



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



April 2016

Welcome to our monthly report of events and activities of our Society. We are always looking for information to share with our members, so if you have a birth or wedding or know of a special event, please send a photo along with relevant information to president@macdougall.org.

Ashby's Reflections

Mo dheagh chairdean
My Good Friends

Thug an Giblean gèamaichean an earraich dhuinn còmhla ri ceo, frasachd agus gailleann. Bha an talamh air ùireachadh, ar n-aighe deuchainnichte agus bu mhòr a chòrd ruin còmhraidhean chàirdean.

April brought us Spring games along with mist, shower and storm. The earth was renewed, our spirits tested and we enjoyed conversation with friends immensely.

Please keep in mind both the May 21-23 Victoria British Columbia Games, where we will meet with Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, Chief of Clan MacDowall, and the July 7-10 Grandfather Mountain Games at Linville, North Carolina, where we will hold our Annual General Meeting, the Society's formal Founders Dinner, and Beacham McDougall's informal North Carolina family BBQ.

Please keep other games in mind as well as well. These will be held in the next few months in Minnesota, Maryland, California and Ontario. There we can catch up with friends, exchange information on clan lore and enjoy our Scottish heritage.

Beltane, or *Bealltainn* in Gaelic, is an ancient Celtic Festival celebrated in recent times on May 1. The final section of this newsletter is a short description of the festival as held in some places in the highlands in the late 19th century.

Tòmas MacCòmhghan // Thomas Ashby McCown
Ceann-suidhe // President

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New Members

Philip W. MacDougall
Eldorado Hills, CA

Richard Hall
Bakersfield, CA

Tents at Highland Games

Please notify our webmaster if you've signed up to host a tent at any games. We want as accurate a Games Calendar as possible. Games listed here are found on our website. We would be pleased to receive any report on a game, with photos of course.

May

14- Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival
Mount Airy, MD

21- Colonial (Fair Hill) Highland
Gathering

Victoria Highland Games



Barr Castle

We would like to remind you that several members of the Society are making a special trip to meet with Dr. Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, Chief of Clan MacDowall, at the Victoria, British Columbia, Highland Games on May 21-23. If any of you are there, we hope that you will be able to visit us at the Clan Tents, one for MacDowall and one for MacDougall, operated by the Chief and his family.

Events to keep in mind:

Saturday, May 21

- Opening ceremonies occur at 12 PM at the main stage. There is a small parade across the main field slightly before this, in which Clan representatives are expected to participate.
- On Saturday evening, a group dinner in the town of Sidney, outside of the City of Victoria, is being planned. If you would like to attend such a dinner, would you let Garnett Macdowall, our BC Regional Commissioner, know of your interest and the number in your party in the next few days -- at garnett_mac@hotmail.com.
- There will be a Torchlight Clan Ceremony in Victoria at twilight (around 8 pm). It is likely that one could attend both the dinner and the Torchlight Ceremony, but it may be a tight schedule.

Sunday, May 22

- A day to enjoy the Games as well as the fellowship of Scots and those interested in our heritage..
- Sunday evening will be a great opportunity to enjoy Victoria's downtown area.

Monday, May 23

- This year, for the first time, the Victoria Highland Games will be held for a third day on Monday. Our tent displays will be taken down Sunday afternoon, but you may return to the Games for a day of spectating. In addition, on Monday, the annual Victoria Day Parade will take place in downtown Victoria.

The 50th Dunedin Highland Games and Festival Dunedin, Florida

Dunedin was originally settled by Scottish families in 1899. It is named for Edinburgh, whose proper Gaelic name is Dùn Eideann. It is said that no function in Dunedin is complete without a piper. The Games are held in Highlander Park.

Elkton, MD

21-23 - Victoria Highland Games
Victoria, BC

28-29 Scottish Fest at OC Fairgrounds
Costa Mesa, CA

June

25-26 San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering
Vista, CA

July

1 - Embro Highland Games
Embro, ON

2- Kincardine Scottish Festival
Kincardine, ON

7-10 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Linville, NC

9 - Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games
Eagan, MN

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America

<https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall/?fref=ts>

Twitter

twitter.com/Clan_MacDougall

Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December. Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years through Paypal at:

<http://macdougall.org/membership->

Our Florida State Representative, Mimi Leroy-Marler, arrived before sunrise to set up the MacDougall display. The dawn, however, brought storms, in repeated waves. Display items were soon being packed away in plastic bins. Beverly Mundt and her son Brad arrived with the storms in full blast to help complete the packing and hang tarps as tent walls to block wind and rain. When the rain ceased in early afternoon the ground around the tent was a quagmire and Clan Row was pretty much rained out. The displays were then safely packed away in cars, and the day was salvaged by bridies, meat pies and the band competition.

