

The Tartan

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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MARCH 2012

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Into Spring and Summer...

Winter will be officially over within a month, and the season of highland games will soon begin as well. Best wishes to those who staff our clan tents at games; let us hear from time to time what games you worked at, and how things went. If any of you are involved in Tartan Day celebrations, that would be a news item. In the Washington DC area there will be an outdoor festivity in nearby Alexandria to mark Tartan Day. There will also be several functions on Capitol Hill. One always wonders if this celebration of Scottish heritage is growing or stabilizing.

On into summer, we will have our annual Founder's Dinner during the Grandfather Mountain Games in Linville, North Carolina, on July 13. Our Board of Directors meeting, reception, and dinner will take place, as in all the years since our founding, at the historic Eseeola Lodge. I hope many of you will want to attend.

This year, three weeks after the Grandfather Games, we will have our Annual General Meeting at the Highland Games in Livonia, Michigan, on August 3. Livonia is just outside Detroit, somewhat easier to get to than Grandfather Mountain. This meeting will be the first AGM we have ever held outside North Carolina. I hope we have a good attendance at this event.

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MacDougall Tent at 2011 Detroit Games

Malcolm and Judy MacDougall are coordinating our Board meeting and Founder's dinner. Kevin and Sandy Phelps are our host coordinators at our AGM. Both events promise to be very special.

Besides suggesting that you begin making travel plans for July (Founders Dinner and Grandfather Mountain) and August (AGM), I also strongly recommend a visit to Scotland in September. Oban is a pleasant train ride from Glasgow; it is a lovely small city, with, for us, all kinds of connotations. Dunollie, Castle and House, are shaping up as major attractions with beautiful displays of artifacts and pictures that offer a very special view of our Chief's ancestors and of Argyll, our ancestral home. Please note on page 4 that there is a scholarship offering from the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation.

We will have more information about these events in another issue. We will also announce them through our Constant Contact e-bulletins.

Best wishes for a pleasant Spring and a happy Easter.



President Peter Clepper

PLAN NOW!

Founders Dinner and BBQ in July at GMHG; Annual General Meeting August 3–4 in Michigan

Mark your calendar for our Society's most important gatherings of the year: Our annual Founders Dinner and other festivities surrounding the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and our Annual General Meeting being held in Michigan this year.



Founders Dinner: Always an enjoyable, tradition-filled evening at Eseeola Lodge

The 2012 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games take place July 13 through 15. It is always a weekend of great fellowship, great food, and great entertainment in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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Our annual **Founders Dinner** begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 13, with a formal reception on the lawn of the Eseeola Lodge in Linville, followed by an elegant and festive dinner, and concluding with special entertainment. Watch for further details and a Founders Dinner Reservation Form soon in a future issue of *The Tartan*.

The celebrated **Feast of Porky Campbell** takes place on Saturday, July 14, at 4:30 p.m. The Clan Chief's tent is reserved again exclusively for Clan MacDougall to enjoy plenty of delicious Carolina pork BBQ, Brunswick stew, and desserts. An exclusive added attraction is the Chelsea House Orchestra, talented high school musicians from Michigan who will join us and perform Scottish fiddle tunes while we feast.

Please also plan to attend the Society's **2012 Annual General Meeting** (AGM) during the 163rd Highland Games presented by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, August 3 and 4 in Livonia, Michigan. As announced in the previous issue of *The Tartan*, our AGM location will rotate between the Grandfather Mountain Games and sites elsewhere in the country. The Board of Directors hopes that by rotating venues we will encourage greater membership participation and growth.



Kevin Phelps Describes the Detroit Highland Games

Highland Games have been held in Detroit since it was part of French Canada, long before the United States existed or the St. Andrews Society began hosting the events.

The Detroit St. Andrews Highland Games are the oldest continuous Highland Games held in North America; 2012 is the 163rd year.

Currently, the games are held on the first Saturday in August each year, at the Green Mead Historical site in Livonia, MI. This year the games will be on August 3 and 4.



