

October 2022



# The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



## Annual Campaign Kicks Off November 1



Thank you for your record breaking support in our year end annual fundraiser last year.  
As we approach the end of the year, it's time to start planning for next year!

As our Society works to maintain our heritage for generations to come, we need **your** help!

This year's campaign will launch on November 1, 2022.

Save the date for our annual fundraising campaign to ensure the Society's continued support of initiatives like the preservation of Dunollie.

We look forward to sharing more about the work your donations accomplish over the coming months!

**Please read and respond** by December 31 to the Membership Appeal you will receive  
-- and help make your Society and its good works better than ever.

**Andrew West Takes First**





Proud Grandparents, Manny and Robin Willis, report that Andrew Douglas West was awarded first place in the Grade 3 snare drumming competition. He is Drum Sergeant of the Siren City Pipes and Drums which also won first place in the Grade 4 band competition. Well done, Andrew!

*Congratulations, Andrew!*

## The Legend of Bloody Mackenzie

The Black Masoleum located in the Greyfriar's Cemetary in Edinburgh, Scotland is said to be home to the United Kingdom's most active poltergeist and is the final resting place of George Mackenzie. Born in 1636, Mackenzie was a Scottish lawyer whose career was most noted for the prosecution of the Covenanters. The Covenanters challenged the idea that the royal family could dictate the particulars of religion, and such a belief led to rampant discrimination and prosecution. Mackenzie imprisoned some 1200 Covenanters on the grounds at Greyfriar Cemetery and earned the moniker "Bloody Mackenzie" for his penchant for torture and mistreatment of the prisoners. In less than a year in the prison, only 48 Covenanters remained.

Mackenzie died in 1691, and was ironically buried near the prison. However, reports of spiritual activity didn't emerge until 1999. The story goes that a homeless man was seeking shelter from the weather, and entered the Black Masoleum. While attempting to root around in the coffins, he fell through the floor and landed in a plague pit filled with the bones of plague victims. The man panicked, and fled, scaring a local dog walker in the process. Reports of paranormal activity soon emerged – a woman was said to have been blown back from the Masoleum by an icy wind. Others have reported a foreboding feeling, and obtaining injuries from a spirit. A local man started the City of the Dead Tour company to provide ghost tours of the area after the city shuttered the Masoleum, believing it too dangerous to remain open to the public.

Despite two attempted exorcisms, there are still hundreds of reports of visitors falling ill, becoming bruised or burned, or being scratched by some malevolent spirit. So what changed to cause all this activity? Legend has it Bloody Mackenzie was awoken from his eternal sleep, and is none too pleased at being disturbed.

Sources

**City of the Dead Tours**

**Atlas Obscura**

**Icy Sedgwick**





## Games Reports

*Oklahoma Highland Games*



Friday was a wonderful turnout. The festival opened at 5pm. Some patrons were there as early as 4:30pm. We had visitors well past Sunset and a few even after dark. This is unusual as our Festival usually has NO visitors on Friday or much on Sunday as well. I am so very thankful to report that 2022's Festival was not the usual turnout. While I have no new members to report as of this newsletter, I had many interesting visitors. Many signed our guest book which delights me with the possibility of further communications. Friday the festival went well after sunset through to the 11 o'clock hour for some.



Saturday morning was amazing! The morning was beautiful and breezy. I got to set up the tables to bagpipes from 5 tents down. I worked the festival alone on Saturday but it was great to visit with everyone that stopped by our tent. Our parade was a bit different than expected. It was more of an introduction than a parade as we didn't march the grounds. However, this time I was able to participate in the "parade of Tartans." The festival again went on through the 11 o'clock hour, though I was done by 9pm at the tent and left festival at around 10pm.

Sunday, I attended the Kirking and enjoyed a day with my youngest daughter and one of my best friends at our tent. The day was hot (again) but offset by a lovely breeze and the folk music tent located right behind us. Sunday the Festival was due to close at 6pm. Most places were closing up by 5pm. We were done by 5pm and left around 5:24.

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma's ScotFest is one of two in our state. I am planning on checking out the festival in Yukon, OK on the 8th of October if all goes well in hopes that we may add another festival to the Oklahoma roster. Hope to see you at our Next Festival!



