

Clan Name and Commander Search Website Content

This document contains all the content on www.clannameandcommandersearch.com. All referenced documents are enclosed within this PDF and available on the website URL mentioned above.

Home Page

This site has all the information you need about the search for a new Commander and the settling of our Clan name.

Three critical tasks need to be completed to participate in this process:

1. Submit your Input Form in the Settling of the Name of the Clan. Deadline is 15-SEP-2024
2. Submit your Notice of Intent if you wish to be considered as a candidate for Clan Commander. Deadline is 01-DEC-2024
3. Submit your Intention to Attend the Family Convention for selection of a Clan Commander. Deadline 01-JAN-2025

All three links and other documents on this website will provide additional information and eligibility requirements. Document forms submitted for Settling the Name, Attendance at the Family Convention, and Selection of a Commander Nominee if altered will be considered invalid.

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacAfee, MacDubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee, and certain other cognates is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (*Ceann-Cath*). The search is on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership, forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief. The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention to be held 17-MAY-2025 at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible individuals of the whole Clan.

Prior to the 2025 Family Convention, the Clan will settle the Clan name in the autumn of 2024. Your Notice to participate is due by 15-SEP-2024. A decision will be made by 29-NOV-2024.

Our Clan has posted this Announcement worldwide to advise those individuals with eligible surnames of the Settling of our Clan name and the Search for a Commander. Could you be considered as the next commander of the Clan?

Organization

- Council of Presidents: The Council of Presidents for our Clan Societies was formed in the Spring of 2023 to lead the process for finding a new Commander. The Council includes Vanessa Duffy (UK), Christer Hemberg (SWE), Gary MacPhie (CA), Kris

Marsh (NZ), James McAfee (USA), Thomas McDuffee (USA), Barbara McPhee (AUS) and Treasurer Finlay McFee (UK).

- Consultant to the Council of Presidents: Dr. Bruce Durie: During our Gathering in Scotland in September 2023, Dr. Bruce Durie presented to the attendees what the process of finding a new commander and eventually a Chief would entail. He held a Q&A session for attendees as an integral part of communications. Since the Gathering in Scotland the Council has made considerable progress on behalf of all Clan members worldwide with the guidance of Bruce Durie.
- Supervising Officer: Professor Gillian Black: The Lord Lyon King of Arms has appointed Carrick Pursuivant Ordinary, Professor Gillian Black, as Supervising Officer to the Family Convention.

ABOUT Bruce Durie: Dr. Bruce Durie lives and works in Scotland. He has an international reputation and decades of experience in helping individuals with their own genealogies, family stories, Coats of Arms, old documents, DNA and more. He has published over 30 books and hundreds of articles, made a large number of TV and radio broadcasts, given talks, lectures and webinars worldwide and led high-level education in these subjects.

Who may participate in these processes?

In order to participate in the clan naming process and/or the Commander search, you must have an eligible surname and submit your Notice of Intent. Following review and approval of this Notice you will be notified of your eligibility.

Find out if you're eligible using the “Who may participate in the choice of the Clan name and Commander.pdf” document enclosed within.

Attend the Family Convention in May 2025 in Scotland!

Fill out the enclosed FORM – Notice of Intent to Attend Family Convention to let us know you're coming.

Numbers may be limited for in person attendance due to site limits. Participants may attend either in person or virtually. Attendees will be confirmed 10-FEB-2025.

Settling the Name

The Lord Lyon has decreed that we settle the name of our Clan. There are no official records at the Court regarding a prior process of determining our name.

Settling of a Clan name will occur in late Autumn of 2024 and must be decided by overwhelming consensus before a Commander candidate is presented to the Lord Lyon. On this page you can find details on how we will go about settling on our name in this process. There will be three choices.

Date of your submission to determination if eligible to participate is 15-SEP-2024.

Why settle on a name?

The Lord Lyon has determined that the Clan select, by overwhelming consensus, a single name. The process of choosing a Commander is a step toward finding a Chief. Therefore, there must be a single Clan name.

Clan Name Options

There are three options for a Clan name and they are (in alphabetical order):

- Clan Dubhsith (pronounced *doo-hee*). The progenitor of the Clan is considered to be Murchardus MacDubhsith or Macdufie of Colonsay, whose grave slab carved in 1539 was placed in the Oronsay Priory in Argyll. The Gaelic name is of ancient origin.
- Clan MacDuffie. As Macdufie was the first non-Gaelic rendition of his name, a modernised version would be MacDuffie (and variants).
- Clan Macfie. In 1981 members of certain Clan Societies chose Macfie as their overall Clan name.

What about our current Society Name?

It is not anticipated that any current Society or Family would change its name. There is no reason why an overall Clan name cannot encompass a variety of eligible surnames. Please note that membership in a Society is not required to participate. You must however have an eligible surname.

Eligible surnames include:

- Dubhsith
- Duffee, Duffie, Duffey, Duffy
- M(a)cAfee, M(a)cAfie
- M(a)cCuish
- M(a)cDuffee, M(a)cDuffie, M(a)cDuffey, M(a)cDuffy
- M(a)cFee, M(a)cFie
- M(a)cPhee, M(a)cPhie

See the "Settling the Name" document for more information.

Commander Search

In 2025, the Clan will be nominating a new Commander, whose primary duty is to find a Chief for the Clan. You may learn about the Clan Commander search process here - including how to apply and eligibility requirements if you are personally interested in the position. The selection of a candidate for Commander must be by overwhelming consensus of eligible participants.

Why choose a commander?

The Council of Presidents of our Clan Societies was formed in the Spring of 2023 to lead the process for finding a new Commander. Our Previous Commander, Iain McFie, following many years of service stepped down in 2021.

Establishing a new Commander will be our first step towards finding a Chief.

The primary duty of a Commander is to find a Chief either through a Court recognized hereditary line or the identification of a candidate for a new Court approved hereditary line.

Dr Joseph J. Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC
Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms



THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
H.M. NEW REGISTER HOUSE
EDINBURGH, EH1 3YT
Telephone 0131 556 7255
Email lyonoffice@gov.scot

**APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISING OFFICER
TO THE FAMILY CONVENTION OF MACDUFFIE, MACDUFFEE, MACDUFFY,
MACFEE, MACPHEE, MACPHIE
and other accepted cognates**

6 March 2024

WE, JOSEPH JOHN MORROW, Lord Lyon King of Arms, do hereby appoint
Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary, Professor Gillian Black, as Supervising Officer to the Family
Convention of the family comprising the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee,
MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates, to report in due course to myself.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph John Morrow", with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Joseph J Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE
The Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms

THE SEARCH FOR A CLAN COMMANDER (*CEANN-CATH*) & SETTLING THE NAME OF THE CLAN

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacAfee, MacDubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee, and certain other cognates* is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (*Ceann-Cath*). The worldwide search is on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership, forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief. The Clan is also in the process of settling the name of the Clan.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention to be held May 17, 2025 at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible individuals of the entire Clan.

Prior to this date the Clan will also settle on a Clan name.

The Clan requires a candidate with the right skill-set and knowledge and who is also well acquainted with the history of the Clan and Scotland's history and heritage generally. That person must also have the time, energy, ability, resources and enthusiasm to attend Scottish Games and Gatherings and to promote the Clan at these and other public events. The Commander is a crucial leader and ambassador for the Clan as it plans its future. Any Commander must be able to work closely with the various Clan Societies and Associations worldwide.

