



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



October 2015

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

Ashby Reflections

Bha an Dàmhair làn thàchartasan agus na' mhios brèagha. Gu dearbh, 'se am Foghar àghmhor th'ann. Bha mi glè thoilichte faicinn dè cho beothail a tha na prògramanan againn agus na prògramanan Dhùn Ollaigh.

October was a month filled with activity and part of a glorious autumn, both here and in Scotland. The Society hosted tents at three important games: Seaside in Ventura, CA; Stone Mountain near Atlanta; and Central Virginia in Richmond, VA. We have Keith Place's and Sandra MacDougall's reports on the Stone Mountain and Richmond games below.

I visited Oban during the month and enjoyed myself enormously. The annual Gaelic Mòd was held in Oban this year. A report on the Mòd below, describes Dundlie's Gaelic contributions to this celebration: a musical production, "Fighe" (knitting or weaving), and bilingual story telling at Dundlie's Faerie Garden. It should be added that during the week Dundlie also held a special tour of the castle and a special talk, "Jacobites - The MacDougall's Of Dundlie", both very good, but alas in English.

Fighe was part of last year's annual Fasanta festival. Fasanta is Gaelic for "fashion". This is a weekend celebrating Scotland's textile heritage that grew out of the study of the ancient costume collections at Dundlie House. The weekend typically includes workshops, talks, a discussion panel, textile exhibitions, the Fasanta design award, Children's Activities, a community catwalk show, and, recently, Gaelic musical productions by Rachel Walker. The most recent Fasanta took place November 6-8 at the Corran Halls in Oban, where Rachel Walker staged her new production, "Seudan" or Jewels.

I would like to draw your attention to two scholarship programs described in this newsletter. The Society's well known John A. McDougall Scholarship Program, and the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation's John S. Carasik Scholarship Fund. The latter promotes travel abroad to assist the heritage work of Dundlie and the Lismore Museum.

In This Issue

Ashby's Reflections

Histories: Gift Ideas

The 2015 Stone Mountain Highland Games

The 2015 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games Games and Festival

The Royal National Mod 2015

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

This John S. Carasik Scholarship Fund

New Members

Tents at Highland Games

New Members

Christina Lakish
Fairplay, CO

Shannon McDowell
Thorton, CO

Lauren O'Hern
Norfolk, VA

Adrienne M. Dale
Oceanport, NJ

Suzanne Davis
Hanover, MD

Don Doyle
Bakersfield, CA

Jay Burkhart
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Ashby

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

MacDougall/MacDowall Histories Scott MacDougald

At this time of year we begin to look for items as nice gifts. If you are looking for something related to your clan we have some suggestions for you.

Our web site has a Book Section listing the best books about Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Each book description includes directions where to purchase the book, its approximate cost, and whether the profits are directed to the preservation of the clan heritage. These books can be found on our web site at <http://macdougall.org/2014/02/16/macdougall-and-macdowall-books/>.

The Old Draper's Gift Shop at Dundlie sells the DVD, *The MacDougalls of Lorn*. The DVD, text and music take you through the places and the history of Clan MacDougall. There has been an online version of the Old Draper's gift shop at <http://www.dundlie.org> in the past, but it does not seem to be there at this particular time. It is worthwhile checking to see if the shop comes back on line in due course.

The 2015 Stone Mountain Highland Games Report by Keith Place Georgia State Representative

I hosted our Clan Tent at the 43rd Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games with welcome assistance from David and Carol McDougall and the Leroy Family. The games were held from 16 to 18 October with over 90 Clans and associations in attendance. Saturday started cold, but warmed up quickly, which brought more people under the trees to visit the many Clan Tents. Sunday was colder and stayed fairly cold into the afternoon, but a great time was still had by all. Over the weekend 8 new members signed up at the tent, despite my exuberant ramblings about the Heritage MacDougall Tartan, stories of Somerled and the Bruce.

2015 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games Sandra MacDougall Reports

The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games were held at the Richmond Virginia Race Track Oct 24 & 25. The Clan MacDougall Tent welcomed many visitors and signed four new

Shannon Mac Dowell
Allston, MA

Frank Antonio Bird
Northridge, CA

Patricia E. Seyler
Perry, GA

Patrick McDougal
Ringgold, GA

John W. Leetch
Gainesville, GA

Mary Leita White
Gainesville, GA

Steve Dowdle
Northport, AL

Melissa Lutenbacker
Birmingham, AL

Susan Livingston
Copperas Cove

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.

