

The Tartan

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

VOLUME 46, NO.4

VISIT US AT: www.macdougall.org and Facebook



DECEMBER 2012

FROM OUR CHIEF

A Christmas Message



This comes to wish all clansfolk a very Happy and Blessed Christmas followed by a New Year that brings peace and prosperity.

Our thoughts over here were with you when we heard about hurricane Sandy and the ensuing devastation. We hope that none of you were too badly affected, or were able to get help.

Last Spring and Summer here have been quite busy for Dunollie, where the old Servants Quarters (1745 House) of Dunollie has been open to visitors – our staff and numerous volunteers have been working hard to entertain them.

Next spring we hope to open the North Wing of Dunollie, in order to expand the space available to display Museum pieces and exhibitions. If any of you intend visiting next season, you will be very welcome, and if you can let us know beforehand by ringing the Oban office number – 0163 570550, that will be very helpful indeed.

We are most grateful to the North American Society for the monetary help to start off the process of repairing the Castle - this will, hopefully, trigger off further help from Scottish funders so that we can get the whole process started. Thank you, you are most generous. We hope, in few years time, you, yourselves, will be able to see this restoration.

Yours Aye,

Morag MacDougall
of MacDougall



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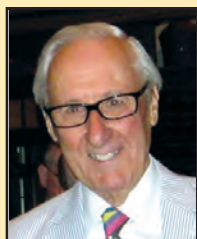
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From Our Editor /President



*President
Peter Clepper*

This issue is our last for 2012, so with it please accept best wishes and Christmas greetings from all of us on your Society's Board of Directors. May the New Year bring health and blessing to you and yours, to our Chief and her family, and growth to our Society. We also hope the New Year will see growth and success on all the Dunollie

Castle projects.

This issue includes information on recent events at Dunollie, where continued successful development affects us all. The emergence of Dunollie House as a major Scottish cultural center means we all have a clan rallying place, and a Chief's home that shows our clan's history as a significant participant in Scotland's heritage. For all of us who travel to Scotland, it will be the goal of our pilgrimage.

I am very happy to add Hugh MacDougall to our contributing authors. He is editor of the *Somerled*, the newsletter of our sister UK clan society. The books he recommends for buying and reading are very appropriate for those of us interested in genealogy and for those interested in life among our Chief's family over many generations.

Two years ago, the Board accepted as a Society project a study of names of our affiliated families. Scott MacDougald undertook this task, and he offers us a report on work to date.

Included for you is a list of our officers and Board members, with their term expiration dates. We have

a Board election set for this spring, so we will have a new list this summer. This year has been an active one for our Society. Some significant events are the following:

Last autumn we replaced a banner for our Chief. Our earlier gift of a banner had been stolen, but, luckily, Walter MacDougall put us in touch with the original designer who arranged the manufacture of the replacement. It was finally completed and arrived at Dunollie House on Easter week. We also made a monetary contribution to the Dunollie Project, which I was able to deliver personally in the course of a trip to Europe. As a result of this visit, as well as of Ashby McCown's research work in Oban, we now have contacts with new friends there. My hope is that future presidents of our Society will make a similar visit during their term of office.

We also held our first-ever Annual General Meeting in a place other than Grandfather Mountain. Kevin and Sandy Phelps did the arranging for us at the Detroit Highland Games in Livonia, Michigan. To communicate better, we now have an active Facebook and webpage. This past month, we also convened our first web-based Board meeting. At that meeting, we agreed to an emergency request from Dunollie for funds to develop a major construction grant proposal. The purpose is to halt the deteriorating foundation of the Castle. Professional scientific analyses are essential for successful proposals. Ashby McCown has given us a report in this issue about the Castle situation.

We have also prepared four issues for you this year, each issue a little longer than the previous. Many thanks to those who contributed news, articles, and photographs, with special thanks to Malcolm MacDougall for getting these issues through the printer and out to all of you. Malcolm made the arrangements with our printer for electronic distribution, which many of you have liked. Note, however, that for those who do not use computers, we send a paper version in black and white. Thanks to our printer, the quality of these paper copies is excellent.

