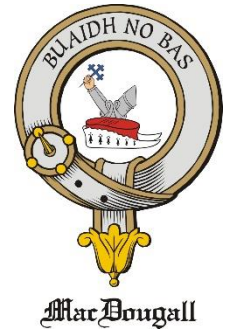


THE CLAN MACDOUGALL



Battle Cry: “*Buaidh No Bas*” Victory or Death

Clan Badge: Bell Heather

Clan Bird: The Raven

The MacDougalls of Lorne are the senior branch of the royal house of Somerled, a famous warrior King of the Hebrides Isles and ruler of Argyll until his death in 1164. Clan MacDougall is a very old Highland clan whose Chief, Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, is the 31st Chief of the clan. She is an Honorary President of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America. The Society has a strong membership of MacDougalls whose names are spelled in many phonetic variations such as McDougal, McDougle, Macdouall, Macoual, etc. For centuries several other Associated Families have been important parts of our clan, as discussed below.

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America:

1. Promotes interest in Scottish heritage and Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall and helps to research their history and support their heritages.
2. Helps support our historic places including Dunollie and Gylen castles.
3. Publishes “The Tartan” newsletter, has a web site at www.macdougall.org and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

Membership in the Society is open to all persons and their descendants who support Clan MacDougall or Clan MacDowall or the Families associated with these two clans.

1. Spelling variations of MacDougall or MacDowall with or without the “Mac” or “Mc” in all spellings include Cole, Coul, Dougall, Dowall, Macdoual, McDougal, McDougle, MacDolothé, Macoul, Macdowal, MacDowell, MacHale, MacHowall and many others.

During the centuries that Clan MacDougall was a powerful influence along the West Highland Coast, a number of families had important roles in this clan. Members of these Associated Families are most welcome to join our Society and support their clan heritage.

2. These Family Surnames with or without the “Mac” or “Mc” in all spellings include Carmichael of Argyll, Conacher, Livingston(e) of Argyll, MacCowan, MacCoyle, MacCulloch, MacCullagh, MacEwen, MacKichan, MacClintock, MacLucas, MacLugash, MacLulich, and MacNamell. All surnames have numerous variations. All name spellings and their descendants are eligible for membership in our Clan MacDougall Society of North America.

Membership information is available at <http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

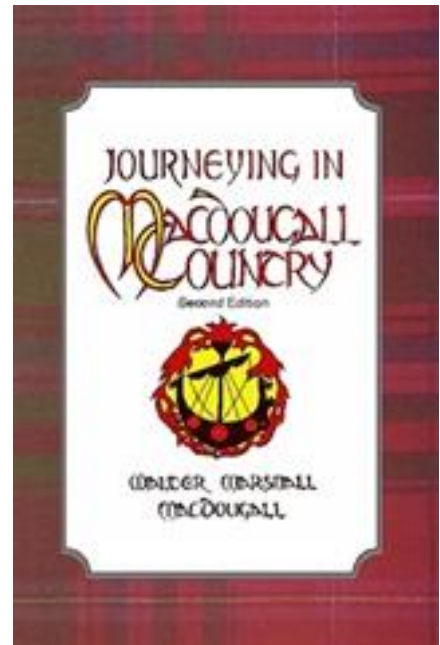
Sources of Further Information

1. Our excellent web site is available online at www.macdougall.org Graphics, music, information and biographies of the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall etc. are in the Our Heritage section at <http://macdougall.org/category/heritage/>
2. Our clan books are displayed in the Book Pages in the Resources Section of the Society web site <http://macdougall.org/2014/02/16/macdougall-and-macdowall-books/> See ***Journeying in MacDougall Country*** a book Walter M. Macdougall with an introduction by our 30th and 31st Chiefs of Clan MacDougall. A full book review is available at <http://www.lulu.com/shop/walter-macdougall/journeying-in-macdougall-country/paperback/product-2242050.html> This descriptive travelogue of the Highland countryside of our clan has extensive notes on our history, geography, maps, and sketches with historical anecdotes to enrich any journey in the land of Lorn. "*The Lore of Lorn*" section provides additional detailed information. This wide-ranging book is based on trips Prof. Walter Macdougall made to visit the places of Clan MacDougall and to meet the people most knowledgeable about the area and its history.

All of our Society’s profits from the sale of this book are donated to the Dunollie Preservation Trust to preserve our heritage. Purchase it through www.lulu.com at

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/walter-macdougall/journeying-in-macdougall-country/paperback/product-2242050.html>

The soft cover price is \$24.95 plus shipping. Also, your local bookstore may order it for you but may ask for the ISBN 978-0-6151-7789-2.



3. Our ancient Clan retains our ancient cry “*Buaidh No Bas*”- *Victory or Death!* And we retain Bruce’s cloak brooch shown below. It was remodelled in the late 1500s.

