



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



December 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

Tha a' bhliadhna 2016 air seachdadh. B'e seo a' bhliadhna mhath a bh'ann air ar son - 's e sin a ràdh airson dualchas nan Dùghallaich.

2016 is past. It has been a good year in terms of promoting, elucidating, and enjoying our heritage.

Our Society has supported, through our scholarship program, a number of young people developing skills in performing Scottish music and dance. They have enriched our lives during the year and have gone on to win honors as well.

Activities at Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds have blossomed. The tower has once again opened and a significant amount of the castle's exterior walls has been cleared of vegetation to provide enhanced views over Oban Bay and the enclosed garden below the castle rampart. The aim of the work at Dunollie is not only to protect ancient stones, but also to develop a center for community work on traditions and history of the culture of which Dunollie Castle was a central feature. Our Society is proud to have contributed to financing the consolidation work on the castle and the preparation of the Dunollie Guide book, which pulls together the various strands of information developed in the consolidation project.

Apart from the work at Dunollie, valuable historical work is being carried out by Colin MacDougall - documenting castles and weapons and searching for evidence of historical MacDougall events.

The Friends of Kilbride were organized to preserve the stones and to document the traditions of the ruins and cemetery of Kilbride, the traditional burial place of MacDougall Chiefs as well as the resting place for many from our associated families.

Professor Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, the Chief of Clan MacDowall, hosted a Society Gathering at the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival in May. Professor Macdowall was Chief of the Victoria Games this year. The Gathering was very informative and a great deal of fun. Pursuant to conversations at the gathering, we are working to secure and disseminate

In This Issue

Ashby's Reflections

A Note from the Treasurer

The Alexandria Scottish Walk

The 2017 Annual General Meeting

MacDougall Cape Cod Marine Service

This Week

**John A. McDougall Memorial
Scholarships**

New Members

Tents at Highland Games

New Members

Claire Jackson
Seattle, WA

John MacDougall
St. Paul, MN

Wayne Doyle
Colorado Springs, CO

Shannon MacDowell
Allston, MA

Donnelly McDowell
Laytonsville, MD

Taryn Draxler
Himrod, NY

Tents at Highland Games

information on sites important to MacDowall history in and around Lochwinnoch, the village nearest Barr Castle, the MacDowall Clan seat.

I am very pleased to pass on, in this issue, information that Donald H. MacDougall provided about the MacDougall Cape Cod Marine Service. Donald was born and raised on Cape Cod of parents from Prince Edward Island Canada. His contribution underlines the strong maritime tradition of MacDougalls and reminds us of the significant number of our members whose families moved south from the Maritime Provinces. A small excerpt from one of Donald's letters provides a glimpse of the culture that was brought to New England from the Maritimes.

...Relative to my MacDougall line, a Samuel and wife Margaret [Ferguson] and 5 boys from Morvern, Argyle, directly across from the Isle of Mull, immigrated to PEI in 1810. They sailed on the ship Phoenix from the port of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. They settled in the Argyle Shore area in the vicinity of Nine Mile Creek.... [My father] Charlie moved to Somerville MA when about 20 and met my mother Mary MacQuarrie who had come down to Medford. Medford, Somerville, Watertown, and Cambridge were heavily populated with PEI and Cape Bretoners. I have been to numerous Maritime dances held about once a week at a VFW hall in Brighton, another suburb. I have stood next to a couple of older men at the VFW hall in the 1950's and listened to them converse in Gaelic.

A policy of the Board of Directors is to hold the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) alternately between our meetings at the Grandfather Mountain Games In July and at other sites in North America. This is done to emphasize the continental nature of the Society. The Board has decided to hold this year's AGM at the Scotfest at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, California over the Memorial Day weekend. Our Southern California Representative and Board member, Darleen Weisz, provides an overview of the Orange County meeting in this issue. We will still have a major gathering at Grandfather Mountain this year, with Board Meeting, Founders Dinner, Picnic and more. We look forward to meeting those of you who can attend one or both of these gatherings. They should be fun.

We lost a prominent figure, A.J. MacDougall, in the Nova Scotia Gaelic community this year. I had all too brief contact with AJ but found him to be a remarkable person. We have touched on parts of his life in this issue.

We often are informed of the passing of members of the Society in returned dues reminders and contribution requests that are sent out toward the end of the year. We will include pieces on those for whom we have adequate information in the Flowers of the Forest section of future monthly newsletters. We miss you. God speed.

Le meas // Respectfully

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

A Note from our Treasurer

Everyone will have received their annual dues notice and request for contributions to the Society. If you have not done so

January
14-15 Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
Winter Springs, FL

Contact Us

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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

already, please take a moment, during this busy time of year, to complete and return your contribution and dues forms. You may wish to pay your dues or to make a gift of membership through our website, if this is more convenient. The Society depends 100% on members' dues and contributions to continue our fellowship and the worthy scholarships and projects we support.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Alexandria, VA

B'e latha matha a bh'ann fad a' chiad DhiSathairne san Dùbhlach ann am Baile Alasdair ged a bha e beagan fuair eadach, Dheàrrs a' ghrian gu soilleir. Bha àireamh mhòr de luchd-amhairc ann. Bha coltas làn de dh'aoibhneas air a' bhaile.

