

The Tartan



Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada

Volume II, No. 14

Wylie and Mary McDougall, Founding Editors

Spring 1987



Mary Outland McDougall 1906 - 1986

Gylen Castle at Kerrara

Editor's Note: The following description and sketches of the Gylen (Gylem) Castle are reprinted by kind permission of the publishers from the new edition of McGibbon and Ross' Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland. This classical work in five volumes is again available from James Thin, Ltd. 53-59 South Bridge, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1 1YS.

This tower is situated at the southern extremity of the island of Kerrara, at a distance of about four miles from Oban. The first view of the castle on coming over the hills from the ferry, and looking downwards, is most picturesque, and a closer view of the building does not dispel this impression. Gylem is, in its way, a little
See Gylen Castle, Page 2, Column 1.

Editor Emeritus Of Tartan Dies

Mary Outland McDougall, editor emeritus of *The Tartan* and widow of A. Wylie McDougall, died Dec. 1, 1986, at her home in New Orleans, LA.

Her late husband was a founding member of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada and served as its vice president from 1962 until his death in 1976. Mary and Wylie were founding editors of *The Tartan* and contributed greatly to the early success of the Clan newsletter.

She was born May 26, 1906, in Topeka, KS, a daughter of John and Ethel Grimes Outland. She was a student at the University of Kansas and Sophie Newcomb College from 1924-1927. She married A. Wylie McDougall on June 30, 1927.

During World War II she served as a postal censor in New Orleans, and in 1945 she founded McDougall's Travel Service, Inc. in that city. She was listed in *Who's Who in American Women* as a leading travel service executive and received recognition for her achievements from various foreign governments.

She was a member of the American Society of Travel Agents and served as a director in 1953 and chapter president in 1955. She also was a member of Allied Travel, Inc., New Orleans Opera House Association, New Orleans Spring Fiesta Association, Bon Vivants and Kappa Gamma Society.

Following her husband's death, Mary was elected a director of the Clan MacDougall Society and continued as editor of *The Tartan*. She was designated editor emeritus of *The Tartan* in 1978 and retired from the board in 1985.

In the Fall 1978 issue she wrote:

"For eleven years, from 1965, Wylie and I had fun getting out *The Tartan*. He was the first editor. I was the look-in-the-dictionary-to-see-how-you-spell-it handyman. Complete novices, we started out green as salad about how to communicate with Society members. Clan newsletters had not been born yet, or if they had we didn't know it, so we had no pattern.

"But our enthusiasm galloped along. I graduated to almost a full partner, argued about what should be put in and what should not, and wrote part of it. Not without threat of divorce over differences of opinion. *Tartan* time was often snappish, but not dull. The end results, I hope, were of service to the Society."

She was a woman of wit, charm, intelligence and good taste. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Gylen Castle *Continued*

architectural gem, which unfortunately, owing to neglect, is fast going to wreck and ruin. In its present state the walls are almost perfect, the roof only being wanting; but one can see that, from its exposed situation and its tottering condition here and there, sure and total ruin will soon overtake it unless something is done for its protection. A little care and attention would preserve it to future generations as one of the most charming little specimens of the architecture of Scotland before the native art was absorbed in the general European style of the Renaissance.

The building occupies the full width of the neck of a mass of rock jutting into the sea, with a small level courtyard beyond, about 12 yards by 8 yards within the walls, bounded by precipitous rocky faces, and screened by a wall, now almost gone. In plan it consists of two square towers (Fig. 537), the larger measuring 21 feet 8 inches by 21 feet 3 inches, and the smaller, which contains the staircase, being 12 feet 2 inches by 9 feet 7 inches. The main portion of the building is four stories in height. The narrow approach is between high loop-holed walls, against one of which are the ruins of offices. The entrance doorway is square-headed, with a round relieving arch and a bar hole inside. Beyond this a vaulted passage leads under the main tower to the courtyard (Fig. 538). The cellar adjoining is also vaulted, and feebly lighted. The staircase which enters from the courtyard leads to the three upper floors of the main building, and from the third floor a "corkscrew" staircase, in a projecting turret, leads to a higher floor over the main staircase.

