

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

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Summer 2009 **Volume VI, Number 2**

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MacAskill Sept Society
 membership form
 *inside back cover*



**Join us for the 2009
 MacAskill Sept Society
 Gathering**

**Friday October 2 through
 Sunday October 4, 2009**

Camden, South Carolina will be the venue for this year's MacAskill Gathering. Join with kith and kin - old and new - to explore this historic region and learn when and why the MacAskills and other Scots migrated to the area.



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 AUTUMN ISSUE: October 15, 2009

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

The mail bag: corrections, praise, gripes, and humor

The Young Bagpiper

Submitted by Betty Joe McCaskill of Camden, SC

As a young bagpiper, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave-side service for a homeless man, with no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost; and being a typical man did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the backhoe and the crew, who were eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long, but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I played out my heart and soul.

As I played the workers began to weep. I played, and I played, like I'd never played before: from "My Home" and "The Lord is my Shepherd" to "Flowers of the Forest". I closed the lengthy session with "Amazing Grace" and walked to my car.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another:

"I never seen nothin' like that before - and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



Photo of Transylvanian gravediggers by Arnt Sneve, from <http://fotokunst.as/>



MacAskill Sept Society Gathering 2009

From your Gathering Committee, 2009

Where we will go

The next MacAskill Sept Society Gathering will be held from Friday October 2 through Sunday October 4 in Camden, South Carolina. We are very fortunate in that our Gathering coincides with the Carolina Down Home Blues Festival. The Festival line-up for 2009 hasn't been published yet, but you can see the 2008 program at <http://bluesfest.neyeproductions.com>. If you want, you will be able to attend the Blues Festival after our Friday night registration reception, and after our evening program on Saturday.

Where we will stay

The Holiday Inn Express Camden hotel is approximately 1.5 miles from downtown Historic Camden and the Revolutionary War Site. This Camden hotel is located just off I-20 (exit 98) on Interstate 20 and Highway 521. There is a business center with free high speed internet access, on-site fitness center, an outdoor pool, and on-site laundry facilities. Room amenities include coffee maker, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, refrigerator, micro wave, alarm clock, speaker phone with voice mail, 27" television, and high speed internet access.

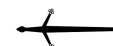


Holiday Inn Express, Camden

Also, within walking distance of the hotel there is a Fatz Café Restaurant, a Waffle House, and a McDonalds.

What we will do

The center pages in this newsletter include the program for the Gathering, highlighting our social, cultural, and business events. Activities will feature a tour of Historic Camden.



Blues Festival 2008

Excerpt from *The Soay of Our Forefathers*

We are pleased to have permission from Birlinn Limited, a publisher based in Edinburgh, Scotland, to reprint a section titled "Notes on the McCaskills" from the book *The Soay of Our Forefathers* by Lawrence Reed.

Birlinn's entire catalogue can be viewed on line at <http://www.birlinn.co.uk>. Birlinn publishes a range of Scottish books, from natural history and hiking guides to contemporary popular fiction (featuring author Alexander McCall Smith).

The Soay of Our Forefathers is the definitive account of a little-known island, from the thirteenth century, when it came into the possession of the chiefs of clan MacLeod, to the evacuation of 1953, when the remaining inhabitants were re-housed on Mull. Note that Birlinn's new edition of this book also includes an epilogue, which brings Soay's history up to date with information on the resettlement and current state of the island.

NOTES ON THE MCCASKILLS

The first McCaskills to emigrate to America were a party of brothers who, with their families, voyaged to the New World five years before the American Revolution. They settled in North Carolina and by the time of the 1784 census there were McCaskills residing in four counties in that state — Anson, Richmond, Montgomery and Moore. Around the year 1800 several of these families resettled in Kershaw and Chesterfield counties in South Carolina.

The head of the family when these emigrations began was John McCaskill of Rhundunan [*spelled "Rubh' an Dunain" in Gaelic -Ed*], who died on 23 February 1775. He was married to Catherine MacLeod, who died on 10 December 1796. John was succeeded by his eldest son Kenneth who was to hold the farm for more than sixty years.

Kenneth was often styled 'Captain Kenneth' in recognition of the years he spent with the British Army in Ireland. Later he emigrated to America, taking a large number of tenants with him. His ship, the *Chalmette* or the *Charlamaine*, reached Wilmington, North Carolina in November 1811.

