



May 2015

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

Malcolm's Meanderings -- Notes from our President

Greetings,

With some other business like elections behind us, the Society is focused on a few key areas over the next two months:

- Finishing strong with our Castle Fund Drive. We've surpassed our \$25,000 goal, but hope to add to the total donors and donations. You can still contribute using [this form](#).
- Concentrating on Clan tents at Highland games. They're our best way to build awareness of the Society and enroll new members to share our heritage journey.
- Finishing up the details for our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

As we conclude our first 50 years I think it's important for all of our members to have a voice in shaping our future. What should the Society focus on moving forward? How can it make your membership more meaningful? Send your thoughts to president@macdougall.org.

Thank you.

Malcolm MacDougall
President

Meet our new Board of Directors members

The Society recently concluded its annual elections for the Board of Directors. Our bylaws mandate that we elect six Directors each year to three-year terms on the 18-member Board. Electors consist of Board members, Regional Commissioners and chairs of our Standing Committees.

Three current Board members were reelected: Buzzy Bramble (South Carolina), Dr. Art Dingley (Maine) and Scott MacDougald (Ontario).

The other three positions were filled by new Directors who begin their terms at the annual July Board meeting: Nancy Kane (Virginia), Barry Marler (Florida) and Robert McDougal (Wyoming).

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New Members

Michele McDougal
St-Hubert, QC

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Contact Us

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Plan now to join



Nancy Kane has been active in Clan MacDougall for over 30 years, a strong advocate of our scholarship program and chair of the committee, and a member of our awards committee.

**the celebration of our
50th Anniversary
July 10 - 12, 2015**

Barry Marler is an Air Force officer, Society life member and former John A. McDougall Scholarship winner who has become an accomplished Highland snare drummer.



Robert McDougal is currently our Rocky Mountain Regional Commissioner and Wyoming State Representative, has organized our participation at Estes Park since 2000 and is a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.



The Board wants to recognize departing Directors Bruce McClintock (Missouri), Beacham McDougald (North Carolina) and Keith Place (Georgia) for their extensive commitment to Clan MacDougall Society through the years.

The twelve Directors whose terms continue beyond 2015 are Lynne Borneman (Virginia), Sarah Hereford (Alabama), Bill Leroy (Kentucky), Chris MacDougall (Ontario), Don MacDougall (Virginia), Malcolm MacDougall (Pennsylvania), Ashby McCown (Maryland), Gene McDougald (Texas), Ed McDougall (Florida), John McDowall (Virginia), Nancy Van Valkenburgh (Alabama) and Darleen Weisz (California).

And congratulations to our new officers

After the Board elections, current Directors participated in the biannual elections for officers of the Society. Those elected to two-year terms running between the 2015 and 2017 Annual General Meetings:

President -- Thomas Ashby McCown (Maryland)
President Elect -- Scott MacDougald (Ontario)
Vice President for Membership -- Nancy Van Valkenburgh (Alabama)
Vice President for the Treasury -- Don MacDougall (Virginia)
Recording Secretary -- Chris MacDougall (Ontario)

Thank you to these officers for their willingness to serve. They deserve our support as well as our congratulations.

There's still time to join in the Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Founders Dinner

It's definitely not too late to make your reservations for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It's July 10 - 12 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in Linville, North Carolina.

Accommodations

Visit the GMHG website at www.gmhg.org. Click on both



"Participating Lodging Partners" and "Avery County Chamber of Commerce."

Founders Dinner Reservations

We have reduced the cost of reservations for Founders Dinner to \$37.00 per person. Use this [Reservation Form](#).

Friday, July 10 Highlights

4:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting (AGM), open to all members.

6:00 p.m. Reception, followed at 7:00 p.m. by Founders Dinner.

Saturday, July 11 Highlights

4:00 p.m. Porky Campbell pork BBQ in the Chief's tent.

7:00 p.m. Gathering and Celebration at the Eseed Pavilion - fellowship, recollections from past presidents and long-term members, festive entertainment.

MacDougall 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.

MAY

16 - Fair Hill Colonial Highland Gathering

- Fair Hill, MD (Near Wilmington, DE)

23 - Gallabrae Highland Games

- Greenville, SC

23-24 - ScottishFest

- Costa Mesa, CA

JUNE

6 - Bonnie Brae Scottish Festival and Games

- Liberty Corner, NJ (Near Newark)

27-28 - San Diego Highland Games

- Vista, CA

JULY

1 - Embro Highland Games

- Embro, ON, Canada

3-5 - Kincardine Scottish Festival

- Kincardine, ON, Canada

10-12 - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

& Society 50th Anniversary Celebration

- Linville, NC

AUGUST

7-9 - Fergus Scottish Festival

- Fergus, Ontario, Canada

14-15 - Bracebridge Highland Games

- Bracebridge, ON, Canada

OCTOBER

10-11 - Seaside Highland Games

- Ventura, CA

It was a Bon Voyage: Festival aboard Queen Mary launched our 2015 games season

Once again our Southern California Representative (and Board Member) Darleen Weisz hosted the Clan MacDougall hospitality table at the annual ScotsFestival in Long Beach. It is always one of our first efforts of the games season, which is just getting into full swing.