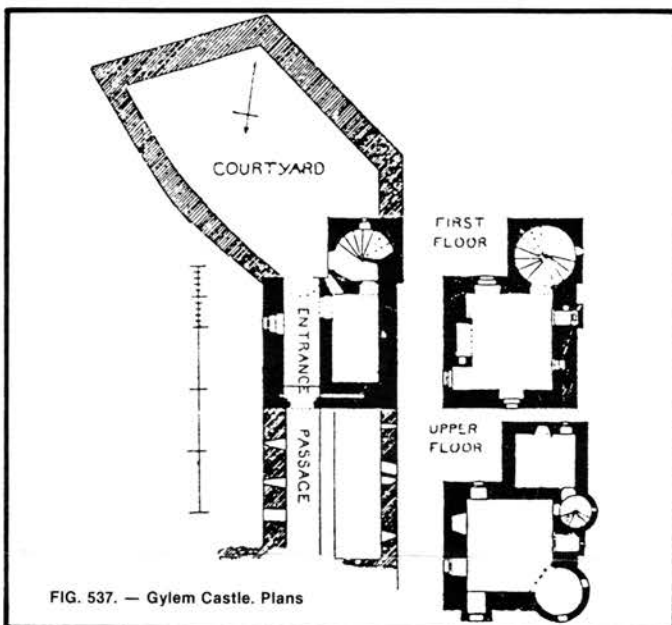


FIG. 537. — Gylen Castle. Plans

There is no access now above the first floor. This floor, like the others, consists of a single apartment, about 16 feet by 14 feet, with three windows, that facing the entrance, as well as the window above it, having a shot-hole beneath. In the thickness of the west wall there is a projecting grade-robe and stone sink, with drain into the flue of the former. Through the fireplace jamb, which is 2 feet 8 inches thick, into the recess of the adjoining window, there is an opening, about 15 inches square, at about 2 feet above the floor, and checked for a door or shutter on the window side, the purpose of which is not very apparent. It is still customary in old-fashioned houses to find a salt-box or "bucket," as it is called, near the kitchen fireplace. But this opening is not quite in the usual position of such a convenience. The second floor is similar to the first, with the addition of the large round turret at the north-west angle, which projects outwards on corbelling, and inwards on a squinch arch. The moulding at the eaves of the turret is carved, with the alternating pattern of imitation corbelling so frequently found in the six-

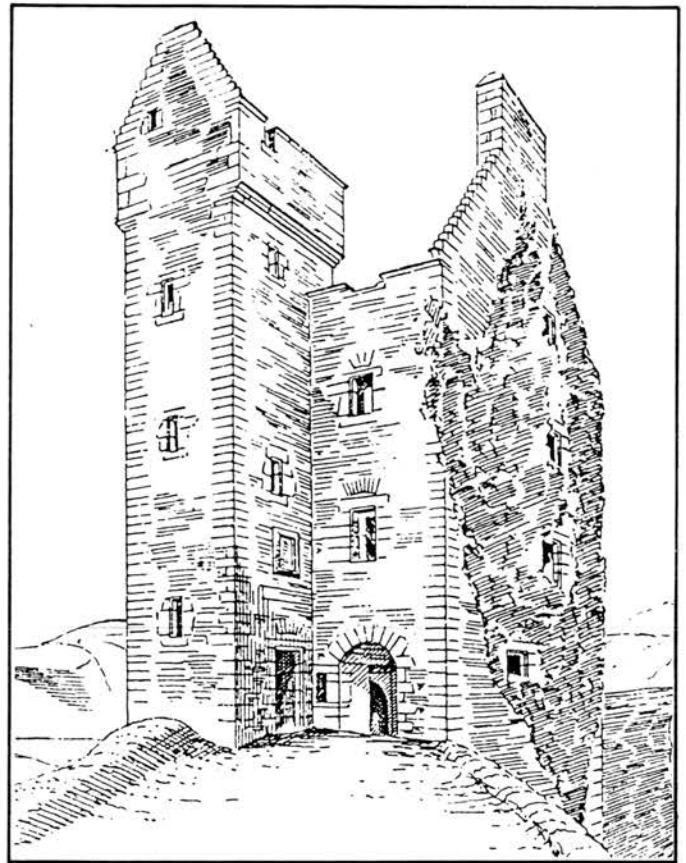


FIG. 538. — Gylen Castle. View from the Courtyard.

teenth and seventeenth centuries, and of which an example is given under Drochil Castle. A beautiful little window in the top story is projected on three bold corbels over the doorway. The space between the corbels are at present open, and no doubt they were so arranged for defence. The flooring could be easily made to lift, and open machicolations would thus be obtained by which to drop stones or boiling water on the heads of assailants. As favouring this idea, it may be observed that the window-sill is high, for the purpose of protecting those inside. There is an inscription on this window, but unfortunately it is so moss-covered as to be illegible; and the same remark applies to the carving on the ingoing and arms over the adjoining window. There are carved heads at the extremities of the lintel resembling the strange bridled heads so common in Norman work. Beneath the inscription there is a mask of a lady with the head-dress of the sixteenth century, and beneath this, and over the corbels, the cable moulding. Alongside the window is a grotesque figure with folded arms. The staircase tower is carried higher than the main building, and is finished with gables, and may have been crowned with a watch-turret, similar to that at Elshieshields.

Gylen probably dates from the end of the sixteenth century. It was besieged in 1647 by General Leslie, and, in the tumult of the siege, the "Brooch of Lorn," which was kept here, was stolen. It was restored in this century to its hereditary owner.

