

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

Happy Birthday Olive

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Olive McCaskill Bell recently celebrated her 90th birthday with numerous family members and friends in Albuquerque, NM. Having her birthday fall on the 22nd of December, Olive is fond of saying "I'm three days older than God". She is a driving force in the Society

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McCaskills in Modern Literature

Ivan Doig's flowing tale of family

A son returns to Montana
and his dying father in the
latest McCaskill book

BY RON FRANSCCELL
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

In Montana, not far from where Ivan Doig grew up beneath the big sky that still haunts him, three rivers flow together to form the deep and wide Missouri, facing through both time and landscape, the old West and the new. And like the bravery Missouri, Doig has channeled three deep, literary tributaries into *Mountain Time*—a coda to his McCaskill family trilogy.

Mich Rozier is fiftysix, a 50-year-old environmental columnist for a post-hip alternative Seattle weekly paper, a baby boomer treating water with his own past and present: estrangement from his grown children, tenuous job security and his scrappy lover. Lexa McCaskill is jessam, the earthy and divorced Montana expatriate swimming in Mitch's eddy, catering swamly Seattle software soires; also going nowhere.

Together, they are caught in the undertow of Lyle Rozier, Mitch's father. Lyle is dying of leukemia, and Mitch is summoned back to his childhood home in Montana, where he's caught up in the ordeal of filial obligation. There, he faces an ancient question confronting a new generation and twisted to fit a new sensibility: Dare we go home again?

That's what Mitch asks himself back in Seattle, listening to his father. The old hatred tone of voice, Mich Rozier proclaiming he had the world on a towrope, and a downhill putt at last. Rubbing his opposite ear as if the words had gone tight through him, Mitch winced into the phone that next morning. How many times had he heard this, or something an awfully lot like it?

Mitch's reluctant penman with his crusty old dad is flooded with lingering family disappointments and secrets — along with the revelation that Lyle wants to sell the family land to a gravel company and rewrite his own life history in the process. Lexa comes along for moral support, bringing her sultry sister, world-weary photographer Mariah

Please see **DOIG**, Page E5

Doig: Men have protected and profaned the West

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McCaskill, who documents Lyle's deathwatch.

Their desperate and disparate lives flow together when they hike into the mountains on a sad journey to scatter Lyle's ashes.

Three people, three intense relationships, three rivers. "Mountain Time" is the confluence: The familial clash between Lyle and Mitch echoes the clash between the historic and contemporary West, where exploitation has always been at odds with environmental anxiety. Their story also reflects the dynamic, flowing history in which men have both protected and profaned the Western landscape, which is as much a character in Doig's work as any McCaskill.

Doig's poetic prose remains intact here, but for the first time in his literary career he's funny, too, especially when he's satirizing the foibles and excesses of the Pacific Northwest "Cyberia." The Cascoia [newspaper] building was in Seattle's Fremont district, where



IVAN DOIG

Taking the whole cake

"All right, all right," Mitch said with a hard swallow. He rubbed his forehead as if trying to start things moving in there. "If I'm going across the mountains to stop that father of mine from screwing up royally, I need to call Bing for time off. If there's still anything to have time off from." But he turned back from the phone to Lexa. "I don't suppose you could come along? Hide shotgun down the avalanche?"

"Can't, Mariah."

Mitch blanked on that.

"My sister is flying in," Lexa said with red-letter enunciation. "Tomorrow."

"I knew that," he sneaked a glance towards the refrigerator message center.

"Only child," Lexa shook her head. "You guys always got the whole birthday cake to yourself."

— "Mountain Time"

the Sixties still roamed. The hempen necessities of life were available there, as were cafes with good rowdy names such as The Longshoreman's Daughter, plus deluxe junk shops, plus bars that were museum pieces from the days when halt was *halt*.

"Mountain Time" will not dis-

spute those who rank Doig among the best living American writers, and might even beg comparisons to some of the best dead ones, too. Fat knicker comes most readily to mind: The Sartories of Yoknapatawpha County are no more troubled and no more human than the McCaskills of the

Two Medicine country in Montana. Two great rivers in different landscapes.

Wyoming novelist and neuspaperman Ron Franczell is the author of "Angel Fire" and the upcoming mystery "The Deadline."



