



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



April 2017

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

Deagh-chàirdean
Good Friends

Bheir sinn aire air Cille Bhrighde a-rithist anns a' chuairt-litir seo. Coimheadaidh sinn oirre mar coimhearsnachd a tha ceanglaichean ris an t-saoghal mhòr mun cuairt oirre. Cha chrèid mi nach bu choir dàimhealachdan choimhearsnachdan a bheachdadh nuair a sgrùdar eachdraidh agus dualchas nan tìrean.

We turn our attention to Kilbride (*Cille Bhrighde*, the Church of Saint Brigid, in Gaelic) again in this newsletter, looking at it as a community rather than a ruin -- a community that was well connected to the world outside it. When we study our history and culture we should perhaps reflect on community ties and many forms of human activity through the centuries, not simply on a sequence of battles, of which there are admittedly quite a few. Kilbride has been an important part of the fabric of MacDougall and Scottish heritage for centuries.

We will also report on two interesting games, the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival and the Sacramento Scottish Games and Fest, and some of our Society's interesting people. I would encourage those who wish to follow Phil McDougall's lead and take up representing our Clan in games where we are not currently represented to come forward and contact their regional commissioner.

Two important gatherings are approaching, one on the west coast and one on the east. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the ScottishFest in Orange County, California and our traditional annual gathering will be held in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Games in Linville, North Carolina. We have interesting events planned for both gatherings. Those who plan to attend the dinners at these gatherings should complete the attached reservation forms and return them to the Society as quickly as possible.

Le meas // Respectfully

Tòmas MacCòmhghan//Thomas Ashby McCown

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New Members

Wayne Wyss
Boerne, TX

Tents at Highland Games

May

13 - Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival
Mount Airy, MD

20 - Fair Hill Scottish Games
Elkton, MD

20-22 - Victoria Highland Games and
Celtic Festival
Victoria, BC

27-28 - Scottish Fest
Orange County Fairgrounds
Costa Mesa, CA

June

Southern Maryland Celtic Festival April 29, 2017

We gathered on a bright, unseasonably warm, spring day at the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival. The Festival was splendid, as always.



This was a bittersweet day as we held a Mid-Atlantic farewell luncheon for Suzanne McDougall. Suzanne has been an active member of our Society for many years, among many other achievements being responsible for the production editing both of the second edition of Walter Macdougall's *Journeying in Macdougall Country* and Fergus D. H. Macdowall and William L. MacDougall's *The MacDowalls*. She is also layout editor of *An Naidheachd Againn*, the highly esteemed newsletter of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach, the American Gaelic Society. She is, moreover, a great deal of fun to chat with at a clan tent. The Mid-Atlantic's loss is the Hearland's gain. She is only moving as far as Ohio and intends to continue to be active in Scottish and Scottish Gaelic events there.



Garrett County Celtic Festival
Friendsville, MD

16-18 Pikes Peak Celtic Festival
Colorado Springs, CO

24-25 San Diego Highland Games and Gathering
San Diego, CA

July
6-9 Grandfather Mountain Games
Linville, NC

Contact Us

Ashby McCown

President

president@MacDougall.org

Nancy Van Valkenburgh

V. P. Membership

info@MacDougall.org

Don MacDougall

Treasurer

treasurer@MacDougall.org

Internet

Web site :

www.macdougall.org

Facebook Page

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-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

Sacramento Valley Scottish Games Festival April 28&29, 2017

This year the Sacramento Valley Scottish Games Festival was held in Woodland, CA, as it has been for the past twenty years, although the Games date to 1877. The festival displays a rich selection of Scottish activity such as athletic competitions, piping, drumming, highland dancing, whisky, archery, and tug of war, as well as, of course, food to your taste like haggis.



Phil and wife, Sheri.

