



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



October/November 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

'Se tir Albann tir aosmhor agus gheibhear eachdraidh
bhrioghmhoir an dualchas againn ann an gach linn.

Scotland is an ancient land and the rich history of our heritage is found in every epoch.

Archaeological finds extend, complement and correct the record and interpretation of history. Areas in Scotland of interest to our Society have been blessed with particularly important archaeological sites that have been known for a very long time. In Galloway the area around Whithorn, perhaps the earliest major Christian site in Scotland, has revealed vital iron age communities engaged in manufacture and trade. In Argyle, Kilmartin Glen is one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains in Europe. Sites in the Oban area have long been studied for Mesolithic activity.

Archaeology in Scotland continues to enrich our understanding of our heritage. In Galloway, recently completed archaeological work on the Dunraggit bypass yielded a large number artifacts dating from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods. The work uncovered the earliest known, at least to this point, Mesolithic dwellings in southwest Scotland. Some believe that these may have been a hunting camp dating to 7000 BC.

A small pilot project in 2013 excavating a suspected crannog in wetlands around the filled-in Black Loch of Myrton, near Wigtownshire in Galloway, revealed an Iron Age loch village - the first to have been found in Scotland, and only the third in Britain. The site, dating from 460 BC, includes seven structures and may have hosted agricultural, trade and manufacturing activities. Small projects can yield major results.

Kilbride is one of the more important sites for MacDougalls and associated families. The Parish of Kilbride is old and its history filled with events in the lives of these families. The remaining stone structures are in a precarious condition. The Friends of Kilbride have informed us that Historic Environment Scotland

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New Members

Derrick McDowell
Hartford, AL

Sara McDowell
Hillsboro, OR

Marilyn Trevino
Charleston, SC

Jeremy Barrows
Summerville, SC

Nicholas McDowall
Summerville, SC

Tents at Highland Games

December

has agreed to fund an architectural study on which to base a preservation plan for the Church, the MacDougal Burial Enclosure, and other structures at Kilbride. This is a first, but important step, for a site with such a rich history.

This issue of the Newsletter provides a brief account of the Big Nave Dig on the island of Lismore, an initial re-excavation project carried out by the Lismore Community that will hopefully be extended. Lismore is home to very old settlements and it has yielded over time many artifacts, some of which can be viewed in Ionad Naomh Moluag, the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Center.

The potential yield of archaeological work around Dundlie Castle is, as has been discussed often before, enormous. The area around the castle has probably hosted human activity for over two thousand years. As reported in the July Newsletter, a very small excavation was carried out in the Castle Compound at the completion of Phase II of the Consolidation Project. It uncovered a wall and floor/drain which may have belonged to the fortification of an older structure. I took the following photo, showing the excavation trenches in front a tower on the current outer walls of the castle compound, during my trip to Scotland in September.



Tioraidh an-drasta

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

A Note from our Treasurer

It is that time again. Everyone will soon receive their annual dues notice and request for contributions to the Society. Please take a moment, during this busy time of year, to complete and return your contribution and dues forms. The Society depends 100% on members' dues and contributions to continue our fellowship and the worthy scholarships and projects we support.

The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games
Richmond, VA

3- Scottish Christmas Walk
Alexandria, VA

January
14-15 Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
Winter Springs, FL

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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

Bha oiteagan fionnar agus beòthail ann aig Fèis Cheilteach agus Geamannan Gàidhealach ann an Richmond ach bha a' ghrian agus an Fhèis fhèin blath. Agus chualadh Gàidhlig ghlan 's bhinn ann am Buth Cultar Chlann MhicMhuirich.

postal address changes to:
records@macdougall.org



Although the breezes were brisk and chill in Richmond, the sun and the Celtic Festival and Highland Games were themselves warm and gentle. We met many Society members with their families, made new friends and had animated discussions of family histories, Scottish culture and history. Athletic competitions, fiery metal working, and practicing pipe bands were near our tent. Melodious Gaelic was spoken and sung in the nearby Clan Currie Culture Tent.

There were an enormous number of young people at the Festival and they were especially active in the highland dancing competitions. Don and Sandra's Scottie, Brodie, arrayed in a MacDougall tartan, held court at the MacDougall tent for both canine and human visitors.



Scotland County Highland Games

Reported by Beacham McDougald

The 8th annual Scotland County Highland Games were held in Laurinburg, NC, on Saturday, October 1. Festivities began Friday afternoon, September 30, with a whisky tasting attended by 85 and held at the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast in downtown Laurinburg. The Saturday games featured 44 men and women athletes, 10 pipe bands, numerous dancers judged by Erin McDougal Bartow, 42 clans, and 3,100 people. Entertainment included Belles on Strings, Colin Grand Adams, and Seven Nations. For a delightful view of the games check out [this video](#) on YouTube.

