

CLANN NA ASKETILL  
Descendants of Asketil  
**The MacAskill Sept Society**

Summer 2018  
Quarterly Newsletter



## The 2018 Annual Gathering is Coming Soon!



The 2018 Gathering will be held in Frederick, MD  
September 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us for a  
wonderful weekend.

We will be staying at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Frederick, MD. (1-301-637-2000)

Please visit the following link to reserve your room for \$109.

[Click Here to Book Your Room Today](#)

Book your room by 8/10/18 for the group rate.



- Friday Evening, we will have a meet and greet in the hotel lobby around 6pm.
- Saturday Morning, we will have our business meeting and presentations at 10AM.
- Scott and Heidi McCaskill will host a family style BBQ at their home on Saturday.
- We will have our Silent Auction on Saturday evening as well, please don't forget to bring your donations for the auction.
- The Kirkin' Service for Sunday is still being decided.

Please complete the registration by September 1<sup>st</sup>. See Below.

The MacAskill Sept Society - Annual Gathering Frederick, MD - September 7 -9, 2018

**Registration Form**

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Names \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Registration Fee</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Per person</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Before September 1	_____	\$10.00	_____
<b>After September 1</b>	_____	<b>\$15.00</b>	_____

**Friday Dinner**

We are having a welcoming cheese & crackers, etc, for all who arrive on Friday at the Fairfield Inn in Frederick MD @ 6PM

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Dinner**

A BBQ at the home of Scott & Heidi McCaskill in Frederick MD

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Due** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Registration Form and Send Check in US Funds to:**

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

**Last day to register is September 1, 2018**



## Blast from The Past

We will revive articles from previous newsletters in this section.

### The origins of the “Kirkin' o’ the Tartan” By: Olive McCaskill Bell

During World War II the Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the United States Senate, was astonished at the number of Scottish people who were in Washington, D.C. in the service of the British government in various capacities. He felt

Kilvaxter, where the MacDonalds and Mathesons in my mother's family came from, was nearby but we really didn't see anything there. Further on at Uig we waited for the ferry to Tarbert in Harris to arrive.

that there should be some special recognition of them, in which Scots-Americans could participate. So he organized a special service at the National Cathedral, open to the public, but especially for Scots.

Dr. Marshall called this service the "The Kirkin' o’ the Tartan”, and invited all Scots, both those in Washington temporarily and those whose forefathers had immigrated earlier, to bring their tartans to be blessed. The service was received with so much enthusiasm that it has spread all over the country, and is now an annual event in many places.

Most of these services follow the same plan as the first one, although there are, of course, minor differences from place to place. But usually, a lone piper plays outside the place of worship for about half an hour before the beginning of the service. If the Kirkin' is being incorporated into a regular Sabbath service, the piper may pipe the minister and his assistants into the church after the congregation is seated; if of a denomination in which such a procession is customary. Or, he may just cease playing and come in and be seated. The procession is impressive, and if the Kirkin' stands alone, the minister and officers of the sponsoring organization could be piped in. Possibly some of the front pews might be reserved for them.

If it is a regular Sunday service, the normal order of service in that particular church is followed, with the Blessing of the Tartan being inserted, possibly just before the Offertory. In a special event, some hymns might be sung by the congregation, with a choir if available.

The minister usually presents a very short, non- denominational talk, and then invites all those who have brought or are wearing their Clan tartans to bring them forward. The piper plays a march while the tartans are being brought forward. When people are lined up before the altar, the minister prays for God's blessing on the tartans and on the people whom they represent. (At the last one I attended the prayer was extended to our service men and women over-seas). The piper plays people back to their seats. Usually another hymn follows, then the benediction. The piper pipes the minister et al out, and the congregation follows. There is a good deal of leeway for the minister to expound upon the basic plan, so long as it doesn't get too lengthy

