

The Cairn



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Volume 34, No. 4
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Visit our webpage at: www.macdougall.org

Wylie and Mary McDougall,
Founding Editors

MacDougall Roots Explored in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

by William C. MacLeod

As a new clan member and after seeing my first newsletter, I think I have an item of interest.

My mother is Katherine MacDougall MacLeod and was born in 1914 in Inverness (Cape Breton), Nova Scotia. She left Inverness at age 15 to work in Boston, MA. My sister and I took my mother back to Cape Breton in August. We heard through her nephew, Hugh MacDougall of Halifax, NS, there was a MacDougall monument in Inverness erected by MacDougall's to commemorate the MacDougalls that settled near Inverness beginning around 1804. My mother had to see it and we were all very proud to be there overlooking Inverness and the spectacular ocean view.

While in Inverness, we attended a ceilidh with my mother's other nephew, Alexander MacDougall of Judique, NS. His daughter, Amanda MacDougall played the piano accompaniment to all the fiddlers and dancers that evening. Amanda is a piano instructor during summer sessions at the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts in St. Anns, NS.

For those Clan members doing genealogy work, there are many MacDougall grave sites in the Inverness Cemetery.

I thought all MacDougalls would be interested in our trip to Cape Breton. The MacDougalls around Inverness are all very proud of their heritage. ☺

Above right: Miriam MacLeod Winston, William's sister, poses for a picture at the MacDougall Cairn in Inverness, NS.

left: Katherine MacDougall MacLeod with granddaughter Amanda MacDougall.

Far right: Katherine MacDougall MacLeod





The Editor's Desk

by Pat McDougal

In the September issue of the monthly magazine *Scottish Field*, edited by Archie McKenzie, is a "Drawn on Tour" that goes from Glasgow to Iona across to Crathes Castle near Banchory and down to Edinburgh. For a first time Scottish traveler, it looks as an exciting tour to be followed.

In response to the summer issue, vol. 34 #3, twelve page issue of *The Tartan*, we were able to put in more of the material that has been received. We feel the membership has grown to give more information concerning the happenings of the Clan. With your continued help with information, we will continue this larger newsletter when material warrants. ☺

The MacDougall tartan cloth, in modern colors, 100% cotton twill, 54" wide, is still available. Mail checks for \$17.75 per yard, post paid to:
Pat McDougal
8540 Rancho Drive
Ooltewah, TN 36363

New Appointments

**Carol J. McDougall &
David J. McDougall**

Southeast Regional Co-Commissioners

Beacham McDougald

State Representative - North Carolina



Our Travels to Scotland

by Alec and Sandy McDougall



As in the memories of Kirk Dougal in the Summer, 1999 issue of *The Tartan*, the Alec McDougalls of Mount Vernon, Washington have great memories of over three weeks spent traveling the highways and byways of Scotland this last summer. We drove from York, England north to Edinburgh, Scotland in mid-July to catch that great city before festival days. We thoroughly enjoyed walking the Royal Mile there, seeing and living the history of Scotland. We even wandered into the Scottish Parliament building and were treated to quite a tour and talk about the newly formed Parliament, that became a discussion point at most of our Bed and Breakfast stops around Scotland.

From Edinburgh we traveled north to Newburgh, Crief and Edzell on our way to Aberdeen. From Aberdeen it was on to Dufftown, in the heart of distillery country, then the fields of Culloden on our way to Inverness. We stayed several days so we could take day-trips around Loch Ness and then to the North West around Loch Assynt to Ullapool and Gairloch. Our next stop was on the Isle of Skye where our B&B host and hostess, a retired Episcopal Priest, Ted Redhead and his wife Nan, showed us a great time and added greatly to our knowledge of Scotland.

After Skye we headed to Fort Williams where we caught the Highland Games (since we were missing our own in Mount Vernon) and a ride up the ski lifts near Ben Nevis. Finally, after Fort Williams, we headed to Oban, the heart of McDougall country! Our first visit in Oban was to Dunollie, which we found to be in fair shape. It is too bad the castle isn't on the list for reclamation, for it is truly in a great place. We shot up a whole roll of film and made sure we had it developed so we could share our pictures with those we saw as soon as we got home. Finding that Dunstaffnage Castle had also once been a MacDougall holding, my wife and I went to the place and cased it carefully to start planning to take it back from the Campbells! Then we caught the walk-on-ferry to the Isle of Kerrera to visit Gylen Castle. The walk to the castle was great, with a nice tea garden stop, and the castle is certainly an imposing sight. It is wonderful to have that structure on the restoration list; donate your dollars to help in the process. After one last visit to Dunollie we headed on toward Loch Lomond.

Stops in Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh rounded out our visit to the fatherland which we concluded with the military Tattoo in Edinburgh the night before we drove from Lauder, Scotland to Birmingham, England. We have many great memories of Scotland and lots of pictures. I'd say we were ready to go back there, already, but first we must pay for my kilt and all of its trappings. ☺

Flowers of the Forest

Please accept our expression of sympathy at the loss of your loved one.