On arrival some of the immigrants went directly to South Carolina where they joined kinsmen living in Kershaw county. Other families remained in the northern state. At the beginning of the war of 1812

Danny MacAskill, "Inspired" bicycle rider

By Dorna Caskie

Somewhere in the dark reaches of my memory, I recall hearing my son say to me, "There's a kid riding a bicycle on the roof of the bus stop." It was Parliament 2002, we were in Dunvegan, and I probably didn't even look up from the road as we drove by. As it turns out, I missed gaining bragging rights for knowing about Danny MacAskill before he was famous.

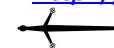
Danny is a 23 year old from Dunvegan who simply, deeply, and astonishingly loves riding his bicycle. Part magician, part dancer, part engineer, he is now forging an international reputation as one of the most exciting "street trials" stunt riders in the world. Even Lance Armstrong has blessed Danny's breakout video on YouTube as a "must see". The video can be found on the internet at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z19zFIPah-o>, and is a mesmerizing 5 or 6 minute spin around Edinburgh, featuring Danny's skilled and disciplined redrawing of Auld Reekie's profile as you've never seen it before.



His star is surely on the rise – the above video alone has been viewed on the internet over 8 million times! But so far Danny seems to be keeping his focus on the things he loves. He has shunned the hyperbolic international publicity that can crush souls, and while he has done some commercial spots he chiefly rides for his equipment manufacturers, such as Inspired Bicycles (<http://www.inspiredbicycles.com>), and leads the Scottish cycling demo team "The Clan" (<http://www.mb7.com/theclan/team.html>).

A bit of trivia for those of you who have visited Skye: Danny's father is Peter MacAskill, notable Dunvegan resident, Gaelic speaker, and developer of the Giant MacAskill Museum and Colbost Croft Museum. (All photos from <http://www.dannymacaskill.com>.)

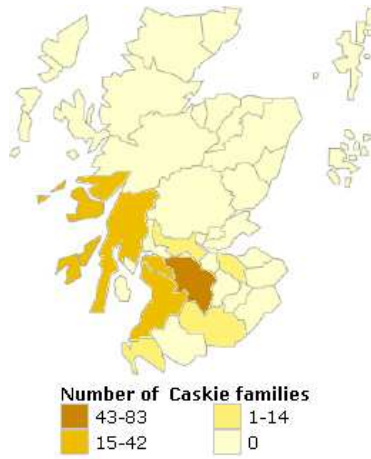


Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is a commercial service, and can be very useful if you know what you are looking for. The maps themselves are free, and are based on the same name data that the National Trust uses. But because Ancestry.com is a commercial service, they offer a number of complementary products to those of us who hunger for our heritage. (Please note that the MacAskill Sept Society is not recommending that you buy all of these products!)

On the Ancestry.com maps, you can further click on a county to list the names of the people represented by the census:

County Map of Scotland



View Record	Name	Parent or Spouse Names	Estimated Birth Year	Birthplace	Relation	Civil parish	County
View Record ★★★★★	Hugh Caskie	name, name	abt 1885	location	relation	city	Renfrewshire
My great uncle Hugh!							
Matches below are less likely to be for your ancestor, but still might be helpful. Names, dates, and locations on old records are often misspelled or different than you expect. Although you'll find fewer relevant matches the further you go, some might be helpful because we look for misspellings, abbreviations, and other possible dates & locations.. Learn more.							
View Record ★★★★★	Hugh Caskie	name, name	abt 1877	location	relation	city	Lanarkshire
My great uncle Josh!							
View Record ★★★★★	John Caskie	name	abt 1862	location	relation	city	Renfrewshire
View Record ★★★★★	Joshua Caskie	name, name	abt 1887	location	relation	city	Renfrewshire

However, if you want to see (or download) copies of specific named records, you will have to pay a fee. Dorna's personal experience has been that the quality of the documents is quite good, but these are basically the same documents you can get through the National Archives. (See <http://www.nas.gov.uk>.)



they were registered as British aliens living in Moore, Richmond, and Robeson counties.

During his sojourn in the United States Kenneth moved around a good deal. One of his sons was born in the city of New Orleans and another son was born in South Carolina. In 1821 the family returned home to Scotland.

