

July 2024



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



From the President



Mo dheagh chairdean! (Welcome my Friends.)

I am so excited! This month marks our trip to the International Gathering in Oban, Scotland, UK. The Gathering is being hosted at **Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds**. I cannot wait to take photos and post videos for you *straight from Scotland*.

I hope to meet up with those of you who are also attending the Gathering. The more photos we take together means the more fun times to share! Meeting people on this adventure is going to be the best part of it all and yet there is so very much happening! I am unsure where to start...

So the opening takes place Tuesday July 30th, 2024 with an opening ceremony at 9am at Dunollie. It ends on August 4th with a march through Oban accompanied by a pipe band, lunch together and a parting of the ways-until next time. So are ya curious to know what's happening in-between? There are guided tours for Dunollie, Kilbride, the Isle of Lismore, Dundstaffanage Castle and Chapel, and Oban; photo sessions with Aly Robinson; Special speakers giving talks at the Castle such as Dr. Martin MacGregor, Catherine Gillies, and Jamie MacGregor; Genealogy sessions with Caroline Boswell, and ceilidh dance lessons with Marlynn Turbitt, not to mention tastings and boat tours and train rides galore. I think I will feel much like an 8 year child in an old fashioned candy store with lots of colorful displays and treats, tarts, and cakes. Oh My!

To top it all off, our Clan Chief, Madam Morag MacDougall-Morley will be there. I think I look forward that meeting just as much as everything else. The past and the present collide for me in Oban at this Gathering of 2024 for Clan MacDougall. I am happy to share it with those who will be there in person and happier still to share the experience with our members here in the pages of our newsletters upon my return.

*I hope others will **contact Lindsay**, our editor of *The Raven*, with Your Stories of visiting Oban as well. If you're a reader in Scotland and would like share a story or two of the Gathering, that is most welcome also!*

In the meantime, safe travels to you all no matter how far and wide you stray or close to home you stay. May good health and fortune be yours in all your adventures.

Best Regards,
Misha Lowther,
CMSNA President 2023-26

MacDougall Castle Series: Dunollie Castle

As the Gathering approaches, MacDougalls and MacDowells from all over the world will descend upon Dunollie Castle. In honor of this great occasion, Dunollie is featured as the next in our MacDougall Castle Series!

Dunollie Castle isn't as large as what one may imagine a castle to be. In truth, the site is not much more than a tower today. However, it is a tower with a mighty history. The current ruin was mostly built in the 15th century (some areas date to the 13th and 14th centuries), though some excavations have uncovered evidence that prior settlements existed in the Early Middle Ages. It is the ancestral home of Clan MacDougall and is thought to have been built by either Somerled's son or grandson.

Throughout its history, the castle has been besieged and taken over by enemies of Clan MacDougall. One notable occurrence was the efforts of Clan MacDougall to defeat Robert the Bruce, which resulted in the lands of Clan MacDougall being turned over to Clan Campbell. While the castle was returned to Clan MacDougall and re-inhabited for some time, the Clan abandoned the castle approximately two hundred years later. A house was built around 1746, following the last Jacobite Rising, and parts of the house currently serve as a museum.



Games Recap: Smoky Mountain, TN By Brad McDougall

We had a full and successful weekend over two beautiful days at the 42nd annual Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games in Townsend, Tennessee. It is an ideal setting for these Highland Games, surrounded by the Smoky Mountain National Park. There were about 65 clans represented and we learned so much by visiting others' tents and seeing how they represent their clans. This was only our second year as a clan host and we are determined to use what we have learned to be bigger and even better next year.

We signed up a new member whose grandmother was a McDougall. She very knowledgeable about hosting and gave us some useful pointers. We had many other interesting conversations with visitors, and had fun explaining the clan history and showing them castle pictures that we displayed. Both my brother and I agreed that one of the most enjoyable aspects of the festival is stamping the children's passports and trying to engage them in conversation. There were two high school girls who interviewed us with many questions about our battle cry, tartans, history, castles, etc. They were preparing a report for their school.

One of the pro pipers in the Knoxville Pipes & Drums is part of the family. He is originally from Nova Scotia, has piped since he was very young, and his mother is a McDougall.

We appreciate all of Regional Commissioner Doug MacDougall's help these past two years, and welcome any suggestions from any of our CMSNA tent hosts to help us have our very best presence at these important mountain games.

Have you been to a Scottish Games or Festival recently? Send us a recap so that we can all get a

Congrats, Scholars!

The John A. MacDougall Memorial Scholarship is intended to financially support learning endeavors that enhance knowledge or appreciation of the Society and/or our cultural heritage. The Board of Directors is proud to announce the following awardees for the 2024-2025 season:

Linda McDougall-Leenstra, piper*
Brynn Brown, highland dancer
Arianna Brunner, highland dancer*
Beret Dernbach, highland dancer
Morgan MacFarlane, highland dancer*
Rowan MacFarlane, highland dancer*
Reese Brubaker, highland dancer
Colton Kraus, highland dancer
Eilidh Kraus, highland dancer
Weston Kraus, highland dancer
Caroline Hollowell, highland dancer*
Jane Hollowell, highland dancer*

Awardees designated by an * are those that are new to the scholarship program and are first time awardees. Congratulations to all, and best of luck in your endeavors!

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**.

Games Calendar

August 2024

August 9 -11 - **Fergus Scottish Festival** - Fergus, Ontario, Canada
August 17 - **Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival** - Brunswick, Maine, USA
August 24 - **Quechee Scottish Games** - White River Junction, Vermont, USA

September 2024

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

Contact Us

Misha Lowther
President
president@macdougall.org

Kids Corner

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

VACANT

Tanist

tanist@macdougall.org

Valerie McDougall

V.P. for Membership

membership@macdougall.org

Scott MacDougald

V.P. for Canada

vpcanada@macdougall.org

Dana Chandler

Treasurer

treasurer@macdougall.org

Lindsay Davis

Secretary

secretary@macdougall.org

Kyle Jones

Archivist

archivist@macdougall.org

Website

www.macdougall.org

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. _____

SCOTTISHCULTURALOUTREACHFOUNDATION.ORG



QUEENSBORO



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

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.



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!