The Book Nook

A review by Olive McCaskill Bell

Shadows in the Mist

James P. McCaskie

Jim McCaskie, an Englishman, published this book privately in 1989, adding work of his own to research done by his uncle, Dr. Norman J. McCaskie in the 1920s. The bibliography in the appendices shows deep digging into old documents in Ireland and the Isle of Man, as well as in Scotland.

While the book, as a whole, is written for Jim's branch of the MacCaskies and goes in detail into their accomplishments and genealogical charts, the earlier pages, dealing with Asketil's flight from Dublin to the Isle of Man, and his grandson Gilbert MacAsgail's (remember that in Gaelic the letter G frequently had the sound of K: there was no K in the Gaelic alphabet) leading a party to settle at Dun Sgaith castle on the Isle of Skye, of vital interest to all descendants of Askitel.

In 1990 I ordered this book directly from Mr. McCaskie at:
23 Thornhill Avenue
Lindley, Huddersfield,
HD3 3DN England

I do not know if it is still available or not.

Editor's Note: If you have a favorite book that relates to McCaskills, Scotland or matters celtic, write a review and get your article in the next newsletter



The Book Nook

A review by Olive McCaskill Bell

In Search of Ancient Ireland

The Origins of the Irish People
from Neolithic Times Until the Coming of the English

Carmel McCaffrey and Leo Eaton (2002)

You may wonder at the choice of a book on Irish history being reviewed in the newsletter of a Scottish Clan Sept Society, but, as Scots, we need to understand Irish history before we can grasp the culture and traditions of our Scottish fore bearers. And as MacAskills, we need this account of the connection between the Vikings and the Irish.

These authors have taken full advantage of recent archeological and scholarly research, and visited the present-day sites in the company of a number of experts on the various aspects of the subject, and have organized it all into a very enjoyable as well as informative book.

Although it ends just before Asketil would have fled to Man with his family, and does not mention him or his father, Torquil, it does give us an interesting picture of conditions in Dublin and in Ireland in general about that time, and of the relationship between the Vikings and the Irish kings.

The appendix gives a useful chronology of Irish history a pronunciation guide, and a very extensive bibliography.

The Map Room

Maps of Scotland In 1888



Banner Elk Gathering

By Anne McCaskill Libis

28 **McCaskills**, **MacAskills** and **Caskies** gathered at the Best Western hotel in Banner Elk, North Carolina in July, 2005.

On Thursday evening those present enjoyed dinner together and then a synthesizer concert and sing a long at the local community park.

Friday was for tours of the local sites. Many chose the trip up Grandfather Mountain and enjoyed the view, swinging bridge and zoo. Others enjoyed seeing the Elk River falls and its might.

Friday evening was the ceilidh, highlighting local fiddlers, banjo and guitar players, **TV Barnett and Rhody Jane Meadows**. Rhody Jane, particularly, was a very entertaining, sociable "card." She played her fiddle for President Jamie to step dance and sang with his penny whistle. A few others told family stories.

Saturday morning we took care of some business including voting to have a secretary separate from the treasurer and also to publish at least two and possibly four newsletters each year. After the business several people stretched their legs, learning line dances, taught by **Betty Jackson** and friends from Camden, South Carolina. A picnic on the lawn was enjoyed by a number of us. Saturday afternoon we discussed our various family trees and our common heritage from the Isles of Skye and Harris. **Maxwell Caskie** shared with us how his ancestor dropped part of his name to escape police. **Anne McCaskill Libis** shared her slide pictures of present day Isle of Skye.

Saturday night we all enjoyed a roast beef dinner at the hotel, took group pictures and took part in a successful auction. Only **Maxwell Caskie** wore a kilt. **David Grinwis** provided wine

Thursday and Friday dinners were enjoyed together at the various local restaurants, including The Banner Elk Café, The Corner Palate and Crabby Bill's Seafood. Fresh peaches in season in the Piedmont were provided by the **Jacksons** and the **Don McCaskills**.

Sunday morning was church service at the Linville United Methodist Church. The Reverent Carroll Miller presented a fine sermon re the family and Rev Miller performed the kirking of the tartan ceremony for the whole congregation. Among our group the only tartans worn were scarves and Anne's skirt. Kenneth Potter played "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace" on his bag pipes inside and outside the church.

Several of the 2005 attendees plan to attend the 2006 gathering in Nova Scotia. Your thanks for the activities enjoyed should be directed to the planning committee - **Anne Libis, Don and Ann McCaskill, Linda McCaskill** and **Betty Jackson**.

