

THE CLAN MACDOUGALL



Battle Cry: “Buaidh No Bas” Victory or Death

Clan Badge: Bell Heather

Clan Bird: the Raven

The MacDougalls of Lorn are the senior branch of the royal house of Somerled, a famous warrior King of the Hebrides isles and ruler of Argyll until his death in 1164. Clan MacDougall is a very old Highland clan whose Chief, Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, is the 31st Chief of the clan. She is an Honorary President of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America. The Society has a strong membership of MacDougalls whose names are spelled in many phonetic variations such as McDougal, McDougle, Macdouall, Macoual, etc. and for centuries several other Families have been important parts of our clan, as discussed below.

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America:

1. Promotes interest in Scottish heritage and Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall and helps to research their history and support their heritages.
2. Helps support our historic places including Dunollie and Gylen castles.
3. Publishes “The Tartan” newsletter, has a web site at www.macdougall.org and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

Membership in the Society is open to all persons and their descendants who support Clan MacDougall or Clan MacDowall or the Families associated with these two clans.

1. Spelling variations of MacDougall or MacDowall with or without the “Mac” or “Mc” in all spellings include Cole, Dougall, Dowall, Macdoul, McDougal, McDougle, MacDolothé, Macoul, Macdowal, MacDowell, MacHale, MacHowall and many others.

During the centuries that Clan MacDougall was a powerful influence along the West Highland Coast, a number of families had important roles in this clan. Members of these families are most welcome to join our Society and support their clan heritage.

2. These Family Surnames with or without the “Mac” or “Mc” in all spellings include Carmichael of Argyll, Conacher, Livingston(e) of Argyll, MacCowan, MacCoyle, MacCulloch, MacCullagh, MacEwen, MacKichan, MacClintock, MacLucas, MacLugash, MacLulich, and MacNamell. All surnames have

numerous variations and all name spellings are eligible for membership in our Clan MacDougall Society of North America.

Members support their clan and their heritage and are most welcome in our Society. Membership information is available at <http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

Origins in Scotland

Mac means "son of" while the term "clan" comes from the Gaelic word for children. Thus, Clan MacDougall (Clann Mhic Dhùghail) means "the children of the son of Dugal". The name Dugal derived from the Gaelic words "dubh" meaning dark or black and "gall" meaning foreigner or stranger. Hence Dugal translates as "Dark Foreigner" or "Black Stranger" which was a Gaelic term for persons of Norse descent.

Our clan's heritage from the Gael and the Norse is shown in the present arms of the MacDougall Chiefs which quarter the lion of the ancient Scottish Kingdom of Dalriada and the black royal galley of the Norse.

In 1164 Somerled died in the Battle of Renfrew fighting the forces of the King of Scots near the banks of the River Clyde. Dugal, his oldest living son, inherited the central portion of his father's kingdom and became the founder and first Chief of Clan MacDougall. Our seagoing clan was based on the Hebrides isles of Mull, Coll, Tiree, Jura and Kerrera then owned by Norway, and on the Scottish mainland in Lorn and Argyll on the west coast of Scotland. In their twin roles of King of the Hebrides for Norway and ruler of Lorn for Scotland, Dugal and his successor Chiefs protected their islands and mainland territory with a ring of castles and a strong fleet of galleys.

During the summer of 1249 King Alexander II of Scotland sailed to the Hebrides intent on taking these Norwegian owned isles for Scotland but he became sick and was forced to land on the island of Kerrera. He ordered Ewan the 3rd chief of clan MacDougall to surrender his Cairnburgh Castle in the Treshnish Isles (which was Norwegian property) to the Scottish Crown. Ewan refused and declared that he had already sworn feudal loyalty to King Haakon of Norway for his Norwegian lands. Alexander II exclaimed angrily – "No man can serve two masters!" to which Ewan calmly replied: – "One man can easily serve two masters if they are not enemies". Alexander died on Kerrera shortly afterwards and Ewan then swore feudal allegiance for his territory on the mainland of Scotland to the new eight-year-old King Alexander III of Scots. When King Haakon of Norway gave Ewan the same choice in 1263, Ewan returned the Hebridean Isles to him and chose Scotland. King Haakon was defeated by the Scots at the Battle of Largs in 1263. When the Treaty of Perth of 1266 gave the Scots possession of the Hebrides, Alexander III then returned their old island possessions back to the MacDougalls. This was an early incident in the many struggles to come. The clan next fought in support of the King of Scots against the English invasions until their enemies tried to take the vacant crown of Scotland for Robert the Bruce.

