



Dear Readers,

I know this is usually where the President puts his thoughts. However, as a first-time attendee of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, I wanted to share my experiences of my trip to North Carolina. The flight was beautiful and so easy. I stayed at a sweet little round house cabin (AirB&B style) with some friends. Anne Carine, Northeast Regional Commissioner, was one of my roommates for the GMHG weekend. It was such a joy to be able to meet everyone and to spend some face-to-face time with my long-distance co-workers.

Our time at the festival started off not quite as I expected. Thursday, we drove up the mountain ready to experience the torch lighting ceremony only to be blocked out. A horrific accident had occurred at the base of the mountain blocking the roads in and out for guests so that First Responders could access the site. You can read more in this [article](#) that covers the news very respectfully. We have also included the obituary of the lady who tragically lost her life in the accident in the *Flowers of the Forest* section below.

Aside from the inability to attend the festival Thursday evening, Friday was amazing! I wandered the grounds and LOVED the set up and arrangement! I wish our home festival in Oklahoma was set up similarly to Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. The mountain does give them an advantage but what a layout! I shopped and shopped a bit more. I visited the Groves Stages where I heard some beautiful music and watched children dancing in the crowds.

Such sweet sights!

Back at our Clan tents, we signed up record numbers, reaching 18 new members and 1 renewal over the weekend. This amazing time blew our tent sponsors and reps away! It lends so much excitement for the coming games for me as well. I loved every minute on the Mountain! I took loads of photos. A few are included here while the rest will be shared on our Instagram account. Saturday was equally amazing! We had a Luncheon in the Hospitality Tent and met LOTS of wonderful people! I, again, got to spend time with people I had only names for previously. It was a lovely and exciting time. I am so very excited to repeat the visit again in the coming years. Would love to see you there!

While Sunday was a wash out due to lots of rain, I loved the rain! It was a beautiful shower from the heavens even if the ground was made not so beautiful and very muddy! I got a full video of the Parade of Tartans (viewable on our FB Group) and then said my goodbyes and sadly but excitedly flew home to Oklahoma.

Misha Lowther
President-Elect, CMSNA



President-Elect Misha Lowther and Northeast Region Commissioner Anne Carine at GMHG
Misha thoughtfully took enough pictures to make us feel like we were there!

[See Full Photo Gallery](#)

Andrew West Takes Home Gold

Andrew West, currently the Drum Sergeant for the Siren City Pipes and Drums in Norfolk, Virginia, attended the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming just before the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. At the Games, he came away with



three First Place finishes in the Grade Three snare drumming events. In addition, he was awarded the Gathering Plate for best overall drummer in his grade.

Congratulations, Andrew!

2022 SDUSA Championship Competition Results from Madison, WI, USA

Earlier this month, some of our scholarship recipients competed in the ScotDance USA Championship Competition in Madison, Wisconsin. Competition included multiple dances in the Pre-Championship and Open Championship arenas – the Highland Fling, the Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, and the Reels or Strathspey (the latter being performed in the Pre-Championship).

The Highland Fling is a dance to signify victory after a battle, and is a feat of strength and agility. The Sword Dance, also known as Ghillie Callum, is the one most often associated with Scottish dance, consisting of a dancer moving over two crossed swords. This dance was said to have been danced prior to battle. The Seann Triubhas was a dance that protested the outlaw of the kilt and displayed the restrictions of the required trousers. Seann Triubhas means “old trousers.” The Reel is said to have originated from a cold congregation that stamped their feet and danced to keep each other warm while waiting for a wayward minister. The Strathspey is a slower Reel dance featuring the musical “Scotch snap.”

Our scholars performed swimmingly! Our most enthusiastic congratulations to Beret Dernbach, Brynn Brown, and Campbell Brickley!!

Congratulations!



Beret Dernbach
North American Premier
19 & Over

#1 Overall
#1 in Highland Fling
#2 in Sword Dance



Campbell Brickley
Pre-Champ
16 & U 20

#1 Overall
#1 in Highland Fling
#1 in Seann Triubhas



Brynn Brown
Pre-Premier, Pre-Champ
12 & U 14

#2 Overall
#4 in Highland Fling
#2 in Sword Dance

Board Approves Donations to Heritage Sites

At its July 17, 2022 meeting, the CMSNA Board of Directors approved donations to two Heritage Sites. The first is a £500 donation in memory of Friends of Kilbride Secretary Myra Griffin for the ongoing Stage 2 Kilbride Preservation Plan, which is an addition to the \$2,000 previously given. The second is a donation of \$20,000 to fund the Dunollie Phase IIIb Enabling Works Project Plan, the details of which may be seen in the planning document below.