# OFFICERS

Lloyd MacAskill - President



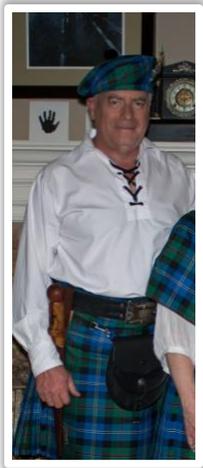
Don MacAskill – Treasurer



Rachel McCaskill Miles – Secretary



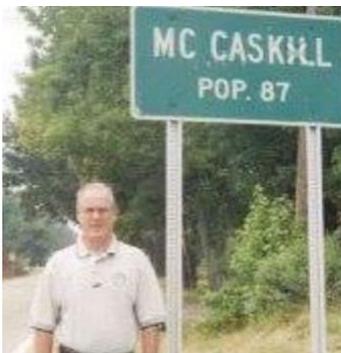
Dan McCaskill – Vice – President, USA



Betty Joe McCaskill – Historian



Earl McCaskill – Vice – President, Canada



Anthony “Miles” Scott – Communications Officer



# Meet the Officers

## Lloyd MacAskill - President

I am from the Englishtown, Nova Scotia MacAskills, sometimes known as the Giant MacAskill family. I was aware of the MacAskill Sept Society almost from the beginning but did not attend a gathering until 2007 in Hampton, NH. There I was elected president after founding president Olive McCaskill Bell decided to step down. Earlier in 2007 we had visited our family homelands in Scotland and met relatives who are still there.

My career has been in computer systems for the healthcare field. I am still interested and active in family history and genealogy as well as building hiking trails. My wife Diane often attends our gatherings, and we have two daughters, Meredith and Heather, both former Highland dancers who are now married.

## Dan McCaskill – Vice – President, USA

Dan (Gerald Daniel) McCaskill is the eldest son of Gerald and Shirley McCaskill – both have passed but were members of the Sept for many years. Dan was born in Hereford, Texas and graduated Andrews Senior High School, Texas A&M University and received his Master of Science degree from Texas A&M in 1983. Dan and Ann have been sweethearts since High School and have been married for 44 years. Dan and Ann have two children and five grandchildren. Dan has been in the business of protecting worker health for 35 years. He has worked in several industries but has been working for BNSF Railway for the past 24 years.

Dan is an active member of the Sept and was elected to the position of Vice President in 2012. He enjoys time with family and travel – Scotland in particular. Dan is a photographer, enjoys playing golf and is very interested in his Scottish heritage.

## Earl McCaskill – Vice – President, Canada

Malcolm Earl McCaskill born February 28, 1942 - I go by my middle name Earl.

- son of Malcolm George McCaskill (b. 1914: d. 1999) and Mary Belle (Hay) McCaskill (b.1921: d. 2017). When the Newsletter was being published before, my mother was a member of the Society, and she had attended a few of the Gatherings (2006, 2008, 2010).
- graduated from Mount Allison University in 1964 with an Engineering Certificate, worked for Bell Canada for a couple of years, and then graduated from the University of Alberta in 1969 with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- married Doreen Parsons in 1967 – celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year by going to Ireland/Northern Ireland. I managed to play a round of golf at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, where the 2019 British Open will be held.
- we have 3 sons: Shawn (Laura Vecchio) and family live in Southlake, Texas. Scott (Heidi Horine) live in Frederick, Maryland. James (Megan McPhee) live in Yarmouth, Maine.
- I retired from Bell Canada in 1997 after 27 years of service. Claim to fame was that I was a co-leader of a study team, and co-author of a final report, which recommended that the Trans Canada Telephone System (TCTS) go completely DIGITAL in 1975. TCTS was an alliance of the major telephone companies in Canada, and this strategy made Canada a World Leader in telecommunications at that time.
- joined the MacAskill Sept Society in 2006 by attending a Gathering in Englishtown, NS
- elected the Canadian Vice-President in 2010 at the Gathering in Towson, MD
- avid golfer – still have not had a hole-in-one
- live on a small acreage on the outskirts of the town of Almonte, ON – the birthplace of the inventor of basketball, Dr. James Naismith. Doreen and I continue to live in the home we built 38 years ago.

