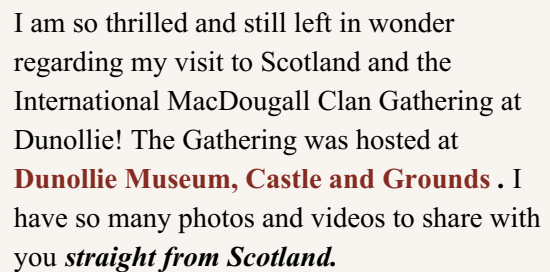


## From the President



I have so much to share! It was beautiful



Madam Morag MacDougall and her husband, Richard - along with their children and granddaughters were wonderful hosts throughout the entire Gathering and all the events offered at and by Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds. My first day was amazing! After opening ceremonies were over, I had the pleasure of spending the day with former President Dick MacDougal, his daughter - Anne, and Madam Morag MacDougall and Richard Morley. What a blessing and a treat! We even got to visit with Fiona and her Daughters. It was so much more than I ever expected. I have so much to share. I may have to share over a few issues of our Raven.





Because we are also running the Castle series in the Raven, I want to share some photos of the Castles I got to view from the sea. I took a boat tour that Dunollie had set up for the Gathering in 2024. I saw seals, lots of birds, a Starfish in the water as I exited the boat, Dunollie, Dunstafnage, and Gylen. It was amazing. The waters were a bit choppy in the deep waters but the shallower areas closer to the islands were great. The views were amazing. The views of the Castles from the sea are definitely different from what you get to view on land or in most photos we get to see at the Games. I hope you enjoy the views I have shared here. I also hope these inspire you to try and go to the next Gathering in Oban. They are held every 5 years. Start planning now. It is absolutely worth it! I will share more in the next Raven.

~Sincerely,  
Misha Lowther  
CMSNA President, 2023-26  
president@macdougall.org

## MacDougall Castle Series: Gylen Castle

### Gylen Castle, Island of Kerrera Oban, Scotland, UK

Gylen Castle is located on the Island of Kerrera. Kerrera holds a special place in our current Chief's heart. I understand it has been a goal of hers to keep Kerrera and its people in the MacDougall clan holdings and to safeguard the lifestyle of its people and the Isand. The beautiful Castle of Gylen was built by the MacDougalls in a beautiful spot with an ultimately gorgeous view of the Firth of Lorn.



Gylen Castle has a book devoted to it and the Island of Kerrera written by our 30<sup>th</sup> Chief's Sister, Hope MacDougall. It's call "Island of Kerrera: Mirror of History." It's available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for less than \$20 (US). It was published in 1979 with a Black and white cover. It is also available in **The Draper's Shop** at Dunollie for £23 (UK).

Gylen Castle, the castle of fountains is a 16<sup>th</sup> century L-plan tower house. The castle was drawn by Joseph Mallard William Turner in 1831. The existing castle was completed in 1582, about 442 years ago. That's a lot of history. Gylen was captured and burnt by a Covenanter army led by General David Leslie in 1647. It hasn't been rebuilt but it is accessible to tour. Many of those who visited the International MacDougall Gathering at



Dunollie earlier this month had the opportunity to take such a tour. You can also see the Castle from the seaside on a boat tour. Both tours are very impressive. I hope this article makes you curious enough to want to learn more about our Castles and Your Heritage. We have a Castles and Churches section available to our members in the members only section. Each member should have a password allowing them to gain access to this information at will. Please contact the [webmaster@macdougall.org](mailto:webmaster@macdougall.org) if you do NOT have a password or if your password no longer works. One reason for this could be a change of email address. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date with our membership VP, Valorie McDougall, at [membership@macdougall.org](mailto:membership@macdougall.org).

## Games Recap:

### Brunswick, Maine By Anne MacDougal Carine

We had beautiful weather for Maine Highland Games in Brunswick on August 17th. Matt MacDougal (aka Big Mac) came to compete with other outstanding athletes. We enjoyed conversing with visitors and sharing in the experience with old friends.