(McGibbon and Ross writing in the latter part of the 19th century spoke of Gylen, the "little architectural gem," as "fast going to wreck and ruin." This process was temporarily slowed by renovations which unfortunately were terminated by World War I. The need for repairs are urgent if future generations are to have the joy and excitement of visiting this MacDougall castle standing tall upon its cliffy promontory. The problems of saving Gylen are large, but certainly the spirit and the united resources of our Clan family are large. If you are concerned or have ideas to share pertaining to the saving of Gylen, please contact Walter M. Macdougall, RFD #2, Box 98, Milo, ME 04463.)

President's Report



George E. McDougall

We are looking forward to a year of continuing growth with all of its attendant benefits in promoting goodwill and friendships, not only among members of Clan MacDougall, but also all those with a Scottish heritage.

Our annual meeting will be held July 10th at Eseeola Lodge in Linville, NC, at 4 p.m. All members are cordially invited to attend.

As our numbers grow, so does our participation in regional and international Highland Games in the United States and Canada. Clan MacDougall has been well represented by Canadian and U.S. Chapters at the Clan gatherings.

Branch Chapters

National Capitol Branch — Alan MacDougall, vice president. Games: Alexandria, VA; Williamsburg, VA; Ligonier, PA.

Ontario Chapter, Toronto, Ont., Maxwell MacDougall, president. Games: Fergus Highland Games; Speyside Highland Games, Georgetown; Georgina Highland Games, Keswick; Cambridge Highland Games, Kitchener; Barie Highland Games; Sarnia Highland Games.

Antigonish, Nova Scotia Chapter, Shirley MacDougall Farrell, president.

Games Attended

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Stone Mountain, Atlanta, John A. MacDougall.

Charleston, SC, Howard W. MacDougall.

Alaska, Anchorage, A.J. MacDougall.

Kentucky, Carrolton, KY, Gus M. (Bunch) Griffin.

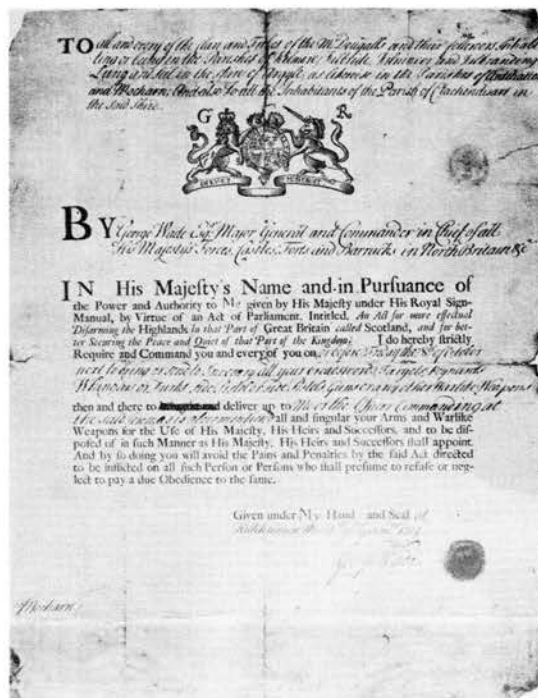
Waterville Games, Waterville, ME, Walter M. Macdougall.

Members are encouraged to organize a Clan MacDougall Tent at the gatherings in your region. We would especially like to hear from volunteers who would organize a Clan tent for the games in Florida, California, and Provinces of Canada, so let's continue our growth, not for the numbers, but for the fun and enjoyment of Clan membership.

Please remember that we now have a Clan MacDougall Society Foundation with the objective of observing and advancing our Scottish heritage by offering scholarships and sponsoring Scottish Games and festivals. We welcome your contributions to the Foundation, large or small, and your gifts are tax deductible as a charitable donation.

Society President

George



Edict Issued to Clan

Transcript of edict issued by Major General George Wade to Clan MacDougall 261 years ago. The original is owned by Major James MacDougall of Gallanach. This document was found folded in a book in Ardtornish Castle and was given to Sir James Patten MacDougall of Gallanach c. 1901.

"To all and every of the Clan and Tribes of the McDougalls and their followers inhabiting or being in the Parishes of Kilmore, Kilbride, Kilniver and Kilbranding-Luing and Seil in Shire of Argyll; as likewise in the Parishes of Ardochatten and Mocharn; And also to all the inhabitants of the Parish of Clarchendisart in the said Shire.

"By George Wade Esqr: Major General and Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's Forces, Castles, Forts and Barracks in North Britain etc.