Clan MacDougall Society



Late word was received that **Major James Williamson MacDougall**, of Gallanach passed away. Lunga and Gallanach are the two existing and principal

cadets of Clan MacDougall. Major MacDougall, 16th of Gallanach, served in the army with The Royal Scots Fusiliers from 1939 until retiring in 1959. He was on active service during World War II in Madagascar, the Far East, the Middle East, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany, and in Malaya from 1954 to 1957. More information concerning Major MacDougall's life and death will be reported in the winter issue of *The Tartan*.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Richard T. MacDougall



Early Autumn greeting to our Clanfolk everywhere,

The 1999 highland games season is not over and already we are describing it as a very successful year. Interesting how often we find ourselves saying "we had a great gathering - in spite of the weather". The annual gathering at Grandfather Mountain was outstanding in spite of the rain; or we had a good crowd at the games in spite of the awful heat of the summer of '99. Well, it's cooler now, and I am making preparations for three of the big games of September: Altamont, NY, Longs Peak, CO., and Loon Mountain, NH.

The news is mostly good news for this edition. In addition to the Somerled award to the retiring SE Regional Commissioner, Jim McDougal, which was announced in the last *Tartan*, I have presented an additional 1999 Somerled award to David W. MacDougall of Charleston, SC, who has done such a consistently excellent and conscientious job as Webmaster for our Clan MacDougall website.

I am pleased to announce that David J. and Carol J. MacDougall of Charleston, SC, have accepted the positions of Co-Commissioners of the Southeast Region. Also, I am pleased to report that Beacham McDougald of Launenburg, NC has been appointed as State Representative in North Carolina. The Southeast is a large and busy region and David and Carol can also use help from a couple of good clanfolk in the States of Mississippi and Tennessee.

This is not official yet, but I am delighted to report that, with the help of Fergus MacDowell, we have found some very good people to be our representatives in the province of British Columbia. Donald R. MacDougall will be the Regional Commissioner and Barbara MacDougall will be the Provincial Representative. Our sincere thanks to all of these new officers for their willingness to be of service.

My next focus on empty places on the map will be Connecticut and metropolitan and western New York States. If you live there and would like a fun job, get in touch with me.

I regret that it is my sad duty to report that there has been another death in Oban. Major James MacDougall of Gallanach has recently passed away after a long illness. Major James was head of the Gallanach Cadet. The cadets are the several parallel lines of descendance from Dougal and Somerled.

Have a lovely Fall. Pray for rain where we badly need it and to hold off where we don't.

Slainte mhor,

Dick



Origin of Flowers of the Forest

At the instigation of the ambitious younger brothers of the King of the Scots, Henry, VIII, led an army against Scotland. King James, the IV and the "flower" of Scottish nobility were slain at the Battle of Flodden on September 9, 1513, one of the greatest disasters to befall the country. The "forest" refers to a district of Scotland called Ettrick Forest where the battle took place.

The pipe tune "Flowers of the Forest" is a soulful lament played by pipe bands during worship services at many highland games. At that time a moment can be taken by all to remember family members who have gone on before. ☸



As a result of reading *the Tartan*, I was prompted to look at the website. It has really expanded since I last looked. I found something on the message board that might help me with my genealogy work and it reminded me to contact Bill Leroy about a gift to the Foundation and Gylen fund.

-Tom and Shirley Gurley



Lorne J. MacDougall, of Medford MA, writes of his wedding in 1997. "We had pipers, family malt (Oban) and beautiful Scottish music. He was very proud to be married in his MacDougall kilt. Then in August of 1998 the couple added a daughter, Heather Pierce MacDougall to the family. Lorne, says he is the record keeper in his immediate family and has forwarded his information to the clan genealogist William Ermitinger.

-Lorne J. MacDougall



Earlier this year on the evening of January 29th. Mitchell Dean McDougal was married to Pamela Lyn Springstead. The bagpipes were played throughout the ceremony with a large reception party held afterwards.

Mitch and Pam share an eight-year-old daughter Courtney and have a home in Aloha, Oregon. They welcome any correspondence with fellow Clan members throughout the United States and Canada.