Kenneth was married to Christina MacLeod of Leasol. She died on 9 October 1838, aged fifty-five years. McCaskill himself passed away on 1 March 1841, aged eighty-five years. They were buried in the old churchyard at Eynort.

In his will, made before his wife's death, Kenneth divided his estate into five shares. He gave one share to his spouse 'Christina MacLeod or McCaskill'; two shares to Donald, 'my eldest lawful son', one to Jane, 'my only daughter', and one to Lachlan Allan, 'my youngest son'. Three other sons, Kenneth, Alexander and William, all in Upper Canada 'have already received from me a fair and just share of my means and estate, and have been authorised to realise my property in America'.

Kenneth, Alexander and William had emigrated to Canada in 1830. They built the first mill in what today is the village of Cannington, Ontario. In 1840 they moved on to Beaverton by Lake Simcoe, where they were joined from Scotland by their sister, Jane.

In 1879 a local paper published the following details about the family:

Died at the residence of her brother, Mr. William McCaskill, on November 7th last, Miss Jane McCaskill in the 72nd year of her age. She was born at Rhundunan on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Her father was a Captain in the British Army. Two of her brothers are stock raisers in New Zealand; another brother was, when last heard of, engaged in the China and Australian Works. Her uncle by the father's side was a Major-General and for sometime a Governor in the West Indies. The McCaskills were in possession of Rhundunan for a long line of generations. A lease of this place is, or lately was, in the possession of the family dating as far back as the 12th century

According to Canadian records Jane's brother William was born in New Orleans in 1813, and died at Beaverton on 10 November 1883. He was survived by his wife Flora and six daughters. The Woodville Advocate commented:

Mr. William McCaskill, one of the pioneer settlers of Thorah,

was laid to rest on Monday last. Coming here when the township was in its infancy, he was one of those who boldly faced the hardships of the times and hewed for himself a home from the forest which then spread over the entire township, and of those through whose exertions the township has attained the prominent position it has.

When old Kenneth died the farm in Scotland passed to Donald McCaskill. On 17 January 1838 he married his second cousin, Colina McCaskill, who was the youngest daughter of Dr Donald McCaskill of Arisaig and the Small Isles. When the census was taken three years later Donald and Colina were living at Leasol with two small children.

In 1848 Donald entrusted his wife and young family to the care of his brother-in-law, Hugh McCaskill, and sailed to New Zealand, where he joined his youngest brother, Lachlan Allan. The brothers farmed together at Hikutaia which lies fifteen miles south of Thames on North Island.

In April 1855, Colina and three of the children, Christina, Kenneth and Jane, set out for London to take ship to New Zealand. Two other sons, Hugh and Donald, stayed on Skye with their uncle Hugh and only went out to join the rest of the family after his death. A sixth child, John Malcolm, was born in Auckland in 1857.

Donald senior died on 24 February 1883. The Thames Star noted his passing:

Our obituary column today contains a notice of the death of one of the oldest settlers in the district, Mr. Donald McCaskill of Hikutaia, who died at the ripe age of 75 years. Mr. McCaskill was a native of the Isle of Skye and arrived in these parts some thirty years ago. He acquired from the natives a piece of land at Hikutaia on which he and his brother Mr. L.A. McCaskill have resided ever since.

Lachlan Allan died on 17 August 1887, aged seventy-one years. His death certificate reveals that he was born in South Carolina and that he had been in New Zealand for forty-eight years. Colina died in her eighty-first year. She was buried in the Shortland Cemetery at Thames on 30 September 1897.