December

5- Scottish Christmas Walk Alexandria, VA

Contact Us

Ashby McCown
President
president@MacDougall.org

Nancy Van Valkenburgh
V. P. Membership
info@MacDougall.org

Don MacDougall
Treasurer
treasurer@MacDougall.org

Internet
Web site :
www.macdougall.org



Hosting at Richmond

members. There were 29 Clan groups in attendance both days. The competition events included Fiddle, Harp, Pipe & drums and dance.



The Erin

Erin Bartow Dancers

(McDougall) Bartow Highland Dancers performed splendidly and apparently enjoyed themselves a great deal as well.

Children enjoyed the 'Wee ones area' which provided pumpkin painting, athletics, face painting and bounce houses.



Many dogs attended the Festival and were recognized at the 'Blessing of the Animals' event. Clan MacDougall's Scottie, Brodie, made many new canine friends both days.

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

Mòd an Òbain 2015 The Royal National Mòd 2015

The Royal National Mòd was born in Oban. In 1890 a lively discussion arose in the Scottish press concerning the pros and cons of establishing a Gaelic festival emulating the Eisteddfod, the successful Welsh language culture festival. While the discussion proceeded, Oban Provost Hugh McCowan helped organize, and presided over, a public meeting in Oban to organize the foundation of such a festival. This meeting, and a great deal of work, led to the foundation of An



An t-Oban

Comunn Gàidhealach, the Highland Society, the following year and subsequently of the Mòd, the Gaelic language festival itself. The first Mòd was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall in Oban on the 13th of September 1892. It lasted only a few

hours and participants were sometimes scarce. Nancy Black, a great niece of Provost McCowan, noted that in many cases it was necessary to go out into the streets of Oban and recruit contestants. On the other hand this could be done in Oban in 1892. At the end of the 19th century half the population of Oban were habitual Gaelic speakers as were over 80% of those living outside the city.

This year's Mòd was again held in Oban, was much larger and

longer than in 1892, and was very successful. Competitions were spread over a week and the weather was fantastic throughout. The sunsets over Oban Bay and the islands were spectacular. The sunrises, coming overland from the east, may not have been too bad but it is not clear, given the lively evening entertainment throughout the week, how many had the opportunity to observe them. It was good to hear Gaelic spoken spontaneously on the streets of Oban.

The core events of the Mòd are its competitions, such as those in Gaelic music and song, highland dancing, instrumental music, drama, and literature. Some five hundred clips of the competitions can be seen and heard at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0084v85/clips>.

Some Gaelic language events are, however, staged as "Fringe" events that are simply celebrations of the language. Dundellie was responsible for two impressive Gaelic events in the Fringe: A musical production, "Fighe", (Gaelic for knitting or weaving); and an hour of bi-lingual story telling for children in Dundellie's Faerie Garden. Fighe, produced by Rachel Walker and first staged at Fasanta in 2014, is a collection of music and songs related to textile production, with special attention paid to the Prestonpans tapestry. It featured the renowned Gaelic voice



Story telling table in the Faerie Garden

of Art Cormack and the superb Scots singer Fiona Hunter. .

In the Faerie Garden a dozen excited children listened for an hour to, and interacted with, a series of Gaelic stories, some focused on Dundellie. The stories were written by

Dundellie staff. Someday we will pass on the story of the Dundellie spider faeries and ivy faeries, whose webs and vines are the only thing keeping the castle standing.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland delivered a Gaelic sermon at a Sunday service, in which other prominent people, including representatives of St. Columba RC Cathedral, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, and Lismore Parish Church spoke as well. A Scottish Episcopal Church Eucharist with Gaelic liturgy was celebrated at St. John's.

The events of the Fringe also included book releases, a National Library of Scotland review of rare digitized Gaelic books, an art exhibition at the Oban Distillery and incredible performances of Duncan Ban Macintyre's poetry and song sponsored by the Scottish Natural Heritage.