Banner Elk Gathering





MIGRATION PATTERNS

by Olive McCaskill Bell

When did your family leave Scotland? Where did they settle?

Scots from the Highlands and Islands have descendents all over the world, we know; many more, in fact, than still live in Scotland. Our ancestors left over a longtime-span, and for different reasons. Some of the earliest were much like the restless, adventurous youngsters of today, wanting to see the world, to have exciting experiences in exotic faraway places. Of these, most were single men, who went to sea as mere boys. If one of these married women and settled in a new land, his children might carry his name, or some form of it, but they spoke their mother's language, and were brought up in her culture. Only when the mother was Gaelic would the next generation be culturally Gaelic.

Immigration to the United States and Canada came in waves. I am aware of a number of these, but I'm really familiar with only two. After the debacle at Culloden on 17 April, 1746, life in the Highlands became unbearably hard.

My own McCaskill ancestors, as well as my McLaurin fore bearers, came up the Cape Fear river into North Carolina, in the last decade of the 1700s or the first decade of the 1800s. The story was that, during the American Revolution, many citizens of the Colonies had supported the Royalist side; at the close of the war these people found themselves distinctly persona non grata in their communities. Many of them moved to Canada, where there are towns in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick which they founded. Others returned to Great Britain, leaving gaps in the population in the fledgling States. In the 1790s North Carolina placed advertisements in the newspaper in Glasgow and Inverness, offering land to settlers.

MIGRATION PATTERNS, Continued

Can you imagine what the prospect of land ownership meant to people who could not feed their families adequately, no matter how hard they worked on land they could never hope to own? This, of course, attracted one of the major waves of migration.

From the Scottish Highlands and Islands to the new United States, people came in family groups and claimed land --every male sixteen years of age or older was eligible, so large extended families could settle near each other and form neighborhoods.

The other group with which I am fairly familiar is that of families who were arbitrarily cleared from land their families had occupied and worked for generations, to make room for the Cheviot sheep. These people, many of them MacAskills, were “dumped” in Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada. We hope that representatives of these families will share what they know about their people with the rest of us, perhaps thus making connections with long-lost cousins.

We know from census records that there are only about a couple of thousand MacAskills, all spellings, in the United States. Possibly there are that many more in Canada. We can assume about the same number of women and descendants of MacAskill women, with other surnames. Compared with our MacLeod cousins, or with other major names, such as the MacDonalds, we are a mere handful. Let us hope that, with fewer people to work with, we can learn more nearly all about our people. Won't you please submit your family's story? We would like to expand this into a Genealogy Column, but it will take the full cooperation of all of you to make it worthwhile.

Genealogy Project

By Gary T. McCaskill

Those of you who attended the gathering in Banner Elk know that my primary interest in the Society is genealogy. This newsletter will only confirm that fact. And why not? It's obvious that our common ancestry defines the Society, so it only seems natural. With that in mind, I am proposing a genealogy project.

I'd like to try to map the genealogy of all the McCaskills.

It sounds ambitious and it is - but I think it's doable, and here's why.

- Recent telephone records show only 1685 McCaskill, 129 MacAskill and 109 Caskie listings. About 500 of them are in North and South Carolina.
- Toward the end of the 1700s a statistical survey estimated only 2,000 total inhabitants in the Bracadale Parish on Skye.
- The Andy and Dixie McCaskill book from 1984 provides an amazing amount of genealogical information that can provide a solid foundation.
- Computer software makes the collection, analysis and assembly of several family trees into one large tree easier.
- Online searches of Census, Marriage, Immigration, Naturalization, Land and Death records are not only possible, but easy and productive.
- DNA analysis can confirm relationships where written records are scarce or unreliable.

So you can see that the size and scope of the project are manageable. The information and tools are available. The only thing needed is interest. If you're intrigued by the prospect, and are willing to participate, please email me for more details at:

gary.mccaskill@hotmail.com

Genealogy Tools

DNA Testing

Many people are aware of the growing popularity of DNA testing for genealogical information. I've had this done, and want to recommend a service. I chose Family Tree DNA at WWW.FAMILYTREEDNA.COM. I have confirmed a 12 point match with one other person so far. Simply put it means that there is a 91% chance that we share a common ancestor in the last 600 years. As you would expect, the more markers that match, the more precise the relationship can be determined

An automatic discount is available if you sign up under the MacLeod Surname Project. The most complete test for tracing the paternal line is the Y DNA 37 marker costs \$219. It's simple to do at home and it takes about 12 weeks to get complete results. There's provision to upload a GEDCOM file if you have your family tree on your computer.

