



August 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

Tha e coltas ann gur gainnead gheamannan anns an Lunasdal. Cha ghearain mi ceart gu leòr. Tha teas mùchadh am bitheantas anns an Lunasdal ach a-mhàin ann am beagan àirdean neo àitichean tuathach. Tha aithrisean, ge-tà, mu trì geamannan taitneach air ar ruigsinn. 'Sann a bharrachd a bheir am mìos mall seo dhuinn cothrom tachartasan anns na mìosan eile a chnusaichadh.

Games in August are scarce, although I am not complaining - August is a sweltering month and it can be rough on an open field on a hot and muggy day. To my mind, games in these dog days are more suitably held in more elevated or more northerly climes. Fortunately, we have some representation in these regions. Chris MacDougall will report on the Fergus, Ontario, Games later in this newsletter. The Maine Games and Scottish Festival was held August 19-20. Art Dingley has so far reported only that we had six new members join at the Maine games, but that is a rather nice start. The overall light games schedule in August, however, allows us to catch up with our reports on three great California games from previous months.

There is a strong traditional MacDougall presence at the Argyllshire Gathering. The North American Society does not normally host a table in the Gathering's Heritage tent -- although we did do so in 2014, the year of the last International Gathering -- but Dunollie is prominently present as might be imagined. Dunollie's Facebook page indicates that the Gathering on August 25 went well.



Dunollie in the Heritage Tent at the

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New Members

Martha Reinhardt
Waterville, ME

Lawrence Appleton
Litchfield, ME

Ruth Watts
Boothbay, ME

Wendy McDowell
Palermo, ME

Anne Jameson
Bowdoinham, ME

Edward McDowell
Grey, ME

Tents at Highland Games

A historical account of the Argyllshire Gathering posted on the Gathering website might be of interest:

The first Argyllshire Gathering took place in 1871, a social occasion, to bring together kindred spirits from across one of Scotland's largest, isolated and most beautiful tracts of land. From Loch Lomond and Loch Leven, from Ben Cruachan and Ben Lui and from the islands of Mull, Coll, Tiree and Islay, the chiefs and clansmen of Argyll came. Campbells, MacDougalls, Malcolms, MacLeas, MacLeans and MacLachlans all journeyed to their heartland in Oban, not just to relax and mingle, but to defend their family honour by testing their speed, strength and dexterity to the limit.

On this side of the Atlantic, our family honor is probably best defended by our Scholarship winners, two of whom, both dancers, are mentioned in this newsletter. Emma Schiff, of Oak Park, California, performed at the Orange County Scottish Fest and at the San Diego Games, while Alison Ashworth, of San Diego, tells us of her experience as both a dancer and a dance teacher. We are proud of them.

September promises to be much busier. I would like to draw particular attention to the Longs Peak Festival, hosted by Doug Fowler, and to the Ligonier Highland Games, hosted by Bill and Cathy McHoul. Doug, Cathy, and Bill have stepped up to fill important vacancies allowing us to continue our presence at these very important gatherings. We would appreciate it if those of you who might be in a position to lend them a hand do so. We look forward to meeting you at all of the events.

There were other high points in August for Scots, among which was Andy Murray's victory in the men's singles tennis competition at the Rio Olympics. This repeated his victory in the previous, London, Olympics, earning him two successive gold medals in this event. This followed on winning Wimbledon in May, repeating his 2013 Wimbledon result. A reporter asked Murray after his victory in Rio "You're the first person ever to win two Olympic tennis gold medals. That's an extraordinary feat, isn't it?" Murray replied "Well to defend the singles title. I think Venus and Serena (Williams) have won about four each...." You are a good man, Andy Murray.

Tìoraidh an-drasta

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

An Old but Refreshed Dunollie Castle Photo from a Drone

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.

September

3-4 Virginia Scottish Games

Great Meadow, VA

8-11 Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival

Estes Park, CO

8-11 Edinboro Highland Games and Scottish Festival

Edinboro, PA

10 - Mid Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Nashville, TN

15-17 Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering

Mount Pleasant, SC

24 - Ligonier Highland Games

Ligonier, PA

October

1 - Scotland County Highland Games

Laurinburg, NC

7-9 Seaside Highland Games

Ventura, CA

14-16 Stone Mountain Highland Games

Stone Mountain Park, GA

22-23 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games

Richmond, VA

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



Courtesy of Iain A. Boyd of Oban, Argyllshire,
via Becham McDougald of Gylen, North Carolina

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The MacDougalls on the Queen Mary

Reported by Darleen Weisz



The Scots Festival is held each February on the Queen Mary in Long Beach here in southern California. This is a very special setting, as the Queen Mary is a Scottish-built ship and the setting is unique. The piping, pipe-bands, Highland dancing, darts, and sheepdog competitions, along with the clan gathering and the vendors, are both on shore and on the ship. This year, over 25 clans and societies set up their tables in the exhibit hall on board the ship. It's a popular spot for visitors to come to meet and greet and check into their heritage. The traditional presentation of the Address to the Haggis was done in the clan area each day, and drew quite a crowd. At noon each day, we marched off the ship and on shore for the parade of clans and pipe bands amid the appreciative crowds.