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Have you been to a Scottish Games or Festival recently? Send us a recap so that we can all get a glimpse into Games around the continent! Send a brief write up and any pictures to [newseditor@macdougall.org](mailto:newseditor@macdougall.org).

## Congrats to those who attended the International Gathering!

I had the opportunity to meet and greet many of our members. It's sometimes ironic to me to think I had to travel overseas to meet our members. However, it's a journey worth taking and I am happy to meet our members wherever travels take us. I hope our members that did travel to the Gathering in Oban have made the return trip to the States safely.



## Record Release from ScotlandsPeople

ScotlandsPeople is the official Scottish government entity for the release and viewing of Scottish government records and archives. The website allows people to access church records and legal records, which can include births, deaths, baptisms, and census records. Such a wealth of information is invaluable to any looking to investigate their family history. Recently, an additional 4,000 volumes of records were uploaded to the site and released to the public. Any interested individual may begin their search at [ScotlandsPeople](https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).



## The Draper's Shop

### Another way to support Dunollie.

The Draper's Shop is located onsite at Dunollie Castle Museum and Grounds. It first opened in 2014 and has a lovely group of ladies that donate time and unique, handmade gifts to sell in the shop. You can stop by when you visit Dunollie or you can shop online. I stopped by the Draper's Shop and bought all my souvenirs for my Scottish visit there. Here's why the Draper's Shop is important to YOU, members of CMSNA: Dunollie Preservation and Trust is a Charitable Trust supported by the Kettle (a cafe on site) and the Draper's Shop. All proceeds from tickets, the shop and the cafe are reinvested in The Castle Museum and Grounds. I wanted to share some things I purchased here at the Draper's Shop and to let you know my friends and family absolutely LOVED the gifts from Oban and Dunollie Castle.

**Shop NOW!**



The squirrel has a book to accompany it that includes stories from those in the Oban and Dunollie Castle Community which I thought was really unique. I brought home 2 squirrels and one book. There are a couple of books for my table at the Games that the Draper's Shop had on hand as well. I thought the little stone/clay castle of Dunollie was also unique and could be a small representation on my nicnac shelf of MacDougalls, Dunollie and our family heritage.

At lunch there were plenty of Scottish Robins hanging about and singing their lovely bird songs. The Ladies of the Draper's Shop or of Dunollie's sewing bee also created Dunollie felt pin cushions, felt keychains, and lil rockin Robins. I brought two little birds home to whisper little twitters in the ears of my youngest daughter and granddaughter. Shopping at the Draper's Shop was a treat for me as well as my girls back home in the states. I hope you will enjoy visiting either in person or online too. Best wishes and thank you for all the support you give us at Clan MacDougall Society of North America as well as to our heritage sites like Dunollie.



## Flowers of the Forrest



Dennis Lon McDowell (1945-2024) was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who loved politics, swimming, and most of all his family. Born in Washington, D.C., Dennis grew up in Bethesda, Maryland where he lived until attending Antioch College. He met his wife, Donna, through All Souls Unitarian Church in 1969 and they married the next year. They were happily married and deeply devoted to each other for 54 years.

Dennis earned his Master's in Healthcare Administration from George Washington University and worked in healthcare administration and mental health planning for 30+ years -- first with Prince George's County, then with University of Maryland Medical System, and later for the state of Maryland.

Dennis loved attending his grandchildren's baseball games and Nationals games with his family. He was active in the Maryland Democratic Party and with the Clan MacDougall Society and loved to don his kilt every year for the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk. He also loved a good party and was the consummate host who made sure you never left hungry or thirsty.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Donna; his children Dr. Dawn McDowell Torres (Ryan Torres) and Donnelly McDowell (Larry Handerhan); and his grandchildren Zachary and Nicholas Torres. In the spirit of Dennis's love for a good party, a celebration of life will be held at The Comus Inn (23900 Old Hundred Road, Dickerson, MD 20842) on Sunday, August 25 from noon to 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mental Health Association of Maryland or Planned



Parenthood.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of  
Dennis Lon McDowell, please visit [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com)'s floral store.

