



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



March 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

Tha an Earrach air teachd agus tha blath an talamh, ceileireadh nan eòin, agus ùr-bhlàth air craobhan air tilleadh. 'Sann ann an làithean Chaucer a thoisicheadh luchd air miannachadh a dhol air eilthireachdan anns an ràith seo. S ann anns an latha an-diugh a tòisichidh sinn air beachachadh air cruinneachaidhean cinnidh.

Spring has come, at least in the northern hemisphere, where the warming earth yields a pageant of singing birds and blossoms in trees and shrubs. In Chaucer's days, people would begin, in this season, to think of going on pilgrimages.

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,

...
Thann longen folk to goon on pilgrimages

..

Nowadays we think on our gatherings. This month we report on two fine, and unique, events, in which we recently participated - the Queen Mary's Scots Fest in Long Beach, CA, and the annual Tartan Day parade in New York City. We look forward to many other meetings this year, but especially our annual general meeting of the membership that will, this year, take place in conjunction with the Scottish Fest at Orange County Fairground, California, May 27&28 and our traditional Clan gathering at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina, July 6-9. This year we have events on both coasts and we hope to see many of you attending.

The McHouls of Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania will be gathering at 1:00 pm at the MacDougall tent at the Fair Hill games in Maryland. We must, however, sadly report the passing of Ressie McHoul, one of our Society's strong supporters.

Feelings of spring lead, perhaps only incidentally, to reflections on the natural wonders of Scotland. We begin with a short note on a local loch, considered by some as the most beautiful loch

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New Members

Mary Ashmore
Chicago, IL

Cheryl Day
Stockton, CA

Brent MacDougall
Summerside, PEI

Garett MacDougall
Tarpon Springs, FL

Rik Mathias
Land O'Lakes, FL

Katrina McDougall
Tampa, FL

Brandy Eysers

in Scotland.

Le meas // Respectfully

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

Loch Èite // Loch Etive

We do not often think of Scotland in terms of fecundity of its land. But there is a very long tradition in poem, song and story of celebrating nature in Scotland. For example, there is an early famous description of Loch Etive north of Oban in the poem, "Gleann Measach lasgach Linneach/Fruitful Glen with Polls and Fishes", sung by Deirdre in *The Lay of the Children of Uisne*. The tale of Deirdre is part of the Ulster Cycle, the events of which are often dated to the first or second centuries CE. The following two verses, picked almost at random from the poem as contained in *Duanaire na Sracaire//Songbook of the Pillagers* edited by Wilson McLeod and Meg Bateman, reflect a form of the poem at the turn of the 13th century. This is the poem as it would have been recited or sung in the halls of Dundullie or Dunstaffnage, guarding the mouth of Loch Etive, in the early years of Clan MacDougall.

Gleann cuachach smólach lonach,
buadhach an fhorais do gach sionnach,
gleann creamhach bidrach mongach
seamrach sgothach barrchas duilleach.

//Glen with cuckoos, thrushes, blackbirds,
precious its cover to all foxes,
grassy glen with cress and garlic,
with clover and flowers and leafy tendrils.

Gleann na gcaorthann go gcnuas corcra,
go meas molta do gach ealta;
parthas suain do na brocaibh
i n-uamhchaibh so era 's a gcuain aca.

//Glen of rowans with scarlet berries,
fruit praised by every bird flock;
a tranquil paradise to the badgers
in peaceful holts with their litters.

Dunedin, FL

Heather McDougall
Airdrie, AB

Tents at Highland Games

April

1 - Dunedin Highland Games & Festival
Dunedin, FL

29 - Southern Maryland Celtic Festival
Saint, Leonard, MD

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

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

2017 Queen Mary's Scots Fest Long Beach, CA reported by Darleen Weisz



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www.macdougall.org

The MacDougalls and McDowalls gathered again in February at the Queen Mary's Scots Fest in Long Beach. It's a unique location, aboard the ship and on the landing next to it. The gathering of the clans, usually in an exhibit hall aboard the ship, was in a new setting this year - next to the ship in the dome that for many years housed Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose. We had the fun of being there at our tables to display our clan materials and greet members and visitors, along with the other clans, the vendors, the archery, the trad music stage, and the dart contests. We were glad to be indoors, as we had rare southern California rainy days. Outside were the pipe bands, the athletes, and sheepdog contests, and aboard the ship were the dancers and pipers. We carried the banner in the clan march each day, and enjoyed seeing our friends and meeting new visitors.



The New York City Tartan Day Parade April 8, 2017

On April 6, 1320 the Declaration of Arbroath was signed by a group of Scottish nobles and other worthies, asserting Scottish independence and requesting Pope John XXII to pressure Edward I not to interfere in Scottish affairs. It is a dramatic and well written document, which influenced the American Declaration of Independence. There are many places in the world that read the Declaration of Arbroath on April 6, to mark a Scotland National Day.

In 1998 the U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day, honoring Scottish Americans in United States history. In 1999, the first Tartan Day Parade was held in NYC, including two pipe bands and some enthusiastic marchers. This year's march was embedded in a week of Scottish related activity: an exhibition of Tartan on Ellis Island, Scottish plays and concerts, cèilidhs, piping, and more. The Oban pipe band was there and, when foul weather drove other units from Bryant Square, it performed with skill and nonchalance worthy of the Gael. Over a hundred units participated in the Parade along 6th Avenue on

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

Saturday, April 8.