Their address is:

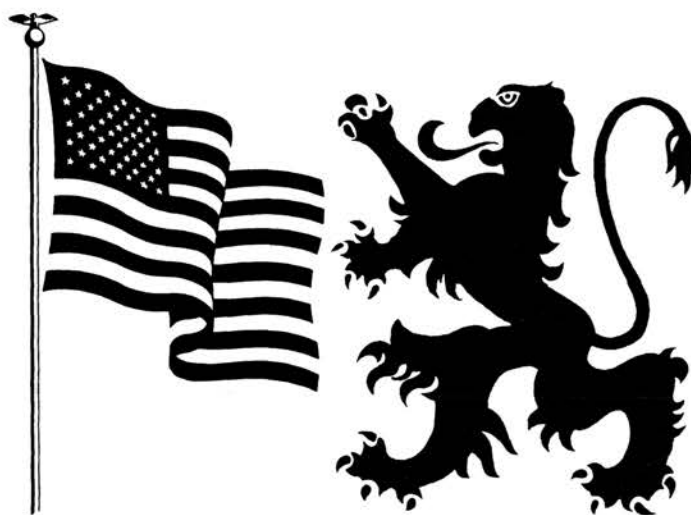
Mitchell, Pamela and
Courtney McDougal
18405 S. W. Broad Oak Drive
Aloha, Oregon 97007 USA
Phone: 503-259-2108

-Mitchell, Pamela and
Courtney McDougal



Laurinburg North Carolina Exchange Visit

Beacham McDougald writes concerning this summers exchange program. Beginning with the Laurinburg students leaving June 13. The trip in Oban Scotland included school days, trips to "The Rare Breeds Park", Kerrera and the Oban Distillery, then to Edinburgh to visit the city and Scottish Parliament. A trip was hosted by the Oban Rotary, to Iona and Staffa, first by railway and then by ferry to Mull. The visit was topped off with a farewell dance and ceilidh. On June 26th, the group left Oban in the 'wee sma hours' for the flight home.



Oban Scotland Exchange Visit

Beginning October 7th, the Scots will arrive and partake of the first American meal at "McDonald's". This trip for the Oban students will include school and trips to West Point/Stevens, Grandfather Mt. and a tour of its Wildlife Habitat and a walk over the mile high swinging bridge. The students will then visit the NC Motor Speedway, Myrtle Beach, and then to the NC State Fair in Raleigh. Their trip will culminate with a southern style covered dish supper for the last evening and departure on October 21st, with kleenex in hand.

Clan MacDougall wishes to thank Beecham and all the many people who make this program work. A lot of us are also wishing we were kids again! ☺



The sgian dubh - (skene do) is a small utility knife that is worn tucked into the top of a man's sock.

Living on Kerrera

by Shelia McGregor

I came to Kerrera in November 1985 on my sixth birthday and I have always considered it my home and I cannot imagine living anywhere else. A lot of people would be surprised at this after all Kerrera can sometimes seem to be remote and isolated, especially for someone as young as myself. It is difficult to explain, I can only convey it by saying that people love one another for character, personality, feelings of devotedness, appreciation and protection, this is how I feel about Kerrera, its spiritual not materialistic.

In many ways Kerrera is more than just a beautiful island, it has an amazing atmosphere and way of life due to community spirit.

There are approximately thirty permanent residents, most of whom live and work on the island. All these families moved to the island almost as if the same force drew them here and, as a result, everybody has something in common, that sense of belonging to Kerrera.

There is an particular time of year that perfectly demonstrates this community spirit and that is the months of July and August when we import our hay for the winter, because we cannot grow enough hay on the island to support our animals over that period.

Approximately four to five truckloads of hay are needed, arriving on different days. In order to get the hay to the island it has to cross Kerrera sound by barge, then has to be taken across the island by tractor and trailer before it can be stacked in a shed. Each bale of hay is handled five times before it reaches the cows mouth. In order to make this possible it needs the combined efforts of others which sometimes involves innocent members of the general public. This year we even managed to rope in some unsuspecting geology students who were staying at

the bothy on the island. A lot of farming communities have lost this traditional way of life which is essential for Kerrera to sustain itself.

How do I see Kerrera continuing into the future?

Since I have been here, the only change I have seen is with the closure of the island school. Sure people have come and gone but this hasn't changed the essence of the island.

When I joined Kerrera Primary

positive. After all, most of the tourist never experience all four seasons and as a result go home with the idea that Kerrera is an island of paradise. I find this bias view annoying for it can be a harsh place to live, especially for farmers like my family and myself who have to work constantly to keep our business viable.

There are lots of reasons why it is a hard place to live and these are different for everyone - for me it is not the weather or the loneliness, it is the fact that I have to come to terms with being so settled here at the age of nineteen. All my peers are trying to find themselves and their paths to take in life whereas my path stopped here when I came to Kerrera.

Above all Kerrera makes you stop and think and may even give you a different perspective on life. A stay here may change your life forever; you will find it very difficult to leave it all behind. ☺



Above: Sheila, her dog Katz and her horse Borney on routine check of sheep.

school there were seven pupils then over the next two years it grew to a maximum of twelve and has declined ever since until the school closed two years ago. This is unfortunate, but as there are few houses on the island and no one leaves just because their children become too old for primary school, it is just one of those things. It has happened before, but nowadays with cut backs there is no hope of it opening again. The community is trying to get a lease from the education department to use the building as a community center with a possible involvement with the Clan MacDougall depicting the history of the island.