### **Don MacAskill – Treasurer**

The first Gathering I attended was the 2005 Gathering in Banner Elks NC. At the Gathering in Englishtown NS in 2006, I was elected Treasurer. I've attended all the Gatherings since. After inquiring lists from different sources, I finally got a master list of MacAskill/McCaskills who had an interest in the Sept Society and went from there. I've tried to maintain an active membership list and keep the dues coming. My grandparents, Angus and Lily MacMillan, left Englishtown and arrived in Massachusetts in the 1890's. They had 5 children, of course, one was my father. Angus was a nephew of "Big Angus", the Cape Breton Giant. Visited Englishtown many times in the 1950's and traveled there last summer and visited with 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins still living in the area. After a tour with the US Army in the late 60's, I went to work for Pitney Bowes and stayed for over 33 years. Married to Nancy in 1972 and have two daughters. Also have two grandsons and one granddaughter. I do some woodworking, reading, and gardening. Keeps me busy. Spend Februarys in Florida away from the cold winters in NH. I enjoy meeting all MacAskills and McCaskills at the Gatherings.

### **Rachel McCaskill Miles – Secretary**

Born in Sumter, SC on May 21, 1941, the first child of Mary Trimnal and Thomas Alvin McCaskill.....Alvin (Mac) was a great grandson of Finley Boykin McCaskill and Susan Sulina Cook McCaskill and great grandson of John William McCaskill. Both were descendants of the 10 sons who came up the Cape Fear River and settled in various areas. Rachel attended the public schools of Sumter County and studied Christian Education and organ at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC

She graduated from the University of South Carolina receiving a BA degree in English (magna cum laude) and later a Master of Education from USC.

She has been involved in music as long as she can remember, studying piano with the late Pansy McCormic while teaching her own students during her high school years under the direction of Mrs. McCormic. She began playing piano for the men's bible class at her church when she was 10 years old and was organist for the church until she left for college. After her studies at BJU., she was organist for Clarendon Baptist Church in Alcolu, SC and First Baptist Church, Manning, SC, taught piano, and assisted with the music program at the Christian Academy, Manning, SC. Over her lifespan, she worked alongside her husband in two radio stations, WFIG and WWDM. In addition, she managed his state political campaigns. Ms. Miles fulfilled a dream of teaching at her old high school SHS and was an instructor of eleventh grade English there for 10 years.

After being contacted with Margie and Harold McCaskill in 2004 about the formation of the MacCaskill Sept Society, she later joined. She first attending a gathering in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, Rachel was asked if she would accept the position of Secretary for the group. Contacted by Anne Libis and Don MacAskill, she agreed to assume that position in September 2009 at the gathering in Camden, SC.

### **Betty Joe McCaskill – Historian**

I am from the line of Finley MacAskill's. I am one of the founding fathers of the society. I enjoy jig saw puzzles and cross word puzzles.

### **Anthony "Miles" Scott – Communications Officer**

Miles Scott, born in Columbia, SC in 1994 is the son of Mary Anne and Tony Scott. Mary Anne Scott, also a member of the society is the youngest daughter of June McCaskill Miles, the second daughter of Mary Trimnal and Thomas Alvin McCaskill.....Alvin (Mac) was a great grandson of Finley Boykin McCaskill and Susan Sulina Cook McCaskill and great grandson of John William McCaskill. Both were descendants of the 10 sons who came up the Cape Fear River and settled in various areas. He is currently in Medical School and enjoys researching his ancestors in free time. He has been serving as the communications officer since our last gathering in 2017, in South Carolina. He hopes to continue improving the website and our newsletter.



## Any Questions about the gathering can be directed to:

Don MacAskill

[maccdn2002@yahoo.com](mailto:maccdn2002@yahoo.com)

1-603-926-4608

Miles Scott

[ascott@carolinas.vcom.edu](mailto:ascott@carolinas.vcom.edu)

Please contact President Lloyd MacCaskill @  
[lloydmaca@aol.com](mailto:lloydmaca@aol.com)

If you would like to purchase  
some MacAskill Tartan



### Follow us on Facebook!

Click on the following link to join “The MacAskill Sept Society” Facebook page.



We would like members to share pictures, experiences, and useful resources on this page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/458130997638435/>

We hope to have our website updated and running soon please be patient as we work on the following website:

<http://www.macaskillseptociety.org>

## Join the Society or

## Renew your Membership

We encourage you to invite  
your MacAskill relatives to join the society!!

Please click the following link to access the  
**Membership Application or  
Renewal Form:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/LFu6FeQo51Gab1ty2>

If you would like to contribute to the quarterly “MacAskill Sept Society Newsletter”, please email the communications officer, Miles Scott, at [ascott@vcom.edu](mailto:ascott@vcom.edu).