Land Grant Information

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains a database of all land grants issued by the federal government that goes back into the 1700s. The site is at WWW.GLORECORDS.BLM.GOV. It is organized by state, and it's easy to search for records by last name. Included in the information is an image of the actual certificate that can be saved and printed. For best results, download and print the PDF file.

McCaskill or MacAskill?

Mac what? How do you spell that anyway?

How many times have you been asked how to spell your last name? And how many times have you had to correct the spelling, either by putting an A or a C after the M? Which is correct anyway? Well the correct way to spell McCaskill, MacAskill, McKaskel, McCaskell, or any other variation is the way **you** want to spell it. After all it **your** name isn't it? And don't let anyone give you any grief about it. There are numerous tales of how the "Son of Askill" (Or was it Asketil?) has changed over the years into forms from Caskie, one of my favorites, to Talisker. If you would like to recount your own story, please send it in. Until then, I guess we'll have to do with George F. Black's version of things. He published a book entitled **Surnames of Scotland** in 1946, and it is the definitive work on the subject. Absolutely everyone that writes of the sources of the McCaskill surname, however spelled, got their original information from him or from someone who did. Was he right? I'm not going to argue that point, but I readily admit that sometimes I wonder. Anyway here is a copy of the actual page from his book that lists our name, so you can be the judge. By the way it's on page 454 of that very thick book.

While we're on the subject of Askill, take a few minutes to review the two pages after the excerpt from **Surnames**. The two pages are from **Early Sources of Scottish History**, published in 1922. They tell the story of Askill's demise. I want to suggest that as you read it, think about what life might have been like if **YOU** had lived over 800 years ago. What would you hope for? What would you value? For what would you live? For what would you die?

McCaskill or MacAskill?

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The New York Public Library

MACARA, MACCARA, *continued*

1769, as also did John Macara of the parish of Buchanan in 1771; John M'Caira was a private in the Reay Fencibles in 1795 (*Scobie*, p. 374); and Sir Robert Macara, colonel of the Black Watch, was killed at Quatre Bras in 1815. Balmacarra in Lochalsh appears to be "village of Macara."

MACARDLE, MACCARDLE, MACARDELL. From Ir. *Macárdghail*, son of Árdghal, 'super valor.'

MACAREE. A variant of MACARA, q.v. Twelve persons of this name are in the Dunblane Commissariat Record from 1680, and the name was common in Muthill district. The name is believed by some to mean 'son of the king' (*Mac a' righ*), and in Balquhiddy it was sometimes Englished 'King' (*Celt. Mon.*, viii). John Mcaree in Braco, 1698 (*Muthill*).

MACARLY. An Anglicized form of MACCARLICH, q.v. Allaster Mc arliche was hanged for treason, 1615 (*Trials*, iii, p. 364). John Mc airlie appears in Monaltrie, 1682 (*Invercauld*, p. 264).

MACARTAIN. A dialectal form of MACARTHUR current in Skye. Hector M'Cartane was one of M'Nachtane's soldiers shipped to France at Lockerran, 1627 (*Archaeologia Scotica*, iii, p. 257).

MACARTHUR, MACCAIRTER, MACCARTER. G. *MacArthair*, 'son of ARTHUR,' q.v. As a clan the Macarthurs were at the height of their power in the middle of the fourteenth century. They received large grants of lands in Lorne and the keepership of the Castle of Dunstaffnage from Robert the Bruce, whose cause they espoused in the War of Independence (*RMS.*, i, App. II, 353, 368, 372, 620, 621). Early in the fifteenth century their power was broken when their chief John MacArthur was beheaded by James I and most of the estates forfeited. The seat of the clan was Strachur, and a sept of the name were hereditary pipers to the Macdonalds of the Isles. A Gaelic saying current in Islay in connection with the antiquity of the Macarthurs is:

"Cnoic is uillt, is Ailpeinich,
Ach cuin' a thanaig Artaarach?"
(Hills and streams and Alpinites,
But whence came the Arthurites?)

