



June 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 sinn toilichte buannaichean duaisean-sgoilearachd ainmeachadh anns a' chuairt-litir seo. Giùlnaidh an òige seo an dualchasan againn air adhart do ghinealaichean ùra. Cluaisidh sinn tuilleadh dhiubh fad na bliadhna ri teachd.

We are pleased to be able to list this year's scholarship winners in this issue of our monthly newsletter. The winners represent a diverse set of talented young people who are ably carrying our heritage into yet another generation. We will hear more from them in the coming year.

June and July have been very active months for our Society, especially in maintaining a presence at Highland games. Our tents and tables at these games provide a place for members to communicate with each other and for us to communicate with any who are interested in Scottish traditions and culture. There have been too many games recently to include in one newsletter so that reports on them will be divided between the current newsletter, labeled "June" and a second, which should appear in a couple of weeks, labeled "July". July will, among other things, include a summary of the events at Grandfather Mountain and other material we missed in this newsletter.

This issue includes an article on the MacDougalls of Fortingall, which is inspired by a trip I made to Aberfeldy in June for the exhibition of the Aberfeldy Pipe Band, which exhibition was mentioned in the May newsletter. The article draws heavily from Nancy Black's *From a Hollow on the Hill*, although it does not begin to plumb the depth of information in this book. As mentioned before, Nancy Black is perhaps our most significant historian of families associated with MacDougalls. She, like the former editor of *Somerled*, Hugh MacDougall, is in part descended from the MacDougalls of Fortingall. The topic is not new to our Society. Walter Macdougall identifies the families in his book, *Journeying in MacDougall Country*, and notes in correspondence that there are articles on the MacDougalls of Fortingall and on MacDougall pipes and pipers in the past issues of the Tartan.

Tìoraidh an-drasta

Tòmas MacCòmhghan // Thomas Ashby McCown

In This Issue

[Ashby's Reflections](#)
[Scholarship Awards](#)
[Winter Springs Highland Games](#)
[Embro Highland Games](#)
[Kincardine Scottish Festival](#)
[Orillia Scottish Festival](#)
[Dunedin Photos](#)
[MacDougalls of Fortingall](#)
[New Members](#)
[Tents at Highland Games](#)

New Members

Stephen MacDougall
Stratford, ON

Tracy Ray
Los Angeles, CA

Autumn Harter
Charlotte, NC

Brian McDougal
Canton, OH

Myck Cole
Vista, CA

Bridge McDowell
Kitty Hawk, NC

Kyle Davis
Mount Dora, FL

Erin Abbott-Haines
Victoria, BC

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Applicants to this program are actively engaged in promoting and preserving our heritage.

Our Scholarship Committee, chaired by Sarah Hereford assisted by Buzzy Bramble and Nancy Kane is pleased to announce that seven John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships have been awarded for 2016, totaling \$2,980.

Alison Ashworth, age 21, of San Diego, CA has been a competitive highland dancer for 16 years. She performed at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo last year. The scholarship is to assist her in preparing for the highland dancing judge's examination.

Gemma Briggs, age 17, of Clearwater, FL has been playing bagpipes for 6 years and performed at our Annual Meeting in Linville last year. She is pursuing her interest in smallpipes at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming.

Connor Civette, age 15, of Trenton, NC is a fiddler who also entertained us at the Annual Meeting last year. He will be in the advanced week at the Junk and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling.

Beret Dernbach, age 13, of San Diego, CA has continued her mother's tradition of Scottish Highland Dancing. She competes about once a month and hopes to attend the BATD North American Scholarship Series in Toronto, Ontario in the fall.

Waverly Noble, age 15, of Raleigh, NC is a highland dancer and student of Erin McDougal Bartow. She plans to attend the School of Scottish Arts this summer in King of Prussia, PA.

Emma Schiff, age 17, of Oak Park, CA has been a highland dancer since age 6. She hopes to regain her title as US Champion and to compete in the World Championships. She plans to take her Associates Exam this year to become a BATD teacher.

Carl Sustar, age 16, of Milwaukee, WI has been a highland dancer for nine years. He has been competing for two years and plans to go to the Ohio Scottish Arts School this summer.

Mealaibh ur naidheachd // Congratulations

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games January 16-17

Beverley Mundt reports:

This was the first year for a MacDougall Tent at the Central Florida Highland Games in Winter Springs, FL The first morning was quite cool but sunny and the crowds came. In two days (Saturday and Sunday) three and one-half pages of MacDougalls, MacDowells and multiple Septs signed our visitors register. It was wonderful meeting and chatting with these people who were equally excited to finally find a MacDougall tent.

The first night, however, brought a violent windstorm that took down 20 clan and vendors' tents. We had lowered our tent and took everything home when we heard of the approaching storm. The tents

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.

August

13- Fergus Scottish Festival
Fergus, ON

September

3-4 Virginia Scottish Games
Great Meadow, VA

**8-11 Longs Peak Scottish-Irish
Highland Festival**
Estes Park, CO

**10 - Mid Tennessee Highland Games
and Celtic Festival**
Nashville, TN

**15-17 Charleston Scottish Games and
Highland Gathering**
Mount Pleasant, SC

October

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

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Bev and Mimi



Bev and Brad



Gemma Piping

next to us were lost, landing in nearby woods upside-down. The site supervisors had new tents trucked in and up and running in no time. Job well done!

