



The Mackay Banner



A Publication of
Clan Mackay Society, USA

Do you have interesting Mackay news? You too can contribute to The Mackay Banner. Send your articles to cmckay@verizon.net to see your commentary in the next edition.



Welcome to the first quarter edition of the Clan Mackay Society Banner for 2015. It is with high hopes that this issue finds each of you in good health and prosperity.

As you all should be aware by now, the yearly election process has been completed

and the results of the 2015 election of officers are now history. We have a strong and capable slate of officers and this coming year is shaping up to be a good year for the society. The full slate of new officers is presented later in this edition of the Banner. However, at this time, let's take a look at the new members of the Executive Board.



Doug and Teresa McCoy

Our new President is Doug McCoy of Lawrenceville Georgia. He was born in Highland, Illinois in 1951 and moved to Middle Tennessee in 1957 where he attending High School. He then attended Ambassador University in Big Sandy, Texas where he met his wife, Teresa Gregory McCoy. After marrying, they moved to Georgia in 1973 where they currently

reside.

Doug traces his Scottish heritage through Craven County, North Carolina where many Scots came during the early 1700's.

Doug and Teresa have four children; Jason, Julie, Jesse and John. All four children have given them two grandchildren each for a total of fourteen

McCoy's. Their daughter married a clan member and remains a Mackay as Julie McGee, with an additional four clan members, a total of eighteen Mackay's.

Doug and Teresa are long time life members of Clan Mackay USA as well as members of Clan Mackay of Scotland. They are patrons of the Stone Mountain Highland Games. Teresa is also a member of Clan MacGregor. They visited the homeland in 2007 and plan on returning next year.



Charles (Chuck) Epper-

We are pleased to welcome Charles (Chuck) Epperson as our new Treasurer. Chuck is a resident of Hurst, Texas where he and his wife, Wendy have lived for a little more than twenty five years. They have two children, a daughter who lives in the Washington DC area with her family and a son who resides in Fort Stockton, Texas. Chuck and Wendy are the proud grand parents of three super grandkids.

Chuck has worked in the finance and accounting field for over thirty years and over his career, has worked for several Fortune 500 companies. In his current position, Chuck serves as a Senior Internal Audit Manager reporting directly to the Chief Audit Officer. He is a Certified Public Accountant licensed through the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy and is also a Certified Internal Auditor

Q: Why do pipers march while they play?

A: A moving target is harder to hit

Clan Mackay Society, USA

ELECTED AND APPOINTED VOTING OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Doug McCoy, Lawrenceville, GA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Charles E. McKay, Plano, TX

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Donald McGee, Naples, FL

TREASURER

Charles Epperson, Hurst, TX

SECRETARY

Lynda L. McKay, Plano, TX

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

North East Region: Andrea Cable, Shelton, CT

South East Region: Ellen Morgan, Interlachen, FL

Mid West Region: Ann McDonough, Pickerington, OH

Rocky Mountain Region: Jamey White, Denver, CO

Central Region: Amy Miller Beaton, Sugar Land, TX

Western Region: Jeff Goodwin, Folsom, CA

Mid Atlantic Region: David B. McKay, Leesburg, VA

APPOINTED NON-VOTING OFFICERS

Membership Chair: Charles McKay, Plano, TX

Editor of Mackay Banner: Charles McKay, Plano, TX

Scholarship Chair: Cheryl McKay, Monroe, MI

Web Master: John Grogan, Flowery Branch, GA

Seanachaidh & Genealogist: Ken Bain, Fresno, CA

Chaplin: Rev. Donald Bain, Gainesville FL

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Western Region Vice President, Jeff Goodwin would like to remind all our membership that Northern California will be once again hosting the Highland Games in April in Woodland, California.

There will be several grade two and perhaps a grade one band participating along with the heavy sports, dancing, music, eating, clan tents, reenactors, British autos, Scottish cows, horses, dogs and other critters.

If you would like to attend, there will be a Clan Mackay USA tent to stop by for some Highland refreshments.

Please contact Jeff at jeffriesgoowin@gmail.com if you would like more information.

FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Abigael White, a bright eyed smiling seventh grade lassie, was chosen in October of last year to be the St. Andrews Society of Colorado Chieftain's drummer. Abby was awarded a shiny medal and honored along with the Chieftain's piper and dancer awardees at the St. Andrews Society of Colorado annual Gala on November 15, 2014.



Abby is a tenor drummer in the Colorado Youth Pipe Band and has been playing since she was nine years old. She will hold the position of Chieftain's drummer for a year, playing for

him at various Society functions.

Congratulations Abby!

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play.

"Wonderful" says the mother, "What part is it?"

The boy says "I play the part of a Scottish husband!"

The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

First Quarter 2015 Featured Mackay Clan society

Clan MacKay Germany

In this first edition of the Banner for 2015, we are pleased to highlight the Clan Mackay Society of Germany. Our sister Society in Germany is lead by Chieftain Siegfried H. W. Schierstedt—MacKay (Siggi).