### *Missouri Highland Games By Doug Fowler*

*Left: Nebraska State Representative Doug Fowler, with Kathy at the Washington, MO festival.*

We had a great time manning the tent on 10 Sept. It's a new but nice festival, 10 clans, as many vendors, animals, and sports. We met only 1 MacDougall (from Australia), and 1 MacDowell. Hopefully, they'll sign up as new members. We were kept quite busy from questions about location of clans on

the map and other info about those clans. I got a lot of use from my reference books. There were several thousand attendees which far exceeded the one held last year.

One thing of interest to come out of this festival was meeting with Scott Sinclair; Clan Sinclair and also vice-president of the St. Andrew Society of St. Louis. He and quite a few other clan reps in the mid-west, plan to have zoom meetings a few times a year to build interest in upcoming events and to discuss other ideas that many clans have in common. I told him I would be available when he schedules these meetings.

## *Virginia Highland Games and Upcoming Christmas Parade*

*By John Dowdle*

The 2022 VA Scottish games were held at The Plains, VA from 3-4 September 2022, Labor Day weekend. Both days drew large crowds, the weather was good but also warm, temperatures topped out in the high 80s. John Dowdle, Cynthia Loden-Dowdle, and Jon McLucas were the tent hosts, but we the clan also had several society volunteers that came to help man the tent and meet the public, see observations. We met several people interested in learning more about the society, so their information was forwarded to our membership department. We were co-located with Clan MacKenzie, which gave us a prime tent location at the games. Some of our tent displays complimented the MacKenzie tent displays, so we drew large numbers of the public to the tents both days. Overall, the games went very well, and everyone enjoyed seeing one another again as life after Covid slowly settles in to the new normal.

The Alexandria, VA Scottish Christmas walk scheduled for Saturday, 3 December 2022. The MacDougall Society is already registered for the parade/walk, and for those interested after the parade, we will gather at Gadsby's Tavern once again for our Christmas luncheon, and listen to 1-2 presentations on Scottish/Celtic history and customs.

The walk begins this year at 11AM. More details will follow as they are ironed out. The cost for the luncheon likely will be between \$20 to \$25 a person, we will let you know later this month after confirming with the venue. This includes salad and bread, an entrée, and a dessert, with complimentary soft drinks, coffee, or tea. You can purchase alcoholic beverages separately if you like. Again, we expect to finalize the luncheon cost within the next 2-3 weeks or so, and we will let you know soonest.

For those interested in attending the luncheon, we would like to have a good baseline number by early November on who would like to attend the luncheon to get a headcount to Gadsby's, that way they can plan what size dining room to utilize to house our society members. You can change your mind later, but the earlier you can provide a decision to attend the luncheon, the easier it is for us to coordinate with the tavern.

Finally, please remember you can march in the parade but do not have to attend the luncheon, or just attend the luncheon and not march in the parade, or just watch the parade, or participate in both. In whatever way you can participate, we would love to see you there!

[Full VA Games Report](#)

[Holiday Walk](#)

## **Queensboro/MacDougall Online Store Now Live!**

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America (CMSNA) has established an on-line store account with the Queensboro Company out of Wilmington, NC. They are a well-established company with very good customer service. The online store has a series of logos that can be applied to a wide variety of garments as you choose to create your own MacDougall and MacDowall clan related apparel. (with more to come!) As an additional benefit, a portion of each order in the on-line store is set aside as a donation in support CMSNA.



Go to <https://CMSNA.qbstores.com> to access the store. Once there, look for the “Register” link at the top, right of the site. Follow the instructions there to create your own account. Once you sign up, if you choose, Queensboro will send you emails and discount promotions that you can take advantage of to save some money through the on-line store.

Once in the online store, you will find two tabs: Logos and Apparel. The “logos” are the designs available, and the “apparel” are the different types of apparel you can order those designs on: from hats, towels, shirts, fleece, outerwear, etc.

### ***TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:***

The **CMSNA.qbstores.com** online store is intended to provide quality, branded apparel to North American CMSNA members, while supporting the work of the Society. Our cousins in Great Britain and elsewhere are more than welcome to create an account and use the on-line store as well, as Queensboro does have international shipping (at extra cost of course). We are currently seeking a similar supplier in Canada to help reduce shipping costs for our members there.

