

c/o Don MacAskill, Treasurer
 8 Huckleberry Lane ❖
 Hampton, NH 03842-1516 USA

The MacAskill Sept Society
 Adherents to the Chiefs of MacLeod of Harris
 and Great Swordsmen in Defense of that Clan



CLANN NA ASKETILL

Descendants of Asketil

The MacAskill Sept Society

Adherents to the Chiefs of MacLeod of Harris
 and Great Swordsmen in Defense of that Clan

Winter 2009 Volume VI, Number 4

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 form*inside back cover*

Scottish winter scenes



Trapped behind snow gates at Aultguish



Familiar peaks on Skye



Inchnadamph Lodge after a night of snow and howing gales

The MacAskill Sept Society

8 Huckleberry Lane
Hampton, NH 03842 USA

On the web at <http://www.macaskillseptociety.org>

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COPY DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE: April 1, 2010... maybe...

The MacAskill Sept Society

An ancient sept of MacLeod of Harris

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM

Please print or type

Member name:			
Address:			
Town or city:			
State or Province:		Postal code:	
Country:		Phone:	
E-mail:			

Signature: _____

Date _____

Annual dues are \$25.00 (in US funds) and should be paid annually on July 1st.

Your dues cover the costs of this newsletter and preparation for our Gatherings. Please send your membership form and a check or money order to:

The MacAskill Sept Society
c/o Don MacAskill
8 Huckleberry Lane
Hampton NH 03842-1516

OPTIONAL:

If your name is not "MacAskill" (any spelling), what is your connection to the name "MacAskill"?	
--	--

May we contact you for the names of any others who might be interested in joining the MacAskill Sept Society? YES NO

Q: What's the difference between a dead bagpiper in the road and a dead country singer in the road?

A: The country singer may have been on the way to a recording session.



Q: What's the range of a bagpipe?

A: Twenty yards if you have a good arm.

Q: How is playing a bagpipe like throwing a javelin blindfolded?

A: You don't have to be very good to get people's attention.

Q: How can you tell a bagpiper with perfect pitch?

A: He can throw a set into the middle of a pond and not hit any of the ducks.

Q: What do you call someone who hangs around with musicians?

A: A bagpiper.

Q: What did the bagpiper get on his I.Q. test?

A: Drool.

Q: What's one thing you never hear people say?

A: Oh, that's the bagpipe player's Porsche.

Q: How do you know if a bagpipe band is at your front door?

A: No one knows when to come in.

Q: Why did the bagpiper get mad at the drummer?

A: He moved a drone and wouldn't tell him which one.

Tom: "Hey, Buddy. How late does the bagpipe band play?"

Buddy: "Oh, about a half beat behind the drummer."

Q: Why are bagpipers' fingers like lightning?

A: They rarely strike the same spot twice.



2010 MacAskill Gathering location announced

By Lloyd MacAskill, President

It seems as though we have barely had time to see our pictures from the last MacAskill Sept gathering, and we can now look forward to another enjoyable event.

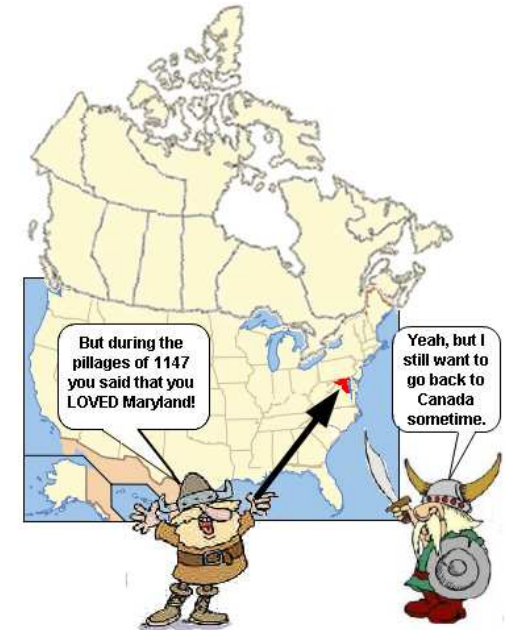


The 2010 MacAskill Sept Gathering will be held from October 22nd through the 24th in Towson, Maryland USA, headquartered at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel (<http://www.sheratonbaltimorenorth.com>). A block of rooms has been reserved for us for \$99 per night, plus tax. Towson is the county seat of Baltimore County. The Sheraton has a bus that will take patrons to the light rail stop with connections to city and regional attractions.