The 2017 Games will be October 7, and will mark the 25th student exchange between Scotland High School and Oban High School. The students from Oban and other guests will be present, and a commemorative Ceilidh will be held after the games

Stone Mountain Highland Games

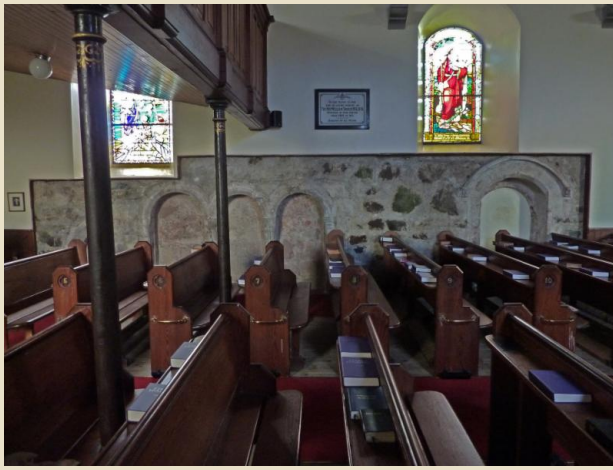
Stone Mountain Park, GA

Reported by Keith Place

This year's hosting of the Stone Mountain Highland Games was a victim of Hurricane Matthew as the hosts (David & Carol McDougall and Keith Place) were hit directly by the storm. A minimal display was provided at the Games, but we enjoyed the company of several returning friends, new visitors and some fantastic weather. With a few new members joining our society, the Games proved to be a great and much needed stress relief.

The Big Nave Dig at Lismore

The island of Lismore is around a mile wide and something over ten miles long, lying a little north of Oban between the Lynn of Morvern and the Lynn of Lorn. The name, Lios Mòr, means great garden. Around 561 St Mluag established a religious community on Lismore, two years before St Columba founded his on Iona. St. Mluag, in fact, is reputed to have won a race with Columba in coracles to claim the island and St Columba was compelled to settle on Iona in consolation. The Bishopric of Argyll was established on Lismore in 1200, encouraged by and under the protection of Duncan, second chief of Clan MacDougall. The island has a long intellectual history and is rich in our heritage. In the early 16th century the Dean of Lismore, James MacGregor, compiled the earliest anthology of Gaelic poetry that we possess. There are two Gaelic poems to MacDougalls in W.J. Watson's selection from this book, *Bardachd Albannach - Scottish Verse from the Book of the Dean of Lismore*. Alexander Carmichael, collector of oral traditions and author of the multivolume *Carmina Gadelica*, was born and raised on Lismore. St Mluag's pastoral staff, or Bachuil Mòr, is still kept in the community. The MacDhunsleibhe or MacLea family, who changed their name to Livingston, are hereditary custodians of the staff. Walter MacDougall describes his 1981 visit with Alastair Livingston,



The precise location of the site where Saint Moluag founded his religious community is unknown, but a medieval cathedral sat on the site of the current parish Church and some of cathedral features are seen in its walls.



In August of this year a community archaeology project spent a week digging to reveal and interpret the Nave and tower of the mediaeval cathedral. Archaeologists Clare Ellis and Mark Thacker were on hand to guide the work and interpret the findings. At a conference in Oban this last September, Robert Hay, of the Lismore Historical Society, described the relationship between the medieval building and the parish church:

The nave and west tower of the Cathedral of Argyll fell into ruins after the Reformation, serving as a quarry of good stone for new buildings, including the Lismore manse. The chancel was cut down in height and converted into the parish church.

In the 1950s archaeologists traced the outline of the medieval building and confirmed the existence of a tower at the west end. However, after 60 years, the footings can no longer be traced, and there is no safe access to the area.

Hay went on to describe the Lismore Nave Project, or more popularly, the Big Nave Dig:

The Lismore Nave Project, which is expected to last for more than one year is a joint undertaking by Lismore Parish Church and Lismore Historical Society to reveal the outline of the building, ensure the preservation of the remains, arrange public access, and provide interpretation. The first

year of work in August 2016, involving a "Community Dig" was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and carried out under the supervision of Argyll Archaeology (supported by Historic Environment Scotland). It is hoped to be able to find out when the nave and tower were built by sampling the mortar exposed by the dig.

The dig started in torrential rain. The first stage, carried out this year, was confined to re-opening three trenches dug in the 1950s to confirm the findings of that dig. This year's work did find that the earlier work had left deposits of mixed bones: human, cattle, sheep, dog, roe deer, possibly red deer and other species. These were respectfully cleaned, will be identified, and then re-interred.



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There is considerable work yet to be done. For example: dating the building work from mortar samples; radiocarbon dating uncovered bones; exposing, interpreting and conserving remaining nave and tower walls; and continued surveying of local walls and buildings for Nave sandstone.

The Community plans, finance permitting, to be at work again in August.

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.