"In His Majesty's Name and in Pursuance of the Power and Authority to me given by His Majesty under his Royal Sign-Manual, by virtue of an Act of Parliament, Intituled, An Act for more effectual Disarming of the Highlands in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and for the better Securing of Peace and quiet of that part of the Kingdom; I do hereby strictly Require and Command you and every of you on or before Friday the 8th of October next to bring or send to Inverary all your broadswords, Targets, Poynards, Whingans, or Durks side Pistol or side Pistols, Guns or any other warlike weapons then and there to deliver up to Me of the Officer Commanding at the said Town, as is above mentioned, all and singular your Arms and Warlike Weapons for the Use of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and to be disposed of in such manner as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors shall appoint. And by so doing you will avoid the Pains and Penalties by the said Act directed to be inflicted on all such Person or Persons who shall presume to refuse or neglect to pay a due Obediance to the same.

"Given under My Hand and Seal at Killikuimen this 15th of September, 1725.

"George Wade

"Mocharn"

Member Roster Keeps Growing

Fifteen more names have been added to the membership roster of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada since last fall's *Tartan* was printed.

While we are now listing the new members and their addresses, we have found an increasing number of *Tartans* being returned marked "forwarding expired." Please help us keep up with the whereabouts of all members of the Society. Change of address may be sent to the president of the Society, the secretary-treasurer or the editors of *The Tartan*.

Following are the names and addresses of our newest members. Remember, if some should be living in your neighborhood, be sure and welcome them as members of the Society.

Jan Christiansen 20233 Skyland Blvd. Los Gatos, CA 95030	William McD. Kite 9645 Cunningham Road Cincinnati, OH 45243
Louise & Walter Leroy 802 Academy Ave. Waynesboro, GA 30830	John M. MacDougall 6 Checkberry Lane Chelmsford, MA 01824
Joan McDowell P.O. Box 113 Conley, GA 30027	Patrick J. McDowell 2376 Fairfield Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533
D.B. MacDougall Apt. 1704 9939-115 St. Edmonton, Alb. T5K-1S6	Noreen Glading 210 Westminster Ave. Merchantville, NJ 08109
Mae E. Shugg 404, 1845 Bellevue Ave. West Vancouver, BC V7V-1B2	Marc L. MacDougall 115 River Breeze Dr. Charleston, SC 29407
Carolyn Dowell Wright 283 Murchison Lane Dayton, OH 45431	William J. MacDougall 110 Will Scarlett Drive Williamsburg, VA 23185
Keith Edward MacDougall RD 4, Box 4425 Grove City, PA 16127	John S. MacDougall 110 N. Gordon Way Los Altos, CA 94022
C.R. MacDougall 25827 Gunston Warren, MI 48089	

Where Are They Now?

Mrs. Geraldine McDowell 350 Malibu Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23452	Linda McDowell Major 85 Grant St. Herndon, VA 22070
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Memberships Come In Different Sizes

By Alan M. MacDougall
Secretary-Treasurer

We have had a number of questions lately concerning the different types of membership dues available to members of the Society. The three major categories are explained below.

Regular Membership

Regular members pay \$10 dues in their first year and \$7.50 in subsequent years. The additional charge in the first year offsets some, but not all, of the expense of the membership certificate, which is hand lettered.

Sustaining Membership

Sustaining membership conveys no additional privileges above those accorded to regular members, but provides a way for those who desire to contribute more than the absolute minimum to the support of the Society. Each year many members kindly pay this increased amount of dues in order to allow the work of the Society to continue. Dues for sustaining members are \$25.

Life Membership

Life Membership is accorded for a one time payment of \$100.

These dues are payable to the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada, Inc. 3304 Gentle Court, Alexandria, VA 22310.

See *Membership*, Page 6, Column 2.

Matthew MacDougall Served As U.S. Consul in Dundee

One of our newer members, William MacDougall Kite of Cincinnati, OH, had a great-grandfather named Matthew MacDougall. Matthew was born in Scotland, came to New York and later returned to his native town of Dundee as a United States Consul for that port city. Mr. Kite has obtained a wealth of information from the National Archives including microfilm of all dispatches from the United States Consulate in Dundee for the period that Matthew served there.

There are copies of letters written in 1871 when Matthew applied for the position of Consul, letters from prominent politicians of that time such as the Honorable Hamilton Fish, senator of New York, and others recommending Matthew to "His Excellency," President Grant. The letters are all handwritten and contain the flowery language in use at that time.

Mr. Kite writes: "I note many of them signed 'I am Sir, Your Obedient Servant (Signature).' The opening sentence of a dispatch usually started: 'I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Dispatch # -- dated the -- of --.' One of the dispatches concerned Matthews' payment to a captain of a ship which had rescued some shipwrecked American citizens and brought them safely to port. Matthew said he paid the captain 'the customary rate of fifty cents per day per man.' I felt sure after reading the dispatches that Matthew MacDougall did a very good job in serving the best interests of both the United States and Scotland when he served as Consul in Dundee."