The closure of the school now means that any primary school children we have on the island have to cross to Oban in all weather and from my own experiences this can be pretty scary for a young child.

To actually live here I think that you have to be strong willed and incredibly



Above: Sheila shearing sheep at Slaterich Farm - 1999.

DIGGING UP YOUR ROOTS

by Steve McGrail reprinted with permission from *Scottish Life Summer 1997*

Researching your Scottish ancestry isn't necessarily straightforward, nor is success guaranteed. But here are some things you can do to increase your chances of success.

The visitor from Glasgow looks anxious and a little apologetic. He wonders if this is all a fool's errand; perhaps he's wasting his time - and that of the man in front of him - as they sit talking in an upstairs office piled high with files and ledgers and leather-bound tomes. The sign on the door read "Regional Archives" - not a bad place to be if you're tracing your ancestors, which is what the visitor is doing.

Like many of the thousands up and down Scotland each year, he hasn't got much to go on. "I know he came from round here, my great grandfather. He worked for the Town Council, some sort of official - a 'Bellman,' what would that be?"

George Dickson, the Regional Archivist, looks up and smiles. The job title "bellman" is crucial information. George knows that positions in local government are usually well documented - which makes things easier. This enquiry, he suspects, is going to end in success.

He's right. Before too long, he's traced the relevant Town Council accounts and found details of regular payments made to a "Town Bellman" who bears the same name as his visitor. These payments suddenly cease, though, there's an entry regarding payment to the bellman's widow. So next stop, the local paper. Could there be a death notice?

George and his visitor pore over the huge bound volume of the paper for 1860 and sure enough, there's the paragraph of the death. Best of all, it gives the bellman's dates and parish of birth, Speymouth. This is as far as George can go, but the visitor is happy. He thanks the archivist and begins making plans for the next leg of his journey - the parish of Speymouth.

This scene took place in Stirling, but it could just as well be happening anywhere in Scotland. From Lerwick to

Lockerbie, from Castlebay to Crail, people are looking for their roots. Sometimes it's done at a distance. Enquiries to people such as George are increasing, "although local archives have rarely got the staff to cope if people come in on spec, or even to deal with lengthy overseas correspondence."

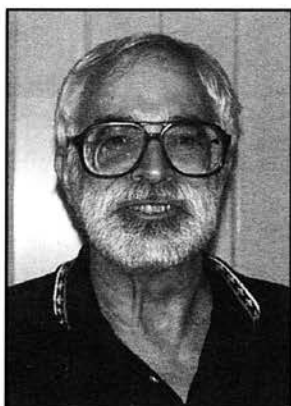
Fortunately for the archivist, however, they're not alone. Many towns and villages already have local history societies, and these are now being joined by family history societies in some areas - enthusiastic amateurs who will record all the inscriptions in graveyards, for example, or index back numbers of the local newspaper. Then there are local historians, or those others whose full-time jobs give them a deep understanding of the history of their area - the librarians, teachers, sellers of old books and prints.

As any other part of the country, Stirling has its experts. George Dickson is one, of course. Two others working in the town itself are Bob McCutcheon and

John Harrison. Bob keeps a second-hand and antiquarian bookshop, and John is a social historian. The three are pretty typical. Amongst their other work, they operate informally together to discover their family backgrounds. Why people come to see them, or any other adviser, is another matter.

According to George, family history used to be largely about "finding a noble ancestor." Now, he thinks, people are interested in their origins wherever they lie. This does not stop some of them wanting to be descendants of Robert the Bruce, though "You'd be surprised how many there are in the category. Mind you, I did once get an enquiry from a man whose claim to be a direct descendant of Bruce was unquestionable. Most, I'm afraid, have no genuine claim at all." ☺

"A great disappointment to many people," believes John, "is finding they're not descended from Wallace or Flora MacDonald or whatever - or at least that it can't be proved. Proof is certainly impossible with William Wallace, who had no known offspring."



Genealogy



by William C. Ermtinger,
Clan Genealogist

From *Tartan for Me!* Expanded Sixth Edition by Philip D. Smith.

Suggested Scottish, Irish & North American Surnames of
Clan & family for Macdougall.