If you would like to leave a message for the family, here is **the link** for  
the funeral home page for Dennis Lon

McDowell. [https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/dennis-mcdowell-obituary?  
id=55874162](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/dennis-mcdowell-obituary?id=55874162)

## Games Calendar

### *September 2024*

September 7 - **Columbus Scottish Festival** - Columbus, Indiana, USA

September 7 - **Covenanter Scottish Festival** - Quarryville, Pennsylvania, USA

### *October 2024*

October 11-13th - USCO's **Oklahoma Highland Gathering** - Choctaw, Oklahoma, USA

October 12 - **Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games** - Indianapolis, IN, USA

October 12- **Seaside Highland Games** - Ventura, CA, USA

## New Members

**Charles McDougale,**

**Chelle Honiker**

**Karin Mathis**

**Nathan Dowell**

**Susan Reilly**

**LeeAnne Denny**

**Joshua Traverse**

**Bobbi Harmon**

**Jeffrey Ball**

**Catherine Cartalucca**

**Alexander MacDougall**

**Bruce McDougall**

**Joe Moya, Jr.**

**Marjorie Bradley**

**John Duncan MacDougall, Sr.**

**Thomas Crosby**

**William Crosby**

**Michael Jones**

**David Cole**

**Chuck McDougale**

**Logan Steadman**

**Keri Kline**

**Peter MacDougall**

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Tanist

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**Valerie McDougall**

V.P. for Membership

[membership@macdougall.org](mailto:membership@macdougall.org)

### Kids Corner

Enjoy an activity all about Flora MacDonald,  
straight from Scotland!

Scott MacDougald  
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Kyle Jones  
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BY SCOTLAND IN THE CLASS  
**Kids Corner**  
FIND US AT  
SCOTLANDINTHECLASS.com

## Storytime

Take turns reading each paragraph to learn about how Flora Saved Bonnie Prince Charlie



Once upon a time, there was a brave and clever lady named Flora MacDonald. She lived in a place called Scotland, where there were big battles and adventures!

One day, a very important person named Bonnie Prince Charlie came to Scotland. He wanted to be the leader and make Scotland powerful again. But, oh no!

The people from England didn't want that to happen, and they fought against him. Sadly, they won, and Bonnie Prince Charlie and his friends had to run away to stay safe.

This is when Flora came into the story. Flora and Bonnie Prince Charlie met, and together, they made a super-duper plan to help him escape from the tricky situation. Flora had a brilliant idea --she would make him look like her maid, Betty Burke!

Flora dressed Bonnie Prince Charlie in funny clothes meant for ladies, and he pretended to be her maid. Can you imagine that? A prince pretending to be a maid! They set off on an exciting journey to the Isle of Skye, a magical island. Flora and 'Betty Burke' faced tough challenges and had to be very sneaky to avoid being caught.

After lots of adventures, they finally reached the Isle of Skye. From there, Bonnie Prince Charlie could find a boat to take him safely to France! Hooray! Flora's clever plan worked, and she helped the prince escape from the bad people.

And so, with a mix of bravery and cleverness, Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie had an amazing adventure together, showing everyone that even in tough times, friends can help each other and make things better. The end!

**TAKE RISKS**

What are 3 words you would use to describe Flora?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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The Clan MacDougall Society of North America **online store** with the Queensboro Company is your source for **official** CMSNA apparel. A portion of each purchase you make directly benefits the Society's budget and our ability to keep doing all the things you care about.  
Thank you for your continued support!

Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or items of interest may contact:  
**Lindsay Davis, Editor**  
[newseditor@macdougall.org](mailto:newseditor@macdougall.org)

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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