"We had fun with the MacDougalls and McDowells who came by our table on the Queen Mary...We all marched in the clan parade alongside the Queen Mary."



If you host or visit a Clan MacDougall tent or table at Highland games this year, please send us some photos and a quick summary.

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.

Y-chromosome and the name McDougall

[The following was forwarded by Rocky Mountain Commissioner and Wyoming State Representative Robert McDougal. It is an excerpt from the book "Saxons, Vikings, and Celts," a genetic map started in 2006 of the Isles and Norway. The slightly longer complete passage is available [here](#).]



"It was during my research on Skye that I stumbled across a genetic phenomenon...My research student Jayne Nicholson and I found a rare Y-chromosome profile in our Skye samples and, when we compared it to others collected at donor sessions elsewhere in Scotland, we noticed that we found it almost exclusively among men with the surnames

Macdonald, McDougall and Macalister. It was Jayne who remarked that all three names were said to be descended, according to traditional clan genealogies, from Somerled, the Celtic hero...It was Somerled who was responsible for ending the power of the Norse earls of Orkney in Argyll and the Hebrides, and who died at Renfrew during his ill-fated invasion of Scotland in 1164. Jayne set about writing to men with these three names asking for DNA samples, while I contacted the five living clan chiefs whose genealogies traced back to Somerled. They all agreed to help and, I'm very glad to report, all five had inherited the same Y-chromosome that we had seen in the men with the three surnames. Somerled's Y-chromosome had done extremely well and, thanks to its association with a powerful and wealthy clan, has become very common indeed in the Highlands and Islands, and among Highlanders who have emigrated overseas. Roughly a quarter of Macdonalds, a third of McDougalls and 40 per cent of Macalisters are direct paternal descendants of Somerled. This is not just true in Scotland, but throughout the world; it has been estimated that there are 200,000 men who carry

Somerled's Y-chromosome as proof of their descent from the man who drove the Norse from the Isles..."

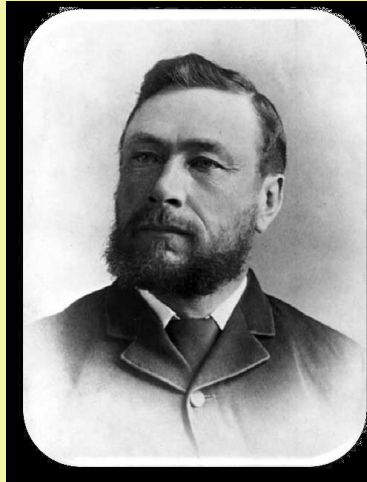
-- Sykes, Bryan (2007-12-17). "Saxons, Vikings, and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland" (Kindle Locations 3064-3067). W. W. Norton & Company. Kindle Edition.

Interesting MacDougalls

James McDougall -- Fur Trader, Explorer

James McDougall was a nineteenth-century fur trader and explorer, who is remembered for his participation in opening up present-day British Columbia, Canada to European settlement as part of a North West Company expedition to the region, led by Simon Fraser.

McDougall was third-in-command on Fraser's team, functioning as junior clerk to John Stuart. Fraser and his crew entered the territory they would call New Caledonia in 1805, a foray that would culminate in the successful descent and ascent of the Fraser River in the spring and summer of 1808. During that time, Fraser and his men constructed several fur-trading posts.



The first of these resulted from a trip undertaken by Fraser and McDougall up the Parsnip River in the autumn of 1805, in order to determine an ideal route for reaching the Fraser from the Peace River canyon, which was a major portal at the time into the territory west of the Rocky Mountains. Their travels resulted in the establishment by Fraser of the first post and permanent European settlement west of the Rockies, at present-day McLeod Lake.

That winter Connor Swingle, the crew member left in charge of the deserted nascent post, and McDougall were charged with administration of the post while Fraser and Stuart were engaged elsewhere. During that time, McDougall seized the initiative to investigate reports he had received of an important lake and fur region to the northwest, in the heart of the region inhabited by the Dakelh First Nation. He journeyed down the as-yet unnamed Fraser River, becoming the first European to find and ascend the Nechako River, a major tributary that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, travelling that way twelve years earlier, had inexplicably missed. From there, McDougall ascended the Stuart River to its source at Stuart Lake. McDougall would later go on to explore what has come to be known as British Columbia's "Lake Country", ascending the Nechako beyond Fraser Lake as far as Babine Lake and Francois Lake. The fruit of McDougall's explorations would be the construction by Fraser of a post at Stuart Lake, Fort St. James, which would become headquarters of the New Caledonia department of the North West Company (merged in 1821 with the Hudson's Bay Company).

Following Fraser's expedition, McDougall stayed in New Caledonia to assist Stuart as a trader at the Fort St. James' post for a period of some years.

[NOTE: The above data came from an Internet search for MacDougalls of interest. If you have any suggestions of MacDougalls or MacDowalls that you would like to see featured here, please let us know.]

Famous Scots



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