Phil MacDougall, a long time member of the Society with a strong interest in our heritage, had never hosted a tent, although he had been with his sons to many highland games, here and in Scotland. Noticing that the MacDougalls had not been recently represented at the Woodland Games, he contacted the Society and, working with our Pacific Crescent Regional Commissioner, Cuff Burrell, assembled a very nice presentation at this year's Games. Phil reports that the day was very enjoyable, having interesting conversations with some very nice people.

We are grateful to Phil for his initiative

2017 Annual General Meeting at the Scottish Fest at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, CA

This is a reminder that the 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held in California, in conjunction with the May 27 & 28 Scottish Fest at the Orange County Fair and Events Center in Costa Mesa, www.scottishfest.com. We will meet with members and visitors at the MacDougall/MacDowall hospitality tent throughout both days of the Fest, Saturday May 27 and Sunday May 28.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at our host hotel, the Newport Mesa Inn, 2642 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA. This is a comfortable walk, or a short drive, from the Scottish Fest site.

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

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Rooms are available at a 15% discount at the Newport Mesa Inn (949-650-3020) for those attending the MacDougall gathering. There are a number of other accommodations near the Scottish Fest site as well, some of which are listed in the attached document, which can be obtained by [clicking here](#).

Friday May 26:

For those who are in town Friday evening, May 26, we are planning to get together for a "No Host" dinner at a seaside restaurant. Let us know if you are interested in joining us.

Saturday May 27:

Our special events at the Newport Mesa Inn on Saturday May 27 include:

5:30 pm A social hour with a no host bar.

6:30 pm Dinner and entertainment. The cost of dinner will be \$20.

7:30 pm The Society's 2017 Annual General Meeting.

If you would like to attend the dinner on May 27, would you please complete and return the registration form, which can be obtained by [clicking here](#), along with a check covering the cost of dinner to the Society before May 18. Please let us know by email when you send off the reservation form.

If you have any questions about this event please contact us through:

Darleen Weisz at darleendel@cox.net or 949-330-0351

or

Ashby McCown at president@macdougall.org

Annual MacDougall Society Gathering at Grandfather Mountain Games July 6-9, 2017

We will gather again at the Grandfather Mountain Games to celebrate our Scottish, and more specifically our MacDougall/MacDowall, heritage. This has been a tradition since the founding of our Society in 1965 and we hope as many members can join us as possible. We will be meeting our kinfolk on MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain throughout the weekend, beginning with the Torchlight Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening.

Special MacDougall Society events for the weekend include:

Friday, July 7

- 3:00 pm Society Board of Directors Meeting at Eseedla Lodge in Linville, NC

- 6:00 pm Reception with cash bar and piper on the lawn at the Eseedla Lodge

- 7:00 pm Founders Dinner at the Eseedla Lodge

Saturday, July 8

- 4:30 pm Family picnic/Bar B Que at the shelter of the Sugar Mountain Baptist Church in Newland, NC

Friday's Founders Dinner will feature two dishes, a chicken

dish priced at \$35 and a beef and trout dish priced at \$46. Both dishes are served with a pear salad and peach ice cream dessert. And yes, there will be haggis and more than one of Burns poems, for which there will be no extra charge.

If you would like to attend the Founders Dinner please complete and return the Reservation Form, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#), as soon as possible. This will assist our planning enormously.

We look forward to seeing you again.

The Community of Kilbride



Kilbride

The Church of Kilbride is one of the more important sites for MacDougalls and associated families. Its cemetery has been the burial ground for our chiefs for over three centuries. There are, moreover, names in that cemetery of many associated families and families whose histories are intertwined with MacDougalls e.g. Livingstone, McKitchan, Cowan, MacCullough, Campbell, and MacCallum.

The site is much more than a burial ground. It was the center of a vital community for centuries. The church at Kilbride came into prominence in 1249, when Alexander II gave an endowment to the church, with perhaps the intent of making it a Cathedral for the Bishopric of Argyll. [As described in the February 2016 newsletter.]