In the 1880s the four sons of Donald and Colina were living at

THE Soay OF OUR Forefathers

Using genealogy name mapping tools on the web

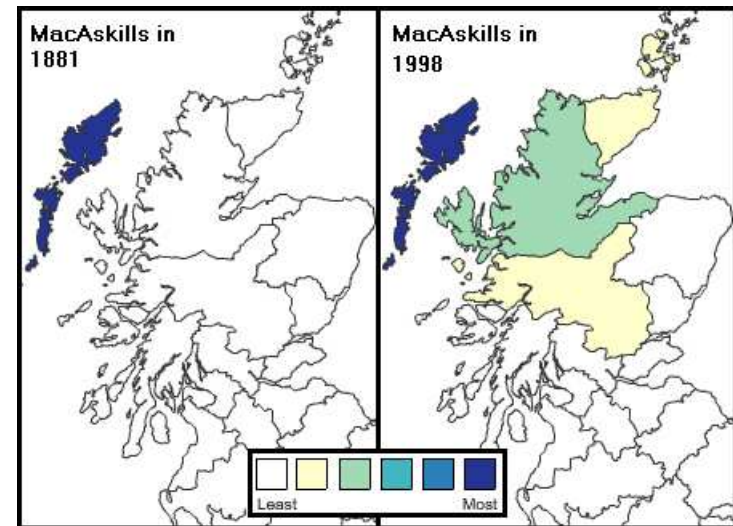
By Allan Blair and Dorna Caskie

Using the internet for ancestral research has become a favorite hobby for many of us, due to the fact that there are so many detailed resources available on-line. But the detail can be overwhelming, and using some of these resources can cost quite a bit of money.

Once in a while we stumble on tools that are free, easy to use, and can help us get our heads up above the flood of familial information. Two of these tools are the free mapping features at <http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk> and <http://www.ancestry.com>. By using these mapping features, you can get an overview of the movement of people with whom you share any family surname (not just Clan names). The underlying data is taken from major government censuses (censi?), and is otherwise publicly available, but these graphical presentations are by themselves very intriguing.

The National Trust

The National Trust maps cover the entire UK and allow you to zoom in on London as well. County names and other map notations are visible as you pass your cursor over the map. An edited composite of some of the maps is below:



The MacAskill Sept Society

☞ **Reconnect with your Scottish heritage – even explore your “inner Giant”!** ☞

As a member of the MacAskill Sept Society you have the opportunity to bond with kin and to share our research. Our dues are held at a level to cover actual costs of communication, and low enough to fit into nearly anyone's ability to participate.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE YEARLY ON JULY 1.

If you do not respond to the renewal reminder when you receive it, we regret that we will have to drop you from the mailing list.

To join or renew your membership, please use the Membership Application at the end of this newsletter.

PLEASE SEND YOUR \$25.00 (in US FUNDS)
CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

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

If you know others who would be interested in receiving this newsletter and joining the society, please e-mail me and I will gladly contact them about membership. Prospective members will receive one free copy of our newsletter.

Thank you
Don MacAskill, Treasurer, Maccdn2002@yahoo.com

Sept MacAskill tartan is still available!

Our beautiful blue MacAskill tartan (which decorates the borders of this newsletter) is pure new worsted Merino wool, 60 inches wide, and 12 ounces in weight. It is available by the yard for \$49.50, or as a 10x96 inch sash for \$37.00 each.

Also available are a selection of uniquely sized sashes, on sale, and priced individually: 11x100 inches \$44.00, 11x94 inches \$41.50, 10x90 inches \$36.00, 10x80 inches \$32.00, 8.5x84 inches \$29.00, 9.5x66 inches \$25.00, 11x55 inches \$24.50.

All prices are in US dollars and include postage for North American delivery. To make a purchase, contact Olive McCaskill Bell at o.mcc.b@bellcasa.com or write her at 3309 El Malecon Road, Albuquerque, NM 87120-2725.

Hikutaia where they were engaged as farmers and bushmen. The youngest son, John Malcolm, died in April 1904 and was buried at Thames. Donald junior died at Paeroa on 25 May 1914 and was buried there. On 8 May 1916 Hugh died at Paeroa and was also buried there. Kenneth, the eldest son, expired on 29 July 1918 and was buried at Kauri.

LANDLORDS OF SOAY¹, 1772 - 1951

1772 - 1801	General Norman MacLeod
1801 - 1835	John Norman MacLeod
1835 - 1895	Norman MacLeod
1895 - 1929	Norman Magnus MacLeod
1929 - 1935	Sir Reginald MacLeod
1935 - 1945	Dame Flora MacLeod
1945 - 1947	Major Gavin Maxwell
1947 - 1951	Island of Soay Shark Fisheries Ltd