Finally, The Board approved a proposal from Malcolm MacDougall for a membership development drive (Growth Drive), which is off to a fine start.

Our ongoing, major activity is the organizing and staffing of our tents at various Highland Games. Many thanks to all of you for your time and effort.

Mise le meas,

Peter

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America

President:	Peter Clepper peterclepper@verizon.net
President Elect:	Malcolm MacDougall mpmacd@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Scott Allan MacDougald
Canada	smacdou102@aol.com
Tartan Editor:	Peter Clepper editor@macdougall.org
Associate Editors:	Malcolm MacDougall mpmacd@yahoo.com
	Suzanne McDougal somcdougal@gmail.com

For more information:
www.macdougall.org

Message from Our Chaplain

Greetings of peace and joy to each of you as we approach the season of Christmas. Ironically, it wasn't always that way in Scotland. When the Vikings arrived in the eighth century, they brought with them their *Yuletide* traditions. Yuletide, named after the twelfth name of Odin and celebrated in the twelfth month of the year, was supposedly a time when Odin would come to earth disguised in a hooded cloak. The English Princess Margaret introduced the Christian faith to the northerners when she was shipwrecked along the northern coast of Scotland following the invasion of William of Normandy in 1066. Her faith helped influence the transition from the pagan worship of Yuletide and Odin to the Christian feast of the birth of Jesus.

During the Reformation, in 1638, the Scottish General Assembly in Edinburgh abolished the celebration of Christmas. Even though the celebration of Christmas was restored in England when the monarchy was restored in 1658, Christmas remained frowned-upon by the new Kirk. Only the High church and the Catholics kept the old traditions going. Anyone else wanting to celebrate it did so in secrecy. This trend lasted for over 300 years!

However, the spirit of Christmas has been revived over the last forty years. As with any other celebration, Scots know how to party it up! Milk, mince pie, and carrots for the reindeer are left out on Christmas Eve (sometimes along with a glass of

Whiskey!); presents are expected by anxious children; many businesses and government offices are now closed for Christmas Day celebrations.

The highs and lows of the history of Christmas in Scotland might feel familiar, even if the story is new to many of us. It is not uncommon to go through periods of highs and lows in our own spiritual journeys. No matter how strong one's faith, life happens. Joys and celebrations take us on paths towards new highs, while challenges and sadness take us toward deeper lows. Much of the world continues to celebrate Christmas because it needs the reminder that, even in these darkest days of the year, light and hope still exist. Many of us find this light and hope, along with peace and comfort, in being in relationship with God through his son, Jesus.

We live in the midst of challenging economic times, which are even more noticeable as we approach a season of gift giving. For some, the greatest gift they can receive, and thus the greatest gift you can give, is the warmth of your love. My prayer this season is that each of you has an opportunity to both give and receive the gifts of peace, comfort, and hope.



Fr. Matt MacDougall,
Chaplain Clan MacDougall
Society of North America

Highland Games at Richmond, Virginia

Scenes from Richmond, VA Highland Games in October

These games, on October 20 and 21 are the last of the season, so they are often played in a driving wind or howling gale. This time the weather was bright and sunny, brisk in the morning.

We had our usual fine tent, with a good number of us from the Washington area. There were many visitors and several new members.



When the weather is good, these games draw many vendors, and the food and drink selection is always varied and good. Ashby McCown set everything

up. Don and Sandra MacDougall brought their four-year-old granddaughter, who stole all hearts.



Board of Directors Meeting by Internet

On November 12, 2012, the Society's Board of Directors convened electronically by means of the WebEx conferencing software. The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations helped facilitate this Internet meeting. Susan McIntosh, President of COSCA, coordinated arrangements with Malcolm MacDougall and talked everyone through the participation process. Ten Board members participated in this meeting. President Peter Clepper called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He gave a brief report of recent activities and asked for approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2012 Board meeting. A motion to approve was passed.