Clanspeople On The Go



Barbara Bramble presented the Clan MacDougall Trophy to the winner of the pre-teen kilted mile at the Stone Mountain Highland Games last October.

The trophy went to **David Brown** of Dunwoodie, GA, representing Clan Cameron. His sister **Eileen**, placed second and **Kelley Buntin** of Savannah, GA, representing Clan Graham, was third.

★ ★ ★

Since this column is titled **On The Go**, it might be appropriate to note the geographic spread of the last three members added to our roster. **William J. McDougal**, member #1131, is from Williamsburg, Virginia. **John S. MacDougall**, #1132, is from Los Altos, California, and **C.R. McDougall**, #1133, hails from Warren, Michigan.

★ ★ ★

Keith Edward McDougall of Grove City, PA, lives on the same farm his emigrant ancestor settled in 1820. And **Carolyn Dowell Wright** of Dayton, OH, is in possession of a copy of a land grant in Virginia given to her ancestor, **John McDowell** in 1731.

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A. Kent MacDougall, a Los Angeles Times staff writer since 1977, has been appointed a professor at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

★ ★ ★

Cathy McDowell Shaw of Clifton Park, NY, writes that her family is making a lot of headway in genealogy because of the Clan's influence. The interest has extended to her six-year-old daughter, **Heather**, who is now looking forward to classes in Scottish dance. She enclosed this photo of **Heather** and 20-month-old **Erin Elizabeth**.



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John A. MacDougall of Corapolis, PA, has issued a call to all of Sorle's Sons and especially those descended from Lachlan of Moidart. Descendants of Lachlan MacDougall of Moidart are planning a reunion July 23, 1987, near Broad Cove, Nova Scotia, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the cairn erected to Lachlan and other pioneers in 1982.

John is endeavoring to write a biographical sketch on Lachlan and asks that anyone who may be able to furnish some information or suggest a source of information to write him. His address is 129 Lansdown Drive, Carapopolis, PA 15108.

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Mrs. Ruth MacDougall McCartin of Laguna Niguel, CA, attended the Scottish Studies Institute at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, last August and highly recommends the program. She writes: "I'm a novice in studying my heritage; however, it seems even participants well-versed, learned and shared the music, language, customs and history of Scotland. This year's institute will be held Aug. 2-8, and Mrs. McCartin has consented to write a story on the program for *The Tartan*."

Monument Board Sees Need For Bigger Castle Plaque

By John W. McDougall, High Commissioner

As some of you know our Chief, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, has for some time wanted to see on a wall at Dunollie Castle a plaque with a text telling of the history of the Castle and Clan MacDougall. The officers and directors of the Clan MacDougall Society Foundation have thought this would be an excellent project for the Foundation to undertake.

Visitors to the castle want to know something about the castle. Madam MacDougall can enlighten a few MacDougalls, but it is impossible for her to see all visitors.

Early last year the Foundation offered to have a cast aluminum plaque made. Madam MacDougall graciously accepted the offer. There is little we can do to show our Chief our appreciation for the hospitality she and her family have shown to so many of our members that have visited Dunollie, to say nothing of the other MacDougalls that have come from all over the world.



John W. McDougall

A history of our Clan and the castle was prepared by Walter MacDougall and a drawing was made of the finished plaque by a plaque manufacturer. It was necessary that the drawing be submitted to the Scots Ancient Monument Board for its approval. A member of the board visited the castle with Madam MacDougall. They decided that to avoid vandalism, the plaque should be erected high on the wall and that one inch letters should be used so the wording could be read easily. Since the letters on the drawing submitted were not the appropriate size a larger and more expensive plaque had to be designed. A new drawing will be ready soon and will be submitted for approval.

This will be the first major project undertaken by the Foundation. It will be more expensive than originally planned. We hope there will be other members of our Society joining with us in this undertaking by contributing a tax free donation to the Clan MacDougall Society Foundation.

The Foundation has continued its program to send Clan MacDougall books to schools and universities. We have a letter from William H. Mulligan Jr. at the Clark Historical Library at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI, in which he writes, "Please accept our thanks for the books. They are a welcome addition to our collection and will be a great use to researchers. Your group should be commended for this valuable service." This is typical of the "thank you" letters we have received.

A number of our thoughtful members have sent contributions to the Foundation in memory of a deceased relative or friend. Other members, on the death of a member of their family have suggested donations be made to the Clan MacDougall Society Foundation. The officers and directors of the Foundation would like to thank these loyal members. Many of us make donations to worthy causes. We think the Clan MacDougall Society Foundation is a very worthy cause.

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Malcolm MacDougall Traxler Jr. graduated with honors last May from Furman University. A son of **Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Traxler Sr.** of Panama City, FL, **Malcolm** received a bachelor of arts degree in economics and graduated magna cum laude. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society for freshmen, and Pi Gamma Mu, a national social science honor society.