Carlch Makkerthyre, witness to an obligation by the earl of Ross in 1439 (*Cawdor*, p. 16) is probably the Tarleto M'Erthir mentioned in 1440 (*Rose*, p. 129). Duncan Makarturicht witnessed a charter of lands in Stratherne, 1529 (*RMS.*, iii, 861), Gyllemechall M'Carthair is in record, 1569 (*Moray MSS.*, p. 645), and

Dougall M'Airthour was sheriff-clerk of Argyll in 1595 (*HP.*, i). Another Dougall M'Arthour was notary at Glenurquhay in 1580 (*BBT.*, p. 224), and John Dow McNeill VcHarther of Torvadithe, who had a tack of the teinds of Inschald in 1618, appears again in 1630 as Patrick McKairtour of Tullierodiche (*LIM.*, p. 116, 137). Mc harter 1549. Some individuals of this name have dropped the 'Mac' and become Arthurs (but not all Arthurs were originally Macarthurs), and the name has been also translated Arthurson, a form appearing as early as 1427 (*HP.*, ii, p. 159). M'Arthor 1589, McArthur 1516, M'Cairtter 1688, M'Carthour 1580, M'Carthur 1529, Mackairter 1640, Mackartar 1690, Makarthour 1518, Makarthure 1507, Makkerthyre 1439, Mc Cartur 1662, Mcerter 1776. General Arthur MacArthur (1845-1912) of Scottish parentage, served in the Philippines, became Lieutenant-General (1906), being the twelfth officer in the history of the U. S. Army to attain that rank. His son, Douglas MacArthur, is equally famous.

MACARTNAY (Fife). *See under* MACCARTNEY.

MACASBAIG. A side form of MACUSBAIG, q.v.

MACASGILL, MACASKILL, MACCASKELL, MACCASKIL, MACCASKILL, MACKASKIL, MACKASKILL. The Gaelic is *MacAsgail*, derived from the ON. personal name *Askell* (for **Asketill*, 'the kettle or sacrificial vessel of the Anses,' i.e. gods). Rob Donn (ed. Morrison, p. 443) spells the name MacCasguill. It was a William MacAskill, probably a member of the family of MacCaskill of Ebost, who led the Clan Macleod against the fleet of Claranald at Eynot, west of Skye, in the sixteenth century (*Henderson*, p. 54). Donald M'Askle was a corporal in the Reay Fencibles in 1795 (*Scobie*, p. 370), and Calum MacAsguill is author of "Bearnaidh na h-Earradh" (in *Alba*, i, no. 4, 1920). Angus McAskill, born in Lewis, died in Cape Breton August 8th, 1863, in his thirty-eighth year. He was 7 feet 9 inches in height, and was known as the Cape Breton Giant. (One of his boots, 16 inches in length, is preserved in the Provincial Museum, Halifax.) A ridiculous bombastic work by James D. Gillis, purporting to be an account of his life, was published in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1919, under the title, *The Cape Breton Giant: a truthful memoir*. The Macasgills are known as *Clann t-Asgail*, and the euphonic *t* has given rise to a forename, *Taskill*, Taskel M'Rory, 1745. Macaskill 1790, Mackaiscaill 1766, Mackaiscal (in Crosple) 1769, Mackaiskill 1783, Mackascal 1769.

Askel, Our Common Thread

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1171

Annals of Ulster, vol. ii, pp. 166-168, s.a. 1171¹

Askel, Thorkel's son,² the king of Dublin, and John³ from the Orkney islands, were killed by the same Foreigners.⁴

¹ With f.n. and e. of 1171.

² For Thorkel's sons, cf. year 1148. Askel seems to have been Thorkel's grandson (see below).

³ *Eoan*. These notes are added between the lines in MS. A, by a different hand: "the Mad"; and: "who had come in aid of Askel and the Foreigners of Dublin."

⁴ I.e., the English (see year 1170, note).

The same passage is in A.L.C., i, 144, s.a. 1171.

The Continuator of Tigernach, 282, s.a. [1171] (with ferial and epact of 1071), and F.M., ii, 1184, s.a. 1171, read: "A battle at Dublin, between Miles Cogan and Askel, Ronald's son, [formerly for a time F.M.]. Slaughter was made on both sides; among the knights both of the English, and of the Foreigners of Dublin. F.M.]. And then Askel fell [there F.M.], and John the Scandinavian [*Eoan Lochlandach*] [from the Orkney islands F.M.]; and many others."