A motion from the July Board meeting was presented for further discussion. The motion was to establish a Past Presidents Council as a strictly advisory body to serve at the direction of the President. The Council will be composed exclusively of past presidents, and all former presidents are automatically eligible to serve. The immediate past president, in addition to serving on the Past Presidents Council, will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

It was pointed out that the continuing service of former presidents is valuable and should not be lost. For this reason, they are often re-elected to the Board. Unfortunately, this leaves few places for new members on the Board. A separate Council would resolve this issue. The immediate past president, as chairman of the Council, would sit on the Board ex officio. All members of the Council would be invited to attend Board meetings.

It would seem useful to initiate the Council now, as an experiment. If considered successful, appropriate changes could be added to the bylaws. The motion was approved. Sandra MacDougall will be asked to prepare a statement of responsibilities and functions suitable for discussion at the July 2013 Board meeting. (She has since agreed.)

At the July 2012 Board meeting, final action on a budget had been postponed pending a revised one to be developed by Peter Clepper and Malcolm MacDougall. That budget was sent to Board members prior this meeting. Essentially, it assumes income approximately equal to this year or \$9,240 for FY 2013. Expenses are at the same level, with some reductions for printing, scholarships, and *The Tartan*. Our electronic distribution of *The Tartan* has

contributed significant postage savings. Some reductions in scholarships and officers' expenses are planned. If our projections are substantially correct, we should end the year with an even balance.

In response to questions, Malcolm pointed out that our new membership drive (Growth Plan) was separately funded via a special grant. It is kept in an account separate from our operating budget discussed above. The Board approved the budget as proposed.

Malcolm MacDougall gave an update on the Growth Plan first presented at the July Board meeting. We are able to initiate this plan due to the special grant. Since July, membership pamphlets have been approved and printed; they are suitable for distribution and for direct mailing. A mail test drive directed to 1,500 prospects has been prepared; it includes a cover letter, our membership pamphlet, and a return envelope.

At Highland Games, we have been testing special promotional rates for cash payment. Over forty new members have joined. Our internet committee is studying ways to make our Facebook page and our webpage effective recruitment tools.

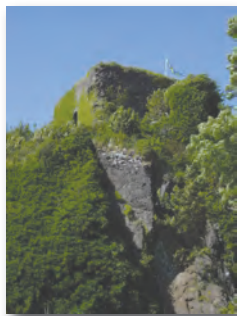
As a special additional item, Peter Clepper described a recent communication from Dunollie House. It has been known for some time that the foundation structures and base of the castle are progressively weakening. To remedy the situation, a major grant will be sought from the preservation trust: Historic Scotland. An application, however, must be accompanied by appropriate scientific and professional analyses, and the cost for these is fifteen hundred pounds, which the Dunollie Project Foundation does not have. There is some urgency in moving these matters along.

A motion to send this amount from our reserve fund was discussed at length. Ashby McCown, attending as an invited observer, provided helpful information gained from his past several summers working on the historical collections at Dunollie House. The Board approved the motion. (A check was sent, with accompanying letter, on November 17.) Ashby McCown has given us a description of the Castle problem, in a related article.

It was generally agreed that electronic conferences help the Board in its duties and should be continued. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

UPDATE:

Dunollie Castle Preservation



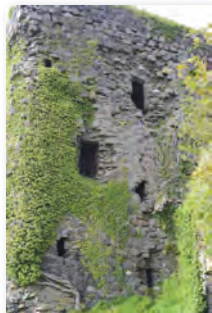
Dunollie tower with the Standard's first flight at the International Gathering in 2009.

Dunollie Castle is at the center of Lorn and its adjacent islands, the area in which MacDougalls and their associated families find their historical and cultural roots. The Castle, a symbol of

our Clan heritage, holds a commanding position overlooking the Sound of Kerrera, Oban Bay, and the Firth of Lorn. The Castle's massive tower, which is perhaps six centuries old, dominates the ruins. The castle itself is considerably older, and the promontory on which it stands has hosted defensive sites for two millennia or more. Dunollie was one of the capitals of Dàl Riada, the most prominent early kingdom of the Gaels in Scotland lasting from late in the fifth into the ninth century. The promontory stood at the intersection of the inner passage running between the Lorn coast and the offshore islands, and the fast route along the lochs of the Great Glen to Scotland's east coast. Its position astride major trade routes suggests that Dunollie was probably used from at least the Bronze Age.