The Scottish Bookshelf

By Nancy Van Valkenburgh



One of the most interesting recent publications for any Scottish American's personal library is *The Scottish Highland Games in America* by Emily Ann Donaldson, published by the Pelican Publishing Company in Gretna in 1986. Alan Miles MacDougall, our Secretary-Treasurer, was pleased that the book would be introduced at the Alexandria games and managed to secure us an advance copy at the Grandfather Mountain games.

Rooted in a 900-year-old tradition, highland dancing, piping and drumming, fiddling, and the caber toss are serious competitive contests that gave rise to modern Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) competition in the United States. Although Scottish Highland Games have been held in the United States since the nineteenth century, they have enjoyed a rapid rise in popularity during the past decade. Today there are more than seventy Games held each year in thirty-one states.



Nancy Van Valkenburgh

The Scottish Highland Games in America, the product of years of research and interviews, not only explores the history of the Games, but more importantly, celebrates the modern games. It discusses the events, star players and performers, and provides a complete state-by-state listing of the Games with contact persons for each event, so that the reader may obtain more information.

As publicity chairman for the Association of Scottish Games and Festivals, Emily Ann Donaldson is an author well versed in her subject. She competes in Scottish country dancing, is a non-competitive member of pipe band, fiddling, harp, and athletic associations, and her articles on the Scottish Highland Games in America have been published in Games programs throughout the country.

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There are several "musts" for the MacDougall bookshelf. The first is *An Official Short History of the Clan MacDougall* by Michael Starforth, reprinted in 1983 by Scotpress, P.O. Box 778, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505. This history, authorized by Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, 30th Chief of the Clan, begins with the origins of this clan, "one of the four oldest and pro-

bably the oldest of all," and continues until the succession of the present Chief of the Clan in 1953. The book emphasizes the first two centuries which the author states "were the most interesting and yet the least well-known."

Among other MacDougall "musts" are *Journeying in MacDougall Country* by Walter MacDougall; *A Highland Postbag* by Jean MacDougall, sister of the present Chief; and *Lord of the Isles* by the favorite contemporary Scottish novelist, Nigel Tranter. All of these books have been reviewed in previous issues of *The Tartan*.

MacDougall readers with Maine connections will be especially interested in *Jennie About to Be, The World of Jennie G.* by Elisabeth Ogilvie. The book was recommended by Judith MacDougall as a most interesting account of the Scots who emigrated to Maine.

Albert MacDougall Christian told us of a wonderful find in a New Jersey bookstore. He came across a 22nd edition, dated 1872, of a book entitled *Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character* by Dean Ramsey, published by The Musson Book Company Ltd. Toronto. Although Scottish publishing houses and booths at Highland Games are excellent sources for additions to a Scottish library, the alert booklover may come across rare books in unexpected places.

For young and the young-at-heart, a charming little book is *The Well at the World's End, Folk Tales of Scotland* by Norah and William Montgomerie, Canongate Publishing Ltd., first published in 1956 by the Hogarth Press and published in Kelpies in 1985. As in so many folk tales, many of the stories teach good moral lessons as well as being very entertaining. Since "a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down," the delightful stories are an excellent way of teaching our own "wee bairns."

We enjoyed all of the 35 tales, but the title story about the good-natured and ill-natured daughters (or the "pretty is as pretty does" story) was our favorite. An interesting tale was "The Last of the Picts." We also liked "Whuppity Stoorie," about a resourceful mother, and "Johnny Croy and the Mermaid," with elements of a love story, conflict between Johnny's wife and mother and the love of both women for the tiniest bairn. Boys will especially enjoy the Finn stories.

Many folklorists believe that folk tales teach something about a people. This book exhibits Scottish resourcefulness, occasionally against the world of "selkies and fairies," which they cannot control. Scots, however, do not abandon themselves to fate. Sometimes they win, sometimes they lose, and sometimes they compromise with a world they can not control, but they do not give up. And, after many of the winning battles, "they made a feast that lasted a year and a day."

Award Winner's 'Thank You'

Please express to the high commissioner, John W. McDougall, the president, George E. McDougall, and all the officers, directors, and members of the Clan MacDougall Society, my very sincere thanks for awarding me the A. Wylie McDougall Memorial Award. I was truly surprised and it is an award I shall treasure all of my life, especially since it is from my family.

The greatest honor a person can receive is to be cared about by one's own, and the strength of the Highland Clan system is that each member, from the greatest to the least, is a part of this love and care. I pray for the day when the whole world will belong to God's Clan and will care for each other as He cares for us.

My thanks and love to each of you.