To this end, the Clan is seeking applications from suitable qualified persons bearing one of the Clan surnames. There is more information, guidance regarding participation and the necessary documentation at the following: at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com

Contact: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com

* For the avoidance of doubt, the original Warrant from the Lord Lyon included the line:
“...the Family comprising the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates...”

Dr. Bruce DURIE

BSc (Hons) PhD OMLJ FIGRS
Consultant Genealogist and Heraldist,
Author, Broadcaster, Lecturer

e: gen@brucedurie.co.uk

w: www.brucedurie.co.uk

Shennachie to the Chief of Durie
www.duriefamily.co.uk

Academician, *Académie Internationale de Généalogie*
Right of Audience at the Court of the Lord Lyon



Who may participate in the choice of the Clan name and Commander?

Dr Bruce Durie PhD OMLJ FIGRS, *Shennachie* to the Chief of Durie, Consultant to the Council of Presidents

A Clan is those “of the name”. That much is clear. But who may participate in Clan matters, such as the choice of the Clan name, or the Commander, or the Chief?

There was a time when the only important members of the Clan were the *fine* (the “warriors”) and the *derbhfine* (male close paternal relatives of the Chief) and had a say in anything. This became “Landed and Armigerous Gentlemen of the Surname”. Now, thanks to decisions of the current and previous Lord Lyon, the situation is more egalitarian. Anyone “of the Surname” may have a say.

Nor does it depend on a genetic relationship – in the Scottish Highlands it was typical that anyone living on a Clan’s lands would take the name of the Chief, regardless of any actual familial link.

Which Eligible Surnames?

It is less clear when there are multiple names associated with a Clan – MacDonald, MacDonell, Mac Domnhall, Donaldson, Donillson, Macdaniell, etc. They are still names of the Clan. But please forget everything you have read or heard about “Septs”, which are a purely 19th Century tartan-marketing invention with no historical basis.

A separate document (*Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames*, available at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com) explains that the surnames likely to flow from the original Clan name are: [Duffee, Duffie, Duffey, Duffy], [M(a)cAfee, M(a)cAfie], [M(a)cCuish], [M(a)cDuffee, M(a)cDuffie, M(a)cDuffey, M(a)cDuffy], [M(a)cFee, M(a)cFie], [M(a)cPhee, M(a)cPhie] and minor spelling variants of those.

The surnames Fee, McCaffie, McDuffin, McHaffie, McVee, McVie, Phee, Phie and others likely have a different origin. However, there may be some named Phee (for example) who can show that their surname was originally M(a)cPhee.

Also, the “Mc/Mac” spelling is irrelevant, and it is simply not the case that “one is Irish, one Scots” as often stated.

What about married or adopted surnames?

It’s a quirk of Scottish practice that a woman keeps her maiden surname when married for most purposes, so a Smith who married a Jones might petition for a Coat of Arms as “Mary Smith or Jones” – but she will get Smith Arms, as that is her paternal (birth) surname.

It has become an established practice that a married couple bearing the husband’s surname of, say Macfie, will be considered to act as one person. However, their adult children of the surname may each take part individually.

A divorced or widowed woman who has kept the surname and uses it routinely may take part.

Scots Law is rather conflicted about aspects of inheritance concerning adopted children and those who have changed their names legally, but it would be wrong to exclude those who have spent the majority of their lives called M(a)cDuffie, [M(a)cFee, M(a)cPhie, etc.

But membership or otherwise of any Surname Society is neither inclusive nor exclusive. The important thing is bearing an Eligible Surname.

Any dispute will be resolved according to the law of Scotland and the Scottish courts have sole jurisdiction.

Dr. Bruce DURIE

BSc (Hons) PhD OMLI FIGRS QG
Consultant Genealogist and Heraldist,
Author, Broadcaster, Lecturer

e: gen@brucedurie.co.uk

w: www.brucedurie.co.uk

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The Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames

Dr Bruce Durie PhD OMLI FIGRS, *Shennachie* to the Chief of Durie, Consultant to the Council of Presidents

The following information is a contemporary review of the need for settling a Clan name and the analysis to support the eligible surnames that may participate in the Clan name settling and the Commander selection process. Individuals who believe that they are descendants of these eligible surnames, but with a variant spelling, may provide proofs via the Notice of Intent documents available at the website

www.clannameandcommandersearch.com for eligibility review .

To be clear:

1. The reason the Lord Lyon is keen to see the Clan choose a single name is that the process of choosing a Commander is a step towards finding a Chief, and Lyon will recognise a Chief of Name and Arms.
2. Therefore, there must be a single Clan name- Chief of X makes sense, while Chief of X and X and Z does not.
3. This is not about renaming individual Clan Societies in fact it is not anticipated that any Society would change its name; there is no reason why an overall Clan name cannot encompass a variety of eligible surnames, and therefore Societies supporting particular surname variants:
 - Clan Donald encompasses the Various spelling of MacDonald, MacDonnell, Mac Domnhall etc.
 - Clan Dhail gathers together the surnames Davidson, Davidston, MacDavid, Dawson, etc.
 - Clan Alasdair covers MacAlister and also Alister (variously spelled) as well as Alexander
 - Clan Donnachaidh includes the surnames Roberston, McRoberts and also some Duncan, Duncanson and others
 - Clan Aonghais – MacInnes, MacInnes, McAngus, McCanse and others from Islay, Jura, Iona and the Kintyre, but not Innes which is separate and named for the barony of Innes in Moray.
4. Only those “of the Clan” may participate in the choice of a Name, and in the Family Convention. Therefore, there needs to be some agreement on what are the “eligible surnames”.
5. This is complicated by the fact that surnames may change over time. It was only recently that anyone had control over the spelling of their name – usually it was some clerk or registrar (e.g., a census taker or church officer) who wrote down what they heard. This happened often after emigration to America (but not at Ellis Island, where great care was taken and interpreters employed). Highlanders often gave their father’s name first as was the custom – the MacDonalds of Glencoe actually called themselves Maclain, after their patriarch Iain MacDonald. And, some people changed their names (such as removing the Mc or Mac) in order to fit in, not be identified as Scottish or Irish and so on. During the period when the MacGregors were outlawed and the surname proscribed (1603- 1774) many chose to be known as Gregor, Grigor, MacGeorge, and even White or (very often) Murray.
So, all in all it’s a bit of a minefield.

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This was likely the thinking behind Dr Earle MacPhee trying to draw up such a list (illustrated below). His contention at that time¹ that there are “forty or fifty names ...who shared a common ancestor, the “MacDhubhsith”, is simply incorrect and not borne out by onomastic research.