Kevin and Sandy Phelps, our hosts in Livonia

Continued on next page

The actual "Games" are a one-day event held on Saturday from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. We begin setting up the Clan Tent display on Friday afternoon and complete it early on Saturday morning.

A ceilidh is held from 5:00 to 11:00 PM, at the games site, on the Friday evening prior to the games. We've attended the Ceilidh in past years and it is a very good time for all.

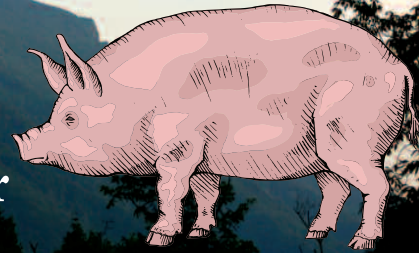
The gates open to the general public at 8:30 AM the morning of the games. Sandy and I (and many other Clan Tent folk) usually arrive much earlier, around 6:30 AM, to complete the Clan Tent display and begin beverage service (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc.).



We usually march in the Parade of Tartans with the other Clans, forming up around 11:30 AM. The Parade starts on or about noon, or more typically, whenever the Welcoming Ceremony speakers stop talking, which in this election year may take a while. Those wishing to participate in the Parade of Tartans should plan to stand in the hot August sun about an hour or so. We have several tartan flags, banners, claymores, and other implements of destruction for the marchers to carry if they so desire. We also have a number of tartan sashes for those who simply wish to wear MacDougall colors without carrying anything.

[The ceilidh on Friday evening is a major event we would not want to miss. Accordingly, we will hold our AGM and banquet in the Embassy Suites Livonia on Saturday evening, Aug. 4. Note that the hotel offers us a special rate of \$89.00 a night. Please watch for further details -ed.]

Barbecue Returns to Grandfather Mountain



Beacham McDougald informs that he has received confirmation from Frank Vance, President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, that we will have the large Clan Chief's tent starting about 4:30 PM for the annual Feast of Porky Campbell. Once more we will have plenty of pork barbecue and Brunswick stew to serve along with other items brought by Clan MacDougall members. The Chelsea House Orchestra, a group of high school students from Michigan who play Scottish fiddle tunes, will join us for supper and perform for us.



The talented Chelsea House Orchestra will create a festive atmosphere for our annual Porky Campbell BBQ Feast on Grandfather Mountain, Saturday, July 14

If you haven't attended the annual Feast of Porky Campbell, you're missing a rare treat. We have great fellowship, great food, and great entertainment on the mountain, immediately after the Saturday games on July 14, 2012.

A Major Grant to the Dunollie House Project

The MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation has made a donation of \$12,000 to the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust to fund the Exhibition Room in the 1745 house at Dunollie. The Exhibition Room has been transformed from a damp storage

room with holes in the ceiling, peeling paint, and leaky windows into a lovely but small room which will show off delicate and valuable objects from the Dunollie Collection. Museum quality lighting has been installed which will insure that documents, textiles and objects will be displayed with the utmost safety to these important parts of our heritage.

The first exhibit planned for the Fall of 2011 is about Alexander, the 23rd Chief. The Exhibition Room is believed to have been his private sitting room. There will be a changing series of exhibits which will include stories from Dunollie, the Hope MacDougall Collection, as well as arts and crafts exhibits.

Other Foundation projects include donating two oak benches that were placed outside Dunollie house and also \$1000.00 for spotlights to illuminate Dunollie Castle. In addition, a book of John MacDougall's 1870 letters to his son was donated to the Lismore museum. Audio-visual equipment for Lismore's oral history project and etched glass windows for the Lismore Museum were given previously.