/s/Nancy W-McD. Van Valkenburgh

Huntsville, AL

Membership

In most cases the dues are billed on or before Dec. 1 each year and are payable on receipt of the bill. In some cases the dues are collected along with local dues by the Clan Society chapters. Members whose dues have been received from a chapter are not billed again. Members who join the Society during a given year are not billed during that year.

When possible, members who take out gift memberships for others will be billed for those renewals as well. The bill will be sent to the person paying the dues but the actual member's name will be listed on the billhead.

Questions may be addressed to: Alan M. MacDougall, Secretary-Treasurer, Clan MacDougall Society, 3304 Gentle Court, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Pages From The Past

The following account of the Brooch of Lorn first appeared in the Fall 1967 issue of The Tartan.

The Brooch of Lorn *Family Treasure of the MacDougalls*

The ancient pin called the Brooch of Lorn is blanketed in an almost mystic aura of violence and secrecy.

Although it is the most treasured of MacDougall possessions, very few present day MacDougalls have ever seen it. There are only one or two pictures of it in existence. A very few small replicas of the Brooch have ever been made, for members of the immediate family only, to wear on their tartan sashes.

However, generations of MacDougalls have heard of the Brooch of Lorn at their mothers' knee. And a handful of MacDougalls, outside of the Chief's own family, have been privileged to see it taken from its wooden box and held up for inspection.

The Brooch is four inches or more in diameter, of silver, and very heavy. It is a reliquary brooch: that is, the center boss unscrews leaving a cavity in which small bones or relics of a saint or martyr were kept. Within modern or remembered times, the boss has never been unscrewed for fear of wearing the very old screw away. The center stone is believed to be crystal; the surrounding spires are mounted with a pearl on the top of each.

Workmanship of the Brooch is not Celtic. It is continental, which is what one would expect because Robert the Bruce, himself, was a Norman and King Robert Bruce was wearing the Brooch on his mantle that day in the year 1306 when it became a prize of battle of the Mac Dougalls.

A feud between the MacDougalls and Robert Bruce, then aspirant to the crown of Scotland, traced back to the killing of the Red Comyn in the Priory Church in Dunfries. Sir Alexander Mac-

fighters and the situation became so desperate that Bruce turned to flee for his life.

In Dal Righ, the dark "Dale of the King", three MacDougalls intercepted King Robert and threw themselves at his horse. One of them got a fierce grip on the King's mantle and, though the MacDougall was mortally wounded, he clung to it in a dying grasp.

Bruce had just time to undo the pin and let his cloak and brooch fall to the ground, thus escaping and saving his own life.

From that day the Brooch was constantly in MacDougall possession until 1647 when the MacDougall Castle of Glyn, on Kerrera, was looted by the army of General Leslie.

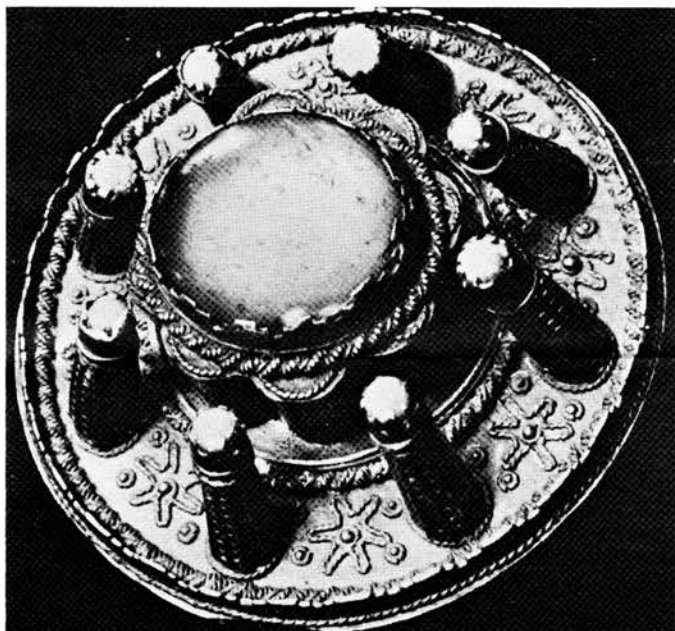
For nearly 175 years the Brooch then disappeared, and came to light finally in the charter chest of the Campbells of Braglean in 1819. There was quite an elaborate ceremony at Inverary in 1824 when the Brooch of Lorn was returned to the great-grandfather of our Chief.

With what pride this gentleman, Admiral Sir John MacDougall, was wearing it not long afterward when he steered the Royal Barge on Loch Tay with Queen Victoria on board. The Queen admired the Brooch greatly and would have liked to be presented with it, but it stayed firmly on the Admiral's plaid!

The Brooch is not now kept at Dunollie Castle and is very seldom shown as, owing to its great age, too much handling has to be avoided.

Our Chief, Madam Coline MacDougall of MacDougall, has worn the Brooch only once — when her Majesty the Queen visited Oban and the Chief and her mother were presented to her.