Bill and Cathy McHoul, our Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioners, have been enthusiastic observers of the parade but noticed the lack of a Clan MacDougall presence. This year they registered and recruited some participants. Bill, Cathy, Anna, Rosemary and I from the mid-Atlantic and Caroline from New York gathered at the St. Andrews Restaurant for lunch prior to the parade. We exchanged news of family, plans for Scotland, and bits of our MacDougall heritage. We were fortunate to be able to meet in the comfortable Scottish atmosphere of this restaurant, which closed April 18.



After finding our position in the parade, we were joined by Richard MacDougall, his wife Anita, son, Paul, and daughter, Marie from New York. Richard, his father, and the family have been a pillar of our Society from its earliest days. In numerical terms we now formed one of the larger groups of Clan marchers. I suspect that in terms of information exchanged we had no equal, covering Society and MacDougall history, activities at Dundellie, the interaction of Nordic and Gaelic influences in the highlands and islands, archaeology, issues of the Brehon laws and trade along Scotland's west coast, as well as knitting and other textile topics.

Bill and Cathy write: "It turned out to be an awesome day. Hope to see you next year."

**Plans for 2017 Annual General Meeting
at the ScotsFest at the Orange County
Fairgrounds
in Costa Mesa, CA**

A Note by Darleen Weisz

Hi MacDougalls and MacDowalls,



Our society's AGM is coming up next month during the Scottish Fest, May 27 & 28, in Costa Mesa.
www.scottishfest.com.

A fun weekend - a chance for clan folks to gather from near and far: see the attached flyer for details. We hope you'll join us. Here's some plans we've put together:

- Friday May 26: no-host dinner at a local restaurant for those arriving earlier that day

- Saturday May 27: AGM at Newport Mesa Inn - a few blocks from the festival

5:30: social hour with no-host-bar

6:30: dinner/entertainment/AGM meeting: tickets @

\$20

- Scottish Fest: Saturday & Sunday
 MacDougall Society hospitality tent both days -
 gather with members and visitors
 Clan march - the MacDougalls and McDowalls
 marching behind our banner

Now we'd like you to help by letting us know what your plans are. We especially need a count for Saturday night's social hour and dinner. Then we'll follow up soon with the details. Any questions, just let me know...

So let us know if you plan to be ...

- at the Scottish Fest: one day? two days?
- at the Friday night no-host dinner
- at the Saturday AGM no-host social hour
- at the Saturday AGM dinner/meeting
- staying at the host hotel

Please send your responses to me at darleendel@cox.net or 949-330-0351

Yours Aye,

Darleen Weisz
 So Calif Rep/
 Board member
 Clan MacDougall Society of N America

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 kin and friends on MacRae Meadow throughout the weekend, beginning with the torch light opening ceremonies on Thursday Evening.

Special events for the weekend include:

- The Board of Directors Meeting Friday afternoon
- A reception at the Eseedla Lodge late Friday afternoon
- The Founders Dinner at the Eseedla Lodge Friday evening
- A picnic late Saturday afternoon where, in addition to enjoying each other's company, we will review current Society activities and the 2017 Annual General Meeting Orange County, CA.

Flowers of the Forest

Ressie McHoul



We are saddened to report the passing of life member Ressie McHoul on Saturday March 4, 2017. She was born December 30, 1946 in Baltimore, the daughter of the late John Clayton and Essies Joe Tate Abshire. She was married to Donald Bruce McHoul for 44 years. She was retired from Baltimore Gas and Electric Company where she worked in the Accounts Payable Department for 35 years.

Ressie joined our Society, with her husband, in 1984 and was an enthusiastic member, loving the annual gathering at Grandfather Mountain in particular. Ressie was one of the large number of McHouls in Maryland and Pennsylvania that are active members of our Society. Donald and his daughter, Donna, will be coming to the games at Grandfather Mountain

this year to honor Ressie's memory.

Ressie. We miss you greatly.

Notes on some New York MacDougalls

New York is an important area of 18th century MacDougall settlement in the American Colonies. Eight MacDougall names, in particular, can be found on lists of 107 grants of land in a highland settlement northwest of the Albany-Schenectady-Troy nexus. There were doubtlessly more around at that time. Thirty years before the lists were drawn up Lachlan Campbell had recruited eighty nine families, MacDougalls included, from the island of Islay to settle in this area. However, when these families arrived they found Campbell's settlement was in heated dispute and it was not possible to obtain land at that time.

One family of MacDougalls, that of Ranald McDougall, stayed on in New York City and their son, Alexander McDougall grew up, as his biographer William L. MacDougall writes, "on the busy streets of New York, where he would witness and partake in the climax to the struggle between the Old and New World." Alexander was a forceful penman for the citizens of the City and Colony of New York and for the "Sons of Liberty". He was promoted to Major General in Washington's army during the American Revolution, among other things organizing Washington's successful withdrawal from Brooklyn Heights in 1776. He was the first President of the Bank of New York, founded by, among others, Alexander Hamilton.

Sources:

MacDougall, William L., *American Revolutionary - A Biography of General Alexander McDougall*, Greenwood Press (1977).
An enjoyable description the man and his times.

The Tartan, Spring 1967

MacLean, J.P., *An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America*, Cleveland (1900)

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.