Dr Earle MacPhee, made other statements that were incorrect including the following:

- **“The clan is registered as Clan MacFie or Clan Macfie”** – It is not clear where such a thing might be “registered”. Dr Earle MacPhee cites as his source Frank Adam’s *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, which has since been found to be not the most reliable of books and which makes no such claim, and only cites four names associated with “Clan Macfie” (Duffie, Duffy, MacGuffie, Machaffie) some of which are not correct at all (see below) and excludes MacDuffie etc.;
- **“No other name of the clan has made application to be armigerous”** – that was not even true in 1981, as there were Arms granted to McGuffie, McHaffie, etc, which by Dr Earle MacPhee’s logic were considered acceptable surnames as part of the Macfie Clan (and since then, there have been other MacPhee, McPhie, MacDuffie etc. who have received Arms);
- **“The Armorial bearings of the Clan MacFie was given to MacFie of Dreghorn, not as a Chief but as an important Chieftain (Lyon Register VII, 89) P. 502”**. This is not correct as Clans do not have Armorial bearings, only individuals, and nowhere in the grants either to Robert Andrew Macfie of Dreghorn (1867) or earlier (1864) to Robert Macfie of Langhouse is there any mention of the word “Chieftain”, and nor could there be without a Chief in place;
- **“The Clan MacFie has four Septs: Duffie, Duffy, MacGuffie, Machaffie (p. 557)”** – the whole business or constructs of Septs is not historically correct. It was promoted by Frank Adam, writing ca. 1900 in Malaya and has been perpetuated by manufacturers of Scottish paraphernalia in their marketing and in some cases by Clan Societies for similar reasons;
- **“There is a Tartan for MacFie of Dreghorn. This tartan is sold as being proper for all members of the clan. The Lord Lyon has not been asked to determine this acceptance as a clan tartan. (p. 617)”** – the tartan Dr Earle MacPhee refers to was first depicted in the 1880 *Clans Originaux*² (as McPhee, and nothing to do with Macfie of Dreghorn) and then in W & A.K. Johnston’s book *Tartans of the Clans & Septs* (1906), later officially approved by then-Commander Alexander 'Sandy' McPhie and recorded by the Court of Lord Lyon LCB 79 dated 29th August 1991: and a fine tartan it is, but others have been registered since then with the Scottish Register of Tartan.³

There are multiple points in Dr Earle MacPhee’s treatise entitled: **THE MYTHOLOGY, TRADITIONS and HISTORY OF MacDHUBHSITH – MACDUFFIE CLAN (McAfie, McDuffie, MacFie, MacPhee, Duffy, etc.)** where cited historical data, regarding surnames, refers to MacDubhsith, MacDuffie or to Macfie as Chief over the centuries.

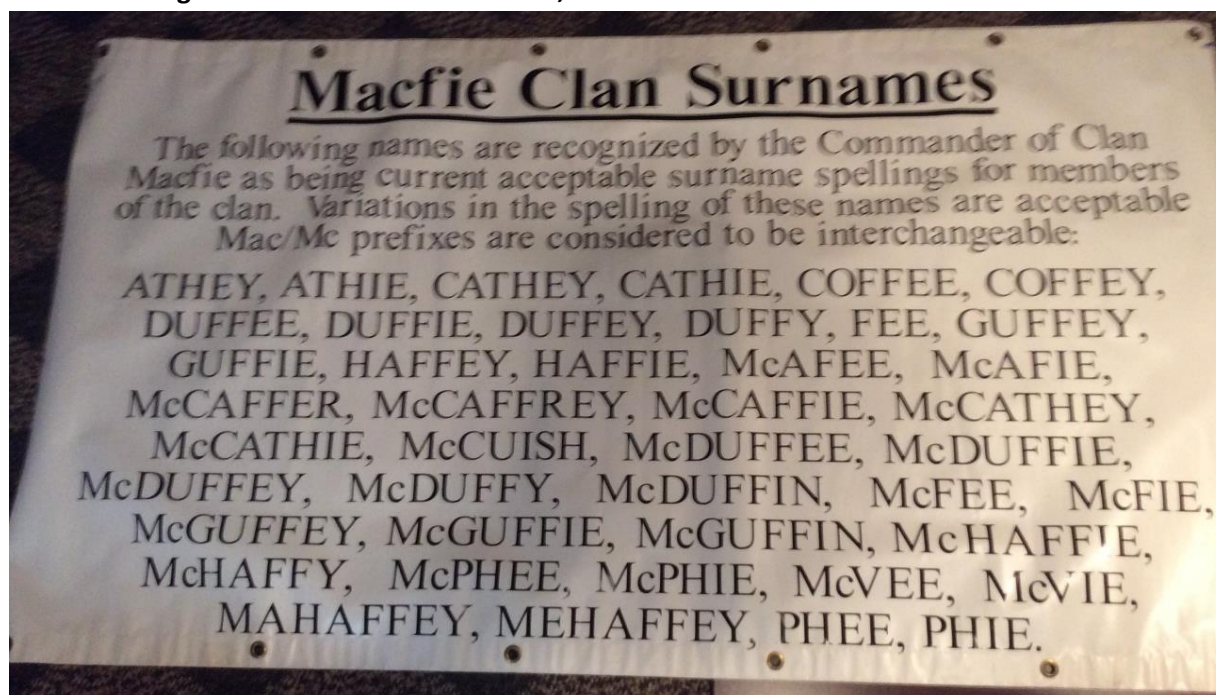
¹ Earle Douglas MacPhee. *The mythology, traditions and history of MacDhubhsith — MacDuffie clan* (1975) Vol. 1 p.1

² This was not a publication but a swatch book (a collection of tartan samples) found in Paris ca. 1880 used by J Claude Fres Et Cie who marketed tartan designs from Alsace – so, not even Scottish, although M. Claude likely copied the patterns of Scottish tartan weavers. Incidentally, the only known copy is in the hands of Pendleton Mills in Portland, Oregon, USA.

³ See <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/qResults?searchString=Macfie>

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The list of “eligible names” referred to above, now discounted.



The following table summarises the best surname information currently to hand, and is the work of many scholars, historians, genealogists and others across the years.⁴ Those considered actual variants of MacDuffie, Macfie, MacPhee etc. and derived from Mac Dubhsith or Mac Dhuibhshíthe are marked with an asterisk *.

Athey	Northern English topographic name from <i>atte hey</i> ‘at the enclosure’ – rare in Scotland.
Athie	See Athey – also rare in Scotland except around East Lothian.
Cathey	Short form of <i>MacCathie</i> , a Galloway surname of unknown etymology but possibly a variant of either <i>McCathen</i> (from <i>Mac Cathain</i>) or <i>McCaughy</i> (from Gaelic <i>Mac Eochaidh</i> or <i>Mac Eochadha</i> ‘son of <i>Eochaidh</i> or <i>Eachaidh</i> ’ meaning ‘horseman’) and the origin of <i>McKechnie</i> , <i>MacEachern</i> .
Cathie	See Cathey.
Coffee	Irish: shortened Anglicized form of Gaelic <i>Ó Cathbhadha</i> ‘descendant of <i>Cathbhadh</i> ’ a byname meaning ‘battle tent’ <i>Ó Cathbhuadhaigh</i> ‘descendant of <i>Cathbhuadhach</i> ’ (‘battle victorious’) or <i>Ó Cathmhogha</i> ‘descendant of <i>Cathmhugh</i> ’ (‘battle slave’). shortened Anglicized form of Gaelic <i>Ó Cobhthaigh</i> ‘descendant of <i>Cobhthach</i> ’ a byname meaning ‘victorious’. Coffee County, Georgia, is named after a Coffee family originally from England.
Coffey	Irish (Cork and Kildare) variant of Coffee.
*Duffee	Anglicized form of Gaelic <i>Mac Duibhshíthe</i> (see <i>McDuffie</i>).
*Duffie	As for Duffee.
*Duffey	As for Duffee.

⁴ In this list, Mc and Mac (and indeed M’) are indistinguishable – the old myth that one is Irish and one Scottish has no basis in reality.