The Brooch of Lorn on MacDougall Tartan

Help us to preserve your ancient heritage by becoming a member of the Clan MacDougall Society. Membership information is available at <http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>



Origins in Scotland

Mac means "son of" while the term "clan" comes from the Gaelic word for children. Thus, Clan MacDougall (*Clann Mhic Dhùghail*) means "the children of the son of Dugal". The name Dugal derived from the Gaelic words "dubh" meaning *dark or black* and "gall" meaning *foreigner or stranger*. Hence Dugal translates as "Dark Foreigner" or "Black Stranger" which was a Gaelic term for persons of Norse descent.

Our clan's heritage from the Gael and the Norse is shown in the present arms of the MacDougall Chiefs which quarter the lion of the ancient Scottish Kingdom of Dalriada and the black royal galley of the Norse.

In 1164 Somerled died in the Battle of Renfrew fighting the forces of the King of Scots near the banks of the River Clyde. Dugal, his oldest living son, inherited the central portion of his father's kingdom and became the founder and first Chief of Clan MacDougall. Our seagoing clan was based on the Hebrides isles of Mull, Coll, Tiree, Jura and Kerrera then owned by Norway, and on the Scottish mainland in Lorn and Argyll on the west coast of Scotland. In their twin roles of *King of the Hebrides* for Norway and *Ruler of Argyll* for Scotland, Dugal and his successor Chiefs protected their islands and mainland territory with a ring of castles and a strong fleet of galleys.

During the summer of 1249 King Alexander II of Scotland sailed to the Hebrides intent on taking these Norwegian owned isles for Scotland but he became sick and was forced to land on the island of Kerrera. He ordered Ewan the 3rd chief of Clan MacDougall to surrender his Cairnburgh Castle in the Treshnish Isles (which was Norwegian property) to the Scottish Crown. Ewan refused and declared that he had already sworn feudal loyalty to King Haakon of Norway for his Norwegian lands. Alexander II exclaimed angrily – "No man can serve two masters!" to which Ewan calmly replied: – "One man can easily serve two masters if they are not enemies". Alexander II died on Kerrera shortly afterwards. Ewan then swore feudal allegiance for his territory on the mainland of Scotland to his eight-year-old son Alexander III, the new King of Scots. This was an early incident in the many struggles to come. When King Haakon of Norway gave Ewan the same choice in 1263, Ewan returned the Hebridean Isles to him and chose Scotland. King Haakon's invasion ended at the indecisive Battle of Largs in the late fall of 1263. When the peace Treaty of Perth of 1266 gave the Scots possession of the Hebrides, Alexander III then returned their old island possessions back to the MacDougalls for them to rule for the King of Scots. They no longer served two masters.

By 1294 MacDougall rule over Argyll was being challenged by the rising Campbells of Loch Awe encroaching on MacDougall territory in Nether Lorn. Our 4th Chief's son, Sir John (*Iain*) of Lorne,

later our 5th Chief, took some of his armed warriors to a meeting at the *Stream of the Conference* to discuss their border. Clan Campbell dates this meeting to 1296 and may be correct. South of Loch Scammadale they were surprised to meet the Campbell 4th Chief *Cailean Mor* ("*Big Colin*") and his followers who had passed their designated meeting place and come onto MacDougall lands. The two factions fought so ferociously that the river ran red with blood from casualties; which caused the conflict to be named *The Battle of the Red Ford*. *Cailean Mor* led the charge as the outnumbered MacDougalls retreated. Then a MacDougall archer crept up behind a rock and fired an arrow at the distant *Cailean Mor*. It killed him and ended the battle instantly but the rivalry would continue for a long time.

The MacDougalls were a powerful clan in western Scotland and were allied by marriage to the more powerful Comyn family. John, the "Red" Comyn of Badenoch, was the nephew of our Chief's wife. The MacDougalls loyally supported John Baliol King of Scots, a Comyn ally, even after King Edward I of England deposed him in 1296 for daring to act independently for Scotland. Edward I then imprisoned Baliol's loyal supporters. When Alexander the 4th Chief of Clan MacDougall was released from imprisonment at Berwick in May 1297, he immediately began a rebellion with his allies in Argyll against Edward I and Edward's Scottish allies, especially the Clan Donald. When it ended about 1302 the Clan MacDougall had fought Edward I and his allies longer than any other clan. During the decade after John Baliol was deposed by Edward I, John The "Red" Comyn was the prime candidate for the vacant crown of Scotland but the Comyns still supported Baliol's right to the crown. However, another contender, the fiery warrior Robert the Bruce, was determined to gain the crown at any cost. In February 1306 Robert the Bruce stabbed The Red Comyn during a meeting inside the Greyfriars Kirk at Dumfries. This sacrilegious murder led to nearly fifty years of blood feuds, civil war and more English invasions. After he was crowned King Robert I six weeks later, his enemies also considered him to be a usurper of the crown. In the warring which followed the MacDougalls were closely allied with the Macdowalls of Galloway, the Comyns, and other clans with Edward I. They fought against Edward's former Scottish allies the MacDonalds, Campbells and other allies who had gone over to support the new Robert the Bruce on various dates.

