

The Tartan

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America
VOLUME 53, ISSUE 1 APRIL 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2019 MacDougall Gathering at Dunollie
- News About Our Treasurer
- Climate Changes in the Middle Ages

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Our President	1
2019 MacDougall Gathering at Dunollie	3
Missing Members	4
News About Our Treasurer	4
Our New Treasurer: Barbara Osgood	6
Climate Changes in the Middle Ages	7
Annual Founders Dinner Gathering on Friday 12 July 2019	10

From Our President

Your Officers have been very actively planning for a full and active year 2019. Upcoming events include:

Preparations for the **2019 MacDougall Gathering in Oban, Scotland Tues-Sat. 30 July - 4 August** If you haven't already completed your travel plans, my column in our October e-newsletter offered some web sites with helpful information for arranging your Scottish travel and accommodation. Several of your Officers, past and present, will be there to meet you at the Gathering.

Fri. 12 July 2019 Annual Dinner at Whispering Waters Farm We have already confirmed the arrangements for our day at this lovely historic site at 274 Shulls Mill Rd, Boone, NC 28607-5388 about midway between Boone and Linville NC. Our caterer is excellent and our Founders Dinner is an experience that you will enjoy and long remember. Your Dinner Invitation form is on the last page of this issue of The Tartan but if you are reading this issue on computer you may also use the red button below to link to the Dinner Invitation form.

Get Form

Fri.-Sun. 18-20 Oct. 2019 Annual General Meeting at Stone Mountain, Georgia

We rotate our Annual General Meeting (AGM) locations in order to enable more of our members to participate. In 2019 our AGM will be held on Saturday 20 October during the Stone Mountain Highland Games near Atlanta, GA. The Games web site is <http://www.smhg.org/> This meeting for members and a dinner are being planned by our AGM Committee.

Over the coming months many of you will hear from your local Society Officers as we reach out to contact our members, to expand our communication efforts locally, and to seek your ideas or suggestions to improve our Society.



MacDougall

From Our President (cont.)

In the middle of October we mailed our annual membership renewal letters; follow up reminder letters were sent to some members in February. If you have not yet done so, please take the time to read your letter and to respond with its enclosed return envelope. You may also renew your membership by clicking on the red button below.

Our future letters will include an opportunity to support our new fund, The Clan MacDowall Heritage Fund. It was approved at a meeting of our Board of Directors on 28 January 2019 and is now in operation. I became the first to make a donation. If you wish to support this new fund, or any of our other funds, your donation may be sent to our Treasurer with an instruction specifying the fund you are supporting. As you will read in this issue, we will soon have a new Treasurer and her postal address is:

Clan MacDougall Society Treasurer
Barbara Osgood
PO Box 338047
Greeley, CO 80633

As an editor I often hear requests for topical stories. In this issue we bring you an article about a real climate change experienced by our ancestors; and the story of what they experienced because of it. I assure you that you will learn some things by reading this; no matter what you tend to think of the weather.

As always I look forward to your comments or questions for me or other Society Officers. If you have ideas and would like to contribute an article to one of our newsletters let me know. You may send them to me by clicking on the red button below.

Scott MacDougald
President

Kyle Jones
President-Elect

Email Scott

Visit Website

**Renew
Membership**

2019 MacDougall Gathering at Dunollie



We hope to meet you there and we have a message for you from the organizers.

The team at Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds are busy in preparation for the International Clan Gathering this summer, hosting a total of 70 ticketed events over 5 days.

The event begins on Tues 30th July, with a farewell procession drawing celebrations to a close on Sunday 4th August.

If you missed out on Registration Tickets do not worry, there will still be an opportunity to book onto activities when the programme opens to the public from the middle of March 2019.

Full information will be available from www.dunollie.org.

For any enquiries regarding the International Clan Gathering 2019, contact gathering@dunollie.org

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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MacDowall

Missing Members

We have been unable to locate six Life Members of the Society whose mail has been returned to us in the past.

Last Address on Record	
Sandy Lange 5774 Avenida Sanchez San Diego, California	William McDowell 3 Sherman Drive Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Mr. & Mrs. John Donald MacDougall Box 174 Port Hastings, Nova Scotia	M. J. Mills 3 Molengang Oosterhout, Netherlands
Dr. Rosemary MacDougall 25 Banner Crescent Ajax, Ontario	Stephen Braden McDougale 215 Panorama Drive Bakersfield, California

Anyone having a current address or any information about any of these members should advise either of our Officers listed below:

1. VP for Membership, Valerie McDougall, at email records@macdougll.org
2. Membership Secretary, Lynne Borneman at postal address 17 Ladysmith Court, Hamilton, VA 20158-9065

News About Our Treasurer

Our Society's funds have been in the very capable hands of our Treasurer, Past President Don MacDougall since he completed his presidency of the Society in 2007.