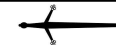
Our upcoming spring and summer issues of the newsletter will include more information on our meeting venue, keynote speaker, entertainment, the kirking, and touring options. The registration form will be in the summer issue.

Anne McCaskill Libis (contact information is on the inside cover of this newsletter) is our Gathering 2010 Coordinator. She will be assisted by Jane and David Grinwis. Jane will be arranging for the food and helping to plan.

Please note that we did make an effort to find a Gathering location in Canada, to help reignite our friendships with Canadian MacAskills who have been so important a part of this organization. While this didn't work out this year, we would be delighted to have the Gathering in Canada at a future date.



☼ **CAN YOU HELP?** We would like to have our Kirking in the chapel at Goucher College, which is next door to the Sheraton. Our request will have a better chance of success if any McCaskill is an alumni -- please contact Anne if you



20 questions to ask your kiltmaker

Taken from a leaflet produced by Geoffrey (Tailor), Kiltmakers and weavers. Please expect some interesting feedback in our next issue!

This might seem a bit like an advertisement, but it is also a review and recommendation of an established Edinburgh business. As you will see on their website, Geoffrey has a number of lines of business although your Editor's happiest experiences are with two of the more minor offerings.



If you have ever been lucky enough to walk the Royal Mile up to Edinburgh Castle, Geoffrey is the company that operates the weaving mill just before the Castle. Further on down the road toward Holyrood, you will find an unusual feature at the entrance to their retail store. They usually keep a large bin of tartan scraps out front, and sell them for a pound or two each. These

"scraps" are fairly substantial, as they are mostly the long strip of fabric cut along the selvedge of the cloth when sizing the kilt to the wearer's height. These can be from 4 to 12 inches wide, and can be used for all kinds of crafts and apparel ornaments.

Geoffrey (Tailor) Kiltmakers feel people should be aware of the varying range of kilts available. There are; novelty kilts (£20 - £50 imported), fun kilts, casual kilts, and proper traditional Scottish Kilts.

For a kilt to be considered a proper traditional "Scottish", "Scotch" Kilt it should at least be:

1. Made in Scotland, 2. Made of pure wool, and 3. Hand sewn.

(Protective Geographical Indicator (PGI) under EU proposed legislation.)



The twenty questions to ask your kiltmaker...

1. Is the kilt made in Scotland? (Not designed in Scotland, or distributed from Edinburgh, etc.)
2. Is it pure wool?

Q: What's the difference between the Great Highland and Northumbrian bagpipes?

A: The GHB burns longer [but the Northumbrian burns hotter]

Q: What do you call bagpiper with half a brain?

A: Gifted.

Q: What's the difference between a lawnmower and a bagpipe?

A: You can tune the lawnmower, and the owner's neighbors are upset if you borrow the lawnmower and don't return it.

Q: How many bagpipers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Five, one to handle the bulb and the other four to contemplate how Bill Livingston would have done it.

Q: How many bagpipers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: 5-one to do it, and four to criticise his fingering style.

Q: How many bagpipers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Five. One to handle the bulb, the other four to tell him how much better they could have done it.



Q: What's the definition of a minor second?

A: Two bagpipes playing in unison.

Q: How do you make a chain saw sound like a bagpipe?

A: Add vibrato.

Q: What's the definition of a gentleman?

A: Someone who knows how to play the bagpipe and doesn't.

Q: Why do bagpipers leave their cases on their dashboards?

A: So they can park in handicapped zones.

Q: What's the definition of a quarter tone?

A: A bagpiper tuning his drones.

Oh no! More bagpipe jokes!

Back by – err, POPULAR demand...?

Q: Why do bagpipers walk when they play?

A: To get away from the noise.

Q: Why do bagpipers always walk when they play?

A. Moving targets are harder to hit.

Q: Why is a bagpipe like a Scud missile?

A. Both are offensive and inaccurate.

Q: What's the only thing worse than a bagpiper?

A: Good question. We're still trying to find out too.

Q: How do you get two bagpipes to play a perfect unison?

A. Shoot one.

Q: What's the difference between a bagpipe and an onion?