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*Duffy	Irish, shortened Anglicized form of <i>Ó Dubhthaigh</i> ‘descendant of <i>Dubhthach</i> ’ a byname derived from <i>dubh</i> ‘black’ (as in the unrelated Duff), and the name of a 6 th Century Christian saint and archbishop of Armagh. Or, a shortened Anglicized form of <i>Mac Dhuibhshíthe</i> ‘son of <i>Duibhshíth</i> ’.
Fee	Usually Irish, a shortened form of O'Fee from the Gaelic <i>Ó Fiaich</i> , ‘descendant of <i>Fiach</i> ’ meaning ‘raven’.
Guffey	Could be from Gaelic <i>Mac Dhuibhshíthe</i> but usually a shortened form of the variant McGuffey, from MacGuffog, a name from Galloway derived from <i>MacDabhog</i> , ‘son of David’.
Guffie	See Guffey.
Haffey	Curtailed form of MacHaffie.
Haffie	Curtailed form of MacHaffie.
*McAfee	Some are doubtless from MacFee etc. but others may be spelling variants of McCaughey etc.
*McAfie	See McAfee.
McCaffer	Irish, from <i>Mac Cathbharra</i> , ‘son of Cathbarr’, or an abbreviated form of McCafferty.
McCaffrey	Irish, from <i>Mac Gafraidh</i> , ‘son of Godfrey’.
McCaffie	Gaelic <i>Ó Cathbhadha</i> ; see Coffee.
McCathey	See McCathie.
McCathie	Could be an old Galloway surname, possibly a variant of <i>McCathen</i> or <i>Mac Catháin</i> (the origin of McKane) but it is most likely a spelling variant of McCaughey since <i>th</i> for <i>ch</i> or <i>gh</i> also occurs in some anglicized Irish spellings.
*McCuish	It seem that some <i>Mac Dubh Shíthe</i> made their way to North Uist and other islands, and the name became McCuish or Macowis/Macowish, and in the Isle of man, Kewish.
*Mac Dhubhsíth	With variant spellings (e.g., <i>Mac Dhuibhshíthe</i>), from Dhubhsíth, one of the oldest personal names known, possibly from ‘man of dark peace’ composed of the elements <i>dubh</i> ‘black’ + <i>síth</i> ‘peace’ or ‘otherworld dwelling’, and the surname Macdufthi appears in a Dumfriesshire charter of Alexander II (r. 1214-1249) and perhaps linked to <i>Dubsidhe</i> , known to have been a cleric on Iona in 1164.
*McDuffee	Irish and Scottish: variant of McDuffie , from the Gaelic <i>Mac Duibhshíthe</i> ‘son of <i>Duibhshíth</i> ’..
*McDuffie	Scottish and Irish form of McDuffee - compare McAfee and Duffy
*McDuffey	As for McDuffie
*McDuffy	As for McDuffie
McDuffin	Unknown origin.
*McFee	Scottish and northern Irish variant of McPhee, from <i>Mac Duibhshíthe</i>
*McFie	As for McFee, MacPhie, etc., from <i>Mac Duibhshíthe</i> .
McGuffey	Wigtownshire an Kirkcudbrightshire variant of MacGuffog, itself possible from <i>Mac Dabhog</i> , ‘son of David’.

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McGuffie	See McGuffey, MacGuffog
McGuffin	Irish variant of McGaffin, from the Gaelic patronymic <i>Mag Dhuibhfinn</i> from the personal name <i>Duibhfionn</i> , from <i>dubh</i> 'black' + <i>fionn</i> 'fair'.
McHaffie	Form of MacCaffie, a Wigtownshire name from <i>Mac Gille Chathbhiadh</i> , 'son of the follower of St. Cathbad
McHaffy	See McHaffie
*McPhee	Scottish: Anglicized form of Gaelic <i>Mac Dhuibhshíthe</i> 'son of <i>Duibhshíth</i> '.
*McPhie	Scottish: variant of McPhee, above.
McVee	From <i>Mac Bheatha</i> 'son of life' i.e., 'man of religion' the origin of MacBeth and McVey.
McVie	As McVee.
Mahaffey	Irish, variant of McHaffie from <i>Mac Gille Chathbhaidh</i> 'son of the servant of Saint Cathbhadh' (see Coffee, McHaffie).
Mehaffey	Variant of McHaffie, originally a Scottish name taken to Antrim in the 16 th century.
Phee	Could be shortened form of MacPhee, or O'Fee (from Gaelic <i>Ó Fiaich</i>) – see Fee
Phie	As for Phee.

Thus, the “forty or fifty” names derived from *Mac Dhuibhshíthe* and *Mac Duibhsíth* reduce to some six major names with spelling variants which could be considered part of Clan Dhubhsíth, Clan MacDuffie or Clan Macfie.

[Duffee, Duffie, Duffey, Duffy]
[M(a)cAfee, M(a)cAfie]
[M(a)cCuish] (this was a surprise! - BD)
[M(a)cDuffee, M(a)cDuffie, M(a)cDuffey, M(a)cDuffy]
[M(a)cFee, M(a)cFie]
[M(a)cPhee, M(a)cPhie]

No doubt there are some people out there called Fee, Phee, and so on who can trace their lineages back to a Macfie, MacPhee, etc. in which case they should be considered eligible. The same might go for other surnames which have mutated over time. It should be up to the Applicant to prove the case.

And, of course, MacDuff is different.⁵



⁵ Incidentally, the famous 11th Century “MacDuff, Thane of Fife” is possibly a complete invention of Scottish chronicler John of Fordun (d. ca. 1384), later uncritically embellished by other Scottish writers such as Andrew Wyntoun (c. 1350 – c. 1425), Hector Boece (1465–1536) and George Buchanan (1506 –1582), and polished to a high gleam by Shakespeare in *The Tragedie of Macbeth*: (ca. 1606). However, there is a Malisius MacDuf recorded in Fife in 1284 associated with the Earls of Strathearn (paternal line of the Durie family). In any case, this MacDuff surname from Fife is completely unrelated to MacDuffie etc. from the Inner Hebrides (Colonsay, Oronsay, Mull, Islay, Jura, etc.).

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Dr. Joseph J. Morrow, Q.C.
Lord Lyon King of Arms

Russell G. Hunter, Esq.
Lyon Clerk
and Keeper of the Records



THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
H.M. NEW REGISTER HOUSE
EDINBURGH
EH1 3YT
Telephone: 0131 556 7255
Email: lyonoffice@gov.scot

**GUIDANCE NOTE
CHIEFS OF CLANS AND FAMILIES
SUCCESSION OF CHIEFS
FAMILY CONVENTIONS
NOMINATION OF HEIR**

Background

1. For a significant part of its long history large parts of Scotland have been organised in clans and families. These clans and families centred upon kindred groups but their power extended further, particularly in the cases of clans, to encompass all those living in the geographical areas they dominated which altered over time.
2. These clans and families were led by chiefs, their power sustained by their own personal authority and the support of great magnates and landed gentry all coming to be recognised by the ordinary people. As chiefs came to be granted land by charters from the Crown their power and prestige increased and their position came to be universally recognised.
3. Clans and families became a building block of Scottish society encompassing blood, social, marital, martial, commercial, legal, cultural and emotional ties. Over time and at different times in different parts of Scotland economic, industrial, social and political change weakened some of those ties – for example the martial, commercial and legal ties – until the clans and families became principally organisations bound by kindred, social, cultural and emotional ties.
4. Scottish clans and families are organic groupings inextricably connected to Scotland, its culture, law, history and society. Many have a chief. Some, at present, do not because the genealogical connection to past chiefs has been lost and await the day a chief is identified or selected.
5. While a clan or family association, society or other corporate body may be created that body is created only in support of a clan or family. That body is not itself the clan or family. That is an important distinction. The chiefship of a clan or family is regulated by the Lord Lyon King of Arms by regulation of arms. The Lord Lyon does not regulate the leadership of associations, societies or other corporate bodies created in support of a clan or family. That is an internal matter for the association, society or corporate body itself. Any chief recognised by the Lord Lyon as chief of a clan or family is chief of all who bear the name of the clan or family and not only those belonging to a particular body.