Locked away in a dark vault, unseen and untouched by those bearing the name, the venerable and ageless Brooch of Lorn, however, seems a catalyst of MacDougall pride and somehow a symbol of enduring MacDougall solidarity.



Dougall, fourth Lord of Lorn, had married the Red Comyn's daughter. To avenge the killing of the Red Comyn MacDougalls would in any event have been committed.

But so shockingly evil in those days was considered the crime of fighting or killing within the sanctuary of a church that something akin to a personal vendetta developed.

Thus in 1306 when Bruce was defeated at Methven, his retreat through Perthshire towards Argyll with about 300 followers was cut short by MacDougall forces led by Sir John MacDougall of Lorn. The retreating band was no match for inflamed MacDougall

More Great Scots

Baird, John Logie. (1888-1946). Born in Helensburgh. Invented television.

Bell, Alexander Graham. (1847-1922). Born in Edinburgh. Invented the telephone in 1876. He was a professor in Boston at the time.

Carnegie, Andrew. (1835-1919). Born in Dunfermline. The son of a poor weaver he worked his way to become the richest man in the world and a great philanthropist.

Duncan, Rev. D. Henry. (1774-1846). Born in Dumfriesshire. He started the first savings bank in Britain over 150 years ago.

Dunlop, John Boyd. (1840-1941). Born at Dregghorn, Ayrshire. He devised the first air-filled rubber tyre in 1888.

Fleming, Alexander. (1881-1955). Born at Darvel, Ayrshire. He discovered penicillin.

Hume, David. (1711-1776). Born at Edinburgh. He became famous throughout the world as a philosopher and historian.

Hunter, John (1728-1793). Born at East Kilbride. He was a pioneer of scientific surgery.

Leslie, John (1766-1832). Born at Largo. He made the first artificial ice at Edinburgh in 1810.

Lauder, Sir Harry (1870-1950). Born at Portobello. He became the world's top music hall entertainer and won the hearts of Americans. But some fellow countrymen didn't like his jokes about Scots being mean.

Livingstone, David. (1818-1873). Born at Blantyre, Lanarkshire. He became a missionary and travelled among the wild tribes of Central Africa to spread the word of God.

Macadam, John (1756-1836). Born at Ayr. He found the secret of waterproofing road surfaces to make them lasting and durable,



Leading the Clan MacDougall contingent in the Parade of Tartans at the Stone Mountain, GA, Highland Games in October were George E. McDougall (left), president of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada, and John E. McDougall, immediate past president of the Society.

Flowers of the Forest

The officers and directors of The Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada extend their sincere sympathies to the families of the following deceased kinspeople:

Mrs. Edith Maud Armstrong McDougall, 95, widow of George Girouard McDougall, died Jan. 31, 1987.

Born in Selkirk, Manitoba, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Margaret Nordell Armstrong.

Surviving are a son, George G.E. McDougall of Greenville, SC, president of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada; a granddaughter, Dianne McDougall Prevost of Greenville, three great-grandchildren, and a brother, George Armstrong of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mrs. Etta-Marie MacDougall, wife of Howard D. MacDougall, a vice president of the Society, died July 22, 1986, in Princeton, NJ, after a long illness.

An ardent supporter of the Society, she is well remembered for her many contributions behind the scenes while her husband served as secretary-treasurer and later vice president. When our Chief, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, visited the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1969, Marie and Howard accompanied Madam MacDougall and her husband from New York to Linville, NC. Howard and Marie later were guests of the Chief at Dunollie Castle.

She was a founder of the Experiment in International Living Chapter in Freeport, Long Island, where the family lived from 1940

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Deadline for Fall Issue: October 1

Don't Miss Clan MacDougall Society Annual Meeting Friday, July 10, 1987 4 p.m. Eseeola Lodge Pavilion Linville, NC

until moving to Jamesburg, NJ, in 1973. She also was active at UNICEF and the United Nations in New York. A few months before her death she was honored by the Medical Center at Princeton for 1,000 hours of volunteer service in the surgical waiting room where she would assist the families of patients.

Surviving are her husband, two sons, Robert D. of Ithaca, NY, and Richard H. of Oyster Bay, NY; and four grandchildren.

Capt. Laurence Schetky, USN ret., 91, Dec. 8, 1986. He was the father of Mrs. DeWitt McDougal Patterson. A frequent guest at the Clan tent at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, he was a member of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC, and the Clan Bruce Society.

Lenora Grumbles, only sister of Sibyl McDougal Wilkinson of Huntsville, AL, Oct. 1, 1986, in Huntsville.

Dick Van Valkenburgh, Sr., father-in-law of Nancy W-McD. Van Valkenburgh of Huntsville, AL, Dec. 1, 1986.