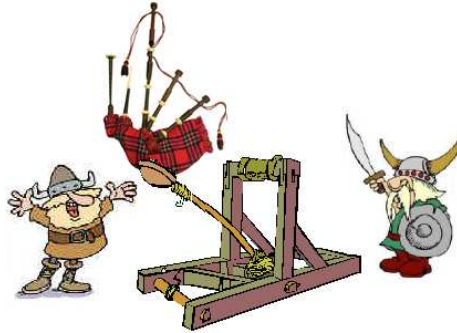
A. No one cries when you chop up a bagpipe.

Q: What's the difference between a bagpipe and a trampoline?

A. You take off your shoes when you jump on a trampoline.

Q: What's the difference between a bagpipe and a trampoline?

A: Eventually, people get tired of jumping on a trampoline.



Bagpipes (noun) - I understand the inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant, asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made object never equaled the purity of sound achieved by the pig.

- attributed to Alfred Hitchcock

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?

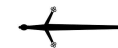
A: To get away from the bagpipe recital.

3. Is the yardage appropriate to my size?
4. How many tartans are available for my name?
5. What choice of cloth and weight do I have?
6. Will the pleats be cut out at the back for shaping and comfort?
7. What type of lining and canvas will my kilt have?
8. Are your kilts hand sewn? (Not hand made, put through a machine by hand or hand finished, machine stitched with buckles put on by hand!)
9. Will my kilt have a hip buckle, making it fit and lie well?
10. Will my kilt have belt loops, allowing the chain and belt to be secure?
11. What will the bottom edge of my kilt be like?
12. Will it be a traditional selvedge, hemmed or a modern selvedge?
13. Who makes the kilts for your company?
14. How long has your company been making kilts?
15. Where is the actual workshop where my kilt will be made?
16. How deep will my pleats be?
17. How many (estimated) pleats should my kilt have?
18. Do I have the adjustment space for future growth?
19. How long should I expect my kilt to last?
20. If I need any alterations to my kilt when it is finished, will you make sure I am 100% happy?

Have comments about Geoffrey (Tailor), or any Scottish kiltmaker or business?

It would be great if we could feature reader feedback about Scottish businesses and accommodation in the MacAskill Sept Society newsletter. As many of us consider traveling "home" from time to time, we would all appreciate the advice of others who have ventured before us.

Please send your Editor any recommendations or warnings, and I will try and squeeze them into the Spring 2010 issue, in time to help folks make planning decisions for any summertime excursions, as well as post them on our website for future reference.



Does anybody know of...

By Allan Blair

From time to time, Allan will share with us new puzzles or answers to genealogical questions concerning MacAskills. Allan's website, <http://www.macaskilling.com> also has a guest book where you can log your own questions or peruse the contributions of others.



How does John MacKenzie fit in?

When Janet MacAskill, sister of Sir John MacAskill, KIA in India in 1845, died at Vattin in 1874, aged 95, the informant was John MacKenzie, "husband of her niece." Does anyone know who the niece was, maternal -daughter of a sibling of Lady MacAskill, Anna Steele - or daughter of a sibling of Sir John himself?

Sir John's siblings were reputedly Allan, William, and Christina by a mother named Beaton, and reputedly all died without issue, whereas Janet's mother was a Jessie Macleod, and father DR John. In effect Janet was a half sister.

John McCaskill/Melinda McBeath

Have been searching for any info on John McCaskill/Melinda McBeath, who were married 1836. He was born May 1809, and died in Texas sometime after 1900. If anyone in the McCaskills have a link on him, please contact me. Thank you, Lillian Beasley from Caldwell, Texas (lillian.beasley22@gmail.com).

If you have any information that might clear up the puzzles, please send it to Allan at ablair2@telus.net.



MacAskills of today in the news



Coming in the next issue of our newsletter: some interesting information about two MacAskills that have been in the news lately: The Scottish Parliament's Cabinet Secretary for Justice Scottish Kenny MacAskill, and romance author Kathryn Caskie.