Don has decided to head into a well-deserved retirement on 1 July, 2019.

All of us who have since followed him as President have very much appreciated his hard work and diligent, straightforward approach to managing our Society's finances and record keeping.



News About Our Treasurer (cont.)

Don is our 7th Treasurer since the formation of the Clan MacDougall Society.

Treasurers of the Clan MacDougall Society Since Incorporation in 1965

1. Donald McDougal Jr. - 1st Secretary-Treasurer (1965-1968)
2. Howard D. MacDougall - 2nd Secretary-Treasurer (1968-1974)
3. John A. MacDougall - 3rd Secretary-Treasurer (1974-1984)
4. Alan Miles MacDougall - 4th Secretary-Treasurer (1984-1989)
5. John McDowell-Moore - 5th Society Secretary-Treasurer (1989-1998)
6. Bill Leroy - 6th Treasurer (1998-2007)
7. Don MacDougall - 7th Treasurer (2007-2019)

Don, though you remain our Budget Officer, we will miss you as our Treasurer and our colleague in our day to day operations of the Society.

Your colleagues:

Scott MacDougall President	Kyle Jones President Elect	Valerie MacDougall VP for Membership
Lynne Borneman Membership Secretary	Chris MacDougall Recording Secretary	John McDowall Webmaster



Although Don is heading into retirement on 1 July, he and Sandra and their Scottish terrier intend to still be hosts of Society Tents in Virginia.



MacDougall

Our New Treasurer: Barbara

Our new Treasurer, Barbara Osgood, was elected to our Board of Directors in March and on 1 April formally began a phased in assumption of Treasurer duties which will be completed on 1 July 2019.

Barbara Osgood is the daughter of Jane MacDougall Hill. Jane was very proud of her Scottish ancestry. She and Barbara traced their American roots back to William McDougle, an early settler of Goffstown, NH in the 1700s. Barbara and her husband Rick live in Greeley, CO with their 2 dachshunds. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Barbara brings to the Clan MacDougall Society of N.A. a background in business and accounting. She has a BS in Business and Ethics and has had a long career in accounting. Since 2007 Barbara has been self-employed as a QuickBooks Consultant for a variety of small businesses. Her postal and email address are:



Clan MacDougall Society Treasurer
Barbara Osgood
PO Box 338047
Greeley, CO 80633

Email: Treasurer@macdougall.org

- Mail arriving at our current PO Box will be forwarded to our new PO Box for another year.
- This will ensure that mail reaches our Treasurer from the PO Box address listed on our brochures already in circulation.



Climate Changes in the Middle Ages

Our ancestors experienced the climate's warming effects about 800 A.D. or a little earlier when Northern Europe began to warm. With the longer growing season crops could be planted farther north and at higher elevations to increase the food available for humans and their livestock. The oceans were less stormy which made ocean fishing and travel easier from Scandinavia. The Vikings, once local fishermen, took advantage of the moderating climate melting the sea ice, and the longer summer season, to sail their longships to North America, to Russia, and to the Mediterranean Sea in search of opportunities to raid, trade, and take slaves and foreign land.

For four centuries this warming trend brought abundance; with more food production the human and livestock populations increased correspondingly. Isles like the warming Hebrides could now produce more crops while more plentiful sheep and goats supported a lucrative new wool export trade that brought them much new wealth. Millions of acres of previously unsuitable European forest land in once cold lands were cleared for farmland to grow more cereal crops on heavy marginal soils which better supported trees. The European population is estimated to have tripled between 900 and 1300 A.D. There were still local crop failures and famines from time to time but no one expected the warmer seasons to end. However, by 1275 the four centuries old Mediaeval Warm Period was gradually cooling.

In 1309 in northern Europe the sudden onset of some of the worst weather of the Middle Ages abruptly ended the four centuries of increasing food and population, but no one knew it. Now summer weather was marked by storms causing flooding, soil erosion and crop failure. While warmth and sunshine continued in Mediterranean lands like Spain, in northern Europe rivers and harbours that never froze were now covered in ice. In England, dogs could hunt rabbits on the iced over Thames River. During the winters of 1309-1312 pack ice entirely covered the once clear ocean waters from Greenland to Iceland. During the long harsh winters of 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1314, 1315, 1316 it was bitterly cold. For those who lived to endure it, the winter of 1317 was to be the longest and harshest of them all.