Limited archeological excavations were carried out on outer earthworks of Dunollie Castle in 1978. L. Alcock, in the RCAHMS Site Record for Dunollie Castle, writes that three older structural phases were identified in the excavation: The first two are thought to date from the late 7th-8th centuries AD, while the third appears to be a defensive work of the 13th century.

The tower, with its six foot thick walls and imposing position, gives a feeling of ancient strength but this masks serious deterioration in critical parts of its external walls. External layers of stone have only loose mutual support over large areas. The stones at the base of a corner have fallen away leaving the outer upper corner unsupported. A side wall shows extensive loss of stone



The wall of the tower facing Dunollie House, as seen this past summer.



Deterioration at the corner of that wall.

at its base. The deterioration is gathering pace, with the loss of additional corner stones last winter. The stones are falling close to the path around the castle, which may become dangerous to use in winter.

A structural engineer has described the Castle as being in a state of progressive collapse.

With substantial assistance from Historic Scotland the extensive studies needed to bring together a repair and consolidation plan have been carried out.

Historic Scotland is an agency of the Scottish Government with a responsibility of safeguarding, and

promoting the understanding and enjoyment of, Scotland's historic environment. The next step is to commission technical experts to transform the repair and consolidation plan into a phases-of-work plan, which is essential for obtaining staged funding for a long-term repair program. It is important to develop requests for such funding as soon as possible. Stabilizing Dunollie Castle will require more than £1.3 million.

The action of the Board extending support for technical experts was consonant with one of the stated purposes of our Society, which is to assist "in the maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the ruins, grounds, and buildings of Dunollie Castle through the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, the ancient seat of the Chief near Oban, Argyll, Scotland."



Deterioration at the base of another wall of the castle.

-Ashby McCown



Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria, Virginia

For over thirty years the city of Alexandria has started the Christmas season with a "Walk" on the first Saturday in December. It is really a parade to celebrate the city's long Scottish tradition; it also promotes a local children's charity, the Campagna Center.



Clan MacDougall members participate in the brisk morning Walk in Alexandria...

castle at Dunollie (not too good), and Malcolm MacDougall reported the status of our new membership recruitment drive. He also distributed copies of our new membership brochure (highly praised).

All in all, a fine end to the year. We began in April with the Southern Maryland Games, the first of five games where the Mid-Atlantic Region participated. We hope to do as much next year.

The Walk began on a cold, grey morning as 15 members of our Society formed up with tartan flags, kilts, and sashes. We were 83rd of 140 units, among other Scottish organizations, many pipe bands, civic dignitaries, and wee doggies. The Lord Provost of Perth and the Scottish Secretary at the British Embassy were honored guests. As we came to the reviewing stand, the sun came out to mark the beginning of a glorious afternoon.

As we have done for many years, our members and friends met for lunch, this time, once again, in the party room of Suzanne MacDougall's apartment complex. After the lunch, we had a brief Mid Atlantic Region meeting. Ashby McCown described the state of the

...and share Christmas greetings with the merry masses.



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2012 AND DATE OF TERM EXPIRATION

MEMBER	ENDS (JULY)	EMAIL ADDRESS
Joe Borneman	2014	Bornel@aol.com
Buzzy Bramble	2015	buzzybramble@aol.com
Peter Clepper (President)	2014	peterclepper@verizon.net
Art Dingley	2015	artdingley@myfairpoint.net
Jack Kane	2014	jkk28ga@cox.net
Bill Leroy (Membership Secy / Archivist)	2014	billleroy@aol.com
Scott MacDougald (VP for Canada)	2015	SMacdou102@ao.com
Dick MacDougall	2013	dnbmacdougall@juno.com
Don MacDougall (VP for Treasury)	2014	pdmacdougall@verizon.net
Malcolm MacDougall (President Elect)	2013	mpmacd@yahoo.com
Walter MacDougall	2014	wmacdougall@myfairpoint.net
Bruce McClintock	2015	dukemcc@newwavecomm.net
Beacham McDougald	2015	mcdougald@aol.com
Sheila McDowell	2013	smcdowell@townisp.com
Alan McHale	2013	tartanface@gmail.com
Keith Place	2015	kplae@hotmail.com
Nancy VanValkenburgh (VP Membership)	2013	nancywvanv@aol.com
Darlene Weisz	2013	darleendel@cox.net

