



Our dear Chief, Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, is celebrating her birthday this month. I know you will all join me in heartily wishing her,
"Là-breith sona! Sláinte agus sonas dhut!"
("Happy birthday! Health and happiness to you!")

By now you are aware of the project that has been our focus lately. On October 25th, we sent you an invitation to participate in the 2020 Membership Survey. I am pleased to report that the responses have been rolling in swiftly.

Our goal in this is to reach out to all of you and test how the Society is doing. I truly believe that while the fundamental structure of our Society is strong, “good” can always be made “better”. Organizations, just like people, can become set in their ways. “That’s the way it’s always been done” can become a trap. The most straightforward way to find out what you value most is simply to ask.

I confess that I have not been able to resist the urge to sneak a peek at the answers we’ve been receiving. They are illuminating... and sometimes surprising. They are exactly what I had hoped for when we began this project.

We really do want your participation in our Society to be a positive in your lives. We want to provide the type of content and experiences that you enjoy. With the insights you are providing, we can be more focused, spending our time on the things that truly matter.

Some of the ideas being raised will require considerable planning. Others will need fundraising efforts or more people to step up and lend a hand. Still others are minor tweaks we can make to what we already do.

The greatest strength of our Society has always been a strong spirit of volunteerism. We will continue to draw on this as we move forward. Thank you for your candor during this project. If you have not yet had the chance to return your survey, you can access it easily by clicking the image below. We will be accepting responses until November 20, 2020.

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA



TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY!

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Apparition of the Bloodhounds of the MacDougalls

(Furnished by Miss Isabel Smith.)

The words left out in this letter were wholly illegible,
or purposely ill made out, lest the letter should fall into wrong hands.

My grandfather - Dugald Campbell of Achlian (Acha-liain), nephew to the hero of Ticonderoga - was married to Alice Campbell, daughter of Campbell of Lochend, late of Menteith, Perthshire. During the time the present house of Achlian was being built, he was obliged for a year or two to reside at Rockhill, which is near Port Sonachan, Loch Awe-side. This was the property of a Mr. Campbell, whose mother (a MacDougall) was the lineal descendant of the MacDougall of Lorne who reached forth his hand to stay Scotland's hero Bruce, who at once, to punish and cripple MacDougall's power, which was very great, and to reward the constancy of his brother-in-law, gave the latter lordship over many of the MacDougall's lands - a proceeding which rendered the MacDougalls implacable foes and treacherous friends to the Campbells.

Whilst occupying this house of Rockhill, and during hay-harvest, as my grandmother, Mrs Campbell, and another lady - a Miss Lindsay, daughter of the Laird of Bocaird (Both-cheàird), which is now part of the farm of Accurach (Acurach), but which passed into the Argyll property by purchase in the present century, and was at one time the highest house above the sea-level in Argyllshire - were busy washing up the breakfast dishes in the dining-room - an admissible act in that unsophisticated time in the houses of the nobility - they were startled by a noise coming from the chimney. They looked to see its cause, when to their surprise they beheld two huge bloodhounds rise as if from the hearthstone, stretch themselves, and trot out at the window - then closed. They were so astonished by the occurrence, that they were for a little silenced. Miss Lindsay found expression first, saying - "*Sin coin Mhicdhùghaill is bi'dh feòil 'g a reubadh*" - i.e., "These are MacDougall's dogs, and flesh will be torn."

The MacDougalls' bloodhounds were the terror of the land for many centuries. They agreed to share the circumstance with as few as possible, dreading danger to their friends.

(From "*Records of Argyll; Legends, Traditions and Recollections of Argyllshire Highlanders*"
by Lord Archibald Campbell, pp. 166-169. 1885, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London)

Did you know that you can stay the night at the Ardbrecknish House from the story? Visit their website [here](#) for details and some more history behind the site of MacDougall's bloodhounds.

Also known as Rockhill (the English translation of Ardbrecknish), this supposedly haunted house is estimated to have been built as early as the 15th century. The main tower, seen right, is where the bloodhounds are said to have risen from the hearth.



Scottish Dancing

In *The Raven*, we often feature the progress of Highland dancers supported by our scholarship program. If you’ve ever fancied trying a bit of dance for yourself, Scottish Country Dancing may be a good place to start. It is great fun once you know what you’re doing.

The Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary website by Reuben Freemantle and Laurence Abbott is not necessarily a pretty thing from a design standpoint, but the content on it is extensive. There is more here than you would probably ever want to know on the subject. The real crowning achievement is the curated collection of YouTube instructional videos (on the right sidebar menu) to help you learn. This would be a good way to pass long winter nights. You’ll be ready to show off come ceilidh season!



Pictured: *Family Ceilidh* by Janet McCrorie, available in print [here](#)

The Gift of Heritage

As years go by, many people are in search of gifts that can be used rather than just given; a gift that has a greater meaning, or a gift that can be enjoyed over time rather than sat on a shelf. If you are in search of such a gift for a friend or family member, consider a donation to the Society or the gift of a membership. There can be no greater gift than helping to preserve our history for future generations to come so that they may know what their ancestors accomplished and survived.

Donations to the Society have multiple benefits, and you can choose the direction you would most like your donation to go - options include scholarships and the preservation of Dunollie, among others. Unsure of where you would like your donation to be directed? There is an option for you to specify that it go to the general fund for the greater good of the Society.

The gift of a membership to the Society opens multiple doors for the recipient - there are countless resources to be found in the "Members" section of our website, such as archives of *The Raven* and *The Tartan*. A vast network of MacDougalls, McDowalls, and every one in between becomes available when a membership is gifted. A membership to the Society makes the perfect gift for that friend or family member who wants to be part of something greater than themselves, and find their connection to the world around them.

[Donate](#)

[Membership Gift](#)

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Zane Yancey
Pawley's Island, SC

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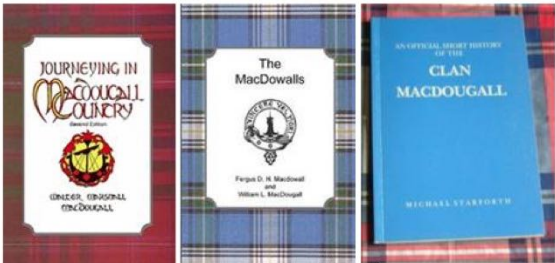
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MacDougall/MacDowall Books

Are you looking to give the gift of knowledge this holiday season? Or maybe just looking to expand your own library? Take a look at the books section of our website!

Each book contains a unique historical account of a different piece of clan history. From a comprehensive look at clan evolution, to accounts of how early Highlanders lived, to the life of our castles over time, you are sure to find a tome to suit your interests.

Listings for available books can be found at our website. Each listing contains a synopsis, pricing, where the book can be purchased, and where proceeds are directed.



[Books](#)



Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December.

Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years.

[Renew Membership](#)

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This Newsletter is intended for Members of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America.

We ask that you do not forward this publication to non-members.

We are informed that doing so places our Society at risk of violating current internet privacy laws.

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