The Great Famine of 1315-1317

With stormy summers and frigid winters reducing food supply, food prices rose quickly if food was still available. Starvation and disease became widespread. In 1314, the rainy summer months following the Battle of Bannockburn in June hindered the harvesting and storing of the wheat crop before the next bitter winter arrived. Then it worsened. In April



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Climate Changes in the Middle Ages (cont.)

and May of 1315 it began to rain across northern Europe. In most places it rained heavily almost every day until August; for almost 155 consecutive days in some records. The record wet and stormy weather of 1315 deposited at least 100 inches of rainfall which overflowed the rivers, flooded the land, and destroyed the harvests in Ireland, Scotland, England, and across northern Europe.

The rotting of the soaking food grains and animal fodder caused a widespread famine which was soon followed by human and animal disease and economic failure. The flooding waters destroyed the water wheel driven grain mills; washed away bridges, dikes, and buildings; and caused soil erosion and crop failure. With roads sodden and bridges washed out, wheeled transport and movement broke down. The stormy seas were beset by contrary winds and tempests badly affecting sailing ships carrying trade and supplies. There would not be enough food for the coming winter even for those with money to pay the high rising prices caused by scarcity. Most were poor, often day labourers with no work or harvests to share in. Many, including unemployed soldiers and knights, turned to crime to survive.

Then in 1316 the harvest failed again. In Ireland and across much of Europe the grain would not ripen in so much rain; and grain made up most of the mediaeval diet. The hay and straw could not be dried for fodder for livestock. Not enough brine could be evaporated in the cool wet weather to produce the salt needed to preserve foods for storage; and wood was too wet to burn to evaporate the brine. Without salt, dietary staples like fish and meat could not be preserved or shipped, and cheese could not be made from now spoiling milk that could not be transported. Fruit would not ripen without 100 days of sunshine. Without enough sunshine to ripen grapes, no wine could be made in France in 1316 and very little in Germany but the rains did bring on downy mildew to stunt the vines for a decade. The people were starving to death in great numbers across northern Europe during this "Great Famine of 1315-1317." As social disorder increased and the population quickly dropped, people ate their crop seeds and the draught animals that would someday be needed to plow and plant the fields again. Some in their desperation refused to share food with children and the old, or even turned to cannibalism.

The Effects on the Scottish War of Independence

During this period the Scots and English were at war but the famine favored neither side. In Ireland there was no discernible difference in hunger and starvation losses endured by the armies of the Scots and Irish from those of their English and Irish opponents. In May 1315 Edward Bruce had invaded Ireland to gain a source of food and supplies for Scotland but by 1317 many of his Scottish soldiers quartered in Offaly in central Ireland were dead from hunger. The fighting quieted down for lack of food to feed the remaining men and horses until after the long awaited good harvest of 1318 finally provided food for soldiers to resume campaigning.

In northern England Robert the Bruce, now Robert I King of Scots, attempted to bring pressure on King Edward II of England to make peace following his defeat at Bannockburn. For several years he sent his strong supporter, William Douglas, with light horsemen to raid quickly and deeply into northern England. These

Climate Changes in the Middle Ages (cont.)

mounted raiders helped to feed Scotland by carrying off English grain, animals, and loot. They also destroyed whatever they could not carry off, or extorted “taxes” in return for not burning properties, villages and towns. Edward II had nothing to give to his robbed and starving northern population because his government revenue had fallen so low; especially because of huge losses of taxes from the once lucrative wool export trade. Even at times when much of northern England was overrun by the Scottish raiders, Edward II would not yield to Bruce’s pressure tactics.

Though the weather gradually improved after the Great Famine of 1315-1317, the old Mediaeval Warm Period had ended in 1309 and would never return. The unusual rains finally stopped and soon afterwards the year 1321 was marred by crop failures caused by drought from lack of rain. During the years after 1309 diseases had decimated the populations of sheep, goats, oxen and cattle. Now came a highly contagious bacterial equine disease called Glanders affecting horses, mules and donkeys and some of their human handlers, and mammals such as goats, dogs, and cats. Between 1320 and 1322 nearly half of the horses of Europe died of glanders. When Edward II invaded Scotland in August 1322 his 6000 cavalry were struck by Glanders and he retreated with mostly infantry. The war would still continue because Edward II would rather suffer the loss of lands and people than endure the loss of face that would come from surrendering his father’s claim to the crown of Scotland to Robert Bruce. Eventually his son Edward III would sign a peace Treaty in 1327 recognizing Robert Bruce as Robert I, King of Scots, but peace between Scotland and England did not last long and the wars continued sporadically during the bad times ahead.