**Siegfried H.W.
Schierstedt – MacKay**

The Clan MacKay Germany was founded in 1985 at the Castle Sophienburg in the Baumberge of Münsterland.

Siggi tells us that he was born in Hannover. His mother being a German and his father, John MacKay, a Scotsman.

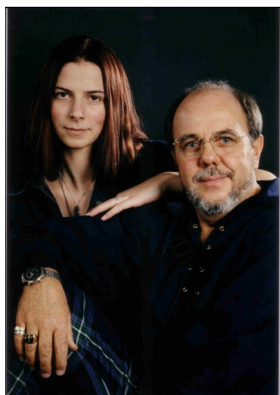
Siggi is married to his wife of nine years, Ramona (Mona). He is a Medical Practitioner and Psychologist with his own

private Practice and is also a Professor in the pharmaceutical faculty at Ovidius University of Constanta (Romania). During his studies of Psychology he spent one year at the Cooperating University of America in North Carolina.

Siggi and Mona both love Scotland and visit the wee bonnie land two or three times a year during holidays. They particularly like the Scottish Highlands for hiking and visiting with friends.

The Clan Mackay Society of Germany stays in more or less regularly contact with many other Clan MacKay Societies around the world and for many

years have maintained a friendly connection with the Clan MacKay Society USA. Particularly with our National Vice-President, Donald McGee along with his wife Pam with whom they have enjoyed a couple of wonderful visits.



Siggi and Mona

In 2008 Siggi and Mona visited with some of our members at the Clan MacKay

Highland Games in Durness, Scotland. There they met some of the Scottish Society members, a

member of the Australian Society and had a visit with the Durness Games Chieftain, Cate Jackson.

At the 2009 Scotland Homecoming, Siggi and Mona met the former Presidents of Clan Mackay



Visiting 2008 Durness Games

From the left: Clan associates Dunja and David Laing, Professor Dr Siegfried Schierstedt-MacKay, Laird of Glencairn and Chieftain of Clan Mackay Society of Germany, his wife, Mona.

Society, USA, Michelle Sandelier and David McKay. In the Parade they marched with the Scottish Clan MacKay from Holyrood Palace to Edinburgh Castle. The following day they, along with other Society members were invited to a meeting in the home of Lady Elizabeth Fairbain, the President of Clan MacKay Society, Scotland.

The web site for Clan Mackay Germany can be found at www.clanmackay.de/en-welcome.html. You are invited to visit the site and learn more about the activities and history of our Sister Clan in Germany.

Jock was traveling by train seated next to a stern-faced clergyman. As Jock pulled out a bottle of whisky from his pocket the clergyman glared and said reprovingly, "Look here, I am sixty-five and I have never tasted whisky in my life!"

"Dinna worry, Minister," smiled Jock, pouring himself a dram. "There's no risk of you starting now!"

2nd Quarter Events

Let's Go To The Games

The following is a listing of many of the games and gatherings that will be occurring in the next quarter of 2015. Please review it and if there are any games in your area, pack up and go support. If, while at the games, you discover that there is not a Clan Mackay tent, contact you local commissioner and volunteer to host a tent next year.

Date	Highland Game	Web Address
April 25	The Celtic Festival & Highland Gathering of Southern MD	www.cssm.org
April 11-12	San Antonio Highland Games	www.sahga.org
April 18-19	Las Vegas Highland Games	www.lasvegascelticsociety.org
April 25	Southern Maryland Celtic Festival	www.cssm.org
May 1-2	Triad Highland Games	www.triadhighlandgames.org
May 1-3	Scottish Festival & Celtic Gathering	www.scots-westvirginia.com
May 2	Savannah Scottish Games	www.savannahscottishgames.com
May 8-10	Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games	www.texasscottishfestival.com
May 9	Frederick Celtic Festival	www.frederickcelticfestival.com
May 9-10	Prescott Highland Games	www.prescotthighlandgames.com
May 16	Colonial Highland Gathering of Delaware	fairhillscottishgames.org
May 15-17	Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games at Maryville College	www.smokymountaingames.org
May 16	Fair Hill Scottish Games	www.fairhillscottishgames.org
May 16	Finger Lakes Celtic Festival	www.flceltic.com
May 16-17	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival	www.celtfestabq.com
May 23-24	Alma Highland Festival and Games	www.almahighlandgames.com
June 6	Milwaukee Highland Games	www.milwaukeehighlandgames.org
June 12-14	Newport Celtic Festival and Highland Games	www.newportcelticfestival.com
June 13	Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival	www.riscot.org
June 13-14	Blairsville Scottish festival & Highland Games	www.blairvillescottishfestival.org
June 19-20	Chicago Scotts Scottish Festival and Highland Games	www.chicagoscots.org
June 19-20	Western North Carolina Highlands Celtic Festival	www.celticheritageproductions.com
June 26-27	Ohio Scottish Games	www.ohioscottishgames.com
June 27-28	San Deigo Highland Games and Gathering	www.sdhighlandgames.org

Of Special Interest

Eilean Donan Castle

Driving west on the A87 from Invergarry, Scotland one will soon arrive at the village of Dornie. Just outside of the wee village is one of the most iconic images of Scotland, Eilean Donan Castle. A castle that is recognized around the world. Situated on an island at the confluence of three Lochs, Loch Duich, Loch Long and Loch Alsh, and surrounded by some majestic scenery, it is little wonder that the castle is now one of the most visited and important attractions in the Scottish highlands.