CAIL
 COLE(S)
 CONACHER
 CONAHEE
 CONAHER
 CONOCHER
 COWAN
 DEUGELL, - LE
 DOUGAL (L)
 DOUGALSON
 DOW(E)
 DOWALL,-ELL
 DOWDLE
 DOWLER,-AR
 DOYLE
 DUGLE
 DUVALL
 DUWALL
 HOWELL(S)
 LUCAS
 LUCK
 LUCKIE,- Y
 LUKE
 MAC CALE
 MAC CATHAIL
 MAC CLINTIC(K)
 MAC CLINTOCK
 MAC COLD
 MAC COLLOCH
 MAC COLOUGH
 MAC CONCHER

MAC CONNOLL
 MAC CONOCHER
 MAC COUL(L)
 MAC COULF
 MAC COUN
 MAC COWAN,-EN
 MAC COWELL
 MAC COWLE
 MAC COYLE
 MAC CULLOCH,-K
 MAC DEWEL(L)
 MAC DILL
 MAC COLE
 MAC DOLNOLD
 MAC DOLOTHE
 MAC DOOL
 MAC DOUAL
 MAC DOUGAL(L)
 MAC DOUGALD
 MAC DOUGLE
 MAC DOUL(L)
 MAC DOWALL
 MAC DOWELL
 MAC DOUL(L)
 MAC DUGALD
 MAC DUGALL
 MAC DULL
 MAC DULOTHE
 MAC EWEN,-AN
 MAC EWIN(S)
 MAC EWING(S)

MAC GHOIL
 MAC GOIL
 MAC HAIL
 MAC HALE(S)
 MAC HAWELL
 MAC HALE
 MAC HOUL(L)
 MAC HOWELL
 MAC ILE
 MAC INDEN
 MAC KEIL
 MAC KICHAN
 MAC KILE(S)
 MAC KINDEN
 MAC KITCHEN
 MAC KYLE(S)
 MAC LINDEN
 MAC LUCAS
 MAC LUCKIE,-Y
 MAC LUGASH
 MAC LUL(L)ICH,-K
 MAC NAMELL,-ILL
 MAC OAL
 MAC OIL
 MAC OUL
 MAC OWAN(S)
 MAC OWEN(S)
 MAC OWIN(S)
 MAC OWL
 MACONCHY,-IE



FROM HIGHLAND GAMES & GATHERINGS



Heartland Region Games

By Mary McDougall Wolf, Heartland Regional Commissioner

The Spring and Summer of 1999 has been a very busy and successful season for the Heartland Region hosting Clan MacDougall Society tents. It all started with the Kentucky Scottish Weekend May 7 - 9 at General Butler State Resort Park, Carrollton, Kentucky followed by the Glasgow Highland Games June 4 - 6 at Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Glasgow. Bill Leroy, our Kentucky Representative, hosted the clan tents.



Bill Leroy and Heather Adler

For the first time Clan MacDougall was represented at the Alma Highland Games May 28 - 30 at Alma College, Alma, Michigan. Michael Donovan and his wife, Gloria, our Michigan Representatives, were the hosts. The Alma Games are the largest in the Mid-West. 32 Pipe Bands marched onto the Field at the close of Saturday's games! Picture this and the beautiful music from that many in mass formation! It was 90 degrees that Saturday, warming up for Fort Wayne!

July 17 - 18 was the date of the Columbus Scottish Festival at Mill Race Park, Columbus, Indiana where again the Clan MacDougall Tent was hosted by Bill Leroy and Heather Adler.

Here at Fort Wayne, Indiana, the home of your Regional Commissioner, the Indiana Highland Games were ready for the best-ever presented Games - athletes coming in from the East and West Coast for competition, besides all venues were at capacity making a wonderful day of competition at Zollner Field! 98 degrees with the heat index off the charts just about kept all but the best of brave hearts at home, needless to state that great attendance makes the Games a success!

Two weeks later we were again traveling to Livonia Michigan for the 150th Celebration of the St. Andrews Society of Detroit annual Highland Games. The Detroit News stated 15,000 attended the Games at Green Mead. Mike and Gloria again hosted our Clan Society Tent (Mike is an active member of the Honor Guard for St. Andrews Society) with many MacDougalls visiting our tent and anxious to learn more of their ancestry. The Detroit Games are reported to have the oldest continuous record of Games - 150 years!

The final Games for the Heartland Region scheduled to have a Clan MacDougall Tent was the Kalamazoo Scottish Festival this past August 28. We were all there in full color enjoying the hot but pleasant surroundings at River Oak Park. Dr. Robert and Lee McDougal of Indianapolis joined us at our Clan Tent. You do agree that the Heartland Region has been a busy group in 1999 - some day soon we hope to be hosting a clan tent in Illinois! ☺

Kansas City Highland Games Report

By Thad Howell

1999 KCHG were held on June 12th at a new location, the Wyandot County Fairgrounds. Despite the severe thunderstorms the night before, the games were very well supported. The 22nd Annual Scottish Highland had an estimated attendance of 12,000 adults for the day. Clan MacDougall was one of the honored clans at this year's games. Clan MacDougall led the parade of tartans, in honor of the late Claud Baker and his work as Kansas Regional Commissioner. Clan MacDougall awarded the special piper award at the end of the games in honor of Claud. As the award was presented, Thad Howell read a letter written by Clan President Richard MacDougall. Peggy Baker and Thad Howell worked the clan tent. Special guests included Donald MacDowell and John Dowell. A new highland games world record was set in the hammer throw event. ☺

Maine Highland Games, August 21st

The annual games were held in Brunswick ME at Thomas Point Beach with it's large picnic area nestled beneath tall pines and a sandy beach on tidal Thomas Bay. Bring your bathing suit with you. Lifeguards are always on duty. How many Scottish games offer ocean swimming while you watch the pipe bands marching by? The 64-acre park has spacious camping, but no hookups are available.



