



A Landmark Reunion

Aug. 3rd, 2024

A spirit of camaraderie and celebration permeated our reunion as we honored the transfer of the McIntire Garrison, now the oldest verified residential building in Maine (!), from the Davis Family to the Old York Historical Society (OYHS). Cousins who hadn't seen each other since childhood were reunited, we got to welcome some first-timers in person as well as some Zoomers, and had another chance to sample the best desserts in ME! In solemn reverence we held a candle-lit moment of silence for our members who had passed when Steven Mears shared his tribute to our recently departed members, and also for Micum's fellow prisoners of war buried in Durham Cathedral. John Demos presented his detailed map of early Scot's POW homesteads and some Scottish artifacts.



Our furthest-traveled were Dawn and Dave Tull from South Pasadena CA; our most senior was Alice Woffard (York ME), 86. Her grandson, first-timer Malcom (Mac) Girand, 28, (New York City), was the youngest. The Council is delighted to welcome the two newly-elected members: Sandra Utterstrom as Secretary, and Micum Davis, Member-at-large. Denise Threlkeld, Treasurer, and David McIntire, Webmaster, were re-elected to serve at least one more year. Thanks to all for stepping up--it's a great team!

We encouraged folks to explore our amazing website and shared ideas of how to "Grow the Tree" in our McIntire Forest—how to update our magnificent family tree of 1980. Jonathan identified Micum and Dorothy's grandchildren who bore children, and if each of those branches becomes a separate tree, we can update with all the “new” people who belong on the tree since 1980—many of those present and our McIntire relatives! We had more fun tracing our “roots” again on the 1980 trees Jan passed around and saw how we could add our families as branches and leaves. Stay tuned...



After lunch we were joined by a half dozen guests from the York area for an outstanding program marking the historical transfer of the McIntire Garrison from the McIntire/Davis family, represented by Mal Davis, to the OYHS, represented by Joel Lefever. Joel narrated an excellent slide show of its history with further context provided by our Historian Jonathan Tucker. Mal gave a moving statement about his family's loving care of the 311-year-old building and grounds for many decades. Lively discussion followed till nearly 3 pm, and then Joel led tours of the Garrison and Cider House (barn)--the latter never having been open to view during a reunion.

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, August 2, 2025, for Next Summer's Reunion!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jan Maier

It was SO wonderful to see many of you at our August reunion--thank you for coming in person and via Zoom! We have lots of exciting developments this year, but first I want to express our heartfelt concern and support for all our members affected by the hurricanes and other natural disasters this fall. We survive "Per Ardua" (through difficulty, our clan motto) by helping each other. Please let us know if you've been affected.

We are delighted to welcome Sandy and Micum to our Council and have some terrific ideas to sustain our reunion's high energy through the year...take a gander below and let us know which ones tickle your fancy!

Membership: We'd like to do more to welcome new members and reach out to those we haven't heard from since the 100th. We'd like everyone to be on email or text if possible.

Mini-Zoom Possibilities: The McIntire tree of 1980 is an incredibly powerful tool to capture people's interest, as they can actually SEE how they fit into a living tree that connects them back in time to 1650! We can all help grow the "McIntire Forest" (based on the new 8 trees, see Reunion page 1), by learning on Zoom how to fill in our relatives who need to be added to the tree (a step towards "updating the Red Book").

Our old family cemeteries in the York area need some TLC. We can use mini-Zooms to learn how to "map" them, list who's where/when, how to care for the stones, find out where our ancestors are buried, and even organize some maintenance with the Junkins Family Association and the Town of York in their efforts to keep up these treasures, some of which are at risk of disappearing forever into the woods.

Website Enrichment with Members-Only pages (could include recorded mini-Zooms!): We could have "private" pages *not* available to the public, such as a directory where you could look up cousins who live in your town/state, or share special occasions like weddings, births, etc., and stories/videos about our lives, trips to Scotland, how our families migrated westward...we truly are an awesome bunch with an awesome website!

MCIUM's PERCH

by Micum Davis

A recent visit to the McIntire Garrison on a rainy fall day showed signs of new management of the property. Three orange cones now block the opening of the upper driveway. I'm guessing that is to prevent the random visitor from entering there. For some reason the clay soil has never really supported vehicles the way you would hope and deep ruts often formed, especially during rainy spells like pretty much all of 2023. The lower driveway was open, so I pulled my little Prius right in without issue.

Along the field's edge and in the distance, the changing colors of fall are underway. Although many trees are still green and most are still holding their leaves, those which have struggled with leaf blights or drought stress have dropped early. Ash, crab apple, and horse chestnut are regular participants in this act, and that is the case with Micum this year. A handful of leaves were holding on with signs of the horse chestnut leaf blotch. Other than this very common and usually non problematic occurrence, Micum looks great!

When saying that trees "drop" their leaves, it is a quite literal act for many. During the fall deciduous trees have what's known as a leaf abscission zone where the stem of the leaf (petiole) attaches to the twig or branch. This is a layer of cells that the tree actively dissolves through enzymatic activity in order to break the connection of the leaf from the tree to begin dormancy for winter. It is this act which leads to the breakdown of chlorophyll and the unmasking of other photosynthetic pigments present, like carotenoids and xanthophylls responsible for the oranges and yellows, and the protective pigment anthocyanin, which is responsible for the reds, violets, and blues. These pigments are more active in spring and fall when the sun's rays are coming in from the sides more than above, but they're overshadowed by the more dominant pigment chlorophyll, which must wither before the others are seen. So now you can explain why we have such brilliant autumns in New England!