The performances in this year's competitions were excellent. The Gold medal winners in Gaelic song were Catriona MacNeil of Glasgow, whose family comes from Barra, and Donald Iain Brown from Tiree, now living in Glasgow. There is a tradition that the men and women who win the Royal National Mòd gold medals in Gaelic song travel to the U.S. to attend and perform at our National Mòd, held in conjunction with the Ligonier Highland Games in Pennsylvania. The Mòd at Ligonier runs from Friday evening to Sunday morning, typically the third or fourth weekend in September. Our Mòd is much smaller, with fewer events - but the performances are good and the joy of the language is great.

There is an ancient, strong and enduring poetic tradition in Gaelic. The Bardic crown, which is awarded every four years by An Comunn Gàidhealach, passed this year from Loidhche MacFhionghain (Lewis MacKinnon) of Nova Scotia to Floraidh

MacPhail from Tìree. Lodaìdh began his Gaelic education learning from, then conversing with, his great uncle, Dougald MacDougall, who ignited in him a great passion for the language. He is Executive Director of Gaelic Affairs of the Province of Nova Scotia and a powerful force in rejuvenating the language in and beyond that Province. Floraidh MacPhail, of Tìree, was named as the new Bard by An Comunn Gaidhealach. Mrs. MacPhail taught both Gaelic and English in Glasgow and Inverness before returning to Tìree in the 1970s. She returned to college in the 1990s to get a diploma in primary education in order to teach in the Gaelic medium education program when it came to Tìree.

A century ago Europe was enveloped in WWI. Commemorations of the sacrifices and ambiguities of that conflict are being held throughout Britain, including at the Mòd in Oban. Indeed, the prescribed piece for competitors in poetry reading ages 13-15 was "Air an Somme//On the Somme" written by Dòmhnall Ruadh Chorùna, or Donald MacDonald. Donald was wounded in no-man's land in the battle of the Somme. His shoulder was broken by a wall of mud thrown up by an exploding artillery shell and his wrist was shattered by a bullet from a rifle. He pulled himself through the mud back to his own trenches.



Parish Church of Kilmore and Oban

This theme of dark memories was continued in an excellent Fringe performance in the Parish Church of Kilmore and Oban: Mac-talla Cogaidh: Òranan agus bàrdachd Urramach Iain MacLeòid// Echos of war: Poems and songs of the late Reverend Iain MacLeod. MacLeod's poetry often shows the influence that war has on the life of the community. His father was among the many returning troops that were lost when the *Iolaire* (or Eagle) went on the rocks approaching Stornoway Harbor early New Years Day, 1919.

MacLeod writes in the song "Shadows turning to Gold":

All the houses forsaken, roofless barns without corn
No harvest is gathered, no croft land is turned,
Sudden summons in wartime soon emptied the glen,
So we saved our own country, but we killed our young men.

But he also wrote optimistic, uplifting poems. The program ended with Dingwell choir with five gold medal winners and the audience singing with great force while holding hands, "Thoir dhomh do làmh//Give me your hand".

Thoir dhomh do làmh, thoir dhomh do làmh
's ged tha an saoghal fada ceàrr
'se tha dhith aid tuilleadh gràidh
Thoir dhomh do làmh, thoir dhomh do làmh

This was translated by the program, to maintain English rhyme, as:

Give me your hand, give me your hand
And so the world will understand
Peace can come to every land

Give me your hand, give me your hand.



Part of the March of the Massed
Choirs

The Mòd culminated with a march of the massed Gaelic choirs on Saturday morning from a point near the train and ferry terminals along George St. and the Corran Esplanade to the parking lot of Corran Halls. There was no meaningful movement of traffic in Oban for three quarters of an hour. And

after they massed and marched, they sang.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

MONTH/YEAR

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.

The John S. Carasik Scholarship Fund

The John S. Carasik Scholarship Fund, of the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation, offers a \$1000 scholarship for US citizens, preferably Clan members, to go to Oban, Scotland, to assist museum staff with the MacDougall Collection at Dundlie House or to the Isle of Lismore to assist with the Lismore Museum. This scholarship will help defray the costs to those interested in MacDougall and McCallum clan history who wish to spend one week assisting with Clan projects. The purpose of this scholarship is to support the preservation of clan history and culture while bringing recipients close to our rich Scottish heritage.

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1.
Scholarship recipients will be notified on or before May 1st.

For more information please contact Margaret MacDougall Carasik:
2301 Bayberry Ave.
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082.
Phone 651-439-4780.
Email: carasikm@comcast.net