Highland Games in Victoria, British Columbia



Hardy lads flank Chief Fergus Macdowall at the Victoria Highland Games.

The year 2013 will be the 150th anniversary of Highland Games in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The 150th Annual Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will feature a full nine days of celebrations from May 11-19, 2013 throughout Greater Victoria including the Tartan Parade, Kilted Golf Tournament, Tilted Kilt Pub Crawl, Torchlight Ceremony including the 2-day Highland Games and Celtic Festival, followed by the Victoria Day parade with outstanding U.S. participation.

Victoria has had a long Scottish connection and has been home of the past three generations of the head of the MacDowalls. Historically the North West coast, from Alaska to the mouth of the Columbia River, was the fur trading province of the largely Scottish Hudson Bay Company. In 1843 westward pressure from the Oregon Trail obliged the chief factor James (later Governor Sir James) Douglas to transfer their fort north

to Victoria, "a Veritable Eden" on the southern end of Vancouver Island. This fort, soon named Fort Victoria, and its Scottish fur trader settlers grew to become the present city.

The Games were initiated in 1864 by The Caledonian Benevolent Association to celebrate the 24th of May official birthday of Queen Victoria which makes them one of the earliest games of the Canadian season. This also makes these games one of the longest continuous running games in North America. In 1870 the Caledonian Association merged with the St. Andrew's Society of Victoria, which managed the games until 1937 when The Victoria Highland Games Society was formed. This has grown to an attendance of 19,000 at the three-day Games and associated events with 13 local pipe bands and Drum Major competitions, 150 dancers and international championship heavy events. Currently we have less than

ten clan tents largely a result of depressed U.S. travel except by cruise ships.

In recent years the Macdowall family puts on a clan tent and has had the pleasure of "Mac" Martin and Ruth McDougall's popular double canopies representing the CMSNA as NW Commissioner. If they are unable to come, the MacDowall canopy is set up half MacDougall and half MacDowall (see picture). We had hopes of a Regional Meeting here but that probably remains for better days ahead. The 150th Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival will be held on May 17-19, 2013. Please visit their web site at <http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com> We hope many of you can attend.

*-Fergus Macdowall and
Scott MacDougall*



MacDougalls of Lorn

Our Clan Family Names



MacDowalls of Galloway

We often think of our heritage of tartan, music, dance, castles, and ancient battles but our heritage is even more personally embodied in our names. Recognizing this, in 2010 our Society set up a Names Project Committee to research our clan's Family Names. The work is complex and requires a cohesive and comprehensive team approach.

Our Committee of three officers—Scott MacDougald, Jack Kane, and Ashby McCown—works closely with our sister society, The Clan MacDougall Society of Great Britain, Eire, & Europe. Their web site is: <http://www.clanmacdougall.co.uk/>. Their excellent newsletter, the *Somerled*, is edited by former newspaperman Hugh MacDougall of York, England.

This is the first in a series of articles about our findings to date. Many of these articles were written for the *Somerled* but Hugh has generously given us permission to reproduce them in *The Tartan*. Hugh's article in the next *Tartan* newsletter will provide an overview of many names within clan MacDougall. Subsequent articles will address specific Family Names and discuss their origins.

Our work to date has taught us that names research is perilous ground fraught with difficulty, but let us start with a few basics.

The Family Names within clan MacDougall fall into two major groups. One is the name MacDougall,

taken from our Chiefs, with its dozens of spelling variations. In the Highlands, originally only the Chief and his immediate family used the surname at all. The second group is the names of families traditionally included within clan MacDougall during the 850 years of its existence. These are sometimes called Sept names.