FARMERS OF GLENBRITTLE, 1775 - 1929

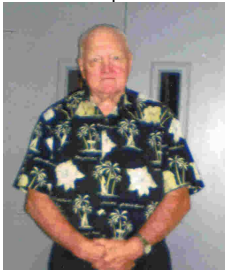
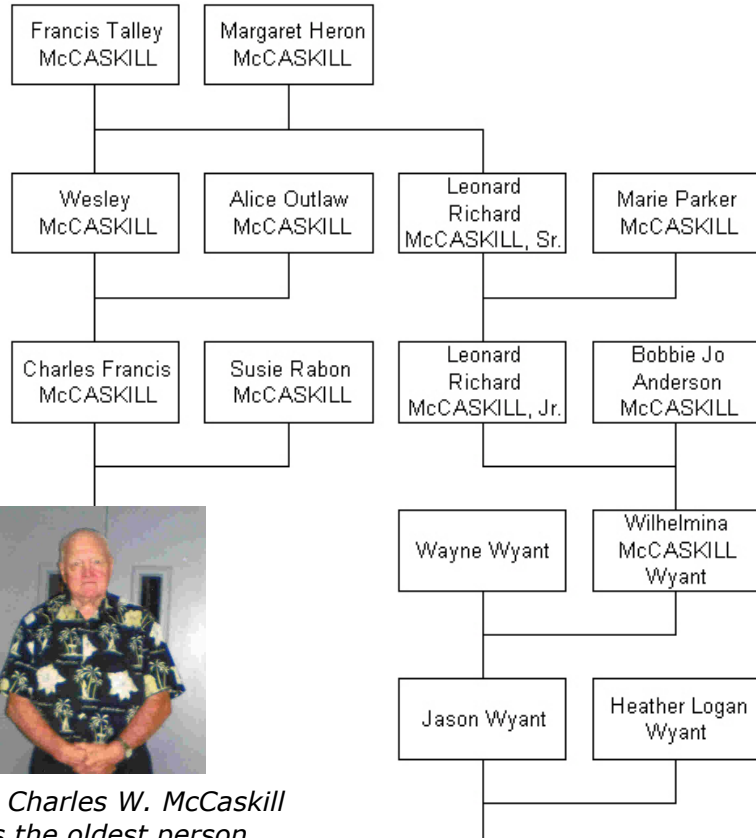
1775 - 1841	Kenneth McCaskill
1841 - 1846	Donald McCaskill
1846 - 1863	Hugh McCaskill
1863 - 1884	Donald Cameron
1884 - 1905	MacLeod of MacLeod
1905 - 1921	John MacDonald
1921 - 1929	Frederick Wishart

Soay of our Forefathers and other great Scottish titles are orderable from Birlinn online, at <http://www.birlinn.co.uk>.



¹ The Island of Soay formed part of Glenbrittle farm throughout this period, except between 1911 - 1917 when it was leased separately to William Meilke. In 1930 it ceased to belong to the farm.

Photos from the Talley and Margaret Heron McCaskill Reunion



At 82, Charles W. McCaskill was the oldest person attending the reunion...



...and the youngest was Makala Wyant, born January 14, 2009.

Idaho MacAskills plan family picnic

The Idaho MacAskills are planning a family picnic July 19th at the Star Community Church grounds, west of Boise, Idaho. Contact Charlotte Coombs for more information at char_855@hotmail.com.



Scottish Year of Homecoming events continue

As we go to press, the flagship Edinburgh-based events for the Scottish Year of Homecoming are nearly underway. (See <http://www.homecomingscotland.com> for more information.)



If you are fortunate enough to be able to travel to Scotland for Homecoming events, please be aware that the Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland is hosting several activities for MacLeods. These include:

- Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July: please join fellow MacLeods at the MacLeod tent in the Clan Village in Holyrood Park, all day;
- Sunday 26th July: Clan MacLeod Ceilidh Dance, at the Holiday Inn North, 107 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh, featuring Derek McLeod's Scottish Country Dance Band; admission is £15. To purchase tickets please contact Stella Henderson in advance of the evening, at stellahenderson@hotmail.co.uk;
- Thursday 30th July 2009: Homecoming on Raasay, details to be posted on our website at <http://www.macaskillseptociety.org> when they are available.

The Spring 2009 issue of the MacAskill Sept Society Newsletter (available now as a download <http://www.macaskillseptociety.org/files/Spring2009v24-Apr-09.pdf>) included an additional list of events at Dunvegan Castle and in the surrounding area. Note that the Jim Hunter lecture is now on 18th July not 11th July as previously advertised. For ticket or further information on the Dunvegan events, please call +44 1470 521206 or send an email to info@dunvegancastle.com.