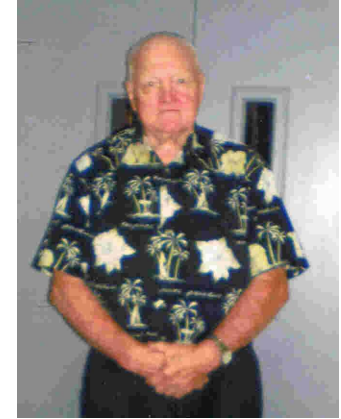
Flowers of the Forest

Charles "C.W." Wesley McCaskill

June 4, 1927 - December 24, 2009

A funeral service to honor the life of Charles Wesley "CW" McCaskill, 82, of Cassatt was held Tuesday, December 29, 2009, at 2:00 PM at Cassatt Baptist Church, officiated by the Rev. Robert Brown.

Mr. McCaskill was a member of the MacAskill Sept Society, and was featured in our newsletter of Summer 2009, where he was the oldest participant at the Talley and Margaret Heron McCaskill Reunion.

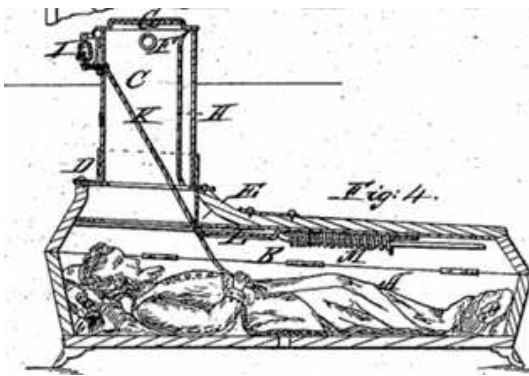


Mr. McCaskill died Thursday, December 24, 2009. Born in Camden, he was the son of the late Charles Francis and Susie Rabon McCaskill and the widower of his first wife, Thelma Louise West McCaskill. He was an U.S. Army Veteran having served in the Korean War, worked for Thurston Motor Line for 25 years, a resident of Charlotte for forty years and a member of Cassatt Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Eula Freeman Parnell McCaskill; sons, Donald McCaskill, Calvin McCaskill and his wife, Betty all of Cassatt; grandchildren, Candice and Jennifer; great grandchildren, Tracy, Dallas & Dakota; brothers, Joe McCaskill and his wife, Mary Ann, and Talley McCaskill of Cassatt and his wife, Thelma, all of Cassatt; sisters, Ethelene Hewett of Florence and Frances Elmore of Charlotte. Mr. McCaskill was pre-deceased by his daughter, Diane Blakely.

Mr. McCaskill was buried in the church cemetery of Cassatt Baptist Church. Condolences may be expressed to Mr. Isaac C. McCaskill, 1979 Lake Elliot Road, Cassatt. S.C. 29032. Memorials may be made in Mr. McCaskill's memory to the American Cancer Society, c/o Gail Kirkland, 647 Lachicotte Road, Lugoff, SC 29078.



Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. This gave rise to the custom of holding a wake.



The smaller or older urban communities would sometimes run out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave site. When reopening these coffins, sometimes they found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people

alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was considered "a dead ringer".



MacAskill merchandising

Gorgeous MacAskill tartan available by the yard!

The summer games and cultural season is coming up – act now to look your finest! Contact Olive McCaskill Bell at o.mcc.b@bellcasa.com, or 3309 El Malecon Road, Albuquerque, NM 87120-2725 USA.

Lapel pins are still in stock!



Available from your newsletter editor (see contact information on inside cover), these 1" pins (slightly SMALLER than picture shown at left) are available for \$5 each, plus \$2 postage for each group of 1-5 pins. Send checks in US or Canadian funds - *quel facile!*



Clan MacLeod Parliament/ World Gathering 2010

The website for the 16th Clan MacLeod Parliament was launched in November, and dozens of people have already registered. In 2006 the event drew about 300 people from 11 countries who enjoyed the culture, beauty, hospitality, and friendship of the MacLeods.

In 2010, Parliament consists of three programs: the main Dunvegan (and Raasay) event running from 24-31 July, the North Room Group service project (read more about this on page 8), and a pre-Parliament trip to historic MacLeod lands in Assynt from 21-24 July. Note that if you use public transportation and buses provided by Parliament, it is possible to attend Parliament without renting a car.

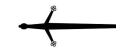
You can read about Parliament and register on-line at <http://www.clanmaclod.org/clan-parliament.html>, or for further information contact parliament@clanmaclod.org.