Thomas Point

Enjoy the games, walk around and see the sights and sounds of Scotland. Sixty clans including Clan MacDougall and 6500 people were in attendance. Check out these games on the Internet for information. ☺



FROM HIGHLAND GAMES & GATHERINGS

Pleasanton Report

By Donald Northcutt

MacDougalls did well at Pleasanton over Labor Day weekend. Friday afternoon Cuff and Kathy Burrell, Victor Kottinger, Leslye Howell, Darleen Weisz, and Don Northcutt, met at the fairground to get the tent set up. Three 10 x 10 E-Zup tents were formed into a 10 x 30 and filled with Victor's shields, flags, and collection of things Scottish. On Saturday there was a constant flow of MacDougalls, MacDowells and visitors. At the clan parade we had 40 behind the MacDougall banner, and on Sunday 30 formed up to march, which, considering Sunday's temperature, was a great showing. Sunday also saw a visit from Lorne Lian MacLaine of Lochbuie, Chief of Clan Gilliean of Lochbuie; the Chief was one of the honored guests at the games and stopped by to see how we do things and chatted about castle restoration. He seemed impressed by our efforts to restore Gylen Castle.

Saturday night "Father Mac" (Leon) & Beverly McDougall had a BBQ at their RV for 16 family members, while Diane McDowell hosted another BBQ at her home in San Ramon.

We signed a total of 7 new members: One LIFE member (John Ivey); 1 renewal (Valerie Sacks); 5 new members (McClintock, McDowell, Rigney, Layfield, & Jacobi). ☺



Some of the MacDougalls at the San Diego Games 1999

The Whidbey Island Highland Games (Washington)

By Alec and Sandy McDougall



The First Annual Whidbey Island Highland Games were held at Greenback Farm toward the middle of Whidbey Island on Saturday, August 14. The day dawned gray and foggy, but Northwest Regional Commissioner Martin "Mac" McDougall and his wife Ruth were there early to get the clan tent set up and ready. This was the seventh playing of Highland Games in the Pacific Northwest that Mac and Ruth set up for this year - quite a challenge. As the morning wore on the sky lightened, the temperature warmed and more people stopped into see what Highland Games are all about. Finally, as the official opening ceremonies and the clan march were happening at noon, the sun came out. Clan MacDougall was the best represented clan at the march as half a dozen of us carried our banner and colors around the arena. The Highland Games are on Whidbey Island to stay and the Second Annual Games will be played there next year, and MacDougalls from all over will be there, too. ☺

Virginia Scottish Games and Festival, July 23 - 25

These games are held on the grounds of the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. It seemed like on Saturday we spent half the time running back and forth to the field house because of the threat of lightening. Strangely, it never really rained at all. Because there was an empty space next to us, Don MacDougall set up an extra tent, giving more seating room. We had a great time visiting with Jeanie and Alan Miles MacDougall, also with Don and Sandra MacDougall and William Ermitinger, who represented the officers of Clan MacDougall Society. ☺



Left: Loyal MacDougalls, not undaunted by overcast skies, welcome all to the clan tent. From l to r: Annette, Renee and Don McCullough (kiltmaker) Sandra MacDougall, Mid Atlantic Co-Regional Commissioner & a visitor to the tent.

Bagpipes are Big, and the Latest Ones Have Gore-Tex Bags

by Barbara Carton
Staff Reporter of *The Wall Street Journal*, reprinted with permission.

A Nylon-and Cat-Litter Option has virtues and adherents; Scots like smelly sheepskin

Traditional bagpipe bags are made of sheepskin, and players keep them supple by "seasoning" them with various concoctions, including honey and seal fat.

To many a Scotsman, replacing a sheepskin bag with one made of synthetics is as sacrilegious as substituting hot dogs for haggis.

But the approximately 600-year-old world of Scottish bagpiping is being shaken as many world-class pipers say a new generation of bags made of Gore-Tex or Nylon is superior.

The debate, which has summered since the introduction of the first synthetic bag a decade ago, is now in full Highland fling, thanks to last summer's world bagpiping championships in Glasgow, Scotland, at which first prize was snared by the Victoria (Australia) Police Pipe Band, playing the "Ross Breathable Canister Pipe bag," with its patented system for using a cat-litter desiccant to control moisture.

Meanwhile, the Luddites and there are lots of them - remain standing with their trusty leather bags clamped under their arms. Synthetics don't have the proper "football" feel, they say, and it's hard to feel affectionate toward a bag that when deflated looks like a plastic shower cap.