Donations such as these, which help to preserve and maintain places of historical importance to our Clans, fulfill one of our Society's main purposes as a charitable organization. They are made possible only through the generosity of our members who routinely give far above the \$25.00 required to maintain their active membership. Your faithful support is appreciated, not only by the Officers of the Society, but by our friends in Scotland, as you will see in the letter from DPT Chair Alison McNab.



Dear North American friends,

On behalf of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the extremely generous donation you have made to Dunollie Castle. This will go to the 'Enabling Works' in October and November of this year that are necessary to start the next stage of the castle conservation.

We are truly grateful since it has been a tough couple of years and we're working hard as a team to get back to running Dunollie on a sustainable basis post-COVID. We would be delighted to welcome you to see what's happening at Dunollie in person. Meanwhile please keep posted on our website www.dunollie.org to see the most up to date news.

Many thanks again,

Alison McNab
Chair
MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust
Dunollie, Museum, Castle & Grounds

Editor's Note: The times listed are the time in Scotland. Remember to adjust to your time zone.



Behind-the-scenes Museum Tour

Saturday 20th August 2022 at 6.00p.m. (UTC+1)

Follow our Heritage Manager, Catherine Gillies into the 1745 House Museum for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour and discover our latest temporary exhibition: Hope, Behind the Lens. This event will last about an hour although that can be flexible if there are still questions after that. It will be an opportunity to find out more how the exhibition came to be but also who Hope MacDougall was and why her work is so significant.

August 20, 2022

The tour will involve a presentation from Catherine Gillies our heritage director about Hope MacDougall and her photography, 19th and 20th century collectors, issues related to social class and gender, our local community today and all the support we've had for this exhibition, why it's significant, etc. There will also be plenty of time for questions at the end.

[Tickets](#)



Bagpiping Recital with Jamie MacGregor

Monday 12th September at 5.00p.m. (UTC+1)

Tune in to a bagpiping performance from our resident Dunollie piper, Jamie MacGregor. In this event, you'll get a taste of traditional Scottish Music with a contemporary twist, reflecting Jamie's specific style. To conclude the recital, we will open the floor to our audience, encouraging participants to engage with Jamie and enhance their knowledge of one of Scotland's national traditions.

September 12, 2022

This event will be all about Bagpipes. Jamie MacGregor, our heritage engagement officer who is also one of the best pipers in our region will talk about his art and some of the history behind it, play some tunes, take requests and answer questions.

Ticket Link will become available at a later date. Watch [here](#) for availability.

Flowers of the Forest

William Clair Ermatinger

William C Ermatinger of Glen Arm, MD was born on June 4, 1934 in Ashtabula OH. He passed away peacefully at home on July 1, 2022. He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife Mary Jeanne nee Lookingland. He is also survived by his children Amy Marie Wright of Baldwin, MD, William R Ermatinger of Toana VA, John G Ermatinger of

Bel Air, MD and his bonus son Christopher P Bland of Forest Hill, MD. His daughter Frances Kathleen Ermatinger predeceased him. He is survived by 11 grandchildren, Kelly, Katey, Erica, Lauren, Michael, Kathleen, Rachael, Samantha, Sarah, Jake and Matt, and 9 great grandchildren, Ryleigh, Blair, Reagan, Grace, Rosalie, Teddy, Connor, Benjamin, and Gwen.

He committed many years of his life to researching his genealogy and has documented his family line back to the year 1512. He was a lifetime member of Clan MacDougall Society of North America and their former recording secretary and chair of the scholarship program. He was a major contributor to The St Andrews Society and the Men's Garden Club of Baltimore. His life passion was working with several grief organizations to help bring comfort to those experiencing loss, such as the SIDS Bereavement Group, the Charleston Bereavement Group, The GBMC Bereavement Group and most importantly Compassionate Friends.

His most cherished memories were spending time with his family, researching family history, working in his woodshop, and in his garden. He is remembered by his family as a loving husband, dad and grandpa who showed his love through the sharing of his hobbies. Most notably his rendition of the "Address to A Haggis" at his annual family dinner.