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

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

The Scottish Fest at the Orange County Fairgrounds

Reported by Darleen Weisz

On Memorial Day weekend in May, MacDougalls and McDowells gathered at the 84th annual Scottish Fest at the Orange County Events Center to celebrate our heritage. The largest of our 4 southern California festivals, it attracts the top grades of pipebands, pipers, dancers, and athletes, along with over 70 clans lining the main walkway into the festival. The exhibit halls are filled with vendors and entertainers, and it's a lively weekend. MacDougall Society members and visitors came by the tent in great numbers to visit, to learn more about their heritage, and to share stories of their family and their Scotland trips. It's a delight to see old friends and meet new ones.



We had our own MacDougall musician, Tony Bird, rejuvenating us with Scottish songs and recitations - and attracting a fiddler from another clan as well as a bass drummer. Each day, the clan march ended in a gathering for a roll call of the clans, and for a program to honor our armed services and especially all members present. The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band marched with the pipe bands - and brought their own rock band. This year, Alex Beaton was selected as the Honorary Chieftain, and it marked his first return to the festival in 5 years. Cheers, Alex! So great to see you.



San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering

Reported by Darleen Weisz

The MacDougalls and McDowells were a presence at the San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering at Bringle Park in June. The piping, dancing, sheepdog, and athletic competitions were as lively as some of the Celtic rock groups in the beer garden.



In the clan area, over 35 clans raised their tents for the weekend greeting visitors and clan members, celebrating their heritage and history, and were front and center to enjoy the opening ceremonies and clan march, the traditional music groups, the address to the haggis, and the Sunday morning Kirkin'. MacDougall Society member Floyd Ferguson introduced, to the clans, the displays of Clan Plants he is developing - their history, the wearing of them, and their sources. Several of our MacDougall scholarship winners were in the Highland dance competition, including Emma Schiff (who was also at the Scottish Fest at the Orange County Fairground).



Emma Schiff.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games Reported by Chris MacDougall

I, along with other Society Representatives, participated in Friday night's special ceremonies, known as "Tattooed in Tradition", at the

Fergus Scottish Festival in Fergus, Ontario. We joined, to complete the ceremony, in the "Lightin' of the Hearth".



Scott MacDougald joined us Saturday for a truly enjoyable and informative morning talking with MacDougalls, MacDowalls and Doyles. When Scott went to take part in the Saturday opening ceremonies, the weather became truly Scottish, with an hour long downpour accented with thunder and lightning -- not as inspiring as the drums of Albannach which played nearby. When the rain showed no signs of letting up, we conferred with other Society reps and found they were packing up. More than 40 participating clans left early, but it was still a great time to meet with kin and share information on our respective clans.



A Letter from Alison Ashworth

June 20, 2016

Dear Clan MacDougall Society of North America members,

As a 2016 recipient of a John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship, I would like to say thank you for your support of individuals who are dedicated to expanding their knowledge of Scottish culture and arts. I have been competing in Scottish Highland Dancing competitions across North America for the past 16 years and continue to train and compete while attending university. I have represented the Western Region at the National Championships for 10 consecutive years and have traveled to Scotland to perform in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



I recently competed at the Motherlode Highland Games in Plymouth, CA in June. I enjoyed the event and was proud to win the aggregate trophy in the adult category with 5 first places. Despite my busy dance teaching schedule, I have still managed to find time to continue to train and prepare myself for competitions and events. My dedication is a result of my passion to share the incredible strength and beauty of Highland Dancing with others through my performances in shows and competitions. I continue to improve my teaching skills by working with dancers this summer to help them prepare for local and National competition.

My ultimate goal is to become a certified judge of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing. I greatly appreciate the Clan's support in helping me purchase the textbook materials I need to prepare for this examination. Although it will take many years of studying and preparation for this exam, I know that it will be worth all of the time and effort required.

Thank you again for your support of Scottish culture and arts. I am looking forward to all of the future dancing experiences made possible by scholarships such as this one.

Sincerely,
Alison Ashworth