The online store is an official CMSNA project, but it is fully managed by our friends at Queensboro. Please contact Queensboro directly to solve any issues you may encounter in registering for or using the store. CMSNA does not have the capability to help you with that, only Queensboro does. If you must talk to someone at Queensboro, you go to Queensboro company website and you can schedule a time to talk with a customer representative, or use their chat and/or email features. If you want to talk to someone the same day, it is best to schedule in the morning (EST) for a time later in the day, otherwise you can schedule a time for the following work day. They are very good about calling you at the scheduled time.

We hope you find your CMSNA on-line store beneficial and user friendly. And remember, each time you purchase something from the CMSNA online store, you are helping keep CMSNA vital as an organization for the future!

## **New Members**

**Jeri Arnett**  
Saint Helens, OR

**Brett McDowell**  
Burnaby, BC

**Kirk Dougal**  
Van Wert, OH

**Samantha MacDougall**  
Bellevue, PA

**Solace Shell**  
Fort Collins, CO

**Volodymyr Ivanenko**  
Silver Spring, MD

**William McDougall**  
Mahwah, NJ

**Fr. Christopher Gaffery, OFM**  
Derry, NH

**Benjamin MacDowell**  
Columbus, OH

**Tara Hall**  
Porter, TX

**Mike MacDougall**  
Boone, IA

**Jefferey King**  
Warrenton, VA

**Samuel E. Lee II**  
Fredericksburg, VA

**Suzanne LeRiche**  
Burks Falls, ON

**William G. McDonald**

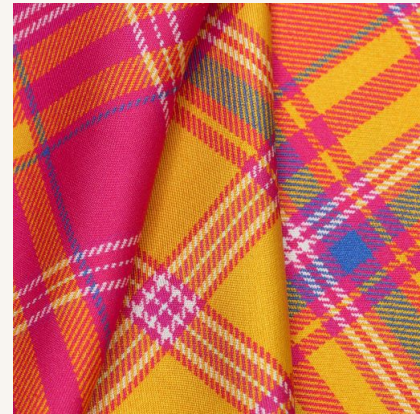
**Travis Miller**

**Melissa Huntington**  
Olympia, WA

## Draper's Shop Spotlight Product of the Month

Sophy's Silk has arrived just in time to prepare for the holiday gift-giving season!

Here's all you need to know about this must-have accessory, which has been inspired by Elisabeth Sophia (Sophy) Timmins, wife of Admiral John MacDougall, 21st Clan Chief of Dunollie, Scotland.



Sophy's Silk

## Online Event at Dunollie

### Clann Dubhghaill: Thoughts on the MacDougalls in the later Middle Ages

*Saturday 22nd October 2022 at 3.00p.m. (UTC+1)*

Meet our Guest Speaker, Dr Martin MacGregor, senior lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Glasgow who will be giving a talk about Clan MacDougall and the late medieval Western Highlands.

Tickets

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### MacDougall DNA Project

Clan MacDougall is one of the oldest clans in Scottish history, tracing its roots back to the mid-12<sup>th</sup>-century. Somerled, a Norse-Gaelic lord, founded the Kingdom of Argyll and the Isles and is widely portrayed as a Celtic hero. Somerled is known to have had at least five sons and one daughter. His son Dugald (also seen spelled as Dubgall and Dougall) became the King of the Isles and the nucleus for Clan MacDougall.

Men are made men, biologically, through the presence of the Y-chromosome (women have two X-chromosomes). The Y-chromosome is passed down from father to son, and genetic

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testing can identify direct paternal ancestors through this chromosomal testing. The MacDougall DNA Research Project seeks to map this paternal MacDougall ancestral bloodline. Participation in the project is currently free for any MacDougall man interested should he meet the required criteria found on the website.

[MacDougall DNA Project](#)

Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or items of interest may contact:

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.

**OUR NONPROFIT MISSION**

To perpetuate Scottish culture through the collection, preservation, and distribution of literary, historical, and genealogical materials, especially those related to Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Preservation of heritage sites and relics is of particular importance, as is the education of our kin through learning opportunities and scholarships. Donations in support of these causes is tax deductible in the U.S. Membership is open to all.

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