According to F.M., ii, 1176, Askel, son of Ronald, son of Thorkel, was "sovereign of the Foreigners of Dublin" in 1170. He is called *Hasculphus* by Gerald; *Hesculf* and *Esculf* (i.e., Anglo-Saxon *Æscwulf*), in: Dermot. John the Mad came from Norway (Dermot, 166), and was "nephew of the rich king of Norway, according to the Irish."

According to Giraldus Cambrensis (*Expugnatio Hibernica*, I, 13-17; R.S. 21, v, 248 ff.), Raymond Gerald's son landed in Ireland in 1170, and joined earl Richard. They took Waterford, and proceeded to attack Dublin. While terms of peace were being discussed with Laurence, the archbishop of Dublin, Raymond and Miles de Cogan attacked the town, and killed many of the citizens: "but the greater number [of the citizens], with Askel [*Hasculpho*] as leader, went into ships and boats, taking with them the most valuable things that they possessed; and betook themselves by sailing to the northern islands" (257).

King Henry II forbade his subjects to have dealings with Ireland (I, 19; v, 259).

Diarmait, Murchaid's son [*Murchardí*], died at Ferns about the 1st of May, 1171 (263). "At nearly the same time, about Pentecost [16th May, 1171], Askel, formerly prince of the men of Dublin, his mind burning for revenge, landed on the shore of the Liffey, in order to attack the town [of Dublin]; along with Norwegians and islanders, in 60 ships. They sprang emulously out of their ships, led by John, surnamed the Mad [*the Wode*] (which in Latin means 'insane,' or 'vehement'): warlike men, clothed round with iron, after the Danish custom; some with long coats of mail, some with iron plates skilfully sewn together; also with round, red shields, strengthened in circles with iron: men of iron minds as well as iron

Askeil, Our Common Thread

arms. They arrayed their ranks, and attacked the walls, at the eastern gate" (I, 21; v, 263-264).

Miles de Cogan, the keeper of the town, attacked them with inferior numbers. He was driven back to the gate of Dublin; but his brother, Richard de Cogan, led a company from the town, took the invaders in the rear, and routed them. "Nearly all of them were killed. John the Vehement also—not without making a manly defence—was at last fought down, and killed, by Walter de Riddlesford and some others [according to Dermot, 178, John was killed by Miles de Cogan]; and, to increase the victory, Askel, held back by the mud of the shore, through which he had been fleeing to the ships, was brought back alive to the town that he had formerly ruled" (264). Being insubmissive, he was beheaded (265. Cf. Dermot, 180). See also the Book of Howth (ed. Brewer and Bullen, Carew MSS., 1871), 53-54.

Giraldus Cambrensis, u.s., I, 22; v, 265-266: "*The siege of Dublin, made by Ruadri [Rotherico] of Connaught and the islanders.*

"These things having thus been accomplished" (i.e., the defeat of the islanders, and the deaths of John the Mad and Askel), "seeing that the earl [Richard] and his followers were losing strength [*deficientes*], both through wastage of their men, and through lack of supplies (which the island [of Ireland] had till then been accustomed to have in plenty, through English abundance), the Irish princes collected their strength on all sides; and invested Dublin with a siege, with an endless multitude drawn from almost the whole of Ireland: Laurence, the archbishop of Dublin, as it was reported, providing the means for this, through zeal for his own nation. Also letters were sent, both from the archbishop and from Ruadri of Connaught, inviting Godfrey, the prince of Man" (Olaf's son; see year 1160. He is called "Prince of the North Islands" in the Book of Howth, 54), "and other islanders besides, to besiege the shoreward harbour of the town: offering both the persuasion of words, and a liberal promise of remuneration.

"[The islanders] were the readier [to consent], because they were afraid that the danger of subjection threatened them also, as a result of the successes of the English. And when the west-north-west wind blew [*circio zante*], they brought without delay about thirty ships, full of warlike men, to the harbour of the Liffey."

After Dublin had been besieged for nearly two months, Raymond Gerald's son, Miles de Cogan, and Maurice Gerald's son, suddenly attacked Ruadri, and defeated his army. "Many were killed, and all were routed; and Ruadri (who happened then to be sitting in the baths) escaped with difficulty. They pursued the fugitives and the conquered, continuing the laughter until the evening; and at last returned, burdened and at the same time uplifted" (*onerati . . . honorati*; a pun) "by supplies and transport-wagons, and also spoils and arms" (I, 24; v, 269).