But even the expatriate Scotsman whom many consider the world's top solo bagpiper, Alasdair Gillies, has gone Gor-Tex. Mr. Gillies, a music teacher and director of piping at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, which grants a degree in bagpiping, says that the new bags don't leak at the seams, as some poor sheepskins do. "With sheepskin," he says, "you're taking potluck."

Bagpiping is experiencing a renaissance, thanks in part to movies like

"Braveheart." The Western U.S. Pipe Band Association, for example, reports membership is up 40%, to 60 bands and 600 solo bagpipers, in the past 10 years.

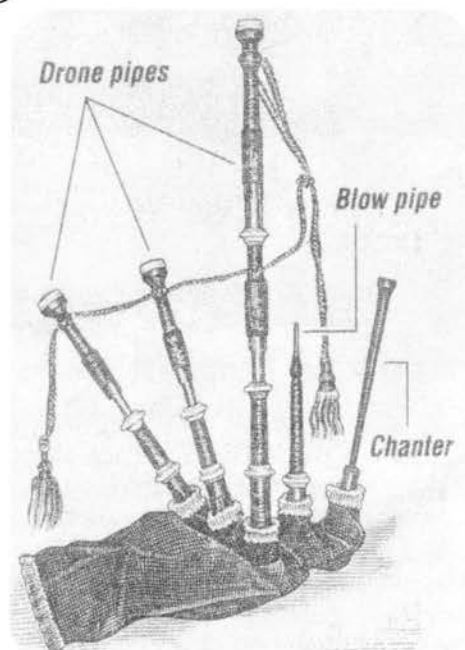
That's remarkable, given the notorious difficulty of the instrument. It takes beginners a year or longer to learn to play badly a standard tune like "Scotland the Brave." And pipes are costly, ranging from about \$750 for an inexpensive Scottish set to \$5,000 for one with sterling-silver fittings and pipes of African blackwood. The bag part is the least of the expense.

To observers, the bagpipe bag itself can't be seen under its tartan cover. But to pipers, the air-filled pouch is a vital element of a bagpipe's sound. The piper inflates the bag by blowing into a blowpipe. Sound is produced when the piper squeezes the bag, forcing air through three drone pipes (the sticking-up pipes) and a chanter pipe (the hanging down pipe, which he fingers as one would a recorder). All four have reeds for converting the air into sound.

For generations, pipers have sought the perfect bag; it must be airtight enough to function as a reservoir, yet "breathable," so as to release water vapor through its walls. Otherwise, a piper's drool sloshes around the bottom, and built-up humidity can soak the fickle reeds, causing them to squeak to a halt in midtune.

W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. of Newark, Del., thought its breathable synthetic fabric, with its nine billion microscopic holes per square inch, would be perfect after a worker in its Livingston, Scotland, factory who got the idea and tested it on local pipers.

Some pipers also complain that Gore-Tex leaks air after a piper stops squeezing, causing what is known as a



"trailing drone." One user, Andrew Douglas, 40, a piper from Bridgeport, Conn., calls them "dying-animal squealing noises."

At first, the Canmore bags suffered from durability problems. "Within a year, it sprung a leak, and there was nothing I could do except throw it away," complains Michael Dietz, 34, a systems analyst in Chicago. Gore now guarantees its bags for two years.

Then there are the nylon Ross bags, made in Melbourne, Australia, which have inside a canister of cat litter the size of a pack of cigarettes that dries the piper's breath before it hits the reeds. The only maintenance consists of periodically removing the litter and nuking it in the microwave. Inventor Geoff Ross says he got the idea after a pilot-friend told him how condensation is removed from airplane cabins.

Pick of the Litter

"The quality of cat litter does vary tremendously," he acknowledges. "we get the best there is in Australia." Mr. Ross won't divulge sales, but says he's hiring a fourth worker to satisfy the hundreds of kilt-clad pipers now clamoring for the same edge as the top-ranked Victoria Police. "It's very, very hectic," he sighs.

continued...

For some bagpipers, though, cat litter works all too well. Mr. Gillies says he tried a Ross Cat-litter bag, but the air flowing to his pipers was as arid as Death Valley, and that threw his pitch out of whack. Even Gore-Tex, which he favors, can become so dry that pipers have to dump ice cubes into the bag to make it humid enough.

Such problems keep many pipers loyal to leather - sheepskin or cowhide. L&M Highland Outfitters Ltd. of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, which claims to be the largest pipe-bag manufacturer in North America, says its sales of 5,000 bags a year, cowhide mostly, haven't been affected by the synthetics.

Predictably, sheepskin remains the standard in Scotland, the world capital of piping, says James Begg of the Quality Bagpipe Shop in Glasgow, the world's largest sheepskin supplier, crafting about 1,000 bags a year. For starters, Mr. Begg says, sheepskin molds cozily to the player's body, just like a good suit.