Each Sept name has its own history, and some are even older than the MacDougall name itself. Many Septs held very important hereditary offices within our clan structure. Of course, these Sept names have numerous spelling variations too. No matter which term is used to identify these Septs, they are full-fledged clansmen in all respects and always have been.

The Gaels took great pride in being able to recite their genealogy backwards and forwards through ten generations. No matter how rich or poor, they were very proud of their name and those of their ancestors. This pride caused much consternation to their English neighbours who could not see what even the poorest Highland man or woman possessed to make them so proud of their ancestry. They did not understand that names in Gaelic society were about more than genealogy; they were about who you are and how you fit into the society around you. As the old Gaelic admonition says: *Cuimhnich air na daoine o'n d' thàinig thu* (Remember

the men from whom you sprang).

Our Gaelic ancestors' names were genealogical strings. Until a century ago ten-generation genealogy name recitals were still being taught to children at home on Sunday mornings around Oban. Nancy Black in Chapter 18 of *A Hollow On A Hill* describes the youngsters learning their ancient family history and proudly reciting their lineage on winter evenings. A four-generation example would be: *Alister MacIain MacSheumas MacIain Beg* (Alistair son of John, the son of James, the son of little John).

Preserving our ancestors' names was the Onomastic Scottish Child-Naming Pattern, whereby the first son was named after his father's father, the second son after his mother's father, etc. The first daughter correspondingly was named after her mother's mother, the second daughter after her father's mother, etc. The naming pattern continued on to include grandparents and great-grandparents. However, the end result was a concentration of particular names within a family, with many cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents often bearing the same few names. In the absence of surnames or middle names this was very confusing. Who was who? Too many people in the community had the same name.

As a solution the Gaels developed substitute "by-names" to identify people clearly. A by-name was an

unofficial substitute name bestowed by community members, to be commonly used instead of using a person's official name. Examples of by-names for men named John MacDougall might be "Dark John," "Allan's Johnny," "John the Bard," and "Lame John." A study of by-names in Gaelic Scotland called *A Substitute Name System in the Scottish Highlands* by Nancy C. Dorian may be viewed online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1525/aa.1970.72.2.02a00050/abstract>. See also Chapter XI "Highland Surnames and Titles" in *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* by Frank Adam, revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney. Writing a century ago Adam stated, "Until comparatively recent times...it was quite common in the Highlands for individuals to possess two surnames, one of these being the clan name, while the other is a by-name."

This explains why so many Gaels were known by one by-name within their own community but by another name with outsiders. For example the MacLucas families on the isle of Mull also used the name MacDougall, and many eventually took that as their modern surname.

Surnames, our last names, are relatively modern inventions. It is believed that returning crusaders brought the concept from Venice to other parts of Europe around 1100. Very slowly surnames increased in use and acceptance in Europe but they did not gain much use in Highland Scotland until around the mid-1600s and later. However, the lack of standard spelling and differences in languages or dialects and accents led to numerous variations in how a surname might be written even within the same household.

As travel increased to places outside the Gaelic Highland area, surnames became necessary for identification purposes among the

general population. In many cases the Highlander merely adopted the name of their clan chief, such as MacDougall, but some instead adopted their by-names to be their modern-day surnames.

To add to the complexity, two clans may share certain names within their clan memberships. For example clans MacDougall and MacDowall share numerous names even though one is from Argyll and the other is from Galloway. Both clan names derive from the Gaelic words *Mhic dhu ghaill* (son of the black stranger), a Gaelic term indicating a person having Norse ancestry. In fact the Macdowalls were originally known as the Macdougalls of Galloway until their leaders changed the spelling while signing the Ragman Roll Oath of Fealty in 1292. A person named Macdougall may just as easily be of Macdowall of Makerston ancestry as they may be of MacDougall of Argyll ancestry. Similarly a name spelled Macdouall or McCoul or MacCowl, etc., could easily be from either clan. With such overlapping names we are well served by having both clans within one North American society. Otherwise persons with such shared name spellings would unlikely be certain as to which clan society they should belong.