Succession

6. The *ad hoc derbhfine* was an ancient process for choosing a successor to the late head of a royal house or great family. This process was adopted within the Scottish clan system for the purpose of selecting a chief involving selection by the great and the good of the clan of an individual from a group falling within the chiefly bloodline. That group essentially comprised all members of the clan, male or female, who could trace their ancestry to the most recent great grandfather in the chiefly line. With social and economic change this process fell into disuse in or around the 13th and 14th Centuries.

7. Since at least the 16th Century to be recognised as chief of a clan or family has required an individual to be entitled to bear the undifferenced arms of the clan or family (i.e. the principal arms of the clan or family that descend from one chief to the next in undifferenced form through the generations) and so be “Chief of the Name and Arms” of the clan or family. It is for the Lord Lyon to determine who has legally succeeded and is entitled to bear the undifferenced arms of a clan or family.

8. To be recognised as entitled to bear the undifferenced arms an individual must establish the right by descent from the original grantee or in some cases from an ancient user of the arms and fall within the destination of the original grant of arms (*Maclean of Ardgour v Maclean* 1941 SC 613). To do that an individual requires to satisfy the Lord Lyon, on the balance of probabilities, by evidence (commonly, birth, marriage and death certificates, entries from Parish Registers and the like) that the individual descends through each generation from the grantee or ancient user of the arms. The individual must also bear (whether historically or by formal change of name) as sole surname the name of the clan or family.

9. Where the undifferenced arms have descended through the same family for many generations it may be relatively straightforward to prove entitlement to bear the undifferenced arms. For example, where a chief has matriculated the undifferenced arms in the *Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland* it may be that the heir need prove only descent from the late chief to prove entitlement to the arms and so to the chiefship.

10. The task is more difficult where the chief of a clan or family has been unknown for some time, perhaps decades or centuries. In such circumstances an individual need prove not only that person’s own descent from the original grantee or ancient user through each and every generation but also that any and all superior lines of descent have been extinguished in accordance with the law applicable to establishing such extinctions.

11. For example, where in one generation there were six brothers and the person making the claim is descended from the sixth and youngest brother, that person would require to satisfy the Lord Lyon not only of that person’s own descent but also that all lines descending from the five older brothers – each of whom would have a senior and so superior claim to the undifferenced arms – has been extinguished. This task must be carried out through all the relevant previous generations.

Family Convention

12. Where a hereditary chief cannot be identified and a clan or family is without a chief there is a process – known as a family convention – by which a commander may be appointed by the Lord Lyon to lead the clan or family. The Lord Lyon may appoint a commander at the request of the clan or family. The purpose of the appointment of a commander is to allow time and space for the clan or family to raise its profile, build itself up, publicise itself and for a potential candidate to be hereditary chief to be identified. One of the principal responsibilities of a commander is to seek to identify any

potential hereditary claimant to the chiefship. If it is not possible to identify a potential claimant who can prove descent from the chiefly line the commander should seek to encourage suitable candidates who may have wide support from the clan or family to come forward as a candidate for the chiefship (see paragraph 18 below).

13. The purpose of a family convention is to allow the clan or family to identify a suitable candidate to be commander. If a family convention is to result in the appointment of a commander by the Lord Lyon the Lord Lyon requires that it must be overseen by a supervising officer (usually one of the Officers of Arms) appointed by the Lord Lyon to chair the family convention and to ensure that it is run efficiently, effectively and fairly.

14. The supervising officer works with the clan or family to make certain that the procedures adopted (for example in giving notice of and advertising the family convention; ensuring participation of people with an interest whether in person or remotely; allowing all participating in the family convention by whatever means to have a say) are understood by all concerned, are transparent and are fair. At the end of the family convention the supervising officer reports to the Lord Lyon.

15. On receipt of the supervising officer's report the Lord Lyon would likely only appoint a commander where the clan or family clearly coalesces around a single candidate. Recognising a commander where a clan or family was divided between two or more candidates would be likely to promote the fracturing of the clan or family rather than its unity. Given the role of a commander and the links of clans and families with Scotland and its people it is generally preferred that a candidate for commander reside within the United Kingdom.

16. A commander is generally appointed for a five year term. The appointment can be renewed at the discretion of the Lord Lyon so long as the commander wishes to continue to serve as commander and can show that the clan or family supports re-appointment. As noted above one of the main functions of a commander is to seek out and encourage to come forward any potential claimant to the hereditary chiefship.

17. If such a candidate comes forward, proves entitlement to bear the undifferenced arms and is recognised as Chief of the Name and Arms of the clan or family by the Lord Lyon then the commandership comes to an end.

18. If no such candidate comes forward there is a mechanism for the Lord Lyon to recognise a person as Chief of the Name and Arms of the clan or family even where that person cannot prove descent from the chiefly line. However, the Lord Lyon is only likely to do so if there has been a commander in position for at least ten years. While a person who served as commander could be recognised as chief in this way with the support of the clan or family there is no expectation that a person who served as commander will be a candidate for the chiefship. Other candidates may have better qualifications or greater support among the clan or family. If, during the period of the commandership no person comes forward to make up title to the undifferenced Arms (i.e. no hereditary chief is identified) it is then possible for the clan or family to seek a further family convention chaired by a supervising officer appointed by the Lord Lyon to nominate a chief for the approval of the Lord Lyon. Once a chief is recognised by the Lord Lyon in this way that chief's heirs constitute the new hereditary line for the chiefship and the commandership comes to an end.

19. Even once a chief is recognised on the basis of the available evidence as being entitled to be Chief of the Name and the Arms of the clan or family or has been recognised by the Lord Lyon as chief there is a 20 year period (the long prescription period) during which that individual's claim to be

chief may be challenged. Once the long prescription period expires the incumbent chief's right to the chiefship is immune from challenge. However, on any chief's death the succession re-opens and a person with a legitimate claim and the evidence to support it may petition the Court of the Lord Lyon to prove entitlement to bear the undifferenced arms. Such a claim must be proved with evidence.

20. Given the resources of the Court of the Lord Lyon the Lord Lyon would be likely to appoint a supervising officer to chair and oversee a family convention only where the clan or family demonstrates that it has fairly wide support and that it has structures in place in different locations. For example, where a clan or family has supportive associations, societies or other bodies in place fostering local or national or international connections.

Nomination

21. An incumbent chief has the right to vary the original destination of the coat of arms and to nominate as successor any individual who is a direct descendant of the original grantee of the chiefly arms or of an ancient user of the chiefly arms and who falls within the destination of the arms. Such a nomination can only have effect once confirmed by the Lord Lyon.

22. A nomination may have early effect if the incumbent chief also resigns the chiefship and the nominee petitions the Court of the Lord Lyon to matriculate the undifferenced arms at which point the Lord Lyon will proceed to consider and determine the petition. If such a nomination is to have later effect – for example on the death or mental incapacity of the incumbent chief – it is advisable that such a nomination be intimated to the Court of the Lord Lyon for entry in the *Register of Intimations of Succession to Arms*.