Other up coming highland games and Scottish events

Just a reminder that the Clan MacLeod USA keeps a list of highland games and Scottish cultural events at <http://www.clanmaclodusa.org/UpcomingEventsUSA.htm>. Clan MacLeod Canada doesn't keep a central listing, but you can find a number of internet sites that do by searching on "highland games Canada".

Also, one of the most well-attended Scottish events in the USA has become the annual Tartan Week (events start April 2) in New York City, described at <http://www.tartanweek.com>. You can register to participate in the big parade, or just watch it. There are many tourist and outreach events, bound to inspire you for a trip back "home".



Olive McCaskill Bell North Room Group Fellowship – application period extended

We have not yet had any applicants for the Olive's Fellowship. We expect this is due to the newness of the program, and perhaps we haven't publicized it sufficiently. So here is another pitch!

At its annual Gathering in Camden, South Carolina USA, the MacAskill Sept Society voted to approve two USD\$100 fellowships, established in the name of the Sept Society's founder Olive McCaskill Bell. The purpose of the fellowships is to help make it possible for our young people to participate in the North Room Group program at the Clan MacLeod Parliament in 2010. MacAskills (all forms of the name) and their descendents, 18-25 years of age, are eligible to apply.

The North Room Group in 2010 will include a one-week service project on historically MacLeod lands in Assynt, Sutherland (far northwest of Scotland), and includes the follow-on Clan MacLeod Parliament week in Dunvegan, Isle of Skye. The program emphasizes international friendship and building a lifelong relationship with the Clan MacLeod Society. The program cost is generously underwritten by the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies and its nine national organizations, but NRGers must still pay their travel costs and any personal expenses. The purpose of Olive's Fellowship is to make participation just a bit easier for our young MacAskills.

- The criteria for awarding this Fellowship are:
- The applicant needs to be a member of the MacAskill Sept Society



NRG 2006, at Dunvegan Castle



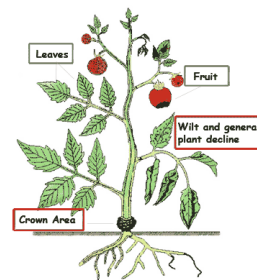
NRG 2006 service project, working on the Millennium Trail, Isle of Harris

Often the floor of the home was simply the ground underneath the roof. Only the wealthy had flooring other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. To stop this, a piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. This is the source of the term "thresh hold".

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence we know the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat. Also, the tenderloin is the top part of the hog, thus eating "high off the hog" meant you were living quite well.



Delicious veggie...

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous. (The tomato is in the nightshade family of poisonous plants, but not the fruit.)



...or deadly poison?

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust".

Some very interesting history lessons

Contributed by Rob Caskie

This contribution came from one of those internet messages that could be an "urban legend" except for the fact that most of this information is very true. While the sources for some of the terms below aren't exclusively Scottish, many of the references are to conditions and customs that were experienced by our ancestors many years ago.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and would still smell pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of the bride carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all came the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs, made with thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.



(it is OK to join for this purpose!) and of MacAskill origin.

- The applicant must meet the criteria for participating in the NRG. Please refer to the ACMS Parliament website for further information on Parliament 2010 and this year's North Room Group program <http://www.clanmacleod.org>.
- Priority will be given to the young person on whose experience our reward will make the biggest impact, economically or by interest expressed.

The recipient(s) will be expected to participate in all NRG activities, provide ceremonial support at Parliament on behalf of MacAskills (if that is required), and they will be expected to take photos and write up a report of their experiences. The written material and pictures may be published in the newsletter, on the MacAskill website, or presented to interested parties if the recipient is willing and able to do so.

Applicants should submit a letter addressed to the Society Officers, explaining why s/he would like to be considered for the award. Information concerning the applicant's personal experience with Scottish history, culture, or travel, and/or aspirations for Parliament are welcome. All applications must be received by **May 1, 2010** (new deadline). Selection of recipient will be made by the Sept's elected officers. The announcement of the award(s) will be made in **June**.

Please mail your application by post to:

Rachel McCaskill Miles, Secretary, MacAskill Sept Society
4535 Log Cabin Road
Rembert, SC 27127 USA

or email it to rachelmiles@ftc-i.net.

If no applicants for this Fellowship come forward, the officers of the MacAskill Sept Society have voted to donate the Fellowship to the general fund to support the North Room Group.