We will be back next year.

Buaidh neo Bàs

The Southern Maryland Celtic Festival



The Southern Maryland Celtic Festival is held at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum on the banks of the Patuxent river as it broadens toward Chesapeake Bay. Early Festival mornings, absent modest rain, are usually visited with mists off the river. This year the event took place on almost the only day of the week when it did not rain, although the day could not be said to be either dry or warm - except by Scottish standards.



The Festival celebrates the culture of, it is said, seven Celtic nations and presents a rich range of music, song, dance and story from these areas. The athletics are also interesting. The heavy events have distinct classes of competitors for women and lightweights (for those under 200 pounds) as well the Masters. The top competitors in the lightweight class were close throughout the day, frequently testing themselves close to the MacDougall/MacDowall tent.



Bill McHoul and Ashby had the opportunity to catch up with many Society members at the games and had very interesting discussions with new acquaintances interested in MacDougall/MacDowall heritage and history.

[information/](#)

Submissions

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

The Editor of The Tartan at
editor@macdougall.org

or

The Editor of the Monthly Newsletter

at:

president@macdougall.org

Your Contact Information

Please send your email, telephone, or postal address changes to:

records@macdougall.org



Grandfather Mountain Gathering 2016



We look forward to seeing and chatting with you at our annual meetings, our Founders Dinner, and Beacham's North Carolina BBQ in the vicinity of the Grandfather Mountain Games in Linville, North Carolina, July 7 through 10. A brief description, and a schedule, of the events at our gathering were included in the announcement we sent around April 22. For those who have not previously attended Grandfather, the Games website, <http://www.gmhg.org/homepage.shtml>, provides a great deal of information on the many events of this gathering, the exhilarating Blue Ridge Mountain site, and local facilities, including accommodations.

The Founders Dinner will take place Friday, July 8, at 7:00 in the main Eseedla Lodge. This is a formal, or modestly semi-formal (i.e., look Scottish), dinner featuring a three-course dinner plus a taste of haggis at a cost of \$42.50 per adult and \$12.50 per child. If you would like to attend the Founders Dinner please complete and return this [Reservation Form](#) as soon as possible. This will assist our planning enormously.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee has begun to announce awards. Details will be provided in future newsletters. Again, we appreciate hearing from applicants. Their efforts in preserving and promoting our heritage inspire the members of the Society.

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Access our website for the procedures for applying for a scholarship. Donations to our Scholarship Fund help defray the costs, are accepted year-round and are greatly appreciated by the Society and recipients. The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to its endeavors may be tax deductible in the U.S.

Beltane

Beltane is one of the four great festivals held by people speaking related Gaelic languages - or perhaps by Celtic language speakers more generally. Beltane lies midway between the summer solstice and the vernal equinox, now taken as May 1. Celtic festivals, demarking seasons, seem to lie between solstices and equinoxes rather than on them. Beltane is a day when animals are gathered together for ceremony and procession to the summer shieling. Alexander

Carmichael describes, in Volume 1 of Carmina Gadelica, a ritual that was common into the twentieth century:

On May Day all the fires of the district were extinguished and 'tein eigin,' need-fire, produced on the knoll. This fire was divided in two, and people and cattle rushed through for purification and safeguarding against 'ealtraigh agus dosgaidh,' mischance and murrain, during the year. The people obtained fires for their homes from this need-fire.

An extract from one of the Beltane Blessings that Carmichael collected.

BEANNAICH, a Thrianailt fhìor nach gann,
Mi fein, mo cheile agus mo chlann,
Mo chlann mhaoth 's am mathair chaomh 'n an ceann,
Air chlar chubhr nan raon, air airidh chaon nam beann,
Air chlar chubhr nan raon, air airidh chaon nam beann.

// BLESS, O Threefold true and bountiful.
Myself, my spouse, and my children,
My tender children and their beloved mother at their head.
On the fragrant plain, on the gay mountain sheiling,
On the fragrant plain, on the gay mountain sheiling.

Gach ni na m' fhardaieh, no ta 'na m' shealbh,
Gach buar is barr, gach tan is tealbh,
Bho Oidhche Shamhna chon Oidhche Bheallt,
Piseach maith, agus beannachd mallt,
Bho mhuir, gu muir, agus bun gach allt,
Bho thonn gu tonn, agus bonn gach steallt

// Everything within my dwelling or in my possession,
All kine and crops, all flocks and corn,
From Hallow Eve to Beltane Eve,
With goodly progress and gentle blessing,
From sea to sea, and every river mouth,
From wave to wave, and base of waterfall.