23. Where such a nomination is made it can be confirmed or rejected by the Lord Lyon only at the point where the succession opens (such as the resignation of the arms by the incumbent chief or the incumbent chief's mental incapacity or death) and the nominee petitions the Court of the Lord Lyon to succeed to the undifferenced arms. It is only at this point when the petition is advertised and any potential objection is made known or rival claimant comes forward that all of the relevant competing evidence can be placed before the Lord Lyon for the Lord Lyon's determination of the claim.

24. This note is for guidance only. It is not intended to be an exhaustive statement of the law. Its purpose is to address practical matters regularly raised with the Court of the Lord Lyon.

25. If you have any questions about, or arising from, this guidance note you should address them to the Lyon Clerk at lyonoffice@gov.scot.

THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
16 December 2021

Dr. Bruce DURIE

BSc (Hons) PhD OMLI FIGRS
Consultant Genealogist and Heraldist,
Author, Broadcaster, Lecturer

e: gen@brucedurie.co.uk

w: www.brucedurie.co.uk

Shennachie to the Chief of Durie

www.duriefamily.co.uk

Academician, *Académie Internationale de Généalogie*
Right of Audience at the Court of the Lord Lyon



THE ROLE OF A CLAN OR FAMILY COMMANDER

The position of Commander – and also of Chief – is less about Status and more about Service.

Traditionally, where a hereditary Chief was unable to lead the Clan in battle for reasons of health, age, infirmity, unavailability and so forth, a Commander or *Ceann-Cath* would be appointed. In modern times, the Clan Commander provides leadership and a rallying-point for a Clan where there is no hereditary Chief.

The procedure for finding a Commander is for members of a Clan to Petition the Lord Lyon King of Arms requesting that he authorise a Family Convention where nominees will be considered. The Lord Lyon will appoint a Supervising Officer – usually an Officer of Arms of the Lyon Court – to oversee the process and to report formally to the Lord Lyon on the person whom the Convention agrees would be suitable to occupy the position.

The nominee should emerge from a consensus. This is not an election process depending on a majority. Candidates should be sought as widely as possible. The role of Commander is different from that of, say, a Clan Society President. The Clan is every one of the surname and cognate names worldwide. Being a part of the Clan does not hinge on membership of any particular Clan organisation, society or association. Of course, such bodies can provide useful structure and organisational help, and should work closely together in a cooperative way to support the Clan overall.

There is no formal job description as such for a Clan Commander. Nominees should be knowledgeable about the Clan's history, heritage and heartlands. They should also have the time, energy, resources and passion to attend Games and Gatherings and other public and private events worldwide to promote the Clan, to be the Clan's ambassador, and to help secure its future by, for example, working to identify a suitable candidate for Chiefship. It is preferable although not required that someone seeking nomination as Commander should live fairly locally to the ancient Clan lands so that he or she can help Clan members visiting the area and provide local information and guidance on matters of Clan interest.

A Commander would be expected to work closely with the Clan Associations and Societies wherever they be based, to be closely aware and involved in Clan Gatherings and AGMs, and generally to lead, guide, promote and present a positive view of the Clan. This means a nominee for Commander must be outgoing and articulate, and capable of providing strong advice and governance to Clan members as required.

While it is in no way guaranteed that a Commander will eventually become Chief, the person nominated should be capable of fulfilling that position.

An example - Clan MacGillivray

Dunmaglas, some six miles east of Inverfarigaig in Inverness-shire, and nearby Dalcrombie, were held by the MacGillivrays at least as far back as the 16th Century. The last MacGillivray chief to live at Dunmaglass was the 13th Laird, Captain John William MacGillivray. He had to sell his estate and died without an heir in 1914. The chiefship had passed to a cousin of his, John Farquhar MacGillivray living in Toronto, Ontario, Canada who was chief for 32 years but died in 1942 without an heir.

Dr Angus MacGillivray tried to claim the chieftainship but was unable to prove his lineage, and died in 1947. Colonel George B. MacGillivray, also Canadian, petitioned the Lord Lyon three times between 1953 and 1989 to be recognised as chief, but each successive Lyon was not satisfied with the proofs submitted. However, Colonel MacGillivray was commissioned as Commander and served for five years until his death in 1994.

That is where things stood until 2016, when a Family Convention was organised by the Clan MacGillivray International Association along with the clan MacGillivray Societies of America, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands.

The 29-year-old farmer and champion piper Iain MacGillivray from Calrossie, near Tain in Easter Ross .was nominated for the role of Clan Commander, which the Lord Lyon accepted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Durie', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

BASIC DUTIES OF A COMMANDER (CEANN-CATH)

Under guidance from the Court of the Lord Lyon, an individual will be identified by consensus at the Family Convention to be held on **17 May 2025** in Scotland, to be proposed to the Lord Lyon King of Arms for his review and approval as Commander or *Ceann-cath*.

Primary Responsibility:

The first and most important duty of a Commander is to find a suitable candidate for Clan Chief that the whole Clan can support. This could be a via documented hereditary family line or the creation of a new Chieflly Line to be reviewed and approved by the Court. This will require another Family Convention and proof documents submitted to the Court of the Lord Lyon.

This will be an appointment that provides leadership to drive the Clan into the future and to be an ambassador for the Clan in all matters. Following are the general duties and position Specifications:

Basic Duties:

- Coordinate clan matters with the various worldwide Clan Societies including International Gatherings
- Manage the Clan's profile with other relevant external bodies (e.g., COSCA, CASSOC)
- Identify and appoint suitable Commissioners to support the Commander – these could be Regional (this is not a prescriptive list but may include e.g., Scotland, UK and Ireland, Europe, Northern North America, Southern North America and Australasia)
- Engage, encourage and enthuse younger members of the Clan
- Drive inclusiveness of the whole Scottish Clan beyond membership of Clan Societies
- Attend gatherings and meetings of the Clan, and of Scottish groups worldwide (Scottish Games and Gatherings, etc.)

Knowledge, Background and Skills Specifications:

- Be of an accepted surname and with a documented genealogy preferably back to Scotland
- Knowledge of the Clan's history
- Knowledge of Scottish history and heritage generally
- Understanding of genealogy, heraldry and accompanying research skills
- Organisational and leadership skills, including budgetary and event planning
- Communication skills – articulacy in speech and writing, IT skills, interpersonal skills, and diplomacy
- Creativity, positivity and inclusiveness
- Coaching skills to support Clan Society leaders and others
- Ability, time, energy, resources, enthusiasm and willingness to travel, including internationally.

It may be that the Commander could become a suitable Chief candidate, but this is not guaranteed.

It is not necessary that the Commander be an Armiger recognised by the Lord Lyon, but it is expected that the chosen Commander will petition for Arms during his or her tenure.

It is not essential that any Candidate holds or has held office in any of the Clan Societies or similar bodies. Please consult the relevant documentation and Notice of Intent to Apply at

www.clannameandcommandersearch.com **Deadline for responses: 01 DEC 2024**

For questions contact: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com

SETTLING THE NAME OF THE CLAN

The Council of Presidents of the following Clan Societies has been asked by the Lord Lyon to specify an overall Clan name, likely before year end 2024, before presentation of a candidate for Commander in May 2025:

MacDuffee Clan Society of America
Macfie Clan Society in Canada
Thorburn-Macfie Family Society (Sweden)
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Finlay McFee Treasurer

Clan MacFie Society (UK)
MacFie Clan Society of America
Clan MacPhee New Zealand

Dr Bruce Durie Consultant

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

Whether or not you intend to be a Candidate for the role of Commander, or to attend the Family Convention in person or virtually, and whether or not you are a member of any Clan Society, you may help us define the name of the Clan.