Founded by the descendants of John MacDougall and Isabel McCallum of Lismore, the Foundation wished to preserve clan history and culture. The Foundation welcomes IRS deductible donations. Contributions may be sent to Ruth McCartin, 33681 Capstan, Dana Pt., CA 92629

The John S. Carasik Scholarship fund awards recipients \$1000.00 to assist the Lismore Gaelic heritage museum and Dunollie house in the presentation of artifacts. Interested parties should apply before the June 30, 2012 deadline. Contact Margaret Carasik at carasikm@comcast.net. For more information see the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation website.



Dunollie House

The Scholarship recipient for the 2011 MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation was Tom McCown, whose report you can read at the MacDougall McCallum website:

www.macdougallmccallumheritagefoundation.org

Applicants for the 2012 Scholarship of \$1,000 are encouraged to apply now, as the deadline is June 30th, 2012. Interested applicants can contact carasikm@comcast.net.

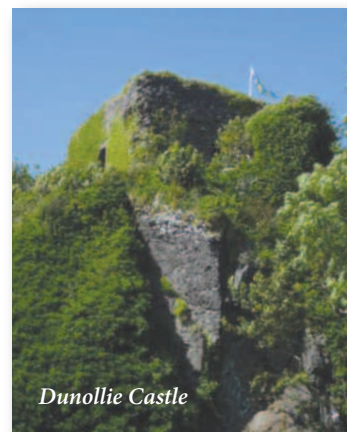
ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT Dunollie Castle

Things are very busy here with the castle at present. All the work to plan the repairs and cost them exactly has now been done, and it is going to cost around £1million [nearly \$1.36 million], which doesn't surprise me at all. There is no cheap way of doing major repairs to extremely important buildings. I am applying to a particular grant fund for it, and keeping fingers crossed. It is all we can do.

We are also writing more panels for The 1745 House and planning for the season ahead. We now have a delightful young Learning and Events team, which are two halves of one job-share, but seem like much more! Tara is an archaeologist and artist, and Yvonne is a native Gaelic speaker, piper, singer, and all-round Celt.

They are taking the story of Dunollie in-to schools, and running events here—next up we have a joint weekend with Archaeology Scotland, with one day spent at Kilbride churchyard where we are kick-starting a graveyard recording project, and the next day at Dunollie with guided walks and other activities. We will gather some new enthusiasts and sign them up for some maintenance of the castle mound to start with.

All go as ever! The year is turning nicely, and the snowdrops are now out which is lovely. Daffodils next!



Dunollie Castle

Catherine Gillies, Dunollie House Project Director



*Captain
Alexander
McDougall*

Seafarer, Ship Builder, Inventor **Captain Alexander McDougall**

[Colin McDougall sends us this from Germany, where he has been a teacher of English for many years, as well as the organizer of Burns Night in Bavaria.

Additional information about Colin follows his article.]

As a child I had heard stories about a rich American forebear who had become famous as a ship-builder on the Great Lakes but nonetheless it came as a big surprise to me when my dad called me in 1986 to ask for my help. He had been approached by a well-dressed man from London who claimed to be a lawyer and was representing a firm of lawyers in North America. The Londoner explained that the last remaining descendants of Captain Alexander McDougall had died and there was a sum of money to be divided amongst any family members left in Scotland.

I was teaching with the US Army in Germany at the time and Dad asked me to contact the city council in Duluth to find out if there was any truth in this. Or was the "London lawyer" a con man? I immediately wrote to Duluth and within a few weeks received a reply that both surprised and fascinated me. "The Captain"—as he was always called in his later years—had been a respected member of Duluth society! There was an autobiography as well as various newspaper and magazine articles which the town library would gladly copy for me. I immediately sent off a money order and within a short time received a large envelope with the promised material. What follows is a short summary of this material. I would

like to thank both the city of Duluth and the St Louis County Historical Society for making this information available to me.

Alexander McDougall was born in Port Ellen on the Island of Islay on March 16, 1845. He was the eldest of the five children of Dugald and Ellen McDougall (Ellen's maiden name was also McDougall). Due to lack of employment opportunities on the island the family moved to Glasgow and then took ship for Nottawa, Canada, in 1853. Alexander's father was killed in an accident in the sawmill of Nottawa one year later and he had to support his mother and siblings. Ellen had, however, learned to be a milliner and was able to make some money at this trade.

