



July 2015

Welcome to our monthly report of happenings in our Society. We are always looking for information, so if you have a birth or wedding or know of a special event, please send a photo along with the information to president@macdougall.org. For more information, please check our website at www.MacDougall.org.

Ashby's Reflections

Fàilte chridheil oirbh // Cheerful greetings,

'S e urram mhòr a th'ann dhomhsa a bhith nam cheann-suidhe a' chomann againn aig an àm seo. Feuchaidh mi ris a bhith airidh air.

It is a great privilege to be able to serve as President of this Society at this time. The substantial work of fifty years of officers and activists on behalf of our Society has created a wonderful environment for promoting our culture.

Those of you at our annual general meeting at Grandfather Mountain will have already heard this.

I believe we are members of this Society because we are interested in discovery, discussion and promotion of, as well as participation in, the heritage of the MacDougalls, the MacDowalls, and more broadly of Scotland. With 850 years of clan histories, and even longer of our cultural history, we have a fair amount to learn, appreciate and enjoy. Our Society has a rare strength, with family connections to diverse and interesting parts of Scotland: Lorn and the Inner Hebrides, Galloway, and indeed the south east Borders. These areas contain many physical symbols of our heritage - castles, churches, tartans, folk life collections, clan historical treasures, and the land and seaways themselves.

Ours is a vital culture. We celebrate our heritage at highland games and at our gatherings. Our scholarship program encourages the participation in and transmission of this heritage - its music, stories, piping, song, dance, language, textiles, athletics and more. We encourage and support the multifaceted programs at Dundlie Museum, Castle and Grounds, which help recreate local and international community ties to ancient Lorn. We are committed to support increased research in and publication of MacDowall history and traditions.

The task of the Society is to increase our knowledge of our heritage and to bring it to our membership and to other interested people. I believe communication can best be done with a coordinated program of our presence at games, meetings, publications and online presentations. Whatever we do, however, we are entitled to enjoy it. I encourage all of you to join this effort.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

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New Members

Jeffrey Dowall

Jordan Valley OR

Peggy McDougal

Aldrich MO

Guy Lee Gaesswitz II

Winslow AR

Michael McCown

Denver CO

Robert Whittier MacDougall

San Diego CA

Jacqueline McDowell

Juno Beach FL

Rhonda E. Weinstein

Carlise KY

Brittany Parker

Charlotte NC

William Livingston

Aiken SC

Jeffrey Powlas

Rockwell NC

Gerald McDowell

Elizabethton TN

John Gerard MacDougall

Greer SC

Ashby

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

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Grandfather Mountain 2015 The 50th Anniversary of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America

This year's Grandfather Mountain games, during which our Society celebrated its 50th anniversary, was exhilarating. The weather was perfect until near the end. The warm fellowship of our clans continues beyond the games. A more complete account will appear in the Tartan later this year. For now, a brief sketch.

The games opened Thursday evening, with representatives from each clan announcing their presence and adding a torch to a beacon on



Beacon on MacRae Meadow

MacRae Meadow. We announced: "Tha na Dùghallaich an seo. The MacDougalls of Lorn and the MacDowalls of Galloway and the Borders."

A large number of us gathered for the Founders' dinner at the Eseeola Lodge, where a little over fifty years ago a seven year old girl, Patti Leonard, recognized two distinct groups of diners wearing the same tartan and introduced the Society's founders to one another. Patti filled in the details of the event warmly. As has been our tradition Troy McDougal opened our dinner reciting Burns' Address to a Haggis, and Richard Van Valkenburgh closed with his ballads.

There were many visitors to our tents on MacRae Meadow on Saturday and Sunday. The conversations with interested visitors, new members, as well as second, third and who knows maybe fourth



Na Dughallaich

generation members of the Society were enlightening and fun. Saturday afternoon on the mountain closed with Beacham's traditional Barbeque of Porky Campbell in the Chief's Tent serving both traditional and cardiac-care barbeque - both excellent. Well, the afternoon so closed. We understand that there were those who returned later in the evening for the Marshmallow War.

Our 50th anniversary celebration was held Saturday evening at the Pavilion at the Eseeola Lodge. It was a family gathering. John McDowall, our webmaster and Board member, piped us to order. Our Chiefs, Morag MacDougall of MacDougall and Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, sent us their personal greetings. Their greetings can be seen at [Madame MacDougall's Personal Message](#) (password = MacDougall) and [Greetings from Chief Fergus Macdowall](#). We watched and listened to the early history of our clans though excerpts from the MacDougalls of Lorn, a DVD prepared by Society members, and excerpts from a MacDowall DVD that Society members are still preparing. We enjoyed watching and listening to the highland dancing of multi-award winning Erin McDougal Bartow, the inspiring pipes of Gemma Briggs, and the brilliant fiddling of Connor Civatte -- past and current recipients of scholarships. Our past presidents told their stories - their recollections of the Society over the years. Richard van Valkenburg closed with These are my Mountains and Auld Lang Syne.

Clan MacDougall Society Tents at Highland Games

Please notify our webmaster if you've signed up to host a tent at any games (and please submit photos). We want as accurate a Games Calendar as possible. Games listed here are found on our website.

AUGUST

8 - Fergus Scottish Festival
- Fergus, Ontario, Canada

SEPTEMBER

5-6 - Virginia Scottish Games
- Skye Meadow, Delaplane, VA

10-13 - Longs Peak Scottish - Irish Highland Festival
- Estes Park, CO

26 - Ligonier Highland Games
- Ligonier, PA

OCTOBER

10-11 - Seaside Highland Games
- Ventura, CA

24-25 - Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games
- Richmond, VA

Probing Lochan nan Arms

The battle of Dalrigh is an important event in MacDougall history. In 1306 Robert the Bruce fatally stabbed the Red Comyn, a kinsman of the MacDougalls, before the altar in Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries. Later that year Bruce spent an evening, in his retreat from the battle of Methven, at a place in Strathfillan believed to be near the ancient cell

Lochan nan Arm



Lochan nan Arm

of Saint Fillan. He was met the next morning by Iain Bacach, son of the Chief of Clan MacDougall and cousin of the Red Comyn, and a force of MacDougalls. Bruce was again defeated. In his efforts to escape Bruce lost a magnificent Brooch, still a MacDougall trophy of war, that is known today as "the Brooch of Lorn". To lighten their burdens and hasten their retreat from the battle, Bruce's forces are said to have

abandoned their heavy arms in a small loch, now called Lochan nan Arm (pool of the arms/armies).

A team of researchers, including Colin MacDougall who is one of the most significant MacDougall historians of our day, probed sites related to the battle last week. They were on or near the scene of the action for four days "detectoring" various sites and marking any finds with GPS. Two days were devoted to the Lochan using Neodymium magnets that were cast around the waters searching for objects. We do not know the results of their efforts yet. The team felt from the beginning, however, that even if they were to come away empty handed with regard to finding physical objects, they would have an enjoyable time coming to grips with the relative positions and movements of forces around the time of battle.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Access our website to apply. 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.