It was a great, albeit mildly chilly, morning in Alexandria the first Saturday in December. The sun shone brightly, the crowd of observers was large and happy, and the town seemed infused with joy.



We gathered at the party

room of a nearby condo where one of our members lives, to enjoy lunch, conversation, and discussion of plans of our Society in the region, nation, and overseas. It was an excellent gathering



organized by our new Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioners, Cathy and Bill McHoul.



Archaeology at Dunollie

2017 Annual General Meeting ScotsFest at the Orange County Fairgrounds, CA

Darleen Weisz
Southern California State Representative

Hi MacDougalls and MacDowalls,

Yes, we're hosting the Clan MacDougall Society's Annual General Meeting here at the ScotsFest next year. That's Memorial Day weekend (May 26 - 28) at the Orange County Fair & Events Center in Costa Mesa. www.scottishfest.com.

It's our biggest southern California festival, conveniently near OC airport and tourist attractions. So it should be a fun weekend - a chance for clan folks to gather together, some local and some from afar. We hope you'll join us. So watch for more details to come...

Plans for the gathering:

- no-host dinner on Friday night, May 26
- AGM on Saturday night, May 27: Cocktail hour. Dinner, meeting, and program.
- the MacDougall Society hospitality tent both days as usual
- to gather with members and visitors.
- Clan march - the MacDougalls and McDowells marching behind our banner, followed by salute to Veterans.

Flights: best to book your flights now; it's a holiday weekend.

Places to stay:

- host hotel: Best Western Newport Mesa, a few blocks from the festival. Best to book now before the holiday rates go up (free cancellations); mention MacDougall for a 15% discount. front desk 949/650-3020. www.bestwestern.com.
- or choose your own place - attached is a list of possibilities

So... what do you think your plans might be? please let us know...

- ___ plan to be at Costa Mesa for the Scots Festival next May
- ___ plan to attend the dinner (cost - @ \$20)
- ___ plan to stay at the host hotel
- ___ would like to help meet/greet in the tent for an hour or so
- ___ would like to march in the clan march
- ___ sorry, won't be able to be at the gathering that weekend

Merry Christmas and Happy Hogmanay

Darleen Weisz

MacDougall Cape Cod Marine Service

In 1938, brothers Bill, Charlie and Edmund MacDougall, originally from Prince Edward Island, Canada, arrived in Falmouth MA, with their nine children in order to start MacDougall's Cape Cod Marine Service. The yard serviced yachts, fishing draggers and Coast Guard vessels. It utilized two railways for outside repairs and two railways for internal storage. In 1972, age of the brothers and a heart attack of one son led to the yard being sold. Initially an ocean research company bought it, later three customer yachtsmen purchased the yard, then one of the families became its present owner and the yard was completely rebuilt for modernization efficiencies.



During the time the MacDougalls sold until 2015, Edmund's grandson, Jeffery MacDougall became a senior engineering manager with the Raytheon Corporation. Jeff took early retirement and applied for an open General Managers position at the yard and is currently in that position. A MacDougall is back running the yard. If the original members could look down from heaven, they would be pleased.

Jeff's cousin Colin, who had managed the Marine Electronic department had a sail boat he named "Dunollie". In keeping with that clan tradition, Jeff, who recently bought a boat, named it "Brooch of Lorn".



The MacDougall family employed approximately 40 people and 8 of them were of the MacDougall family. The yard had such a good reputation with regard to electronics, engine repair, painting, rigging and quality work, that the MacDougall name has been kept through new managements.

The boat yard may be viewed at www.macdougalls.com.

Alasdair Seumas MacDhùghaill **le Tòmas MacCòmhghan**

Alexander "AJ" James MacDougall or *Alasdair Seumas MacDhughail*, passed away August 4, 2016. He was an important Gaelic seanchaidh and teacher.

His father's family came from Strathglass and his mother's family, Macintyres, came from South Uist. Both arrived in Nova Scotia in the early 19th century. He lost his parents when very young and was raised by his grandparents on a farm in Judique South and was immersed in the Gaelic heritage of Cape Breton. He was a retired executive assistant for the Provincial Government in Halifax and former Warden of Inverness County. During his stay in Halifax, he boarded with a fluent speaker of Gaelic, maintaining contact with the Gaelic

culture. Returning to Judique, he taught community classes and actively promoted our language, mentoring many young speakers.

I first encountered AJ at the *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* conference in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in July of 2008. He provided, during a "lecture", his reminiscences of *Seann Amannan ann an Ceap Breatainn*, or of old times in Cape Breton. There was a story of the *sithichean*, or fairies, in that lecture. I was comparing his account with another tale of *sithichean* in a discussion group of Nova Scotian folk stories when I was told of his death. I attended a class he taught at one of the Christmas Gaelic weekends that is held at the Gaelic College each year. A wonderful class. His voice was soft and his mind quick. We learned Gaelic and Gaelic stories in that class as well as the adventure of bringing stories to light from the minds of those who carry them.

Deagh Obair, Alasdair
Sìth Dhè dhut

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.