Young Alex took a job as a deck-hand on a ship plying its trade on the Great Lakes, worked hard, went to night school, and became an officer. He finally rose to become a captain.

Always interested in shipping, the Captain designed and built a radical form of vessel that could carry more cargo and was more seaworthy than existing ships. "The Whaleback" was shaped like a cigar and made of steel. The rounded upper deck meant that high seas would simply flow off of the ship and not push it down into the water. Forty-five of these ships were built in Duluth alone, more in Everett, a town that the Captain founded in Washington State. Some of these "whalebacks" were still in use in the 1970s. One even sailed to India and returned to the USA via Cape Horn, proving how seaworthy they were.

Captain Alexander's interests were not limited to the maritime

world: At the time of his death over 35 patents in his name were active in the USA and abroad. He was President of the Great Northern Power Company and Vice President of the City National Bank of Duluth. Together with his son he set up and ran the Northern Cold Storage and Warehouse Company. One of his most prominent inventions (apart from the whaleback) was the only method devised for making merchantable the vast deposits of sand iron ores in Minnesota. His final patent was for a power station fueled by peat.

Captain Alexander McDougall died in Duluth on May 23, 1923, survived by his wife Emmeline (née Ross) and two children, Alexander and Emelyn. Three other children had died in childhood.

"The Captain" was another fine example of a great man from Islay.

Colin McDougall

[Colin lives in Weiler in southwest Germany. For 20 years he taught Intercultural Education in US Army schools. He is now a self-employed English teacher, teaching Business English to some well-known companies in the area. He is a big fan of Scottish folk music, especially the Corries and more recently Runrig. Two years ago he celebrated his 60th birthday in Weiler with a Scottish party in a local pizzeria with a pipe band and Scottish country dancing, proudly attired in his kilt.]



Whaleback Ship

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Clan MacDougall Society
of North America

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A Burns Supper in Russia



[Our devoted commissioner in Russia, Vitaliy Negoda, sent us the following about a Russian Burns Supper.]

On Sunday, January 29, 2012 we (my sister Anna and I) held a Burns Supper in Krasnodar, Russia, at the Scandinavia cafe. The program for the event was the following:

- I offered a foreword and told our guests about Robert Burns and his role and place in the minds and

hearts of Scottish people;

- I recited 'I dreamed I lay' by Robert Burns;
- My sister Anna recited 'Anna, thy charms my bosom fire' by Robert Burns;
- James Campbell Fern (of Clan Fraser) from Australia sang 'The Red, Red Rose' by Robert Burns;
- I recited my Gaelic poem, 'Dàn mu Raibeart' about Robert Burns;
- Steve Cadman of Torquay, England recited 'Winter' by Robert Burns;
- James Fern sang 'Auld Lang Syne'; and
- James Fern and I toasted Robert Burns and Independent Scotland with a good portion of fine whisky.

Though we did not have time to prepare haggis, nor were there any bagpipes or technical opportunity to play the fine video message that our friends from Scotland kindly made for us last year, I am certain that our Burns Supper was pleasant for those who took part in it and for our guests too (there were around 40).

Some Very Latest News

Fain MacDougall has just notified us that he will have to step down from our Board of Directors because of the newest addition to his family, a lovely grandchild.

Here is a picture of the entire family; Fain is on the right.



[Editorial Postscript]

There you have the reports of events that have come our way over the last three months. We will publish another edition in late spring, with more information, of course, about our two Society meetings. It would be a pleasure to list the games or other Scottish events you plan to attend. And let us know where and when you may be holding one of our clan tents. In addition to this newsletter, we have other means of communication, on our web page, via Constant Contact e-bulletins, and on Facebook. I'll have a report on these in our next issue.

-- Peter Clepper, editor
Contact: editor@macdougall.org