In order to participate in the Settling of the Clan Name you must have an “eligible surname”. For surname information see below and the documents [The Choice of a Clan Name](#) and [Eligible Surnames](#) at

www.clannameandcommandersearch.com

OPTIONS FOR A CLAN NAME

Briefly, there are three main options in alphabetical order:

1. **Clan Dubhsith** (pronounced *doo-hee*)

The progenitor of the Clan is considered to be Murchardus Mac Dubhsith or Macdufie of Colonsay, whose grave slab from 1539 was placed in Oronsay Priory in Argyll.

2. **Clan MacDuffie**

As Macdufie was the first non-Gaelic rendition of his name, a modernised version would be MacDuffie (This covers all variants such as Mc and Mac plus Duffee, Duffie, Duffy and others).

3. **Clan Macfie** (notice the lower-case “f”)

In 1981 some members of certain Clan Societies chose Macfie as their overall name

(This covers all variants such as Mc and Mac, Macfie, MacFie, MacFee, MacPhie, MacPhee and others).

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **Clan Societies**

First, you do NOT have to be a member of any Clan Society to take part in this.

Second, the choice of an overall name for the Clan will not necessarily affect the name of any particular membership society, who may choose to continue as the Clan MacPhee Society, the Clan MacDuffee Society, the Clan Macfie Society, etc. but as part of the wider Clan with the chosen name.

2. **Who can have a say?**

ELIGIBLE SURNAMES— MacDuffie, MacFie, MacPhee, MacAfee, MacCuish, plus Mc/Mac and spelling variants of these.

If your surname is one of the above or certain variants (some MacAfees, for example) then you are a part of the wider Clan and may express your view.

3. **Consensus is Required**

This is not a vote as such, where a simple majority will succeed. The Lord Lyon wishes to see almost unanimous consent regarding a Clan Name. Therefore, we may return to you, to ask you to choose between a small number of final options.

4. **Ratification** The consensus decision regarding a Clan must be ratified before **1 DEC 2024**.

Note: MacDuff is a completely separate surname of independent origin (from the Kingdom of Fife) and not eligible. Clan Duff did have a Chief, Alexander Duff, 1st Duke of Fife (1849–1912).

Any disputes will be resolved according to the law of Scotland and the Scottish courts have sole jurisdiction.

Personal Information Required for Participation

The sections in **RED** below will be kept confidential within the Council of Presidents so as to assure the privacy of all participants. Your name, country and choice may be available to everyone attending the Family Convention. To assure that participants are eligible you will be provided a code number for attendance.

Please complete the following questionnaire as completely as possible, save it, and forward it electronically (preferred) to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com If you need to submit a hardcopy then please complete and save it, print and mail to the address below.

All electronic or hardcopy submissions must be received by 15 SEP 2024.

FULL NAME	ARE YOU AGED 18 OR OVER? <input type="checkbox"/>
HOUSE/APT No.	STREET
TOWN/CITY	REGION/STATE/PROVINCE/COUNTY
COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE No(s).	E-MAIL ADDRESS¹
WEB PAGE (if any)	

WE NEED TO ACHIEVE OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS FOR THE NAME FOR THE OVERALL CLAN.

WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED NAME FOR THE CLAN? (Tick one box only.)

Clan Dubhsith: ☐ Clan MacDuffie: ☐ Clan Macfie: ☐
(pronounced *doo-hee*)

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY CLAN OR FAMILY SOCIETY, OR OTHER SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP?

(It is not a requirement that you are. Please list as many as possible)

ARE YOU AN ARMIGER (bearer of a personal Coat of Arms and/or other Armorial Bearings issued by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, or another Heraldic Authority)?²

Heraldic Authority
Register No.
(e.g., Year, Volume, Page)

Timetable regarding Settling of Clan Name

Notification of the result for the Clan Name will be made before the Family Convention or during if in attendance.

APPROVAL: Your initial submission with preferences will be reviewed for eligibility to participate and tallied accordingly. If a second round is required, you will be sent a request with your approved ID number to participate in selecting your preference between the two remaining most preferred choices. Please retain your ID number in the event a third and final round is required to reach an overwhelming consensus for a clan name.

ADDRESS FOR POSTAL SUBMISSIONS

**Clan Name Selection
11, Ewart Drive
Dumfries,
DG2 7LT
United Kingdom**

¹ All communications will be electronic.

² Again, this is not required, but helps us build up a better picture of the Clan as a whole.

Any disputes will be resolved according to the law of Scotland and the Scottish courts have sole jurisdiction.

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO BE CONSIDERED AS CANDIDATE FOR CLAN COMMANDER

The Presidents of the following national Clan Societies have formed a Council of Presidents and have petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms for a Family Convention in order to select and nominate a Commander. Our Petition has been approved.

MacDuffee Clan Society of America	Clan MacFie Society (UK)
Macfie Clan Society in Canada	MacFie Clan Society of America
Thorburn-Macfie Family Society (Sweden)	Clan McPhee New Zealand
Macfie Clan Society of Australia	
Co-opted: Finlay McFee, Treasurer	Dr Bruce Durie Consultant

Please note that membership in any of the above Societies is not a requirement for participation. The process is more inclusive in that individuals with an eligible surname by birth may participate. Past practice meant only a few Armigers and Landholders could participate in these important decisions, but now the process is more egalitarian.

The Council is addressing the task of seeking qualified self-nominated candidates for the position of Commander for Clan Dubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee worldwide. (Single Clan Name determination is also pending.) McDuff as a surname is not an eligible surname for this project. It is a separate Clan.

We invite people of the name (Note 1) who wish to be considered as a nominee for Commander to complete the *Notice of Intent*, a questionnaire, and submit it to the Council of Presidents. *Notices of Intent* deemed qualified will be summarized and presented to eligible clan members attending the Family Convention (Note 2) to be held in Scotland on 17 May 2025 for consideration. Also at the Family Convention, candidates who meet the selection criteria will be asked to speak to those attending-either in person or virtually. Addressing the clan in person is preferred. The selection of a candidate will be by a consensus of clan members and that candidate will be presented to the Lord Lyon. It will not be by a straight vote.

The selection of a Commander will affect the Clan for years and may include identification of a future Chief candidate. It is critical to select the most qualified person to undertake this task.

Therefore, the Council requests to review as much about each candidate as may be relevant to the selection process. As far as is practical, all private information will be kept confidential. However, in order for Clan members to be able to make an informed choice we encourage each candidate to complete the following form as honestly and openly as possible. If there is any information that you supply to the Council that you believe should be kept confidential, please identify the information on the form.

If you reach the Commander Candidate shortlist, we reserve the right to carry out confidential Identity Checks, Criminal Records Checks and a review of Records Proofs. We may ask you to provide further information, or send additional documentation. This will be treated confidentially and returned or discarded securely after the process is over. Submission of false information will result in disqualification.

This process is to comply with the GUIDANCE NOTE, CHIEFS OF CLANS AND FAMILIES, SUCCESSION OF CHIEFS, FAMILY CONVENTIONS and NOMINATION OF HEIR issued by the Court of the Lord Lyon 16th December 2021 (Note 3).

Please refer to the Notes on the final page of this document for further information.

The responses to sections in **RED** will be kept confidential within the Council of Presidents so as to assure the privacy of all participants. The remaining completed pages will be available to clan members attending the Family Convention in order to make an informed decision.

Please complete this as fully as possible.¹ When complete, save and submit electronically (preferred) to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com If you need to submit a hardcopy, please mail to the address below.