The Longer Term Effects of the Change in Climate after 1309

Unusually cold winters persisted until 1328. It would take years to properly build up the damaged soil, seed stocks, livestock, and food stores. However, the foundations upon which the static old mediaeval society rested had been badly shaken. Much social damage had been done by the rift between the desperate people and mediaeval institutions unable to support them or bring them comfort. In Flanders, one of the richest areas of northern Europe, the first great peasant revolt began in 1323 and lasted for five years. Many more would follow.

The weaknesses of inflexible mediaeval feudalism and the Church ownership of so much of the land worked by labourers were being made evident. These institutions had not been able to prevent widespread hunger and disease, resulting in social disorders and decay of civilized norms, especially during the frequent warfare of the age. Twenty years later these now weakened European societies would be attacked by the deadly Bubonic plague. The “Black Death” reached Bristol in the summer of 1348 carried by the fleas of rats arriving on the ships importing grain and supplies to Europe. It soon spread and decimated all levels of the population. With so many now dead, labour was in demand, wages were higher, and the old manorialism rules tying people to their land broke down. The stable old mediaeval society was never the same again for those who survived. The changes during the cooling centuries to come would bring the Renaissance, the rise of nationalism, religious Reformation movements, and the rise of science seeking answers to questions about weather and climate.

Reference: THE THIRD HORSEMAN Climate Change and The Great Famine of the 14th Century by William Rosen ISBN 978-0-670-02589-3



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Annual Founders Dinner Gathering on Friday 12 July 2019

Come enjoy our Founders Dinner on Friday 12 July at Whispering Waters Farm, a scenic country location at 274 Shulls Mill Rd, Boone, NC 28607-5388. Whispering Waters Farm is on Highway 105 and is 11 miles north of our previous venue of Eseeola Lodge in Linville. For those familiar with the area it's 6 miles north of Seven Devils, or 3 minutes north of Foscoe on the east side of Highway 105. It's on the same Shulls Rd as the nearby Hound Ears Club. The web site is <http://whisperingwatersevents.com>.

During that Friday afternoon you are welcome to come to observe our Board of Directors Meeting, attend our Members Meeting, enjoy our Social Reception and Annual Founders Dinner, and then stay for the entertainment. Here is a link to our Registration Form for you to come enjoy our Annual Founders Dinner.

Get Form

You may also come visit with us at our Society Tents on Grandfather Mountain which will be staffed by Society Officers on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12-14 July.



Founders Dinner Reservation Form

Friday, 12 July 2019. Reception at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Whispering Waters Farm
274 Shulls Mill Rd, Boone, NC 28607-5388

To help with planning, please complete and return this form as soon as possible.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Email _____

_____ Number attending dinner (\$45.00 each)

_____ Total remitted

Send your completed form with check payable to Clan MacDougall Society to:

Joe & Lynne Borneman
17 Ladysmith Ct., Hamilton, VA 20158

Tel: 540.441.3118 - Email: bornel@aol.com



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Clan MacDougall Society of North America



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Reference information for Society members:

Web Site & Facebook & Twitter

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Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

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Your Contact Information Please report your email, telephone, or postal address changes to: records@macdougall.org Or mail your changes to: Membership Secretary 17 Ladysmith Court Hamilton, VA 20158-9065	Non Profit Status We are registered as a charitable, non-profit organization under US IRS Regulation 501c3. Donations may be tax deductible in the US.	Remuneration No Society Officer receives monetary compensation or other benefits, for their services.
	Membership Eligibility Membership is open to all who support Clan MacDougall or Clan MacDowall.	Submissions Persons wishing to submit articles or photos of interest to The Tartan newsletter may contact the Editor at: edi-tor@macdougall.org
Membership Year Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December. They may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years through PayPal at: http://macdougall.org/membership-information/	Membership Applications and Costs Applications for Membership are available Online at: http://www.macdougall.org/memberApp/ Membership Dues rates are available at: http://macdougall.org/membership-information/	

**Clan MacDougall Society of
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