In other cases, unrelated clans have held the same territory at different times in the past. Local families successively became members of each clan in turn. Afterwards those clans retained that same local Family Name within their clan memberships. An example is the Appin area of Argyll located near the isle of Lismore north of modern-day Oban. After Somerled died in 1164, this became Clan MacDougall territory and all the families within it became part of clan MacDougall. Ancient local families, the *Macgillemichael* (now Carmichael of Argyll) and our ancient standard-bearers the *Mac-an-Leigh* (now MacLeay/Livingston) held important offices within clan MacDougall.

After our military defeat in 1309, Robert the Bruce awarded much of our seized territory to his allies. The Appin lands of clan MacDougall with their local inhabitants were granted to the Stewarts. Then in 1470, after nearly a decade of strife, the Stewarts of Appin succeeded the Stewart rulers of these lands once held by clan MacDougall. The inhabitants, including the two ancient Gaelic families of *Macgillemichael* and *Mac-an-Leigh*, had not moved from their ancestral lands but the clans holding their lands had changed three times. However, long afterwards the MacLeays were still supporting clan MacDougall in battles against the Campbells at Achnacree in 1557 and suffered heavy losses with us in 1647 at the Massacre of Dunaverty, Kintyre. About 1647, the *Mac-an-Leigh* (MacLeay) adopted the surname Livingston from a prominent Lowlander of that name who was renting the lands in the area. Though calling themselves Livingstons while outside their home territory, they were quite unrelated to the Lowland Livingston family. Over time some adopted Livingston(e) as their modern-day surname.

Today clan Stewart of Appin and clan MacDougall both retain variations of these Family Names within our clans. See Chapter VIII: The Septs of the Highland Clans, *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*. You will read more about the *Macgillemichael*, *Mac-an-Leigh*, and many other families as our Family Names series continues in the coming *Tartan* newsletters.

-Scott MacDougald

A Letter from a Scholarship Awardee



2012 John A. McDougall
Memorial Scholarship
recipient
Kathleen Brown.

October 25, 2012

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Program
Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.
C/o Nancy Kane

Dear Ms. Kane,

This year, thanks to the generosity of Clan MacDougall through the John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship, I was able to travel to Scotland and attend the Invermark College of Piping at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye in preparation for the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd Competition in Oban the following week.

Having just finished with the excitement of competing with my band, Oran Mor, in the Grade 1 contest at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, it was an amazing week to transition from the excitement of pipe band music to the more serene and contemplative piobaireachd, the classical music of the bagpipes.

There could be no more beautiful setting to really immerse in the music, with individual feedback from some of the finest players and instructors in the world. The opportunity to study the music, known as Ceol Mor, or the Great Music of the bagpipes, in the setting where it was originally composed was so incredible. To drive through the towns that bear the name of a tune I had learned, or to watch the birds as they fought and soared over the majestic waters of a Scottish Loch while listening to a fellow student play "The Desperate Battle of the Birds", were truly magical moments for me and really helped me to gain even more appreciation for this beautiful music. The incredibly rough landscape, the tremendous spirit of the people who made that landscape work for them, and even the... interesting... food all gave me a greater understanding of the people who wrote this music and the culture that they were celebrating and documenting for future generations. I feel that I can understand the stories that the music seeks to tell in a way that I would not be able to had I not visited and walked where the storytellers themselves had walked.

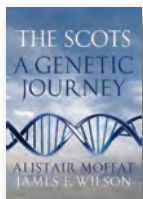
To cap off the experience by being able to attend the Gold and Silver medal competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, and to listen to the very best competitors and musicians the piping world has to offer, and then to have a chance to meet and compete against some of the best young players from all around the world was truly an honor. I could not have had this experience without your support, and for that I am so grateful. I thank you for your commitment to helping young pipers such as myself to have opportunities that would otherwise not be possible.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Brown

Books to Buy and Read

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Major scientific developments in recent years have introduced an important new element to the world of ancestry research, a pursuit of great interest to Scots and their descendants. While documents reveal the written records of our roots, each and every one of us carries the chemical key, which can identify our specific genetic origin.