MCINTIRE USA

Series 1: McIntire, IA

Part 3 "Getting to Know Ron and the Town"

by David McIntire

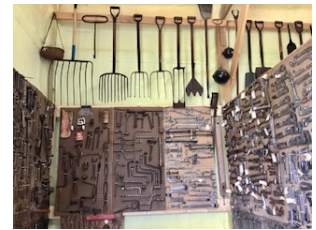
It was about 11:00 a.m. Monday, June 5, 2023, when I arrived in McIntire, Iowa. It was my first time there and I had things to see and things to do. As it turned out, it didn't take long to do either.



I checked out the business district, found John and Sarah McIntire's house, located Goosey's Bar and Grill (the only eating place in town) and visited the local cemetery where John and Sarah McIntire are buried. To my surprise, McIntire does not have a grocery, convenience or drug store, nor gas station. Such services require a trip to a neighboring town.



The highlight of my visit was meeting Ronald Richardson, current owner of the McIntire house. He and his wife, Louise Ann, raised four daughters there while he farmed and served as mayor of McIntire for 25 years, and Louise Ann served as city clerk for 33 years. We spent close to an hour at his kitchen table getting acquainted. Before my visit ended, Ronald proudly showed me a portion of his farm equipment and tool collection, which totals over 2,500 items. Ronald and I continue to stay in touch now every few weeks by phone. I returned to see Ronald this summer and plan to see him again next summer.



COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Micum Davis hails from Kingfield, ME where he grew up working in his parent's restaurant and B&B and skiing at Sugarloaf Mountain. He spent his childhood roaming the mountains of western ME until he moved to Durham, NH where he majored in English with a minor in Environmental Conservation.

Professionally, Micum is an arborist who cares for trees throughout the Seacoast. His business, Cornerstone Tree Care, uses sustainable practices to manage healthy urban ecosystems and assess tree risk to minimize unnecessary removal while keeping residents safe. When trees must be removed, Micum turns the wood into lumber, firewood, or mulch, ensuring that this valuable resource is not wasted, it's "treecycled"! When not up in a tree or working the farm, Micum can be found pedaling down trails on his mountain bike, often with his little dog Uli chasing behind.



Micum also manages Fat Peach Farm, with his wife Jenny, where they grow organic fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, and herbs; and produce honey and maple syrup. Maple sugaring connected Micum to trees in a new way-- recently, his syrup won 4th Place in the Deerfield Fair's maple syrup competition. In Oct. his yummy syrup will compete in the North American Maple Syrup Council's annual contest in Portland. [Editor's question: If we attend can we taste it?]

Micum joined the council in August in order to keep his connection to the McIntire Garrison property following its transition to Old York Historical Society, while deepening his knowledge of the family history and expanding his connection to its extended members. His dad, Dan Davis, was the Historian for many years, and his paternal grandmother was Mary McIntire Davis. Despite attending a handful of Clan Association meetings over the years, Micum is a new member. He looks forward to working with the council as something of a family obligation, and to increase engagement, membership, and enthusiasm for our connection to a unique history worthy of our pride.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Judith Lynn (Maier) Corry, age 80, of Springfield, MO, passed away on September 3. Judy is survived by her husband, Frank, five children, 14 grandchildren, and her younger sister, Jan Maier.



George Claud Payne, 94, of Keystone Heights, FL, passed on October 4. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, younger brother Robert Payne, and younger sister Sandy Utterstrom.

Timothy Tucker, age 70, of Northampton, MA, passed on October 11, leaving his older brother, Jonathan Tucker, and younger sister, Ellen Hartwell.

GENEALOGY ZOOM INTEREST GROUP (GENZIG)

MMCA Historian Jonathan Tucker conducts monthly Zoom sessions exploring the genealogy of Micum and his descendants. No experience needed! We had 10 attendees in Oct. sharing fascinating stories and discussion. The next session is **Thursday, November 14 at 7 PM**. Contact Jonathan at jontuck@comcast.net if you are interested in participating (he'll send you the link) or have questions about your McIntire ancestry. Join us!

FUN FACTS -- SAMHAIN

by Jonathan Tucker, Historian



Samhain (pronounced Saw-win) is one of the four important Celtic fire festivals. It marks the end of the Celtic year and the beginning of winter. At Samhain the veils between the living world and the world beyond grow thin, allowing all sorts of spirits—benign and evil—to pass into our world. Altars large and small were built to honor one's ancestors and invoke their protection.

Samhain was celebrated with dancing, feasting, and rituals of protection that included bonfires. For example, two bonfires might be lit and people and their livestock led between them. Torches from the bonfires would be taken home and kept lit for protection against evil spirits, along with small lanterns made from hollowed-out and carved turnips — “neep lanterns”-- the origin of jack-o-lanterns.

At Samhain, village children would go “guising” from house to house—dressed in costumes and pretending to be malicious spirits. Because they were disguised, it was felt they could mingle with real spirits abroad in the night and come to no harm. At the homes they visited, they were given gifts intended to protect them from spirits. See <https://beltane.org/about-beltane/?fbclid=>

YOUR COUNCIL (dates indicate term end)

President – Jan Maier – 2025 – jemsong7@icloud.com

Vice President – Currently Vacant

Secretary – Sandy Utterstrom – 2026 – sureiki@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Denise Threlkeld – 2026 – mcintireclan@comcast.net

Historian – Jonathan Tucker – 2027 – jontuck@comcast.net

WebMaster – David McIntire – 2025 – dllmcintire@comcast.net

Member-at large– Micum Davis– 2025-micum@cornerstonetree.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Explore our website! <https://micummcintireclanassociation.org/> Questions? Contact a Council Member!