Mimi (Leroy-Marler) continued to host the tent so that Brad (Mundt) and I could explore and talk with our neighbors and fellow Scots. We took photos of "Thistle" the adorable well-mannered Scottie and the Ram whose name I didn't get.

We got a special treat at our tent when Gemma Briggs, one of our scholarship winners, and her parents stopped by and Gemma serenaded us with her bagpipes...pure magic! This brought a crowd, the MacDougall presence was proclaimed, and we enjoyed every minute.

We participated wherever we could: the Parade, Kirkin' of the Tartans, the Friday night Reception, Whiskey Tasting, eating Haggis both days and Friday night at the Reception (Brad more than me) and listening to the talented bands that played Saturday night by the lake. Mimi, Brad and I, along with some friends, sat on the hillside and watched as our Scottish blood made us all lovers of the blend of bagpipes, modern music, and gung-ho dancers to it....some a wee bit better than others.

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

Embro Highland Games

Chris MacDougall reports:



The Embro Highland Games in Embro Ontario have been held annually since 1937, normally under bright sunny skies, on our July 1 Canadian national Holiday. This year the weather was not as cooperative. We set up our Clan tent in the rain and wind, then retired into the arena to dry

ourselves among the Highland dance groups who were performing indoors this year because of the weather. Later the skies cleared, but the winds were gusting around our clan tent. None of this deterred us or the many visitors who stopped by to learn more about their Highland heritage from our knowledgeable Clan Tent Sponsors Valerie McDougall and Scott MacDougald.

Kincardine Scottish Festival

Chris MacDougall reports:

The next day, Saturday July 2, Scott and Valerie operated our Clan MacDougall Society Clan Tent at Kincardine, Ontario, where Clan MacDougall was the clan of Honour. In the opening parade Valerie rode in the official car, a white 1965 convertible, while Scott led our clan marchers behind her. One of the annual attractions in our parade was Brady, the marching Basset Hound, dressed in a clan MacDougall tee shirt. Following the parade the marchers joined together for the photograph shown here. Brady is the one on the left of the photograph beside Scott.



Orillia Scottish Festival

Chris MacDougall reports:



On Saturday July 16th, I operated our Clan MacDougall Society Clan Tent at the 39th annual Orillia Scottish Festival. Held in Couchiching Park, this year's event had wonderful weather, with a light breeze throughout the day that let the flags hanging from the display wave gently. There were many visitors inquiring about MacDougall and MacDowall history, particularly a number of MacEwens and Cowans. It was a wonderful time sharing knowledge about the past, as well as the various initiatives currently underway with the Society.



Photos of our Forces at the Dunedin Highland Games April 2, 2016

As reported in last month's newsletter



Clan Row



Mimi Leroy-Marler and Beverly Mundt in the Bunker



Mimi and Brad Mundt in the Bunker

The MacDougalls of Fortingall

Glen Lyon surrounds the River Lyon, flowing southeast into the River Tay west of Aberfeldy on its way to Perth and the sea. It is a fertile and pleasant land. Fortingall lies at the eastern entrance to the Glen. In the mid-fourteenth century plague devastated the Glen, with oral history relating that the entire population of the Glen was lost, save one old woman. She piled the bodies of victims of the plague on a sled and dragged them for burial in a pit in a field opposite where the Fortingall Hotel now stands. The burial site is called, *carn nam marbh*, cairn of the dead.

Ewan or John of Lorn received a grant of land in Glen Lyon in 1368 from King David II (Bruce) and repopulated the area with MacDougalls of Lorn. Nancy Black relates the tradition of the arrival of her ancestor in the Glen, the "red-headed MacDougall", and references to the red-headed MacDougalls continue into our time.

Ewan Mac Dougall had married Janet (or Joan) Mac Iossaig, great granddaughter of Robert the Bruce. Glen Lyon may have been Janet's dowry from her uncle, King David II. Ewan Mac Dougall had reassumed the Lordship of Lorn after Alexander Mac Dougall lost it following the defeat of his forces by Robert the Bruce at the Battle of the Pass of Brander in 1308.

Ewan left two daughters Janet (or Joannette) and Isabella. When he died Ewan's holdings, including Glen Lyon, were divided equally by feudal law between his daughters and these were conveyed to their husbands, the brothers John and Robert Stewart of Innermeath and Durrisdeer. [The selection of a Clan chief does not follow Norman principals. In 1375 the Clan chose Ewan's successor, Iain MacAlan MacDougall our 8th chief, from whom our current gracious Chief is descended.]

MacDougall traditions and identity in Glen Lyon survived this and subsequent changes in feudal possession. It is said that Ewan's estate management schemes survived his death by centuries. Nancy Black relates a story illustrating the persistence of family organization: "...a maternal ancestor could see the crofts of all her sons from her elevated position either at Upper Blairish or, more likely, Kinghallin. If a chimney was not smoking at break of day she was off to the delinquent family's home to find out the reason why."

Fortingall Church stands next to the Fortingall Yew. This tree is several thousand years old and there are Christian, and possibly other, legends associated with Fortingall. MacDougalls are well represented in the burial ground surrounding the Church, including the two rows of MacDougall headstones opposite the main door of the Church.



There was an important tradition of piping and pipe making of the highest standard among the MacDougalls of Fortingall, a tradition which has roots in MacDougall pipers in Lorn, but quite possibly influenced by an old and famous piping school of the MacGregors, their neighbors in Glen Lyon. We will return to this piping tradition in future newsletters.