Kelly and Sarah with Grandpa at GMHG

Julie Holderness

"Julie Anderson Holderness, 72, died suddenly in Linville, North Carolina on Thursday, July 7th, 2022. Julie was born in Raleigh on April 7th, 1950, the middle child of Jean Norwood Anderson



and the late Frank Ramseur Anderson, Jr. She graduated from Broughton High School, in 1968, and attended Stratford College before raising a family. She was a bright and compassionate soul, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. To know Julie was truly to love her. We will miss her fun-loving spirit, her quick sense of humor and her infectious laugh. Her interests and talents included travel, the outdoors from the mountains to the sea, gardening, photography, painting, music and dancing among so many. She cherished and nurtured her relationships with friends and family, and encouraged us all to slow down and take in the beauty and simple pleasures of God's great earth. Julie was thoughtful, empathetic, and a firm believer in the power of the hand-written note. If ever there was something to celebrate, to mourn, to hope forâ€"she immediately put pen to paper to make sure people knew her thoughts were with them. Julie treasured the

friendships she made through her memberships in the Historical Book Club, Wednesday Literary Club, and Little Gate Garden Club, as well as Greensboro Cotillion, the Greensboro Debutante Club, and First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. The brightest light in every room, Julie was never happier than when she was surrounded by her cherished family. She never missed a chance to make you feel loved and special. More than anything, she adored her husband of 44 years, Richard. Theirs was truly one of life's great love stories, one that has and will continue to inspire all of us as an example of mutual love, respect and kindness."

Myra Griffin

Myra led a full and fulfilling Life. She was kind, loving and charitable. Before moving to Oban, Myra for several years worked as a career professional administrator in the National Health Service. When I first met Myra in 1970, she was committed totally to her vocation. Her "boss" was Dr MacLeod , a retired Royal Naval Surgeon officer who had served in the Royal Navy through World War 2. He had contracted a chest disease working on damp Destroyers. As a result, he devoted his life to working with patients in a specialist chest clinic. Myra worked for him as his medical secretary, and as a result sacrificed her leisure time to her vocation. By chance, I met Myra on a train journey whilst serving as a junior officer (Midshipman) in the Royal Navy, home on leave for my uncle's funeral. For a year we were "Pen Pals" as I was serving in the Mediterranean aboard a Frigate. Thus, "We courted by letter." However.." My dear Miss Strang...." eventually became "My darling Wife, Myra....."



I eventually left the Royal Navy and worked all over as an oilfield diver...."Dear wee wife..." or "Dear husband,..." passed to and fro from the North Sea, Arabian oilfields and even Bombay High Oil field out in India. Eventually, we settled in Oban, where I found regular work, either as a Mariner or Diver..I earned less money than in the oil fields, but replaced money with real home life with Myra and our sons, Liam and Barry.

Myra used her administrative experience and skills as secretary and founder Trustee of the charity Friends of Kilbride. She devoted several years of her spare time to keeping Kilbride and the historic MacDougall Memorial Aisle in the condition those historic monuments deserve. In addition to her

volunteer work for Friends of Kilbride, Myra was volunteer secretary to two other charities.

Myra was the organisation force behind the once ruined church that is now Historic Kilbride, attracting hundreds of visitors MacDougalls, Campbells, Smiths, Hullmans, French visitors tpo Bonnie Scotland, Italians Poles...who are led through fight with Iain Ciar MacDougall at Sherrifmuir, or mourn that wee Campbell bairn who "died aged nine months" or glory in the lives of all who did so much to make Scotland the Nation it is today, and who are commemorated at Historic Kilbride. A history that Myra did so much to awaken and to preserve.

Myra was 75 years and 5 months old when she died. Until the last 3 months of her life, when the deadly cancer began to wear her down, she spent her days and energies donating her administrative skills for the benefit of others. She will be missed greatly not only by her family friends and relatives but by the Community as a whole.

Myra is not "dead!" Only Myra's earthly remains are dead...

Myra's eternal spirit lives on in the wee birds who flutter and feed around the bird table she erected with her own hands. I hear her voice in the laughter of the children playing ball on the football pitch she helped me make in front of our home. The birch tree whose branches today, right now as I write and which shade us from the summer sun, was planted by Myra...

Every tour I do Myra walks beside me....urging me not to talk too much!!

Best Wishes,
Liam Griffin (senior)



Granny Griffin and Papa taking Aoife for dinner and to the cinema. How happy everyone looks simply being together. Special days we took for granted. The love we feel for you is endless. Rest in peace and love Myra.

New Members

John von Rohr
Greer, SC

Frank Michel
Cleveland, TN

Kia Copithorne
Asheville, NC

Jennifer Kottick
Georgetown, ON

Benjamin Dowdell
Washington Courthouse, OH

Sarah Perkins
Simpsonville, SC

Russel Knight Puryear Jr.
Marietta, GA

Jordan Carmichael
Hemingway, SC

Douglas Vaughan
Lithia, FL

Marsha Severt
Monroe, NC

Cynthia Stegall
Denton, NC

Jonathon Dougall
Cumming, GA

Christine Hulsizer
Raleigh, NC

Tony Perkins
Mauldin, SC

Howell DiCocco
Blowing Rock, NC

Thomas Cole
South Lake, TX

Kathy McGettigan
Greer, SC

Janice Greene
Morristown, TX

Kira McDowell
Johnson City, TN

Tanisha Rowe Blake
Duluth, GA

Leslie Ann Webb
Austin, TX

Dr. Rick Bullard
Tupelo, MS

Janet Kyle
Leeds, MA

Sharron Faulkner
Durham, NC

Claire Waltsak
Tinton Falls, NJ

Melanie Shebel
New Buffalo, MI

Argyll Update

By Mike Robertson



GREETINGS FROM OBAN:

