arlington, Tx 76019, USA.

These members were introduced respectively by:

Sandy McPhie (Q74-001), Ian Weeks (V86-567) and Cam McPhie (NZ74-021)

Many thanks for this.

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