The chemical code stored in everyone's DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) provides the information about the biological and geographic source of every human being and the long, remarkable journey our ancestors made, which has led us to wherever we are today.

History author Alistair Moffat and genetic scientist David F. Wilson have combined to write *The Scots, a genetic journey* (published by Birlinn, available on Amazon as a paperback or hardback, and on Kindle) which describes the origins of the natives of Scotland, using DNA evidence to reveal the genetic links we all have with the past.

Two crucial elements in the DNA code are the Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA. The Y chromosome is what carries the gene to create men. Only men carry the Y chromosome and fathers pass it on to sons and grandsons and so on down the generations.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is the counterpart of the Y chromosome and is passed on by mothers to their children. Sons have it but do not pass it on, their mtDNA dying with them, but daughters always pass it on to grandchildren and so on.

Moffat and Wilson's book is very

readable and informative. It is not a heavy history book or complicated science lesson. Moffat has written a reasonably detailed compilation of human and Scots history based on numerous secondary sources (listed at the end of the book). Most of this is already known, in broad outline at least, by native Scots but some of the more recent discoveries relating to the earliest inhabitants of Britain are enlightening, while North American readers less familiar with European, British and Scots history should find the story easily engaging.

Wilson explains in understandable language what DNA is, its discovery as a key genetic factor, how there are code tags for identifying genetic groups and telling the reader what some of these translate into in bloodlines. Although the MacDougalls are not mentioned as such, the clan's progenitor Somerled is, and Wilson includes a handful of examples of DNA markers which appear to be linked to some clans.

The more hard to convince Scot might respond to all this with the pithy old adage "We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns" (we are all God's children), but this book, which is merely an intriguing introduction to DNA as a method of ancestry identification and certainly won't be the last word on the subject, is well worth reading.



Somerled flourished in the first half of the twelfth century; his eldest surviving son Dougal is the man after whom the clan takes its name. Brief histories usually concentrate on the medieval wars against Bruce that led to the end of MacDougall dominance in the West Highlands, but there have been other remarkable periods in the Dunollie family's story. This is shown in fascinating detail by Jean MacDougall in her wonderful book *Highland Postbag, The Correspondence of Four MacDougall Chiefs 1715-1865*

(published by Shephard-Walwyn, 1984, available on Amazon).

Jean MacDougall was mother of our present Chief and a sister of the previous Chief, who contributed to the illustrations in the book, as did the author's other sister, Hope, and the author's husband and present Chief's father Stephen Hadfield.

Based on family letters, this book is a brilliant account of the lives and times of the legendary Jacobite Iain Ciar, his son Alexander, grandson Patrick and great-grandson John. Iain Ciar was exiled for his part of the 1715 rising after which the government forfeited the family's ancestral lands.

They were eventually restored, which made Chief Alexander decide to stay at home during the 1745 rising but his brother was active for Bonnie Prince Charlie and the family letters reveal the difficult situation and great risks involved during this period.

This is not only the story of the Chiefs but also their wives and children. Iain Ciar's wife defended Dunollie Castle, for instance, and the womenfolk managed the estate when their husbands were away. There is fascinating insight into daily life at Dunollie, the domestic arrangements even including mention of a washing machine as early as 1791.

There is romance as well as warfare. Wounded at Sheriffmuir, Iain Ciar from the battlefield still managed to send his wife gloves and candy. Alexander, his heir, fathered 15 children and was the last Chief to live in Dunollie Castle. John continued the warrior tradition of the MacDougalls by rising to become an Admiral in the British Navy and his life at sea is vividly revealed.

This engrossing book is a gem of social as well as clan family history superbly written and presented.

Hugh MacDougall

[Hugh is the editor of 'Somerled', the newsletter of the Clan MacDougall Society Great Britain, Eire and Europe - editor]

The
Clan MacDougall Society
of North America

131 Bank Barn Lane
Lancaster, PA 17602

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