By 1294 the MacDougall Lordship of Lorn was being challenged by the rising Campbells of Loch Awe encroaching on MacDougall territory in Nether Lorn. Our 4th Chief's son Iain Bacach or "Lame John" took some of his armed warriors to a meeting at the Stream of the Conference to discuss setting these borders. South of Loch Scammadale they were surprised to see the Campbell Chief Cailean Mor ("Big Colin") and his followers who had come past their designated meeting place and onto MacDougall lands. The two factions fought so ferociously that the river ran red with blood from the casualties which caused the conflict to be called The Battle of the Red Ford. Cailean Mor led the charge as the outnumbered MacDougalls retreated. Then a MacDougall archer crept up behind a rock and fired an arrow at the distant Cailean Mor. It killed him and ended the battle instantly but the rivalry would continue for a long time.

By 1300 the MacDougalls were a powerful clan in Scotland and were allied by marriage to the even more powerful Clan Comyn. Sir John, the "Red" Comyn of Badenoch, was the nephew of our Chief's wife. The "Red" Comyn was a prime contender for the vacant crown of Scotland but another contender, the fiery warrior Robert the Bruce, was determined to gain it at any cost. In February 1306 Robert the Bruce stabbed the Red Comyn during a meeting inside the Greyfriars Kirk at Dumfries. This sacrilegious murder led to nearly fifty years of blood feuds, civil war and more English invasions. In the warring which followed the MacDougalls were closely allied with the Macdowalls of Galloway, the Comyns and with other clans against the Bruces, Campbells, MacDonalds and their allies.

A MacDougall ambush nearly captured Bruce at Dalrigh in Strathfillan in June 1306. To narrowly escape he was forced to abandon his torn off cloak brooch in the hand of a dead MacDougall warrior. Thus the famous Brooch of Lorn came into the hands of the MacDougall Chiefs. Less than two years later in the late summer of 1308 Bruce brought his forces against the MacDougalls and defeated them in the Pass of Brander. The clan's island possessions and most of their lands on the mainland were forfeited and granted to their opponents.

Iain Bacach immediately sailed to England to support King Edward I and his navy against Bruce and his naval allies from the Clan Donald. As Admiral of the Western Seas Iain Bacach's English fleet attacked Bruce's ships and garrisons along the coasts and in Ireland for a further ten years until he was finally defeated by the combined fleets of and Clan Donald and Bruce, now Robert 1 King of Scots. Iain Bacach never surrendered but his death ended MacDougall participation in the wars. Some say he died a prisoner of the Scots, but English records settling his estate show that Iain Bacach died in 1318 while he was on a religious pilgrimage to Canterbury, England.

Most of the MacDougall lands had been forfeited and Iain Bacach's son Ewan was imprisoned but after his release he married Bruce's (King Robert 1) granddaughter Joan. This helped to revive the clan's fortunes until Ewan died in 1375 leaving two daughters married to Stewart brothers. Thus the prestigious title of Lordship of Lorn passed from the MacDougalls to the Stewarts. However the Chief's family retained

lands around Dunollie Castle and more lands were restored to them in 1451 by the Stewart Lord of Lorn as a reward for their loyal support.