Eilean Donan Castle

The name Eilean Donan, or island of Donan, is most probably derived from the 6th century Irish Saint, Bishop Donan, who came to Scotland around 580 AD. There are several churches dedicated to Donan in the area, and it is likely that he formed a small cell, or community on the island during the late 7th century.

Although first inhabited around the 6th century,

the first fortified castle was built in the mid 13th century and stood guard over the lands of Kintail. Since then, at least four different versions of the castle have been built and re-built as the feudal history of Scotland unfolded through the centuries.

Partially destroyed in a Jacobite uprising in 1719, Eilean Donan lay in ruins for the best part of 200 years until Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae-Gilstrap bought the island in 1911 and proceeded to restore the castle to its former glory. After 20 years of toil and labor the castle was re-opened in 1932 and today, you can explore nearly every part of the castle, as well as enjoy a journey through the history of the area.

Over the centuries, the castle itself has expanded and contracted in size. The medieval castle was probably the largest, with towers and a curtain wall that encompassed nearly the entire island. The main keep stood on the island's highest point. Around the end of the 14th century the area of the castle was reduced to about a fifth of its original size, and although the reason is unclear, it probably relates to the number of men required to defend the structure. By the 16th century a hornwork was added to the east wall to offer a firing platform for the newly introduced cannons.

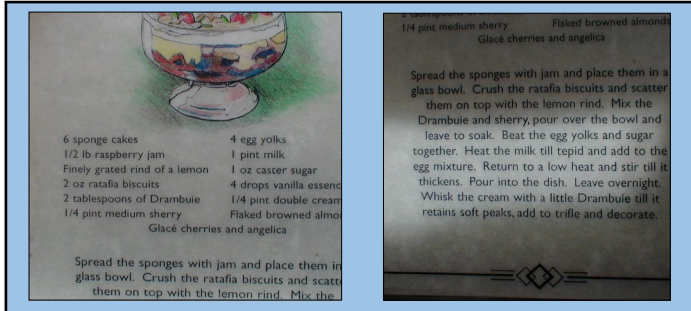
The Castle now has its own visitor center, which includes the Ticket Office, Coffee Shop, Gift Shop and toilets.

When your editor and his wife first visited this historic castle in 2002, they were struck with an interesting display on one of the inner walls of this old icon. There, at the apex of a laborious and tiring winding staircase, was found a recipe for "Scots Trifle".

Admittedly, your editor is not an expert photogra-

Of Special Interest

pher, however there was a driving need to capture this receipt for future entertainment use, as well as for private use. It can be seen in the following photos.



Since the photos are difficult to decipher, your editor has reproduced the recipe on the right. Try it, you may enjoy it!

Scots Trifle

6 sponge cakes	4 egg yolks
1/2 lb raspberry jam	1 pint milk
Finely grated rind of a lemon	1 oz caster sugar
2 oz ratafia biscuits	4 drops vanilla essence
2 tablespoons of Drambuie	1/4 pint double cream
1/4 pint medium sherry	Flaked brown almonds
<i>Glacé cherries and angelica</i>	

Spread the sponges with jam and place them in a glass bowl. Crush the ratafia biscuits and scatter them on top with the lemon rind. Mix the Drambuie and sherry, pour over the bowl and leave to soak. Beat the egg yolks and sugar together. Heat the milk till tepid and add to the egg mixture. Return to a low heat and stir till it thickens. Pour into the dish. Leave overnight. Whisk the cream with a little Drambuie till it retains soft peaks, add to trifle and decorate.

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Robert Burns Association of North America

For those of you who are student and admirers of the life and works of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns, the editor would like to offer the following information

The Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) is an association dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of the life, works and philosophy of Scotland's National Bard - Robert Burns, and to promote Scottish culture and heritage in North America.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario the name "The Robert Burns Association of North America" was adopted. RBANA is affiliated with the Robert Burns World Federation Limited, in Kilmarnock, Scotland.



Robert Boyd
RBANA President

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting in Williamsburg VA, Robert Boyd of the Heather & Thistle Houston Club was acclaimed as President. His term will expire in 2016

If any of the Clan Mackay members have an interest in the life and works of Robert Burns, you are encouraged

to visit the website of RBANA at www.rbana.com.

Membership is only twenty five dollars a year.

Jock was digging peat at his croft when a passing American tourist asks, "How much land do you have here?"
"About two acres" Jock replies.
"You know back home it takes me a day to drive around my ranch !" the American boasts.
"Aye", says Jock " I once had a car like that."

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