Gerald's account of this siege of Dublin is not borne out by the Irish annalists. It is in many respects supported by the Song of Dermot and the Earl, 164-182 (q.v.); but both have a common source, if the Song is not partly derived from Gerald. Cf. the Book of Howth, 54.

CEUD MIL FAILTE

(Say "Key-ood Meel Fowl-cha)

A hundred thousand welcomes, to three sturdy young men who have joined our Sept since last summer.

Conner Lester Doucette, who arrived July 22, is the son of Angus and Marion MacAskill's daughter, Melanie and her husband, Ian Doucette. Their older son is Logan Andrew MacAskill Doucette.

Angus Shaun MacAskill AuCoin arrived on his mother's and his maternal grandfather's birthday, September 12. His mother is the singer, Connie MacAskill, whose Cape Breton CD many of you have. He is, of course, another grandson for Angus and Marion. Oh, and his daddy is Dave AuCoin.

Leo Colin Dettweiler arrived October 1,. His parents are Josh and Molly Bell Dettweiler. He has a big brother, Luke, and his mother is Olive McCaskill Bell's granddaughter.

Folks, this is a column we'd like to run regularly, so please do inform us of births, marriages, deaths, and other important events in your lives, so we all can share each others joys and sorrows.

Submissions

Last year at the Society's meeting in North Carolina it was decided to have a newsletter on a quarterly basis instead of annually. The logic behind the decision was to improve the benefits of membership in the Society, certainly a laudable goal.

As difficult as it may be for groups of more than two persons to make a decision, this one was actually quite easy. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea. However one rather important detail was deferred. That small detail was the selection of a person to actually write, assemble and print the newsletter.

During a later discussion with Olive, while in the excitement of the moment and a glass of wine, I found myself with the assignment.

So here we are, 7 months later, with the first installment of our "Quarterly" newsletter. The tentative plans of the current editor and assistants (Olive and Betsy Bell) are to get out the next newsletter at the end of July, immediately after the gathering in Nova Scotia.

Submissions to the newsletter are encouraged. I would beg, but it's so unmanly. However, if encouragement doesn't yield results, I will be begging in the next edition.

Seriously, we'd like to do articles on McCaskills that may be new arrivals, recently departed, memorable, entrepreneurs, new graduates, or have unusual professions or hobbies. If you just want to get your mother's picture in an internationally distributed magazine, write it up and send it in.

In addition we want to have a "genealogical connections" column that would help in the search for ancestral information.

If you have an idea for an article please let us hear from you. I know this can grow to be something to be proud of if we'll all chip in.

If you want to write an article, that would be very helpful.

Mail or email to the addresses inside the front cover.

The tentative cut off for submissions is June 30.

Note from the Editor

Membership fees for 2006 are now due. Although the gently cranking bureaucracy of Clann Na Asketil discussed an increase from the current \$10.00 to **\$25.00**, no action has yet been taken. The increase would be used to fund an expanded newsletter and help support meetings in the US and Canada. Here is an opportunity for **democracy in its purest form** to shape the actions of a creaking bureaucracy. If you want to help sustain and nurture the society, take matters into your own hands and make your check out for \$25.00 or more. After all, it's for your family, **and it's deductible!**

The hardest part of any endeavor is the beginning, when everything struggles to take shape. We all know the feeling of beginning a new project, and we all know the unpleasantness of procrastination. Don't put yourself through that unpleasantness. Please be a part of the shaping and send in your comments on the back of your membership form

And while you're at it, be generous. Make the check for \$25.00. Show the powers that be that you value the attempt to build a community around our common heritage. I know we can make this association something to be proud of.

Announcement

The annual gathering of the

The MacAskill Sept Society

Will be held July 21-23, 2006

In Cape Breton, NS

Contact President Jamie Wilson for details

Membership

Please return this page (comments on the back) with your check.

Name _____

Address1 _____

Address2 _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Here's another opportunity to shape the society. Just rank the following newsletter topics and activities in order of your preference (1 being most preferred) or add in your own.

___ Genealogy

___ Current Events

___ McCaskill History

___ Scottish History

___ Highland Game Schedule

___ Scottish Travel Info

___ Semi Annual Gathering

Make checks payable to:
MacAskill Sept Society

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Your comments, Please



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