The Clan remained loyal to the Stewart Kings as the rightful Kings of Scots but suffered greatly for its faithfulness. This brought the Clan MacDougall into conflict with other clans, most notably the Bruces, MacDonalds and Campbells which resulted in the eclipse of power of Clan MacDougall and the loss of most of its domain. During the Civil Wars of the 1640's and 1650's the Covenanters with the Campbell 9th Earl of Argyll opposed the Stewart King Charles I and his son. In 1647 General Leslie's army attacked the royalist clans, massacred the defenders of Dunaverty castle in Kintyre, raided royalist lands, and laid siege to the MacDougall's Gylen and Dunollie castles. The Brooch of Lorn was looted by one of the men burning Gylen Castle on the isle of Kerrera. His descendants kept the stolen brooch hidden for 177 years. It was believed to have been forever lost until in 1824 it was sold and returned to its rightful owners, the MacDougall Chiefs.

The Clan fought for the Royal House of Stewart under Viscount Dundee "Bonnie Dundee" at Killiecrankie in 1688, and under its fighting 22nd Chief Iain Ciar at Sherrifmuir in the Jacobite Rising of 1715, and at Glenshiel in the Jacobite Rising of 1719. Our 23rd Chief Alexander of Dunollie did not join the Jacobite Rising of 1745 in support of Charles Edward Stuart "Bonnie Prince Charlie" but his brother Duncan fought at Prestonpans and Culloden. Twenty MacDougalls were listed as prisoners of the Government forces after the '45 including three from the lowlands.

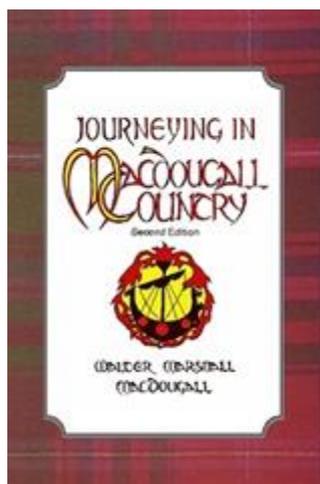
Since those days of strife our now peaceful clan has spread throughout the world but Clan MacDougall retains its ancient base at Dunollie in Oban, Scotland. Our clan Chief plays an active role in the clan's affairs from the official residence at Dunollie Manor House, a portion of which is now open as a museum and visitors center. Its web site is <http://www.dunollie.org/>

Sources of Further Information

1. Our excellent web site is available online at www.macdougall.org Graphics, music, information and biographies of the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall etc. are in the Our Heritage section at <http://macdougall.org/category/heritage/>
2. Our clan books are displayed in the Book Pages in the Resources Section of the Society web site <http://macdougall.org/2014/02/16/macdougall-and-macdowall-books/> See ***Journeying in MacDougall Country*** a book Walter M. Macdougall with an introduction by our 30th and 31st Chiefs of Clan MacDougall. A full book review is available at <http://www.lulu.com/shop/walter-macdougall/journeying-in-macdougall-country/paperback/product-2242050.html> This descriptive travelogue of the Highland countryside of our clan has extensive notes on our history, geography, maps, and sketches with historical anecdotes to enrich any journey in the land of Lorn. "The Lore of Lorn" section provides additional detailed information. This wide ranging book is based on trips Prof. Walter

Macdougall made to visit the places of Clan MacDougall and to meet the people most knowledgeable about the area and its history.

All profits from the sale of this book are donated to the Dunollie Preservation Trust to preserve our heritage. Purchase it through Lulu.com at <http://www.lulu.com/shop/walter-macdougall/journeying-in-macdougall-country/paperback/product-2242050.html> The soft cover price is \$24.95 plus shipping. Also your local bookstore may order it for you but may ask for the ISBN 978-0-6151-7789-2.



3. Our ancient Clan retains our ancient cry "Buaidh No Bas" - Victory or Death! And we retain Bruce's cloak brooch shown below.



The Brooch of Lorn

Help us to preserve your ancient heritage by becoming a member of the Clan MacDougall Society. Membership information is available at <http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

Created by the Clan MacDougall Society of North America. Updated December 2015