*Achmelvich Hostel interior, beach, and exterior:
how can you NOT want to be here!*



The MacCaskill Sept of Clan MacLeod

By Weeden Nichols, F.S.A. Scot

Reprinted from the Clan MacLeod Newsletter of the Clan MacLeod USA, Fall/winter 2009

This is the second piece [by Weeden] on the septs of the Clan MacLeod. This is about the MacCaskills (McCaskie, Caskey, and a number of similar surnames are variants). The MacCaskills are descended from Askill (Askel, Asketil), the last Norse Viking King of Dublin, who may have fled and taken refuge on the Isle of Man (probably beginning the enduring association between those who became the MacLeods and those who became the MacCaskills). Most MacCaskills participating in a Y-chromosome DNA study are of Norse ancestry.

[Please note that this article is presented as written by Weeden, using his choice of spelling and pertinent material. – Ed.]

I tire easily of remarks associating Kansas only with Dorothy and Toto. Likewise, I think MacCaskills tire of MacCaskills being associated only with the giant Angus McCaskill. McCaskill.com states, "The 1981 Guinness Book of World Records lists Angus as the tallest natural giant who ever lived, the strongest man who ever lived, and the man having the largest chest measurements of any non-obese man."

My purpose here is not to produce a scholarly paper, but to show a few examples of how important the MacCaskills have been to Clan MacLeod, and in what way. To do this, I will simply quote a few items from The MacAskills of Rudh an Dunain by Alisdair Roderick Murray, 1998:

"Skye at the time of Asgall was part of a Viking kingdom and was governed from Dunvegan by the MacCrailts. In about 1230 an heiress of the house married Leod, reputed son of Olave the Black, Viking Earl of Man. Leod already held much of the Outer Isles and large territories on the West Coast of the mainland. These territories and Skye, were divided between his two Sons, Tormod and Torquil. Tormod became the progenitor of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, Harris and Glenelg whilst Torquil's line became MacLeods of Lewis. Assynt in Sutherland, the Island of Raasay and Waternish in Skye, two almost distinct clans..."

From hereon the sons of Asgall, or MacAskills, held their lands from the MacLeods of Dunvegan... Alanus MacKaskyll, a scribe in a monastery at Perth in the 16th century, wrote: "The MacAskills were the lieutenants of the MacLeods, both by sea and by land, from whom

they held large territorial possessions in reward for their services as commanders of their galleys or birlinns; and one of them, clad in full armour, always accompanied the chief as his henchman."

One of the traditional posts held by the MacAskills was that of Constable of the main MacLeod stronghold in the South of the Island,

the castle of Dunscaith, and they are said to have held it through several sieges.

The office of Lieutenant of the Coast at Rudh an Dunain was a hereditary one, bestowed on a family named MacAskill, and among the more dauntless of these lieutenants was Donald Dubh (Black) MacAskill. There was none in all the isles more adept with the bow and arrow than Donald Dubh. One day he noticed a barge of the Clan Ranald in the sound of Canna. As the barge approached Rudh an Dunain, Donald Dubh recognised it to be intent on plunder, and manned by twelve stalwart MacDonalds. He quietly retired to the dun to collect an ample quiver, and then concealed himself behind a rock, from which he fired twelve arrows that killed the twelve rowers. Soon Clan Ranald's barge came ashore; and it was dashed to splinters against the very rocks at Rudh an Dunain that it had hoped to make in happier circumstances.

And in another folk-tale "...concerning a Lieutenant of the Coast who was known throughout Skye as MacDhomhnuill Dubh (son of Black Donald). In pursuance of his duties, this Lieutenant apprehended a man who formerly had been convicted of cattle-lifting, fire-raising, and even murder. The Son of Black Donald did not detain him long in captivity, but tried him on the spot. He decided to execute him, but, before doing so, he brought the prisoner to his own house, and supplied him extravagantly with bread and cheese and whisky, that he might thereby be the more able to endure his last moments on earth. Thereafter the Son of Black Donald marched his captive up a steep brae above the sea at Rudh an Dunain, and beheaded him with his sword. And the head rolled down the slope, crying out as it rolled, 'Faire, faire, Mhic Dbomimuill Dubh!' (Beware, Beware, O Son of Black Donald!)"

The MacCaskills are not simply passively among us, but are a strong and colorful strand interwoven with the fabric of MacLeod.



A re-created birlinn, from <http://www.macaskill.com>