Whether it is the ancient churchyard at Kilbride, the castle and museum at Dunollie, or the archaeology on the isle of Lismore, all have been experiencing a substantial number of N American Clan MacDougall visitors back for the first time since the pandemic. All have been made very welcome. It is lovely to see people able to travel again.



With Kilbride, the generous donation from the society has helped greatly with work to renovate the stonework of the chapel. Of interest to potential clan visitors is the audio tour project which will enable visitors to download detailed material onto a smart phone from QR codes placed discretely round the site.



At Dunollie the Hope MacDougall exhibition (“Hope behind the lens”), funded by the society, is proving very successful, with visitors enjoying her beautiful documentary, and creative photographs. Outside, a further project is underway, with a growing number of garden volunteers, a new mythical beasts trail for younger visitors, and plenty of summer events planned for visitors.

Over on the island of Lismore the Heritage Centre is back in full swing, More adventurous visitors might venture to the ancient MacDougall stronghold known as “The Bishops Palace”, or Achaduin Castle; or indeed to Gylen Castle at the South end of Kerrera. There is so much clan history to explore in the Oban area.





Draper's Shop Spotlight Product of the Month



There's always something new to see at the Draper's Shop. Special highlights this month are the Dunollie Castle Bone China Mug, with artwork from Oban artist Christopher McColl, and the Rockin' Robin, handcrafted and clothed in Heritage MacDougall tartan.

[See Our New Arrivals](#)

Urgent MacDougall Cathedral News from Lismore

Dear Friends of Lismore,

I attach a preliminary report of all of our archaeological work over the last six years, demonstrating the importance of your support. (*Editor's Note: See item "Four Thousand Years (and more) of Life at Clachan below."*)

Meanwhile there have been important developments in relation to the MacDougall cathedral.

The Church of Scotland has decided to "dispose of" the Lismore parish church by the end of 2023. As you will know, the church is the 13th century choir of the cathedral established by Ewen/Alexander MacDougall during the bishopric of their kinsman Laurence MacDougall.

The island community has responded to this emergency by initiating the process of acquiring the church and its assets - a joint venture by all of the leading groups on the island (kirk session, community trust, Historical Society, public hall and community council). The vision will be to develop the building for the use of the whole community, while maintaining its role for regular worship.

There is an enormous mountain to climb, not least the fact that it will take up to a million pounds to rescue the church building from its present state of decay.

I'm writing to you at this early stage, in the hope that you will be able to join with us in supporting this important project. I'm sure that the MacDougall diaspora across the world will want to know what we are doing.

With all best wishes,
Bob Hay



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Four Thousand Years (and more) of Life at Clachan

The archeological dig at Lismore has been ongoing for seven years; you saw many recent photos from the dig in our June 2022 issue of *The Raven*. Check out [this article](#) detailing four thousand years of history being uncovered – including gravesites, jewelry making supplies, and structures!





Fergus Scottish Festival

August 12-14, 2022

Victoria Park
St David ST S
Fergus, ON N1M 2P7, Canada

**COVENANTER
SCOTTISH FESTIVAL**

AND HIGHLAND GAMES

Covenanter Scottish Festival

September 10, 2022

1199 Valley Road
Quarryville, PA 17566



Kalamazoo Scottish Festival

September 10, 2022

Kindleberger Park Dr
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



Missouri Celtic Festival

September 10, 2022

VFW Post 2661
813 Jefferson St., Washington, MO
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



New Hampshire Scottish Festival

September 16-18, 2022

Loon Mountain Resort
Lincoln, NH 03251



Ligonier Highland Games

September 17, 2022

Idlewild Park
Ligonier, PA 15658



Seaside Highland Games

October 7-9, 2022

Ventura Fair Grounds
Ventura, CA

Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or items of interest may contact:

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.

OUR NONPROFIT MISSION

To perpetuate Scottish culture through the collection, preservation, and distribution of literary, historical, and genealogical materials, especially those related to Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Preservation of heritage sites and relics is of particular importance, as is the education of our kin through learning opportunities and scholarships. Donations in support of these causes is tax deductible in the U.S.

Membership is open to all.

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