Nancy Black described the foundation of the MacDougall piping tradition in the August 2015 Newsletter. There were multiple MacDougall piping families by the beginning of the 16th century. The piping School at Kilbride was founded by Alastair Mòr (1635-1709), with his family continuing the tradition. For their office they held crofts at Moleigh near Loch Nell (*Loch nan Eala* or Loch of the swans) and Kilbride. The piping school was located in Dunoch, slightly to the south of Kilbride, close to Loch Feochan The piper's walk, where students honed their skills, was near Kilbride itself. From very early times MacDougalls were skilled woodturners and not only piped and taught piping but were master bagpipe makers as well.



A line of MacDougall gravestones before the church at Fortingall

Alastair Mòr's grandson, Raohnuill Bhàn, was with Ian Ciar at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715. In the difficult period that followed the collapse of that rising, MacDougall piping and bagpipe making traditions moved to Glen Lyon, particularly to the Fortingall area (as described in the June 2016 edition of the Newsletter.) Many MacDougalls came to Glen Lyon when the lands were granted by King David II as a wedding gift to Ewan MacDougall on his marriage to David's niece, a granddaughter of Robert the Bruce. The lands were lost when Ewan's only son predeceased him, but it appears MacDougalls continued to live in the area and maintained communication with MacDougall families in Nether Lorn. Nancy Black relates in this Spring's Tartan that in the first half of the 19th century her MacDougall great grandmother returned from Glen Lyon, to which her ancestors had migrated in the 14th century, to work at Ardmaddy Castle and there met Nancy Black's great grandfather, Dugald MacCowan.

The hereditary family of physicians, the Conochars, lived close to Kilbride church and the ruins of their house may still be seen. The Conochars may have been brought to Scotland from Ireland by another famous family of physicians, the Beatons, to help with their heavy workload. The Conochars are associated with large Gaelic medical manuscripts, now housed in the National Museum of Scotland, that not only discuss medical practice but include many interesting marginal historical references e.g., the Elizabethian wars in Ireland and the death and burial of two MacDougall chiefs in the 17th century.

I have been told that near Kilbride Church is the ruin of the home of Mary, Ian Ciar's mother. Mary was the daughter and heiress of Ian MacLachlan of Kilbride - an extremely important family in Argyll. One of the most important early collections of Gaelic manuscripts, the *Kilbride Collection*, was held by the MacLachlan's of Kilbride. There is a tradition that Ian Ciar, who died in December of 1737, was to be buried in the family burial ground at Ardchatten Priory, on the shores of Loch Etive, but that a storm arose that prohibited crossing the loch for three days. In the end he was taken to Kilbride, where his mother was buried, and laid to rest in an area that became the MacDougall chiefs' burial ground.



Entrance into the MacDougall Burial Enclosure
at Kilbride

There are many stories of events and families in the Kilbride area that have been brought down to us by the strong Gaelic oral tradition of this area. Many of these have been collected over the past two centuries and are available in printed or manuscript collections. For example, the Dewar Manuscripts, a largely unpublished collection of oral traditions, has a rich selection of stories concerning MacDougalls and the Kilbride area. The manuscripts were prepared by John Dewar (1802-1872) in the employ of Iain Òg Ìle (John Francis Campbell of Islay) and the 8th Duke of Argyll, George Douglas Campbell. The manuscripts are housed in the Archives of Argyll in Cherry Park on the Grounds of Inverary Castle, seat of Clan Campbell. A number of stories appear as well in *Aig Tigh na Beinne* (1911) by Katherine White Grant, a prominent Oban writer. The stories in *Aig Tigh na Beinne* include traditions of specific families, such as the MacCallums of Colegin and their links to the MacCallums of Knapdale and of Glen Orchy, and special local stories such as of a trial in Kilbride Church itself, over which MacDougall of Dunollie presided.



Kilbride

We have noted before that a Scottish Charity, the Friends of Kilbride, has been created to sponsor preservation and maintenance of the Church and Cemetery at Kilbride. Its website can be found at <http://www.friendsofkilbride.scot/>.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

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.