Please note that both electronic and hardcopy must be received by 01 DEC 2024.

The boxes will expand accordingly.

Full name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Are you aged 18 or over? ☐

House/Apartment No [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **Street** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Village, Town or City [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **Postcode/Zip** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Region, State, Province or County [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Country [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Full postal address if different to street address

House/Apartment No [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **Street** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Village, Town or City [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Region, State, Province or County [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Country [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **Postcode/Zip** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Telephone no +Code [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **Email** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Web page (if any) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

¹ Any modification to this input document will disqualify the applicant.

GENEALOGICAL CLAIM TO CHIEFSHIP

Please complete this as fully as possible. The boxes will expand accordingly.

Do you think that you also might have a genealogical claim to Chiefship of the Clan?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐

If yes or maybe, would you like to be considered as Commander in the first instance?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐

If yes or maybe, please send full documentation with proofs in addition to completing this form

All applicants for Commandership whether or not making a genealogical claim to be Chief. These will be anonymised during initial scrutiny by the Selection Panel.

FULL NAME (Surname in CAPITALS) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Candidate number (to be added after receipt)

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY (no more than 300 words). Include qualifications, experience and expertise that you believe that you have, especially in relation to managing an international Clan which has important links with Scotland.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What clan or family organisation(s) are you a member of, if any? (Note 4)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What roles or offices do you currently hold or have held in any clan or family society, if any? (Note 5)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Can you tell us the number and location of games, gatherings etc. that you have attended? (Note 6) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Why do you wish to become Clan Commander? (No more than 300 words)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What relevant skills will you bring to the role of Clan Commander?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

One of the main tasks will be to work towards identifying a suitable Chief. How would you approach this?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Please outline your plan, in brief, for fulfilling the role of Clan Commander (no more than 250 words)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Please tell us who your earliest proven and documented paternal Dubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee ancestor was. (Name, dates, place, type of proof)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Please note: online Family Trees are not acceptable proof unless there is documentation such as birth certificates and other evidence for every step.

Please attach copies of proofs as separate document(s). They will be kept confidential.

THE COUNCIL PLANS TO CONVENE A FAMILY CONVENTION IN SCOTLAND ON 17 MAY, 2025. All qualified candidates will be notified of the date and location in good time.

Are you willing to attend the Family Convention either in person or virtually? (e.g. Zoom)

Yes ☐ No ☐ If “no”, is there a reason we should be aware of? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Are you an armiger (bearer of a personal Coat of Arms and/or other Armorial Bearings issued by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, or another Heraldic Authority)? (Note 7)

Heraldic Authority [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Register No. e.g. Year, Volume, Page [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

ADDRESS FOR POSTAL SUBMISSIONS

**Notice of Intent - Clan Commander
c/o Duffy
11, Ewart Drive
Dumfries,
DG2 7LT
United Kingdom**

NOTES:

- 1: Please refer to the document: *Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames* at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com which covers eligible surnames for participation in selection of a Commander and Clan name.
- 2: Family Convention is currently planned for 17 May 2025. Attendance may be virtual or in person.
- 3: Please reference Guidance Note as Issued by the Lord Lyon 16 December 2021, available at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com
- 4: Membership in any particular Membership Group is not mandatory, nor is holding or having held office in any such organisation.
- 5: This is not mandatory but may show an understanding of how such organizations function.
- 6: Again, this is not a mandatory, but the Candidate should display an understanding of such events, the role of the International Clan, National Societies and Family groups in attending Scottish gatherings. It also demonstrates a willingness to undertake the potential considerable travel involved, and to be able to devote the appropriate time, resources and commitment necessary.
- 7: Being an Armiger is not required. However, it does demonstrate knowledge of Heraldry

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ATTEND THE FAMILY CONVENTION

If you intend to attend the Family Convention on 17 MAY 2025 in Scotland in person or virtually online, please complete this questionnaire as completely as possible and submit electronically (preferred) to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com If you need to submit a hardcopy then please mail to the address below:

Notice of Intent - Attend Family Convention

c/o Duffy
11, Ewart Drive
Dumfries,
DG2 7LT
United Kingdom

**All submissions, electronic or hardcopy, must be received by 01 JAN 2025 for review by the
Council of Presidents of these Societies:**

MacDuffee Clan Society of America
Macfie Clan Society in Canada
Thorburn-Macfie Family Society (Sweden)
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Clan MacFie Society (UK)
MacFie Clan Society of America
Clan McPhee New Zealand

Co-opted: Finlay McFee Treasurer

Dr Bruce Durie Consultant

The Lord Lyon has approved a Family Convention under the supervision of Professor Gillian Black, Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary, in order to choose a Commander for the Clan. Attendance may be in person or virtually, although access may be limited due to space, so there may be a ballot regarding attendance. This will be held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Beardmore Street, Clydebank, Glasgow, G81 4SA on **17 MAY 2025**.

If you have an “eligible surname” which is required in order to participate (see The Choice of a Clan name and Eligible Surnames at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com) please complete the information below and return this by email form to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com or hardcopy to the mailing address above. Please also refer to the Notes on the final page of this document. All approved eligible participants will be assigned a participant number for admittance to the Family Convention.

The sections in **RED** will be kept confidential within the Council of Presidents so as to assure the privacy of all participants. All decisions will be confirmed by overwhelming consensus since a vote will not be taken as the Lord Lyon wishes to see an overwhelming consensus regarding the nomination of a Clan Commander candidate.

APPROVAL: Notice of approval for you to attend will be sent by **10 FEB 2025** and you will be assigned a registration number to allow you to participate. Please be sure to file the registration number for safe reference.

Please complete this as fully as possible. The boxes will expand accordingly.¹

Full name, including surname at birth or after legal name change. (It is not sufficient to have, say, an ancestor with an eligible name.) Click or tap here to enter text.

House/Apt No. Click or tap here to enter text. **Street** Click or tap here to enter text.

Town/City Click or tap here to enter text. **Region/ State/ Province/ County** Click or tap here to enter text.

Country Click or tap here to enter text. **Postal or Zip Code** Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone No+Code. Click or tap here to enter text. **E-mail address**² Click or tap here to enter text.

Web page (if any) Click or tap here to enter text.

Are you willing to attend the family convention which will be held in Clydebank, Scotland on 17 May 2025? Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> If "no", is there a reason we should be aware of? Click or tap here to enter text. Are you aged 18 or over? <input type="checkbox"/> (Under 18s may attend but not participate)	
Could you attend the family convention virtually e.g. by Zoom or Skype? Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> If "no", is there a reason we should be aware of? Click or tap here to enter text.	
Are you an armiger (bearer of a personal Coat of Arms and/or other Armorial Bearings issued by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, or another Heraldic Authority)? ³ Heraldic Authority Click or tap here to enter text. Register No. (e.g., Year, Volume, Page) Click or tap here to enter text.	
Are you a member of any relevant clan/family society, or Scottish interest group? This is not required, and attendance is not limited to membership of any such group. The Clan is everyone bearing one of the "eligible surnames".	
Society/Group Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text.	Country Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text.

Eligible surnames – MacDuffie, MacFie, MacPhee, MacAfee, MacCuish, plus Mc/Mac and spelling variants of these. For information regarding eligible surnames refer to The Choice of a Clan name and Eligible Surnames at www.clannameandcommandersearch.com McDuff as a surname is not an eligible surname for this project. It is a separate Clan.

¹ Any modification to this input document will disqualify the applicant.

² All communications will be electronic.

³ This is not required, but helps us build up a better picture of the Clan as a whole.