In June 1306 at Dalrigh in Strathfillan near Tyndrum, the MacDougall's and their allies ambushed Bruce's party of about 300, decimated it, and nearly captured Bruce. To narrowly escape he was forced to abandon his torn off cloak brooch in the clenched hand of a dead MacDougall warrior. Thus, the famous Brooch of Lorne came into the hands of the MacDougall Chiefs. Bruce's luck changed when the Chief of Clan Donald deserted King Edward's side in late 1306 to support Bruce; then Edward I died in 1307 and Bruce began to win battles. In the late summer of 1308, Bruce returned to Argyll with new forces to attack the MacDougalls and their few remaining allies. He defeated them in the narrow Pass of Brander alongside of Loch Awe. A few weeks later Sir John of Lorne sailed to England to carry on the fight at sea against Bruce and his supporters from the sea going Clan Donald, former long-time allies of England. Clan MacDougall's island possessions and all, or almost all, of its lands on the mainland were then forfeited. Most of it was regranted to their opponent MacRuairis and MacDonalds. Some lands were granted to the Campbells or taken by the Scottish crown itself. Our 4th Chief, Alexander, died in 1310 while in exile with his family.

As Edward II's Admiral of the Western Seas Sir John's English fleet, along with his fellow Scottish exiles like the MacDowalls, fought Bruce's ships and garrisons along the west coast and in Ireland during the bad weather and famine of the next decade. After some victories his fleet was defeated in 1315 by the combined fleets of Clan Donald and Bruce, now Robert I King of Scots. Although

reinforcements were now unavailable to him, even to fight pirates, Sir John of Lorne never surrendered. In May 1316 he returned to England in ill health. Some said Sir John of Lorne, our 5th Chief died a prisoner of the Scots; but English records settling his estate contain a 1327 report from his old Clan MacDowall ally, Sir Dungal Macdouall of Galloway, stating that he died at Ospringe in Kent in September 1317 during a religious pilgrimage to the nearby Canterbury Cathedral.

Most MacDougall leaders had been forfeited and exiled but, like Sir John of Lorne, they continued to fight as part of "*The Disinherited*", a group of exiled Scottish families who carried on fighting in wars against the Bruce Kings for decades. Then in 1346 the English captured Bruce's only son David II, King of Scots. Sir John's of Lorne's grandson, John *Gallda*, befriended David during his ten years in English captivity and John *Gallda* was allowed to return to Scotland at last. David II restored some of the forfeited MacDougall lands to John *Gallda* including Dunstaffnage Castle. John *Gallda* later married David's niece, Joan, about 1360. This revived the clan's fortunes until John *Gallda* died in 1375 leaving two daughters married to Stewart brothers. Thus, the prestigious title of *Lord of Lorne* passed by marriage from the MacDougalls to the Stewarts. However, the present Chief's line of the family retained lands around Dunollie Castle. More lands were restored to them in 1451 by the 3rd Stewart Lord of Lorne to reward their loyal support.

The clan remained loyal to the Stewarts as the rightful Kings of Scots but suffered greatly for its faithfulness. Their steadfast loyalty brought the Clan MacDougall into conflict with other clans, most notably the Bruces, MacDonalds and Campbells which resulted in the eclipse of power of Clan MacDougall and the loss of most of its remaining domain. During the Civil Wars of the 1640s and 1650s the religious Covenanters with the leadership of the Campbell 9th Earl of Argyll opposed the rule of the Stewart Kings, Charles I and his Charles II. In 1647 General Leslie's Covenanter army attacked the royalist clan force holding Dunaverty Castle at the southern tip of Kintyre and massacred the defenders who had surrendered including many from Clan Donald, Clan MacDougall and their Irish allies. Leslie's army then pillaged and burnt the lands of the loyal clans in Argyll and laid siege to the MacDougall's Gylen and Dunollie castles. The Brooch of Lorn was looted by one of the men while burning Gylen Castle on the isle of Kerrera. His descendants kept the stolen brooch hidden for 177 years. It was believed to have been forever lost. After it was discovered in a widow's charter chest in 1824, it was sold and returned to its rightful owners, the MacDougall Chiefs.

The clan fought for the Royal House of Stewart under Viscount Dundee "*Bonnie Dundee*" at Killiecrankie in 1688, and under its fighting 22nd Chief Iain Ciar in the Jacobite Risings at Sherrifmuir in 1715 and at Glenshiel in 1719. Our 23rd Chief Alexander of Dunollie did not join the Jacobite Rising of 1745 in support of Charles Edward Stuart "*Bonnie Prince Charlie*" but his brother Duncan fought at Prestonpans and Culloden. Twenty MacDougalls were listed as prisoners of the Government forces after the '45 including three from the lowlands.

Since those days of strife, our now peaceful clan has spread throughout the world but Clan MacDougall retains its ancient base at Dunollie in Oban, Scotland. Our Clan Chief plays an active role in the clan's affairs from the official residence at Dunollie Manor House, a portion of which is now open as a museum and visitors center. Its web site is <http://www.dunollie.org/>

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