Bow to Tradition

"These plastic bags don't do that," he complains. Then there's tradition." All the great players in the 1700's and 1800's used sheepskin," he says, "and if it was good enough for them, why is it not good enough for us?"

Sheepskin, if not played regularly, can get as stiff as cardboard. It is relatively expensive, about \$160. And it starts to rot after about a year and half.

Though cowhide is cheaper and lasts longer, there remains the onerous ritual of plying either leather with moisturizing agents - something synthetics don't need. Scott Murray, 34, a piper from Monkton, New Brunswick, swears by an imported Scottish bag liniment: "It has a petroleum smell and it looks like mucus." Other pipers use foul-smelling witches' brews of Murphy's Oil Soap, Crisco and Lysol.

To cap off the treatment, a lot of pipers will blow a mouthful of scotch or Listerine into the bag in an attempt to kill whatever mildew of saliva-borne bacteria might be lurking in its darkest recesses.

It doesn't always work. "We've had bags in our band that smelled like dead bodies," acknowledges Joe Korber, 34, who plays in the New York City Department of Correction pipe band, adding - proudly - that he currently has the reputation for owning the vilest sheepskin bag in his group. ☺

A Wee Scottish History Primer

reprinted with permission, Loch Norman Highland Games program, April 1999



Worship Service and Kirkin' o' the Tartan

"Kirkin' o' the Tartan" is a unique ceremony which takes place in many of the Scottish-American communities across the United States. It is generally agreed that it is an American innovation, originated by the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C.

The first "Kirkin" was held by Scottish-born Chaplin of the United States Senate, Dr. Peter Marshall, who was at that time also pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington. The date was April 27, 1941. Since 1954 it has been sponsored by the St. Andrews Society and held in Washington National Cathedral.

During the "Kirkin" Service, which uses some of the Scottish Church form, an array of Clan Tartans is presented for blessing. It may be Tartan yardage, or small swatches of Clan Tartan, or other such mini Scottish items - even a cross worn around the neck by a clan member.

By the presenting of the Tartans, there is a rededication to God's service by the family members so identified by a particular Tartan. ☺

"The Clans & Family Societies"

The Clan Families

The word clan is from the Gaelic and means "children". Originally each clan was made up of the descendants of one man and his children. The Clan names which are in use today have come down from the founders of the royal dynasties of the Picts, the Scots and the Vikings in the Highlands as well as the noble families of the Britons, Flemish, Normans, Angles and Sazons in the Lowlands and Borders.

These royal dynasties are the ancestors of the Scots. Our family tree grew horizontally as well as vertically. While the king, queen or heir apparent of a dynastic family was often married "across the water" to someone of comparable royal rank and the heir to a noble title was married across "country" to insure peace or secure property, their other children generally married locally. The surname of the synastic family spread slowly but through inter-marriage gradually everyone in the region was absorbed.

It is this brotherhood, beyond rank, or sex, or religion, or success or failure, that links the Scots together. We are all one interrelated family; the branches of the family are the family names, clans and septs. And as a result all bearers of Scottish names share in the rich pageantry and experiences of our common ancestors.

At recent count there are some 137 clans whose Chiefs are officially recognized by the Lord Lyon of Scotland (there are a number of petitioners not recognized but believed to have the best right to seek official recognition) and approximately 160 dormant and/or vacant chieftainships. In certain cases where the current holder of the title of Chief is unknown, the Lord Lyon may appoint a temporary holder to the position of Commander of a clan to act for the Chief until his or her identity is established.

Today Clan Family Societies are generally formed for educational, literary, social or beneficial purposes, to further friendships and share the heritage of the clan family, to collect and preserve it's relics and in the case of some larger societies, to assist in the maintenance and acquisition of former clan homes and territories in Scotland. ☺



The Glengarry bonnet recalls the military influence on Scottish attire and is commonly worn by members of the Pipe bands.

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Look for Clan MacDougall Tents at these Scottish Games:

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Oct. 2	Loch Lomond Highland Games, Highland Park	Ben Lomond, CA
Oct. 2-3	Oxnard Celtic Lands Faire, Performing Arts Center	Oxnard, CA
Oct. 8-10	Age of Chivalry Renaissance Faire and Clan Gathering	Las Vegas, NV
Oct. 9	Anne Arundel Scottish Heritage Festival	Crownsville, MD
Oct. 14-17	Stone Mountain Games	Stone Mt., GA
Oct. 16-17	Loch Prado Highland Games	Chino, CA
Oct. 23-24	Richmond Highland Games & Festival	Richmond, VA
Oct. 30-31	Reno Celtic New Year Celebration Washoe County Fairgrounds	Reno, NV
Nov. 13	No. Central Fla. Scottish Games	Ocala, FL
Dec. 4	Scottish Christmas Walk	Alexandria, VA
Dec. 11	Mother Lode Scots' Christmas Faire and Walk	Volcano, CA

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